



Supplemental Archives for
2009-2010 Women's Basketball Season
As Reported by New Ulm Journal and Others

Knights get in

By Michael Gassett — Journal Sports Writer

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NEW ULM - The Top 2 spots in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference were sewn up a while ago.

It was the final four spots that were toss ups until the final buzzer sounded on Saturday.

Going into Saturday's UMAC final with St. Scholastica, the Martin Luther College women's basketball team could have been seeded anywhere from third or out of the tournament. It all depended on how the Knights, Presentation and Bethany Lutheran College finished out its season.

Even though MLC fell to St. Scholastica 81-78, the Knights snuck into the playoffs thanks to Bethany's 89-81 loss to Northland Saturday night. Presentation defeated Northwestern in two overtimes. Had both Bethany and Presentation won, MLC would be staying home today instead of traveling to Northwestern for the opening round at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

"It's just a testament to the UMAC," MLC coach Larry Czer said about how close the conference race was this season. "The tough competition from third place to seventh place. Even the Top 2 teams, most of their wins have been under 10 points points. There have been very, very close games all around. I think that the UMAC competition is really, really tough right now. I think that is healthy and it makes us play our best basketball and I think we are."

MLC is the No. 5 seed and Northwestern in the No. 4 seed in the playoffs. Presentation is No. 6 and will play at No. 3 St. Scholastica at 7:30 p.m. tonight as well. The lowest remaining seed will then travel to top-seeded Minnesota-Morris on Thursday. The second lowest remaining seed will be at No. 2 Northland.

The Knights have beaten every team in the playoffs at least once except No. 1 seed Minnesota-Morris and they fell to the Cougars by just two points, 60-58 last weekend.

"I think that we can make a run," Czer said. "We have beaten almost every team in the conference. We haven't beaten [Minnesota] Morris but we can play with them. I think that we could make a run if we play well."

"We got to start being able to close out these close losses," Czer added. "We had a close loss two-point loss last week, a three-point loss [Saturday]. Hopefully we can learn from that and build for that in the tournament season."

MLC is led by Erica Babinec, who is third in the conference in scoring at 14.6 points per game. She also averages 6.3 rebounds, 3 assists and 3 steals a game.

Sarah Free is next on the team with 12 points per game and she is second in the league in 3-point percentage at .443.

Katherine Kogler averages 11 points and 5.8 rebounds and Carrie Fritzler averages 5.3 points and 5.3 rebounds a game.

The Knights will have to defend the the top scorer in the conference in Katie DeWitt. She leads the league in scoring at 23.7 points per game and 9.2 rebounds. Kaelee Kendrick is fifth in the UMAC with 6.4 rebounds a game.

With almost missing the playoffs, the Knights are excited with chance to continue their season tonight.

"This is great for the team," Czer said. "It gives us more experience and couple more days to practice and play. The girls like basketball, its a fun sport to play and I think they will enjoy the opportunity."