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USU vs Prairie View A&M

ReSpectrum: 129-12

"Refining the Home Court Advantage since 2007"

The Hit List

#	Name	Ht	Pos	Yr
5	Derek Johnson	6-1	G	Jr.
13	Aaron Smith	6-3	G	Sr.
44	Dorian McDaniel	6-6	G	So.
23	Brian Ezeh	6-5	F	Sr.
52	Terrance Moore	6-8	F	Jr.
21	Ahmed Khalfan	6-9	F	Jr.
30	Blake Thompson	7-0	F	Jr.
25	Freddie Edo	6-1	G	So.
24	Ivory McGilvery	6-1	G	So.
40	Jacobe Shivers	6-8	F	Jr.
1	Jacolby Satterwhite	6-1	G	So.
10	Jaime Morgan	6-8	G	Fr.
22	Jeremy Malone	6-4	F	Fr.
33	Johnny Cobb	6-8	F	Sr.
31	Jonathon Dixon	6-5	F	Sr.
50	Jerre Epouner	6-8	F	Fr.
2	Rodney Meadows	6-2	G	So.
32	Tarrence Garrison	6-7	F	So.

Coach: Byron Rimm II

Wilkinson suffers injury during epic thumb war

Utah State center Gary Wilkinson will be slowed, and possibly miss playing time in the coming weeks because of a break to his thumb that he sustained during a thumb war with USU head coach Stew Morrill. The injury happened while the team was in transit back to Logan following last Saturday's 88-66 win at Cal State Bakersfield when the two engaged in a thumb war that was the next of an ongoing series of thumb wars taking place on team road trips.

Asked about how the injury occurred, coach Morrill said, "You know I try teach my players to give 100 percent in everything they do in life. I feel that I need to lead by example in giving 100 percent in everything I do personally, even if it's just a thumb war. Obviously when you play at such a high level you sometimes put yourself or others at risk of injury, and it's unfortunate that that's the case right now with Gary."

Despite the injury that might sideline his thumb wars even longer than it does basketball, Wilkinson isn't holding any grudges over the mishap. "I don't blame coach at all for what happened. There was definitely no foul play involved," Wilkinson said. "Any similar, or even worse types of injuries can, and sometimes do occur in practice. Coach saw a chance to seal a victory, went for it, and caught my thumb in just an awkward way that caused the injury. It was all clean though, so I've got no hard feelings about it all."

The victory vaulted Morrill's season record against Wilkinson to an impressive 26-0. Fellow team members who have closely followed the series of thumb wars claimed the match in which the injury occurred to be the closest match yet this season.

"I've never seen Gary come so close as he did that game," said senior forward Steve Ducharme. "That match lasted a good 20 or 25 minutes before it went final. We were all kinda pulling for Gary and I was bummed that he couldn't break the losing streak. It's too bad that this had to happen."

Despite suffering a 26th consecutive loss, Wilkinson remains optimistic about the future of the series with coach Morrill. "I'm just going to take this time and try and get focused mentally so that I'll be able to step right back in and compete after this thing blows over," Wilkinson said.

Coach Morrill refrained from speculating on how much the injury would affect Wilkinson on the basketball court but did say that the long hours traveling would be lacking the same enjoyment that they had with a healthy Wilkinson.

In All Honesty: Should be a cakewalk.

Prairie View A&M has won a total of 25 games over the last four seasons, and are off to an unimpressive 2-6 start to this season. Their two wins have come against one non-division 1 opponent and 2-6 Norfolk State. The team's downfalls come from their poor field goal shooting and the amount of turnovers they allow. Their field goal percentage of 41.5% ranks 256th in division 1, and their team gives up the second most turnovers per game in all of D-1. The Panthers' last game resulted in a 80-43 loss against WAC rival New Mexico State (5-7) in which no player scored in double figures for Prairie View. Honestly, this one tonight shouldn't even be close.

Flirting with History

Jaycee Carroll is currently 42 points away from becoming only the 3rd player in USU history to score 2000 career points. Greg Grant and Wayne Estes are the only other members of the 2000-point club.

The Petri Dish - Dirty Dozen (and a half)

Team - Carries 18 players on roster, 16 of which are on the active roster. Should make for lots of subbing in, subbing out, and bashing on the PV A&M bench for their respective failures while on the court. Team website lists no information on individual players, because they're mostly uninteresting.

#21 Ahmed Khalfan - Refers to himself as "The Fresh Prince of The Bay."

#44 Dorian McDaniel - Likes going out and getting "drunk as hell. Lists "guns" as one of his interests on his Myspace. Wants to be a scientist when he grows up.

Prairie View A&M facing alleged recruiting violations following attempt to recruit entire state of Texas.

NCAA administrators have announced their intentions to investigate Prairie View A&M University for possible recruiting violations alleged to have taken place this past offseason. The investigation will focus on whether or not Prairie View has offered more than the allotted number of 13 scholarships allowed for Division 1 men's basketball.

"We can understand teams having 14 or 15 guys suiting up for them each night," said NCAA commissioner Myles Brand. "Any time a team has 18 players like Prairie View currently does, we feel the need to take a closer look at the situation."

Prairie View head coach Byron Rimm backed his university and team by saying, "We feel that this is nothing more than just a big misunderstanding by the NCAA. Our roster size stands at what it is because of our new recruiting focus at Prairie View."

That new recruiting focus for Prairie View A&M is to annually recruit every player, both high school and junior college from the state of Texas, to play for the Panthers. "We feel like we're giving a tremendous opportunity to talented kids in our state," Rimm said. Basically we'll have a roster spot for anybody willing to show up and play.

Because the NCAA only limits the number of scholarships a team can offer Prairie View does not appear to be in immediate danger of any sanctions. "We're going to wait and see what the investigation turns up," said Brand. "We're hopeful that everything has been handled within the NCAA rules."

Rimm further commented on his school's recruiting strategy by saying, "We realize that we have a lot of competition for talent in our state. We feel like it's a very positive step for our program if 18 players actually want to come and play for us here. We're also confident that some of the lesser talented guys who come through our doors as walk-ons will pan out to be solid contributors by their junior and senior years."

The recruiting experiment has helped Prairie View to a stunning 2-6 so far this season.

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