



Women’s basketball finishes tough preseason

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The Ashland Eagles ended their 2017-18 exhibition season with a 119-56 loss against NCAA Division I No. 1 ranked women’s basketball team, Connecticut. This comes after a 110-80 loss at The Ohio State University just a week prior.

Ashland head coach Robyn Fralick reflected on some of the positives that came out of the loss to the Buckeyes.

“We had some really good spurts where we would put together a few good possessions of getting a good score in transition, then a stop, then a score,” Fralick said. “During those times, I would see some good hustle plays.”

Sophomore guard Jodi Johnson kicked off the game by scoring the first two points on a layup. Ohio State responded by scoring on the next seven possessions. OSU would go on to establish a commanding 27-17 lead late into the first quarter.

Senior forward Julie Worley began taking over for the Eagles, scoring five consecutive points to cut the deficit to just five. The Buckeyes responded with a last second 3-pointer to establish a 30-22 lead at the end of the first quarter.

OSU would go on to a 36-24 lead before Ashland fought back with an 8-3 run of their own. This made it only an eight-point deficit for the Eagles. The Buckeyes would finish the half strong, however, with a 19-9 run. This widened the gap

58-41 going into halftime. Ashland attempted to cut into OSU’s lead early on in the third quarter by making it 60-45, but it wasn’t enough. The Buckeyes went on to score their next 13 points for

their tradition of sharing the rock by having 20 assists on 33 made field goals.

Senior forward Laina Snyder led the Eagles with 21 points, nine rebounds, two assists, and three

you leave a game like this, you’re not wondering what you need to work on.”

The Eagles loss to UConn was not the result they were hoping for as they lost by a 63-point margin.



EAGLE EYE PHOTOGRAPHY

Sophomore Renee Stimpert dribbles up the floor at Gampel Pavilion in Connecticut as the Eagles took on the UConn Huskies in exhibition play.

a 73-47 lead with 6:52 left to go in the third quarter.

Ohio State increased their lead to a margin of 88-59 through the end of the third quarter. They went on from there continuing their dominance to the end of the game for the victory.

Ashland finished the game shooting 37.1 percent from the field while going 23.8 percent from downtown. The Eagles continued

steals on the defensive end of the court. Worley finished the game with 16 points and four rebounds. Junior guard Maddie Dackin and sophomore guard Sara Loomis chipped in nine points each.

Fralick saw the loss as something helpful to build upon as a team.

“We’re becoming a new team, and we’ve got everyone figuring out who they are in that,” Fralick said. “The good news is too, when

The exhibition game featured the preseason national favorites in both NCAA Division I and Division II women’s basketball.

Ashland couldn’t contain the Huskies as they knocked down shots from all over the court. UConn’s combination of fast break points to go along with 3-point shots stunned the Eagles as they tried to keep up.

UConn came out the gate hot,

Men’s basketball gears up for season

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The Ashland University Eagles men’s basketball team is looking to establish a winning culture by using motivational fuel from last season and playing for a meaningful purpose.

Last year’s Eagles ended their season in a heart-wrenching one-point loss in their first ever appearance in the GLIAC tournament championship game to Ferris State.

Although the loss put an end to their run, it has caused an increased level of confidence for the Eagles and has created anticipation for the promising future of the program.

The Eagles are ranked first in the preseason GLIAC South rankings and the Eagles prepared this off-season as a team that plans to finish as the top-dog in GLIAC play.

“Everybody came back in shape,” senior small forward Marsalis Hamilton said.

Hamilton has been selected to the preseason All-GLIAC South team and is a key returner for the Eagles who recorded 23-points in the season finale loss to Ferris State.

He mentions the team’s anticipation to hit the ground running as soon as possible and be physically prepared for the grind.

“We really took it upon ourselves as a team to comeback fully ready to go so that we can jump right into getting into sets, getting into the offense, and knowing our defensive principles without worrying about fighting through fatigue,” Hamilton said.

By refusing to be halted by a lack of wind, the Eagles have been able to focus on areas of improvement for the upcoming season, mainly rebounding and playing in transition.

“If we can rebound, then we can get out and run, and when we’re out and running we’re at our best,” sophomore center Drew Noble said.

The ability to effectively rebound the ball will only complement the maturity and skill level the team possesses.

A maturity that involves 10 out of 14 players being a junior or senior in classification including junior guard Ben Haraway and senior for-

wards Wendell Davis and Marsalis Hamilton.

Along with Hamilton, Davis has also be selected to the preseason All-GLIAC South team.

Davis’ return from missing the 2016-2017 season due to a torn ACL will be essential in replacing the Eagles’ top two scorers last season Adrian Cook and Boo Osbourne.

Davis has also been named an NCAA Division II Preseason All-American by Basketball Times.

In 2016, Davis recorded 17.7 points per game along with 7.7 rebound and garnered his second season with over 500 total points.

His presence on the court and as a leader will prove to be a significant driving force for success.

“Wendell is a great leader and a great guy to have around,” Noble said.

Noble mentions that Davis’ ability to communicate and lead by example have completely changed the atmosphere of the team’s workouts and practices,”

“He’s always communicating and he knows what the coaches want,” Noble said.

Along with his leadership, Davis has a cunning sense of basketball smarts that impacts the play of everyone around him.

“He’s so basketball smart, he knows where you’re going to be [on the court], he knows the other teams inside out,” Noble said.

Davis and Hamilton will assume the roles of team leaders after the departures of Osborne and Cook.

Hamilton notes that Davis is the vocal leader while he aims to lead by example, provide energy to his teammates, and do anything necessary to obtain wins.

“I play as hard as I can at all times so the team picks up my energy,” Hamilton said. “I don’t care about points, I just care about putting the team in the best position to win,”

Although having Wendell back on the court is a good sign for the Eagles, the recent loss of junior guard Nicholas Bapst has formed a void in the team’s core.

Bapst’s absence on the court has left big shoes to be filled by redshirt freshman Aaron Thompson and junior Jay Slone.

“It’s hard to replace a guy like



AU ATHLETICS

Ben Haraway goes up for a layup in a contest against Lake Erie last season.

Nick who can do everything,” Noble said.

Noble notes that Thompson is a defensive specialist and Slone is a shooter with marksman-like capabilities, and both players will carry a significantly heavier load due to Nick’s well-rounded ability on the court.

“He’s a great scorer,” Noble said. “[He] has a lot of energy, he is one of the fastest dudes on the court, and great for when we get out and run, so it’s going to be hard to replace him.”

Even though his loss has been hard to digest, Noble said it’s helped the team find purpose.

“Everybody seems so much more driven and more focused, it’s like we have a new purpose playing for Nick,” Noble said.

Hamilton said the team believed that Nick would not want them to

spend time grieving, but continue to pursue the team’s goal of being GLIAC champions.

“What would Nick want us to do? Would he want us to sit, cry, and pout, or fight, get back up and get ready for the task at hand?” Hamilton said.

With that mindset, Noble affirms that the team has grown closer, grown in their faith, and grown in realizing the bigger picture.

“It has made things less about ourselves and more about the team, family and God,” Noble said. “I’m looking forward to seeing what this new team does, especially with this new purpose.”

The men’s basketball team tips-off the season on Friday, Nov. 10 with a home-opener against the Lake Erie College Storm as game one of two in the GLIAC versus G-MAC Challenge.

making their first 19 of 26 shots, all in just the first quarter. This gave them the early 45-11 lead.

The Huskies continued their assault, increasing their lead 79-21 at halftime. During the run, they shot a sultry 72.3 percent from the field.

The Eagles simply couldn’t keep up with the Division I juggernaut, ultimately falling to UConn 119-56.

Ashland finished the game shooting 28.9 percent from the field while going 9.5 percent from downtown. The Eagles had 14 assists for the game.

Snyder led the Eagles and finished this game with a double-double. She had 12 points to go along with 10 boards. Worley ended this game by scoring a team-high 17 points on 7-of-11 shooting from the field.

The Huskies finished the game shooting 65.4 percent from the field while also going 37.5 percent from the 3-point line.

For UConn, six players scored in double figures. The Huskies were led by Kia Nurse with 21 points, hitting all seven of her shots from the field. Azura Stevens helped to poor in 16 points along with 11 rebounds.

Gabby Williams also chipped in 11 points and 10 boards.

The game was shown live in Kates Gymnasium at AU for a watch party. The party was sponsored by Ohio Health.

AU’s women’s basketball team begins their 2017-18 regular season on Friday, (Nov. 10) at 5:30 p.m. against Ohio Dominican.

NICK BAPST CONT. from A1.

“The professors have been super understanding about the whole situation,” Slone said. “Like even professors I know that don’t know Nick have emailed me just telling me to keep my head up.”

Slone said that despite the outpouring of love from everyone in the community, there are still times where the men’s team has struggled to carry on.

“People are still hurt, you can see it. Some times are worse than others but seeing that he is doing better is helping us,” Slone said. “At first I didn’t want to go practice, but how am I supposed to complain about going to practice and just quitting on that when he is fighting for his life.”

Senior Wendell Davis said that not having Bapst has been difficult for the team to work through but said that the team is continuing to work through it.

“With me having me ACL injury, I learned that adversity will kick in and it’s about what you do once adversity happens and we faced adversity with Nick going down and we as a group came together and that’s why I say family. It hurt a lot of us and it deeply hurt a lot of us but we learned that in that moment that basketball was the smallest thing because someone’s life was at stake.”

Slone said that he is amazed at the amount of impact Nick is leaving on the community as he continues to fight.

“I already think that he has touched a bunch of lives as it and I think this just shows you that as bad as it is, God picked the right person for this battle because no one would go through it as strong as Nick,” Slone said. “He is so strong in his faith and I really believe that he picked Nick just to prove to everyone else why you need to be strong in your faith.”

As Bapst continues his recovery, Slone and the rest of the team continue to do the only thing they can do: Pray.

“I really believe that the power of prayer helped him to get through that night. I really believe that God had his hand on him that night and all of us praying, I really think saved his life,” he said.