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Resilient Effort By Men's Basketball Falls Short Against Cleveland State

Jeffers, Stefanov post double-doubles for short-handed Flames in 60-55 loss.

Jan. 27, 2007

[Box Score](#)

Chicago, Ill.- Double-double outings from [Othyus Jeffers](#) and [Jovan Stefanov](#) highlighted a valiant showing by a short-handed UIC men's basketball team in a 60-55 loss to Cleveland State at the UIC Pavilion on Saturday afternoon.

With only seven active players for Saturday's contest, UIC (9-13, 4-5 Horizon League) rode big performances from its remaining cast members to keep within striking distance of the Vikings (8-14, 2-7 Horizon League).

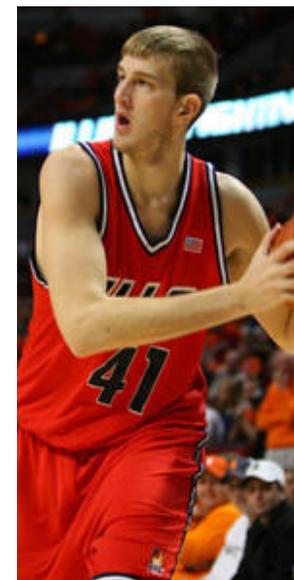
Jeffers scored 17 points and pulled down a game-high 15 rebounds in 35 minutes. Stefanov poured in a game-best 23 points while grabbing 11 boards, playing every minute but one.

[Scott VanderMeer](#) had a game to remember, swatting away a career-best nine shots to set a new Pavilion single-game blocks record. VanderMeer was just three points and a block short of a triple-double after picking up 12 rebounds and scoring seven points.

UIC outrebounded the Vikings by a 55-37 margin, including a 20-7 advantage on the offensive glass, yet the Flames could only manage 14 second-chance points.

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Scott VanderMeer set a

The Flames took an early seven-point lead six minutes into the game, but the Vikings went on a 14-2 run to cool off UIC's early momentum. The two teams would engage in a back-and-forth battle for the rest of the first period to enter intermission deadlocked at 28-28.

Cleveland State jumped out to a six-point advantage after a Raheem Moss trey seven minutes into the second half, but the Flames would not go away. Five straight Stefanov points, including a huge three-point shot with just under three minutes remaining, gave UIC a 49-48 lead.

Bahaadar Russell then answered with a three of his own just 12 seconds later to give Cleveland State a lead it would not relinquish.



Russell paced Cleveland State with 15 points.

Before Saturday's game the UIC Athletic Department announced that senior [Danijel Zoric](#) has been suspended indefinitely from the men's basketball squad for conduct detrimental to the team, stemming from an on-court incident during Wednesday night's game at UW-Green Bay.

The Flames were also short two other players on their roster on Saturday as sophomore [Josh Mayo](#), the team's third-leading scorer, missed the contest to attend funeral services for his aunt, while junior [Robert Bush](#) sat out due to an injury to his left hand.

Freshman [Spencer Stewart](#) missed his second straight contest while recovering from a severe contusion to his left fibula suffered

during UIC's contest with Detroit on Jan. 20.

The Flames will travel to Indianapolis to face No. 11 Butler at Hinkle Fieldhouse this Monday night.

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new Pavilion record with nine blocked shots.

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