

SPORTS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Voyageurs defeat Itasca, get first conference win

RRCC 1-6 in MCAC North

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

A four-point halftime deficit Wednesday night turned into the first Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division victory of the season for the Rainy River Community College women’s basketball team.

The Voyageurs defeated Itasca, 53-48, in the RRCC gym.

“I like it – it’s feels pretty good,” Voyageurs head coach Dieter Humbert said of the first conference win in seven games. “These girls have been working hard and never giving up.

“I think (Wednesday night) was a great reflection of what it’s all about when you play hard for 40 minutes and play defense for 40 minutes. We shot the ball pretty well (Wednesday night) and it was a big win for us.”

The Voyageurs ended up outshooting the Vikings from the field overall, 23-66 (34.8 percent) to 14-52 (26.9 percent).

RRCC, which trailed by as much as eight points in the first half, had an opportunity to tie or take the lead with just over 15 minutes left in the game when an on-the-court altercation resulted in Voyageurs guard Sarina Phratrep being ejected from the game. Phratrep, who had been hit in the face, then slammed an Itasca player to the floor.

After the officials conferred with the teams’ coaches, Phratrep was out of the game and the Vikings’ Jordan Haggeberg was awarded two free-throw shots, which she made both and Itasca maintained possession of the ball.

“It’s kind of an unfortunate situation – it’s one of those where they catch the second infraction,” Humbert said. “But our team is coming – they’re starting to learn the discipline that

it takes to win games, and I’m proud of the way they responded.”

RRCC took the lead midway in the second half when CaseyLynn Fulton sank a jump shot to put the Voyageurs in front by two, 41-39.

The contest remained a one-possession game until the final minute as Itasca subsequently tied the game four times before a free throw by Carrie Carrigan put the Vikings in front, 48-47, with 2:05 to play.

Alisha Brinker then gave RRCC the lead for good by sinking a basket just inside the 3-point arc with 57.7 seconds to play. Itasca turned the ball over on the subsequent possession and Brinker made another field goal inside the arc to give the Voyageurs a 51-48 lead.

Itasca still had 12.6 seconds to tie the game, but a 3-pointer missed and RRCC’s Roneisha Jordan drew a foul on the rebound play with 1.5 seconds remaining before sinking the two free throws to seal the

victory.

Three Voyageurs scored in double figures led by Fulton with 18 points, followed by Jordan with 16 and Brinker with 14. Jordan and Brinker each recorded a double-double by also hauling in 13 and 11 rebounds, respectively.

Haggeberg led Itasca as the only player scoring in double figures with 12 points.

The win improved RRCC’s season record to 1-6 in the MCAC North and 7-12 overall going into this afternoon’s road game at league-leading Northland.

**Rainy River 53, Itasca 48**  
**Itasca 29 19 - 48**  
**Rainy River 25 28 - 53**  
**Itasca:** Donna Velisheck 6, Christina Stenson 9, Devin Jenson 4, Brenda Brown 7, Jordan Haggeberg 12, Taylor Gulseth 3, Carrie Carrigan 7. 3-pointers: Stenson 2, Haggeberg. Free throws: 17-27. Fouls: 18.  
**Rainy River:** Kurstyn Gordon 3, Roneisha Jordan 16, Nikeyia Jones 2, CaseyLynn Fulton 18, Alisha Brinker 14. Free throws: 7-12. Fouls: 22.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, Rainy River’s Sarina Phratrep (3) goes down on the floor with the ball while being guarded by Itasca’s Jordan Haggeberg (15) as the Voyageurs’ Alisha Brinker (45) looks on in Wednesday night’s game in the RRCC gym.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Voyageurs lead big early, lose close late

RRCC drops to 1-8 in MCAC

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

A 7-0 scoring start followed by a 15-point lead late in the first half didn’t last Wednesday night for the Rainy River Community College men’s basketball team.

The Voyageurs ended up losing at home to Itasca, 81-79.

“I guess they wanted it more than we did,” said RRCC head coach Jack Cook.

“We got tired, and we got careless with the ball, and they capitalized on our turnovers.”

After beginning with

the first seven points of the game, the Voyageurs took their first double-digit lead with around 13 minutes left in the first half when Devante Miley sank one his four 3-pointers for a 17-7 advantage.

Miley, who ended up with a game-high 22 points, also scored from close range when he tipped in a basket to give RRCC its largest lead of the game at 33-18. The half ended with the Voyageurs in front, 44-34.

RRCC shot better than Itasca in the first half, though the Voyageurs ended up being outshot by the Vikings from the field overall, 29-80 (36.3 percent) to 32-75 (42.7 percent).

“They weren’t shooting real well, unless they were inside, and we didn’t capitalize on their turnovers,” Cook said

Itasca, which outscored RRCC 47-35 in the final 20 minutes, made it a one-possession game midway in the second half after scoring a layup off of a steal to cut the Voyageurs’ lead to a point, 63-62.

RRCC, however, was able to stay in front until the final minute.

A 3-pointer by the Vikings’ Jonathan Matthews tied the game at 79-79. Itasca then took the lead at 81-79 with 3.5 seconds play on a basket by Waunell Beard, who finished with a team-

high 17 points when he also drew the fifth and final foul of the Voyageurs’ Demetrius Murphy.

Beard then missed the 3-point play from the charity strip, giving the ball back to RRCC, which called timeout with just under 3 seconds remaining.

The Voyageurs’ final chance to either tie the game or take the lead by going the length of the court came to an abrupt end at midcourt with a turnover on the inbound pass.

RRCC, which had defeated Itasca earlier in the season, picked up its sixth consecutive Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division loss and dropped

to 1-8 in league play and 3-18 overall. The Voyageurs return to action at 3 p.m. today when they play at Northland.

**Itasca 81, Rainy River 79**  
**Itasca 34 47 - 81**  
**Rainy River 44 35 - 79**  
**Itasca:** Jamar Boone 11, Rodrick Logan 4, Taylor Woodwick 7, Jonathan Matthews 8, Waunell Beard 17, Quenton Housley 4, Antonio Story 16, Jared Hutar 8, Jarod Wyatt 6. 3-pointers: Story 3, Matthews 2. Free throws: 12-26. Fouls: 22.  
**Rainy River:** Ahmad Poche 11, Fedner Fleurant 5, Jimson Clerveus 2, Bryan Hasbargen 2, Harold Jenkins 11, Deion Miley 4, Andrew Nichols 5, Fred Perard 2, James Sauser Denesia 12, Demetrius Murphy 3, Devante Miley 22. 3-pointers: Devante Miley 4, Deion Miley, Nichols, Sauser Denesia. Free throws: 14-28. Fouls: 20. Fouled out: Murphy. Technical fouls: Murphy.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, Rainy River’s Jimson Clerveus (2) drives in the lane past Itasca’s Jarod Wyatt (22) in Wednesday night’s game in the RRCC gym.

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