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October 9, 2015

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Tulsa Tops UConn in Five Sets

TULSA, Okla. — Junior outside hitter Erica Bohannon recorded 21 kills and junior libero Brooke Berryhill tallied 38 digs to lead the Golden Hurricane to a 3-2 (21-25, 25-14, 25-20, 16-25, 16-14) win over American Athletic Conference opponent UConn Friday evening at the Donald W. Reynolds Center.

The Golden Hurricane improved to 8-9 overall and 3-2 in conference play, while the Huskies fell to 7-9 overall and 1-4 in conference play.

In the first frame, Tulsa came out strong, maintaining the advantage through the first part of the set to earn a 13-9 lead. UConn rallied with a four-point run, and the teams battled back and forth for the next six points to a 19-19 tie. The Golden Hurricane led with a .229 hitting percentage on 15 kills to UConn's .219 percentage on 11, but it was not enough as Tulsa dropped the frame 25-21.

The Golden Hurricane dominated the second set of the match with a .321 hitting percentage on 11 kills, while limiting UConn to a -.059. Outside hitter Erica Bohannon led the team in kills with seven, and libero Brooke Berryhill had seven of the team's 14 digs.

In the third frame, Tulsa had 14 kills and a hitting percentage of .233. The team held UConn to a .102 percentage on 10 kills, and libero Brooke Berryhill led defensively with 12 of the team's 30 digs. UConn rallied late in the set, pushing the score to 24-20, but Bohannon delivered a striking kill to end the game.

Tulsa took an early 5-1 lead in the fourth stanza, forcing a timeout for UConn. Both teams battled through the middle of the set to a 14-14 tie. The Huskies then went on a scoring run, allowing only two more side outs for the Golden Hurricane through the end of the set and finishing the game 25-16. UConn had a .308 hitting percentage, while limiting Tulsa to .108 on 10 kills.

In the final stanza, Tulsa gained the lead, 8-6 at the midpoint. UConn fought back and tied the score at 14-14, but a service error gave the ball back to the Golden Hurricane. A hard serve by junior Trinity Alualu forced an overpass, which was answered by a crushing kill by senior middle Ashley Hooper to win the game, 16-14.

The Golden Hurricane are back in action Sunday at 1:30pm versus conference leader Temple at the Donald W. Reynolds Center.

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