



Martin Luther College: Official Press Release

Knights Look to Extend Streak Into Postseason Play

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Break out your calculators, because this could get messy. Playoff implications abound as the Knights prepare to take on Bethany Lutheran College in their regular season finale, a finale the Knights hope gives birth to a post-season berth. Martin Luther heads into Tuesday night's game peaking at the right time, riding a seven-game winning streak, the second longest streak in the program's tenure. If the Knights win, they match the record and put the entire conference on notice as the #2 seed in the UMAC Final Four Post-Season Tournament. If they lose, the Knights could be on the outside looking in, wondering what could have been. A loss would not knock the Knights completely out of contention for a playoff spot, but would require help, such as a St. Scholastica or University Minnesota-Morris loss, to keep playing.

The Knights control their own destiny, and they will put their fate in the hands of their two seniors, forward Nate Nass (New Ulm, MN) and Jake Schwartz (Waterloo, WI). Nass has been the Knights most consistent threat, averaging just under 16ppg, good enough for 3rd overall, and 5th in conference play. Schwartz has been the spark to the Knights fiery offense, which has averaged 91.1ppg and shot over 50% in every game during their win streak. Schwartz contributed just under 20ppg during that stretch, second (138 points during that span compared to 140 points) only to University Minnesota-Morris senior guard Will Jensen (Eau Claire, WI). When the Knights have needed him the most, Schwartz has been the difference-maker, sinking the game winning shot at Crown College Friday in the closing seconds, and scoring a season-high 26 points in a 13 point victory over top-ranked Northwestern College Saturday.

Nass and Schwartz became the 6th and 7th players in MLC history to surpass 1,000 career points, with Schwartz eclipsing that milestone at Northwestern. Schwartz will be honored before Tuesday's game for breaking the 1,000 point barrier, but it's the points after 1,000 that will have the Knights' attention.

February has been kind to the Knights, boasting a perfect 7-0 record. But no win will be as important as Tuesday's night's match-up with the Vikings. A win and they are the # 2 seed. A loss leaves open the possibility of #3 or #5 and only the first one will be in the playoffs. With half of the conference biting their fingernails as the night unfolds, the Knights know a win will dispel the gray hairs of worry and number-crunching from all involved.