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2007-08 Olympic College Basketball Season Underway

by James J. Portune

The Lady Rangers, under the leadership of first year head coach Paul Felker, opened the Olympic College basketball season on the road at the Shoreline Kickoff Tournament in Shoreline, Washington. Friday night they played the Lane College Titans and Saturday afternoon they faced the Linn-Benton College Roadrunners.

Highly recruited freshman Coty Ettl (Central Kitsap High/Silverdale, Wash.) lived up to her billing and opened the season with a 28-point game against Lane and followed with 17-points against Linn-Benton.

Redshirt sophomore Megan Gilbert (South Kitsap High/South Kitsap, Wash.) showed that she was glad to be back on the court with 15-points the first night and a team high 18-points Saturday.

Sophomore transfer Patricia Lewis (Bremerton High/Bremerton, Wash.) produced double digit rebounds in both contests, 11 boards against the Titans and 10 rebounds against the Roadrunner.

“It was a good weekend for the team,” said Coach Felker. “We saw that we are heading in the right direction offensively and that we need to make some adjustments defensively.”

The Rangers lost both contest, 105-to-72 the opening night and 90-to-64 on Saturday.

The Olympic College men on the other hand opened their season Sunday afternoon in the Bremer Student with a buzzer beater.

Head Coach Billy Landram, in this fifth season, has recruiting a class of athletic and talented freshman, who get up and down the gym.

In the close confines of the OC gym, with more than 200 fans in attendance, the Rangers and the visiting Wenatchee Valley Knights swapped basketball for 40 full minutes. The outcome of the game was decided on the final shot of the game.

With 5 seconds left on the clock, guard Duntae Jones pulled up at the top of the key for a potential game winning three point shot. It missed. But Bremerton native Patrick Lewis gathered

in the rebound near the free throw line, pivoted to his left, and banked the ball off the left side of the glass, as the buzzer sounded, to win the game 66-to-64.

“I knew the lay-up was good,” said teammate Will Perry (Central Kitsap High/Silverdale, Wash.), who had the best look at Lewis’ shot. “Pat is clutch.”

The Olympic College men will play their next home game in the Bremer Student Center on Wednesday, Nov. 28th. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. against the Centralia Trailblazers.

The Lady Rangers play their next home game on Saturday, Dec. 1st, when they host the Grays Harbor Chokers. Tip-off is scheduled for 6:00 p.m.