

Warriors Prepare For Important Homestand

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“Welcome home” are two words the Wayne State women’s basketball team haven’t heard much this year. The Warriors played only two games at the Matthaehi Building in 2000, while playing six road games and two games at a neutral site. The Warriors could not have a better time to be playing at home with the 11th and 12th ranked teams in NCAA Division II entering the Wayne State campus Thursday and Saturday.

Wayne State (4-6, 0-3) will host Michigan Tech, Thursday, Jan. 4 starting at 5:30 p.m. and Northern Michigan, Saturday, Jan. 6 at 1 p.m. Combined, these two teams have an overall record of 13-3. Wayne State Head Coach Gloria Bradley knows the next two games will be an important test for the Warriors.

“We have been playing a lot better which is evident in our contests against Rollins and also Florida Tech,” said Bradley. “However we still have a lot of players not playing to their potential. In Florida we got great play from our bench. But our starters did not produce for us. With Michigan Tech and Northern Michigan coming in we will play four tough opponents in a row. Just like in Florida we need to isolate each contest and focus on the team at hand.”

Wayne State has come to life the past two weeks of the season. The Warriors started things off with a victory over Madonna University, 85-72 at the Matthaehi Building (Dec. 18). WSU then played two outstanding contests in Florida during their holiday trip. Wayne State traveled to Rollins College to take on the 11th ranked Tars (Dec. 28). The Warriors played well and led at halftime 34-32. However, the Tars took over with 11:36 remaining in the contest and held on for a 73-68 victory.

Following its tough loss to Rollins, WSU then had to travel to Florida Tech to lock horns with the 8-3 Panthers. WSU opened many eyes in the building as freshman **Tiffany Grubaugh (Canton, Mich./Plymouth Salem)** scored a career-high 33 points to lead WSU to a 74-71 win.

“Tiffany really played well against Florida Tech,” said Bradley. “She is still learning to play the college game and we would like for her to play a little more consistent. We have really come together as a team the last two weeks. We just need to work out the kinks and hopefully we can put a winning streak together.”

Michigan Tech enters Thursday’s contest with a record of 8-2 overall and 1-1 in the GLIAC. The Huskies are ranked 11th in NCAA Division II and are also coming off two contests in Florida. Michigan Tech’s only blemish on its record in the conference this

season came from rival Northern Michigan, 78-66. MTU leads the all-time series against Wayne State, 23-12. Last season the Huskies defeated Wayne State 65-38 in Houghton, Mich..

Northern Michigan is 5-1 overall and 2-0 in the GLIAC. The Wildcats are 12th in NCAA Division II. NMU's only loss this season came last week at Lewis, 67-54. Northern Michigan leads the all-time series with WSU, 24-8. Last year the Wildcats defeated WSU, 88-50.

Wayne State is led in scoring by Grubaugh, who is averaging 12.3 ppg. and 3.3 rpg. In GLIAC games she is averaging 18.0 ppg. Sophomore **Shana Lynch (Clinton Township, Mich./Fraser)** is averaging 12.1 ppg. and 6.2 rpg. Lynch leads the Warriors in rebounds per game. In conference games Lynch is averaging 14.0 ppg. and 9.0 rpg.

Following this weekend's action, Wayne State will travel to Grand Valley State on Thursday, Jan. 11 and Ferris State on Saturday, Jan. 13.

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