



## NKU taking control of GLVC East at right time



NKU's DeAaron Williams (33) soars for a first-half dunk Thursday night during the Norse's 79-61 win against Saint Joseph's. On the right, the Norse's Leslie Malone finishes off a break with a dunk in the first half. Malone finished with 18 points, 11 rebounds and four blocked shots.

## Norse extend winning streak to eight with 79-61 victory over SJC

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - It only counts for two points on the scoreboard, but DeAaron Williams is the first to admit that a powerful dunk can mean much more during a game. And no one throws down a jam quite like Williams, Northern Kentucky University's resident reigning doctor of slam-ology.

"Some people think a dunk is just two points, but being a dunker, I feel like it is more than two points," Williams said after helping NKU post a 79-61 win against Saint Joseph's on Thursday night. "We can get the crowd involved and bring more defensive intensity. We feed off each other, and that is a great way to get energy started from the coaches to the players to the student section and all the fans. It energizes the crowd and gives us a big boost."



Dave Bezold

Williams and teammate Leslie Malone treated the crowd of 2,754 inside The Bank of Kentucky Center to a pair of powerful dunks in the first half. The 6-foot-5 Williams beat his defender on the right baseline and threw down a vicious one-handed slam five minutes into the game to give NKU an 11-9 lead. Three minutes later, Malone took a pass from Jon Van Hoose and finished off a break with a two-handed jam to give the Norse a 20-19 edge.

Malone, a 6-7 senior forward, scored 12 of his game-high 18 points in the first half as the Norse built a 41-35 lead. Dustin Maguire added 10 of his 17 points in the first half.

NKU opened the second half with an 11-2 run to build a 52-37 lead. Scott Bibbins scored five points to key the Norse spurt. Bibbins finished with 13 points and two assists as NKU won its eighth straight game.

"He looks like he's a paperboy, and he is one of those guys who wouldn't get selected in a pick-up game at the park, but then all of a sudden he plays, and people start to love him because he is such a fierce, tough competitor," NKU head coach Dave Bezold said of Bibbins. "He loves to play and figures out ways to be successful. The other thing that he is able to do is live off the talent that is on the floor with him because the defenders can't provide a ton of help. He understands how to use those guys, and he has always been able to score."

A'Daeron Duncan scored 11 points and combined with David McFarland on defense to hold Saint Joseph's Austin Peebles into 0-for-10 shooting from the field and just four points.

NKU improved to 17-4 overall, 10-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Norse, ranked No. 7 nationally in the NCAA Division II poll, own a two-game lead over Bellarmine in the GLVC East Division standings.