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Taylor, Lady Owls Advance To AMC Semifinal

MARCH 01ST 2012 BY UNKNOWN

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FULTON - In the third meeting of the season between the schools, the William Woods University women's basketball team held Missouri Baptist to just six field goal makes in the second half en route to a 63-41 win. Megan Aubuchon (Old Monroe, Mo.) finished one block shy of a school single-game mark with eight and was in sight of a triple-double with eight points and eight rebounds on the evening as well.

The game didn't get off to the most auspicious of starts for the Owls, as Missouri Baptist controlled the opening tap and jumped out to a 5-8 lead. A pair of 3-pointers from the Spartans bookended a second-chance layup from Iesha McDaniel to build the margin.

But WWU bounced back, uncorking an 18-4 run to turn a three-point deficit into an 11-point advantage. The run was sparked by the first of three first-half rejections by Aubuchon, as she swatted the ball into the hands of Sharron Andrews (Oakland/Hayward, Calif.). Andrews found Blake French (St. Charles, Mo.) in transition for the layup to put the Owls in fron 9-8 with 16:12 on the clock and WWU never trailed again in the game.

It wasn't smooth sailing all the way for William Woods, however, as the Spartans threatened to close the gap going into halftime. After rolling to a 23-12 lead with 11:47 to go, WWU didn't score for nearly seven minutes, as MBU whittled away at the lead.

The Spartans came as close as 23-21 with 5:10 to go, as Mandy Kirby rattled home a pair of free throws, but the Owls rediscovered the range and took a 29-23 lead into the locker room at halftime. French kept the Spartans from closing to a single point, with a huge

block on a Kirby 3-pointer with 1:42 left.

In the second half, the Owls just overpowered the Spartans, keeping MBU off the board for the first four minutes of the period and allowing just 10 points on two field goal makes over the first 10:00. As the Owls coasted to the win, MBU was able to manage a consolation bucket with 32.4 seconds left.

All but three WWU players scored in the contest, with Katie Scherder (Bowling Green, Mo.) leading all scorers with 12. Andrews chipped in 10 on the night, with Ashlee Taylor (Dexter, Mo.) leading the Owls to a 43-34 rebounding edge as she grabbed 10. Taylor was one point shy of a double-double with her nine point effort.

Aubuchon nearly missed equaling a record that has been held since 1988, as she came up one block shy of Lana Unnewehr's nine-rejection outing against Fontbonne from December 2, 1988.

William Woods advances to the semifinal round of the AMC Postseason Tournament, and will host #3 seed Williams Baptist on Friday night. Tipoff for the game is set for 7 p.m.

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