



Bluffton University Men's Basketball

Transylvania University
"Pioneers"
(4-3, 2-1 HCAC)

Sommer Center
Dec. 15, 2012
4 PM

Bluffton University
"Beavers"
(2-5, 0-3 HCAC)



THE PREVIEW

WHEN: Saturday, December 15, 2012, at 4 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 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, but could not find their offense in a 63-43 loss to RHIT on Saturday. Transylvania is coming off a 59-57 HCAC loss to Manchester last Saturday.

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 267-332. 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 the Pioneers is Brian Lane. He took over at Transy in 2001-02. His accomplishments include: four HCAC regular season and three tournament titles and four NCAA tournament appearances. His record is now 195-107. The Pioneers were 27-5 in 2005-06 and advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Division III tournament.

Last conference contest

The Bluffton University men lost to Rose Hulman 63-43 Saturday, Nov. 8. The Beavers were led offensively by junior posts Dustin Kinn and Will Pope who had eight points each. Thayne Recker pulled down six rebounds and tallied seven points on 3-of-3 shooting from the field.

In a back-and-forth contest, Manchester scored last and held on to knock off Transy 59-57 Saturday in HCAC action at the Beck Center.

2012-13 HCAC Men's Basketball Standings

Team	HCAC	GB	Pct.	Overall	Pct.
RHIT	3-0	-	1.000	7-1	.875
MSJ	3-0	-	1.000	4-2	.667
Hanover	2-1	1	.667	5-2	.714
Franklin	2-1	1	.667	4-3	.571
Transylvania	2-1	1	.667	4-3	.571
Anderson	1-2	2	.333	3-3	.500
Manchester	1-2	2	.333	4-5	.444
Defiance	1-2	2	.333	3-4	.429
Bluffton	0-3	3	.000	2-5	.286
Earlham	0-3	3	.000	1-8	.111

Leading the Beavers

Junior post Will Pope leads the Beavers with 11.0 PPG and 6.1 RPG, including 19 offensive boards in the first seven games. He is 32-of-69 from the field and has nine assists as well. Also in double figures is fellow junior banger Dustin Kinn who is checking in with 10.3 PPG on 29-of-52 shooting from the field. Senior swingman Josh Fisher is averaging 8.7 PPG and 3.3 RPG. In his first year as a starter for the Beavers, senior Tyler Neal is putting up 6.1 PPG and 4.0 RPG. Junior marksman Josh Johnson is pulling down 4.2 RPG while dropping in 7.7 PPG on 8-of-21 shooting outside the arc. Adding to Bluffton's dominance on the block is freshman Thayne Recker who is scoring 7.4 PPG and clearing the glass with 5.3 PPG.

Projected Starters

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY "BEAVERS"

#05 Tyler Neal (PG)	SR	6.1 PPG, 4.0 RPG
#24 Josh Johnson (G)	JR	7.7 PPG, 4.2 RPG
#03 Josh Fisher (G)	SR	8.7 PPG, 2.6 APG
#33 Dustin Kinn (F)	JR	10.3 PPG, 4.1 RPG
#44 Will Pope (C)	JR	11.0 PPG, 6.1 RPG

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY "PIONEERS"

#10 Nick Fudge (G)	SR	2.0 PPG, 2.1 RPG
#11 Barrett Meyer (G)	SR	12.9 PPG, 4.6 RPG
#24 Tate Cox (G)	JR	9.0 PPG, 3.0 RPG
#22 Ethan Spurlin (F)	SR	15.3 PPG, 8.0 RPG
#32 Brandon Rash (F)	SR	14.0 PPG, 4.7 RPG

2012-13 Bluffton University Basketball Statistics (2-5, 0-3 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	7-7	184	26.3	32-69	.464	0-0	.000	13-20	.650	19	24	43	6.1	13	0	9	17	0	3	77	11.0				
33	Kinn, Dustin	7-7	180	25.7	29-52	.558	0-2	.000	14-18	.778	12	17	29	4.1	17	1	8	11	1	6	72	10.3				
03	Fisher, Josh	7-7	210	30.0	22-72	.306	5-26	.192	12-15	.800	2	21	23	3.3	12	0	18	19	0	6	61	8.7				
24	Johnson, Josh	6-6	156	26.0	16-50	.320	8-21	.381	6-13	.462	6	19	25	4.2	16	0	9	12	0	3	46	7.7				
50	Recker, Thayne	7-0	117	16.7	20-31	.645	0-0	.000	12-16	.750	20	17	37	5.3	9	0	3	10	4	3	52	7.4				
05	Neal, Tyler	7-7	160	22.9	14-37	.378	6-21	.286	9-16	.563	2	26	28	4.0	15	0	12	15	0	8	43	6.1				
20	Chambers, Nate	4-0	51	12.8	6-15	.400	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	3	12	15	3.8	5	0	1	3	3	1	14	3.5				
30	Long, Dillon	7-0	47	6.7	8-16	.500	0-0	.000	3-5	.600	7	7	14	2.0	6	0	0	2	0	1	19	2.7				
10	Tafflinger, Billy	4-0	40	10.0	2-11	.182	0-1	.000	2-2	1.000	0	0	0	0.0	7	0	4	2	0	1	6	1.5				
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	6-0	39	6.5	2-5	.400	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	2	1	3	0.5	1	0	4	3	0	3	5	0.8				
23	Ebbeskotte, Ryan	7-1	124	17.7	2-12	.167	1-5	.200	0-1	.000	1	6	7	1.0	10	0	10	9	1	5	5	0.7				
12	Weisenborn, Matt	3-0	20	6.7	0-3	.000	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	0	0	0	0.0	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0.7				
34	Gerdeman, Matt	2-0	9	4.5	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	2	3	1.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5				
40	Fowler, Jon	5-0	23	4.6	1-6	.167	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	1	3	4	0.8	3	0	0	2	2	0	2	0.4				
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				
Team											12	10	22											2		
Total.....		7	1400		156-387	.403	23-89	.258	75-112	.670	92	171	263	37.6	124	1	82	111	11	45	410	58.6				
Opponents.....		7	1400		144-344	.419	36-126	.286	83-125	.664	51	157	208	29.7	125	-	76	103	33	54	407	58.1				

Bluffton-Transy team stats

	<u>Bluffton</u>	<u>Transy</u>
Points/game	58.6	62.6
Points allowed/game	58.1	59.9
Total FG	156-387	161-373
FG %	40.3 %	43.2 %
3-point FG	23-89	54-159
3-pt %	25.8 %	34.0 %
Free throws	75-112	62-93
FT %	67.0 %	66.7 %
Rebounds per game	37.6	33.0
Rebound +/-	+7.9	+4.3
Turnovers per game	15.9	12.9
Turnovers +/-	-1.1	+1.1
Steals per game	6.4	6.6
Blocks per game	1.6	2.0

Bluffton vs. Transylvania all-time series

Transylvania holds an 18-5 advantage over the Beavers in the all-time series which dates back to 2002. The Pioneers had won six straight before Bluffton throttled Transy 83-65 in the final 2011-12 regular season game.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Location</u>
2-18-12	Bluffton	83-65	Founders
12-17-11	Transy	76-68	Away
1-22-11	Transy	67-65	Away
12-4-10	Transy	65-57	Founders
1-23-10	Transy	77-63	Founders

Next up for the Beavers and Pioneers

Bluffton hosts Indiana-Kokomo at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 18, while Transy welcomes the College of Wooster for the opening game of the Don Lane Classic at 5:30 PM on December 18.

2012-13 Transylvania University Basketball Statistics (4-3, 2-1 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												
22	Spurlin, Ethan	7-7	220	31.4	42-81	.519	0-0	.000	23-31	.742	21	35	56	8.0	17	0	16	18	3	7	107	15.3				
32	Rash, Brandon	7-7	226	32.3	37-67	.552	4-8	.500	20-35	.571	15	18	33	4.7	21	1	16	14	4	7	98	14.0				
11	Meyer, Barrett	7-7	239	34.1	32-84	.381	19-55	.345	7-12	.583	7	25	32	4.6	16	0	11	16	1	8	90	12.9				
14	Stansberry, Parker	6-5	191	31.8	24-60	.400	14-42	.333	4-4	1.000	5	16	21	3.5	8	0	5	6	3	3	66	11.0				
24	Cox, Tate	2-1	46	23.0	6-15	.400	6-11	.545	0-0	.000	1	5	6	3.0	1	0	3	3	0	3	18	9.0				
12	Botkin, Taylor	7-1	169	24.1	9-20	.450	5-13	.385	4-4	1.000	7	18	25	3.6	15	0	13	10	2	7	27	3.9				
10	Fudge, Nick	7-7	183	26.1	4-18	.222	4-14	.286	2-2	1.000	6	9	15	2.1	14	0	11	9	0	8	14	2.0				
01	Sirkin, Tommy	5-0	23	4.6	3-4	.750	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.2	4	0	2	2	0	1	7	1.4				
44	Jennings, Joe	6-0	33	5.5	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	2-4	.500	3	7	10	1.7	1	0	0	1	1	1	6	1.0				
33	Taylor, Chris	3-0	8	2.7	1-3	.333	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	2	2	0.7	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	1.0				
45	Morrison, Leavitt	6-0	27	4.5	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	1	5	6	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0.3				
05	Clark, Jacob	3-0	5	1.7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				
03	Beuttel, Trey	5-0	41	8.2	0-12	.000	0-11	.000	0-0	.000	2	4	6	1.2	5	0	1	2	0	1	0	0.0				
04	Gordon, Lowell	4-0	12	3.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	0.8	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0.0				
15	Dooley, Isaiah	2-0	2	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				
Team											6	8	14											3		
Total.....		7	1425		161-373	.432	54-159	.340	62-93	.667	74	157	231	33.0	104	1	80	90	14	46	438	62.6				
Opponents.....		7	1425		152-344	.442	58-143	.406	57-94	.606	52	149	201	28.7	110	-	89	98	17	42	419	59.9				