



University of Great Falls
ARGONAUTS

SPORTS INFORMATION * NEWS RELEASE

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Argos' Season Ends At Westminster

Salt Lake City, UT – The University of Great Falls men's basketball team saw its 2009-2010 season come to an end Tuesday as they dropped a 78-55 decision to #1-seeded Westminster College in the opening round of the Frontier Conference Tournament at Behnken Fieldhouse. The Griffins, ranked #4 in the latest NAIA national poll, improved to 24-5 on the season by winning their 11th straight game. The Argos fall to 7-22 and are still searching for two milestones: the program's first win in the Frontier Conference Tournament and the program's first win over Westminster who moved to 25-0 all-time against UGF.

"We played halfway decent in the first half, but shot ourselves in the foot with some missed shots in around the basket and missed free throws," said UGF head coach **Steve Silsby**. "They are such a good defensive team that you almost have to play perfectly to beat them, especially on their home floor, and we just did not do that tonight. We tried some different things to stop them from scoring and they were mildly effective but we struggled to score for much of the night and that killed us."

After a back-and-forth opening 10 minutes, Westminster took control of the game and never relinquished the lead, taking a 37-27 lead into halftime. The Argos managed to connect on just 8-of-27 (30%) from the field in the second half while the patient Griffin offense was good for 41 points on 54% shooting (14-for-26). For the game, UGF was a solid 10-for-20 (50%) from three-point range but rang up a disappointing 8-for-32 (25%) from inside the arc.

"That has really been the story of our season," Silsby commented. "When we knocked down shots with regularity we were pretty good. When we struggled making shots this year, especially shots in the paint like we did tonight, it made it tough for us to win. We have to find a way to be more consistent offensively as we move forward."

Junior big man **Ben Walker** erupted for 25 points on 11-of-14 shooting from the field to lead the Griffins. His point production was a key factor in the game as the Argos employed a triangle-and-two defense designed to thwart the production of guards **Blair Prowse** and **Weston Anderson**. The duo, who came in averaging around 28 points per game between them, managed to score 20 points, although much of that came after the Argos abandoned the gimmick defense. **Tanner Gregory** came off the bench to score 12 points while grabbing six rebounds as well.

Junior guard **Mark Celaya (Chandler, AZ)** was the lone Argo to reach double figures with 19, connecting on 5-of-8 from behind the arc in the process. Junior center **Dyston Madsen (Chandler, AZ)** grabbed a team-high six rebounds while point guard **Lukas Hamsch (Chandler, AZ)** dished out five assists.

Playing in the final game of their careers for the Argos were seniors **Matt Niemeyer (Great Falls, MT)**, **Jesse Corbett (Missoula, MT)**, **Aaron Skogen (Ronan, MT)** and **Marko Lakic (Novi Sad, Serbia)**. Niemeyer had the most productive night of the quartet, scoring six points while grabbing two rebounds in 19 minutes of action. Corbett dished out two assists from his point guard position, Skogen drilled one more of his signature three-point bombs and Lakic scored a lay-up and was fouled on the play in the first half.

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