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on NKU sports



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Norse embark on western trip to Rockhurst, Drury

Top-ranked NKU (13-0) to meet Rockhurst this Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Kansas City, Mo.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - The Northern Kentucky University women's basketball team, unbeaten (13-0) and ranked No. 1 nationally in the NCAA Division II poll, visits Rockhurst this Thursday night in Kansas City, Mo.

NKU then travels to Springfield, Mo., for a Saturday showdown against Drury. NKU is 5-0 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Norse own 19 consecutive wins dating back to last season's national championship run. Rockhurst enters Thursday with an 8-8 overall mark and is 2-4 in the GLVC.

BIG START: NKU's 13-0 start is the best since the 1987-88 season, when the Norse began the campaign 18-0.

WINSTEL MILESTONE: Nancy Winstel recorded her 600th career victory last Saturday during NKU's 75-31 win against Missouri-St. Louis in The Bank of Kentucky Center. Winstel became just the fifth coach

in NCAA Division II history to reach the 600-win plateau.

REMEMBER THE TRITONS: The memory of a 56-51 loss at Missouri-St. Louis last season provided plenty of motivation for NKU on Saturday as the Norse posted a 75-31 win against the Tritons. NKU 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-point-er en route to scoring a career-high 11 points.

SLACK AT THE LINE: NKU senior guard Jessie Slack has made 23 consecutive free throws and leads the GLVC in that category at 97.1 percent. Slack, a native of Mt. Perry, Ohio, is 34-for-35 from the line this season. The only free throw she missed was during a win against North Carolina-Pembroke on Dec. 12.

The NKU women's basketball record for consecutive made free throws is 34, set by Karyn Creager during the 2006-07 season. Slack leads NKU in scoring at 16.3 points per game.

DOWNTOWN BRACKIE: NKU senior guard Karen Brackman leads the GLVC in 3-point shooting at 56.7 percent. Brackman is 17-for-30 from 3-point range and averages 9.3 points per game. She also leads NKU with 40 assists.

INTENSE DEFENSE: NKU leads the GLVC in both scoring defense (47.2 ppg) and field-goal percentage defense (.295). The Norse have held opponents to less than 50 points six times this season.



Cassie Brannen (31) scores against Southern Indiana last week.



NKU's Brandi Rayburn attempts a shot against Southern Indiana defender Abby Williams (13) during the Norse's 62-48 victory at Evansville, Ind.

NCAA TAKE A KID TO THE GAME NIGHT SET FOR JAN. 22

On Jan. 22, NKU will play host to Missouri S&T on NCAA Take a Kid to the Game Night. Adults can go on-line to www.nkunorse.com, print a Take a Kid to the Game voucher and bring children age 12 and younger to the doubleheader for free.

There will also be a mascot basketball game at halftime of the men's contest that evening. Call NKU marketing & promotions director Chris Hafling at (859) 572-7665 for information.