



# Bluffton University Men's Basketball

Rose-Hulman  
"Fightin' Engineers"  
(6-1, 2-0 HCAC)

Founders Hall  
Dec. 8, 2012  
Community Day

Bluffton University  
"Beavers"  
(2-4, 0-2 HCAC)



## THE PREVIEW

**WHEN:** Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, at 3 PM

**WHERE:** Bluffton, Ohio (Founders Hall)

**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 is ready to build on a solid 2011-12 campaign that saw the Beavers earn a second straight berth in the Heartland Conference tournament, finishing 16-10 overall and 10-8 in the Heartland Conference. Bluffton won six of its last nine regular season games with the three losses by a combined six points, including a pair of buzzer-beaters by Manchester and Defiance. Following a pair of close losses at Case Reserve on the first weekend, Bluffton opened the Sommer Center in style with an 89-41 victory over OSU-Lima. Bluffton kicked off Heartland Conference play with a disappointing 56-54 loss to Mount St. Joseph in the Sommer Center before falling at Franklin last Saturday. The Beavers used a solid performance on the boards to take down Kalamazoo 73-65 on Wednesday night, setting up a Heartland Conference clash with 2011-12 HCAC tournament champion Rose-Hulman this weekend.

### 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 267-331. 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.

The head coach of Rose is Jim Shaw. He took over for the 1994-95 season. Shaw has led the Engineers to 4 NCAA Division III tourney appearances; 3 regular season conference titles; and two conference tourney titles in his tenure. Now in his 19th season, Coach Shaw is 263-212.

### Last conference contest

The Bluffton University men used a strong run late in the first half en route to a 73-65 victory over the Kalamazoo College Hornets on Wednesday. Freshman phenom Thayne Recker chipped in with his first career double-double performance of 15 points and 13 rebounds.

RHIT improved to 6-1 overall and 2-0 in the HCAC with a 70-52 win at Manchester on Wednesday night. Junior Julian Strickland led three Engineers in double figures with 19 points. Senior Austin Weatherford added 18 points and five

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

Team	HCAC	GB	Pct.	Overall	Pct.
RHIT	2-0	-	1.000	6-1	.857
Hanover	2-0	-	1.000	5-1	.833
Transylvania	2-0	-	1.000	4-2	.667
MSJ	2-0	-	1.000	3-2	.600
Anderson	1-1	1	.500	3-2	.600
Franklin	1-1	1	.500	3-3	.500
Manchester	0-2	2	.000	3-5	.375
Bluffton	0-2	2	.000	2-4	.333
Defiance	0-2	2	.000	2-4	.333
Earlham	0-2	2	.000	1-7	.125

### Leading the Beavers

Junior post Will Pope leads the Beavers with 11.5 PPG and 6.0 RPG, including 16 offensive boards in the first six games. He is 28-of-58 from the field and has eight assists as well. Also in double figures is fellow junior banger Dustin Kinn who is checking in with 10.7 PPG on 25-of-45 shooting from the field. Senior swingman Josh Fisher is averaging 9.2 PPG and 3.5 RPG. In his first year as a starter for the Beavers, senior Tyler Neal is putting up 6.8 PPG and 4.3 RPG. Junior marksman Josh Johnson is pulling down 5.5 RPG while dropping in 7.0 PPG on 6-of-18 shooting. Adding to Bluffton's dominance on the block is freshman Thayne Recker who is scoring 7.5 PPG and clearing the glass with 5.3 PPG

### Projected Starters

#### BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY "BEAVERS"

#05 Tyler Neal (PG)	SR	6.8 PPG, 4.3 RPG
#23 Ryan Ebbeskotte (G)	SO	1.7 APG, 1.2 RPG
#03 Josh Fisher (G)	SR	9.2 PPG, 2.8 APG
#33 Dustin Kinn (F)	JR	10.7 PPG, 4.3 RPG
#44 Will Pope (C)	JR	11.5 PPG, 6.0 RPG

#### ROSE-HULMAN "ENGINEERS"

#15 Austin Weatherford (G)	SR	10.7 PPG, 3.9 APG
#21 Lames Pillischafske (G)	JR	4.4 PPG, 1.4 APG
#31 Julian Strickland (G)	JR	15.0 PPG, 15-24 3 FG
#41 Jon Gerken (F)	SR	7.9 PPG, 7.4 RPG
#51 Brenton Balsbaugh (F)	SR	8.7 PPG, 5.9 RPG

## 2012-13 Bluffton University Men's Basketball Statistics (2-4, 0-2 HCAC)

#	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds										pts	avg				
					fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fa	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl						
44	Pope, Will	6-6	160	26.7	28-58	.483	0-0	.000	13-20	.650	16	20	36	6.0	12	0	8	14	0	3	69	11.5				
33	Kinn, Dustin	6-6	151	25.2	25-45	.556	0-2	.000	14-18	.778	11	15	26	4.3	17	1	7	10	1	4	64	10.7				
03	Fisher, Josh	6-6	184	30.7	19-66	.288	5-24	.208	12-15	.800	2	19	21	3.5	11	0	17	18	0	6	55	9.2				
24	Johnson, Josh	5-5	130	26.0	14-44	.318	7-19	.368	5-11	.455	6	16	22	4.4	14	0	8	10	0	3	40	8.0				
50	Recker, Thayne	6-0	96	16.0	17-28	.607	0-0	.000	11-15	.733	17	15	32	5.3	8	0	3	9	3	3	45	7.5				
05	Neal, Tyler	6-6	139	23.2	13-34	.382	6-19	.316	9-16	.563	2	24	26	4.3	15	0	10	12	0	7	41	6.8				
30	Long, Dillon	6-0	45	7.5	8-15	.533	0-0	.000	3-5	.600	6	6	12	2.0	6	0	0	2	0	1	19	3.2				
20	Chambers, Nate	3-0	37	12.3	4-11	.364	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	2	12	14	4.7	4	0	1	2	3	1	9	3.0				
10	Taflinger, Billy	3-0	35	11.7	2-10	.200	0-1	.000	2-2	1.000	0	0	0	0.0	4	0	4	2	0	1	6	2.0				
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				
12	Weisenborn, Matt	2-0	16	8.0	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	0	0	0	0.0	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	1.0				
04	Homier, Brock	5-0	33	6.6	2-5	.400	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	2	0	2	0.4	1	0	3	2	0	3	5	1.0				
23	Ebbeskotte, Ryan	6-1	108	18.0	2-8	.250	1-4	.250	0-1	.000	1	6	7	1.2	8	0	10	8	1	5	5	0.8				
40	Fowler, Jon	4-0	19	4.8	1-6	.167	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	0.8	3	0	0	2	2	0	2	0.5				
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				
34	Gerdeman, Matt	1-0	7	7.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				
Team											12	9	21											2		
Total.....		6	1200		137-339	.404	21-80	.263	72-106	.679	81	153	234	39.0	112	1	75	97	10	42	367	61.2				
Opponents.....		6	1200		119-297	.401	32-114	.281	74-114	.649	45	137	182	30.3	113	-	63	97	32	48	344	57.3				

### Bluffton-RHIT team stats

	Bluffton	RHIT
Points/game	61.2	65.6
Points allowed/game	57.3	47.6
Total FG	137-339	171-377
FG %	40.4 %	45.4 %
3-point FG	21-80	48-128
3-pt %	26.3 %	37.5 %
Free throws	72-106	69-108
FT %	67.9 %	63.9 %
Rebounds per game	39.0	36.4
Rebound +/-	+8.7	+6.1
Turnovers per game	16.2	12.7
Turnovers +/-	+0.0	+2.9
Steals per game	7.0	8.1
Blocks per game	1.7	3.3

### Bluffton vs. Rose-Hulman all-time series

Before the Engineers joined the HCAC for the 2006-07 season, Bluffton and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology never met on the hardcourt. Bluffton won five of the first six meetings and leads the series 7-5. During the first eight contests in this tightly-contested rivalry, every game was decided by single digits. The most recent meeting was a 62-56 Beaver victory on January 21, 2012.

Date	Winner	Score	Location
1-21-12	Bluffton	62-56	Founders Hall
12-10-11	Rose-Hulman	66-55	Terre Haute, IN
2-12-11	Rose-Hulman	65-55	Terre Haute, IN
1-8-11	Bluffton	76-64	Founders Hall
2-13-10	Rose-Hulman	65-62	Founders Hall

Next up for the Beavers and Engineers

Bluffton welcomes Transylvania to the Sommer Center on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 4 PM, while Rose-Hulman hosts Millikin for a 7:30 PM contest on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

## 2012-13 Rose-Hulman Men's Basketball Statistics (6-1, 2-0 HCAC)

#	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds										pts	avg				
					fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fa	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl						
31	Strickland, Julian	7-7	209	29.9	39-79	.494	15-24	.625	12-14	.857	5	23	28	4.0	8	0	10	15	2	8	105	15.0				
15	Weatherford, Austin	7-6	189	27.0	29-66	.439	7-23	.304	10-14	.714	3	22	25	3.6	13	0	27	16	2	12	75	10.7				
51	Balsbaugh, Brenton	7-7	205	29.3	24-42	.571	0-0	.000	13-17	.765	17	24	41	5.9	10	1	2	10	7	9	61	8.7				
41	Gerken, Jon	7-6	174	24.9	18-37	.486	5-10	.500	14-20	.700	15	37	52	7.4	20	1	16	8	2	7	55	7.9				
33	Gissentanner, Nate	7-1	106	15.1	15-31	.484	3-7	.429	3-5	.600	7	14	21	3.0	8	0	6	7	2	4	36	5.1				
45	Miller, Jimmy	7-0	76	10.9	15-31	.484	2-8	.250	2-5	.400	4	15	19	2.7	7	0	2	3	2	3	34	4.9				
21	Pillschafske, James	7-7	132	18.9	10-35	.286	9-31	.290	2-2	1.000	0	5	5	0.7	7	0	10	2	1	3	31	4.4				
10	Dodd, Jake	7-0	78	11.1	8-18	.444	1-6	.167	1-2	.500	2	6	8	1.1	3	0	6	7	2	4	18	2.6				
23	Martin, Jordy	7-1	117	16.7	6-13	.462	4-11	.364	1-5	.200	2	6	8	1.1	4	0	14	4	1	4	17	2.4				
55	Houpt, Alec	6-0	42	7.0	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	2	6	8	1.3	6	0	0	1	0	0	11	1.8				
12	Nielson, Jordan	3-0	19	6.3	1-5	.200	1-4	.250	3-4	.750	0	1	1	0.3	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.0				
11	Povaleri, Corey	3-0	18	6.0	1-4	.250	1-2	.500	1-2	.500	0	3	3	1.0	3	0	1	3	0	0	4	1.3				
43	Duffy, Tyler	3-0	15	5.0	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	2-6	.333	1	2	3	1.0	2	0	1	3	0	1	4	1.3				
53	Hallstein, Michael	2-0	16	8.0	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	3	4	2.0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0.5				
54	McDonough, Nick	2-0	13	6.5	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1-6	.167	1	1	2	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0.5				
25	McHugh, Brian	3-0	16	5.3	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	1.0	2	0	2	4	0	1	0	0.0				
Team											12	12	24											3		
Total.....		7	1425		171-377	.454	48-128	.375	69-108	.639	72	183	255	36.4	96	2	97	89	23	57	459	65.6				
Opponents.....		7	1425		120-346	.347	23-100	.230	70-108	.648	61	151	212	30.3	109	-	49	109	21	41	333	47.6				