

## Lights will be road warriors in 2011-12

George Ferguson

Thursday, June 16th, 2011

It was just a few months ago that the Montana State University-Northern men's basketball team was wrapping up a dream season — a Frontier Conference championship and a trip to the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City.

Now, the Lights can start to look ahead to the upcoming season.

Northern and head coach Shawn Huse recently released its 2011-2012 schedule, the and one thing that stands out is, the Lights will have to build their nonconference resume on the road.

There's no doubt when the season begins the Lights will be picked as a favorite in the Frontier Conference and they should be highly-ranked in the NAIA as Northern returns its entire roster from last season's league championship team. And that experience will need to pay off as the Lights start the season in a two-month road trip.

Northern's season-opening game will be at home on Oct. 8 against the King's University of Edmonton, Alberta. But after that, Northern won't play another home game until Dec. 2.

During the months of October and November, the Lights will play in tournaments in Regina, Sask., as well as at UM-Western and Lewis-Clark State. Both the Western and LC State tournaments have opponents for Northern that are yet to be determined, but the Lights will likely play at least one tough NAIA team at each event. Nov. 3-5 the Lights also have a three-game trip to Oregon and Nov. 18-19, they will visit California where they'll play NAIA power Menlo College.

MSU-N has five games at home in the month of December, including a Dec. 8 date against future Frontier rival Dickinson State. Northern then closes out nonconference play with the AmericInn Classic, which runs Dec. 29-30. The Northern tournament will feature the Lights, UM-Western and Alberta schools the University of Alberta and Concordia University.

And while the Lights will be on the road for much of their non-league schedule, they play five of their first Frontier games at home. They open conference play on Jan. 8 with the University of Great Falls, and close the month of January with critical home games against LC State on Jan. 27 and Westminster College on Jan. 28.

February will be a tough month for the Lights as they play five of their final seven games on the road, including a season-ending trip to Westminster on Feb. 23 and LC State on Feb. 25. Northern's final regular season home games will feature rivals Rocky Mountain College on Feb. 17 and Carroll College on Feb. 28.

The Frontier playoffs are slated for March 1-3 and the NAIA National Tournament will run March 14-20 in Kansas City.



*Montana State University-Northern guard LaVon Myers (right) launches a shot over a Carroll College defender during a Frontier Conference men's basketball game back in February in Havre. The Lights recently released their 2011-12 schedule where they'll look to defend their Frontier Conference championship. Northern opens its new season Oct. 8 against the King's University in Havre.*

## Lights 2011-2012 Basketball Schedule

Oct. 8 vs Kings University  
Oct. 14 at Regina Tournament  
Oct. 15 at Regina Tournament  
Oct. 29 at UM-Western Tournament in Dillon  
Oct. 30 at UM-Western Tournament in Dillon  
Nov. 3 at Portland Bible College  
Nov. 4 at New Hope Christian in Eugene, Ore.  
Nov. 5 at Warner Pacific  
Nov. 12 at LC State Tournament in Lewiston, Idaho  
Nov. 13 at LC State Tournament in Lewiston, Idaho  
Nov. 18 at Menlo College in Vallejo, Calif.  
Nov. 19 at California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, Calif.  
Dec. 2 vs Augustana University  
Dec. 3 vs Augustana University  
Dec. 8 vs Dickinson State  
Dec. 29 AmericInn Classic vs University of Alberta  
Dec. 30 AmericInn Classic vs Concordia University

Jan. 8 vs Great Falls  
Jan. 13 vs Montana Tech  
Jan. 14 vs UM-Western  
Jan. 19 at Carroll College  
Jan. 21 at Rocky Mountain  
Jan. 27 vs LC State  
Jan. 28 vs Westminster College

Feb. 4 at Great Falls  
Feb. 10 at UM-Western  
Feb. 11 at Montana Tech  
Feb. 17 vs Rocky Mountain  
Feb. 18 vs Carroll College  
Feb. 23 at Westminster College  
Feb. 25 at LC State

March 1-3 Frontier Playoffs  
March 14-20 NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City