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## FIU @ UNT 1PM 12/20

Posted by daReporta - 2009/12/19 19:03

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FIU is 4-5 and 0-1 in conference (lost to Denver)

Probable Starters:

Michelle Gonzalez (5'6", Jr)

Elisa Carey (6'2", Jr)

Monika Bosilj (5'10", Sr)

Ashley Traugott (5-7", Sr)

Maja Krajacic (6'4", Jr)

15 players on the roster - doesn't usually play more than 8-10 per game. 4 Freshman on the team.

Wins against Western Michigan, Jacksonville, Barry & Memphis. Lost to NC State, Wisconsin-GB, St. Joseph's, Florida, and Denver.

FIU Game Notes

UNT Game Notes

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## Re:FIU @ UNT 1PM 12/20

Posted by CMJ - 2009/12/20 20:02

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I listened to some of the game. Sounded like we played pretty well for the most part?

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## Re:FIU @ UNT 1PM 12/20

Posted by daReporta - 2009/12/20 20:26

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Not a great day to be Green in Denton, today. Thought I would get some satisfaction from the men's game - but that was just as aggravating/frustrating as the women.

Why did WBB not do well today? 2 things - BJ & Rotation.

8 turnovers from a Senior Leader on the court requires ALOT of bench time. Tonight I witnessed first-hand that #30 plays for the name on the back of her jersey, not the name on the front. On 4 different occasions, I watched her bring the ball up court in favorable situations (fast break, 3 on 2, open teammates) and kept the ball to: 1. Turn it over, 2. put up a horrible shot (that didn't fall), 3. Get it stuffed in her face or tossed. Then it turned into the ALL FOR ME-ME-ME because other players got into "fend for self" mode and no one (I MEAN NO ONE!) played together.

The substitution rotation also killed the team. Normal production for the bench is at least 15 ppg... today - 2 pts. Normal Minutes for the bench 65 Mins Per Game ... today - 44. The bench can't help if they're "on the bench".

So, what's next? Missouri... another whipping on the horizon.

Merry Christmas everyone.

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## Re:FIU @ UNT 1PM 12/20

Posted by GrandGreen - 2009/12/21 00:28

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Wow, not sure about all that B. James criticism. She did get 17 points and leads the club in scoring, assists and steals. Plus there is no one to replace her with.

NT played well for most of the game, and lost to a much better team. This team lacks almost everything but they played hard. NT's best four players by far are Hughes, Godbolt, James and Kellum. Hopefully Cuffee and Brown can up their game to give NT six players that have college level talent. There is absolutely no depth on this team measured by

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numbers or talent. Godbolt continued to excel, she plays with extraordinary effort. For this team to have any success this year, Brown is going to have to develop at point and Hughes is going to have to up her game. The raw talent is there, but she seems to play out of control far too much.

SS has due to losing players and sub-par recruiting got this team in a really bad position. She does not have the numbers to run the type of fast game she wants or the size or shooters to effectively play half court. Frankly, I didn't see more than three or four conference wins this year; but, the last two games have given me some hope. If the men had the effort put forth by the ladies tonight, they would have won by twenty.

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## Re:FIU @ UNT 1PM 12/20

Posted by daReporta - 2009/12/21 09:02

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I stick to my guns. She also leads the team in turnovers and minutes. 17 points means nothing when you have 8 turnovers and the player you are guarding has 11 points and 4 assists. I would put Hawkins in over her.

Scoring does not rate high in my book if you are not trying to win (taking a charge, helping on D, making the extra pass). Being a ball-hog does not mean you are trying to win. 90% of her assists come from the inbounds play under the basket - so, it's not like she is in the open court, finding an open teammate. I watch alot of different aspects of the game (not just how many times the ball goes in the hoop). I look for communication, sharing the ball, intensity, togetherness. In the games that I have been to, I have NEVER seen BJ run over to pick one of her teammates up when they took a charge or hit the floor - diving for a loose ball. Those are the things I am looking for. So, stats - tell alot... but they don't tell it all. This is BJ's year - she is on the cusp of putting her name in the record books - but, at what cost? Her Senior year, so far they are (4-8). Her Junior year, they were (11-20). Her Soph year, they were (14-18). Her Freshman year, they were (9-20). The year before her arrival - the women were (19-9). Now, I'm not saying she is the ONLY reason that they have lost - but kind of makes you say hmmm...

Kellum IS the best player on the team (all around). Godbolt IS the hardest worker in the game. Hughes, unless she can come out everynight with her 13 points is still suspect to me. Brown looked more comfortable at PG last night then she did against ULM and court time makes everyone better. It is going to kill SS next year if she doesn't get the bench more PT because they will be her Veterans and need game situation minutes to gain poise and composure at this level.

The entire team is very talented (and very young). There are intangibles that a senior leader should bring to the court in order to boost the confidence and trust in her teammates. I WATCHED... literally looked at BJ's eyes - with Hughes WIDE OPEN running the lane on a fast break... look her off and proceed to drive to the basket to get her shot STUFFED (no foul). That... is NOT trying to win.

I know my views are subjective - but I'm pretty sure I'm in the ballpark with my assessment.

The women's game is so much different then the men's - simply because women must do a lot of little things to win, since their game is played under the rim (even though players like Griner will eventually change the game). Consistency is something the team is lacking. Chemistry has only come in spurts.

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## Re:FIU @ UNT 1PM 12/20

Posted by GrandGreen - 2009/12/22 00:15

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Well I like your spirit if not your logic. You have to be a relative or friend to think that Hawkins should replace James or anyone else on the team. Frankly, she was a questionable recruit and has not played enough to change that opinion. She was supposedly signed to provide a three point threat even though she only averaged 8 points a game in high school. Has she even scored this year? If you are familiar at all with NT history, I think you could come up with a hundred reasons for the decline of NT's fortunes from the 19-9 year to now without any thought of James.

Everyone has opinions, and I enjoy yours; I just don't agree with some of them. Obviously, we have very different opinions on the overall talent of the team and on James' contribution. Hopefully, the team will continue to improve and you can say I told you so before the season end.

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## Re:FIU @ UNT 1PM 12/20

The Hawkins line was a little blogosphere humor. Just trying to make a point that I wouldn't tolerate the "un-team like" attitude that I get from BJ.

Of all the games I've watched (and I catch alot of different teams on the internet too) - not many other teams play their freshman (or transfers) for substantial minutes. Example - the other day with FIU. FIU played 1 freshman for 7 minutes. Did she have a bad recruiting year? No, it's just tradition (and safe) to stick with your older (more physically developed) players. Are there exceptions to the rule? By all means. Brittany Griner would not be starting at Baylor if Danielle Wilson hadn't left the program. Dunking is cool but rookie mistakes aren't. Cokie Reed (Texas) - ranked very high in the national rankings and was a highly coveted recruit - gets about 15 minutes a game... why? There is an older, more developed player that they can depend on. Kelsey Bone is in a more favorable position at South Carolina, they don't have a dominant post - so she is getting substantial minutes.

Godbolt plays the minutes she gets - out of necessity. If Timms or Burwell had the athleticism or heart (respectively), Godbolt would get 10-15 minutes a game - tops. If Calvin (who didn't qualify) were in the mix - even less minutes for Godbolt. I'm not saying she's not "nice", I'm saying there is a need to give her alot of minutes. There just isn't ANYONE else that can hang (bang) under the basket. She works hard, plays almost 30 minutes a game and her hard work is showing up on the stat sheet. The more she's played, the less mistakes she makes and her confidence is building. For the other freshman... I like SS decision to go with Brown (even though Hughes was a "safe" back-up). She's not super fast, she's not razzle dazzle - but with some more minutes under her belt - could become consistent (as Godbolt has). I don't feel like she is a "true" PG, but I have seen her find open teammates - and I've seen her take her share of charges, so - she's tough (I like that). Cuffie was recruited as a 2 guard (according to DRC & MGS). I have seen her play the 2, 3, 4 and 5 (the 5 against ULM). She sits behind Kellum, Hughes, James, and Torru. Since there are 8 guards on the team and realistically 2 guard positions (not counting PG) on the floor - for the minutes she gets (IMO) is productive. I know you said she is a "tweener" but she has a nose for the basket (can take a bump) and is a matchup problem for smaller guards. Hawkins, I think we both agree still needs to develop. She probably would have got a lot of run at a Mid - High D2 - she is very smart on the court, just not the fastest player out there.

As far as the JUCO transfers... Kellum is all that. As a 20 yr old, she is not all the way mature as a player, but has enough arsenal to cover up her mistakes and the physical build of a true Junior. She is by far the best 2/3 we have. Burwell has a nice touch, but doesn't like to get her hands dirty. So, you can't expect her to put a body on someone. You can't teach heart or toughness. An old (REALLY OLD) coach told me - "You can teach a lion to be a lady, but you can't make a lady into a lion".

So, yes - I hope to say "told you so"... we may have to wait for BJ to leave to see what this team can really do. It seems that you think SS should have raked in the likes of Griner, Bone, & Reed - but this is mid-major basketball, honestly after the first 10 players (per year) of national recognition, the pool becomes pretty level. Finding the right combination is key to a program's success.

I, like everyone else - want instant satisfaction and gratification. I've said time & time again - let them take their lumps. Do I think SS "sub-par" recruited, not in the least. I think with everyone being new to each other (including the coaches, not knowing what a player is going to do in certain circumstances), everyone is fumbling around in the dark looking for the switch.

To support what I'm saying look at the difference in muscle definition from Freshman to Soph/Jrs: Pics from FIU game In the pics are Cuffie, Brown - and Torru & Hughes. Look at the definition difference in their arms. Time... just a little bit of time :cheer:

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## Re:FIU @ UNT 1PM 12/20

Posted by GrandGreen - 2009/12/22 21:50

No, I did not think SS would be battling Tennessee, UT or Baylor for recruits. I did think that SS should be a better recruiter than Slinker and I really didn't expect her to be four players short no matter what their talent level. On an overall basis, I just don't think that SS recruited any better than an average Slinker class and if you consider that she had two players that apparently didn't qualify and another that left very early; it was a very suspect class. Furthermore by just looking at the box scores, I am not all that excited about her two early signees this year.

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## Re:FIU @ UNT 1PM 12/20

Posted by daReporta - 2009/12/27 18:16

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Give me an example of the type of recruit you are talking about that SS should be getting.

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