



## NKU women rally late, steal road win from Indy



NKU defenders Rachel Lantry (5) and Karen Brackman defend against Caroline Schutzman on the final play of the Norse's 56-54 victory against Indianapolis on Thursday night. NKU's defense forced Schutzman to launch a desperation 3-pointer that fell short at the buzzer.

## Top-ranked Norse use game-ending 12-1 run to post 56-54 victory

INDIANAPOLIS - Just when it appeared Northern Kentucky University's winning streak against Indianapolis was history, up stepped the Norse with an incredible comeback in the game's final minutes Thursday night.

NKU used a game-ending 12-1 run to wipe out a 53-44 deficit in the final 3:44 and post a 56-54 victory against Indianapolis in Nicoson Hall. It marked the ninth consecutive win against Indianapolis for the Norse, who are unbeaten (3-0) and ranked No. 1 nationally in the NCAA Division II poll.



Nancy Winstel

NKU head coach Nancy Winstel said switching to a full-court press late in the game helped ignite the rally.

"We came up with a couple of steals, and we just put it (press) in last week," Winstel said. "Rachel Lantry and Karen Brackman both raised up their games, and those two made big plays late. We could have packed it in, because Indianapolis is a very good team and

they were fired up. But it also says a lot about our players that they hung in there against a good team and were able to find

a way to win on the road."

Indianapolis (8-2) opened up a 21-9 lead in the first half behind the play of sophomore forward Samantha Meissel. By halftime, Meissel had netted 15 points as the Greyhounds took a 26-18 lead into the locker room.

"(Meissel) is an outstanding player, and she really hurt us in the first half," Winstel said. "I thought we did a better job defensively against her in the second half, but she is really good."



NKU head coach Nancy Winstel (left) hugs Karen Brackman after the win.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Trailing 53-44 with 3:44 left on the clock, Brandi Rayburn started NKU's decisive run by scoring a basket while being fouled. She converted the free throw to bring NKU to within 53-47. A pair of baskets by Brackman sliced



*Brandi Rayburn draws a foul in the final minute of the game Thursday night.*

the Indianapolis advantage to 53-51 with 2:09 remaining, and Lantry tied the game at 53-all by making two free throws with 1:26 remaining.

"Indianapolis made a couple of turnovers against our press, and then Brackie and Rachel really stepped up," Winstel said.

Rayburn made two free throws with 58 seconds left to give NKU its first lead of the game at 55-54.

Lantry collected a big steal and made a free throw with 6.3 seconds on the clock to make it 56-54.

Indianapolis had a final attempt to win the game, but good defensive pressure by both Brackman and Lantry forced Caroline Schutzman to launch a desperation 3-pointer that fell way short at the buzzer.

"It wasn't our best game, and I thought we were lethargic to start the game, but we have had a long layoff (10 days) between games and Indianapolis is really good," Winstel said. "In the Great Lakes Valley Conference, road wins are hard to get, so we will take it."

Jessie Slack led NKU with 17 points and nine rebounds. The Norse shot 39.6 percent from the field but won the rebounding battle by a 39-33 count. Indianapolis made just 31.5 percent of its shots from the field. It was the GLVC opener for both teams.



*NKU's Jessie Slack drives to the basket against Indianapolis on Thursday night. Slack scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds as the Norse rallied for a 56-54 victory.*



*NKU players and coaches celebrate after the final buzzer Thursday night. The Norse used a game-ending 12-1 run to post a 56-54 win against Indianapolis in Nicoson Hall. NKU is 3-0 and ranked No. 1 nationally in the NCAA Division II poll.*