

PHOENIX, Ariz. – The Bradley Central Bearettes took fifth place in the Joe Smith bracket of the Nike Tournament of Champions after defeating Dillard (Fla.) 50-39 earlier Saturday morning.

After jumping out to a 14-4 first quarter lead both teams were only able to add three points in the second quarter as Bradley Central (14-2) led 17-7 at the half.

Dillard (10-2) came out of the halftime break cutting the lead to seven with 3:24 before a physical play put a spark in the Bearettes ending the third on a 12-2 run to take a 39-22 lead going into the final period.

Bradley continued their run into the fourth reaching the climax of their lead as it was stretched to 19 on two Anna Walker free throws. The Panthers then began to slowly chip away cutting the lead to 12 before the two teams traded runs to end the game to make the final 50-39.

Anna Walker led all scorers with 13 points while Hannah Lombard pulled down seven rebounds to go with five points and five assists. Jamaryn Blair was able to pitch in eight points, passed four assists and stole three balls from the opposition.

Dillard was paced by Chynna Mattair who recorded 12 points, followed closely by Kintaeja Long with 11 points. Raven White was able to pull down eight rebounds to lead all athletes.

Bradley was able to get to the basket as they outscored the Florida school 22-12 in the paint.

The Bearettes jump right back into district play opening up the new year's schedule with Cleveland on January 4th at 6 p.m. at Raider Arena.