Alaska Aces gunning for top spot in Governor’s Cup

AFTER clinching the top two seeds in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Governor’s Cup following their match at the Panabo Multi-purpose Tourism, Cultural and Sports Center in Panabo City, Davao del Norte on Saturday, there is no let up for the Alaska Aces and the San Miguel Beermen, as they may be faced with tough competition in the quarterfinals.

Head coach for the top-seeded Alaska Aces Alex Compton told Sun.Star Davao in an interview that their 82-77 win over the Beermen was huge since they are most likely to end up at the top spot and having a twice to beat advantage in the quarterfinals after posting an 8-2 win-loss record.

“San Miguel was guaranteed first or second no matter what happened today. We could have conceivably dropped all the way to fifth. Now because of this win I think no matter what happens on Tuesday, we’ll end up being still first. So we have a twice to beat advantage now,” Compton said.

But while they may have clinched a twice-to-beat advantage coming in the quarterfinals, they will have to play harder for they will be most likely matched with former champions in the quarters.

“The problem lies in the fact that the teams that are in the bottom of the standings are champion level teams. So you know you got Purefoods there, you got Talk ‘N Text, you got Ginebra and Kia. I don’t know who else could end up being there but we’re going against good teams,” Compton said.

The Aces head coach jested, “There is no team there that I want to play. As a coach you watch every team play and I have seen the good in people and I’ve seen the good in teams. So my fear factor and respect factor is really high. In fact, if our quarterfinal opponent doesn’t show up that’s better for me.”

San Miguel Beermen head coach Leo Austria, in a separate interview, said they had a rough start in the game that led to the loss that snapped their eight-game winning streak.

“We can’t win it all and now we just have to be focused on preparing for our game in the quarterfinals. We may have a twice-to-beat advantage but there is no room for us to be complacent because we may face good teams in the quarterfinals,” Austria said.

The two remaining quarterfinals berths will still be a toss-up between the seventh to tenth seeds with Talk ‘N Text having a 5-6 record followed by Purefoods Star Hotshots at 4-5. Barangay Ginebra San Miguel and Kia Carnival, meanwhile, are tied with identical 4-6 records.