

# ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

**ATHLETICS**

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## **GOLDEN SUNS WIN THIRD STRAIGHT, POSTS HOME VICTORY OVER HENDERSON STATE**

**RUSSELLVILLE, Arkansas** – Arkansas Tech Women's Basketball concluded its three-game homestand here Thursday by posting a 68-45 victory over Henderson State in Gulf South Conference action at Tucker Coliseum.

With the win, Tech improves to 17-5 overall and 7-2 in the GSC West Division and posted its third straight victory and its 10th win in its last 12 games.

Tech, who received 26 votes in this week's *USA Today*/ESPN WBCA NCAA Division II Coaches' Top 25 Poll, used a defense that limited the Lady Reddies to just 16 second half points and 24 percent field goal shooting for the contest. HSU was the third straight Tech opponent to be held under 50 points.

"At halftime, we talked about stopping their (HSU's) drive. I thought we did a much better job of challenging shots in the second half," Golden Suns Head Coach **Dave Wilbers** said. "They are a very athletic team and got us out of our game early on tonight."

Tech, who led 30-29 at the half, held the Lady Reddies (9-12 overall, 3-6 GSC) to just four points over the first 12 minutes of the second half. HSU opened the half missing 17 of its first 18 shots and finished the half shooting just 17 percent from the field (5-for-30).

While Tech's defense held HSU's offense in check, the Golden Suns opened the second half on a 22-3 run to push out to a 52-32 lead with 12 minutes left in the game. Tech's run was keyed by eight points from junior guard **Brittany Gottspomer** (Morrilton, Ark.). Gottspomer finished with a season-high 16 points.

Tech's lead would eventually grow to 57-33 with 8:26 left in the game on a free throw by junior forward **Heissy Robledo** (Guaviare, Colombia), before HSU used a 5-0 run to pull within 57-37 with 6:56 left in the game. From that point, Tech outscored HSU, 11-8, to post the 23-point win.

"We had a period in the second half where we were able to knock down some open looks," the second-year Tech coach said.

In addition to Gottspomer's 16 points, Robledo recorded her career double-double with a career-high 15 points and a career-high 14 rebounds, while senior All-American forward **Amanda Grappe** (Benton, Ark.) posted her seventh double-double of the season with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Tech finished the game with a 46-39 edge on the glass.

Tech opened the game by scoring the first four points, before HSU used a 10-2 run to push out to a 10-6 lead just a little over three minutes into the contest. Following HSU's run, Tech used a 12-3 run capped by a lay-up from freshman

center **Taise Da Silva** (Americano, Brazil) to push out to an 18-13 lead with 12:17 left in the game.

HSU, though, used an 8-2 run capped by a free throw from Milan Allen to push in front 21-20 with 3:57 left in the half. From that point, the two teams traded the lead until sophomore **Henriette Ellingsen** (Bergen, Norway) drilled a three-pointer with 35 seconds left to send Tech into the half with its lead.

Trenia Barbee led HSU with 10 points, while Asaish Lowe added six points and five boards in the loss. Tech held HSU's leading scoring Chanlee Bottoms to three points on 1-of-8 shooting from the 3-point line. Bottoms entered the game averaging a team-best 12.4 points per game.

For the game, Tech shot 47 percent from the field and 47 percent from the three-point line, while HSU shot 24 percent and 21 percent respectively. Tech committed 19 turnovers and was outscored 11-9 on second chance points as the Lady Reddies collected 21 offensive rebounds for the game. HSU had 16 turnovers, but Tech scored 20 points off those miscues.

Tech will begin a two-game road swing on Saturday, Feb. 14, when they travel to Searcy, Ark., to face Harding in a 5:30 p.m. contest at Rhodes Fieldhouse. Tech picked up a 69-59 win over the Lady Bison in Russellville on Jan. 17. Harding improved to 17-6 overall and 3-6 in the GSC with its 79-61 win Thursday at Southern Arkansas.

"We have to get ready and go play a very good Harding team on its homecourt on Saturday," Wilbers added.

**- Tech Athletics -**