

Blackburn Women Defeat Eureka College, Men Lose an Overtime Thriller

The Blackburn College Basketball Teams competed in St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference games on Wednesday night in Carlinville against Eureka College. In the women's game, Blackburn used a balanced scoring attack to defeat the Red Devils by a score of 63-38. In the men's game, Blackburn rallied from a 26 point deficit to send the game into overtime before falling 109-105.

Shana Shepherd led Blackburn in scoring with 11 points while Ashley Daniels, China Jones and Lakeshia Moore added 9 points apiece as the Beavers move to 6-10 overall and 4-3 in the SLIAC. Blackburn led at the half 31-14 and Eureka was unable to get any closer as the Beavers forced 25 Red Devil turnovers. The Beavers took control of the game in the last 3:51 of the 1st half as they closed out the half with an 9-0 run. Blackburn shot 41 percent from the field for the game on 24 of 59 shooting and also held a 34-30 rebounding advantage.

In the men's game Blackburn's James Gowin's 17 footer with 13 seconds left sent the men's game into overtime tied at 91. The Beavers had trailed by as many as 26 points before mounting a furious comeback. The Beavers led only once in the game at 2-0 before tying the game up at the end of regulation and three times in overtime. Eureka College pulled away when the Red Devil's Kameron Bell made a 3 point field goal to put Eureka up 103-96 with 2:29 remaining. The Red Devils made their last four free throws to hold on for the victory.

For Blackburn, Rod Sykes led the Beavers in scoring with 30 points while Todd West added 29 points to go along with Gowin's career high 20 points. Blackburn exploded for 68 points in the second half after trailing 45-23 at halftime. The Beavers shot a blistering 68 percent from the field in the second half and ended the game shooting 50 percent on 38 of 76 shooting. Eureka College shot 40 for 76 for 53 percent. Rod Sykes led Blackburn with 12 rebounds to lead all players on the glass. For Eureka, Bell led the Red Devils in scoring with 35 points, with 31 of them coming after halftime, while conference leading scorer Michael Zasada scored 27. Blackburn falls to 2-12 on the season and 0-7 in the SLIAC while Eureka College improves to 10-5 on the season and 5-2 in the SLIAC.

The Blackburn men and women return to action on Saturday afternoon for a pair of home conference games against Greenville College. The women begin the action at 1:00 p.m. in the Dawes Gymnasium.

1/20/10