

Kings trip Tigers, close in on twice-to-beat

Written by nelson beltran

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Willie Miller of Ginebra tries to get past the defensive line of Sean Anthony of Powerade.

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(Photo by Jun Mendoza)

MANILA — Ronald Tubid hit a career milestone in converting five of 13 three-point shots as Barangay Ginebra enhanced its bid for a twice-to-beat incentive in the PBA Philippine Cup quarterfinals with an 84-81 win over Powerade at the Cuneta Astrodome. Tubid canned in his first attempt two minutes into the game, making him the 20th player in league history to have hit 500 three-pointers.

The former UE stalwart fired four more triples later on, starring in an attack that turned the game around for the Kings, who fell behind by as many as 10 points in the third quarter.

Mike Cortez and Rudy Hatfield had their contributions as the Kings charged back in the playoff period to annex their ninth victory against three losses.

“It’s another close game that could have gone the other way. The bottom line was that we made the big shots and made the necessary stops in the end,” said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico.

“We prefer to be at No. 1 or No. 2 but we have no control on the games of the other teams in contention for the top two. So we’ll just try to win as many games we can and see what happens,” Uichico also said.

Powerade slid deeper down at ninth place with a 3-10 win-loss card, allowing Rain or Shine (5-5) and Alaska Milk (5-7) to seal entry into the playoff phase.

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The eighth-running Air21 Express need to win only once in their last three games to clinch the last slot in the quarters.

With Mark Caguioa down with a calf injury, Tubid came through with a game-high 21 points and finished with four rebounds, three assists and two steals.

The eight-year pro has had 504 three-point conversions, within striking distance of the career marks of Kenneth Duremdes (513) and Noy Castillo (522).

League Hall of Famer Allan Caidic holds the all-time record with 1,242, followed by Ronnie Magsanoc with 1,171 and Al Solis with 1,000.

In the nightcap, San Miguel Beer grounded the Meralco Bolts for a 98-94 win that assured the team of a spot in the top two.

Dondon Hontiveros, Joseph Yeo, Jay Washington, Arwind Santos, Danny Idefonso and Alex Cabagnot all put in double-digit outputs as the Beermen held off the B-Boys to clinch twice-to-beat incentive in the quarterfinals.