



Defending national champions add proven scorer

Morehead State transfer Rayburn joins NKU women's basketball team this season

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - The defending NCAA Division II national champions from Northern Kentucky University continue to stockpile talent for next season, and the latest addition for the Norse women's basketball team is Morehead State University transfer Brandi Rayburn.



Brandi Rayburn

A 2006 graduate of West Carter High School, Rayburn played two seasons at Morehead State. The 6-foot forward saw action in 29 games for the Eagles last season and averaged 7.6 points per contest. She also knocked down 40 shots from 3-point range and made 84 percent of her free-throw attempts.

Rayburn led Morehead State in scoring four times and collected two double-doubles last season. Her top performance was a 21-point, 12-rebound effort against Eastern Kentucky. Rayburn also scored 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds against Tennessee Tech.

"Brandi knows how to score, and she can really shoot the 3-pointer," NKU head coach Nancy Winstel said. "We may need her to play inside as well next season, but she is a talented scorer.

After getting a lot of minutes the past two years at Morehead State, she also brings experience, and we're excited about having Brandi join our program."

As a freshman, Rayburn averaged 6.3 ppg and scored in double figures five times for Morehead State. She also connected on 85 percent of her free throws.

A native of Olive Hill, Ky., Rayburn scored 1,888 career points and grabbed 1,001 rebounds at West Carter. She averaged 18.2 points, 7.6 rebounds and 3.6 assists as a senior en route to earning 16th Region Player of the Year honor.

Rayburn also was named the most valuable player of the Kentucky-Ohio all-star game after her senior season. She lettered four times in basketball at West Carter.

Rayburn is the fifth newcomer Winstel has added for next season, joining incoming freshmen Sadie Bowling, Stephanie Hodges, Whitney Levering and Casse Mogan.

NKU welcomes back three starters from its NCAA Division II national championship team. The Norse finished 28-8 this past season en route to capturing their second national championship.

NKU also won the 2000 NCAA Division II national title.

Norse women play Louisville on Nov. 8

NKU begins defense of its NCAA Division II national championship Nov. 20 when Wayne State (Mich.) visits for the inaugural regular-season game in The Bank of Kentucky Center.

NKU, which captured the NCAA Division II national championship in March at Kearney, Neb., will play exhibition games against Cincinnati (Nov. 1) and Louisville (Nov. 8). The Norse's Nov. 8 contest against Louisville will be played in The Bank of Kentucky Center as part of a men's/women's exhibition doubleheader in the first-ever basketball games in NKU's new facility.

POWERFUL LOUISVILLE VISITS NKU NOV. 8 TO OPEN THE BANK OF KENTUCKY CENTER

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - Rick Pitino is bringing his University of Louisville Cardinals up I-71 North this November to meet Northern Kentucky University in The Bank of Kentucky Center's first-ever men's college basketball game.

Louisville, a perennial NCAA Division I powerhouse and a member of the Big East Conference, has never played Division II NKU in men's basketball. The Norse, coached by Dave Bezold, compete in the Great Lakes Valley Conference East Division.

NKU has played its basketball games in Regents Hall since the 1972-73 season, but both Norse teams will move into their new, state-of-the-art facility in 2008-09. The Bank of Kentucky Center will have a capacity of 9,400 for basketball.

The women play at 5:30 p.m. with the men to follow at 8 p.m.

For more information or to put your name on the pre-sale list, contact Kurt Moeller at (859) 572-6632 or Chris Hafling at (859) 572-7665.

NKU SEASON TICKETS ON SALE: NKU basketball season tickets are now on sale. The Norse will move into The Bank of Kentucky Center this season, and plenty of ticket options are available. Contact Kurt Moeller at (859) 572-6632 or Chris Hafling at (859) 572-7665 for seating options or to order season tickets.

Terrence Williams (right) will lead Louisville against NKU on Nov. 8.



Former NKU star Holmes back as assistant coach

Norse all-time kills leader, three-time All-American returns to NKU as assistant in 2008

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - The bad news for NKU volleyball fans is the fact Liz Holmes will no longer be on the court as a player.

The good news is that the Norse's all-time career kills leader will still be a part of the NKU program, now as an assistant coach.

Holmes completed her playing career at NKU last fall by becoming the only three-time All-American in Norse volleyball history.

A 2004 graduate of Mother of Mercy High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, Holmes started all four years at NKU. She was named Great Lakes Valley Conference Freshman of the Year in 2004 and earned honorable mention All-America accolades from the AVCA as a sophomore and junior. As a senior, Holmes was named GLVC Player of the Year, Great Lakes Region Player of the Year and the GLVC Scholar-Athlete of the Year for volleyball. Holmes also led NKU to a 26-9 record and helped the Norse secure a berth in the NCAA Division II Tournament.



Liz Holmes

She later was named to both the AVCA and Daktronics All-America first teams. Holmes finished her career as NKU's all-time leader in kills with 1,850, and she led the GLVC in hitting percentage her final three years. In addition, Holmes finished seventh all-time in NKU history with 1,191 career digs and second in block assists with 291.

After earning the Margery Rouse Athlete of Distinction Award from the NKU athletic council, Holmes was later named the GLVC's 2007-08 Woman of the Year. She also earned an NCAA postgraduate scholarship and was a four-time member of the GLVC All-Academic squad.



Liz Holmes (8) prepares to attack last season in Regents Hall. Holmes, a three-time All-American and the 2007 GLVC Player of the Year, will be on the NKU sideline as an assistant coach this fall.

14TH ANNUAL BRIAN ROHNE MEMORIAL 5K SET FOR AUG. 15



Norse cross country head coach Steve Kruse started the Brian Rohne Memorial 5K in 1995, and this will mark the 14th annual event on the NKU campus. Pictured above are runners at the 2004 Brian Rohne Memorial 5K.

CALL (859) 572-5193 FOR MORE INFORMATION

The 14th annual Brian Rohne Memorial 5K Run & Walk will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 15, on the campus of NKU.

The Brian Rohne Memorial 5K is held in honor of former NKU cross country runner Brian Rohne, who was killed by an automobile in January of 1993 while on a training run on the AA Highway in Cold Spring, Ky. During the 1992 fall season, Rohne had earned most valuable runner honors for NKU after being named All-Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The cost is \$18 if registration is postmarked by Aug. 8 (includes a T-shirt). The cost is \$15 for Runners Club of Greater Cincinnati members and \$20 for registration on the day of the event. On-line registration is available at www.rcgc.org.

The top 200 finishers will receive a 14th annual commemorative award, and the winners of the various divisions for runners and walkers will also receive awards.