



NKU women give Winstel 600 reasons to smile



NKU's Karen Brackman (20) attempts a jumper while being defended by Missouri-St. Louis' Caitlyn Moody (24) in the second half of the Norse's 75-31 win Saturday. On the right, NKU head coach Nancy Winstel watches as the Norse give their mentor victory No. 600.

Norse mentor notches 600th career win, 75-31 over UM-St. Louis

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - After watching her team dispatch Missouri-St. Louis by a 75-31 score Saturday afternoon, Norse head coach Nancy Winstel was asked about reaching the 600-win plateau.

"I just think we're 13-0 right now, and that's a wonderful thing for our kids. I'm happy for our players. It is about the program and the success of the program," Winstel said after becoming just the fifth coach in NCAA Division II history to win 600 career games. "Coaches are only as successful as their players. I think you have to be effective and successful in your own way. I am very fortunate to do what I do and to have the players that I have."



Nancy Winstel

"I sometimes go back to my Midway mentality, because I was there for three years and when I think about it, it was probably three of the best years of my life because all I did

was eat, drink, and sleep basketball," she said. "Socially, I had no life, which is kind of sad to say, but it was an opportunity for me to really learn and grow. I spent a lot of time down there really learning the game of basketball and reading the game of basketball. I would come home from practice and study and work. It was virtually 24-7 of basketball at Midway."

NKU (13-0 overall, 5-0 Great Lakes Valley Conference)



Cassie Brannen (left) prepares to shoot over Alisa Ndorongo in the first half.

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put Missouri-St. Louis away in the first half with a 25-4 run that extended a 13-12 lead into a 38-16 advantage. Freshman Whitney Levering sparked the run with a pair of free throws and a 3-pointer en route to scoring a career-high 11 points.



Diondra Holliday challenges the defense during NKU's 75-31 victory.

"The two things that I have to do out there are play defense and rebound, so when I do execute on those things, coach is really happy," Levering said. "In the first half I didn't have any rebounds, so in the second half she wanted me to come out, work hard and get some rebounds."

Levering grabbed three boards in the second half as NKU

won the rebounding battle by a 47-28 count.

NKU held the Tritons to 21.1 percent shooting from the field. In fact, the Norse allowed just four field goals the entire second half.

Karen Brackman led NKU with 13 points, while Jessie Slack and Rachel Lantry each added 12 points. Brandi Rayburn scored six points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

NKU, which is ranked No. 1 nationally in the NCAA Division II poll, extended its winning streak to 19 dating back to last season. Defense and rebounding have been a constant in the 13-0 start.

"As a coach, you have to demand consistency. I think good teams are consistent in defense, rebounding, and taking care of the ball," Winstel said. "You can't always shoot the ball well, but you can be consistent in those areas."



NKU's Whitney Levering scores two of her career-high 11 points on Saturday. Levering also grabbed three rebounds in the 75-31 win.



NKU's Brandi Rayburn (30) rejects Kristi White's shot in the first half Saturday. The Norse finished with 10 blocks as a team. On the right, NKU head coach Nancy Winstel greets her team after forcing Missouri-St. Louis to call a timeout during the 75-31 victory.