



University of Great Falls
ARGONAUTS

SPORTS INFORMATION * NEWS RELEASE

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Argo Men Drop Two Close Ones At Thanksgiving Classic

Rapid City, SD – The University of Great Falls men’s basketball team fell to 3-5 on the season as they dropped a pair of close contests over the weekend at the U.S. Bank Thanksgiving Classic hosted by the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. The Argos were on the wrong end of a 62-55 decision to the host Hardrockers on Friday night, before falling 66-64 to Black Hills State (SD) in overtime on Saturday.

“I’m really proud of the effort my guys put forth,” said **UGF head coach Steve Silsby**. “Unfortunately, the ball just didn’t bounce our way a few times.”

In Friday’s game against the Hardrockers, the Argos took a 26-24 lead into halftime, despite shooting just 36% as a team in the first 20 minutes. The second half was a back-and-forth affair before South Dakota Tech took a seven –point edge, 58-51, behind three-point baskets from **Robbie Fedor (Monticello, MN)** and **Scott May (Aurora, CO)** with under two minutes to play.

The Hardrockers connected on their free throw attempts late in the game to provide the final margin. Fedor was their player to reach double figures as he pumped in a game-high 21 points while shooting 4-for-5 from behind the three-point arc.

The Argos were led by the 20 points of sophomore guard **Kevin Harris (Houston, TX/Clarendon College)** who also grabbed six rebounds. Junior guard **Mark Celaya (Chandler, AZ/Glendale Community College)** came off the bench to score 15 points.

“We didn’t execute offensively when we had to,” Silsby commented. “Defensively, I was pretty pleased with what we did but we had some mental breakdowns on offense which really hurt.”

Saturday’s game against the Yellow Jackets was another hard fought, back-and-forth tussle between two hard-working teams and it showcased a spectacular finish. With the score tied at 53-53, the Argos missed two chances to take the lead in the final 10 seconds, as junior center **Dyston Madsen (Chandler, AZ/Glendale Community College)** missed a 10-foot baseline jumper only to be rebounded by Celaya whose put-back attempt was blocked by BHSU’s **Will John Johnson (Whitewood, SD)**. The ball deflected out of bounds and the ball was awarded to Black Hills in a questionable decision with 5.6 seconds to go in regulation.

After a timeout, the Yellow Jackets’ **Cain Atkinson (Evanston, WY)** took the inbounds pass and dribbled the length of the floor and put up a running one-hander from 10 feet which was blocked by UGF’s Harris, who was subsequently whistled for a foul with 0.3 seconds remaining. Atkinson made both free throws to put his team ahead 55-53, setting the stage for some Argo heroics.

Senior reserve guard **Jesse Corbett (Missoula, MT/Scottsdale Community College)** heaved a full-court baseball-style pass which reached the out-stretched hands of teammate **Matt Niemeyer (Great Falls, MT/Helena High School)** who miraculously tipped the ball in as time expired, knotting the score at 55-55, forcing an overtime period.

“What an unbelievable play,” remarked Silsby. “For Corbett to come in and make a perfect pass from 90-plus feet away is incredible and then to have Matt finish it was equally incredible. I’ve been coaching for a long time and plays like that don’t happen every other week so to be involved in one is really exciting. I just wish we could have ridden the momentum and closed the game out in overtime.”

The overtime mimicked the rest of the game as the teams traded scores. In the end, Black Hills outscored UGF 11-9 in the extra five minutes to get the victory.

Atkinson led Black Hills with 17 points while **Clay Pottorff (Greeley, CO)** and freshman **Craig Von Allman (Windsor, CO)** split 22 for the Yellow Jackets. Johnson grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds.

Harris again led UGF with 20 points, as he looked unstoppable at times going to the basket. Reserve guard **Norman Towns (Phoenix, AZ/Paul Quinn College)** came off the bench to spark the Argos with a season-high 14 points on 5-of-6 shooting from the field. Niemeyer finished with 13 points and five rebounds after fouling out in the overtime session. Madsen scored only two points, but proved his worth again as he pulled down 10 rebounds and blocked five shots.

The Argos will look to get back to .500 this coming weekend as they take part in the first Frontier Conference Preview to be held at the Butte Civic Center on Friday and Saturday. The Argos kickoff the two-day event when they battle Montana State-Northern on Friday at 4pm before closing out the event in Saturday’s tip vs. Montana Western, scheduled for 8pm.

[BOX SCORE vs. SOUTH DAKOTA TECH](#)

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