

Blackburn Women's Basketball Defeat Fontbonne and Blackburn Men Fall to Fontbonne

The Blackburn College Women's Basketball Team used a balance attack to defeat the Griffins of Fontbonne University on Wednesday night by a score of 62-58. Rashonda Willis and Ashley Daniels each scored 13 points while Jasmine Robinson added 12 for the Beavers who improve to 4-9 and 2-2 in the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Blackburn led 29-26 at halftime and opened up a ten point second half lead until the Beavers went 4:45 without scoring as Fontbonne cut the lead to 42-41 with 10:40 remaining. The contest went back and forth until a basket by Willis opened up a 62-56 lead with 30 seconds to go in the game.

For the game, Blackburn shot 45 percent from the field on 23 of 51 shooting compared to 41 percent by Fontbonne on 25 of 61 shooting. Fontbonne had a considerable rebounding edge 42-27, while Robinson led the Beavers with 5 rebounds. Fontbonne was led in scoring by Shaerika April and Mallory Ludwig with 14 points apiece as the Griffins also have a 4-9 and 2-2 record on the season. The Beavers will have a week off before resuming action with another conference game at MacMurray on January 13.

Blackburn Men Fall 80-77 in a Thriller

The Blackburn College Men's Basketball Team dropped a tight contest on Wednesday night in Carlinville to Fontbonne University, 80-77. The visiting Griffins led for all but the first 1:58 of the contest and held off the Beavers who had two opportunities to tie the game in the last minute. Cobri Gilbert's three pointer as time expired missed to give the victory to Fontbonne.

For Blackburn, Todd West scored 20 points while Rod Sykes had 19 and Brandon Roberts 16, to lead the Beavers, who are now 2-7 on the season and 0-4 in the SLIAC. Fontbonne, which led 38-29 at the half, was led in scoring by Joshua Branch who poured in 29 points as the Griffins improved to 5-6 overall and 2-2 in the league. For the game, Fontbonne shot 53 percent on 32 of 61 shooting, while Blackburn was 32 of 66 for 49 percent. The battle on the boards was practically even with the Griffins holding a slight 32-31 edge. Fontbonne led by as many as 13 in the first half and led by 12 with 3:46 remaining. The Beavers cut the lead all the way to one point with 21 seconds to go before Branch made two free throws with 14 seconds remaining to account for the final score. Blackburn will return to action in a non-conference matchup in Springfield on Sunday against Robert Morris College, tip-off is slated for 3:00 p.m.