

PHOENIX, Ariz. – The Bradley Central girls basketball team rebounded on Friday morning with a 69-59 win over St. Mary's (Calif.) in the consolation bracket of the Nike Tournament of Champions.

St. Mary's (7-2) got off to a quick start taking an eight-point lead just over two minutes into the game capped off by an Anissia Cayton three to make the score 10-2. The Bearettes responded with a 20-5 run to finish out the first quarter and take a 22-15 lead after the first break.

Bradley Central (13-2) slowly widened the gap taking an 18-point lead on a fast break layup by Hannah Lombard with 3:40 to go before halftime. The Rams were able to cut the lead to 11 before Lombard made two free throws right before the break to push the halftime advantage to 13.

The third quarter was all square at 14 all as the two teams went back and forth with runs before fourth quarter showdown. With 4:10 left Jada Moss had a steal and layup off a bad pass from Jamaryn Blair to cut the lead to seven and the closest the Rams could get to the Bearettes. Bradley Central went 7-10 from the free throw line in the final period despite getting outscored 15-12.

Blair led all scorers with 22 points while Kaleigh Hughes made three behind the arc in route to 15 points. Cambree Mayo came off the bench and was able to produce eight points while Alexis Barnes pitched in six to account for 14 of the Bradley 16 bench points.

Bradley Central forced only 14 turnovers but made the most off of it scoring 19 points from them while outscoring the Rams 21-6 in fastbreak points. The Bearettes outscored the California squad 34-28 in the paint.

Anna Blount led St. Mary's with 15 points in the game. Tai Sherman recorded 13 points and Cayton helped with 12 while Moss rounded out the double-digit scorers with 11 on the morning.

Bradley Central will be back in action on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. MST as they will take on Dillard (Fla.) who defeated Perry (Ariz.) in the following game 62-52 in the fifth place game of the Joe Smith bracket.