

D III NEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of Division III Women's Basketball

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Page 1

Top Stories

Page 2

Newsroom

Page 3

The Coach's Seat

Page 5

Monthly Awards

Page 5

Milestones

St. John Fisher Program, Kahler Win 700th Game

PITTSFORD, N.Y. — The St. John Fisher College women's basketball program, the all-time winningest program in NCAA Division III, recorded its 700th overall win on Jan. 10 as the host Cardinals defeated Utica College 73-42 in an Empire 8 Conference match-up.

The victory also marked the 700th overall win for head coach Phil Kahler, the program's first and only coach. Kahler, who has won more games than any other coach in NCAA Division III and owns an NCAA record of 660-132 (total doesn't include wins over junior colleges and Canadian institutions) is the only coach in the program's 30-year history. No coach in NCAA basketball — men's or women's — Division I, II or III — has coached longer than Kahler and posted a better winning percentage. Of the 1,022 NCAA institutions that sponsor women's basketball, only Louisiana Tech has a better all-time winning percentage.

"Our program has been successful for so long because we've had players that love to play basketball and are willing to work," Kahler said. "This year's team is no different than the ones we've had in the past. Our players want to play hard, they want to become better and they want to win. This is a very gratifying accomplishment for our players, our program and St. John Fisher College."



DeSales Upsets Scranton 64-59

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. — The DeSales University women's basketball team upset the University of Scranton Lady Royals 64-59 on Jan. 24 in MAC Freedom Conference action.

The Bulldogs used a 24-11 spurt over a 10-minute span in the second half to build a commanding 15-point lead at 59-44 with 4:16 left to play and held off a furious Lady Royal rally over the last four minutes to hold on for the five point upset win.

Moravian's Spirk Wins 300th Game

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — The Moravian College women's basketball jumped out to a 51-33 halftime lead behind a career high 13 first half points from freshman guard Rachel Berlin and held off a second half rally to earn an 85-77 victory over rival Muhlenberg College on Jan. 26.

The win was the 300th for Moravian head coach Mary Beth Spirk, who now has a career record of 300-149 in 17 seasons at the Bethlehem school.



Calvin Upends Hope 74-62

HOLLAND, Mich. — Calvin's nine-game losing streak to rival Hope is over.

The team picked up its first victory over its chief rival since January of 2000 with a 74-62 upset win on Jan. 24 in front of a capacity crowd at Hope's arena.

In addition, the victory extended Calvin's current win streak to 11 games while snapping Hope's 22-game homecourt win streak.

Most importantly, the Calvin victory allowed the Knights to move into a share of first place in the MIAA standings at 7-1 in the conference.

News Wire — 2/3/04

- Rochester Downs Washington in UAA battle. See page 4 for game story.
- North Eastern Athletic Conference poised for expansion. Story on page 2.



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Durbin Wins 400th Career Game

ST. JOSEPH, Minn. — Saint Benedict remained unbeaten in MIAC play thanks to a 83-52 win over St. Thomas on Jan. 21.

The win was head coach Mike Durbin's 400th career win.

Seven Schools to Join NEAC in 2005

The North Eastern Athletic Conference will have a new look and possibly a new name by the fall of 2005 when seven new schools join as charter members.

Bard College was the first to announce its move and will join Baptist Bible College, Keystone College, Pennsylvania State University-Berks, Philadelphia Biblical University, Polytechnic University and SUNY Purchase College as new members in the NEAC.

Bard's memberships in the Hudson Valley Men's and Women's Athletic Conference will remain in effect until the end of the 2004-2005 academic year.

The seven schools will join Cazenovia College, D'Youville and Keuka, which will stay in the conference as returning members. The NEAC will be an NCAA sponsored conference

Hilbert and Medaille announced last fall that they are leaving the NEAC to join the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference next season.

Penn State-Berks began its provisional membership in Division III this fall, Keystone will do so in the fall of 2004 and SUNY-Purchase will in the fall of 2005.

The conference would be eligible for NCAA recognition immediately, with six full Division III members. The conference would not get an automatic bid and its members would remain in Pool B.

**Next E-mail
Update Coming
Feb. 11**

So. Maine Completes Sweep of E. Conn

GORHAM, Maine — In one of Division III's top rivalries, senior Jen Webster scored a team-high 17 points as the University of Southern Maine downed Eastern Connecticut State University 64-56 on Jan. 24.

The loss was the second to USM this season for Eastern Connecticut, which also saw its 10-game winning streak come to a halt. Southern Maine posted a 73-59 triumph at Eastern Connecticut in early December.

Cedar Crest Ends 48-Game Losing Streak

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Junior guard Courtney Porzio scored a game-high 19 points and pulled down 10 rebounds to lead Cedar Crest to a 55-45 win over Wilson and its first victory in 48 tries.

The Falcons had not won a game since Dec. 10, 2001, and lost their 22 games last season by an average of just under 31 points.

Freshman guard Ashley Broski continued her solid play recording her fourth double double of the season scoring 11 points and grabbing 12 boards.

TCNJ's Henderson Wins 250th Game

EWING, N.J. — The College of New Jersey's head women's basketball coach Dawn Henderson captured her 250th career coaching victory with a 62-55 victory over Ramapo on Jan. 24.

Now in her 15th season of coaching, the win over the Roadrunners improved her overall career record to 250-125.

The 2003-04 campaign marks her 11th season at TCNJ. Under her guidance, the Lions have advanced to the NCAA Second Round four times and the Elite Eight once.

Before arriving at TCNJ, Henderson previously served two seasons as the head women's basketball coach at Worcester State (MA) College, followed by two seasons at Drew University.

Courtside With....

Carroll LaHaye, Randolph-Macon

WDIIN: What made you want to be a college basketball coach?

LaHaye: During my senior year in college, I had the opportunity to coach the local high school team in the town where I was going to school. Going to practice everyday was a real treat because the girls wanted to learn everything about the game. It was such a great experience that I decided to pursue more opportunities when I graduated so I became a volunteer assistant at Randolph-Macon. I became the head coach as a result of the time and effort I put in as that volunteer and I have never regretted it.

WDIIN: What do you like best about being a DIII basketball coach?

LaHaye: The opportunity to help a young woman develop in other areas of her life besides basketball and being a part of that is of value to me. Seeing these young women balance all the stressors in their lives today is commendable.

WDIIN: How would you rate the ODAC as a basketball conference?

LaHaye: The ODAC has made a concerted effort the last 5-6 years to get better. We have some outstanding coaches, young and not so young, that have worked very hard to improve the level of play. I believe the conference has developed a reputation of being strong as a result of some of our teams post-season play the past few years.

WDIIN: How would you describe your coaching philosophy offensively and defensively?

LaHaye: We want to attack you at both ends of the court.

WDIIN: At the end of the game with the outcome on the line, what offensive play do you run?

LaHaye: It would depend on who is in the game and what defensive scheme we see.

Carroll LaHaye is in her 22nd season as head women's basketball coach at Randolph-Macon College. In her 21 years, she has compiled a 304-239 (.560) overall record.

Most recently, LaHaye's 2002-2003 squad finished 20-10, won the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) tournament, and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament following a first-round win at home. LaHaye earned her 300th career victory during the campaign, and she was named the Richmond Times-Dispatch newspaper's Virginia state Coach of the Year.

WDIIN: What is the most memorable win of your coaching career? Loss?

LaHaye: That is a toughie. I have several that I can recall; but a Conference Championship win or loss is a means of evaluation and always memorable.

WDIIN: What is the biggest challenge you face as a college basketball coach?

LaHaye: Trying not to dominate the players' time more than we do and making sure that all of their experiences are put into perspective.

WDIIN: When was the last time you read a coaching book or attended a coaching seminar? Did you learn anything new?

LaHaye: I attended one in 2003 and absolutely learned something new. As a matter of fact I still seem to learn something new about basketball each day of the season.

WDIIN: What recruiting functions are you doing this time of the year?

LaHaye: I have many job responsibilities within the College, so my assistant coach has our recruiting schedule organized and she gives me tasks to do for certain recruits—phone calls, notes, attending games, etc.

New Jersey City to Leave New Jersey Athletic Conference

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — New Jersey City University will leave the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) following this season, the school announced.

Last June, the school informed the NJAC of its intention to withdraw as a full-time member effective for the 2004-2005 academic year.

At that time, the University petitioned the NJAC for conference-affiliated membership status, which would have permitted NJCU to continue competing within selected sports in the NJAC. The University's request was denied in a vote by the NJAC Board of Athletic Administrators at its meeting on September 18, 2003. New Jersey City University is disappointed that its request for affiliated membership status was denied.

NJCU's decision to withdraw as a full member of the Conference was based on recommendations from the University's Athletic Restructuring Task Force. The Task Force was an internal committee comprised of the athletic director, coaches,

athletic department administrators, faculty, staff and student-athletes who were charged with examining the future direction of the athletic program. In addition, an external athletic consultant, who conducted a review of the NJCU athletics program, recommended that the University withdraw from the NJAC.

Upon the recommendations of the Task Force and the consultant, Dr. Carlos Hernández, NJCU President, informed NJAC Commissioner Terrance Small last June in a letter that the University would withdraw from the Conference stating, "Although this has been an extremely difficult decision, I feel it is in the best interests of the University and its athletic programs."

According to SID Ira Thor, the school has applied to the Skyline Conference, and has also explored membership in the new North East Atlantic Conference (NEAC) or will perhaps be an independent.

"It's too early to tell right now," said Thor.



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Rochester Defeats Washington 58-54

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Kelly Wescott drove along the left baseline for a layup with two seconds to play, snapping a 54-all tie and leading Rochester to a 58-54 victory over Washington on Jan. 30

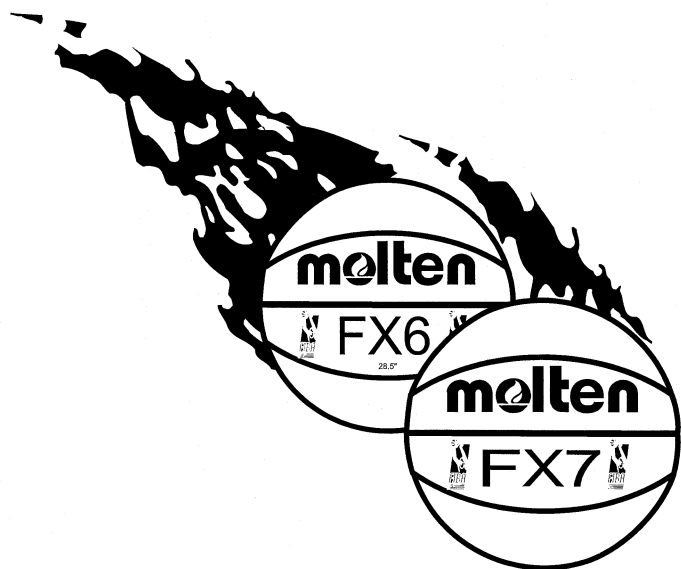
After four timeouts — two by each team — Washington's deep pass from the Rochester baseline sailed out of bounds. The Yellowjackets inbounded to Wescott who was fouled immediately by Hallie Hutchens. Wescott sank both free throws with one second left to clinch the win.

Rochester took a one-game lead in the University Athletic Association standings ahead of four teams: Washington U., Case Western Reserve, Brandeis, and NYU. Rochester is 5-1. The other four are 4-2.

The win was Rochester's 29th in a row at the Palestra. The last loss came two years ago to Washington 68-66. The loss for the Bears snapped Washington U.'s 137-game winning streak when holding opponents under 60 points. WU's last loss when allowing its opponent under 60 points came at New York University in 1997, a 59-54 setback.

- Emory & Henry's Erin Connelly became just the eighth individual in E&H women's basketball history to reach 1,000 career points.
- Lauren D'Ambrosio became only the 11th player in NYU women's basketball team history to reach the 1,000-point scoring mark.
- Senior Jen Sawyer became the seventh player in Alvernia College history to surpass the 1,000 career point plateau.
- College Misericordia senior Colleen Corrigan scored the 1,000th point of her career in a loss at Alvernia, January 14.
- Tiffany Speer exploded for 48 points to set a new women's single-game Whitworth record by making 16 of 24 shots from the field and 14 of 19 free throws. She made two of three three point attempts as well, breaking the previous single game record of 39 points she shared with Annette Sweeney.
- Eastern Connecticut senior Allison Coleman became the first player in program history to register 1,000 career points and rebounds.
- Amy Abernathy became the third player in Franklin & Marshall women's basketball history to record 1,000 points and rebounds.

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...GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

Player of the Month

January 2004

Hayley Smith, Maryville (Tenn.)

Maryville (Tenn.) senior Hayley Smith is the *Women's DIII News* Player of the Month for January.

The All-American forward averaged 24.6 points during the month and posted back-to-back 30-point games against LaGrange and Fisk. She gathered two Great South Athletic Conference Player of the Week honors during January and led her team to a 7-0 start in league play.

Honorable mention: Erika Smith of Rochester led the Yellowjackets to a 10-1 record during the month, including a win over Washington that put Rochester in first place in the UAA. She was a Player of the Week in the conference.

Coach of the Month

January 2004

Julie Johnson, Ripon

Ripon head coach Julie Johnson is the *Women's DIII News* Coach of the Month for January.

After a New Year's Day loss to Cal St. Monterey Bay, Johnson's Red Hawks rattled off eight straight victories through Jan. 29 and currently sit atop the Midwest Conference standings. Ripon beat its closest conference challengers, Lake Forest and St. Norbert, on the road during the streak.

Honorable mention: Eastern Mennonite head coach Richard McElwee led his Royals to a 9-1 mark and atop the ODAC standings thanks to wins over second-place Bridgewater and Guilford...Pam Smith's Wittenberg Tigers went 9-0 during January and own a two-game lead in the North Coast Conference.

Game of the Month

January 2004

New Jersey City @ Steven Tech

Jan. 10, 2004

Sophomore point guard Sharnice Jackson hit a running, desperation 30-foot 3-pointer from the right arc with 0.7 seconds remaining after sophomore forward Jenna Gambino drilled a 3-pointer from the right arc with 6.0 seconds left to tie the game, as New Jersey City University survived for an eventful 65-63 victory over cross-Hudson County rival Stevens Institute of Technology.

NJCU led 65-62 after the Jackson three, but the bench received a technical foul with 0.7 seconds left after the miraculous shot for charging the court, thinking the game had ended. Gambino hit one of two free-throws but could not muster a shot on the full-court inbounds play.

To nominate a game for Game of the Month, send game story to gsr@teleport.com by Feb. 24.