



Due to Technological difficulties, no repeat for NKU



NKU's Cassie Brannen (31) maneuvers for a shot against Michigan Tech defenders Lisa Staehlin (14) and Sarah Stream (2) during the first half of the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional semifinal. On the right, Michigan Tech's Katie Zimmerman (13) defends against Danyelle Echoles.

Michigan Tech upsets No. 1 NKU, 76-53, in Midwest Regional

By Tom Ramstetter

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - Katie Zimmerman hit four 3-pointers in the early minutes to give Michigan Technological University the momentum, and the Huskies upset top-ranked Northern Kentucky University, 76-53, Saturday night in an NCAA Division II Midwest Regional semifinal at The Bank of Kentucky Center.



Katie Zimmerman

Zimmerman finished with a game-high 20 points for the fourth-seeded Huskies, who will meet No. 7 seed Indianapolis on Monday night at 7 p.m. at NKU for a berth in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight.

"That was definitely something new for me," Zimmerman said. "But I think it was a spark to our team and it got everyone pumped up, saying we can do this and we did it tonight."

Tech was boosted by a 26-12 advantage in points off the bench, led by Lisa Staehlin's 19 points. Staehlin was good on 8 of 9 field goals and was perfect on three free throw attempts.

"I thought Lisa Staehlin did an outstanding job," Michigan Tech coach John Barnes said. "It's nice to have some depth there. I thought she did a great job of posting up strong. For her to come off the bench and get 19 is outstanding."

Katie Wysocky added 17 points and nine rebounds, one board shy of her 18th double-double of the season.

The Huskies dished out 15 assists as a team and got the Norse in early foul trouble, eventually making 32 of 36



NKU's Whitney Levering scores a first-half basket against Michigan Tech.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

free-throw attempts.

“Our team is really unselfish,” Wysocky said. “Any given night anyone can go for 20 or 30, and we just kind of have rotated all year. I just think nobody has a problem passing up a shot if it means getting a layup inside.”



Karen Brackman led NKU with 16 points against Michigan Tech.

NKU only attempted 10 free throws, making seven.

“I thought we did a good job of pounding the ball inside, kind of getting them in early foul trouble,” Barnes said. “I thought (Katie Zimmerman) had a great start. She knocked down four threes right off the bat, which is huge to get out to an early

lead and try to get the crowd out of the game. And then we kind of built on the lead throughout the game and held on at the end.”

Northern Kentucky, meanwhile, ended its season with a 29-3 record one season after winning the school’s second national title. Karen Brackman led the Norse with 16 points, and Jessie Slack finished with 10.

The Midwest Region (formerly Great Lakes) host team has now gone four straight years without winning the region title. NKU’s loss was also the third straight year a host has gone down in the semifinals.

“I think they’ve had one heck of a year,” Norse coach Nancy Winstel said of her team.

“They played with a target on their back all year long and still won (29) games. From a basketball standpoint there were things about the game I wasn’t real happy about. From a people standpoint, again, I’m very proud of my kids and now’s the time for them to hear me say that.”

Winstel said the early shots Zimmerman made and two early fouls by post player Brandi Rayburn were costly, but didn’t want to make excuses or take away from the Huskies’ effort.

“Michigan Tech is a very good team,” Winstel said. “They’re playing very well right now. It’s hard to be good all the time. I’m not making excuses, it’s just hard to be good all the time.

“When you’re in the NCAA Tournament, it only takes one bad game. I think you have to give Michigan Tech credit. They made shots. We didn’t.”



NKU’s Jessie Slack (21) attempts a shot against Michigan Tech during the semifinals of the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional on Saturday night. Slack finished with 10 points and extended her streak of games scoring in double figures to 37, but NKU dropped a 76-53 decision to Michigan Tech. Slack, a senior guard from Mt. Perry, Ohio, also added three assists and three steals in her final game for the Norse. Slack also finished with 1,006 career points in two years at NKU.

