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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Roos Finish 2017-18 Home Slate Against UTRGV, New Mexico State

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The UMKC women’s basketball team (9-17, 5-6 WAC) wraps up a three-game home stand with its final home contests of the 2017-18 season this week. The team will host UT Rio Grande Valley on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. CT before matching up with New Mexico State on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 1 p.m. CT.

#TeamKC Notes:

UMKC enters the week fresh off a 106-47 demolition of Chicago State last weekend. The team currently sits in fifth place in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) standings with a 5-6 conference record. The strong effort snapped a three-game losing skid leading up to the contest.

A fifth place finish would be the highest since joining the WAC. With three matchups remaining, the Roos trail Grand Canyon and Seattle U by just two games, putting a top-three finish within reach.

The Roos begin the week as the conference’s top scoring offense in league games at 66.7 points per game in addition to owning the third-highest field goal percentage (42.5%) and second-highest three-point field goal percentage (35.5%). The team will look to stay hot on the offensive end of the floor as they fight for a strong finish down the final stretch.

UMKC has also been terrific at the foul line against conference foes in the 2017-18 season, trailing only Seattle U in shooting 76.1% from the stripe. **Aries Washington** (Kansas City, Mo.) has led the way, leading the WAC in converting an outstanding 92.6% of her foul shots in league play. **Kristen Moore** (Chicago, Ill.) also cracks the top-10 in shooting 81.1% from the line against conference opponents. Moore is one of five players who rank among the WAC top-10 in scoring and rebounding at 13.7 points and 6.2 rebounds per game.

Washington continues to hold steady as the WAC’s fourth-leading scorer in all games during the season. The senior guard is averaging 16.6 points per game in her final campaign and also jumped teammate **Samantha Waldron** (Omaha, Neb.) to claim ninth-place on the UMKC all-time career scoring list with 1,191 points.

Waldron, who ranks 10th on the list with 1,189 career points, is putting the finishing touches on what has been an incredible season and career in three-point shooting. She leads the conference with 72 makes from beyond the arc on the season, the fourth-most in UMKC single season history and four away from the number two spot on the list. Waldron's 214 made three-pointers for her career ranks third all-time in program history.

The weekend matchup with New Mexico State will serve as Senior Day for UMKC, which will honor seven seniors – Washington, Waldron, **Kiana Law** (Pittsburgh, Pa.), **India Johnson** (Overland Park, Kan.), **Daijane Dillard** (Los Angeles, Calif.), **Paige Husa** (Fairbury, Neb.) and **Sierra Bone** (Flower Mound, Texas) on the 2017-18 squad. Other notable achievements from the group include Law's 620 career rebounds, good for seventh-most in program history, and Dillard's astounding 3.15 assist to turnover ratio that leads the WAC and ranks ninth in the NCAA.

UMKC Roos vs UT Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros

Date: Thursday, February 22

Tipoff: 7:00 p.m. CT

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

Series: UMKC leads 6-5

Live Stats: [Statbroadcast](#)

TV: [WAC Digital Network](#)

Radio: [UMKCKangaroos.com](#)

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

Scouting the Vaqueros

UT Rio Grande Valley heads into the contest after a wild week that saw the team claim a pair of overtime wins over Seattle U and Utah Valley. The 2-0 week made up significant ground in the WAC standings as the team now sits just one game out of sixth and two games out of fifth with a 3-8 conference record.

The Vaqueros have seen their fair share of offensive struggles on the year, particularly in conference play. The team ranks next to last in scoring 61.5 points per game against WAC opponents and own the lowest team field goal percentage (.370) and three-point percentage (.253) in the conference.

Despite the shooting woes, UT Rio Grande Valley has done a nice job on the season in sharing the basketball with a WAC-best 14 assists per game. Their 15.7 offensive rebounds per game, also tops in the league, has helped mitigate the less than ideal shooting effectiveness. UMKC will need to be sound in limiting second chance opportunities to come out on top.

Sophomore forward Megan Johnson has led the team offensively as they have navigated through conference play. She is the only player to average double-figure scoring (12.4 points per game) on 42.6% field goal shooting against league competition.

UMKC Roos @ Utah Valley Wolverines

Date: Saturday, February 24

Tipoff: 1:00 p.m. CT

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

Series: UMKC trails 11-3

Live Stats: [Statbroadcast](#)

TV: [WAC Digital Network](#)

Radio: [UMKCKangaroos.com](#)

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

Scouting the Aggies

Following a pair of road losses, New Mexico State regrouped last week to pick up wins against Utah Valley and Seattle U on their home court. The team is very much in contention of claiming their fourth consecutive WAC regular season championship, trailing first-place CSU Bakersfield by one game with an 8-3 league record.

The Aggies have seen a dip in their offensive production since entering the conference schedule, averaging 63 points per game in league play cutting their season average to 66.4 for the year. However, their 42.7% team field goal percentage in WAC play ranks second in the conference.

The team has been stout on the defensive end, allowing an average 60.3 points per game to WAC opponents on 37.8% field goal shooting. Defending the perimeter, a source of heavy production from the Roos, has been excellent as well with conference foes converting just 28.9% of their attempts from beyond the arc.

New Mexico State is led by junior guard Brooke Salas who is putting together a stellar 2017-18 season. She ranks second in the WAC in scoring at 19 points per game and her 7.7 rebounds per game checks in as the fourth-highest in the conference. Salas has taken by far the most shots on the team with 408 attempts on the year so forcing another Aggie player to step up in the scoring department will be key for UMKC.

Up Next

UMKC travels to Chicago State to wrap up the 2017-18 regular season before heading to Las Vegas, Nev., for the WAC Tournament. The game is set for Saturday, Mar. 3 at 1 p.m. CT and will be broadcast on ESPN3.

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