

For Immediate Release

Thursday, March 5, 2001

Warriors vault to third-place in conference tournament seeding

This Week's Opponent -

For the fifth time this season, the Wayne State Warriors will compete versus Niagara University. This time the two teams will meet in the second annual College Hockey America conference "Final Five" tournament held at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. WSU will face Niagara on Friday, March 9, 2001, at 5:05 p.m. EST, in the first semi-final game of the tournament. The winner will play in the championship game on Saturday, March 10, 2001, at 8:05 p.m. EST, as the loser will play in the consolation game also on Saturday but at 5:05 p.m. EST.

Game Information -

Wayne State brings a 16-14-3 overall and 8-9-3 conference record into this weekend's play. The Warriors had a seven game winless streak going until they defeated Niagara in both games in the last weekend of regular season play. Niagara brings a 13-18-5 overall and a 10-7-3 conference record into the tournament. Niagara is seeded second in the tournament as Wayne State is seeded third.

Series Record -

This is fifth meeting between Wayne State and Niagara with the Warriors leading the series 4-0. In the last weekend of regular play, the Warriors swept the Purple Eagles for the second straight series this season. This marks the first time ever for Niagara to be swept all four games by a CHA opponent. In the four games this season, Wayne State has defeated Niagara by the scores of 9-6, and 4-3 on the road, and 4-3 in overtime and 1-0 at home.

Series Versus Niagara -

In the four games versus Niagara this season, sophomore Dustin Kingston has scored ten points versus the Purple Eagles (seven goals, three assists), including recording Wayne State's second ever "hat trick." Sophomore Jason Durbin has scored eight points in the four games versus Niagara (four goals, four assists) including marking the first ever "hat trick" in WSU history. In fact, Durbin scored the first WSU hat trick on January 12 and then Kingston marked the first time WSU scored a "hat trick" in consecutive games by scoring his on January 13. Freshman Chris Vail has scored six points versus Niagara (two goals, four assists) as sophomore Keith Stanich has scored three (three assists). Scoring two points versus the Purple Eagles were sophomores Jon Brink (two assists), and Tyler Kindle (two assists), along with freshman Jack Redwood (two assists) and Marc St. Jean (one goal, one assist). Sophomores John MacAdam has scored one assist, sophomore Maxim Starchenko scored one goal and sophomore Dan Rafner scored one goal.

Versus the other CHA Opponents -

Versus the other opponents in the CHA tournament, Wayne State has a winning record only against Niagara with a 4-0 record. Versus Air Force, AF leads 1-2-1 (all four games this season). Versus Alabama-Huntsville, the Chargers lead 7-1 including four wins this season. Versus Findlay, the Oilers lead 2-4-1 but post WSU leads this year with a 2-1-1 record.

Durbin and Guerrera Named CHA "Player of the Week" -

For the second time this season, Wayne State captured two of the three College Hockey America's "Player of the Week" honors. At one point this season (January 22, 2001) WSU swept all three awards. For the final regular season, sophomores Jason Durbin and David Guerrera received the Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week honors respectively.

In last weekend's play, all of Durbin's three points came in Friday's win over Niagara. Durbin has scored at least one point in each of his last four games and has registered 15 goals and 15 assists for 30 points in 33 games this season. This is the third time this season that Durbin has received "Offensive Player of the Week" honors.

Guerrera led WSU to a sweep over Niagara as he made 66 saves in two nights. On Saturday night, Guerrera received his second shutout of the season while making 36 saves. This is the second time this season that Guerrera has earned "Defensive Player of the Week" honors.

Conference Tournament -

With the two wins over Niagara this past weekend, the Warriors moved into the third seed of the conference tournament. The Warriors started the weekend seeded fifth. With the third seed, Wayne State is guaranteed at least two games in the conference tournament. Wayne State will play Friday night in the first semi-final game and will then play either in the consolation of championship game on Saturday night.

"This is an exciting time for our program," notes head coach Bill Wilkinson. "In only our second year of this program, I think it says a lot for our players to qualify for the tournament. It was great to see the team win both games and vault into third place in the seedings. It's just a great accomplishment for Wayne State."

Last Week -

The Warriors had its seven game winless streak ended as it defeated Niagara in both games, 4-3 in overtime and 1-0. This is the second time this season that WSU defeated Niagara in a weekend series and its marks the first time ever for Niagara to be swept all four games by a CHA conference opponent.

In Friday's game, the Warriors jumped out first as sophomore Jason Durbin scored his first of three points of the night with a goal at 17:44 in the first period. Sophomore Dustin Kingston and Chris Vail both added assists on the goal. WSU finished the period leading 1-0. In the second period, Kingston scored his second point of the night and his first of two goals of the evening at 4:31. Sophomore Brent Renfrew and Jason Durbin (his second point of the night) added an assist. Niagara scored one goal in the second as WSU finished the second period still leading 2-1. In the third period, Niagara scored a goal at 1:07 and a 12:21 in the period, but WSU tied up the game by scoring one goal by sophomore Daniel Rafner at 5:08 (sophomore Jack Redwood and Vail both added an assist). In the overtime period, Kingston scored his second goal of the night and his third point of the season at 1:16 in the extra period for the win. Durbin scored his third point of the night by adding an assist, as freshman Marc St. Jean also added an assist on the overtime goal. In goal for WSU was David Guerrera who made 30 saves for the night.

In Saturday's game, it was a defensive fight as WSU's goaltender David Guerrera saved 36 shots on goal as Niagara's Rob Bonk saved 22 shots. Scoring the only goal of the game was the Warrior's Marc St. Jean who found the inside of the net at 15:10 of the second period.

Final CHA Team Leaders -

Point Scoring - Sophomore Jason Durbin finished second in point scoring with 23. Sophomore Dustin Kingston tied for eighth with 18. Freshman Chris Vail tied for 13th with 16. Sophomore Tyler

Kindle tied for 23rd with 13 as sophomore Brent Renfrew tied for 25th with 12.

Goal Scoring - Durbin and Kingston tied for first with 12. Vail tied for 14th with seven as sophomore Maxim Starchenko is tied for 21st with five.

Assist Scoring - Kindle and Durbin tied for seventh with 11. Sophomore Keith Stanich tied for 11th with 10 as Vail tied for 16th with nine.

Power Play Points - Durbin tied for second with nine. Sophomore Nick Shrader, Kingston and Kindle tied for 13th with six.

Power Play Goals - Kingston is tied for second with five. Durbin tied for ninth with four as Shrader tied for 14th with two.

Short-Handed Points - Freshman Marc St. Jean tied for second with two along with Nichols, Renfrew and Durbin.

Short-Handed Goals - Nichols tied for first with two as St. Jean tied for sixth with one with Kindle, Renfrew and Kingston.

Game Winning Goals - Kingston tied for second with three. Starchenko tied for fourth with two and sophomore Jon Brink tied for 16th with one.

Defensemen Scoring - Kindle tied for third with 13. Stanich tied for fourth with ten as St. Jean tied for tenth with seven.

Freshman Scoring - Vail tied for second with 16. Redwood tied for 21st with four.

Goals Against Average - Guerrero sixth with 3.03.

Save Percentage - Guerrero eighth with a .896

Goalie Winning Percentage - Guerrero tied for third (.500).

Team Scoring Offense - Tied for second (2.95)

Team Scoring Defense - Sixth (3.40)

Penalty Minutes - Third (19.0)

Power Play - Fifth (13.3)

Penalty Killing - Sixth (75.2)

Team Leaders -

Durbin finished the regular season leading the team in points with 30. Durbin finished second in assists (15) and goals (15). Kingston is first in goals with 16 and Stanich and Vail tied for first in assists with 16. St. Jean finished first in penalties and penalty minutes with 28 and 59 respectively. Kingston finished second in points scored with 26 and first in power play goals with five.

2000-2001 Captains -

Sophomores Jason Durbin and Keith Stanich were elected this year's team captains by their teammates. This is the second year in a row that Durbin has been named captain.

CHA Honors -

Wayne State has won 11 CHA awards this season and have swept the week's award (January 22) once this year. Freshmen Jackson Wilson (October 23) Jack Redwood (November 5) and Chris Vail (December 11, January 15, January 22) were named CHA "Rookie of the Week." Sophomore Maxim Starchenko (January 1) and sophomore Jason Durbin (January 15, January 22, March 5) were named "Offensive Player of the Week." Guerrero has received WSU's only "Defensive Player of the Week" as he was named on January 22 and on March 5.

Head Coach Bill Wilkinson -

Head Coach Bill Wilkinson begins his second year with the Warriors. Last season, he led WSU in its inaugural season to a 6-23-1 record. This season he is 16-14-3 and posts a 22-37-4 overall record at WSU. Wilkinson is no stranger to hockey as he coached at Western Michigan for 17 seasons.

Wilkinson now posts a 336-338-57 record in 18 years of coaching (17 at WMU, 1 at WSU). He is also the chairman of the NCAA Men's Hockey championship selection committee.

Wilkinson is assisted by Danny Brooks, Willie Mitchell and Cal McGowan.

The CHA -

College Hockey America (CHA) is in its second year of existence. Members include Air Force, Alabama-Huntsville, Bemidji State, Findlay, Niagara and Wayne State.

Last season, Niagara won the CHA with a perfect 15-0 conference and a 29-7 overall record. Alabama-Huntsville was second with a 12-5 conference and 17-10 overall record, and Bemidji State was third with a 8-8 conference and 13-20 overall record. WSU was not eligible to compete for the conference title last season as the Warriors were an affiliate member only.

Date	Opponent	Time/ Results
10/13	@LSSU	L, 1-2
10/14	@LSSU	L, 3-6
10/17	@Notre Dame	L, 1-2 ot
10/20	CANISIUS	W, 7-4
10/21	CANISIUS	L, 1-2 ot
10/27	@Iona	L, 0-1
10/28	@Iona	W, 4-3
11/3	FAIRFIELD	W, 8-3
11/4	FAIRFIELD	W, 6-5 ot
11/10	FINDLAY*	L, 3-2 ot
11/11	@Findlay*	T, 3-3 ot
11/17	AIR FORCE*	L, 3-4
11/18	AIR FORCE*	W, 5-2
11/24	@Bemidji State*	W, 5-4 ot
11/25	@Bemidji State*	L, 1-8
12/1	@Mercyhurst*	W, 4-1
12/8	AMERICAN INTER.	W, 7-0
12/9	AMERICAN INTER.	W, 1-0
12/29	vs. Queens at UCONN	W, 5-2
12/30	@UCONN	W, 5-4 ot
1/5	ALABAMA-HUNTSVILLE*	L, 5-0
1/6	ALABAMA-HUNTSVILLE*	L, 4-2
1/12	@Niagara*	W, 9-6
1/13	@Niagara*	W, 4-3
1/19	@Findlay*	W, 5-2
1/20	FINDLAY*	W, 3-1
1/25	USA 17 UNDER TEAM (exh)	L, 3-4
2/3	@Air Force*	T, 1-1
2/4	@Air Force*	L, 1-2
2/9	@Alabama-Huntsville*	L, 5-8
2/10	@Alabama-Huntsville*	L, 3-6
2/23	BEMIDJI STATE*	L, 1-2
2/24	BEMIDJI STATE*	T, 1-1
3/2	NIAGARA*	W, 4-3 ot
3/3	NIAGARA*	W, 1-0

Breaking it Down - The Warriors this Season

At Home	8-6-1
On the Road	6-10-2
Game One of Series	9-7-1
Game Two of Series	8-6-2
When Leading After 1st Period	8-0-1
When Trailing After 1st Period	3-8-0
When Tied After 1st Period	7-4-2
When Leading After 2nd Period	12-1-2
When Trailing After 2nd Period	1-11-1
When Tied After 2nd Period	4-1-0
When Scoring First	12-2-2
When Opponent Scores First	5-11-1
When Outshooting Opponent	12-6-2
When Outshot by Opponent	5-8-1
In Overtime	4-3-3
One Game Meeting	3-1-0

*CHA game

HOME GAMES IN CAPS and to be played at Fraser Ice Arena