





Prairie Stars hope to break out of slump against Flyers

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THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Posted Jan 05, 2011 @ 11:41 PM

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The University of Illinois Springfield Prairie Stars men's basketball team remains stuck in a rut.

UIS has lost six of its last seven contests. The Stars (4-7 overall, 0-4 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference) will attempt to end its losing streak today against the host Lewis Flyers (8-7, 1-3) in a league game at 7:45 p.m. today.

The Prairie Stars are trying to turn the corner after losing 69-65 to Indianapolis on Sunday. UIS lost 78-61 Tuesday to No. 8 Southern Indiana after only trailing 38-31 at halftime.

"We've got to execute a little bit better," UIS coach Ben Wierzba said. "We've got to tighten up our offense and defense. We've just got to get better in all aspects."

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UIS men's basketball

WHO: University of Illinois Springfield Prairie Stars (4-7 overall, 0-4 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference) at Lewis University Flyers (8-7, 1-3)

WHEN: 7:45 p.m. today

WHERE: Neil Carey Arena, Romeoville

COACHES: UIS — Ben Wierzba (1st season, 4-7); Lewis — Scott Trost (5th season, 76-55)

LAST SEASON'S RESULT: UIS 75, Lewis 74

NOTeworthy: The Flyers nearly upset then-ranked No. 1 Bellarmine on Sunday but fell 72-69 at Neil Carey Arena. Lewis was ahead by three points in the final 2 minutes against Bellarmine, which dropped Tuesday to No. 4 in the NABC/NCAA Division II top 25 national poll. . . . Lewis is coming off a 65-48 loss Tuesday to Northern Kentucky. On the same night, UIS suffered a 78-61 defeat to No. 8 Southern Indiana. . . . The Stars have lost six of their last seven games. . . . Lewis senior guard Dennis Thomas Jr. is No. 1 in scoring at 16.9 points per game. Senior center Marty Strus is the Flyers' top rebounder with 5.6 rebounds per game. Strus tops the GLVC in field goal percentage at 70.1 percent (54-for-77). . . . Eight different players have made starts for the Stars. Only senior guard Brandon Farmer and junior Jermaine Love-Roberts have started all 11 games. . . . Junior forward Michael Fakuade is the Stars' leading scorer and rebounder with 15 points and 10.4 rebounds. Hart is the second-leading scorer at 10.6 and leads the team in 3-pointers with 20. Farmer is averaging 10.5 points, 5.0 rebounds and 4.4 assists per game. . . . A women's game between UIS (4-7, 0-4) and Lewis (6-6, 2-2) starts at 5:30 p.m.

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