

SPORTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Voyageurs open season 2-0 at Mesabi Tourney

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College women's basketball team opened the 2013-14 season last weekend by winning both games it played at the Mesabi Tourney in Virginia.

"We played pretty well," said RRCC head coach Dieter Humbert. "It was a good weekend."

On Friday, three players scored in double figures when the Voyageurs led by 16 at halftime and went on to defeat Fond du Lac, 73-64.

RRCC freshman forward Roneisha Jordan scored a game-high 25 points, while sophomore captains CaseyLynn Fulton and Ali-



Roneisha Jordan

sha Brinker added 20 and 10 points, respectively. Jordan and Fulton each recorded a double-double by also hauling in 11 rebounds apiece.

The Voyageurs shot 30-77 (39 percent) overall from the field and made all 11 of their free-throw attempts.

"We shot the ball really well on Friday," Humbert said.

Three of the Thunder's players accounted for 54 of their 64 points led by Claudia Turner with 21.

Kami Diver added 17 and Da'Rnay Sandlin had 16 points.

Fond du Lac shot 22-74 (29.7 percent) from the field and went 16-23 from the charity stripe.

RRCC 55, MRCTC 44

In a low-scoring contest Saturday, the Voyageurs overcame a 2-point halftime deficit to defeat Mesabi Range, 55-44.

"We played some good defense against Mesabi," Humbert said.

The Lady Norse shot 15-48 (31.2 percent) from the field overall and went 0-9 on 3-point attempts while making slightly more than half (14-26) of their free throws.

Kendra Dallman was the only Mesabi Range player to score in double figures with a game-high 19 points.

Jordan, who has been named the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division "Player of the Week," recorded another double-double for RRCC after coming close to the single-game team record for rebounds with 24 and leading the team in scoring with 13 points.

Fulton also scored in double figures for the Voyageurs with 12 points.

RRCC, which ended up outrebounding Mesabi Range, 53-40, shot 22-78 (28.2 percent) from the field and 9-19 (47.4 percent) from the free-throw line.

The Voyageurs also stole the ball 17 times from the Lady Norse with Sarina Phrathep recording six of those steals.

RRCC will bring its 2-0 record to Ely next weekend when the Voyageurs open the two-day Vermilion Tourney on Friday afternoon against Gogebic Community College.

Friday's game

Rainy River 73, Fond du Lac 64

Rainy River 37 36 - 73

Fond du Lac 21 43 - 64

Rainy River: Roneisha Jordan 25, CaseyLynn Fulton 20, Alisha Brinker 10, Sarina Phrathep 6, Ebony Joseph 4, Tali Plate 4, Reggie Krickeberg 4. 3-pointers: Fulton 2. Free throws: 11-11. Fouls: 20. Fouled out: Fulton, Phrathep.

Fond du Lac: Kenda Benner 6, Da'Rnay Sandlin 16, Kami Diver 17, Claudia Turner 21, Shaelyn Halverson 4. 3-pointers: Diver 3, Turner. Free throws: 16-23. Fouls: 13. Fouled out: Halverson.

Saturday's game

Rainy River 55, Mesabi Range 44

Rainy River 19 36 - 55

Mesabi Range 21 23 - 44

Rainy River: Roneisha Jordan 13, CaseyLynn Fulton 12, Alisha Brinker 6, Sarina Phrathep 9, Ebony Joseph 7, Tali Plate 2, Reggie Krickeberg 6. 3-pointers: Phrathep, Krickeberg. Free throws: 9-19. Fouls: 24. Fouled out: Fulton, Brinker, Phrathep.

Mesabi Range: Nicole Kucza 6, Kendra Dallman 19, Connor Rautio 7, Shawna Berhendt 3, Danielle Lenci 5, Erika Armitage 3, Julia Elkins 1. Free throws: 14-26. Fouls: 23. Fouled out: Kucza.

Imhof and Millerbernd are part of the winning 'Team Steel'

STORY BY THE TIMBERJAY

Team Steel, which had two seniors from this fall's Littlefork-Big Falls volleyball team, lived up to its name Sunday, crushing Team Taconite 3-1 in the first-ever Big Dog All-Star Volleyball Match in Virginia at Mesabi Range College.

Both teams were comprised of top high school volleyball seniors from across Northeast Minnesota. Team Steel included players from the smaller schools in the region, while Team Taconite was comprised of players from larger schools.

Players were recommended for the teams by high school and junior college coaches.

Steel took the first two games 25-16 and 25-22, but lost the third when Taconite, which had trailed much of the game, rallied to overtake Steel 25-23. Game four went to Steel, 25-18.

Steel's team included DyAna Imhof and Brooke Millerbernd from L-BF, Tessa Mankus, Destinie Villebrun and Darby Youngstrom from North Woods, Signe Scholl and Katie Lenci from Northeast Range, Erin Muhvich from Ely and Kacey Herring from Cherry.

Team Taconite featured



PHOTO BY TOM KLEIN OF THE TIMBERJAY

Littlefork-Big Falls' DyAna Imhof (5) hits the ball over blocking opposition from Greenwood's Katrina Kyllander (8) and Grand Rapids' Staci Sjostrand (3) in the first Big Dog All-Star Volleyball Match held Sunday at Mesabi Range College in Virginia. Team Steel, for which Imhof played on, defeated Team Taconite, 3-1.

Staci Sjostrand, Anna Yurick and Rebekah Morris from Grand Rapids, Katrina Kyllander and Kate Kuck from Greenwood, Taylor Gregg and Victoria Marturano from Chisholm, Justine Prout from Virginia and Kailey Wirtanen from Hibbing.

Youngstrom, a middle hitter for Team Steel, was named the match's Most Valuable Player.

Mesabi Range's JoJo Scott coached Team Steel and called the experience "a lot of fun."

The teams each had one practice session, which helped break the ice among players who were rivals this past season.

"When we started our practice, the girls were just hitting the ball but not talking to one another," Scott said.

She told the girls just

to start chatting and soon there was better communication on the court.

Scott said Millerbernd was a big help in pulling the team together.

Brian Karich, of Club Dive Volleyball, coached Team Taconite.

Though his team struggled in the opening game, "once the players settled in and got into their rhythm things did improve a lot for us," he said.

Karich said he was impressed by the play of Morris, Kuck and Prout.

The match was conceived and sponsored by Dive Sports and Wear as way for players to end their high school volleyball careers on a positive note in a fun environment, Karish said.

He also said the event was also a good chance to promote junior college volleyball to the area athletes.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RRCC opens season 1-1 at Mesabi Tournament

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College men's basketball team opened the 2013-14 season by splitting the two games the Voyageurs played last weekend at the Mesabi Tourney in Virginia.

On Friday, six RRCC players scored in double figures when the Voyageurs defeated Fond du Lac, 84-69.

RRCC head coach Jack Cook said the Voyageurs shot well in their season opener and had a strong second half when they extended a 2-point halftime lead to win by double digits.

The Voyageurs shot 30-69 (43.5 percent) overall from the field and went 11-32 (34.4 percent) behind the 3-point arc, while also going 13-23 (56.5 percent) from the free-throw line.

Jimson Clerveus led RRCC with 13 points, while Jimmy Sauser, Andrew Nichols, Devin Washington and Deion Miley added 11 points apiece with Fedner Fleurant scoring another 10 points.

Michael Hall led three Thunder players scoring in double figures with a game-high 21 points and also recorded a double-double by hauling in 12 rebounds.

Fond du Lac shot 30-78 (38.5 percent) overall from the field and only went 3-21 (14.3 percent) from 3-point

range while also going 6-16 (37.5 percent) from the charity stripe.

MRCTC 104, RRCC 75

On Saturday, the Voyageurs fell behind 20 points at halftime before losing to Mesabi Range, 104-75.

"Saturday we did not have a good showing," said Cook, who noted RRCC shot poorly and also has to work on its defense and team chemistry.

The Voyageurs shot 27-81 (33.3 percent) from the field overall and 7-37 (18.9 percent) from 3-point range.

RRCC was led in scoring by Clerveus with 19 points, while Harold Jenkins added 11 points and Miley scored 10 more. Jenkins ended up with a double-double by also hauling in a game-high 13 rebounds.

The Norsemen had four players score in double figures led by Jamal Branco with a game-high 30 points. Branco also had 11 rebounds to record a double-double.

Mesabi Range shot 39-81 (48.1 percent) overall from the field and 12-28 (42.9 percent) behind the 3-point arc.

The Voyageurs, who are 1-1 for the season, return to action this coming Friday when they open the two-day Vermilion Tourney in Ely against Gogebic Community College.

Friday's game

Rainy River 84, Fond du Lac 69

Rainy River 40 44 - 84

Fond du Lac 38 31 - 69

Rainy River: Jimson Clerveus 13, Jimmy Sauser 11, Fedner Fleurant 10, Andrew Nichols 11, Demetrius Murphy 7, Devin Washington 11, Deion Miley 11, Devante Miley 2, Bryan Hasbargen 2, Myron Harris 4, Harold Jenkins 2. 3-pointers: Sauser 3, Nichols 3, Deion Miley 3, Clerveus, Washington. Free throws: 13-23. Fouls: 19.

Fond du Lac: Michael Hall 21, Curtis Rogers 11, Kevin Gutter 4, Eric Adams 10, Michael Hudson 6, Michael Littleton 4, Deandre Jourdain 4, Nicholas Brown 8, Wynton Ola'Dehinbo 1. 3-pointers: Adams 2, Brown. Free throws: 6-16. Fouls: 18.

Saturday's game

Mesabi Range 104, Rainy River 75

Rainy River 31 44 - 75

Mesabi Range 51 53 - 104

Rainy River: Jimson Clerveus 19, Jimmy Sauser 9, Fedner Fleurant 6, Andrew Nichols 6, Demetrius Murphy 4, Harold Jenkins 11, Devin Washington 2, Deion Miley 10, Devante Miley 2, Brandon Dudley 1, Myron Harris 5. 3-pointers: Clerveus 2, Nichols 2, Deion Miley 2, Sauser. Free throws: 14-24. Fouls: 24.

Mesabi Range: Jordan Villebrun 4, Bacarius Dinkins 13, Jamal Branco 30, Cade Stackpool 6, Devin Brown 12, Henry Hellman 16, Kenneth Delley Jr. 7, Juan Love 8, Ross Schminski 2, Cole Skadsem 6. 3-pointers: Hellman 4, Brown 3, Stackpool 2, Branco, Delley Jr., Skadsem. Free throws: 14-26. Fouls: 22.

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