



Slack buries Bellarmine with second-half show



Jessie Slack (left) avoids the defense of Dana Beaven (32) for an off-balance jumper and two of her career-high 32 points. Slack poured in 20 during the second half of NKU's 71-54 win. On the right, Casse Mogan drives into the lane during the second half.

NKU senior nets 20 of career-high 32 in second half of 71-54 win

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - One minute she was drilling 3-pointers. The next time down the floor, it would be an off-balance jumper in the lane. A few seconds later, she would float in a left-handed spin shot against heavy defensive pressure.

On Thursday night, Jessie Slack put on a second-half show and led Northern Kentucky University to a 71-54 win against Bellarmine in Regents Hall. The 5-foot-10 senior guard poured in 20 of her career-high 32 points in the second half as the second-ranked Norse rallied from a 27-24 halftime deficit for the victory.



Jessie Slack

NKU improved to 24-2 overall, 15-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Norse shot 65.2 percent from the field in the second half to knock off Bellarmine and extend their winning streak to seven games.

Moving from The Bank of Kentucky Center - where NKU had played all of its home games this season prior to Thursday - to Regents Hall did not affect Slack in the least.

"Hey, I put up 32 (points) in here, so I'm good (with playing in Regents Hall)," Slack said. "If we can play conference and regionals here, then that would be good. I feel like here we still have our home-court advantage, whereas at The Bank, I don't think we've really established it as being our home court yet.

"Teams want to come and play at The Bank, but nobody wants to come and play in Regents Hall. It's just a tough place to play."



Rachel Lantry keyed NKU's win with six assists, six rebounds and two steals.

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Slack finished 10-for-16 from the floor and was 4-for-6 from 3-point range. She also added four steals and two assists.



Cassie Brannen challenges Bellarmine's Dana Beaven in the second half.

"Jessie Slack put on a show today," NKU head coach Nancy Winstel said. "She showed why she is an All-American and the best player in the conference, in my opinion. She said, 'I was feeling it.' She threw one away and I told her 'you're a shooter, not a passer.' She looked at me like that is all you need to tell me today.

"There are times when I tell her to pass the ball, but you could see she had that look in her eye,

and she knew it would go in if she shot it."

Slack scored NKU's first nine points of the second half as the Norse turned the 27-24 deficit into a 33-29 lead. The Norse held Bellarmine (16-11, 8-10 GLVC) without a field goal for more than 11 minutes in the second half and cruised to the win.

Slack has now scored in double figures in 31 consecutive games dating back to last season. What's it like to be in the "shooter's zone," Jessie Slack?

"You don't see a bad shot. All I know is that when you're in the zone, everything looks good," she said. "I know when I'm hitting left-handed layups and little finger-rolls with the left hand that I'm feeling good. Whenever you have everything going for you, you have just that much more energy, too."

Kylie Brady led Bellarmine with 12 points.



NKU's Jessie Slack prepares to score with a left-handed runner in the lane during the second half. Slack scored a career-high 32 points.



Former NKU post player Angela Healy (left) receives a basketball commemorating her 1,000th career point, which she scored during last season. On the right, former Norse standout Michelle Cottrell becomes the first NKU basketball player to have a number retired.