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Redhawks Win Conference Opener

DECEMBER 29TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Redhawks Win Conference Opener

CAPE GIRARDEAU - [Marland Smith](#) scored a game-high 14 points to lead five players in double figures, as Southeast Missouri (6-7, 1-0) opened Ohio Valley Conference play with a commanding 67-51 win over Morehead State (6-8, 0-1) Wednesday night at the Show Me Center.

Southeast dominated from start to finish en route to its first conference-opening victory since 2006-07.

"It was a super win for us," said Southeast head coach [Dickey Nutt](#). "Our shot selection was excellent and we really set the tone defensively. I thought everyone added something to our team tonight."

Morehead State went scoreless for the first 8:13 of the game. The Eagles missed their first 10 field goals and turned the ball over three times in that span.

Southeast capitalized on Morehead's cold shooting by going on a 15-0 run with [Nick Niemczyk](#) scoring eight points -- including six from three-point range -- to lead the way.

[Leon Powell](#) also recorded two blocks and threw down a monstrous dunk off a Smith miss to send an early charge into the home crowd.

Kahlil Owens finally snapped the Eagles drought with a layup at the 11:47 mark, but

Southeast didn't let up.

Smith's three-pointer capped a 9-0 run to give Southeast a 17-point advantage (30-13) with 4:10 remaining before the Redhawks built a 33-19 lead at the break.

Southeast held Morehead State to its lowest point total in the first half of an OVC game since the Eagles scored 18 points vs. Eastern Kentucky on Jan. 10, 2008. The 14-point halftime lead marked the Redhawks largest of the season.

The Redhawks continued to pour it on in the second half, extending their lead to 22 points on two occasions in the last 10:30 of the game.

[Corey Wilford](#), who scored 10 points in the final period, made a jumper to give Southeast a 49-27 advantage at the 10:23 mark, before Niemczyk nailed a three-pointer to make it 52-30 two possessions later.

The Redhawks polished off their second-straight win by shooting 52.2 percent (12-of-23) from the field with five of their field goals coming from behind the arc in the second half.

Smith shot 4-of-11 from the field, 3-of-8 from three-point range and 3-of-3 at the free throw line to lead all Southeast scorers. He added seven rebounds, two assists and a game-high three steals, as well.

Niemczyk and Wilford followed with 13 points and added three 3-pointers each.

Meanwhile, Powell and Stone rounded out the Redhawks double-digit scorers with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Stone also had a game-high nine rebounds.

Combined, those five players outscored the entire Eagles team.

In addition, Southeast turned the ball over just 11 times against a Morehead team which forced more than 20 turnovers in back-to-back games prior to tonight.

The Eagles, who entered the night as the OVC's second-best three-point shooting team, shot a mere 20 percent (4-of-20) from downtown.

"Our defense set the tempo," said Powell. "We had been struggling defensively, but everything came together tonight. We never let up."

Owens and Terrance Hill led Morehead State with nine points apiece.

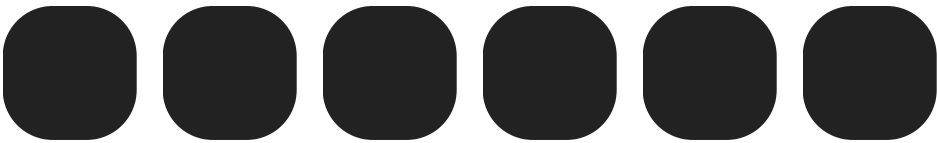
Southeast, which shot 50 percent or better from the field for the fourth time this year, put a halt to an eight-game losing streak in its all-time series against Morehead State.

The Redhawks return to action after the New Year when they host Jacksonville State on Jan. 2. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m., CT, at the Show Me Center.

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ShowMe Scoreboard, 12, 29, 2011

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ShowMe Scoreboard, 12.29.2011

Games planed Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011

Bloomfield Christmas Tournament

- Kennett 49, Dexter 48
- Holcomb 50, Hayti 44
- Malden 70, Puxico 37
- Bloomfield 67, Twin Rivers 53

SEMissourian Christmas Tournament

- Oran 73, Bell City 65
- Delta 62, Kelly 47
- Oak Ridge 67, Woodland 47
- Chaffee 85, Meadow Heights 29
- Charleston 83, Scott City 76
- Notre Dame 72, Advance 59
- Scott County Central 72, Leopold 53
- Cape Central 78, Jackson 76

NCAA Women

- Morehead State 61, SEMO 57
- Tennessee – Martin 57, Louisville 70
- Maryland 84, Lafayette 36
- Notre Dame 92, Longwood 26
- Tennessee 90, Old Dominion 37
- Mid Tennessee 70, Kentucky 58

NJCAA Men

- Three Rivers 80, Salt Lake 69

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Turnovers, Free Throws Doom Bearcats

DECEMBER 29TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Turnovers, Free Throws Doom Bearcats

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

BLOOMFIELD - Sophomore Cody Neldon drove the lane and attempted a layup with under 10 seconds left on the clock and the 'Cats down by one; Adam Grantham bear-hugged the Dexter guard under the basket, and Neldon's shot missed the backboard completely and fell to the ground.

There was no whistle, no signal from the baseline referee.

"[The baseline official] had a better angle than I did; it definitely looked like one to me," DHS head coach Rob Nichols said of the no-call. "They didn't call it, so I guess it wasn't a foul."

Regardless of any controversy surrounding the finale of the contest, for the second time in nine days, the Dexter Bearcats lost a game that could have easily been won if they were able to simply make a free throw.

In the first semifinal contest of Wednesday night, the 'Cats shot an abysmal 37% from the charity stripe in a 49-48 loss to the top-seeded Kennett Indians.

Despite the 'doom and gloom' surrounding the controversial finale of the would-be upset, the 'Cats actually performed well in the contest. Nichols noted that his team performed well in his key areas of concern, but silly mistakes early the second half, coupled with pathetic free throw shooting, would eventually be the Bearcats' folly.

"I thought we did everything we had to do to win. We knew if we could guard them and not turn the basketball over then they would have trouble scoring," Nichols said. "We knew [we had to] rebound it well, and they did."

The 'Cats were able to open a 6-2 lead early in the first quarter thanks to a blocked shot and three pointer from Tyler Miller; Brad Potts picked up a steal and several key boards in the opening frame, and Neldon completed a three point play to keep the 'Cats tied with the Tribe at 14 after the first quarter.

Divante Taylor dropped in a layup to push the Indians ahead by six at the 6:30 mark. Miller came up with a steal and layup to cut Kennett's lead to two at 5:40, and Jordan Fitts picked off the ensuing inbounds pass before dishing the ball to Neldon for a quick two to tie the game at 20. Threes from Miller and D.J. Dowdy late in the second were enough to propel Dexter to a 29-22 lead at halftime.

The Indians quickly took control of the game early in the third quarter and tied the contest at 29 at the 6:30 mark. The Bearcats went on a quick 7-0 run to bring the score to 37-30 before Kevante Mitchell picked up loose balls on two consecutive possessions and tied the game at 37 at the end of the third.

Jake Lee, who was 3-10 in the contest, connected on a free throw to pull the 'Cats within one at the 5:00 mark of the fourth quarter; the senior post came up with a steal a minute later and handed the ball off to Miller for another three to take a 45-43 lead. Kennett quickly responded and got up 47-46 at the 1:45 mark, but Lee had an offensive board and putback on the next trip down the floor to turn the score back in the Bearcats' favor.

The Indians dropped in a quick bucket, but Neldon connected on one of two free throws

with 50 seconds left in the contest to put the 'Cats down by one. Potts snagged a crucial defensive board and dumped the ball to Neldon before the controversial no-call under the basket; the 'Cats were forced to quickly foul and give the Tribe a bonus chance from the charity stripe. Miller got the rebound on the second free throw and chunked the ball from half court as the buzzer sounded, but his shot bounced around in the framework of the goal as the buzzer sounded.

“We had a seven point lead in the third quarter, then three straight turnovers at half court that were basically unforced and led to layups for them, and that ate up our lead,” Nichols continued. “Turnovers are what got us. I thought the kids played great defense, and we executed every step we called out of a timeout. Everything we talked about during timeouts, they went out and executed.”

“We were up one when we turned it over, there were about 18 seconds left. We were midcourt, getting into our delay game,” Nichols said when asked why he didn't call a timeout to set up a play late in the game. “The way Kennett was scrambling and running two guys across the court, I thought it would be better to not call a timeout because we might have gotten a layup and that would keep it from being a free-throw shooting contest - at that point we were seven for 19 from the line, and I'd rather get a layup than try to shoot free throws.” Miller led the 'Cats with 17 points; Mitchell paced the Indians with 20.

The Indians will advance to the Championship Bracket Finals, where they will attempt to claim their third-straight tournament title. If successful, the Tribe will be the first team to win three straight BCT Titles since Paul Hale and Eric Sitze led the Bearcats to seven straight titles in 1998-2004.

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'Cats Slow Down Massey, Pick Up 61-56 Win

DECEMBER 28TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

'Cats Slow Down Massey, Pick Up 61-56 Win

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

BLOOMFIELD - The Dexter Bearcats set out with a goal during their contest against Holcomb: hold Jamie Massey to half of his 32 point total from the night before. With a solid defensive performance in the paint from Jake Lee and Tyler Miller, the 'Cats did just that in a 61-56 victory.

"We tried to front him and back him all night," DHS head coach Rob Nichols said after the game. "We knew he had that big 32 point game last night, and we wanted to try to cut that in half tonight. He's a good player, and for the most part I thought Jake Lee did a good job of not giving him position down low."

The 'Cats maintained a lead throughout the first quarter, but the Hornets were able to pull within one midway through the frame. A steal from Chase Young led to a quick bucket for Jordan Fitts to push the Bearcats to a 13-10 advantage after the first.

Brad Potts dropped in a 12-footer to open the second quarter, but it didn't stop the Hornets from pulling within one again late in the second. A three point play from D.J. Dowdy and a deep three from Cody Neldon put the 'Cats on top by five, 28-23, heading into halftime.

Patrick Skelton scored Holcomb's first four points of the third quarter, but the 'Cats were able to exploit the Hornets' 1-3-1 zone for a three pointer from Miller to get a 35-30 lead. Neldon made a freak-show assist to Potts - the sophomore drove the lane and was tripped up; during the fall, he blindly passed the ball over his right shoulder to Potts, who was directly behind him - to put the 'Cats on top 39-31 at the end of the third.

The Hornets fought back during the fourth quarter and scored a game-high 25 points, but a three from Young and two more from Miller were enough to seal the 61-56 victory for DHS.

Poor free-throw shooting continues to plague the 'Cats in their third-straight contest at 50% or less, and Nichols noted it as an area of concern moving forward.

"We made some big shots against that 1-3-1, especially with Tyler Miller down in the corner. At the same time, we need to make a few more free throws down the stretch," he said. "They're a very good team. They're going to beat a lot of people, and they have a good chance to go pretty far in Class 3."

"I think we played better than we played the last two or three games," Nichols continued. "We gave up a few too many offensive rebounds, but we were focusing so much on Massey that a few times we didn't have anyone there to block out on the weak side. You take him away, you give something up." Miller led Dexter with 16 points; Lee and Fitts were the only other Bearcats in double-figures with 11 points apiece.

The Hornets were paced by Skelton with 20; Ryan Reeves added 15, while Massey was held to just 13 points.

The Hornets will move on to face Hayti in the fifth-place bracket at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The Bearcats advance to the Championship Bracket semifinals, where they will face the top-seeded Kennett Indians.

"It'll be a different team than what we played tonight," Nichols said. "They're a little more fast-paced and guard oriented. It'll definitely be a big challenge for us, but it's one that I hope we're ready for."

Tipoff is set for 6:00 p.m.

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Owls Fall To Western Illinois In Exhibition

DECEMBER 27TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Owls Fall To Western Illinois In Exhibition

MACOMB, Ill. -- Megan Aubuchon (Old Monroe, Mo.) tallied a 12-point outing to lead the Owls offense on Tuesday night, but it wouldn't be enough as the William Woods University women's basketball team fell to NCAA Division I Western Illinois by a 73-52 margin. WWU managed to outrebound the Leathernecks, but could only muster a 11 percent shooting pace from 3-pt range in the game.

Neither team was able to find the range early, as it took nearly two minutes for either team to score. Aubuchon put in a jumper with 18:15 on the clock to put the Owls up 2-0, but the lead would be short-lived.

WIU answered with a bucket on its next possession, and used a series of small spurts to build a 39-25 halftime lead. Coming out of the locker room, however, the Leathernecks posted an 11-2 run and didn't look back.

The Leathernecks stretched out to a 66-32 lead with 8:50 to go, but the Owls were able to claw back into the game with a 15-2 run, closing the gap to 49-68 with 1:13 to go. Destani Stensrud (Exeter, Mo.) capped off the run with seven consecutive points, including a three-pointer with 1:26 on the clock.

Dexter, Mo., native Ashlee Taylor contributed six rebounds, four points, and a steal in her 20 minutes of playing time.

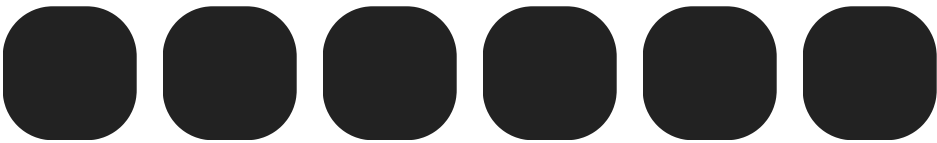
William Woods finished the game with a .358 shooting percentage from the field, and hit at a .650 pace from the free throw line. Western Illinois finished with a .425 pace from the floor and a .321 rate from 3-pt range. The Owls held the rebounding edge on the evening, 43-38, and will return to regular season action on Friday.

WWU is set to take on Campbellsville University in the Cougars vs. Cancer Classic on Dec. 30, with tipoff slated at 2 p.m.

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