

SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RRCC outrun by RCTC, then runs past WWTC

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Facing one of the top-10 NJCAA Division III teams in the country Friday night, the Rainy River Community College men's basketball team took an early lead but couldn't keep pace with Rochester Community and Technical College as the Voyageurs lost their home opener, 89-74.

"We're a young team learning how to win right now," said RRCC head coach Kristofer Babler. "Rochester is a heck of a ball club.... I give them a ton of credit. This was a great learning experience for our guys.

"We got beat by a better team (Friday night), but I think everybody can see that there's a bright future ahead for us. I was encouraged by our performance. We just have to finish."

The Voyageurs were in front slightly more than 5 minutes into the game when a 2-point field goal from Antoine Tobias gave RRCC a 15-11 lead. Rochester then scored 10 unanswered points and never trailed again, leading 47-37 at half-time and then outscoring the Voyageurs, 42-37, in the final 20 minutes.

RRCC made it a two-possession game late in the second half when when a layup by Colin Tyrone cut the deficit to 80-74. However, the Voyageurs went scoreless for the final 3:32 when Rochester closed out the game with a 9-0 run.

Sam Stirgus led three RRCC players scoring in double figures with 24 points. Tobias added 21 points, while Jimson Clerveus scored 14 more.

Lavar McCullough led four Rochester players scoring in double figures with 23 points.

RRCC 105, WWTC 74

The Voyageurs got back to the .500 mark Saturday afternoon when they won at home over Western Wisconsin Technical College, 105-74.

RRCC led 45-36 at half-time before outscoring the Cavaliers, 60-38, in the final 20 minutes.

"Our guys executed well in the second half," Babler



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Voyageurs' Sam Stirgus (22) shoots in the lane where Rochester's Ben Ratliff (32) sets up on defense in Friday night's game in the RRCC gym.

said. "It's been something we've been waiting to see for a while now."

RRCC outshot WWTC from the field overall, 42-77 (54.5 percent) to 29-68 (42.6 percent).

The Voyageurs had five players score in double figures led by Stirgus with 19 points, followed by Tobias with 18, Clerveus and Ahmad Poche each with 15 and Sheldon O'Neal with 13.

Tobias, a freshman forward from New Orleans who averaged 19.5 points, 5.5 rebounds and 1.5 blocks in the two games last weekend, has been named the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division Player of the Week.

WWTC was led in scoring by Christopher Krueger with a game-high 20 points, while Parker Lyga added 10 points.

RRCC's season record now stands at 4-4 going into today's road game against Leech Lake.

CARLISLE OUT

The Voyageurs played last weekend without 6-6 freshman forward Jammere

Carlisle, who watched both games from the bleachers instead of the bench.

"He'll play again, hopefully for us, if he wants to," Babler said about RRCC "dealing with team issues a certain way" without further elaborating about Carlisle not being in the lineup.

Friday's game

RCTC 89, RRCC 74

RCTC 47 42 - 89

RRCC 37 37 - 74

RRCC: Ahmad Poche 5, Colin Tyrone 4, Antoine Tobias 21, Darius Johnson 2, Teekay Biti 4, Sam Stirgus 24, Jimson Clerveus 14. 3-pointers: Stirgus 2, Poche, Tobias. Free throws: 14-22. Fouls: 25. Fouled out: Stirgus.

Saturday's game

RRCC 105, WWTC 74

WWTC 36 38 - 74

RRCC 45 60 - 105

RRCC: Ahmad Poche 15, Sheldon O'Neal 13, Arfon Janetkhan 6, Antoine Tobias 18, Darius Johnson 8, Teekay Biti 6, Sam Stirgus 19, Jimson Clerveus 15, Caleb McIntosh 3, Jacob Franz 2. 3-pointers: Poche 2, O'Neal 2, Janetkhan 2, Stirgus, McIntosh. Free throws: 13-20. Fouls: 19. Fouled out: Colin Tyrone. Technical foul: Tyrone.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Voyageurs' Sarina Phrathep (3) dribbles past Western Wisconsin's Leticya Madrigal (23) in Saturday's game in the RRCC gym.

RRCC hammered by RCTC, then downs WWTC in OT

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The Rainy River Community College women's basketball team had trouble finding the bottom of the net Friday night when the Voyageurs lost their home opener to Rochester Community and Technical College, 94-88.

"(Rochester's) shooting was just outstanding," said Voyageurs head coach Adam Rotar. "They couldn't miss and unfortunately we did. We can't do that against teams like that."

Rochester, which led 41-12 at halftime, had four players score in double figures led by Tailor Raymond with a game-high 26 points.

RRCC was led in scoring by Roneisha Jordan with 17 points, while Ebony Joseph added 10 points.

The Voyageurs, who had only six available players with Shania Thompson out of the lineup, played with four players on the floor for the final minute after Dominique Hines and Joseph fouled out.

RRCC 91, WWTC 88 (OT)

The Voyageurs had seven available players Saturday afternoon when they won at home in overtime over Western Wisconsin Technical College, 91-88. "When you have close games like this, it shows a lot about your team - the willingness and the perseverance and the determination," Rotar said. RRCC trailed 39-36 at halftime and then took a double-digit lead at 63-53 in the second half on a field goal by Jordan, before the Cavaliers whittled down the lead and tied the game at the end of regulation.

WWTC's Schannel Giraud, who made a 3-point basket with 18.8 seconds remaining in the second half to send the game into overtime tied at 76-76, led five Cavalier players scoring in double figures with 18 points.

In overtime, Joseph had an opportunity at the charity stripe to give the Voyageurs a two-possession lead and seal the victory with 6.5 seconds left to

play, but she missed both free throws. Giraud had another opportunity for a game-tying 3-point shot, but this time she missed.

Jordan led four RRCC players scoring in double figures with a game-high 32 points. Tashiara Sheftall added 16 points, while Joseph and Thompson each scored 15.

The Voyageurs' season record stands at 3-5 going into today's road game against Leech Lake.

Friday's game

RCTC 94, RRCC 85

RCTC 41 53 - 94

RRCC 12 23 - 35

RRCC: Tashiara Sheftall 3, Sarina Phatthep 2, Ebony Joseph 10, Renee Pantophlet 1, Roneisha Joseph 17, Dominique Hines 2. Free throws: 5-13. Fouls: 19. Fouled out: Joseph, Hines. Technical foul: Coach.

Saturday's game

RRCC 91, WWTC 88 (OT)

WWTC 39 37 12 - 88

RRCC 36 40 15 - 91

RRCC: Tashiara Sheftall 16, Sarina Phatthep 7, Shania Thompson 15, Ebony Joseph 15, Roneisha Joseph 32, Dominique Hines 6. 3-pointers: Hines 2, Thompson. Free throws: 18-29. Fouls: 20.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Broncos trounce Timberwolves

L-BF loses at Blackduck

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls boys basketball team had three players score in double figures Friday night when the Broncos won at home over Ely, 70-48.

The Falls held a 20-point lead with just over 6 min-

utes left in the first half and took a 41-24 advantage into the locker room before outscoring the Timberwolves, 29-24, in the final 18 minutes.

"I think we took advantage of getting the ball down low," said Broncos head coach Derek Dowty. "We hit a couple of (3-point shots), opened it up from the outside as well, then we can keep pounding it down low to the (big players),

because I don't think (the Timberwolves) had any size against us. We just kept going inside."

Ben Humbert led the Falls in scoring with 19 points, followed by Jack Bartkowski with 12 and Clay Tomczak with 10.

In other boys basketball action Friday night, Littlefork Big-Falls lost at Blackduck, 55-47. Rylan Henrickson led the Vikings with 17 points.

Bronco wrestlers 6-2 at meet in Virginia

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Three wrestlers from International Falls combined to win six out of eight matches Monday at a meet at Virginia.

Broncos sophomore Nick Hedtke won both of his

matches to improve to 6-0 on the season. Hedtke won a pair of decisions over Virginia's Zach Newman, 6-0, and Cloquet's Dylan Lower, 13-2.

Falls freshman Devin Lehmann wrestled in his first high school meet and won all three of his matches.

Broncos seventh-grader London Rasmussen also wrestled in three matches and went 1-2.

The Falls' next meet will be Saturday in Frazee, where more than a dozen teams will be competing in a jamboree.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend
*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship*
Wednesday, December 24

First Lutheran Church
(across from Falls High School)
4 PM & 6 PM

Zion Lutheran Church
with Holy Communion
530 6th Street
4 PM & 9 PM

Bethany Lutheran Church
Loman
8:30 PM

*Zion's Service
will be broadcast
on KSDM 104.1 FM
& KGHS 1230 AM
at 9 am
Christmas Day*

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