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College basketball: Hawks beat up Wranglers in battle of ranked teams

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[BY LEE SCHEIDE](#)



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At the bottom of the official box score is a category that told the entire tale Thursday night when the Odessa College men's basketball team hosted Howard College in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play.

Lead changes — None.

Unfortunately for the Wranglers, they didn't score the first basket of the game.

Howard College, ranked seventh in the nation, raced out to a 12-0 lead and never looked back, running away to a 67-50 victory over the 10th-ranked Wranglers at the OC Sports Center.

Odessa College (18-4 overall, 3-3 WJCAC) has lost three of its past four conference games. The Wranglers will travel to face No. 1-ranked Midland College at 7:45 p.m. Monday at the Midland College Chaparral Center.

"This one's on me," Odessa College coach Dennis Helms said. "You have to be prepared to be tough and we weren't prepared enough tonight and got outplayed and outtoughed.

"You can't give up a (12-point) run to start the game and then try to get back in it. We just weren't ready and that's my fault."

Josh Watkins led Howard College (18-2, 5-1) with a game-high 19 points, many of them coming off

drives to the basket or free throws when he went into the paint and was fouled. Jae Crowder adding 14 in the victory.

Anthony Hubbard led Odessa College with 15 points, while Josh Brown chipped in 11 in the loss. Brown saw limited action after injuring his back Monday at New Mexico Junior College.

The Hawks began the game with a layup by Carlos Emory and then Crowder hit one free throw and then converted a loose ball into a field goal for a five-point cushion.

A steal and layup by Lamont Austin extended the lead before Emory converted a chance with an emphatic slam dunk. Crowder hit a jumper from just beyond the free throw line and then Joe Bright hit 1-of-2 free throws to make it 12-0 with 14:53 remaining in the first half.

Hubbard snapped the streak with a strong rebound and put back, getting fouled on the play and making the free throw to make it 12-3. He converted a slam on the Wranglers' next possession and when Brown hit a jump shot from the right of the key, Odessa College was back within five with 11:15 left before halftime.

Brown's 3-pointer from the left corner with 9:45 remaining in the first half pulled the Wranglers within 16-12, but that would be as close as they would come, getting outscored 17-12 to end the first 20 minutes of action.

No. 7 Howard College 67, No. 10 Odessa College 50

HOWARD COLLEGE

Lamont Austin 3 0-1 6, Mose Sundufu 2 4-7 9, Dante Mentor 0 0-0 0, Shaad O'Garro 0 0-0 0, Josh Watkins 4 11-14 19, Jae Crowder 5 3-5 14, Carlso Emory 4 1-2 9, Virigl Cissoko 0 0-0 0, Joe Bright 4 2-4 10, Damion McGee 0 0-0 0. **Totals 22 21-34 67.**

ODESSA COLLEGE

Anthony Hubbard 6 2-4 14, Melvin Baker 0 0-0 0, Scottie Farrington 0 0-1 0, Thomas Schoeps 0 0-0 0, Desmond Woodberry 3 0-4 6, Scotty Norwood 0 1-2 1, Josh Brown 4 2-4 11, Eriq Harris 1 0-0 2, Kevin Schaffartzik 1 0-0 3, Darrick Brown 3 3-7 9, Rashad Savage 1 0-0 2, Kadeem Coleby 0 1-2 1. **Totals 19 9-24 50.**

Halftime — Howard College 33, Odessa College 24. 3-Point goals — Howard College 2-6 (Mose Sundufu 1-2, Josh Watkins 0-2, Joe Crowder 1-2), Odessa College 3-17 (Anthony Hubbard 1-3, Desmond Woodberry 0-5, Josh Brown 1-3, Kevin Schaffartzik 1-5, Darrick Brown 0-1). Total fouls — Howard

College 21, Odessa College 23. Fouled out — None. Technical fouls — None. Rebounds — Howard College 40 (Joe Bright 11), Odessa College 38 (Desmond Woodberry 7). Assists — Howard College 5 (Josh Watkins 2), Odessa College 4 (Kevin Schaffartzik 3).

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