



Men's Newsletter:

WOW...Warhawk fans, here we go with another recap,

Thank you to everyone that was able to come and support our Wheelchair Basketball teams this weekend. We had some great fund-raising help from the Murray Family, AMA, and Coaches vs. Cancer. Also, there were so many people that helped out with the fund-raising, working tables, and tournament set-up that I wouldn't even be able to list the mass numbers of individuals. I would like to thank my coaching staff for their work up to this point in the season. THANK YOU. I was proud to be a Warhawk over and over again throughout the weekend.

The DLK Fieldhouse was host to 22 collegiate men's and women's wheelchair basketball games this weekend. It was non-stop wheelchair basketball action at its finest. Your Men's Wheelchair Basketball team opened the weekend with a prime time match-up against the University of Illinois on Friday night. The two-headed monster that is the Illini offensive attack of Heroki Kozai and Nick Goncin are a challenge to keep in check. Goncin was able to get off 30 shot attempts and his range starts as soon as he rolls in the gym. He was able to score from deep...real deep, close range and even some transition hoops. Goncin rattled in 33 points but we were able to hold Kozai to 11 points. We had 3 scorers in double digits with Andre Bienek adding 29 points, Derrick Bisnett scoring 20 and Chris Okon adding 18 points. It was good to be able to get a win in a close game while we were unable to knock down very many 3 point baskets which our team has had the capability of doing all year. We won with a final score of 71-60.

Saturday morning's game opened with us hosting the Southwest Minnesota State University Mustangs. The team looked like they had not yet awakened as the game got underway. We went to our spark plugs off the bench to pick up the energy in the game. John Boie and Shai Ron were able to kick our offense and defense into gear. We had 4 players in double digits; Ben Kenyon, Chris Okon, Derrick Bisnett and Andre Bienek. We took down the Mustangs with a final score of 73-49.

In a non-conference show down against the Milwaukee Wheelchair Bucks we faced off against last year's collegiate Player of the Year, UWW alumni, and Paralympic hopeful, Nate Hinze. His size and ability is a handful to deal with for any team. Our Warhawks were able to hold Nate to 20 points on 10 of 24 shooting. Derrick Bisnett led the way with 24 points for the Warhawks. Chris Okon added 15 assists and helped us to a victory over the Wheelchair Bucks with a final of 83-60.



Epic; monumental; historical; you pick the adjective. Our last game of the weekend had us battling it out against the University of Alabama Crimson Tide. We provided full seats for the fans at the Fieldhouse but you can be sure only the edges of those seats were being used. Alabama's Jared Arambula filled the stat line with 35 points on a ridiculous 13 of 23 shooting including 3 for 3 from beyond the arc. He also added 14 rebounds and 9 assists. It was evident that our Warhawks' poor shooting in the first half directly led to poor defensive intensity digging us a halftime hole of 21 points. At half time we spoke about closing the gap and the way we started that process was to pick things up on the defensive end of the floor. On offense; enter Ben Kenyon and his 18 points (6 three point baskets) in the second half. Our improved defense and offensive punch meant that this game would not be decided in the allotted 40 minutes of basketball. During the 5 minutes of free basketball we had to comeback yet again being down 5, but were able to do so on some huge shots from our veteran leaders. When the smoke had cleared; the Warhawks came out on top with a score of 80-77.

Watch for more updates as your Wheelchair Basketball teams travel to Alabama for some tough re-matches on February 25 and 25th. This weekend was a huge success because of all of the great people we have within and around our Wheelchair Athletics program.

Thanks,

Jeremy "Opie" Lade
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