Hot-handed Skylights defeat Dickinson State

Dustin Monke, The Dickinson Press
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Montana State-Northern came into Monday night’s nonconference women’s basketball game against Dickinson State with an undefeated record.

By no means does that mean the Skylights had been perfect though.

“The past few games, our starts haven’t been that great,” MSUN senior guard Laramie Schwenke said. “We’ve been waiting for the one night where we just play a full 40 (minutes). Execution was great. We got off to a great start tonight.”

The Skylights didn’t let up, either, staying unbeaten by routing the Blue Hawks 78-49 at Scott Gymnasium.

Schwenke led the way with 25 points, nine rebounds and six assists. She hit 5-of-8 3-pointers.

MSUN shot 13-of-22 (59 percent) from 3-point range, including Nikki Tresch’s 4-of-5 performance on her way to 14 points.

“I think we could have defended the 3-point shot a little better,” DSU head coach Andre Goldberg said. “They were on fire and that’s one of their M.O.’s is shooting the 3.”

Kylee Denham scored 15 points and Jordan Bruuresma added 13 for the Skylights, who improved to 8-0. They have only lost a pair of exhibition games to Minot State and Montana.

MSUN started hitting 3-pointers early and had good luck going to their posts with multiple back-door cuts.

“We worked the ball tonight,” Mouat said. “We executed and got shots that we practiced.”

The Blue Hawks, however, did not.

DSU trailed by as much as 16 in the first half but trimmed the Skylights’ halftime lead to 39-29.

However, the Blue Hawks made just five field goals in the second half, three of them 3-pointers. MSUN scored the game’s final 12 points.

DSU didn’t score again after senior Mandy Mullock drained a 3-pointer with 4:30 remaining.

Junior Ashley Jelly had a team-high 14 points to lead DSU while senior Kylee Bittner added 10. Mullock had nine.

The Blue Hawks (3-6) have now dropped four of their last five games and head into a hectic 10-game December with only one home contest.

They visit Black Hills State on Friday and South Dakota Mines on Saturday.

“We’ve got to find a way to fight for each other and find a way to come together as a team and play for one another and just play harder than we’re playing right now,” Goldberg said.
MONTANA STATE-NORTHERN (8-0): Jordan Bruuresma 5-13 2-2 13, Laci Keller 1-1 1-1 3, Laramie Schwenke 7-15 6-9 25, Nikki Tresch 5-8 0-0 14, Kylee Denham 4-6 5-6 15, Micah Kirkpatrick 1-1 0-0 3, Rachelle Bennett 1-1 0-0 2, Kelly Millager 1-4 0-4 2, Taylor Cummings 0-2 1-2 1, Leah Olson 0-0 0-0 0, Michaela Howe-Cobb 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 25-51 15-24 78.

DICKINSON STATE (3-6): Kersten Jaramillo 0-2 0-0 0, Mandy Mullock 3-12 2-2 9, Yianna Nadeau 0-7 2-3 2, Ashley Jelly 5-7 3-3 14, Kylee Bittner 3-7 1-2 10, Jessica Nieves 2-8 2-2 7, Jordyn Bender 1-2 2-2 5, Janae Moore 1-1 0-0 2, Jenna Cabello 0-3 0-0 0, Devan Koch 0-4 0-0 0, Rebekah Larson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 15-53 12-14 49.

Halftime: MSUN 39-29. Total fouls: MSUN 14, DSU 21. 3-point goals: MSUN 13-22 (Schwenke 5-8, Tresch 4-5, Denham 2-3, Bruuresma 1-4, Kirkpatrick 1-1, Cummings 0-1), DSU 7-17 (Bittner 3-4, Mullock 1-1, Jelly 1-2, Bender 1-2, Nieves 1-4, Jaramillo 0-1). Rebounds: MSUN 42 (Schwenke 9), DSU 30 (Bittner 6). Assists: MSUN 18 (Schwenke 6), DSU 8 (Mullock, Nadeau, Jelly 2). Steals: MSUN 4 (four with one), DSU 7 (Mullock, Nieves 2). Blocks: MSUN 0, DSU 0. Turnovers: MSUN 16 (Schwenke 5), DSU 14 (Mullock, Jelly, Nadeau 3).

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