



Quincy women spoil NKU's bid for perfection



Quincy's Whintae Irby (left) forces a jump ball against NKU's Jessie Slack during Saturday's GLVC showdown in The Bank of Kentucky Center. On the right, Quincy players celebrate after their 66-57 victory against top-ranked NKU, which entered the game with a 16-0 record.

Lady Hawks upset top-ranked Norse, 66-57, in GLVC showdown

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - The pressure of keeping that perfect record is now off the shoulders of Northern Kentucky University's women.

After starting the season with 16 consecutive victories, NKU watched its bid for an unbeaten campaign end Saturday afternoon during a 66-57 loss to Quincy. The Lady Hawks dominated much of the game and sent the nation's top-ranked team to its first loss since last March.



Nancy Winstel

NKU had won 22 consecutive games dating back to last season's national championship run. In the past week, however, the Norse had won an overtime thriller at Drury, then held on at the end to defeat Missouri S&T.

"There are no excuses from our end, because we were beaten by a better team," NKU head coach Nancy Winstel said. "Quincy just took it to us. They made a lot of plays, found a number of openings

and forced us to foul them because we could not guard them. All of us, my players, my staff and I have to take a long look at this and try to learn from it. Quincy is very good and de-

served to win this game."

Quincy entered the game without a national ranking, but that will certainly change after Saturday's win. The Lady Hawks rode the offensive talents of senior guard Jessica Keller, who poured in a game-high 26 points. Keller netted 14 points in the first half as Quincy built a 25-18 advantage.

Keller made seven free throws in the first half after aggressively taking the ball at NKU defenders. Norse standout Brandi



Cassie Brannen (left) blocks Courtney Shuman's shot in the second half.

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Rayburn picked up two early fouls and played just seven minutes in the first half. Jessie Slack also picked up two fouls but played 16 minutes in the opening half. Rachel Lantry committed three fouls in just two minutes of play before halftime.



Jessica Keller led Quincy with 26 points. She also grabbed seven rebounds.

Quincy methodically forged a 51-36 lead with 8:09 left in the game and appeared on its way to a blowout victory. NKU, however, used an 11-0 run to make it a 51-47 score on a Danyelle Echoles 3-pointer with 5:26 remaining.

Courtney Shuman, who finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds, sandwiched two baskets around a Keller score

to extend the Lady Hawk lead to 57-47 with 3:23 left, and NKU's two-season winning streak of 22 consecutive games was history.

"Every team guns for us, so all we can do is learn from it," said Slack, who scored 15 points. "We earned (the loss)."

Rayburn finished with 15 points and nine rebounds for NKU, which lost despite holding Quincy to 29 percent shooting from the field. The Lady Hawks, however, were 26-for-30 at the free-throw line and defeated NKU for the second straight year.

"I have to look at myself and think of what I didn't do, what I'm not doing, what I can do better, where I can get better," Winstel said. "If I'm going to pat myself on the back when we win, I've got to kick myself in the butt when we lose."



NKU's Brandi Rayburn (right) challenges Courtney Shuman during the second half of Quincy's 66-57 win Saturday.



Quincy became the first visiting team to leave The Bank of Kentucky Center with a regular-season victory on Saturday. The Lady Hawks, shown celebrating after the victory, improved to 16-3 and lead the GLVC West Division with an 8-1 record.