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## Poor Shooting Sinks Lady Raiders

DECEMBER 14TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

### Poor Shooting Sinks Lady Raiders

POPLAR BLUFF - Shooting was the theme of the night in Tuesday's game between the Three Rivers Lady Raiders and Arkansas Baptist.

For Three Rivers, it was a lack of it. For the Lady Buffaloes, it was getting it at the right time.

The Lady Raiders shot just 39 percent (21-of-54) from the field – and just 26 percent (five-for-19) in the first half – and also struggled at the free-throw line (20-of-40), while Arkansas Baptist hit four 3-pointers as part of a game-changing 14-3 run late in the game to rally for a 71-65 win at the Bess Activity Center.

“Free throws. Free throws. Free throws,” Three Rivers coach Jeff Walk said. “And if we make a few more free throws and commit a few less turnovers, we win. You can't write that any other way.”

Three Rivers (6-5) took a 45-42 lead on Carolyn Overton's free throws with 9:46 to go, but the Lady Buffaloes connected on four treys – the first two by Jerrica Walls – as part of a 14-3 spurt, taking a 56-48 lead on Caitlyn Williams's triple with just under five and a half minutes to go.

“We went to a triangle-and-two defense trying to shut that down, then someone else started making them,” said Walk. “It was just pick your poison. Sometimes as coaching goes, you overcoach instead of letting the game happen.”

The Lady Raiders could get no closer than five points the rest of the way.

After a dismal start that saw Three Rivers make just five baskets in the first half and miss 11 of its 19 shots from the foul line, back-to-back baskets by Carolyn Overton ignited a 19-5 run as the Lady Raiders took a 37-31 lead on Candace Miller’s free throws with 13:55 to go.

However, Arkansas Baptist began to chip away, cutting the lead to 43-42 on Gabby Jenkins’s free throw with 9:50 before going on its game-turning run.

Overton paced Three Rivers with 18 points and 14 rebounds, while Whitney Mills added 13 points and Abbie Warren finished with 10.

“We got beat but the kids battled all the way through,” Walk said. “That is something to build on. And they’re the most athletic team we’ll play all year.”

Cassie Vaughn and Ashley Qualls led the Lady Buffaloes with 12 points apiece.

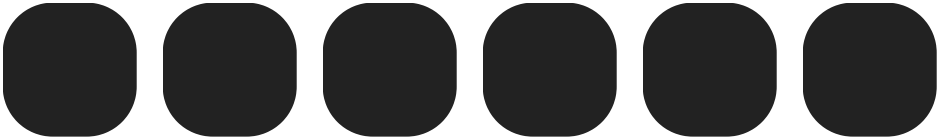
The Lady Raiders are off until January 3, when they travel to Williams Baptist for a rematch of the season opener.

***For more information on everything Three Rivers Athletics, make sure to visit [RaidersAthletics.com](http://RaidersAthletics.com)!***

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## 'Cats Show Signs Of Improvement At Jackson

DECEMBER 14TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

### 'Cats Show Signs Of Improvement At Jackson

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

JACKSON - The Bearcats are still searching for that ever-elusive first win, but they took a big step forward in Tuesday night's contest against the Jackson Indians.

After a 70-50 loss to Jackson last Tuesday in the second round of the SEMO Conference Tournament, the Bearcats took to the court in hopes of exacting some revenge against the Indians, but after a four-quarter battle, the 'Cats fell 66-58.

The Indians have a distinct size advantage over the 'Cats - four of their five starters were 6'2" or taller - but Jake Lee played a great game in the paint despite being nearly six inches shorter.

The 'Cats were also without the services of Chase Young, who was out with a knee injury.

Lee led the Bearcats in scoring with 25 points. D.J. Dowdy and Tyler Miller were the only other Bearcats in double-figures, with 15 and 12 points, respectively.

Lee had his hands full throughout the contest, but did a great job slowing down the 6'9" John Meyer, holding him to just 10 points in the contest.

Miller and Lee were the only Bearcats that were able to find the basket during the opening frame of the game; the duo combined for 11 points. The Indians were able to barely edge a 13-11 lead at the end of the first.

Jordan Fitts and Dowdy were both able to knock down threes during the Bearcats' 17 point second quarter effort. The 'Cats were able to pick up the pressure on the defensive end of the floor and hold Jackson to just 11 points in the frame to take a 28-24 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The third quarter was a mirror image of the second; Jackson's defense played well and held the 'Cats to just 7 points, while their offense exploded with an 18 point effort. The Indians held a 42-35 lead heading into the final quarter of play.

Dowdy and Lee carried the Bearcat offense during the fourth quarter, scoring 20 of the 'Cats' 23 points in the frame. Caleb Newcomer was able to knock down all eight of his shots from the charity stripe to seal the 66-58 victory for the Indians.

In the JV contest, Myles Urhan and Drake Mitchell both had solid efforts, and the entire team showed signs of improvement, but the JV 'Cats ultimately fell to 0-6 on the season with the loss.

The Bearcats - fresh off earning a No. 5 seed in the Bloomfield Christmas Tournament fall to 0-5 on the season, with all five losses - one to Charleston, and two each to Sikeston and Jackson - coming to SEMO Conference opponents.

The 'Cats will be back in action again on Friday night, when they travel to Essex to take on the Richland Rebels. Tipoff for the Varsity-only contest is scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

***Thanks to SMT Reader and Bearcat Mom Tracy Miller for the photos!***

/images/Sports/2011/Basketball/DHS/2011.12.13 - Jackson/2011-12.13\_BB\_Jackson\_Stats.jpg

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## ShowMe Scoreboard, 12.14.2011

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ShowMe Scoreboard, 12.14.2011

### **ShowMe Scoreboard, 12.14.2011**

*Games played Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2011*

#### **Boys' High School Basketball**

- Jackson 66, Dexter 58
- Clarkton 85, East Carter County 59
- Chaffee 61, Saxony Lutheran 59
- Scott City 77, Kelly 37
- Oran 88, East Prairie 67
- Bernie 72, Woodland 35
- Delta 60, Meadow Heights 41
- New Madrid County Central 57, Notre Dame 54
- Scott County Central 91, Advance 78

#### **Girls' High School Basketball**

- Woodland 56, East Prairie 36
- Perryville 40, Scott City 37

## NJCAA Women

- Arkansas Baptist 71, Three Rivers 65

## NCAA Men

- Wisconsin 60, Milwaukee 54
- Florida Atlantic 68, Mississippi State 75
- Arkansas – Pine Bluff 50, Michigan 63

## NCAA Women

- Presbyterian 92, Columbia 45
- Boston U 70, Boston College 62
- Tennessee 67, Rutgers 61
- Saint Louis 73, Missouri-St. Louis 51
- LSU 58, UCLA 41
- Arkansas – Little Rock 63, Oral Roberts 78

***Photo Above: The Lady Billikins at Saint Louis University defeated cross-town rival UMSL Tuesday night in a game played at Chaifetz Arena in St. Louis. (Photo courtesy Saint Louis University)***

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## Flannigan Finds Success Early At Lafayette

DECEMBER 13TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

### Flannigan Finds Success Early At Lafayette

*By Andrew Cato, SMT Sports Editor*

Adjusting to life in college can be a difficult task for any freshman - you have more free time on your hands, your professors are much more laid back about your assignments than the typical high school teacher, and you don't have your parents there to guide you.

It can be a rough transition for some. The difficulty of the transition is exponentially increased when you're a student-athlete.

A young man from Dexter is going through that transition right now, but he's doing one heck of a job with it.

Alan Flannigan is the 18 year old son of Charlie and Jana Flannigan of Dexter. He's a 2011 graduate of Dexter High School, and he's currently playing NCAA Division I basketball at Lafayette College. Alan isn't the first collegiate athlete to come from his family - his father, Charlie, played football and was a high jumper at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis., and played basketball for the Coburg Giants, the 1977 Australian national champions.

Lafayette, a four-year Patriot League school, is located in Easton, Penn. The college has an enrollment of over 2,300 students - more than 10 times the size of Flannigan's graduating class. Life in Easton, a town of over 30,000 people, is quite different from small-town Missouri life.

"It's quite different up here - all of my teammates joked with me a lot when I first got here about my accent, about how I talked so much slower and dress differently," Flannigan said. "Everything moves so much faster; [my teammates] listen to genres of music that I'd never even heard of before I came here."

Flannigan noted that the biggest change at Lafayette wasn't the culture; it was changing positions on the court.

"I was a guard throughout the fall and the first few weeks of practice, and then while I was out with a concussion they moved me to four," he said. "I had to relearn everything and all the plays and sets. The four in our offense is a post player - not necessarily just a 'sit on the block and call for the ball' post, but we get out on the perimeter and handle the ball a lot. Everybody has to be a point guard on our team, the way that we play."

With a new team comes a new coach, and Flannigan was quick to point out the expertise of his new coach, Fran O'Hanlon.

"Coach O'Hanlon has years and years of experience at the Division I level, and he played in the NBA and overseas," Flannigan said. "I've learned more to this point than I thought I might ever be able to know about basketball, and there's three and a half years to go."

“Our coach knows things about basketball that you wouldn't even think would have any significance, but when he explains them, you understand why being half a step to the left or the right makes a huge difference in opening up lanes or gaps for shots,” he continued. “It's been really fun from a ‘learning the game’ aspect for someone that loves the game as much as I do.”

Flannigan's admiration of his coach is a two-way street.

Coach O'Hanlon spoke very highly of the freshman, despite his early setbacks with injuries.

/images/Sports/Athlete Features/Alan Flannigan/2011.12.9\_Lafayette\_Team.jpg

“Alan was going to get played more as a 3 or 4 in our vernacular, but I see him more as a 4 or 5 after watching him in practice. [He was] out for a week with a concussion, then came back and sprained his ankle. That gave him some setbacks,” O'Hanlon said. “We aren't a very good rebounding team - he's come back and given us some energy off the bench, and got three boards in five minutes of play when we faced Delaware.”

“Alan is a good rebounder, and he is aggressive inside. We have a number of scorers right now; he has the ability to score, but that isn't what we need from him right now,” he continued. “Alan has put up big numbers in high school - all our freshman right now were stars on their high school team, but I think he has the ability to score better once he gets acclimated. Where that leads to in the next few years is the million dollar question. I'm happy with where he is right now - he's gotten more minutes than a lot of freshman, and he's doing some great things for us off the bench.”

O'Hanlon did point out some aspects of Flannigan's game that need improvement, but noted that they were all common areas of concern for most incoming freshmen at the Division I level.

“His outside shot needs to get more consistent, but I can say that about several guys on this team,” O'Hanlon said. “The speed of the Division I game is so much quicker than high school, especially coming out of a smaller town. It's not an overnight thing adjusting to that, it's not something you can turn on and turn off. All of our guys - not just the freshmen - can do a better job of taking care of the ball, identifying plays, being able to make the big plays when they need to be made.”

When asked about the biggest differences between his on-the-court experiences in high school and college, Flannigan quickly echoed his coaches sentiment about the speed of the game. He also noted the increased physicality and sheer size of his opponents as key differences.

/images/Sports/Athlete Features/Alan Flannigan/Lafayette\_Logo.jpg

“Everything is so much quicker. There were things I could get away with in high school I can't even try in college. Instead of getting guarded by a 6'3 kid, it's 6'9”, 240 pounder,” Flannigan said. “Everyone at this level has skill - even the big guys can drive to the basket and shoot. [Everything is] more physical, too. You're guarding guys that could just as easily be playing defensive end on the football team as they could be playing power forward. It really turns you from having been one of the better athletes in your high school to just like everyone else.”

“The guy I was matched up with when we played Delaware was 6'6”, 260, and had muscles in places I didn't know you could have them. I realized quickly that I wasn't that tall at 6'6”,” he recalled, laughing. “It's how big and strong and physical a lot of post players are at this level. The weight room is a necessity, as well as being tough. [You have to] work your butt off while you're off the court to get bigger and stronger.”

Flannigan also pointed out the increased complexity of the offensive system that Lafayette utilizes, and noted that a quick mind is just as advantageous as a quick body.

“You can't have gaps, you can't stop and think - always have to think on the fly, think faster than your opponent. We aren't as athletic as a lot of teams that we play - we're thinking quicker and not just moving quicker,” he said. “There's lot more decision making - offense in high school was pretty cut and dry - took what the defense gives you and play. This offense has a lot of options - fundamentally is the same, but there's a lot more options. Every person's route is planned out, and there's about five options based on every other person on the floor's position.”

Flannigan was quick to note the efforts of his high school coaches - weightlifting coach Aaron Pixley and basketball coach Rob Nichols - as being keys to his early successes in college.

/images/Sports/2011/College/Lafayette/Flannigan.jpg

“The lifts we did in high school definitely prepared me for college. Coach Pixley did a great job getting me bigger and stronger, especially during my freshman and sophomore year in high school when I was really small and weak. The intensity he expected us to work at helped me a lot,” he said. “Off the top of my head, there's so many things Coach Nichols taught me - there's so much general stuff about basketball that I learned from him. We play a version of the matchup zone that we played all through high school and middle school - it's made the transition a lot easier for me.”

“Coach Nichols taught me how to be humble with success, how to bounce back from disappointments. We had great success in high school and great disappointments - he was really good at teaching me how to be a little bit of a leader in those scenarios and how to bounce back,” he continued.



Flannigan has already played some very prestigious schools at this early point in his career - the Leopards boast a win over Penn State, and have lost close games to Sacred Heart and Princeton - and despite being 4-6, Flannigan and the Leopards could just as easily be 9-1.

“We could also have lost a few of those close games. I’m proud of where we are, and I’m happy with what we’ve done do far,” O’Hanlon said of his team. We lost our starting guard and our 4 and 5 man last year, but it’s given me the opportunity to get some of the younger guys some minutes that some of our older guys have usually gotten. It can be a disaster when you lose guys when the young ones aren’t ready.”

The Leopards are off until December 21<sup>st</sup>, when they head to Nashville, Tenn., to face off against the Vanderbilt Commodores, currently ranked No. 25 in the nation. It will be the closest that Flannigan - and teammate Ryan Willen, a senior forward out of Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau - will play to home this season.

“Our schedule is very challenging - I know a lot of people are excited to be able to come watch both Alan and Ryan Willen from Cape Notre Dame when we play Vanderbilt,” O’Hanlon said. “Vandy isn’t an easy game - they’re ranked in the top 25, and are expected to make the NCAA Tournament. It will be a tough test for this team.”

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# Raiders To Return To The Coliseum

DECEMBER 13TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Raiders To Return To The Coliseum

POPLAR BLUFF – Three Rivers College and the Black River Coliseum have announced

plans to host a day of basketball at the Coliseum facility downtown.

The men's and women's basketball teams from Three Rivers will play Mineral Area College on Jan. 7. Three high school girls' basketball games will precede the event: Eminence vs. Senath at 11:30 a.m., Clearwater vs. Scott City at 1 p.m., and Couch vs. Gosnell (AR) at 2:30. The Three Rivers Lady Raiders will play Mineral Area at 5 p.m., with the men's Raider team to follow at 7.

Tickets for entry into the Coliseum for this afternoon of basketball are \$5. The reserved seating offer for those with Raider season passes will be honored. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the college Business Office, Bookstore, and the Coliseum box office.

"Basketball hasn't been played at the Coliseum since 2006," said facility manager Bobby Godwin. "Years ago, Three Rivers played there, and it was a good recruitment tool, good for the city, and it appealed to the people who don't always get to the campus to watch ball games. With this event, we are appealing to the city of Poplar Bluff, and hopefully this will draw more fans."

Associate Senior Athletics Administrator and Raiders Assistant Coach Will Durden has fond memories of playing basketball in the Coliseum, and looks forward to seeing his team in action there.

"When I was in high school, I played in several preliminary games at the Coliseum, and then went on to play there for the Raiders when I was a Three Rivers student. I enjoyed my experience there, and I want to share that with our current players. I think this will also give fans a taste of what we can look forward to when the new Event Center is completed."

"The city of Poplar Bluff, which owns the Coliseum, is partnering with Three Rivers to provide this community event," said Godwin. "We'll see how this goes. If it goes well, we may host one or two games next year, if everyone is satisfied. With new leadership at the college and at the Coliseum, we're trying to stir up excitement for the city of Poplar Bluff and for Raiders basketball."

***For more information on Raiders Athletics at Three Rivers College, please visit [RaidersAthletics.com](http://RaidersAthletics.com)!***

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