



## Norse dunksters enjoy slam-jammin' good time

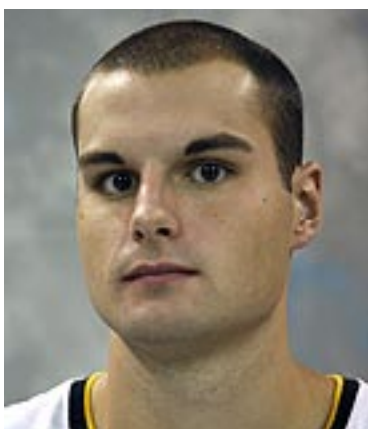


DeAaron Williams elevates for a first-half dunk during NKU's 87-41 win over UC-Clermont in the John L. Griffin/Lions Club Classic on Saturday night. On the right, A'Daeron Duncan finishes off a fast break with a windmill dunk for the Norse, who improved to 3-0.

## NKU posts 87-41 win over UC-Clermont in John L. Griffin Classic

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. – Even a couple of the missed dunks were fun to watch Saturday night as Northern Kentucky University met UC-Clermont in the John L. Griffin/Lions Club Classic.

So that made the converted slams even more enjoyable to the fans inside The Bank of Kentucky Center during NKU's 87-41 win over UC-Clermont. The Norse (3-0) finished with a 55-27 rebounding advantage and held UC-Clermont (1-4) to 32.1 percent shooting from the field.



Dustin Maguire

Senior forwards DeAaron Williams and A'Daeron Duncan provided plenty of first-half highlights. Williams missed on an attempted alley-oop slam in the opening minutes of the game. But the Peoria, Ill., native made amends minutes later by driving the right baseline and throwing down a two-handed dunk to give NKU a 21-11 lead.

Two minutes later, Duncan's attempted slam bounced off the rim into Ryan Pope's hands. UC-Clermont, however, turned the ball over and Duncan sprinted into the open court. The 6-foot-

5 Coppin State transfer finished off the break with a windmill dunk to extend NKU's lead to 25-13.

By halftime, NKU owned a 38-20 advantage and coasted in the second half. The Norse finished with a 27-4 advantage in second-chance points against the smaller Cougars. NKU center Brad Hosler, a former UC-Clermont player, scored nine points and grabbed nine rebounds against his former teammates.

"I was pleased with the 40-minute effort tonight," NKU



NKU's Scott Bibbins scores while drawing a foul from Tevenn Jones (3).

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head coach Dave Bezold said. "I was very happy with our intensity. We didn't shoot great most of the night, but when you have the intensity, which is the only thing you can control, it will help you on those nights when you're not shooting extremely well."



Brad Hosler (right) scored nine points and grabbed nine rebounds.

Dustin Maguire scored 16 points to lead NKU, while teammate Leslie Malone added 15 points and nine rebounds. Scott Bibbins added 11 points and four assists for NKU, which is ranked No. 6 nationally in the NCAA Division II poll. Williams finished with eight points, six rebounds and three assists.

"I think we played real well as a team,"

Williams said. "Everyone is starting to learn their roles, buying into coach's system, and everybody is doing what they have to do in order to contribute to the team."

The deep Norse held a 42-12 scoring advantage in bench points. NKU also finished with a 20-7 advantage in points off turnovers by committing just nine miscues the entire game.

"That is something that we stress in practice every day," Bezold said. "We took care of the basketball in this game, took advantage of our size and did a good really good job against a very young team."

"We had really good balance and did a good job of rebounding the ball. We still have a long way to go to be a really good team, but I think our guys are starting to understand their roles."



DeAaron Williams throws down his second dunk of the evening as NKU rolled to an 87-41 win over UC-Clermont. Williams was named the John L. Griffin Hustle Award recipient for the two-day event.



NKU's Leslie Malone hits a short jumper in the first half Saturday night.

All 11 players who saw action Saturday scored for NKU. Maguire was named the most outstanding player for NKU, while Williams earned the John L. Griffin Hustle Award for his play in the two-day event.

"It is a good feeling to be recognized for doing little things here and there, and doing the things that don't show up on the stat

sheet," Williams said of his award. "I couldn't have won the award without my team, coach Bezold, and buying into his defensive system."

Williams also said NKU is focused on a lofty goal this season.

"We take the family-approach to things," he said. "We look at everything as one-for-all and all-for-one, because we have the same goal, and that is to win the national championship."

NKU plays host to Saginaw Valley State Monday at 7:45 p.m. inside The Bank of Kentucky Center.



NKU's Dustin Maguire (right) receives his most outstanding player award after the Norse's 87-41 win over UC-Clermont in the John L. Griffin/Lions Club Classic. Maguire scored 16 points Saturday.