



NKU continues early-season roll with 76-44 victory

Williams scores 19 points as sixth-ranked Norse (4-0) coast past Saginaw Valley State

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - DeAaron Williams scored 19 points and grabbed six rebounds as Northern Kentucky University improved to 4-0 with a 76-44 win over Saginaw Valley State Monday night.

Williams, a 6-foot-5 senior forward, also blocked two shots and was 3-for-4 from 3-point range. Dustin Maguire, Leslie Malone and A'Daeron Duncan each finished with 10 points for the Norse, who shot 50 percent from the field and won the rebounding battle by a 44-23 margin.

"We had very good balance offensively and did a great job rebounding," NKU head coach Dave Bezold said. "Our depth really helped in this game, and our bench gave us 34 points."

Saginaw Valley State ran out to a 7-0 lead, but NKU countered with a 10-0 run. David McFarland and Scott Bibbins knocked down 3-pointers to key the spurt.

NKU later used a 21-3 run to extend a 15-11 lead to a 36-14 advantage on a jumper by Duncan. The Norse, who are ranked No. 6 nationally in the NCAA Division II poll, held Saginaw Valley State (0-2) to 36.2 percent shooting from the field.

"We just wanted to come out and make a statement because it was an in-region game," Williams said, noting

A'Daeron Duncan scored 10 points.

Saginaw Valley State is a member of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Bibbins and McFarland each dished out five assists for the Norse, who finished with 21 helpers as a team. Tanner Jacobs grabbed nine rebounds for the Norse, while Tony Rack added seven boards.

"Saginaw Valley State is a good team and we were just fortunate to make some shots early, play some defense, and get out to a comfortable halftime lead," Bezold said. "The focus our guys had was tremendous. We've had three games in four days, and that is something you have to be prepared for if you have any aspirations of advancing in the conference tournament or NCAAs. We had it set up to where we were going to play the best team of the three on the last day, and we just were on our game tonight."

NKU travels to Wingate, N.C., this weekend for the OrthoCarolina Classic and will meet Wingate on Saturday. The Norse play Catawba (N.C.) on Sunday to close out the two-day tournament.



DeAaron Williams jams home a dunk during the first half of NKU's 76-44 win against Saginaw Valley State. Williams finished with 19 points and six rebounds.

PHOTOS BY TIM DOWNER, JEFF MCCURRY & TOM MILLER
NKU SPORTS INFORMATION

- A complete photo gallery of the NKU/Saginaw Valley State game can be found Tuesday afternoon at www.nkunorse.com.
- NKU hits the road for North Carolina this weekend by playing in a two-day tournament at Wingate University Saturday and Sunday.