



Rayburn's double-double spells trouble for Knights

No. 2 NKU coasts to 80-69 win against Bellarmine in GLVC Tournament first round on Friday

QUINCY, Ill. - Brandi Rayburn collected her seventh double-double of the season with 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead Northern Kentucky University to an 80-69 win against Bellarmine in the first round of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament on Friday.

Rayburn also added three steals as NKU won its ninth consecutive game and improved to 26-2 overall. The Norse opened the second half with a 20-7 run to turn a 33-all tie at the break into a 53-40 lead with 11:27 remaining.

Rayburn, a junior forward, was 7-for-12 from the field. She also hit all six of her free-throw attempts.

Jessie Slack scored 17 points for NKU, which held Bellarmine (16-12) to 33.3 percent shooting from the field in the second half. Slack has now scored in double figures in 33 consecutive games dating back to last season.

NKU finished 23-for-23 from the free-throw line and won the rebounding battle by a 37-22 margin to knock off Bellarmine for the third time this season. Taylor Kopple led Bellarmine with 18 points.

Rachel Lantry added 11 points, six rebounds and three blocked shots for NKU, which is ranked No. 2 nationally in the NCAA Division II poll.

Cassie Brannen finished with 11 points for the Norse, who will face Lewis at 6:15 p.m. Saturday in the GLVC Tournament semifinals.

Lewis posted a 73-61 win against Drury in the first round Friday. The Flyers have won nine of their past 12 games, but two of those losses were against NKU. The Norse posted a 77-56 win against Lewis last Saturday in Regents Hall.

In Saturday's other semifinal game, top-seeded Quincy will play Missouri S&T. The Lady Hawks defeated Indianapolis in the first round, while Missouri S&T knocked off Wisconsin-Parkside in the other Friday game.

The championship game is set for 3 p.m. (Eastern) Sunday. Pairings for the NCAA Division II Tournament will be announced Sunday night.



NKU's Brandi Rayburn attempts a shot against Dana Beaven (32).



NKU's Jessie Slack elevates for a jumper against Bellarmine during the GLVC Tournament on Friday. Slack finished with 17 points as NKU posted an 80-69 win to advance to the semifinals against Lewis at 6:15 p.m. Saturday.

NKU/Bellarmino photos courtesy of Mike Kipley,
The Quincy Herald-Whig newspaper