

# Bluffton University Men's Basketball



Hanover College  
"Panthers"  
(15-7, 12-3 HCAC)

Sommer Center  
Feb. 9, 2013  
3 PM

Bluffton University  
"Beavers"  
(10-12, 6-9 HCAC)



## THE PREVIEW

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 9, 2013, at 3 PM

**WHERE:** Bluffton, Ohio (Sommer Center)

**INTERNET:** Watch live updates on the Bluffton University Website  
<http://www.bluffton.edu/sports/webcast/mbk/XLIVE.HTM>

BLUFFTON, Ohio - The Bluffton University men's basketball team got a much-needed win in their game on Wednesday night against the Manchester Spartans. The Beavers used a strong shooting performance (53.1 percent) and stout defense to earn the 65-52 victory. It was just Bluffton's second HCAC road victory of the season, but it was crucial as the win moved the Beavers into a tie with Mount St. Joseph for the all-important 6th and final conference tournament bid. MSJ's sweep of Bluffton gives them the edge in a tie-break situation, meaning the Beavers need to finish ahead of the Lions to earn that berth. It puts extra importance on the final three games of the season, starting Saturday when the Beavers face a stiff test in Hanover College on Copeland Court. In their last meeting, the Panthers had five players score in double figures as they went on to rout Bluffton, 82-54, at Hanover back on January 5. However, with home-court advantage and the motivation of knowing how important Saturday's game is to Bluffton's HCAC Tournament hopes, this is sure to be a tightly-contested game.

### The Coaches

Guy Neal is in the midst of his 24th year at the helm since taking over the reigns before the 1989-90 season. He is the winningest men's basketball coach in Bluffton history with a career record of 275-339. Neal has guided the Beavers to seven winning seasons in the past eight years, the first time in school history this feat has been accomplished. Coach Neal has also won conference Coach of the Year three times, including bringing home the award in 2006-07.

Directing Hanover is fifth-year coach Jon Miller. He returned to his alma-mater after being the head coach at Bluffton's bitter rival, Defiance, for five seasons where he led the Jackets to a regular-season HCAC title. Miller's 2010-11 team earned the program's first bid to the NCAA tournament since the 2004-05 campaign.

### Last conference contest

The Beavers picked up the conference win at Manchester on Wednesday night, 65-52. Bluffton took a halftime buzzer-beating jumper by Nate Chambers into the lockerroom and that momentum was enough to carry them as they came out and shot (65.2 percent) in the second half.

Hanover College's men's basketball team got an eight-point win, 93-85, over Anderson on Wednesday. The Panthers were led by 5-5 sophomore point guard Tim Bass who scored 17 in the victory.

### 2012-13 HCAC Men's Basketball Standings

Team	HCAC	GB	Pct.	Overall	Pct.
RHIT	14-1	-	.933	20-2	.909
Transylvania	12-3	2	.800	17-5	.773
Hanover	12-3	2	.800	15-7	.682
Defiance	10-5	4	.667	14-8	.636
Franklin	8-7	6	.533	13-9	.591
Bluffton	6-9	8	.400	10-12	.455
MSJ	6-9	8	.400	7-15	.318
Anderson	5-10	9	.333	9-13	.409
Manchester	1-14	13	.067	4-18	.182
Earlham	1-14	13	.067	2-20	.091

### Leading the Beavers

The Beavers have been using solid shooting and superb rebounding to take down opponents this season. Bluffton is led in these categories by two outstanding juniors, Dustin Kinn and Will Pope, who are shooting .593 and .546, respectively, good enough for 3rd and 8th in the conference. The duo pulls down a combined 11.9 boards per game, which is a huge part of the reason the Beavers are out-rebounding their opponents by almost 10 per game. Freshman forward Thayne Recker has scorched the nets all season and is leading the conference with a 65.5 FG% and is grabbing 5.2 RPG. Josh Fisher has been scoring well lately (13.2 PPG over 5 games) while racking up a team-leading 61 assists and 29 steals.

### Projected Starters

#### BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY "BEAVERS"

#05 Tyler Neal (PG)	SR	4.7 PPG, 2.6 RPG
#03 Josh Fisher (G)	SR	8.3 PPG, 2.7 APG
#23 Ryan Ebbeskotte (G)	SO	2.9 PPG, 2.3 APG
#33 Dustin Kinn (F)	JR	11.4 PPG, 5.5 RPG
#44 Will Pope (C)	JR	11.9 PPG, 6.4 RPG

#### HANOVER COLLEGE "PANTHERS"

#10 Tim Bass (G)	SO	12.5 PPG, 4.9 APG
#12 Drake Hendricks (G)	SR	7.5 PPG, 1.5 APG
#14 Ryan Nowicki (G)	SR	13.2 PPG, 2.5 RPG
#45 Brian Gunter (F)	SR	10.7 PPG, 6.7 RPG
#54 Desmond Marks (F)	SO	7.9 PPG, 5.1 RPG

## 2012-13 Bluffton University Basketball Statistics (10-12, 6-9 HCAC)

##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds				pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg		
					fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fa	ft%	off	def	tot	avg										
44	Pope, Will	22-21	560	25.5	113-207	.546	0-0	.000	36-61	.590	62	78	140	6.4	46	0	31	48	3	12	262	11.9		
33	Kinn, Dustin	22-22	575	26.1	96-162	.593	0-2	.000	58-80	.725	40	81	121	5.5	52	1	36	29	3	22	250	11.4		
24	Johnson, Josh	16-16	393	24.6	52-142	.366	29-70	.414	17-27	.630	12	41	53	3.3	29	0	28	27	0	7	150	9.4		
03	Fisher, Josh	22-22	590	26.8	63-194	.325	16-70	.229	41-58	.707	7	62	69	3.1	36	0	61	55	3	29	183	8.3		
50	Recker, Thayne	22-1	408	18.5	72-110	.655	0-0	.000	34-50	.680	54	60	114	5.2	44	0	16	22	15	11	178	8.1		
05	Neal, Tyler	22-22	435	19.8	38-103	.369	14-51	.275	13-25	.520	7	50	57	2.6	40	0	39	35	2	15	103	4.7		
10	Taflinger, Billy	18-0	259	14.4	26-54	.481	10-17	.588	15-21	.714	4	30	34	1.9	25	0	23	16	0	6	77	4.3		
20	Chambers, Nate	19-0	240	12.6	30-72	.417	9-26	.346	6-10	.600	8	35	43	2.3	20	0	15	13	3	8	75	3.9		
23	Ebbeskotte, Ryan	22-6	437	19.9	22-55	.400	9-16	.563	10-15	.667	13	30	43	2.0	29	0	50	26	3	16	63	2.9		
11	Mahnke, Jacob	5-0	20	4.0	3-8	.375	3-6	.500	1-2	.500	0	2	2	0.4	2	0	1	1	0	1	10	2.0		
30	Long, Dillon	17-0	96	5.6	14-30	.467	0-0	.000	3-5	.600	13	18	31	1.8	17	0	1	8	1	1	31	1.8		
34	Gerdeman, Matt	12-0	62	5.2	8-13	.615	0-0	.000	3-6	.500	4	9	13	1.1	5	0	2	2	0	1	19	1.6		
11	Bihn, Nate	4-0	21	5.3	2-5	.400	0-1	.000	1-1	1.000	2	4	6	1.5	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	1.3		
04	Homier, Brock	18-0	127	7.1	7-15	.467	5-10	.500	1-3	.333	4	8	12	0.7	13	0	14	6	1	7	20	1.1		
12	Weisenborn, Matt	13-0	75	5.8	4-16	.250	3-7	.429	2-4	.500	0	3	3	0.2	5	0	5	7	0	4	13	1.0		
40	Fowler, Jon	14-0	67	4.8	5-19	.263	0-0	.000	4-7	.571	7	5	12	0.9	9	0	1	6	3	1	14	1.0		
22	Rumbaugh, Zach	8-0	33	4.1	2-7	.286	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	2	4	6	0.8	4	0	3	4	0	4	5	0.6		
22	Tackett, Blade	4-0	19	4.8	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	2	2	4	1.0	5	0	2	2	0	3	0	0.0		
11	Green, Blake	1-0	1	1.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0		
11	Turner, Jordan	2-0	7	3.5	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0		
Team											33	25	58											
Total.....		22	4425	557-1217		.458	99-281	.352	245-375	.653	274	549	823	37.4	384	1	329	313	37	148	1458	66.3		
Opponents.....		22	4423	495-1142		.433	131-424	.309	265-383	.692	166	446	612	27.8	384	-	265	274	90	163	1386	63.0		

### Bluffton-Hanover team stats

	<u>Bluffton</u>	<u>Hanover</u>
Points/game	66.3	78.5
Points allowed/game	63.0	66.5
Total FG	557-1217	632-1383
FG %	45.8 %	45.7 %
3-point FG	99-281	179-550
3-pt %	35.2 %	32.5 %
Free throws	245-375	283-404
FT %	65.3 %	70.0 %
Rebounds per game	37.4	33.6
Rebound +/-	+9.6	+0.5
Turnovers per game	14.2	9.4
Turnovers +/-	-1.8	+7.6
Steals per game	6.7	9.3
Blocks per game	1.7	2.7

### Bluffton vs. Hanover all-time series

Hanover holds a commanding 55-19 advantage in the all-time series with Bluffton, including seven wins in the last eight contests. The lone Bluffton victory during that span was a 51-48 defensive showdown on the road late last season that helped propel the Beavers into the Heartland Conference tournament.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Location</u>
1/5/13	Hanover	82-54	Hanover
2/11/12	Bluffton	51-48	Hanover
1/7/12	Hanover	75-61	Founders
2/5/11	Hanover	83-76	Founders
1/5/11	Hanover	66-55	Hanover
2/6/10	Hanover	72-67	Hanover

Next up for the Beavers and Panthers

The Beavers welcome rival Defiance for an 8 PM contest on Feb. 13, the second game of a rare Wednesday night doubleheader. Hanover goes to Transylvania at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 13.

## 2012-13 Hanover College Basketball Statistics (15-7, 12-3 HCAC)

##	Player	GP-GS	Min--Avg	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		FT-FTA	Pct	----REBOUNDS----				PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg					
				FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct			Off	Def	Tot	Avg													
14	Nowicki, Ryan.....	22-22	653	29.7	100-209	.478	34-84	.405	57-71	.803	23	33	56	2.5	36	0	21	21	3	33	291	13.2				
10	Bass, Tim.....	22-22	613	27.9	99-219	.452	17-65	.262	60-83	.723	10	32	42	1.9	33	0	109	57	1	39	275	12.5				
45	Gunter, Brian.....	22-21	554	25.2	94-168	.560	17-38	.447	30-35	.857	42	106	148	6.7	37	0	32	13	17	20	235	10.7				
54	Marks, Desmond.....	22-21	415	18.9	67-110	.609	1-5	.200	38-58	.655	51	62	113	5.1	49	1	12	24	11	9	173	7.9				
12	Hendricks, Drake...	22-19	413	18.8	59-156	.378	32-103	.311	16-19	.842	18	38	56	2.5	40	0	17	14	12	32	166	7.5				
22	James, Kyle.....	22-2	452	20.5	51-121	.421	30-82	.366	18-25	.720	14	39	53	2.4	21	0	53	12	0	30	150	6.8				
42	Van Kleunen, Michae	22-1	341	15.5	57-105	.543	6-19	.316	22-40	.550	33	42	75	3.4	45	1	12	16	4	5	142	6.5				
32	Wehner, Matt.....	21-1	315	15.0	31-92	.337	20-63	.317	13-22	.591	7	26	33	1.6	27	0	16	13	0	10	95	4.5				
33	Steinhart, Jacob...	22-1	248	11.3	35-106	.330	15-58	.259	7-18	.389	18	35	53	2.4	28	0	14	15	9	12	92	4.2				
40	Bingham, Evan.....	19-0	192	10.1	18-46	.391	3-16	.188	8-11	.727	5	19	24	1.3	17	0	4	5	2	9	47	2.5				
15	Black, Ethan.....	15-0	80	5.3	11-24	.458	3-9	.333	7-9	.778	0	4	4	0.3	11	0	10	7	0	4	32	2.1				
52	Robinson, Quincy...	13-0	59	4.5	8-13	.615	0-0	.000	3-7	.429	8	7	15	1.2	7	0	2	2	0	0	19	1.5				
11	Kring, Michael.....	7-0	67	9.6	2-14	.143	1-8	.125	4-6	.667	0	4	4	0.6	9	0	4	4	0	2	9	1.3				
TEAM.....											38	26	64	2.9	1											
Total.....		22	4402	632-1383		.457	179-550	.325	283-404	.700	267	473	740	33.6	361	2	306	207	59	205	1726	78.5				
Opponents.....		22	4407	544-1181		.461	156-395	.395	218-340	.641	208	520	728	33.1	355	5	250	375	65	100	1462	66.5				