

Sacramento 5 crowned as first-ever The 5 Tournament champions after defeating Toronto 5 81 to 74

The 5 Tournament crowned its first-ever champion Wednesday, as Sacramento 5 bested Toronto 5 84 to 71 at The Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

The game was close and competitive throughout, but perhaps a substitution blunder all but ended Toronto 5's chances of being the victor instead in the inaugural round-robin tournament.

Shooting star and the tourney's top scorer Mike Taylor scored 19 straight points in the first quarter for Toronto 5, single-handedly outscoring Sacramento 5 as his team took a 30 to 20 lead into the second period.

However, Taylor — who was 8 of 10 from the field, including five three-pointers and 21 points total — was resting on the bench to start the second quarter, even after Sacramento 5 couldn't weather his lights out shooting barrage.

Despite shooting just 33% from the field in the first, and down by as many as 13, Sacramento 5 stormed back in the second, using a 7-0 run to close the quarter to take a 46 to 45 lead. Taylor was unstoppable early but cooled down considerably in the second period, missing all five of his field goals. His only two points came off of free throws.

Seemingly inspired by Taylor's offensive output earlier in the game, Sacramento 5 star Donte Greene, a former 2008 first-round pick, put the team on his back and scored 15 of his game-high 31 points in the quarter. Former second overall pick and Kings mainstay Mike Bibby was a big part of the comeback as well, nailing a pair of three-pointers in the first two quarters and 12 total in the first half.

Sacramento 5 returned after halftime as composed as ever, kicking the door down with a 16 to 6 run to start the third quarter. After scoring the first two points in the third and up by one, Toronto 5 never regained the lead from there

Bibby made two more threes and dished three assists, prompting the Canadian outfit to call a timeout as the lead ballooned 62 to 51, the highest of the game for Sacramento 5.

The No. 3-seeded Toronto 5 sensed the game was getting out of control and called timeout to rethink their strategy.

Patrick O'Bryant, the former No. 9 overall pick in the NBA Draft and four-year veteran, immediately answered with an and-one conversion. The 7-footer followed it up with a three-pointer.

Jamario Moon, once a high-flying NBA Slam Dunk Contest competitor and a Harlem Globetrotters alum, made back-to-back three-pointers and cut the lead down to 64 to 63, as Toronto 5 closed the quarter with a 12-2 run. He finished with 19 points.

With the championship crown hanging in the balance, both teams clamped down on defense in the final quarter, as each shot was heavily contested, and every rebound was treated like a prized possession.

Bibby kicked the quarter off with his seventh triple of the game. He scored 21 for the game, with all of his points coming off three-pointers.

An infuriated Taylor received a technical foul with 2:13 left in the game for arguing a call, as Sacramento 5's lead grew to 75 to 69. Taylor immediately responded for his mental mishap by making a three.

Green answered with a triple of his own to bring the lead back up to six.

Taylor, who finished with 34 points in the game, responded yet again with a layup to make it 78 to 74 with 45 seconds left to play.

It was Toronto 5's final points of the night, as O'Bryant missed a jumper with 33 seconds left, and the team never got the ball back.

Shortly after the final whistle, Commissioner Jerry Castello presented the championship trophy to team captain Bibby, and the Mr. Hoop Award to Greene.

Taylor came into the game averaging a tournament-leading 32.6 and 11 rebounds a game, but perhaps the quick break in the second stopped him from continuing his prolific shooting performance and leading his team.

Dahntay Jones, a 13-year NBA veteran and former NBA champion, finished with 18 points for Sacramento 5.

Both teams finished the game with a respectable performance from beyond the arc — Sacramento 5 was 13 of 27, while Toronto 5 was 10 of 25.

The tit-for-tat contest was a carbon copy of their previous meeting, when both teams faced off in the first game of the tournament — Sacramento 5 barely edged Toronto 5 with an 84 to 82 win on July 19.

The Sacramento 5 came into the game as a 2-point favorite, according to BetOnline.AG.

The 5 Tournament kicked off July 19 on Dish Network, DirecTV and Fite TV pay per view and featured teams from Miami, Texas, New York and Chicago. "The Battle For HoopQuality," an All-Star Game pitting former NBA and WNBA greats against each other, was another highlight of the tournament.

For more information, go to www.The5Tournament.com.