

# Taylor's Last-Second Three Lifts Cougars Over Denver

by Joe Pott

November 17 2023 8:57 AM



MOBILE, Ala. – [Ray'Sean Taylor's](#) left wing three-pointer just before time expired gave SIUE men's basketball at 77-74 win over Denver in the Cougars' first game at the South Alabama Jaguar Classic.

Both SIUE and Denver are now 2-2 for the year. Denver had averaged 92 points per game over its first three games.

Denver had fought back and tied the game at 74 with a three-pointer by Tommy Brunner with 11 seconds to play. Taylor walked the ball up the floor stepped to his left and knocked down the game-winner.

Taylor finished with 21 points, including 16 in the second half. He was 5-7 from three-point range and hit four in the second half.

"Ray'Sean shouldn't even be playing as much as he is and he goes out and does this," SIUE Head Coach [Brian Barone](#) said. "I could have drawn up 500 plays that would have made me look really cool. At the end of the day, give it to a really good player and let him go make a shot. The guys looked at me, 'like don't call a timeout.'"

SIUE used a late run to get on top before halftime. It was 31-24 when SIUE started on its run. A pair of free throws by [Ray'Sean Taylor](#) with 3:46 left in the half gave the Cougars a 32-31 and they never trailed in the game again. SIUE finished the half on a 19-6 run and led 43-37 at the break.

The Cougars build as much as a 13-point lead after a jumper from [Shamar Wright](#) with 8:21 to play.

[Shamar Wright](#) finished with a team-high 24 points, including 18 in the first half. [Damarco Minor](#) turned his second consecutive double-double, scoring 14 points and adding a game-high 13 rebounds.

Bruner led Denver with 33 points. DeAndre Craig and Isaiah Addo-Ankrah each added 10 points.

The Cougars will play its second game in the Jaguar Classic against Nicholls Friday night. Tipoff is slated for 6:00 p.m.

"This is why we came to these things," Barone added. "You have got to find out where you are. At least tonight we know we're plus-three. We'll go back to work."