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Leopards Look To Win Fourth Straight At Colgate

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With just two games left in the first time through the Patriot League slate, Lafayette (8-12) heads north to Hamilton, N.Y. for the first meeting of the season with Colgate. Lafayette is 3-2 in Patriot League play and looking to remain in the top half of the Patriot League standings, a place rewarded with a home game in the Patriot League Tournament quarterfinals in March. Colgate (6-13, 1-4) just picked up its first Patriot League victory of the season on Saturday, beating Navy 65-54 in overtime.

Lafayette has beaten Colgate in three straight and in four of the last five. The Leopards swept the season series in 2010-11, using 40 points in two games from Jared Mintz '11.

Nineteen second-half points by Lehigh's C.J. McCollum and a pair of key runs in the final 20 minutes helped Lehigh pull away to a 90-76 decision over Lafayette on Sunday afternoon at Kirby Sports Center.

The Leopards had four players in double figures in Ryan Willen (17), Rob Delaney (16), Dan Trist (13) and Jim Mower (11). Lafayette is 1-5 when four players score in double figures.

Forward Dan Trist has been named the Patriot League Rookie of the Week after scoring in double figures in Lafayette's last two games. Trist contributed a career-high 13 points against Lehigh when he shot 6-of-8 from the floor. At Holy Cross, Trist scored 11 points and grabbed three boards. The Economics major has started 10 games this season and is averaging 5.4 points and 2.3 rebounds per game. Trist leads Lafayette with 13 blocked

shots and ranks sixth in the league in that category.

Preseason All-Patriot League selection Tony Johnson has made an impact in the four games in which he has played after returning from his back injury. Johnson is averaging 6.3 points and 3.5 assists per game. He has started the last three games, playing 26 minutes per game.

In the fall semester, Lafayette basketball posted a 3.13 GPA. Neuroscience major Ryan Willen led the way with a 3.77 GPA while freshmen Seth Hinrichs and Joey Ptasinski contributed with 3.65 and 3.53 marks.

Scouting the Raiders

Colgate rests in seventh place in the conference standings, just one game removed from a three-way tie for fifth. The Raiders lost the first four games to open conference play (at American, Bucknell and Army and at home vs. Lehigh), part of a longer, eight-game losing streak. That skid came to an end with Saturday's overtime win over Navy during which the Raiders outscored the Mids 13-2 in the overtime session for a 65-54 victory.

The Raiders are averaging 63.4 points per game and guards Mike Venezia (10.2 ppg), Pat Moore (10.1 ppg) and Mitch Rolls (9.6 ppg) account for 47 percent of the team's scoring. All three are threats from outside, combining for 101 of the team's 127 three-pointers in 2011-12. Colgate shoots 38 percent from the arc.

Up front senior forward Nick Pascale is the team's top rebounder at 5.4 rpg and is one of six players contributing six points or more per game. Junior Brandon James (5.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg) started the Navy game and three others this season. Also in the mix is senior forward Yaw Gyawu (6.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg), a 2009 All-Rookie selection.

Colgate is coached by Matt Langel (Penn '00) who is in his first season.

You can stream the game at GoLeopards.com, as well as listen to the radio broadcast at WJRH.org.

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