

St. John's beats North Florida 74-53

St. Johns advances to the finals

box score

NEW YORK (AP) -- Avery Patterson went 8-of-14 from 3-point range and scored 24 points as St. John's routed North Florida 74-53 in the opening round of the New York regionals of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic on Friday night.

The Red Storm (1-0) will face Navy, which beat Loyola of Maryland 73-61 in the opener. Saturday's winner will advance to the semifinals Nov. 16-17 at Madison Square Garden.

Lamont Hamilton, who had 15 points, was the only other double-figure scorer for the Red Storm, who never trailed and had a 43-34 lead at halftime.

Rashad Williams scored 18 points on 8-for-16 shooting and was the only double-figure scorer for the Ospreys (0-1).

Hamilton and Eugene Lawrence each had three points as St. John's jumped to a 6-0 lead. Patterson's 3-pointer gave the Red Storm their largest lead of the first half, 29-17 with 7:51 left.

The Ospreys closed within five twice, the second time at 34-29 on Arnold Henry's tip-in with 2:26 remaining.

The Red Storm then went on a 23-10 run to put the game out of reach, 57-39 with 11:50 to play. Patterson and Qa'rraan Calhoun each made 3-pointers to lead the way as coach Norm Roberts went to his bench.

Down the stretch, Patterson connected on consecutive 3s to give St. John's its largest lead, 74-45, with 4:53 to play.

