

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Tennessee 58, Uconn 27

Tennessee's Historic Shooting Performance Leads to Victory

The Lady Volunteers simply could not miss their shots on Saturday, putting up a historic shooting percentage in their victory. The Lady Volunteers jumped out to a 17-3 lead at the end of the first quarter, thanks to the tenacious play of Brittany Day (28 points, 11 rebounds, 5 assists, 4 blocks, 1 steal), who scored 13 of her 28 points in the opening frame. However, it was the unselfish team play of the Lady Volunteers that helped lead them to victory on Saturday, as the team tallied 14 total assists. Kyler Shiesley (12 points, 7 rebounds, 7 assists, 3 steals, 3 blocks) dished out 7 total assists in the victory, while also scoring 12 points through drives to the basket and timely jumpshots. Annabelle Day (10 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 4 steals) totaled 10 points, mostly by making hard cuts to the basket. Kiera Tokarczyk (4 points, 7 rebounds) also had a tremendous game, scoring 4 points and grabbing 6 rebounds, while also playing fantastic help-side defense all afternoon. Natalie Endres (4 points, 4 rebounds) rounded out the scoring for Tennessee, as she scored 4 points, and total 3 steals.

Despite the great shooting day from Tennessee, Uconn saw strong offensive play from Sophia Waliszewski (2 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 blocks, 2 steals), who continuously found open teammates and used her elite dribbling skills to keep plays alive. Hailey Bronson (7 points) scored a season high 7 points, while Ava Devald scored 4 points and ripped down 10 rebounds. In the 4th quarter, Raygen Manzare (6 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 4 steals, 1 block) showed her tenacity, scoring 5 points and continuing to work hard on defense, despite the harsh deficit.

Ultimately, the Lady Volunteers defeated Uconn, 58-27. On each team's first offensive possession of the game, each team elected to take an 8-second back-court violation's in honor of Kobe and Gianna Bryant, and all others who lost their lives last Sunday. Kobe Bryant's "Mamba Mentality" is what many of our Rec Staff grew up with when playing basketball in our leagues as children, as it taught many of the workers to always play hard, regardless of the score and outcome.

Saturday was about more than just playing basketball.