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Owls Open 2012 At McKendree University

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FULTON - Looking to continue its two-game winning streak, the William Woods University women's basketball team heads to Lebanon, Ill., on Saturday to take on former American Midwest Conference foe McKendree University. Tipoff for the game is set for 2 p.m. at the Melvin Price Convocation Center. This is the 57th meeting between the two schools, with WWU holding a 30-26 edge in the series.

By The Numbers

Coming into the game, WWU finds itself slightly outpaced on the offensive end of the floor, as McKendree averages nearly six points per contest more than the Owls and holds a .428-.375 edge in shooting accuracy. William Woods narrows the gap accuracy-wise from three-point range, but musters 3.8 treys per game to just 3.1 for McKendree.

The Owls hold a solid edge on the glass, pulling down 2.8 more rebounds per game and a rebounding margin of 3.4 per game to just 1.4 for the Bearcats. On the defensive end of the floor, WWU has allowed nearly 11 points fewer per game, and held its opponents to just .351 shooting compared to a .403 rate for McKendree foes.

About The Bearcats

McKendree University is finishing the transition process to NCAA Division II this year, and will become a full member of the Great Lakes Valley Conference for the 2012-13 academic year. After opening the season with three straight wins, the Bearcats have

struggled to a 6-10 overall record. Caty Ponce leads McKendree with 14.8 pts/gm on the year, with Brittany Willis sitting just outside the double-digit plateau with 9.9 pts/gm. Shelby Woelfel is the top rebounder for the Bearcats on the year, pulling down 7.0 boards per contest. She also chips in a respectable 8.6 pts/gm.

As a team, McKendree shoots at a healthy .428 clip and holds its opponents to a .403 pace, but three-point shooting has played a much bigger role in the team's fortunes. The Bearcats are evenly matched percentage-wise with its opponents, with its .301 pace just shy of its opponent's .311 accuracy mark, but McKendree has just 50 makes from long-range compared to 87 for its opponents.

Last Time Out For The Owls

The Owls closed out the 2011 calendar with a pair of wins in the Cougars vs. Cancer Classic at Columbia College. WWU knocked off #12 Campbellsville by a 59-53 margin on Friday before rolling to a 75-60 win over Peru State College. WWU saw standout performances from a pair of players on the weekend, as Sharron Andrews and Megan Aubuchon each recorded new career highs and earned recognition on the All-Classic team.

Andrews posted her second double-double of the season against Campbellsville, rallying the team from an 11-point halftime deficit with 17 points and a career-best 16 rebounds. Aubuchon was one of two outstanding free throw shooters on the afternoon in WWU's win over Peru State, hitting at a 9-of-11 clip en route to her second double-double. The senior dropped in a career-high 23 points and added 11 rebounds in the win.

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