UC downs Shepherd Saturday

The University of Charleston men's basketball team beat Shepherd University 75-47.

UC led the contest 33-16 at the half. That lead increased to 57-26 midway through the second half.

The Golden Eagles improved to 12-4 overall and 7-3 in the WIAC with the win.

UC will face West Virginia State at 8 p.m. Tuesday.
Lady Rams climb back from deficit

PHILIPPI— After trailing by 14 points midway through the second half of its WVIAC game at Alderson-Broaddus, the Shepherd women staged a late-game comeback that overhauled the Lady Battlers and was enough to give the Lady Rams a 59-55 road win last Thursday.

Shepherd improved to 8-8 overall and 5-5 in the WVIAC. The Lady Battlers were left at 5-8 overall and 3-7 in the conference. Shepherd owned an earlier win over the Lady Battlers.

Trailing, 26-21, at the half, Shepherd moved toward the A-B lead behind the shooting accuracy of Emily Daniel. Daniel would go 8-for-9 from the floor and total 17 points.

The Lady Battlers had a 41-27 lead with 14:43 to play when Shepherd began its methodical comeback. With 10:36 remaining, Shepherd had shaved the Alderson-Broaddus lead to 43-37 as Rachel Johnson (nine points, five assists) connected on a three-pointer.

At the 5:57 mark, Daniel’s jumper made it 46-46 and Shepherd had outscored the hosts, 19-5, in a nine-minute segment of comeback basketball.

A Shelby Fayak jumper gave the Lady Rams a 55-49 lead with only 2:56 showing. However, Shepherd was fortunate at the very end when a Katie Biggs’ turnover gave the Lady Battlers possession with just 34 seconds left. Shepherd only had a 57-55 lead at the time.

When A-B’s Shirshawna Dowdy missed a layup with one second left, Daniel grabbed the rebound and passed to Hannah Safren, who was fouled and converted two free throws for the final victory margin. Shepherd made 57.7 percent (15-for-26) of its second-half shots to foment its comeback. Jimyse Brown played seven minutes and scored eight points (4-for-8 from the field) and Johnson was 4-for-6 from the field.

Amanda Peoples scored 17 points and Zipporah Tidwell scored 11 points and had eight rebounds for the Lady Battlers.

Shepherd had evened its records by making a winning comeback from a 14-point, second-half deficit.
Turnovers cost Lady Rams

January 18, 2012 0 Comments

GLENVILLE — Shepherd couldn’t overcome 34 turnovers and a dull 34-for-90 shooting performance from the field in its 91-78 women’s basketball WVIAC road loss to Glenville. Glenville free throws also helped waylay the Lady Rams. Glenville was 18-for-27 from the foul line while Shepherd was only 5-for-6. There were 21 personals whistled against Shepherd and 12 fouls called against Glenville.
The Pioneers led, 39-36, at the half but then outscored Shepherd, 52-42, in the second half. Tanisha Wilson had 25 points for the winning Pioneers. She was 10-for-12 from the foul line. Reserve Beth Deren (12 points), reserve Kenyell Goodson (11 points), and reserve Ginny Petties (11 points) also scored in double figures.
The only Shepherd players to shoot well at all from the field were Jenn Prine (7-for-12 and 14 points) and reserve Rachael Johnson (5-for-11 and 13 points). The other eight Shepherd players who saw action combined to go 22-for-67 from the floor.
Glenville jumped out to a 7-0 lead and extended it to 16-8 before Shepherd went on a 14-3 run to assume a 22-19 lead.
The Pioneers went in front, 39-36, at the half on late three-pointers from Wilson and Jelena Elez. Glenville maintained a slim lead in the second half, once seeing its advantage cut to one point. The Glenville lead went back to 71-61 with 7:24 remaining.
Shepherd was 6-7 overall and 3-4 in the WVIAC and the Pioneers were 7-3 overall and 5-1 in the WVIAC.
FSU gets much-needed win over Rams
(http://timeswv.com/fairmont_state_sports/x158346599/FSU-gets-much-needed-win-over-Rams)

By Duane Cochran
Times West Virginian (http://timeswv.com)

FAIRMONT — Chris Thompson was perfect.

Steve Custis and Isaac Thornton were their usual selves and Mike Hurd stepped up big time off the bench.

As a result, Fairmont State University’s men’s basketball team snapped a two-game losing streak and got a much-needed, 80-66, victory over visiting Shepherd University Wednesday evening here at the Joe Retton Arena.

“We just know we’ve got to win these last 13 games,” said Thompson, FSU’s 6-2 senior forward who went 8-of-8 from the field, 5-of-5 from the foul line and finished with a season-high 21 points and five rebounds. “The first semester we clearly didn’t get it done. In the second semester we know our backs are against the wall and we’re hungry. We know we’re a better team than we’ve showed and we’ve got to start playing to our potential and make a move.”

Led by Custis, who finished with a team-high 24 points and six rebounds, Thornton, who chipped in 14 points and six boards and Thompson, Fairmont grabbed an early lead against the Rams and never trailed en route to the victory which improved the Falcons to 6-8 overall and to 4-6 in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

“Isaac and I were both really frustrated after our last game,” said Custis, who was a stellar 11-of-12 at the foul line in the win. “Both of us have gotten in the gym before and after practicing shooting and playing games like seven to help get our rhythms back. That’s what happened tonight and it felt good.

“We also got a great game from Chris and Mike, who is a great shooter, well tonight was his turn and he stepped up big. His play was a real positive for us.”
Hurd, a senior guard and role player for the Falcons, entered the game with FSU nursing a two-point lead around the nine-minute mark of the opening half. During the next three minutes he reeled off eight points himself, including a couple of big 3-point field goals, to help Fairmont open an eight-point advantage.

"Coach always preaches to us to be ready because we can be called upon at any time and that's what I try to do," said Hurd, who finished with 11 points. "He tells all of us to stay in the game and I try to do that as much as possible. If I'm not in the game I'm over here on the sidelines cheering the guys on and if I am in the game I'm going to try to knock down some shots and do whatever else I can to help us be successful.

"When your name's called you've got to be ready to go and I feel like I'm pretty much ready to go anytime my name is called."

FSU led 39-33 at the break and in the first 11 minutes of the second half had extended it to 61-48.

One negative note for the Falcons is that starting senior point guard Erv McFadden appears to have been lost for the remainder of the season with a knee injury. McFadden, who had eight points and three assists last night, had battled back from a knee injury which cost him half of the 2009-10 season and all of last year. He suffered the injury to his other knee with 1:21 remaining in the contest last night.

Shepherd, which was led by Chad Moore's game-high 27 points and 15 rebounds, fell to 8-8 overall and to 6-6 in the league. The Rams also got 16 points from Brantley Osborne and 11 from Sidney McCray.

FSU will face a huge test Saturday when it returns to action to host red-hot Alderson-Broaddus in a 4 p.m. game at the Joe Retton Arena. The Battlers, who are currently second in the league behind West Liberty, defeated Fairmont earlier this season, 77-74, in Philippi. A-B, which is 13-2 overall and 10-1 in the WVIAC, is currently on a 12-game winning streak.
Lady Falcons rally past Shepherd, 66-63
(http://timeswv.com/sports/x1405466362/Lady-Falcons-rally-past-Shepherd-66-63)

By Duane Cochran
Times West Virginian (http://timeswv.com)

FAIRMONT — No one can ever underestimate the value of Kaitlin Snyder to Fairmont State University's women's basketball team.

Trailing by 10 with less than 12 minutes to play Snyder, the nation's third-leading scorer who up until that point had struggled offensively, found her stroke and scored 16 of her team's final 31 points to help the Lady Falcons rally back and record a hard-fought, 66-63, victory over visiting Shepherd University at the Joe Retton Arena Wednesday night.

"I knew we were capable of coming back and beating this team," said Snyder, who finished with 23 points, but was just 9-of-23 from the field, including just 3-of-12 from 3-point range. "We were up seven at the half, then down 10, but I just felt if we could box out better, get some rebounds and get our transition game going we'd get back in it. Once we were able to do that it just helped us flow better."

Trailing 30-23 at the break, Shepherd opened the final 20 minutes with an impressive 22-5 run in which seven different Lady Rams scored points. SU battered FSU on the boards out-rebounding the Lady Falcons, 46-24. However, Fairmont stayed in the game by forcing 25 Shepherd turnovers.

Down 45-35, FSU mounted its comeback when Snyder reeled off five quick points herself in a span of 21 seconds to close the gap to five with 11:27 left to play. Snyder's resurgence on offense ignited a fire in her teammates as four other Lady Falcons scored points in a crucial 19-10 spurt which gave Fairmont a 59-55 lead with 4:58 to play that it never lost.

Shepherd tied the game once in the final 1:29 at 61 when Gabby Flinchum converted a layup. However, on the other end Snyder buried a 3-pointer with 1:11 remaining and true freshman Emily Lohr canned a pair of foul shots with just 19 seconds left to provide FSU with its final margin of victory.

"To be honest, I wasn't really thinking much of anything when I stepped to the line there with us leading 64-63," said Lohr, who finished with a career-high 16 points and five rebounds. "I just thought I've got to make these. After I did I was like 'Whew.'"

"This was a huge win for us because it gets us back on track. When Kaitlin started hitting her shots in the second half everyone else just kind of fed off of that and hit shots too."

FSU's Briana Welch, who finished with 14 points and five rebounds on a 6-of-7 shooting performance from the field, agrees.

"When Shepherd went on that big run to start the second half we knew we absolutely had to pull together as a team and not let one slip away," said Welch. "We had some turnovers that they capitalized on a few times, but we knew we had to stay composed, play under control and mount a comeback one basket at a time."

"Kaitlin got it started for us and we all just kind of fed off of her. Emily also stepped up big for us in the second half. She really
played well in a tough situation."

Hailey Garrett added eight points and four rebounds for FSU, which improved to 9-5 overall and to 6-4 in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The win also vaulted Fairmont State from 10th place in the 15-team league standings all the way to sixth place.

Shepherd, which fell to 9-9 overall and to 6-6 in the league, was led by Rachel Johnson’s 12 points. She was the lone Lady Ram to reach double figures in scoring.

Fairmont State returns to action Saturday at home when it hosts Alderson-Broaddus in a 2 p.m. game at the Joe Retton Arena.
Area Roundup: Rams put two on All-America team

January 21, 2012

PITTSBURG, Kan. - Senior cornerback Elijah Davis and senior offensive tackle Steve Jackson of the Shepherd University football team were named to the 2011 Don Hansen Football Gazette Division II All-America Team. Davis was a second team selection, while Jackson earned honorable mention honors.

Davis led the Rams with six interceptions and tied an NCAA II record with four touchdowns on interception returns. His 283 interception return yards also set a new Shepherd single-season record. He also had 35 tackles (26 solo), a team-high eight pass breakups and a fumble recovery. He helped anchor a Shepherd defense that ranked first in Division II in total defense (254.64 per game) and rushing defense (63.91 per game).

Jackson keyed an offensive line that helped Shepherd rank third nationally in scoring offense. He helped Shepherd running backs Tommy Addison and Kenny Williams combine to rush for 1,788 yards and 24 touchdowns.

Shepherd finished the 2011 season with a 9-2 overall II mark and were ranked 22nd in the final AFCA poll.
Shepherd University

Emily Daniel (Shady Spring guard-forward) has started all 18 games this season for the Lady Rams. She's averaging 12.7 points and 7.9 rebounds.

Daniel is shooting a cool 52.1 percent (86-169) from the floor and has 142 rebounds, 42 assists and 26 steals. She has yet to foul out of a game.
SHEPHERDSTOWN - The Shepherd University women’s basketball team will be hosting a pair of special events in early February.

On Feb. 4, the Rams will host their annual Alumni Game at 11 a.m. prior to doubleheader action against Concord. On Feb. 6, the faculty at Shepherd will be honored on Faculty Night during the doubleheader against Seton Hill.

All alumni are invited to play in the 11 a.m. contest. They are also invited to watch the women’s game at 2 p.m. and join the team to watch the men’s game at 4 p.m. The Shepherd faculty will be recognized at halftime at both the men’s and women’s games, and a social gathering will follow.

For more information contact head coach Melanie Ford at mford@shepherd.edu or call 304-876-5029.
Shepherd fails to finish against Charleston

BY BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd let a second-half lead slip through its fingers in a 77-72 loss to the Charleston Golden Eagles.

Despite having a 12-point lead the Rams were unable to slow down the offense of the Golden Eagles.

“We missed some defensive assignments, and they hit some big shots. It was a huge run, and we just couldn’t answer it,” Shepherd coach Justin Namlolik said.

The Rams had that lead with just under 15 minutes left in the second half, but the Golden Eagles chipped away at the Shepherd lead before building one of their own.

Charleston was finally able to break through the zone defense that had stifled them for most of the first half and were able to go on a 18-0 run in the second half to take a six-point lead with under eight minutes to go.

“We fought and really wanted to have that win, but we might have looked at the scoreboard too early,” Namlolik said.

Shepherd cut the lead to within one possession late in the second half, but with the Golden Eagles in the double bonus, the Rams were unable to break through and take back the lead.

“We made some big shots and just hung in there,” Charleston coach Mark DeWaele said. “You have to do that to win road games, and that was big for us.”

The first half had been a closely contested battle with neither team taking much of a lead until the Rams went on an 8-2 run to end the first half and head into the locker room up 35-31 and with momentum on their side.

Shepherd rode that momentum to a 12-point lead after a Milik Dasda 3-pointer put the Rams on top 52-40.

But the Golden Eagles turned up the defensive pressure and went in to a three-quarters-court trap to force turnovers that led to a 18-0 run.

Xavier Humphrey and Montavious Marc

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offensive performance was a key part of the run that put Charleston up 58-52 with 7:13 left.

Shepherd tried to chip at the lead, but foul troubles sent the Golden Eagles to the line often in the final minutes, which Charleston took advantage of going 13 of 18 from the foul line in the second half to secure the win.

Chad Moore led all scorers with 20 points while teammates Sidney McCray and Brantley Osborne followed with 15 each.

Eladio Espinosa led the Golden Eagles with 16 points.
Rams beat Eagles

BY BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — It took three tries but the Shepherd Rams finally were able to hold on for the 52-50 win after having to play three straight defensive possession to end the game.

“As a coach, you always want to be in control, and when it comes to the end of the game and the ball’s in their hands, it does make you a little nervous,” Shepherd coach Melanie Ford said.

Shepherd led by two going into the final minute of play, but a turnover gave the ball back to the Golden Eagles and gave Charleston a chance to tie or win the game.

The Golden Eagles ended up getting three chances after the first possession ended in a jump ball with 4.2 seconds left and the possession arrow in favor of Charleston. The Golden Eagles had their best chance on the ensuing inbound pass as Manlene Lapierre drove to the rim but missed a jumper before the ball was knocked out of bounds by the Rams as the clock expired.

Shepherd began to celebrate, but the referees indicated the ball had touched the out-of-bounds line with 0.4 seconds left, giving the Golden Eagles time for a catch and shoot.

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Rams

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But the inbound pass was intercepted by Shepherd’s Gabby Flinchum to secure the Rams’ win.

Even though the Rams’ coach might have been a little worried as she watched from the sidelines, Ford’s players embraced the multiple defensive stands.

“That’s like winning three times,” Alex Tamez said.

While the Rams defense shined in the victory, their offense took some time to shake off the rust after a week off.

“Coach (Jason Smith) told us to remember none of us had a great game, but we did what we needed to do to win,” Katie Biggs said.

Despite shooting only 32.2% from the field, the Rams were able to ride a strong defensive performance that included seven blocks and 13 steals.

“Offensively, we could not find the connection, both individually and finding any fluidity on offense. When you can’t do that on offense, you have to dig in deeper on defense,” Ford said.

“Even when we don’t hit shots, we can rely on our defense. Too many teams look at that the other way around.”

Both teams struggled to knock down their shots early thanks each squad playing a tight and physical defense that left the score tied at 5-5 after six minutes. The Golden Eagles were finally able to get their offense going and take advantage of their better shooting chances.

While the Rams defense was playing well, blocking shots and forcing turnovers, the offense was out of sync. Shepherd found itself playing from behind for a good portion of the first half in the Golden Eagles built up a small lead.

But after gathering themselves and cutting away at Charleston’s lead Shepherd was able to take the lead back with a 3-pointer from well beyond the arc by Biggs to bring the score to 17-16.

The Rams offense could only stretch the lead out to three before the half to lead 23-20.

The second half proved to be a back-and-forth battle for the first 10 minutes, but an 8-0 run led by Lapierre put Charleston up by seven with under five minutes to go.

But Shepherd fought its way back into the game thanks to two steals by Tamez that led directly to Shepherd baskets.

With the clock winding down and trailing by one, Shepherd looked to take the lead with a Tamez jumper, but her shot was too hard and bounced harmlessly away from the basket.

The 6-foot-3 Flinchum corralled the rebound before missing her first shot. She got her own rebound, finally scoring and giving Shepherd the lead while being fouled.

Flinchum knocked down the free throw and set the stage for the defensive finish by Shepherd.

“We were confident in our defensive ability, that’s what we did tonight,” Flinchum said.

Both teams only had one score each in double digits as Biggs was tied for the game-high 15 points with the Golden Eagles’ Lauren Davis.

Flinchum led Shepherd with 10 rebounds and five steals.