GRANTHAM, Pa. - The Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team had its 2009-2010 season come to an end on Friday evening after dropping a 71-48 decision to Mount Union in the opening round of the 2010 NCAA Tournament at Brubaker Arena on the campus of Messiah College.

W&J's senior class comprised of forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic) (above right), point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) and shooting guard Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) (above left) conclude their careers as the most successful class in the 35-year history of W&J women's basketball with a record of 90-26.

The Presidents (23-5) jumped on top of the Purple Raiders (25-4) early and led 11-6 at the 12:48 mark after freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) knocked down a jumper.

MUC fought back and tied the game (20-20) with 6:39 showing on the first-half clock after freshman guard Rosa LaMattina fired in a three-pointer. Mount Union pulled ahead by two (25-23) at the 3:53 mark on a pair of free throws from junior center Lauren Forquer and ended the half on a 7-2 run to take a 32-25 lead into intermission.

The Purple Raiders opened the second half with eight-straight points and built a 15-point (40-25) lead with 13:54 left when junior guard Katie Crider knocked down a jumper from junior guard Katie Crider.

Mount Union continued to apply the pressure and built a 20-point (47-27) edge midway through the second half after a layup from sophomore guard Kelly Evans.

Killeen and Gibson quickly fired in back-to-back baskets to trim the lead to 16 (47-31), but Mount Union's 12-woman rotation proved to be the deciding factor down the stretch as they collected the 23-point victory. The Presidents were hurt by a 12-minute stretch between the halves when they were outscored by a 20-2 margin.

Killeen ended her career with a team-high 11-point performance, while Gibson added 10 points and seven rebounds. Smith, who ended her career with a school record 204 three-pointers, connected on two triples in the game and added six points.

Gibson pulled down seven rebounds, while Killeen grabbed a career-high seven steals. W&J was limited to 35 percent shooting (19-of-54).

LaMattina and Evans led the Purple Raiders balanced scoring attack with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Mount Union shot 48 percent (24-of-50) and canned 9-of-19 three-pointers. MUC also held a 36-29 rebounding edge and forced 20 turnovers.
Kennan 09-10 Bethany
WESTMINSTER UPSETS NO. 17 W&J, 64-61, IN PAC SEMIFINALS

CRESTVIEW HILLS, Ky. - Senior guard Amy Dolsak scored a game-high 18 points on 6-of-8 shooting to help the fourth-seeded Westminster College Lady Titans post a 64-61 upset victory over 17th-ranked and second-seeded Washington & Jefferson College on Friday evening in the Presidents' Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Tournament semifinals at the Connor Convocation Center.

Senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) {right}, who was named the 2010 PAC Player of the Year following the game, led the Presidents (23-4) with 17 points, including 9-of-11 accuracy from the free throw line.

The game featured 18 ties and 17 lead changes. The biggest lead of the game occurred early in the second half when Lynn Riley's basket gave Westminster (13-14) a 35-29 advantage.

Both teams got off to a sluggish start, but WC held a two-point edge (13-11) midway through the first half. The teams continued to trade baskets over the final 10 minutes of the first stanza and Westminster entered halftime holding a 29-27 lead.

After Westminster built the 35-29 lead, the Presidents answered with an 8-2 run and tied the game 37-37 at the 13:26 mark after a pair of free throws from sophomore guard Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson).

The back-and-forth affair continued over the next six minutes and the score remained tied (47-47) with 7:35 left in the game following a bucket from WC's Ashley Zemba. The Lady Titans broke the tie with Emily Dolsak's layup and foul shot and built a four-point edge (55-51) at the 4:35 mark on Amy Dolsak's three-pointer.

W&J senior shooting guard Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) responded with a three-pointer from the corner to narrow the deficit to one point.

After a basket by freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) tied the game, senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic) added two free throws for a 60-58 advantage. However, Westminster ended the game with six of the final seven points. Amy Dolsak sealed the win with a lay-up off an in-bounds pass with seven seconds remaining.

The Red & Black shot 35 percent (21-of-60) overall, while WC fired in 42 percent (21-of-50) of its field goal attempts. The Lady Titans committed 18 turnovers in the game, but won the rebounding battle (42-29).

Freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) added 10 points and five rebounds for W&J, while Gibson finished with eight points and 12 rebounds. Gibson was
selected to the PAC first team, while Oursler garnered honorable-mention laurels along with senior guard Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City).

Emily Dolsak collected 15 points and seven rebounds for Westminster, while freshman Katie Hughes tallied 14 points. She made 8-of-9 free throw attempts.

The Lady Titans advance to the 2010 PAC Tournament championship game tomorrow afternoon at 2:00 pm against top-seeded Thomas More.

The NCAA will announce the Division III Women's Basketball Tournament field on Monday at noon. The Presidents are in the running for an at-large bid to the national tournament. W&J earned a "Pool C" bid last year with a 24-4 record after the conference tournament.

-- PRESIDENTS --

Kennan Killeen WBCAKILLEEN LIFTS NO. 17 W&J TO PAC QUARTERFINAL VICTORY WITH LAST SECOND JUMPER (2/23)

WASHINGTON, Pa. – Senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) [right] knocked down a baseline jumper with 4.4 seconds remaining to lift 17th-ranked and second-seeded Washington & Jefferson to a dramatic 66-65 victory over seventh-seeded Bethany in the Presidents’ Athletic Conference Women’s Basketball Tournament Quarterfinals on Tuesday evening at the Henry Memorial Center.

W&J (23-3) trailed 65-64 with seven seconds left, but Killeen took the in-bound pass, slid past two Bethany (7-19) defenders and knocked down the baseline jumper to advance the Presidents to the PAC semifinals Friday night in Kentucky.

With the victory, Killeen along with classmates Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic) and Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) are now the most successful class in the 35-year history of W&J women’s basketball with 90 career victories.

The Presidents, who are participating in their 10th consecutive PAC Tournament Final Four, will travel to Thomas More to battle on No. 4 Westminster in the first semifinal on Friday evening at 6:00 pm at the Connor Convocation Center. Top-seeded Thomas More faces No. 6 Chatham in the other semifinal contest at 8:00 pm. The two winners will square off for the 2010 PAC championship on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 pm in Crestview Hills, Ky.

W&J held a six-point advantage (27-21) at intermission, but the Bison cut into the lead and trailed by two (31-29) at the 16:08 mark after junior guard Tara Harris' jumper. The Presidents opened up a 7-0 run and led 38-29 after sophomore forward Courtney Walsh (Mill-Hall, Pa./Central Mountain) converted a layup and the ensuing free throw. Walsh sparked the Presidents off the bench with eight quick points.

The Presidents held their biggest advantage of the evening (56-45) with 6:35 left after a layup from sophomore guard Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson), but the Bison stormed right back
as sophomore forward Katelynn Hackathorn knocked down three triples during a four-minute span to narrow the Presidents’ lead to one (60-59) with 2:52 showing on the game clock. Bethany drilled six consecutive shots to get back into the game.

A Gibson jump shot put W&J ahead 62-59 22 seconds later; however, Hackathorn and freshman guard Kayla Taormina converted back-to-back baskets to give BC its first lead of the game (63-62) with just over a minute left.

Killeen knocked down a jumper to put W&J back on top 64-63 at the 48-second mark. Bethany freshman forward Taylor Kress was fouled on a putback and knocked down a pair of free throws with 13 seconds showing on the clock, setting up Killeen’s last-second heroics.

Killeen led W&J with 14 points and five rebounds on 7-of-11 shooting from the field, while Gibson and Rivera each added 12 points a piece for the Red & Black.

Hackathorn posted career-high performances in both points (28) and rebounds (14), while sophomore guard Audra Droginske added nine points, making 3-of-6 shots from three-point range.

The Presidents, who shot 52 percent (31-of-60), escaped despite being outrebounded by a 38-21 margin. Bethany shot 45 percent (25-of-56) from the field, including eight three-point buckets.

-- PRESIDENTS --

Gibson 112 Career GamesNO. 21 W&J DEFEATS PAC-RIVAL BETHANY, 52-42, IN FINAL REGULAR-SEASON CONTEST (2/20)

BETHANY, W. Va. - The 21st-ranked Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team overcame a three-point halftime deficit and recorded a 52-42 Presidents' Athletic Conference victory over Bethany College on Saturday afternoon at the Hummel Field House.

The Presidents and Bison will square off again in the quarterfinal round of the 2010 PAC Tournament on Tuesday evening. The game will begin at 7:00 pm at W&J's Henry Memorial Center with Washington & Jefferson as the No. 2 seed and Bethany as the seventh seed.

W&J opened the game slowly and trailed BC by six points (17-11) with 4:38 showing on the first-half clock after a layup from sophomore guard Audra Droginske.

Senior point guard Kennan Killeen's (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) basket knotted the score at 17-17 with 1:20 remaining, but the Bison (7-18, 4-10 PAC) scored five of the final seven points and led by three (22-19) at intermission.

Bethany dominated the Presidents on the glass in the opening stanza by a 26-13 margin, but W&J kept the game within reach by forcing eight Bison turnovers.
The Presidents (22-3, 12-2 PAC) scored the first 11 points of the second half and opened an eight-point edge (30-22) with 16:55 remaining following a three-pointer by freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown). Killeen and Gibson also knocked down back-to-back early baskets to spark the Presidents’ strong second-half effort.

The Bison cut the lead to five (32-27) at the 14:26 mark on a Droginske basket, but W&J answered eight unanswered points and led 40-27 with 8:38 left. W&J maintained the advantage and led by as many as 15 points (48-33) down the stretch en route to picking up its 10th victory against BC in the last 11 contests against BC.

Senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg) (pictured), who scored 11 points and grabbed nine rebounds in the second half, led the Presidents with game highs in points (13) and rebounds (15).

Killeen added 10 points and five rebounds for the Red & Black, while Oursler closed out the double-figure scorers with 11 points. Sophomore guard Anne Wilson paced Bethany with 10 points, while sophomore forward Katelynn Hackathorn pulled down 12 rebounds.

The Presidents finished the game shooting 39 percent (22-of-56) from the field, while the Bison limited to just 27 percent (15-of-55) overall. BC held a 41-31 advantage on the glass, but W&J forced 16 BC miscues, while only turning it over seven times.

W&J's senior class of Gibson, Killeen and Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) tied the school record for career victories after earning their 89th. The trio is tied with last year's senior class.

-- PRESIDENTS --

Killeen vs. WaynesburgNO. 21 W&J NETS 27TH-STRAIGHT VICTORY OVER WAYNESBURG, 73-52 (2/17)

WASHINGTON, Pa. – Senior guards Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) (right) and Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) both scored 16 points to help the 21st-ranked Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team earn a 73-52 PAC victory over Waynesburg University on Wednesday evening at the Henry Memorial Center. The Presidents (21-3, 11-2 PAC) have now defeated their local rival 27 consecutive times.

Senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic), who finished the game with five points and four rebounds, set the school record for games played at W&J with her 112th career appearance.

W&J shot a blistering 58 percent (23-of-40) from the floor in the game, including five three-pointers from Smith.

The Presidents and Yellow Jackets (8-16, 5-9 PAC) were sluggish in the early going as W&J held a slim advantage (5-4) five minutes in after Gibson hit a free throw. The contest remained
close and W&J led by six (20-14) midway through the first period after sophomore Blair Cotton (Pittsburgh, Pa./Oakland Catholic) knocked down a jumper.

The Yellow Jackets cut the deficit to one point (28-27) with 3:19 remaining in the half on a pair of free throws from Elisha Jones, but W&J ended the half with a 12-4 spurt, capped off by sophomore Kayla Strimel’s (Morgantown, W.Va./University) buzzer beater to give the Red & Black a 40-31 halftime advantage.

After scoring the first five points of the second half, W&J led by double digits the rest of the way and cruised to the 21-point conference victory. The Presidents held their biggest advantage of the evening (70-45) with just under four minutes remaining.

Freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) added nine points and two assists for the Presidents, while Jones and Paige Pearce paced the Yellow Jackets with 15 and 10 points, respectively.

The Yellow Jackets held a 41-26 advantage on the glass, including 21 on the offensive end, but were limited to 35 percent (21-of-60) shooting overall and 3-of-20 from three-point range.

The Presidents, who have clinched the No. 2 seed in the 2010 Presidents’ Athletic Conference Tournament, conclude regular-season play Saturday afternoon against Bethany College in West Virginia. Tip-off is scheduled for 2:00 pm.

-- PRESIDENTS --

Oursler, A. #21NO. 20 W&J CLINCHES ANOTHER 20-WIN SEASON WITH 54-44 TRIUMPH OVER CHATHAM (2/13)

WASHINGTON, Pa. – The Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team limited Chatham University 27 percent shooting en route to a 54-44 victory over the Cougars on Senior Day in the Henry Memorial Center. With the victory, the 20th-ranked Presidents (20-3, 10-2 PAC) secured their eighth consecutive 20-win season.

Freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) (left) led W&J with 12 points, while the senior trio of Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic), Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) and Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) combined to score 26 points on 10-of-15 shooting from the field.

W&J trailed only once in the contest after Chatham (8-15, 2-10 PAC) scored the first basket of the game on a layup from Brittany Brown with 18:30 showing on the first half clock. W&J then reeled off 10 unanswered points and led 10-2 with 11:43 left in the period after a pair of Gibson free throws.

The Presidents opened an 11-point lead (15-4) midway through the stanza following a three-pointer from Smith, but the Cougars narrowed the deficit to four (15-11) at the 7:57 mark on a layup from Amanda Vranka.
W&J maintained a four-point edge (19-15) with just over two minutes left in the half, but closed out the first period with six-straight points to take a 25-15 advantage into halftime.

The Red & Black opened the second half strong and built their biggest lead of the contest (52-27) with just under six minutes remaining in the game after a bucket from sophomore forward Courtney Walsh (Mill Hall, Pa./Central Mountain).

The Cougars fought back and scored 17 of the game's final 19 points, but it wasn’t enough as W&J earned the 10-point Presidents' Athletic Conference victory.

Gibson finished with 11 points and nine rebounds, while Smith and Killeen added eight and seven points, respectively.

Kayla Hilko (803 career points) fired in a game-high 16 points and became just the second player in Chatham University history to tally 800 points. Barb Petty also finished in double figures for the Cougars with 10 points.

The Presidents, who are now 14-0 all-time against Chatham, finished the game shooting 51 percent (22-of-43) from the field and 78 percent (7-of-9) from the free throw line. W&J also held a 36-28 advantage on the glass and forced 21 CU turnovers.

W&J wraps up the home portion of its regular-season schedule on Wednesday evening, hosting Waynesburg University at 6:00 pm in the Henry Memorial Center.

-- PRESIDENTS --

Oursler vs. BethanySECOND-HALF PUSH LEADS NO. 20 W&J OVER WESTMINSTER (2/11)

NEW WILMINGTON, Pa. - The 20th-ranked Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team, led by freshman guard Alyssa Oursler's (Middletown, Md./Middletown) {pictured} game-high 19 point performance, used a strong second-half surge to defeat Westminster 64-56 on Thursday evening at Buzz Ridl Gymnasium.

The game was deadlocked 28-28 at halftime, but the Presidents (19-3, 9-2 PAC) outscored the Lady Titans (8-14, 6-6 PAC) 36-28 in the second half to earn the Presidents' Athletic Conference victory.

The two squads battled back-and-forth early on and W&J held a 15-11 advantage midway through the half freshman guard Emily Abraham's (Canfield, Ohio/Boardman) lay-up.

W&J opened its biggest lead 22-15 with 6:39 showing on the first half clock after junior guard Catlyn Kriston (Pittsburgh, Pa./Fox Chapel) drained a three-pointer. Senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon), who led W&J with 11 first half points, extended the Presidents' lead to 28-20 three minutes later following another triple.
However, Westminster ended the half on an 8-0 run, capped off by a Jenn Cantella three-pointer with 41 seconds left. Cantella also tallied 11 first half points, shooting 3-of-4 from three-point range.

The Presidents opened the second half strong and led by seven (38-31) at the 16:15 mark after a three-pointer from senior shooting guard Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City).

Westminster narrowed the deficit to four (50-46) with 7:45 remaining in the game after Kaitlyn McCarthy's three-pointer from, but W&J knocked down 10 of its final 12 free throw attempts to seal win.

Killeen finished with 18 points after a career-best 4-for-4 shooting effort from three-point range. She also made all four of her free throw attempts. Smith added nine points for the Red & Black.

Cantella fired in 17 points, while Amy Dolsak added 15 for WC.

W&J shot 41 percent (22-of-54) from the field and 88 percent (14-of-16) from the free throw line. Westminster, who outrebounded the Presidents by a 41-36 margin, shot only 37 percent (23-of-63) overall, but kept the game close with nine three-point baskets.

The Presidents return to the Henry Memorial Center for Senior Day on Saturday afternoon against Chatham University. Tip-off is scheduled for 2:00 pm.

-- PRESIDENTS --

NO. 18 W&J UPENDED BY NO. 15 THOMAS MORE, 64-38, IN CRUCIAL PAC CONTEST (2/6)

CRESTVIEW HILLS, Ky. — The 15th-ranked Thomas More College Saints never trailed and cruised to a 64-38 victory over the 18th-ranked Washington & Jefferson College Presidents in a key Presidents’ Athletic Conference women's basketball contest on Saturday afternoon at the Connor Convocation Center.

With the victory, the Saints (19-2, 10-1 PAC) gained the upper hand toward clinching the regular-season championship as well as the No. 1 seed and hosting rights for the upcoming PAC Tournament.

Thomas More controlled every facet of the game as it shot 56 percent (25-of-45) from the field, including five three-pointers, while also holding a 29-25 rebounding edge over the Presidents.

TMC stormed out of the gates and led 17-2 at the 14:32 mark of the first half. Sophomore Katie Tierney knocked down a jumper to cap the early spurt. The Saints continued to use a balanced scoring attack to maintain a 22-12 advantage midway through the first half.
The Presidents (18-3, 8-2 PAC), who came into the game ranked ninth in NCAA Division III in turnover per game (14.5), committed 12 turnovers and shot just 35 percent (7-of-20) from the field in the first half as the Saints opened a 35-20 halftime advantage.

TMC shot a blistering 61 percent (14-of-23) from the field in the opening stanza and was led by freshman Chelsea Tolliver’s 10 points, while senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) paced the Presidents with eight first-half points.

The Saints continued to pour it on in the second half and maintained a 20-point edge for the majority of the final 20 minutes.

Tolliver finished with a game-high 16 points, while junior center Nicole Dickman added 15 points and six rebounds for the Saints. Killeen closed out the contest with 10 points, while sophomore guard Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson) contributed eight points and four rebounds.

The Presidents struggled from the field as they finished the game at 31 percent (14-of-45). W&J also misfired on all five of its three-point attempts.

W&J returns to action on Wednesday evening, traveling to New Wilmington, Pa., for a 6:00 pm PAC contest against Westminster College.

-- PRESIDENTS --

E. Abraham

PRESIDENTS WITHSTAND SECOND-HALF BEARCAT RALLY (2/3)

WASHINGTON, Pa. – Freshman guard Emily Abraham (Canfield, Ohio/Boardman) {pictured} knocked down a pair of key three-pointers in the final seven minutes to help the Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team post its 11th consecutive victory, a 66-58 triumph over Saint Vincent College on Wednesday evening in the Henry Memorial Center.

With the victory, the 18th-ranked Presidents (18-2, 8-1 PAC) tied the 2008-09 and 1979-80 squads for the second-longest winning streak in program history.

W&J held an eight-point edge (36-28) at intermission and led by as many as 15 (44-29) in the second half, but the Bearcats (15-5) fought back and grabbed a 49-48 lead with 8:41 remaining in the contest on a three-pointer from freshman guard Ashley Bellovich. The Bearcats reeled off 20 of the game’s next 24 points to jump in front.

Abraham answered with a three ball at the 7:03 mark and fired in another shot from long distance at the 4:17 mark to open the margin for the Presidents.

The teams combined to miss their first seven field goal attempts before SVC scored the game’s first bucket on freshman guard Devin McGrath’s lay-up at the 16:46 mark. The squads traded
baskets through the middle portion of the opening stanza, but the Presidents closed out the half on a 13-8 run to open the eight-point halftime advantage.

Senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) and freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) led the Presidents with 15 and 14 points, respectively, while senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic) posted her ninth double-double of the season with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

McGrath scored a game-high 24 points, while Bellovich finished with 11. Sophomore forward Brittany Sedlock led the Bearcats on the glass with eight rebounds.

W&J finished the game shooting 46 percent (20-of-44) from the field and 91 percent (20-of-22) from the free throw line, while SVC shot 38 percent (23-of-61), including 7-of-13 accuracy from the line. The Presidents also held a 35-27 advantage on the glass.

W&J returns to action on Saturday afternoon, traveling to Kentucky for a first-place conference matchup against No. 16 Thomas More. Tip-off from the Connor Convocation Center is scheduled for 1:00 pm.

-- PRESIDENTS --

NO. 20 W&J CRUISES TO 69-34 VICTORY OVER THIEL  (1/30)Blair Cotton

WASHINGTON, Pa. - Senior shooting guard Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) fired in four three-pointers and led all scorers with 18 points to help the 20th-ranked Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team cruise to a 69-34 victory over Thiel in Presidents' Athletic Conference action on Saturday afternoon in the Henry Memorial Center.

It was the first time this season that all 11 W&J players converted a field goal.

W&J (17-2, 8-1 PAC) led the Tomcats (6-12, 2-6 PAC) by a margin of 37-9 at halftime, which marked the lowest one-half point total allowed by a W&J squad since January 18, 1980.

The Presidents, who never trailed in the contest, dominated the Tomcats on the glass (48-28), while also limiting TC to shoot just 20 percent (10-of-50) from the floor.

W&J opened the game with the first eight points before the Tomcats tallied their first basket at the 16:13 mark on a jumper from freshman Kelly Barzak. The Presidents continued to roll and used a 13-0 run that was capped off by a free throw from sophomore guard Blair Cotton (Pittsburgh, Pa./Oakland Catholic) {pictured} midway through the half to go ahead 21-2.

With W&J leading by 28 points at halftime, the Presidents continued to dominate the game in the second half, leading by as many as 46 points (57-11) with 12:45 remaining in the game after freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) knocked down a jumper.
The Presidents never let the lead slip below 30 points for the remainder of the half as they cruised to the home conference victory. Senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic) added 10 points and seven rebounds, while Oursler and Cotton finished the game with eight and seven points, respectively. Barzak led the Tomcats with 10 points and seven rebounds, while Ashley Davis tallied seven points and seven rebounds.

W&J will host NCAA Division III provisional member Saint Vincent on Wednesday evening in the Henry Memorial Center. Tip-off is scheduled for 6:00 pm.

-- PRESIDENTS --

Vanessa Rivera

NO. 20 W&J HANGS ON FOR A 61-58 VICTORY OVER GROVE CITY

(1/27)

GROVE CITY, Pa. - Sophomore guard Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson) {pictured} fired in a career-high 15 points to help the 20th-ranked Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team earn a 61-58 Presidents' Athletic Conference victory over Grove City College on Wednesday evening.

The Presidents (16-2, 7-1 PAC) trailed only once after Grove City scored the first point of the game, but had to survive a strong second-half effort by the Wolverines (8-10, 5-4 PAC).

W&J jumped on top of the Wolverines early, scoring nine of the game's first 10 points. Senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic) led the Presidents with six points in the opening five minutes.

GCC drew within five (21-16) with 4:59 remaining in the half on a free throw from Megan Gebrosky, but the Presidents closed the half on a 12-4 run to take a 33-20 lead into halftime.

Gibson paced the Presidents at intermission with nine points and eight rebounds, while freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) added six points and three boards. Christine Slater, the PAC's leading scorer (15.9 ppg), led the Wolverines with six points in the first half.

Grove City got back into the contest quickly in the second half as Slater capped off a 12-2 GCC run to open the second period with a three-pointer at the 15:58 mark to narrow the Presidents' lead to just three points (35-32). Senior shooting guard Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) responded and drilled a three-pointer 43 seconds later to back the lead to six.

The game remained close and the Wolverines drew within one (44-43) midway through the half on a layup from Leah Gibson.

The Presidents seemed to regain control of the game over the next four minutes and led by eight (53-45) with 6:22 left in the game after Rivera converted a three-point play; however, the
Wolverines stormed right back with 10 of the next 12 points to tie the score at 55-55 with 3:16 showing on the clock.

After back-to-back W&J baskets, GCC made one last push when Leah Gibson fired in a three-pointer to draw Grove City to within 59-58 with 1:55 remaining. However, W&J sealed its 16th win by forcing three Wolverine turnovers in the final 90 seconds.

Gibson and classmate Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) each scored 11 points for the Red & Black, while Gibson also tallied her eighth double-double of the season with 11 boards. Slater led all scorers with 24 points and Gibson finished with 10.

The Presidents shot 44 percent (24-of-55) from the field. Both teams hauled in 30 rebounds, but the Presidents won the turnover battle, committing just 13 compared to GCC's 17.

W&J returns to the Henry Memorial Center on Saturday afternoon for a 2:00 pm PAC contest against Thiel College.

-- PRESIDENTS --

Oursler vs. Bethany

PRESIDENTS PICK UP 88-74 VICTORY IN BEAVER FALLS (1/23)

BEAVER FALLS, Pa. – Freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) (pictured) scored a season-high 20 points to help the 22nd-ranked Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team record an 88-74 victory over Geneva College in Presidents’ Athletic Conference action on Saturday afternoon.

The victory will not count towards the Presidents' (15-2) conference record due to the Golden Tornadoes’ (6-11) provisional status in NCAA Division III.

For the first time since December 11, 2004, all five members of the W&J starting lineup scored in double figures. Seniors Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic) and Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) each tallied 17, sophomore Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson) added 14 and senior Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) contributed 11 to go along with Oursler’s 20-point performance.

The Presidents jumped out to a quick 4-0 advantage, but GC used an 11-4 run to take a three-point edge (11-8) after senior Renee Rawding knocked down a three-pointer with 16:10 showing on the clock.

W&J regained the lead (12-11) with 14:34 remaining on the first half clock on a layup from Rivera and continued to add on, building its biggest advantage of the half (33-19) with 7:17 remaining in the period.

The Golden Tornadoes fought back and cut the score to within six points (41-35) with just over a minute remaining on a layup from junior Valerie Hamilton and trailed the Presidents at intermission by a score of 45-37.
The two squads traded baskets in the opening portion of the second half, but GC used an 8-2 run
in a two-minute span to again cut the deficit to six points (53-47) after sophomore Beth BeLuca
tossed in two free throws at the 16:16 mark.

The Presidents responded as Rivera rattled off six consecutive points to stretch the W&J lead
back to 12 (59-47) just two minutes later. GC slowly chipped away at W&J’s advantage and
narrowed the score to 68-64 with 7:50 left in the game.

W&J regained control of the game and knocked down 5-of-7 free throws down the stretch to seal
the 14-point road victory. The Presidents, who were outrebounded by a 37-25 margin, shot 55
percent (34-of-62) from the field, including 5-of-8 accuracy from beyond the arc.

Sophomore Alysse Scarsella led the Golden Tornadoes with 22 points on shooting 8-of-15 from
the field. Geneva hit 44 percent (24-of-54) of its field goal attempts.

W&J travels to Grove City on Wednesday evening for a 6:00 pm PAC contest with the
Wolverines. W&J’s lone setback in the first half of league play came at the hands of GCC as the
Wolverines pulled out a 72-70 victory on December 5th at the Henry Memorial Center.

-- PRESIDENTS --

NO. 22 W&J SURVIVES UPSET-MINDED BETHANY, 47-37 (1/20)

2009-10 Srs.

WASHINGTON, Pa. – The Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team
overcame a two-point halftime deficit and outscored Bethany College 31-19 in the second half to
earn a 47-37 Presidents’ Athletic Conference victory on Wednesday evening in the Henry
Memorial Center.

The Presidents (14-2, 6-1 PAC) were able to collect the victory despite shooting a season-low 29
percent (14-of-48) from the field and being outrebounded by a margin of 42-33. The Bison (4-
12, 1-6 PAC) also had a rough night from the field, shooting just 27 percent (15-of-56).

The two squads shot a combined 0-for-7 from the field to open the game before the Bison finally
connected on a jumper from sophomore Anne Wilson with 17:07 showing on the game clock.
W&J responded and got on the board on a jumper by junior Jamie McKitrick (Marietta,
Ohio/Marietta) 18 seconds later.

BC then rattled off nine of the game's next 11 points and held an 11-4 lead with 11:06 remaining
in the half. The Presidents clawed back into the game and regained the lead (12-11) at the 5:35
mark of the first half following a three-pointer from junior guard Catlyn Kriston (Pittsburgh,
Pa./Fox Chapel).
The Bison led 18-16 at halftime despite going nearly 10 minutes (9:44) without a basket, stretching from the 11:58 mark to the 2:14 mark in the first half.

The second half opened much like the first with both teams shooting a combined 0-for-9 from the floor until McKitrick knocked down a jumper with 16:45 showing on the clock. The teams traded baskets over the next five minutes and Bethany held a one-point edge (24-23) with 11:41 left in the game.

With BC in foul trouble down the stretch, the Presidents began to slowly pull away from the Bison as senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) took over the game, scoring eight points in a two-minute span to give W&J a seven-point cushion (33-26) with 9:34 remaining in the game.

Bethany drew within five (37-32) with 6:04 left in the contest on a layup from sophomore Audra Droginske, but the Presidents scored 10 of the game's next 15 points to seal the 10-point conference victory.

Killeen led all scorers with 12 points, while sophomore guard Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson) added nine for the Red & Black. Freshman forward Taylor Kress paced the Bison with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

The Presidents return to action on Saturday afternoon, traveling to Geneva for a 1:00 pm contest with the Golden Tornadoes. The outcome of the game will not affect W&J’s PAC record due to GC’s provisional status in the NCAA Division III.

-- PRESIDENTS --

J. McKitrick 42 W&J COLLECTS 25TH CONSECUTIVE WIN OVER WAYNESBURG, 65-49 (1/16)

WAYNESBURG, Pa. - The Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team picked up its 25th consecutive win against the Waynesburg University Yellow Jackets by a score of 65-49 on Saturday evening at the Rudy Marisa Field House.

The Presidents (13-2, 5-1 PAC), who jumped out to a quick 5-0 advantage, opened the game strong defensively, holding the Yellow Jackets (5-10, 2-5 PAC) scoreless until the 15:49 mark of the first half.

Waynesburg settled down offensively and took its first lead of the game (7-6) with 14:03 showing on the first half clock after a basket by freshman guard Brittany Spencer.

W&J responded with a 16-6 run and held a 22-13 lead with 7:22 remaining in the half after freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) hit a pair of free throws.

The Red & Black built the biggest lead of the half (27-16) at the six-minute mark after senior shooting guard Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) fired in a three pointer.
The Yellow Jackets scored five of the half's last seven points, including a three-pointer at the buzzer by Spencer to trim W&J's lead to eight (29-21) at halftime.

Junior forward Jamie McKitrick (Marietta, Ohio/Marietta) (pictured) led W&J with seven first half points, while junior forward Elisha Jones paced the Yellow Jackets with eight points. The Presidents shot 37 percent (10-of-27) from the field in the first half, while Waynesburg connected on just 22 percent (8-of-36) of its shot attempts.

The Yellow Jackets kept the game within reach in the second half and drew within eight (50-42) with 6:45 left following a pair of free throws from Spencer. The Presidents quickly regained control and used seven straight points to gain a 15-point lead (57-42) with 4:51 left in the contest.

Waynesburg used one last push and drew within 11 (57-46) after Jones nailed a jumper, but W&J ended the game with eight of the final 10 points to secure the 16-point road victory.

McKitrick finished the game with a career-high 15 points, while senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic) collected her seventh double-double of the season with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Jones fired in a game-high 18 for WU.

Waynesburg held a 39-37 rebounding edge, but the Presidents shot 42 percent (22-of-53) from the field, while the Yellow Jackets shot just 28 percent (16-of-57) from the floor.

The Presidents will be back in action on Wednesday evening, hosting PAC-rival Bethany at 6:00 pm in the Henry Memorial Center.

-- PRESIDENTS --

KennenKILLEEN'S THREE AT THE BUZZER LIFTS W&J OVER CHATHAM, 53-50 (1/13)

PITTSBURGH, Pa.- Senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) banked in a three-pointer from the top of the key as time expired to lift the Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team to 53-50 Presidents' Athletic Conference victory over Chatham University on Wednesday evening at the CU Athletic and Recreation Center.

Killeen finished the game with a team-high 14 points after making 6-of-10 shots from the field.

The Presidents (12-2, 4-2 PAC), who entered the game as the nation's fourth-best free throw shooting team, were able to come away with the victory despite shooting a season-low 44 percent (8-of-18) from the free throw line.

Three-pointers helped keep Chatham (6-7, 1-4 PAC) within striking distance throughout the game. The Cougars drained eight triples, while the Presidents went without a three-point basket until Killeen's buzzer beater.
W&J got on the scoreboard first with a basket from freshman forward Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown), but Chatham answered with an 8-0 run to take a six-point lead at the 15:59 mark of the first half.

The Presidents regained the lead, 9-8, with 12:50 showing on the clock on a pair of free throws from senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic).

The Cougars kept the game tight throughout the first half, limiting W&J just 28 percent (9-of-32) accuracy from the floor. CU scored five of the last seven points of the half to narrow W&J’s lead to 23-20 lead at intermission.

The two squads traded baskets in the opening portion of the second half and the game was knotted 40-40 with 9:42 showing on the clock. The Presidents fired in the next six points and led 46-40 with 6:48 left in the game after a basket from Oursler.

Chatham again rallied back and took a one-point advantage, 47-46, with just over four minutes remaining in the game on a three-pointer from Courtney Smith.

Following another Oursler basket, Smith again fired in a three-pointer to put the Cougars on top 50-48 with just under two minutes remaining in the game. CU possessed the ball with 26 seconds remaining, but wasn't able to convert a basket, allowing W&J to draw up a play for Killeen in the final seconds.

Oursler finished the game with 12 points, while sophomore Ashley Kirkpatrick (Sharon, Pa./Kennedy Catholic) added 11. Gibson also contributed eight points and seven rebounds. Kayla Hilko and Barb Petty led the Cougars, scoring 14 and 11 points, respectively.

The Presidents, who outrebounded the Cougars by a 38-30 margin, return to action on Saturday when traveling to local-rival Waynesburg for a 5:30 pm contest.

-- PRESIDENTS --

Kennan Killeen 24MILESTONE DAY FOR KILLEEN AND GIBSON AT HENRY CENTER (1/9)

WASHINGTON, Pa. – Senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) {right} knocked down a jumper as the first-half clock expired to record her 1,000th career point and senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg C.C.) {below} pulled down her 1,000th career rebound as the Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team recorded a 65-51 victory against Wesminster on Saturday afternoon in the Henry Memorial Center.

Gibson, who reached the 1,000-rebound milestone with 1:49 remaining in the first half, is the first player in W&J women’s basketball history to amass 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in a career, while Killeen, who has now scored 1,004 career points, became the 12th player in W&J history to reach the scoring milestone.
The game marked the 26th time in the duo’s four-year career’s that both have tallied double-digit scoring efforts in the same game. Gibson finished the contest with 20 points.

The Presidents (11-2, 3-1 PAC) scored the first nine points before the Lady Titans (4-8, 3-2 PAC) scored their first basket at the 17:15 mark of the first half on a jumper from freshman Emily Dolsak.

W&J’s defense stymied the Lady Titan offense for the remainder of the first half, limiting WC to only six field goals as the Presidents entered intermission with their biggest lead of the half, 38-20.

Killeen led the Presidents with eight first-half points, while Gibson and freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) both added seven points. Senior Amy Dolsak paced the Titans in the opening stanza with eight points.

The Lady Titans used a 10-2 run to open the second half to cut the deficit to 10 (40-30), but the Presidents responded by scoring the next eight points to regain an 18-point advantage (48-30) with 14:29 remaining in the game after a layup from Oursler.

Westminster again rallied and pulled within 10 (48-38) with 11:13 showing in the second half after junior Ashley Zemba converted a three-point play, but the Presidents again regrouped and did not allow the lead to slip below 12 the rest of the way.

#33 Gibson, Maggie Oursler finished the game with 13 points to lead W&J. Gibson finished the game with eight rebounds, giving her exactly 1,000 in 101 career games.

Amy Dolsak led Westminster with 19. Freshman Sam Higgins grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds.

W&J shot 42 percent (24-of-57) from the field and 82 percent (14-of-17) from the free throw line, while the Lady Titans shot 35 percent (17-of-49) from the floor. Westminster held a 35-30 rebounding edge, but the Presidents’ defense forced 22 Westminster turnovers.

W&J returns to action on Wednesday evening, traveling to PAC member Chatham for a 7:00 pm contest.

-- PRESIDENTS --

33 Maggie Gibson

GIBSON SCORES 1,000TH CAREER POINT AND TIES CAREER HIGH DURING W&J’s 61-57 VICTORY OVER THOMAS MORE (1/7)

WASHINGTON, Pa. – Senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg C.C.) [right] eclipsed the 1,000-point mark and tied her career high in rebounds (22) to help the Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team earn a 61-57 come-from-behind victory over the 14th-ranked Saints of Thomas More College on Thursday evening in the Henry Memorial Center.
Gibson became the 11th player in school history to reach 1,000 career points after knocking down a jumper from the left baseline with 6:11 left in the opening half. She finished the game with 16 points, giving her 1,008 points in 100 career games at W&J.

The Presidents (10-2, 2-1 PAC), who outscored the Saints 29-20 in the second half, overcame a 10-point deficit (37-27) late in the first half.

After TMC dominated much of the first half, W&J scored the final five points of the half to send the game into intermission with Thomas More leading, 37-32.

The Red & Black continued to chip away at the Saints' lead early in the second stanza and eventually tied the game 38-38 with 13:19 left on a jumper from senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon).

Sophomore forward Ashley Kirkpatrick (Sharon, Pa./Kennedy Catholic) gave W&J its first lead (40-38) since the opening minutes of the game after hitting a jumper with 12:42 showing on the clock. W&J clawed back into the game by not allowing a Saints' field goal for nearly 11 minutes between the two halves.

The Saints refused to go away and used a 15-7 run to grab their biggest lead of the second half 53-47 after Paige Bowling's basket with five minutes remaining.

The Presidents responded with two quick buckets from freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) and Killen to narrow the deficit to two. After Gibson and TMC’s junior center Nicole Dickman each knocked down a pair of free throws, Killeen again went to work and knocked down a baseline jumper to tie the game 55-55 with 51 seconds left.

After turning the ball over with 27 seconds left on the clock, the Saints were forced to foul down the stretch, but W&J answered by knocking down four straight free throws in the final 20 seconds to seal the four-point victory.

Killeen, who now needs seven points to reach 1,000 in her career, finished the game with 13 points and three assists, while Oursler added 10 points to go along with seven rebounds.

Freshman Chelsea Tolliver paced the Saints (10-2, 3-1) with 10 points and Dickman led TMC on the glass with nine boards.

W&J shot just 32 percent (21-of-66) from the floor, but connected on 94 percent (16-of-17) of its free throw attempts. The Presidents also held a 45-36 rebounding edge.

The Presidents return to the Henry Memorial Center on Saturday afternoon for a 4:00 pm contest with the Lady Titans of Westminster College.

-- PRESIDENTS --
Killeen finished the game with a season-high 21 points, while sophomore forward Courtney Walsh (Mill-Hall, Pa./Central Mountain) added a career-high 12 points.

W&J's defense held the Lady Bearcats (8-3), who entered the game as the PAC's top scoring offense (77.8 ppg), to their lowest point total of the season.

The Presidents (9-2) opened the game on a 7-2 run, but the Bearcats (8-3) rattled off the next five points to even the score up at the 16:50 mark of the first half. SVC grabbed a 21-18 lead midway through the half on Kathy Bianco's lay-up and the teams went scoreless for the next 4:16.

Freshman guard Emily Abraham (Canfield, Ohio/Boardman) halted the scoreless drought after knocking down a three-pointer with 4:58 showing on the first-half clock to tie the game. The W&J defense limited the Bearcats to just one point over the final 9:14 and took a 25-22 lead into intermission.

SVC junior guard Maria Baroffio's triple to open the second half marked the Lady Bearcats' first field goal in over 10 minutes.

The teams traded baskets during the first portion of the second half until the Presidents built the biggest lead of the game for either team 41-34 at the 11:01 mark after sophomore Courtney Walsh (Mill-Hall, Pa./Central Mountain) converted a fast break layup.

The Bearcats clawed back into the game, using a 16-8 run to earn their first lead of the second half 50-49 after freshman guard Kendra Burchfield buried a three ball with 3:37 remaining.

Walsh returned the lead to the Presidents following a jumper in the paint with just under two and a half minutes left and W&J never relinquished the lead behind Killeen's late heroics.
Senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg C.C.) collected her fifth double-double of the season with 10 points and 14 rebounds. Gibson needs eight points Thursday versus Thomas More to become the 12th 1,000-point scorer in school history. She is also 30 rebounds shy of becoming the first women's basketball player in school history to grab 1,000 in a career.

Killeen is also now 20 points away from joining the Presidents' 1,000-point club. Killeen and Gibson would become the fourth set of teammates in school history to record the milestone, joining Kelly Stacey and Marybeth Armstrong (1991), Heather Dawkins and Lynne Unice (1994) and Leigh Sulkowski and Amanda Stanonik (2006).

Baroffio led the Bearcats with 20 points, while Brittany Sedlock added 12 points and five rebounds.

The Presidents shot 41 percent (22-of-54) from the field, canned 8-of-9 free throws and held a 38-27 rebounding edge.

W&J returns to action on Thursday evening for a key PAC conference matchup against 14th-ranked Thomas More at 6:00 pm in the Henry Memorial Center.

-- PRESIDENTS --

Smith vs. Rowan

PRESIDENTS DEFEAT SUNY-PURCHASE IN SECOND GAME AT SURF CITY CLASSIC (12/30)

IRVINE, Calif. -- The Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team, led by senior shooting guard Stephanie Smith's (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) 16-point performance, defeated SUNY-Purchase by a score of 59-51 on Wednesday evening at the 2009 Surf City Classic hosted by Concordia University.

Seniors Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg C.C.) and Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) also notched double-figure performances for the Presidents (8-2). Killeen totaled 15 points on 7-of-16 shooting, while Gibson posted a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The game was tied 28-28 at halftime before W&J outscored the Panthers 31-23 in the second half. Smith made four three-point field goals during the win and buried nine during the west coast trip.

The Panthers (4-6) and Presidents traded baskets early on as the game. W&J built its biggest lead of the first half (16-10) with 11:15 showing on the first half clock after Smith knocked down a three-pointer.

SUNY-Purchase slowly climbed back into the game and tied the score 21-21 with just over seven minutes left in the half on a trey from Melanie Culpepper. The Panthers went ahead 28-23 with just under four and a half minutes left in the half, but the Presidents scored the final five points of the half.
SUNY-Puchase's Jessie Domes led all scorers at halftime with 14 points, while Smith paced the Presidents with 10. W&J shot 44 percent (11-of-25) from the field and held a 17-14 edge on the glass in the opening stanza.

The Panthers scored the first points of the second half on a jumper from Alyse Lapadula at the 18:56 mark, but the Presidents got the score back to even, 35-35, with 15:50 remaining in the half on a jumper from junior forward Jamie McKitrick (Marietta, Ohio/Marietta). The Panthers again stretched the lead out to five, 40-35, at the 14:35 mark, but the Presidents quickly answered and regained the lead, 42-40, with 12:39 showing on the clock on another Smith three-point field goal.

Junior guard Catlyn Kriston (Pittsburgh, Pa./Fox Chapel) knocked down a key three-pointer for the Red & Black at the 10:15 mark for a 45-44 advantage and Smith pushed the lead out to four points with her own triple 40 seconds later.

The Presidents controlled play over the final seven minutes as their lead never slipped below three points en route to collecting their eighth victory of the season.

W&J finished the game shooting 44 percent (23-of-52) from the field and dominated the Panthers on the glass (38-25).

Sophomore guard Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson) dished out a game-high five assists, while classmate Courtney Walsh (Mill Run, Pa./Central Mountain) grabbed seven rebounds.

Domes led all scorers with 18 points, while Shayla Diaz added nine points for Purchase. Lapadula and Liila Mack led the Panthers on the glass with five rebounds a piece.

W&J returns to action on Tuesday, January 5th, when it travels to Saint Vincent College for a 6:00 pm contest. The outcome of the game will not count towards W&J's PAC record due to SVC's provisional status in NCAA Division III.

-- PRESIDENTS --

M. Gibson33GIBSON SETS CAREER REBOUNDING RECORD, BUT UW-RIVER FALLS RALLIES LATE TO EDGE W&J (12/29)

IRVINE, Calif. - Senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic) (left) became Washington & Jefferson College's all-time leading rebounder during the Presidents' 63-59 women's basketball loss to 20th-ranked Wisconsin-River Falls on Tuesday evening at Concordia University's Surf City Classic.

Wisconsin-River Falls (11-0) outscored the Presidents (7-2) by a 15-5 margin during the last 2:52 to earn the comeback win.
Gibson notched eight rebounds before fouling out. She increased her career total to 946 rebounds in 97 career games. W&J Athletic Hall of Famer Heather Dawkins (1991-94) held the previous record for 15 years after totaling 942 boards.

Washington & Jefferson controlled play for a majority of the game and grabbed a 25-19 halftime lead. The Presidents led three times by seven points and held the six-point halftime cushion after senior guard Stephanie Smith's (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) late three-pointer.

Smith's fourth triple of the contest two minutes into the second half gave the Presidents their biggest lead, 32-23.

The Falcons narrowed the gap to one point five times during the next five minutes, but the Presidents answered with a basket each occasion. UW-River Falls finally grabbed its first lead (41-40) since the 17:06 mark of the first half with 8:57 left in the second half after Alise Holst's short jumper.

W&J regrouped and scored 10 unanswered points to post a 52-44 lead with 4:09 remaining. Smith and senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) knocked down triples during the rally which was capped by sophomore point guard Vanessa Rivera's (Reading, Pa./Wilson) jumper.

Tiffany Gregorovich dominated the next three minutes, scoring 11 of the Falcons' 13 points to force a 56-56 tie with 1:32 left.

Following a free throw from W&J sophomore Ashley Kirkpatrick (Sharon, Pa./Kennedy Catholic), Kelli Hilt gave UWRF a 58-57 advantage with just under a minute to play and Gregorovich's steal and lay-up 10 seconds later made it a three-point lead.

Freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Pa./Middletown) nailed a jump shot with 31 seconds left to bring W&J back to within one point, but Gregorovich canned a pair of free throws on the ensuing possession for a 62-59 edge. W&J misfired on two shots in the final 12 seconds and the Falcons escaped with the win.

Smith paced the Presidents with 17 points after making 5-of-11 shots from three-point range. Killeen added nine points, while Kirkpatrick contributed seven points, eight rebounds and four assists. Junior forward Jamie McKitrick (Marietta, Ohio/Marietta) also amassed eight points, nine rebounds and two assists.


Gregorovich finished with a game-high 21 points on 7-of-16 shooting. She added eight rebounds and two assists. Holst was the only other Falcon in double figures with 13 points.

Wisconsin-River Falls held a 41-40 rebounding advantage, including 18 on the offensive end, and was limited to 33 percent shooting (21-of-63).
#33 M. Gibson W&J CRUISES PAST THIEL, 67-42, FOR ITS FIRST PAC VICTORY OF THE YEAR (12/12)

GREENVILLE, Pa. - Senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg C.C.) {right} collected her third double-double of the season (16 points, 11 rebounds) to help the Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team earn a 67-42 victory against Thiel College on Saturday afternoon in Presidents' Athletic Conference action at Beeghly Gymnasium.

The Presidents (7-1, 1-1 PAC) used a strong defensive effort to start the game and held a 9-2 advantage with 14:08 showing on the first half clock. Senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) scored the Presidents first four points.

The defensive struggle continued for much of the first stanza, but W&J started to pull away at the 9:34 mark after freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) knocked down a jumper from the baseline to put the Red & Black up 14-4.

W&J closed the first half on a 14-9 run and entered halftime with a 28-13 advantage. The Presidents shot 39 percent (10-of-26) from the field in the opening half, while the Tomcats (2-6, 0-1 PAC) shot just 22 percent (5-of-23) from the floor.

Senior shooting guard Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) opened the second half scoring with a three ball from the top of the arc and the Presidents appeared to be cruising to the road victory.

The Tomcats re-grouped and drew within 10, 43-33, with 10:31 remaining in the game on a pair of free throws from Chelsi Clark, but the Presidents regained control over the final 10 minutes and collected the 25-point road victory.

Junior Jamie McKitrick (Marietta, Ohio/Marietta) added 10 points on 5-of-9 shooting, while Smith finished the game with eight points. Ashley Davis led the Tomcats with 10 points, while freshman Kelly Barzak added nine points and six rebounds.

W&J finished the game shooting 48 percent (27-of-56) from the field and 43 percent (3-of-7) from beyond the arc, with TC shooting 32 percent (14-of-44) overall and only 13 percent (1-of-8) from thee point range. The Presidents held a plus five edge on the boards, 29-24.

The Presidents will be idle for two weeks, before returning to action at the 2009 Surf City Classic in Irvine, California. W&J opens the tournament against Wisconsin River Falls on December 29th and will play SUNY-Purchase on December 30th.

-- PRESIDENTS --
W&J COLLECTS 65-54 ROAD VICTORY AGAINST OHIO WESLEYAN (12/9) S. Smith (12/9)

DELAFIELD, OHIO – Seniors Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg C.C.), Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) and Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) all scored in double figures to help lift the Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team to a 65-54 victory against Ohio Wesleyan University on Wednesday evening at Branch Rickey Arena. With the victory, W&J is now 6-0 all-time against OWU.

Gibson led the Presidents (6-1) with 17 points and nine rebounds, Smith added 14 points on 4-of-5 shooting from three point range, while Killeen scored 11 points to go along with five assists.

W&J and OWU (4-2) played a tightly contested game early on, but W&J used a 7-2 run midway through the first stanza to collect a 24-16 advantage at the 7:08 mark after sophomore forward Ashley Kirkpatrick (Sharon, Pa./Kennedy Catholic) knocked down a jumper from the left elbow.

Tyler Cordell, who scored seven of her game-high 19 points in the final seven minutes of the first half, helped the Battling Bishops pull within two, 28-26, at halftime after OWU closed out the first half on a 10-4 run.

Cordell led all scorers at intermission with 11 points, while Smith collected six first half points, shooting a perfect 2-of-2 from beyond the arc for the Red & Black. The Presidents held a slight edge in rebounds in the opening period, 21-19, while both teams committed seven turnovers.

The Presidents came out strong in the second half and extended their lead to 44-33 with 14:50 left on the second half clock on a pair of free throws from Killeen. Smith stayed hot from long distance, connecting on a pair of three pointers during the Red & Black’s 16-7 run to open the second period.

W&J seemed to be running away with the game down the stretch as it built a 16-point advantage, 55-39, with 5:26 to play on a jumper from Smith, but the Battling Bishops used a 7-0 spurt to draw within nine, 57-48, with just under three minutes to play.

The Presidents regained control of the game in the final three minutes and Gibson secured the 11-point road victory on a three-point play with 1:44 left on the clock.

Kayla Gordon and Dany Finck also scored in double figures for OWU, each collecting 12 points, while Finck led the Battling Bishops on the glass with six boards.

W&J finished the game shooting 43 percent (24-of-56) from the floor and 57 percent (4-of-7) from beyond the arc, while OWU shot just 32 percent (18-of-56) from the field and 13 percent (2-of-16) from long distance. The Presidents outrebounded the Battling Bishops 39-33.

W&J is back in action on Saturday afternoon, traveling to Greenville, Pa., for a 1:00 pm Presidents’ Athletic Conference match up against Thiel College.
GROVE CITY DEALS NO. 19 W&J FIRST LOSS OF THE SEASON (12/5)

WASHINGTON, Pa. – The Grove City College women’s basketball team fired in a school-record 12 three pointers en route to handing the 19th-ranked Washington & Jefferson College Presidents its first loss of the 2009-10 season by a score of 72-70 on Saturday afternoon in the Henry Memorial Center.

The victory marked the first time since the 2004-05 season that Grove City defeated W&J, snapping the Presidents (5-1, 0-1 PAC) eight-game win streak against the Wolverines (2-4, 1-1 PAC).

GCC finished the contest shooting 57 percent (12-of-21) from beyond the arc. In the first five games of the season, the Wolverines had connected on just 17 percent (9-of-52) of their three point attempts.

Christine Slater, who led the Wolverines with 22 points and seven rebounds, connected on a key three pointer with 1:46 remaining to tie the game up at 68-68. Following a W&J turnover, Grove City’s Megan Gebrosky and Leah Gibson sunk four-straight free throws in the final minute and a half to secure the victory for GCC.

Grove City jumped on top early in the contest, scoring the first seven points of the game, before W&J senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg C.C.) hit a pair of free throws at the 17:13 mark to put the Presidents on the scoreboard.

The Wolverines, who connected on five of its 12 three point attempts in the first 11 minutes, held their biggest lead of the contest, 27-18, at the 9:02 mark after Brittany Wenzell sank the first of her career-high five three pointers on the game.

W&J clawed its way back into the game, tying the score up, 30-30, with 3:01 left in the half on a basket from sophomore guard Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson). The two squads traded baskets over the final three minutes and the game entered halftime knotted up at 35-35.

GCC shot 64 percent (7-of-11) from long distance in the first period, but the Presidents were able to keep the contest in reach as they shot 61 percent (11-of-18) from the field.

After the two teams traded baskets to open the second half, the Wolverines went on a 5-0 run and held a 42-37 lead with 16:18 showing on the second half clock; however, the Presidents collected 10 of the games next 16 points and drew within one, 48-47, at the 12:24 mark on a jumper from freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown).

W&J took its first lead of the second half with 8:54 left in the game, 53-51, after Oursler connected on a layup. W&J senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) {top right}, who led all scorers with 24 points, knocked down a jumper at the 5:12 mark to give
the Presidents a three-point edge, 60-57, but another GCC three-pointer by Wenzell tied the score up, 60-60, just eight seconds later.

The Presidents seemed to gain control of the game with 2:06 remaining after Oursler hit a jumper from the baseline, giving W&J a 68-65 advantage, but Slater’s three ball erased W&J’s lead for the final time on the afternoon.

Killeen’s 24-point outburst was one shy of her career-high (25) which she set in the 2008 ECAC Championship game against Lebanon Valley.

Oursler finished the game with 15 points, while Gibson added ten points to go along with her game-high eight rebounds. Gebrosky amassed 17 points for the Wolverines, while Wenzell led all bench players with 15 points.

The Presidents shot 55 percent (27-of-49) from the field, but only sank one three points attempt (1-for-4). Grove City, which shot 41 percent (25-of-61) from the floor, forced 19 turnovers and held a 32-29 advantage on the glass.

The Presidents travel to Delaware, Ohio, on Wednesday evening to take on the Ohio Wesleyan University Battling Bishops at 6:00 pm in Branch Rickey Arena.

-- PRESIDENTS --

12 V RiveraPRESIDENTS' DEFENSE STYMIES GENEVA IN 72-55 VICTORY (12/2)

WASHINGTON, Pa. – The 19th-ranked Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team earned its fifth consecutive victory on Wednesday evening, defeating Geneva College 72-55 in Presidents’ Athletic Conference action at the Henry Memorial Center. The victory will not count towards W&J’s PAC record due to GC’s provisional status in the NCAA Division III.

Sophomore guard Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson) [right] dished out a career-high nine assists, while senior guards Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) and Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) and freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) all netted double-digit scoring efforts with 16, 14 and 13 points, respectively.

The Presidents (5-0) never trailed in the contest and opened the game on a 17-2 run before the Golden Tornadoes (2-4) finally connected on their first field goal with 9:40 showing on the first half clock. GC missed its first 17 shot attempts and finished shooting just 19 percent (6-of-31) from the field during the first 20 minutes.

The Red & Black, who entered halftime with a 40-21 advantage, shot 47 percent (16-of-34) from the field and 44 percent (4-of-9) from three-point range in the opening stanza.

The Golden Tornadoes chipped away at the lead in the second half, but the deficit never dipped below 10 points, allowing the Red & Black to pick up its fifth victory of the season.
W&J finished the game shooting 48 percent (29-of-60) from the field, while GC shot 32 percent (19-of-60) from the floor and was only able to hit 5-of-22 shots from beyond the arc. The Presidents held a slight edge in rebounds, 36-34.

Geneva junior forward Valerie Hamilton led all scorers with 20 points, while senior forward Renee Rawding added nine for the Golden Tornadoes.

The Presidents will return to action on Saturday afternoon, hosting Grove City College at 4:00 pm at the Henry Memorial Center.

-- PRESIDENTS --

Steph vs. Rowan

PRESIDENTS KNOCK OFF ALLEGHENY AFTER ENTERING NATIONAL RANKINGS (11/24)

MEADVILLE, Pa. -- The Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team scored 12 of the first 13 points in the second half to open a double-digit lead and defeat Allegheny College 53-39 on Tuesday evening at the Wise Center.

The 25th-ranked Presidents, who entered the WBCA/USAToday Division III poll earlier in the day, improved to 4-0 overall, while the Gators saw their record fall to 2-2. W&J has defeated Allegheny three consecutive times.

Allegheny held the lead early on, but the Presidents used a 15-2 run to grab an 18-9 lead with three minutes left in the half following a three-point basket from senior guard Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) {pictured}. W&J took a 20-15 cushion into halftime.

Washington & Jefferson took control of the game with a 12-1 spurt during the first four minutes of the second half. Sophomore forward Courtney Walsh (Mill Hall, Pa./Central Mountain) capped the run with five-straight points. W&J held the double-digit lead the rest of the way, including three times in which it stretched the lead to 18 points.

Smith and senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg Central Catholic) both recorded 10 points to lead the Presidents. Gibson also grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds. Senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) and freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Pa./Middletown) added eight points each.

The Presidents shot only 34 percent (16-of-47), but limited the Gators to 28 percent (13-of-46). W&J held a 37-34 edge on the glass and forced Allegheny to misfire on all nine of its three-point attempts.

Jill Gregory and Emilie Simone led AC with 10 points. Allegheny also was only able to convert 13-of-23 free throws.
W&J returns to action on Wednesday when it hosts Geneva at 6:00 pm at the Henry Memorial Center. The game will not count towards the conference standings as the Golden Tornadoes are in year three of a four-year NCAA Division III provisional stage.

-- PRESIDENTS --

SECOND-HALF SURGE LIFTS W&J OVER ALBION, 55-42 (11/21)

WASHINGTON, Pa. – The Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team outscored the Albion College Britons 33-19 in the second half en route to collecting a 55-42 come-from-behind victory on Saturday afternoon on day two of the W&J Women’s Basketball Tip-Off Classic at the Henry Memorial Center.

Senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg C.C.) {right}, who grabbed 20 rebounds and scored 16 points in yesterday’s victory against Capital, was named the Tournament MVP after scoring 16 points and grabbing four rebounds against the Britons. Freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) was also named to the All-Tournament team.

Keigan Edwards and Melissa Shaw of Albion, Kristen Richardson of Capital and Amy Dolsak of Westminster rounded out the All-Tournament team.

The Britons (1-1) controlled the tempo during the first half and earned their biggest advantage of the period, 23-12, with 4:04 showing on the clock after Shaw knocked down a pair of free throws. The Presidents (3-0) chipped away at the deficit and closed the half on a 10-0 run to trail 23-22 at halftime.

The Presidents shot 40 percent (8-of-20) from the field in the first half, but missed all five attempts beyond the arc, while the Britons shot 40 percent (10-of-25) from the field.

W&J gained its first advantage of the contest 49 seconds into the second half on a layup by sophomore forward Courtney Walsh (Mill-Hall, Pa./Central Mountain). The Red & Black kept the pressure on and forged a 10-point advantage, 46-36, with six and a half minutes to play on a pair of free throws by Gibson.

The Britons drew within seven, 49-42, with 4:07 to play on a jumper from Autumn Haggadone, but the Presidents tallied the final six points to secure their third-straight win.

Oursler and Walsh each contributed eight points for W&J, while Walsh and sophomore guard Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson) led the Presidents with five rebounds. Shaw and Edwards led the Britons’ offense, scoring 13 and 12 points, respectively, while Shaw also led the team on the glass with six rebounds.

The Presidents shot 50 percent (20-of-40) from the field and 88 percent (14-of-16) from the free throw line, while Albion shot just 34 percent (17-of-50) from the floor. The Britons held a 42-29 advantage on the glass.
The Presidents return to action on Tuesday evening when they travel to Meadville, Pa., to take on North Coast Athletic Conference member Allegheny at 6:00 pm.

-- PRESIDENTS --

#33 Gibson, Maggie GIBSON’S 20-REBOUND PERFORMANCE LIFTS W&J OVER NO. 22 CAPITAL (11/20)

WASHINGTON, Pa. – For the second time in her career, senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg C.C.) reached the 20-rebound mark as she pulled down 20 boards and scored 16 points to lead the Washington & Jefferson College women’s basketball team to a 56-48 upset victory against No. 22 Capital University in the 2009 W&J Women’s Basketball Tip-Off Classic on Friday evening in the Henry Memorial Center. The victory was W&J’s first against Capital in program history.

Gibson was two shy of her career high in rebounds (22), which she set in the 2008 ECAC semifinal victory against Gwynedd-Mercy on March 8th, 2008.

W&J shot 42 percent from the field in the second half and outscored the Crusaders (0-1) 32-22 in the second period to earn the eight-point victory.

Both teams struggled to convert in the early going as the game was scoreless until the 17:21 mark of the first half when freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Pa./Middletown) converted a layup. The Crusaders tied the game up nearly 30 seconds later on a jumper from Tara Harper.

The two squads traded baskets for much of the first half and the score remained tied, 20-20, at the 2:32 mark after senior shooting guard Stephanie Smith (Grove City, Ohio/Grove City) nailed a three-point basket. CU rattled off the next six points, but Gibson bucketed four points in the final minute of the half to narrow the Crusaders lead to 26-24 at halftime.

Capital appeared to gain control of the contest early in the second half, opening a 33-26 advantage with 16:47 showing on the clock. The Presidents wouldn’t go away and evened the score, 35-35, at the 13:14 mark.

The Presidents regained the lead, 39-38, with 12:02 on remaining after Gibson connected on a pair of free throws. W&J rattled off 13 of the game's next 19 points and gained its biggest lead, 52-44, with two and a half minutes left to play.

Sophomore guard Vanessa Rivera (Reading, Pa./Wilson) sealed the victory after converting a key three-point play with 1:28 remaining.

Oursler led the Presidents with 17 points, while Smith and Rivera added seven and five points, respectively. Kristen Richardson paced the Crusaders with 16 points, while Hilary Kuhns led Capital with seven rebounds.
The Presidents shot 37 percent from the field (22-of-59), while Capital was 36 percent (19-of-53). W&J also held a 40-34 edge in the rebounding battle.

W&J will be back in action tomorrow afternoon, hosting Albion (Mich.) at 4:00 pm on day two of the W&J Women’s Basketball Tip-Off Classic.

-- PRESIDENTS --

A. Oursler

PRESIDENTS EARN 70-65 VICTORY OVER CASE IN HOME OPENER (11/16)

WASHINGTON, Pa. - Freshman guard Alyssa Oursler (Middletown, Md./Middletown) scored a team-high 15 points to help lead the Washington & Jefferson College women's basketball team to a 70-65 victory against Case Western Reserve University in the season opener Monday night at the Henry Memorial Center.

The Presidents (1-0) jumped out to an early seven-point lead (11-4) after sophomore forward Courtney Walsh's (Mill-Hall, Pa./Central Mountain) basket at the 14:34 mark.

The Spartans (0-1) cut the lead to one at the 8:50 mark of the first half as freshman guard Carrie Orcutt nailed a three-pointer to make the score 18-17. Case evened the score at 23-23 with 6:17 left in the half, but W&J ended the half on a 14-8 run to take a 37-31 lead at intermission.

The Presidents shot 40 percent (15-of-38) from the field in the opening 20 minutes and 30 percent (3-of-10) from beyond the arc, while the Spartans hit 32 percent (9-of-28) from the field and 33 percent (3-of-9) from three-point range in the first half.

The Red & Black built the biggest lead of the contest, 41-31, early in the second half as senior forward Maggie Gibson (Greensburg, Pa./Greensburg C.C.) hit a jumper with 17:13 on the clock.

CWRU chipped away at the Presidents' lead and drew to within one, 46-45, at the 12:23 mark on a layup by sophomore forward Erin Hollinger. The two squads traded baskets over the next three minutes as the Presidents still secured a one point lead, 52-51, with 9:07 remaining in the contest.

W&J stretched its lead to 61-53 with 5:09 remaining, but the Spartans used one last push to draw within two, 67-65, following freshman guard Evy Iacono's triple with 30 seconds left in the game. The Presidents connected on three of their final four free throw attempts to secure the five-point victory.

Gibson finished the game with 14 points and nine rebounds, while senior point guard Kennan Killeen (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon) added 11 points and seven boards. The Spartans were led by Hollinger's 16 points and seven rebounds, while Iacono contributed 15 points.

The Presidents shot 40 percent (25-of-62) overall, including 33 percent (4-of-12) from beyond the arc, and outrebounded the Spartans, 40-36.
W&J hosts its annual tip-off classic this weekend in the Henry Memorial Center. W&J plays No. 22 Capital on Friday evening at 8:00 pm and entertains Albion (Mich.) on Saturday at 4:00 pm.

-- PRESIDENTS --