

RIDER COLLEGE SPORTS

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MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

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RIDER COLLEGE 83, ST. FRANCIS-NY COLLEGE 58

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, NY--Sophomore Dean Edwards scored 15 points in his first-ever collegiate start to lead Rider to a Northeast Conference win over St. Francis.

Rider (8-6, 4-2 NEC) jumped out to a 14-2 lead in the first seven minutes, eight points by Edwards, and led 41-21 at the half. St. Francis (1-11, 1-4 NEC) never led.

"Dean has really buckled down and become a complete player, not just a shooter," said Rider head coach Kevin Bannon. "He has out-played Charles (Smith) in practice lately and earned the starting role. Charles is the best freshman in our league, and he had some early success, but he has to learn that it is hard to be a good player in this league, and that it takes a lot of work," Bannon said.

Junior center Jabaar Jones added 14 points and 10 rebounds for Rider. St. Francis was led by Ivan Patterson's 13 points and seven rebounds.

Rider led by as many as 31 points, 67-36 with 8:17 left, before emptying the bench.

Rider won its last two games, both in Brooklyn (LIU on January 13), by a total of 51 points, and now must host two of the top teams in the NEC, Monmouth on January 18 and Wagner on January 20.