



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 Out-Slugs Hardrockers

Great Falls, MT – The University of Great Falls men's basketball team evened their record at 2-2 on the season with a hard fought 56-51 victory over the visiting South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Hardrockers at the McLaughlin Center. The loss drops the Hardrockers from the ranks of the unbeaten, having come into the game with a 3-0 record with three victories at home, including one over Frontier Conference school and defending national champion Rocky Mountain College.

"It wasn't pretty but we'll take it," said **UGF head coach Steve Silsby**. "We didn't execute offensively very well in the second half but we got it done at the defensive end of the floor which is very encouraging considering the trouble we had guarding people this past weekend (at Minot State and at Dickinson State)."

The Argos closed the first half on a 14-7 run to put themselves ahead 36-23 at halftime. Turnover problems again plagued the Argos in the second half, but their defense came through as they held South Dakota Tech to just 32% shooting for the game. UGF won the battle on the backboard, out-rebounding the Hardrockers 37-30 while also blocking a season-high 11 shots.

"We get stagnant at times, offensively, which leads us to dribble too much," Silsby said of the team's second half offensive woes. "We're working hard to correct those mistakes but it's not easy, especially against a good defensive team like South Dakota Tech."

Senior forward **Matt Niemeyer (Great Falls, MT/Helena High School)** led a very balanced Argo scoring effort with nine points to go with four assists, five rebounds, two blocks and two steals. A quintet of juniors including guards **Kevin Harris (Houston, TX/Clarendon College)**, **Lukas Hamsch (Chandler, AZ/Glendale Community College)**, **Mark Celaya (Chandler, AZ/Glendale Community College)** and **Norman Towns (Phoenix, AZ/Paul Quinn College)** as well as center **Dyston Madsen (Chandler, AZ/Glendale Community College)** chipped in with eight points apiece. Madsen added 10 rebounds and five blocked shots while fellow big man **Christian Jeter (San Diego, CA/San Diego Christian College)** had six boards and two blocked shots of his own.

Celaya's running one-hander in the final minute put the Argos up 52-49, paving the way for the Argos defense to come up big as they held the Hardrockers to just two points in the waning moments. Two free throws each from Hamsch and senior guard **Aaron Skogen (Ronan, MT/Miles Community College)** sealed the deal for UGF's second home victory against no defeats so far this season.

"It feels good to get a close one under our belt," Silsby commented. "In the past, this is a game we may not have won. We've struggled pulling out close games and to our guys' credit they hung in there and got the job done in the face of adversity."

The Argos remain home this weekend for contests against Minot State (Friday, 7pm) and Dickinson State (Saturday, 7pm) as they wrap up the usual home-and-home series with the Beavers and Blue Hawks.

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

UGF Sports Information Office * 1301 20th Street South * Great Falls, MT 59405
Phone: (406) 791-5208 * Fax: (406) 791-5994 * Email: mmiranto01@ugf.edu