



**UMKC ATHLETICS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 31, 2018

## ***Roos Return to Swinney to Host Grand Canyon, CSU Bakersfield***

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – The UMKC women’s basketball team (7-14, 3-3 WAC) returns to Swinney Recreation following a three-game stretch on the road for a pair of Western Athletic Conference (WAC) matchups. The Roos will take on Grand Canyon (10-10, 4-2 WAC) on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. CT before squaring off with CSU Bakersfield on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. CT.

### **#TeamKC Notes:**

UMKC enters the week ahead after falling short in an impressive fourth quarter comeback at New Mexico State, losing by a final score of 70-62. The loss moved the Roos to 3-3 in conference play and into a tie for fifth place in the WAC with Utah Valley.

The loss marked the first conference road loss of the season for UMKC, whose record now sits at 3-1 in WAC games away from Swinney. After dropping the first two home conference matchups, the Roos will look to capture important wins on their home court.

UMKC’s scoring defense on the 2017-18 season, allowing 63.8 points per game, and in WAC competition (61.2 ppg) both rank among the top-half in the conference. A significant factor in the team defensive success has been in the rebounding department where opponents have been limited to 33.8 rebounds per game, good for second in the WAC.

Free throw shooting has been a major strength for the Roos in their start to conference play as well. The team trails only Grand Canyon in shooting 76.5% from the foul lines against WAC opponents. Attacking the rim could receive heavier emphasis moving forward as UMKC ranks last in the conference in free throws attempted.

**Aries Washington** (Kansas City, Mo.), who most recently notched her seventh 20-point performance of the season with 22 against New Mexico State, continues to hold among the conference scoring leaders. The senior guard ranks fourth in the WAC at 16.7 points per game. Washington also sits eighth in conference averaging six rebounds per game, recently vaulting her into the UMKC top-10 career rebounding list with 537.

The steady play of point guard **Daijane Dillard** (Los Angeles, Calif.) has landed the west coast native among the NCAA leaders in assist/turnover ratio. At 2.81, Dillard leads the WAC and sits 15<sup>th</sup> in the country with her impressive guard play.

Washington and **Samantha Waldron** (Omaha, Neb.) are quickly approaching additional milestones during their senior campaigns. After each joined the 1,000 point club in the month of December, Washington sits 19 points shy of breaking the top-10 career scoring list at UMKC while Waldron needs 24 to accomplish the feat.

### ***UMKC Roos vs. Grand Canyon Lopes***

**Date:** Thursday, February 1

**Tipoff:** 7:00 p.m. CT

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

**Series:** UMKC trails 6-3

**Live Stats:** [Statbroadcast](#)

**TV:** [WAC Digital Network](#)

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

### **Scouting the Lopes**

Grand Canyon heads into the matchup with UMKC after defending their home court in a dominant 81-61 win over Utah Valley. The Lopes, who currently sit in a three-way tie for second place in the WAC, have won three of their past four games with a pair of 20-plus point margins in the stretch.

The team has seen a great amount of success from three-point line, leading the conference in three-point field goal percentage at .359 as a team. That mark has improved significantly in WAC play as they sit as the team is converting a deadly 42% from beyond the arc.

Free throw shooting has been equally impressive the Lopes, connecting on a WAC-best .753 of their foul shots. However, getting to the foul line has proven to be a bigger issue as the Lopes rank sixth in the conference in free throw attempts. Staying out of foul trouble and finding perimeter shooters will be key for the Roos.

The Lopes are led by senior guard Brie Mobley, who ranks third in the conference at 19.5 points and second with 8.1 rebounds per game. Beyond Mobley, UMKC will need to keep tabs on fifth-year guard Jessica Gajewski who boasts a three-point field goal percentage just shy of 40% with 49 makes from distance on the season.

### ***UMKC Roos vs. CSU Bakersfield Roadrunners***

**Date:** Saturday, February 3

**Tipoff:** 1:00 p.m. CT

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

**Series:** UMKC trails 8-2

**Live Stats:** [Statbroadcast](#)

**TV:** [WAC Digital Network](#)

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

## **Scouting the Roadrunners**

CSU Bakersfield took care of a business in their lone game last week, claiming a 75-68 home win over Seattle U for their second consecutive win. CSU Bakersfield enters the week identical to Grand Canyon in a tie for second-place in the WAC with a 4-2 conference record.

The Roadrunners strength in the 2017-18 season has been their strong defense, limiting opponents to a conference-best 57 points per game and .369 field goal percentage. The team has been a handful on the glass as well, leading the WAC at 15.6 offensive rebounds per game.

Generating second chance points has kept CSU Bakersfield afloat offensively despite boasting a team field goal percentage of .348 and free throw percentage of .640 that rank last in the conference. The Roadrunners have not fared well from beyond the arc either, shooting just 27.4% on the season.

Senior forward Aja Williams leads CSU Bakersfield as the only player scoring in double-figures on the team. Williams ranks just outside the conference top-10 at 12.9 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

## **Up Next**

UMKC will make return trips to Utah Valley on Thursday, Feb. 8 and Seattle U on Saturday, Feb. 10 the following week. Both games will be broadcast on the [WAC Digital Network](#) free of charge.

For more information on UMKC women's basketball, like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

**– UMKC –**