



Star-Telegram/RICK MOON

UTA's Paul Schulte ends up on the floor trying to corral a loose ball after colliding with Illinois' Patrick Anderson.

UTA's Movin' Mavs stopped again by Illinois

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ARLINGTON — For the third consecutive year, Illinois defeated the UT-Arlington Movin' Mavs in the National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Patrick Anderson led Illinois to a 54-46 victory yesterday at Texas

Hall in the championship game. The victory gave the Illini their eighth national championship and their fifth victory against UTA this season.

"I told the team, after five games, we have to recognize that Illinois is simply the better team," UTA coach Jim Hayes said.

Anderson carried the Illini in a second-half comeback, scoring 23 of the team's 29 points. He finished the game with 37, going 14-of-27 from the floor, including 3-of-4 from 3-point range.

The Movin' Mavs led 38-33 with 11:18 left after Paul Schulte, who had a team-high 21 points, hit a 3-pointer.

Anderson said at that point the Illini became aware of the need to elevate its game.

"I think we had two roads we could go down in the second half," he said. "We could either let them come at us or go at them. Around the 10-minute mark we made the

decision to go at them, and I think that's when the tide started to change."

The tide did turn, as Anderson sank consecutive 3-pointers, giving Illinois a 39-38 lead with 8:58 left. Illinois maintained the lead the rest of the game.

UTA kept Anderson to 14 points in the first half and held a 27-25 lead at the half.

However, UTA captain Enoch Ablorh got in foul trouble early in the second half as the Movin' Mavs picked up six fouls in the first six minutes.

With Ablorh out of the game, UTA struggled to contain Anderson.

"This is a Gold Cup, Olympic, all-world athlete," Hayes said of Anderson. "That's what he's supposed to do. You've got to have an answer for him if you're going to play for the championship."

Earlier in the day, Wisconsin-Whitewater claimed third place with a 58-43 victory over Southwest (Minn.) State.

Seniors Ablorh and T.K. Dannelley played their final game for the Movin' Mavs.

"It's like having two sons move away from home," Hayes said.

Ablorh shed a few tears, while Dannelley was merely thankful for the opportunity he's had at UTA.

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