

## Warriors Prepare For Light Week

**Distribution Date:** January 16, 2001

**Release Date:** Immediate

Every hard-working person deserves a day's rest. The Wayne State men's basketball team will get its well-deserved day of rest this week. Wayne State hosts Saginaw Valley State on Thursday, Jan. 18 starting at 7:30 p.m. The Warriors have the rest of the week off and do not play again until Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Findlay.

"This will be tough week for us with a good Saginaw Valley team coming into our place," said WSU head coach Ron Hammye. "However, it is an advantage to play at home and only have one game during the course of a week."

The Warriors finished 1-1 on their most recent road trip to Grand Valley State and Ferris State. Wayne State lost at Grand Valley, 93-80 (Jan. 11) and defeated Ferris State, 78-71 (Jan. 13). The Warriors are currently 9-7 overall and 3-4 in the GLIAC.

Against the Lakers, WSU fell behind early in the contest and were not able to catch up. GVSU led 45-37 at halftime behind 65.4 percent shooting from the field (27-46). The Lakers continued on their hot-shooting streak in the second half hitting 50.0 percent (10-20) from the floor. Grand Valley shot 58.7 percent (27-46) in the contest, while WSU shot 40.6 percent from the field (26-64). Grand Valley outrebounded WSU 38-28 in the contest. The Lakers biggest stat of the contest was their free throw shooting. GVSU connected on 34 of 44 free throws in the game, while WSU was 22 of 26 from the field.

"Grand Valley shot the ball very well from the field, which kept us on our heels for most of the contest," said Hammye. "We made a strong run at the end of the contest, but Grand Valley was able to beat us at the free throw line."

On Saturday the Warriors looked to bounce back against Ferris State, who entered the contest with a 4-9 record. The Warriors started off well in the first half shooting 50.0 percent from the field (12-24) and 45.5 percent from the three-point line (5-11) to jump out to a 38-27 halftime lead. Ferris State outscored the Warriors in the second half, 44-40, but WSU was able to hang on for the victory.

"It was good for us to finally get a GLIAC win on the road," said Hammye. "We shot the ball very well in the first half and forced Ferris State to turn the ball over."

Saginaw Valley comes to Detroit following its 100-84 win over Michigan-Dearborn. The Cardinals are 8-5 overall and 2-4 in the GLIAC. The Warriors and Cardinals did battle earlier this season at the GLIAC Classic held in Hillsdale, Mich.. SVSU surprised the Warriors in overtime, 91-82. Terrence Wright leads the Cardinals in scoring, averaging 20.3 points per game (ppg). He is second in the GLIAC in points per game. Richard Rashad is the leading rebounder pulling down 6.4 rebounds per game (rpg). Last season, the Cardinals defeated Wayne State, 69-64 at Saginaw. The Cardinals have 25-21 series lead over the Warriors.

“Saginaw has one of the premier players in the GLIAC conference in [Terrence] Wright,” said Hammye. “He is difficult to guard because he can play inside and outside. The Cardinals also have a strong rebounder in Richard Rashad. Saginaw gets the ball to the basket and plays very aggressive defense. This contest will be much different then our first meeting because that was in the beginning of the season. However, we will have an advantage playing at home.”

The Warriors are 6-1 at home this season and 24-2 in the past two seasons.

Below are WSU’s top performers last week.

**Rick Fox (Toledo, OH/St. Francis)** – A junior forward, Fox had two solid offensive performances against Grand Valley and Ferris State. Against the Lakers Fox posted 28 points and pulled down seven rebounds. Fox came back against Ferris State scoring 16 points and pulling down seven rebounds while dishing out four assists. Fox has scored in double-digits 10 times this season. He leads the Warriors in scoring (14.6 ppg) and rebounding (6.0 rpg). Fox ranks 15th in the GLIAC in scoring, 17th in rebounding, 15th in offensive rebounds and 17th in field goal percentage (.519).

**Mike Brown (Ann Arbor, Mich./Huron)** – The junior point guard averaged 18 points and four assists over the weekend. Brown scored 16 points and had five assists against Grand Valley. Two nights later he had 20 points, seven rebounds and three assists against Ferris State. Brown leads the Warriors in assists (55), steals (33), three-point field goals made (36) and three-point field goals attempts (107). Brown has led the Warriors in scoring three times and in rebounding three times. He ranks 25th in the GLIAC in scoring (12.8 ppg.), eighth in steals, ninth in assists and seventh in assist/turnover ratio (1.31).

**Nick Gout (Allen Park, Mich.)** – The freshman forward is averaging 11.3 ppg and 4.6 rpg. He leads the Warriors in free throw percentage (45-55) and three-point field goal percentage (42.6). Gout scored 16 points and pulled down three rebounds against Grand Valley State. He ranks 13th in the GLIAC in three-point field goal percentage, ninth in free throw percentage and tied for 17th in offensive rebounds.

**Justin Gorman (Riverview, Mich./Aquinas)** – A sophomore forward, Gorman is averaging 8.3 ppg and 3.4 rpg. He is second on the team in three-point field goals made (28) and three-point field goals attempts (74). Gorman ranks 16th in the GLIAC in three-point field goals made.

**Reggie Kirkland (Detroit, Mich./Romulus)** – The junior guard is averaging 8.1 ppg and 3.9 rpg. Kirkland scored 12 points and pulled down five rebounds against Grand Valley.

**Brandon Gray (River Rouge, Mich.)** – The sophomore forward is averaging 7.1 ppg and 4.4 rpg. Gray is averaging 12.3 ppg and 5.3 rpg. in his last four contests.

**Kendall LeSure (Detroit, Mich./Pershing)** – A sophomore guard, LeSure is averaging 7.0 ppg and 2.2 rpg. LeSure is second on the team in steals (26) and free throw percentage (80.8). LeSure ranks ninth in the GLIAC in steals.

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