

# Shamar Wright Leads Second-Half Surge in Homer Opening Win

by Joe Pott

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EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. – Fueled by a career-high 29 points from [Shamar Wright](#), SIUE men's basketball turned a four-point game at half into a 92-67 win over North Park Thursday at First Community Arena.

The Cougars evened their record at 1-1 with the win, improving to 39-17 all-time in home-openers.

"We didn't do enough in the first half, but then we responded in the second half," SIUE Head Coach [Brian Barone](#) said. "I was obviously pleased with the end result, and getting the first win of the season is always something you're looking forward to doing."

SIUE managed as much as a nine-point lead in the first half at 35-26 but never pulled away. North Park had as big as a six-point lead in a half that included five lead changes.

The Cougars never trailed in the second period and pulled away with a 14-2 run over a three-minute stretch early in the half to lead 61-42 with 14 minutes to play.

"We made a couple of adjustments to what they were doing defensively," Barone added.

After scoring five points in the first half, without a three-pointer, [Shamar Wright](#) knocked down his first five three-point attempts in the second half. His 29-point outing moved him into eighth place in career scoring at SIUE and he now has 1,126 points. Wright also became the all-time leader in games played at SIUE, playing in his 123rd career game.

[Damarco Minor](#) scored 16 points for the Cougars and added a team-high seven rebounds. [Lamar Wright](#) scored 14 points and also grabbed seven boards.

The Cougars were 20-34 (58.8 percent) in the second half and shot 54 percent from the field for the game. SIUE was 9-19 (47 percent) from three-point range.

North Park, which won 24 games and made an appearance in the final 16 of the Division III tournament last season, connected on 42 percent (24-57) of its shots in the game.

Phil Holmes, Jr. and Kolden Vanlandingham each scored 12 points to pace the Vikings.

SIUE next travels to Mizzou for a Monday night game against the Tigers.