

Monday, December 7, 2007

Rangers Get a Taste of Success

by James J. Portune

Due to snow on Saturday (Dec. 1), both the Olympic College Men's and Women's basketball teams played only once this week, and played well.

On Wednesday (Nov. 28) the Lady Rangers traveled south to Lakewood, Wash., to play the Pierce College Raiders and won their first game of the season, 81-to-75. The Rangers 81-points is the highest single-game total scored in two seasons.

"We shot very well Wednesday night," said head coach Paul Felker. "Inside the three-point arc we shot better than 50% throughout the entire game."

Freshman Coty Ettl (Central Kitsap High / Silverdale, Wash.) demonstrated once again that she is a player to be reckoned with every game. She recorded a game high 22-points, 10 rebounds, and 7 assists, her first college double-double.

Sophomore Megan Gilbert (South Kitsap High / Port Orchard, Wash.) had her own career shooting night, as she made 10 of 17 (58%) shots for 22-points also.

OC rebounding sensation Patricia Lewis (Bremerton High / Bremerton, Wash.) did not disappoint the Rangers fans that travelled to see the game. Off the bench, Lewis recorded 11-points and 11 rebounds, her third double-double of the season.

Key to the Lady Rangers victory was sophomore Ariel McDermott's (Center Kitsap High / Silverdale, Wash.) leadership. McDermott had a game high and personal best 8 assists.

"One win doesn't mean we are ready to claim the (NWAACC) Northern Division title," Felker stated. "But it does show that we are getting better and will compete."

Saturday's (Dec. 1) game that was snowed out will be rescheduled within the week.

On the schedule, the Lady Rangers will play at home again on Saturday, Dec. 22, against the Pierce College Rangers. Tip-off for the rematch will occur at 6:00 p.m. in the Bremer Student Center.

If you attended the OC Men's Basketball game last Wednesday (Nov. 28) in the Bremer Student Center, then you know that it too was action packed. The Rangers hosted the Centralia Trailblazers and lost in the final 10 seconds, 84-to-82.

In the first half the Trailblazers shot a blistering 56% from the floor and gained a 16-point lead, 36-to-20.

But OC fought back and went into the half-time locker room down by a single point, 42-to-41.

The Rangers finally took the lead away from Centralia with 7 minutes remaining in the game, and led for the final 6 ½ minutes.

To many it looked as though the contest would go into overtime. That was until the Trailblazers gathered in their final offensive rebound and made an easy lay-up to win 84-to-82.

“With any team, especially one comprised entirely of freshman,” said head coach Billy Landram, “the key thing that has to be taught is shot selection. Our shot selection down the stretch was not good.”

This coming Saturday (Dec. 8) the men’s basketball team will host the South Puget Sound Clippers in the Bremer Student Center. Tip-off is scheduled for 6:00 p.m.