

Skylights split at tourney, lose at Bobcats

The MSU Northern Skylights dropped a 54-48 defensive battle to pre-season #2 pick Carroll College Friday night at the Frontier Conference Preview Tournament at the Butte Civic Center. The teams were tied 25-25 at the half and 36-36 midway through the second half before Carroll went on an 8-0 run to take the lead for good.

MSU Northern suffered through a cold shooting night as the Skylights made only 12-45 field goals against Carroll's tight defense. The Skylights stayed in the game by also playing good defense and making 23-31 from the foul line. Samm Schermele, a 5-9 junior from Great Falls, led the Skylights with 15 points. Laramie Schwenke, a 5-8 sophomore guard from Malta, added 12 points.

Alex Dunn, a 5-7 transfer from Otero Community College, topped Carroll with 17 points while Elly Bruursema added 10.

MSU Northern outrebounded Carroll 38-33 led by Skylight point guard Taylor Keller with six.

Saturday, the Skylights (4-6) stopped Montana Tech 55-52 behind 19 points from Schermele, 13 from Taylor Keller and 10 from Zivile Gazutyte, a 6-2 junior from Vilnius, Lithuania. Montana Tech entered the game with a 6-1 record but trailed most of the game before taking a 45-44 lead with six minutes to play. Schermele put MSU Northern ahead for good, 52-50, with twisting layup in the final minute. Two free throws by Taylor Keller and one by Kori Bingham in the final 7 seconds sealed the win.

The Skylights shot only 33% from the floor but were an outstanding 19-22 from the foul line. MSU Northern also outrebounded Montana Tech 38-33 led by Gaizutyte with 12.

The Lady Diggers, who also hold an exhibition win over NCAA Division II MSU Billings, were led in scoring by 6-2 post Lindsie Wilson with 11 points. Tech turned the ball over 15 times to 17 for the Skylights.

MSU Northern led 31-25 at the half thanks to a half-court shot at the buzzer by Taylor Keller. The Skylights stretched the lead to 11 points, 38-27 before the Lady Diggers rallied.

Sunday afternoon, the Skylights concluded a tough three-game road trip with a 89-59 exhibition loss to Division I Montana State at the Brick Breeden Field House in Bozeman.

MSU Northern jumped to a 17-9 lead over the athletic Bobcats after five minutes kept the lead until the final six minutes of the half. MSU Northern then went on a scoring drought and trailed 40-31 at intermission.

The Lady Bobcats opened the second half with a 13-4 run and pulled away while shooting 58.8% from the floor and 55.6% from the three point line.

Gaizutyte led the Skylights with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Schermele added 13 points.

Ashley Albert came off the bench to score 15 points for the Lady Bobcats. She was one of five Montana State players in double figures. Montana State out-rebounded the Skylights 40-31 and had 11 turnovers to 18 for MSU Northern.