



NOTHING BUT NET

February 21, 2005

***MEN REBOUND FROM ROAD TRIP, NCC TITLE STILL IN REACH
FROM COACH MATT MARGENTHALER***

Life away from the Taylor Center was once again not very kind to us as we dropped a pair of road games to USD 70-69 and UNO 70-58. Friday night's game with USD was a tough one to swallow because some very unusual events transpired in the second half. A last second basket by the Coyotes took away a great effort by our kids who had battled their way back in this game.

At the 6 minute mark an error by the scorekeeper on the number of team fouls against USD deprived us of a 1 and 1 free throw opportunity. After a wild last 1:09 of the game where we trailed by six and made some great plays to take a 69-68 lead with 5.4 seconds left, USD threw a half court pass that was deflected into the hands of a Coyote teammate who then made an off-balance lay-up with one second remaining. After this basket a flurry of USD students rushed the floor along with three bench players in a premature celebration. Because there was still one second on the clock a technical foul should have been assessed to the Coyotes and was not. Jamel led us with his eighth double-double of the season with 26 points and 16 rebounds. Luke contributed 18 points and 6 rebounds, while Gameli came off the bench to add 10 points.

It was tough for our kids to bounce back emotionally Saturday against UNO and some early foul trouble contributed to our frustrations. It was a back and forth game for much of the first half with UNO taking a 31-29 lead. The second half was much of the same until UNO rattled off a 7-0 run at the 5:00 mark. They then made seven of nine free throws down the stretch to seal the victory. We struggled all night with critical mistakes or not hitting shots to get the key basket that would give us the lead. Luke led us with 20 points and 7 rebounds. Rueben Trotter came off the bench to score 12 points and was the only other Mav in double figures.

This past weekend we got back on track in the friendly confines of Bresnan Arena. We defeated Augustana 83-55. We scored the first 13 points of the game and never looked back. We held a 24 point halftime lead and the Vikings never got it under 20 the rest of the way. I was glad to see us step and knock down some outside shots as we shot 42% from 3 point range. I was also pleased with our defensive effort as we out-rebounded them by 12 and held them to 29% shooting. Luke paced us with 24 points while Joe Williams had a very solid performance of 12 points and 8 rebounds from the guard position. Rueben tallied 12 points and 8 rebounds off the bench.

***WOMEN REACH 10 WINS
FROM COACH LORI FISH***

Over the past two weeks we've went 2-2. We had a disappointing loss at USD but were able to follow that with a nice win at UNO. We got out of the gates early and built a significant lead. As with all teams in the NCC, UNO chipped away at that lead throughout the game. Nebraska-Omaha opened the second half with a 10-3 run cutting the Maverick lead to three. They converted a lay-up to tie the game at 58-58, only the games second tie, with 8:24 remaining, however MSU closed the contest with a 20-9 run and held UNO without a field goal over the games last 6:21 en route to a 78-67 victory.

This past Thursday we traveled to undefeated, Division I, NDSU for a non-conference game. We didn't do a very good job of getting out of the gates as the Bison pulled ahead early with a 16-2 run over the games first 4:45. From that point on we played pretty even with them, but just couldn't overcome the deficit from the start.

Saturday night we hosted nationally ranked (#17) Augustana. The game was a good ol' fashioned NCC match-up with both teams battling to establish a significant lead as seen with the 9 lead changes and seven ties that occurred in the first half. We opened the second half by pushing an early five point advantage before building our lead to as many as 13 points at 75-62 with 6:10 remaining in the contest. Fortunately we were able to withstand a late run by the Vikings and went on to win 89-77. We shot 46.5% from the floor in the win, while converting 18-of-22 (81.8%) of our free-throw attempts, including 15-of-19 in the second half. 24 of the Mavericks 33 field goals were assisted. It was really nice to see that we had very balanced scoring as all five starters scored in double figures and Stacey Duarte finished with 8 points. When teams have balance like that – they are hard to beat. With the victory, we improve to 10-14 overall and 4-6 in the North Central Conference. The win also marks the first time that we have turned in a 10-win season since the 1997-1998 season when it finished 17-10.

Senior guard Kelli Freeman has been named ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District V First Team. The team is chosen by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and the fifth district consists of squads from Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, along with Ontario and Manitoba. Freeman leads Minnesota State in scoring, with an average of 13.6 points per game. Already with a degree in biology, Freeman currently holds a 3.98 grade point average as she works on her second major, chemistry.

HOOPS CLUB NOTES:

1. The next regular Hoops Club meeting will occur Friday, February 25, at noon at Pub 500.
2. Thursday 2/24 (UND games) will be Mascot night. Saturday 2/26 the UNO games will start at 2:00 pm and 4:00 and **not** at time previously published. The very popular and talented **Alexandria Aces** will appear at half-time of the men's and women's games that afternoon.