



University of Great Falls
ARGONAUTS

SPORTS INFORMATION * NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Mike Miranto, Sports Information Director, (406) 791-5208

UGF Men's Basketball Drops A Pair On North Dakota Trip

Dickinson, ND – The University of Great Falls men's basketball team fell to 1-2 on the young season as they dropped a pair of games in neighboring North Dakota over the weekend, falling to the Minot State Beavers 87-78 on Friday night, before being on the wrong end of an 89-63 decision at Dickinson State on Saturday afternoon.

"The bottom line is we were very inconsistent in both games," said **UGF head coach Steve Silsby**. "Minot is a very tough place to play and we played them tough. They're a team that will certainly contend for their conference championship and despite some turnover problems we were right there most of the night. Against Dickinson, it was a whole different story. We looked pretty good for the first 10 to 12 minutes but from there they just beat us up. They were just tougher than us for a good stretch of the game which is disappointing."

The turnover problems Silsby eluded to were evident in both games. Against Minot, the Argos struggled to handle the ball against the Beavers' full court pressing defense which forced 29 Argo turnovers. Saturday's contest saw the Argos commit another 27 turnovers.

"You're just not going to beat anybody, especially when you're on the road, when you commit that many turnovers," Silsby lamented. "I can live with physical mistakes but so many of our turnovers are mental errors where we're trying to do a little too much instead of just making an easy play."

Minot State had four players reach double figures in Friday's contest, led by **Nick Turner (Los Angeles, CA)** who put in a game-high 20 points on eight-for-14 shooting. Junior guard **Nathaniel Packineau (Parshall, ND)** was next with 18 points, including five of the Beavers' 10 three-point baskets. Senior forward **Kenneth McCoy (Stuttgart, AR)** had a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds while point guard **Mister Carney (Tulsa, OK)** contributed 11 points, six assists and five steals.

The Argos were paced by the 19 points of junior guard **Mark Celaya (Chandler, AZ/Glendale Community College)** who came off the bench to spark the Argo offense with numerous drives to the hoop. Fellow slashing guard **Kevin Harris (Houston, TX/Clarendon College)** added 17 points and five rebounds for the Argos while senior **Matt Niemeyer (Great Falls, MT/Helena High School)** had 14 points and a team-high nine rebounds. Senior **Jesse Corbett (Missoula, MT/Scottsdale Community College)** came off the bench to score a career-high 10 points to go with six rebounds.

The Argos out-shot Minot from the field 48% (29-for-60) to 44% (28-for-63) but hurt themselves from the charity stripe, converting just 57% of the free attempts (16-for-28).

In Saturday's game, Dickinson State was led by the 23 points of junior guard **Nathan Lebsock (Frenchtown, MT)** who hit on seven of his 11 field goal attempts, including a perfect three-for-three from beyond the three-point arc. **Forwards Nate Williams (Atlanta, GA)** and **Branden Thomas (Atlanta, GA)** contributed 15 and 12 points, respectively while junior point guard **Rochi Estes (Anaconda, MT)** reached double figures as well with 10 points.

The Argo offense, although shooting 51% for the game, sputtered in stretches over the final 30 minutes. Niemeyer paced the Argos with 14 points and Harris added 11.

The Argos are back in action with three home tilts this week as they host South Dakota Tech on Wednesday, November 11, in a double-header with the women's teams, before finishing the season home-and-home series with Minot State and Dickinson State. The Argos and Beavers tip it up at 7pm on Friday night before facing the Blue Hawks at 7pm on Saturday.

[BOX SCORE vs. MINOT STATE](#)

[BOX SCORE vs. DICKINSON STATE](#)