

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

NOTHING BUT NET

MSU BASKETBALL NEWSLETTER

MEN'S BASKETBALL

[21 - 4]

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

[17 - 5]



MSU 77 Southwest Minnesota State 68

It came down to the end Friday night in Taylor Center, but it was the No. 21 Minnesota State men's basketball team that would come out on top as it won its 20th game of the season with a 77-68 win over Southwest Minnesota State.

The Mavericks were led by the duo of juniors Zach Monaghan and Assem Marei. Monaghan recorded his seventh career double-double with 23 points and 11 assists, while Marei notched 21 points, six rebounds and a career-high six blocks in the winning effort.

Senior Gage Wooten added 10 points, while sophomore TJ Okafor posted a team-high seven rebounds.

As a team, MSU connected on 27-of-55 (.491) shots from the field, including a 7-of-14 (.500) showing from three point range. The Mavericks also brought down 36 rebounds and passed out 18 assists.

The second half proved to be just as competitive as the first as the lead changed hand eight more times. SMSU led by six at 51-45 with 14:17 left in the game, but the Mavericks would rally and eventually take the lead for good at 67-66 with 4:47 left in the game. MSU outscored the Mustangs 10-2 in the final 4:47 to secure the 77-68 win.

MSU 109 Sioux Falls 64

The #21 Minnesota State men's basketball team ended its regular season home schedule in exciting fashion as it dominated the Sioux Falls Cougars, en route to a 109-64 win Saturday evening in Taylor Center.

MSU was not shy about spreading the scoring around as a total of seven Mavericks recorded at least 10 points on the night.

Junior Zach Monaghan led the way with 23 points and eight assists, while senior Tanner Adler dropped in 17 points. Junior Zach Romashko added 14 points, including a 4-of-6 showing from behind the arc.

Senior Gage Wooten tallied 12 points and six rebounds, while the duo of senior Connor O'Brien and sophomore TJ Okafor notched 11 points. Freshman Mike Busack added 10 points off the bench as well.

As a unit, MSU shot 60% (39-of-65) from the field, including a 15-of-27 (.556) showing from behind the arc. The Mavericks also brought down 44 rebounds and passed out 26 assists.

MSU kept the pressure on as it led by more than 30 points throughout the entire second half as it claimed its 21st victory of the season with a 109-64 win. The 109 points represents the third time this season the Mavericks have recorded more than 100 points in a game.



MSU 85 Southwest Minnesota State 63

No. 23 Minnesota State used another strong first half to down Southwest Minnesota State 85-63 improving to 16-5 overall with a mark of 13-4 in NSIC action.

The Mavericks only allowed two SMSU field goals in the opening eight minutes of the contest, jumping out to an early 21-5 with 12:00 to play in the first half. The Mavericks used another hot start to take a 48-22 lead into intermission, scoring 25 points off of 15 Mustang turnovers in the first 20 minutes of the game.

SMSU cleaned up its offensive effort, cutting the Maverick lead to nine points at 68-59 with 5:12 remaining in the contest, forcing MSU to use a timeout. MSU responded with a 6-0 run out of the timeout and ended the contest on a 17-4 run to earn the 85-63 win.

A total of four Mavericks contributed double-digit points, led by Gengenbacher, who netted a team-high 16 points. Wilkinson finished with 15, junior Jamie Bresnahan added 13 points and Scherber rounded out the top-scorers finishing with 10 points off of the bench.

Collectively, MSU connected on 49% (32-65), of its shots from the field, 33% (7-21) from behind the arc and 89% (14-16) from the charity stripe and recorded 15 steals on 21 SMSU turnovers.

MSU 79 Sioux Falls 52

No. 23 Minnesota State finishes the regular season with an 11-1 home record as it downed the University of Sioux Falls, 79-52 Saturday in Taylor Center.

The Cougars tested the Mavericks in the opening frame, not allowing MSU to race out to another hot start. The Mavericks led 23-19 with 4:35 to play in the first half, before they went on a 14-5 run to end the half. MSU forced 15 USF turnovers, recording seven steals in the opening 20 minutes of the contest, allowing the Mavericks to net 13 points off of the Cougar turnovers.

The Mavericks were led by Gengenbacher, who posted a season-high 21 points coming one point shy of her career-best 22 points; she also tied her career-best seven rebounds. The senior duo of Ali Wilkinson and Alli Hoefer added 12 points and 11 points, respectively. Freshman Sammie Delzotto poured in 11 points off of the bench, while junior Jamie Bresnahan hauled in a team-high 10 rebounds.

MSU connected on 35% (24-68) of its shots from the field, 29% (6-21) from behind the arc and 89% (25-28) from the charity, forcing 22 Cougar turnovers and recorded 11 steals. USF connected on 27% (17-63) of its shots from the field, 30% (8-27) from behind the arc and 46% (10-22) from the charity stripe. The Mavericks owned a 50-46 advantage on the glass.

PLAYER PROFILES



#40 Anna Leloux

Forward | 6-0 | Sophomore | Parker, South Dakota

2012-13

Played in 29 games for the Purple and Gold... Netted 61 points (2.1 per game)... Dished out 24 assists while talling 10 steals and five blocks... Averaged 11.5 minutes per game.

High School

Earned 11 total varsity letters for her efforts in track and field (4), Volleyball (3) and basketball (4)... As a senior averaged 12.7 points per game and 9.8 rebounds per game... Second team all-conference honors... Team captain.

Personal

Majoring in exercise science... Born in Sioux Falls, S.D.... Born Dec. 20, 1993.



#44 TJ Okafor

Forward | 6-6 | Sophomore | Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

2012-13

Redshirted

2011-12

Averaged 1.8 points and 3.3 rebounds while playing 14.7 minutes per game...Scored a season-high six points against Dickinson State (11/13) hauled in a season-high nine rebounds in MSU's loss at Southwest Minnesota State (1/7)...Blocked a season-high four shots against Augustana (12/3).

High School

Okafor averaged 16.2 points per game and 9.5 rebounds while shooting 52 percent from the field and 35 percent from downtown as a senior... Additionally, he averaged 2.8 blocks per game for the Rebels, which finished 21-5 and was the Section SAAAA champions...Is the cousin of former UCONN standout Emeka Okafor.

Personal

Born on March 3, 1993...Son of Emeka and Patience Okafor...Majoring in Business with a Psychology minor.



UPCOMING GAMES

February 14
at Bemidji State | 6:00/8:00pm
Bemidji, Minnesota

February 21
at Sioux Falls | 6:00/8:00pm
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

February 15
at Minnesota Crookston | 4:00/6:00pm
Crookston, Minnesota

February 22
at Southwest Minnesota State | 5:00/7:00
Marshall, Minnesota