



NOTHING BUT NET

December 14, 2004

From Coach Margenthaler

The holiday break couldn't come at a better time for our basketball team. We just concluded a three week string of 8 games that included six games on the road. In all we've played 11 games in 23 days to start our season. Our guys are ready for some much needed rest. We collected six more wins in the last two weeks to raise our record to 11-0. This is the school's best start since the 1954-55 team started their season with the same record. As of today we are now ranked #3 in the NCAA Division II poll; this is the highest ranking ever achieved by an MSU team. I am very proud of our effort up to this point in the season. But we have work to do; our objective is to improve each day we come to the gym.

We have not played our best basketball these last two weeks, but have made plays down the stretch and have found ways to win basketball games. The ways we've won games the last couple of weeks has really given us confidence that we can win even when we are not shooting well. This will no doubt help us later in the season during a tough NCC schedule where games are often decided in the last few possessions. At Winona State we were down with five minutes to play, and the North Dakota State game was decided in the last few seconds. We feel good that we pulled out victories, but also learned what parts of our game need work. The games at Concordia-St Paul and Minnesota-Crookston were also instructive because we had large leads, but lost our mental focus and let our opponents back in the games. But the kids deserve credit; down the stretch in each game they made plays and found ways to win these games.

Individually, Jamel Staten took home another NCC Player of the Week honor after the Winona State weekend. He is averaging 22.4 ppg and 8.2 rpg on the year. Jamel is the only NCC player to be listed in all 12 statistical categories; he is leading the league in scoring and is second in rebounding. Andy Moeller has also played exceptionally well the last few weeks with high games of 19 and 20 points against Winona State and Minnesota-Crookston. Andy leads the NCC in the assist-to-turnover category.

From Coach Fish

We have recently put on many miles playing on the road. In Denver, the first weekend of December, we lost a pair of close ones, to Regis and Metro. We felt we had the chance to win both games. After flying back in to Minnesota on Sunday we had one

one day to prepare for Concordia – St. Paul (ranked 10th nationally) on Tuesday. With six minutes to go, the game was tied but we were unable to come away with the win.

After 6 games on the road, the we were glad to finally be playing on their home court this past weekend against Minnesota State University – Moorhead and Bethany Lutheran College. After a disappointing loss to MSU – Moorhead, we bounced back to beat Bethany 93-54. In that game, we set season-highs in team points (93), rebounds (50), defensive rebounds (32), field goals (38), field goal attempts (76), assists (34), blocks (7), and steals (16) in the win. As we are headed into finals week, the win was much needed. Our next contest will be on Monday, December 20th at 7:00pm when we host Viterbo University.

JUNIORS-

We have 4 juniors. 3 returned from last year's team, and one is a transfer. Junior Stacie Johnson plays point guard for us. Stacie has done a nice job of leading our team on the court; she has averaged 7.2 points per game. Her 14 points against Regis on Dec. 3rd was her season high. Junior Arin Andrews missed the first five games of the season due to a knee injury, but returned to the lineup on the Denver trip. In just five games this season, Andrews has quickly moved up the Maverick scoring and rebounding charts. She is tied for third on the squad in scoring (11.10 ppg), and second on the team in rebounding (5.2 rpg). Junior Stacey Duarte has seen action in nine games and has hauled in 24 rebounds. MSU's victory over Bethany, Duarte recorded a season-high ten points to go with seven rebounds. Junior Heather Peterson played at Winona State for two seasons before transferring to MSU this fall. Peterson is tied for third on the team in scoring (11.0 ppg) and is also third in rebounding (4.9 rpg).

NOTES:

Seniors **Kelli Freeman** and **Hannah Stolba** are currently 14th and 16th on MSU's all-time scoring chart with 896 and 874 points in their careers. Junior center **Arin Andrews** (West Concord, Minn.) currently sits 29th with 628 points.

Kelli Freeman tied the school record for three pointers in a game with seven three-pointers against Bethany Lutheran College on Dec. 11th.

Arin Andrews gathered her 13th career double-double with 15 points and ten rebounds in MSU's loss to Concordia-St. Paul.

Upcoming events: We hope to see you at these events!

Regular Friday Noon Hoops Club Luncheons.

Our next meeting at Pub 500 will be Friday, December 17.

Next Men's action: Sunday 12/19 3:00 pm vs. MSU-Moorhead

Next Women's action: Monday 12/20 7:0 pm vs. Viterbo