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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UMKC Continues WAC Play at Home Against Utah Valley, Seattle U

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The UMKC women’s basketball team (5-11, 1-0 WAC) is set to host a pair of Western Athletic Conference (WAC) matchups this week to open their home conference schedule for the season. The Roos will square off with Utah Valley (6-10, 0-1 WAC) on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. CT before taking on Seattle U (6-10, 0-1 WAC) on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m. CT.

#TeamKC Notes:

UMKC marches into the week ahead riding a two-game win streak, including a 54-52 win on the road at UT Rio Grande Valley to open up WAC play. The win marked the first time since the 2014-15 season where the Roos opened conference play with a victory. Additionally, the team has emerged victorious in three of their past four contests, playing terrific basketball in the stretch.

The Roos have been terrific on the defensive end of the floor, helping keep the team within reach in games where shots weren’t falling. In the previous four games, UMKC is allowing just 44.3 points a night to their opposition. On the season, opponents are averaging 64 points per game, which ranks third in the conference.

Aries Washington (Kansas City, Mo.) continues to be the go-to player on the offensive end for UMKC, putting together one solid performance after another. Washington is averaging a team-high 17.6 points per game, good for fourth in the WAC, in addition to making steady contributions on the glass with 6.1 rebounds per game.

Daijane Dillard (Los Angeles, Calif.) has been on a tear distributing the basketball of late. In the past two games, the senior point guard has dished out an outstanding 13 assists and currently ranks fifth in the WAC in averaging 3.5 per game.

The Roos are set to receive a significant boost on the injury front as senior forward **Kiana Law** (Pittsburgh, Pa.) will likely return to action after missing the team’s last six games. Prior to the setback, Law was in the midst of putting together another solid season in her senior campaign, averaging 8.6 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. She also sits just four rebounds shy of claiming eighth place on the all-time career rebounds list in UMKC history, a mark she will likely hit in the upcoming matchups.

UMKC's frontcourt has been stretched thin during Law's absence but it's strengthening from her return could prove to be very influential in balancing the team's attack. Fellow forward **Kristen Moore** (Chicago, Ill.) should draw less attention in the post and team rebounding will likely see improvement, an area the Roos have struggled in.

Saturday's contest against Seattle U will serve as the 'Kansas City Day' game for the Roos. The team will wear customized Kansas City-themed uniforms designed by Charlie Hustle for the event.

UMKC Roos vs. Utah Valley Wolverines

Date: Thursday, January 11

Tipoff: 7:00 p.m. CT

Location: Kansas City, Mo. (Swinney Recreation Center)

Series: UMKC trails 3-6

Live Stats: www.statbroadcast.com

Radio: www.umkckangaroos.com

TV: [WAC Digital Network](#)

Live In-Game Update: [@umkcwbb](#)

Scouting the Wolverines

Utah Valley matches up with UMKC on the heels of a close 63-58 loss to CSU Bakersfield in the team's WAC opener. The Wolverines have not fared well in the shot department thus far in the year, connecting on just 35.1% of their field goal attempts and averaging 58.4 points per game. Pulling down missed shots has been another area of trouble for Utah Valley as they have been outrebounded by an average of 7.5 per night thus far. The team has been particularly effective at the foul line and in generating turnovers. As a team, the Wolverines are shooting 75.7% from the line and have generated nearly 10 steals per game. Guard's Taylor Christensen and Mariah Seals will need to be keyed on by the Roos, both averaging in double-figures scoring and shooting nearly 40% from beyond the arc.

UMKC Roos vs. Seattle U Redhawks

Date: Saturday, January 13

Tipoff: 2:00 p.m. CT

Location: Kansas City, Mo. (Swinney Recreation Center)

Series: UMKC Trails 4-5

Live Stats: www.statbroadcast.com

Radio: www.umkckangaroos.com

TV: [WAC Digital Network](#)

Live In-Game Update: [@umkcwbb](#)

Scouting the Redhawks

Seattle U is currently in the midst of a three-game road swing to open conference play. The Redhawks were dealt 74-63 loss at the hands of Grand Canyon in the WAC opener and will travel to Chicago State before matching up with the Roos. The team will be looking to turn the tide after losing their past five games, including a heartbreaking overtime loss on the road at Washington. Jumping out to a sizeable early lead will be important for UMKC, as Seattle U has been outscored significantly in first half's but have put together strong finishes, holding a 50 point advantage in fourth quarters. The Redhawks are led by redshirt senior guard Alexis Montgomery, who enters the contest fresh off a WAC Player of the Week award. Containing Montgomery, who currently sits atop the conference in scoring at 21.3 points per game and has scored 25-plus in three of the past five games, will be no small task for the Roos. Seattle U, much like UMKC, does not utilize a deep bench, frequently going just six-deep barring foul troubles.

Up Next

The Roos will leave the friendly confines of Swinney Recreation Center to embark on a three-game road stretch, the longest remaining this season. Trips to CSU Bakersfield on Thursday, Jan. 18 and Grand Canyon on Saturday, Jan. 20 will be followed up with a game at New Mexico State on Saturday, Jan. 27 to close out the trip. All three contests will be broadcast free of charge on the [WAC Digital Network](#).

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