



Missouri S&T men get rejected by NKU's "Skinny"

Malone ties NKU single-game record with eight blocked shots during 79-55 win Thursday night

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. – The gentleman known as "Skinny" around Northern Kentucky University certainly fattened up his shot-blocking totals Thursday night.

Leslie Malone scored 21 points, grabbed 14 rebounds and tied a school record with eight blocked shots as NKU extended its winning streak to four with a 79-55 victory over Missouri S&T in The Bank of Kentucky Center. Malone swatted five shots in the first half as the Norse ran out to a 45-30 lead.

"You just have to look at the numbers for Leslie Malone in this game," NKU head coach Dave Bezold said. "I haven't seen those types of numbers in a long time with the points, the blocks, and the rebounds. Skinny is really starting to come into his own and really getting comfortable in the system. He has really changed our defensive presence, and we're excited

to see how the team is going to continue to grow."

Malone's eight blocks equaled the NKU record held by both Gary Woeste (vs. Saint Joseph's on Jan. 17, 1980) and Patrick Holt (vs. Northeastern Illinois on Nov. 21, 1986). The 6-foot-7 Malone also dished out two assists and was 9-for-13 from the field.

DeAaron Williams added 16 points and six

rebounds as NKU improved to 13-4 overall, 6-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The 14th-ranked Norse shot 51.5 percent from the field in the first half and cruised past the visiting Miners (7-9, 2-6 GLVC) the final 20 minutes.

"Our ball movement has been pretty good for the last few weeks," Bezold said. "We are one of those teams that doesn't necessarily look pretty in the first month because of so many new people being incorporated into the system. But these guys have taken to each other and are very unselfish."

Dustin Maguire – named GLVC Player of the Week on Monday – scored 12 points for the Norse, who held Missouri S&T to 32.8 percent shooting from the field. Maguire also finished with five rebounds and made all seven of his attempts from the free-throw line.

Bezold said his team's defense continues to do a solid job.

"Our guys did a very good job in their concentration on the defensive side of the ball and that is yet



NKU's Leslie Malone (23) prepares to block Adam Knollmeyer's shot.

Leslie Malone slams down two of his 21 points against Missouri S&T's Adam Knollmeyer (44). Malone also had 14 rebounds and eight blocked shots.

another thing that we're excited about," he said. "We can still get better, and there is still basketball when we're going to have to make plays in a tight game. I just think that we can only keep getting better.

NKU is now 4-0 all-time against Missouri S&T.

NKU will play host to Quincy at 3:15 p.m. Saturday. Quincy posted an overtime victory at Indianapolis on Thursday night.

NKU is tied with Bellarmine for first place in the GLVC East Division standings. Bellarmine defeated Drury on Thursday night to remain tied with NKU.