



Norse use big spurts in each half to tame 'Hounds

NKU bench produces 47 points in 76-61 road victory at Indianapolis on Thursday night

INDIANAPOLIS - Northern Kentucky University used two big spurts to sprint past Indianapolis, 76-61, in the Great Lakes Valley Conference opener for both teams Thursday night.

NKU (5-2 overall, 1-0 GLVC) used an 18-2 run early in the first half to build a 22-7 lead. Dennis Gagai capped the spurt by knocking down a 3-point-er. The Norse made four triples during the early spurt.

NKU settled for a 34-29 halftime lead, but Indianapolis used a 15-3 run to open the second half and take a 44-37 advantage with 13:07 remaining in the game.

After a timeout, NKU stormed back with a 17-0 run to take a 54-44 advantage. Gagai scored nine points to key the spurt, and Billy Finnell - who netted all 13 of his points in the second half - added six during the run.



David McFarland (32) battles Indy.

"Our bench really did a great job in this game and made big plays when we fell behind," NKU head coach Dave Bezold said. "Billy, Dennis and Skinny (Leslie Malone), you can look at the stats and see what they did. But I also thought Eric Wilkie gave us some great minutes in the second half when we came back."

Gagai finished with 12 points, while

Malone netted 16 points and grabbed eight rebounds. The NKU bench produced 47 points, compared with 16 for Indianapolis (1-4 overall, 0-1 GLVC).

"The depth of this team has been the difference all season, and it paid off again in this game," Bezold said. "Some of our starters did not have great games, but other people stepped up and made winning plays in the second half."

Dustin Maguire scored 10 points for NKU, which has beaten Indianapolis eight consecutive times. Keith Radcliff netted 17 points for the Greyhounds, who committed 21 turnovers.

NKU was 21-for-25 from the free-throw line and 7-for-21 from 3-point range. The Norse converted 18 free throws in 22 attempts in the second half.

"If you are going to win on the road, you have to make free throws. We did a really good job of converting them in this game, and that's going to win a lot of games," said Bezold, who team is ranked 20th nationally in the NCAA Division II poll.



Billy Finnell shoots over Indianapolis defender Dijon Knight (24) during the second half of NKU's 76-61 victory Thursday night.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MCCURRY, NKU SPORTS INFORMATION

• NKU is back in action next Tuesday night (Dec. 9) with a 7 p.m. game against Urbana in The Bank of Kentucky Center.