

SPORTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Voyageurs fall at home to Vermilion

RRCC winless in MCAC North

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After trailing by only two points at halftime Saturday afternoon, the Rainy River Community College women's basketball team fell behind by double digits to start the second half and ended up losing at home to Vermilion, 68-59.

"Our girls played hard – I was real proud of the effort (Saturday) – battled back after being down in double digits... but we just couldn't get that closing basket to tie it up and get the lead," said RRCC head coach Dieter Humbert. "All the credit goes to Vermilion. They're a good squad. They played a good basketball game and we weren't quite able to match them in terms of shooting."

Vermilion shot 22-53 (41.5 percent) from the field overall, compared to 24-85 (28.2 percent) for the Voyageurs.

"We got enough good shots to win (Saturday's) game," Humbert said. "We just aren't shooting it very well. We've got to get better."

RRCC led for much of the first half. A layup by Alisha Brinker put the Voyageurs in front 17-9. Vermilion pulled in front later in the half, before a 3-pointer by RRCC guard Kurstyn Gordon tied the game at 27-27. Vermilion then put in the final field goal before intermission to lead 29-27.

Vermilion took its largest lead of the game at 13

points by outscoring the Voyageurs 15-4 to start the second half.

Lindsey Zeitler recorded a double-double for Vermilion with a game-high 27 points and 10 rebounds.

"She was tough to stop – got a lot of putbacks," Humbert said. "She's a complete player. She knocked down some (3-point shots) and she can go inside on the drive – tough to defend."

Zeitler accounted three of Vermilion's five 3 pointers and 10 of the team's 19 made free throws.

Also scoring in double figures for Vermilion were Mariah McDonald with 14 points and Taneisha Brooks with 10 points.

Gordon led the Voyageurs in scoring with 15 points – all on 3-pointers – followed by Brinker with 12 points.

The loss dropped RRCC's season record to 0-2 in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division and 6-8 overall.

The Voyageurs return to action at 6 p.m. today when they host Northland.

Vermilion 68, Rainy River 59
Vermilion 29 39 – 68
Rainy River 27 32 – 59
Vermilion: Taneisha Brooks 10, Kendra Birmingham 3, Tyesha Wright 5, Lindsey Zeitler 27, Mariah McDonald 14, Kaitlynn Linnell 9. 3-pointers: Zeitler 3, McDonald 2. Free throws: 19-32. Fouls: 15.
Rainy River: Sarina Phratrep 5, Kurstyn Gordon 15, Roneisha Jordan 7, Nikeyia Jones 5, Reggie Krickeberg 7, CaseyLynn Fulton 8, Alisha Brinker 12. 3-pointers: Gordon 5, Krickeberg 2, Jones. Free throws: 3-6. Fouls: 25. Fouled out: Gordon, Jordan.



Rainy River's Roneisha Jordan (20) shoots in the lane between Vermilion's Dominique Thompson (32) and Mariah McDonald (23) in Saturday afternoon's game in the RRCC gym.

MEN'S BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, Rainy River's James Sausser Denesia (31) works the ball inside while being guarded by Vermilion's Q McFadden (0) in Saturday afternoon's game in the RRCC gym.

Voyageurs lose 104-65 at home to Vermilion

RRCC drops to 0-2 in MCAC

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The Rainy River Community College men's basketball team stayed close with Vermilion for much of the first half, before being outscored by 30 points in the final 20 minutes and losing Saturday afternoon at home, 104-65.

"We played a good first half," said RRCC head coach Jack Cook, who noted the Voyageurs didn't have all their starters available. "We knew they were a strong second-half team – they always are – and that's where we're lacking a little bit. But our guys played hard – they left it on the floor – and I can't ask them for more than that."

RRCC tied the game at 26-26 on a 3-pointer by Ahmad Poche with about 8:41 left in the first half, after which Vermilion outscored the Voyageurs 19-10 to lead 45-36 at intermission.

Poche led three RRCC players scoring in double figures with 18 points, which included four 3-pointers, followed by James Sausser Denesia with 12 and Harold Jenkins with 10.

Vermilion, which ended up outrebounding RRCC 54-35, dominated on the inside and was able to drive the length of the court for quick layups as the Voyageurs' deficit grew in the second half.

An opportunity for RRCC to get back in the game sur-

faced with 14:45 left in the second half on a foul call when Vermilion forward Jerrod Briscoe was also called for a technical foul. Voyageurs forward Devante Miley made four consecutive free throws to cut the deficit to 60-45. However, RRCC wasn't able to score on the subsequent possession and then gave up six straight points before calling time out with 12:07 to play.

RRCC took almost half of its shots from behind the arc, going 6-31 (19.4 percent) from 3-point range, compared to 3-13 (23.1 percent) for Vermilion.

From the field overall, Vermilion shot 41-75 (54.7 percent), compared to 23-71 (32.4 percent) for the Voyageurs.

Two Vermilion players accounted for almost half of the team's scoring. Emeche Wells scored a game-high 27 points, while Devonta Brooks added 24 points.

"Vermilion's probably the No. 1 team in the conference," Cook said. "It's a tough loss."

The Voyageurs, who dropped to 0-2 in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division and 2-12 overall, return to action at 8 p.m. today when they host Northland.

Vermilion 104, Rainy River 65
Vermilion 45 59 – 104
Rainy River 36 29 – 65
Vermilion: Q McFadden 2, Jerrod Briscoe 3, Dre Lucas 7, Devonta Brooks 24, John Starks 8, Robbie Crawford 7, Pierre Roddy 7, Earnell Barner 7, Emeche Wells 27, Derek Meger 9, Eli Dotts 3. 3-pointers: Starks, Crawford, Dotts. Free throws: 19-29. Fouls: 16. Fouled out: Briscoe.
Rainy River: Ahmad Poche 18, Bryan Hasbargen 6, Harold Jenkins 10, Deion Miley 2, Fred Perard 6, James Sausser Denesia 12, Demetrius Murphy 4, Devante Miley 7. 3-pointers: Poche 4, Sausser Denesia, Murphy. Free throws: 13-23. Fouls: 25. Fouled out: Devante Miley.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Minnesota falls 87-75 to No. 5 Michigan St in OT

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Minnesota missed out on a chance to make school history.

Keith Appling scored 24 points to help No. 5 Michigan State beat the Golden Gophers 87-75 in overtime Saturday after overcoming a double-digit deficit in the second half and blowing a lead late in regulation.

The Spartans scored the first nine points of OT, ending Minnesota's chance to beat a top-five team on its home court for the first time.

"Anytime you go on the road in a great environment and you step up for 40 minutes and you don't win the game, it is a bit of a missed opportunity," coach Richard Pitino said. "But there will be plenty more."

Minnesota's next two home games are against Ohio State and Wisconsin, teams currently ranked No.

3 and No. 4 in The Associated Press poll, after going on the road and almost pulling off an upset.

"We did a lot of good things and some silly things," Pitino said. "It shows the potential that we have and hopefully we showed we can compete with anybody."

The Spartans (15-1, 4-0 Big Ten) scored 15 straight points while holding the Golden Gophers (13-4, 2-2) scoreless for nearly 8 minutes after trailing 53-43 with 15:57 left.

Michigan State missed an opportunity to win in regulation for the second straight game, losing a five-point lead in the last 13 seconds.

Minnesota's Malik Smith made his fifth 3-pointer, Gary Harris missed two free throws with 11.3 seconds left for the Spartans and DeAn-

dre Mathieu's layup with 1.7 seconds left tied the game and sent it to overtime.

Pitino was glad Mathieu made the shot, but it wasn't the one he wanted.

"I was running a play and trying to shoot a 3 to be honest with you," Pitino said.

The Spartans were without Adreian Payne because of a sprained right foot.

"He's probably a top-five pick," Pitino said. "So when I heard that he wasn't playing, I didn't want him to be hurt, but that was a nice, pleasant surprise."

The Spartans missed the standout senior as they barely did enough to keep winning.

Minnesota guard Austin Hollins turned the ball over with 42 seconds left and teammate Andre Hollins had an ill-advised 3-pointer blocked with 23 seconds left, trailing by three on

each possession.

"We just made some bonehead plays," Andre Hollins said.

The Gophers struggled to take care of the basketball in OT and couldn't stop the Spartans, who haven't lost on their home court in the series since 1997.

Andre Hollins, who scored 24 points, wasn't satisfied by his team's strong showing.

"We came in confident," Andre Hollins said. "We expected to win this game. It's not a moral victory. We have to give them a lot of credit for making their free throws."

Michigan State made 32 of 40 free throws — with Appling missing only one of his 16 attempts — and Minnesota was 19 of 24 at the line.

Gophers to B3 >

ICEBOX DAYS XXXIV
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Please come and join us for our
Spaghetti Feed
ALL ARE WELCOME especially our visitors for the
ICE BOX FESTIVAL, FREEZE YER GIZZARD RUN
FRIDAY, JAN. 17, 2014
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.
(Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Beverage)
Serving at Aquinas Hall

Best Food! Best View!
Join us every Wednesday for BBQ Ribs
FRIDAY & SATURDAY DINNER FEATURE
Coconut Shrimp
Five shrimp hand-breaded in a Malibu Rum coconut breading, fried to golden brown, and served with an orange marmalade sauce. Includes tossed or caesar salad and choice of side.
Thunderbird Lodge
~ ON FABULOUS RAINY LAKE ~
10 miles east of Int'l Falls on Hwy. 11
218-286-3151
Open for breakfast every Saturday and Sunday.
Dine Daily ~ 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
www.thunderbirdrainylake.com

Wedding Invitations
Custom Printed by North Star Publishing
• Invitations and Envelopes
• Programs
• Save the Date Cards and Magnets
• Thank You Cards
North Star Publishing
Printing & Design
1602 Hwy 71 • Int'l Falls, MN
218-285-7411
Bee Informed
ifallsjournal.com