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--Dec. 15, 2005-- Midwest Conference Basketball Notes

ONE FOR THE AGES: The Illinois College women's basketball team defeated No. 1 Millikin 56-53 in Jacksonville on Dec. 11. The upset victory ended the defending national champion's 20-game winning streak and was the first victory ever by an MWC squad over a top-ranked team in the D3hoops.com Top 25 poll. Millikin defeated Blackburn Wednesday and is set to host Monmouth Dec. 16.

CLASH OF THE TITANS: The Illinois College men could repeat the feat accomplished by the IC women's team when the No. 1 Titans of Illinois Wesleyan travel to Jacksonville on Saturday, Dec. 17. Wesleyan boasts a pair of Preseason All-Americans and enters with a 6-0 record.

Saturday will feature several big games for three other MWC men's programs as well. Carroll entertains No. 25 UW-Oshkosh, who opened the season ranked second in the country. Oshkosh fell to Lawrence (82-75 OT) in its season opener and has dropped to 3-3 on the year. The 6-0 Pioneers second win over a Top 25 squad (75-65 over #13 UW-Whitewater on Nov. 28) this season could boost them into a national ranking.

Lake Forest travels to Chicago to face Division I Loyola in the second-ever meeting between the two teams. The Ramblers enter the game 7-1 and own wins over the likes of Purdue and Bradley this season. The contest should feature more offense than Loyola's 33-11 win over the Foresters in 1925.

St. Norbert hosts Division II Northern Michigan, who has defeated the Green Knights by two points in each of the last two seasons. NMU leads the all-time series 38-11, as the Green Knights look for their first win over the Wildcats since 1980.

MANIC MONDAY: Things don't get any easier for Lake Forest or St. Norbert, as both follow contests against teams from larger divisions by taking on some of the best Division III has to offer on Monday (Dec. 19). St. Norbert travels west to face #12 UW-Stout, while Lake Forest goes to Rock Island to take on #13 Augustana.

POLL VAULT: The Lawrence men moved up one spot to No. 8 in this week's D3hoops.com Top 25 poll, while Carroll continues to receive votes (21). Only five squads in the "receiving votes" category totaled more votes than the Pioneers. Carroll (6) and St. Norbert (4) both continued to "receive votes" in the D3hoops Top 25 poll, while the Lady Pioneers fell out of the same category in the WBCA poll after suffering their first loss of the season last week.

TEAM OF THE WEEK: D3hoops.com named three MWC student-athletes to their five-player National Teams of the Week on Tuesday. Monmouth senior guard Chris Hebler and Carroll junior guard Paul Toshner received men's honors, while Lawrence senior guard Claire Getzoff was selected to the women's team.

MWC ANNOUNCES LIVE WEB STREAMING: The MWC has announced that the league, in conjunction with media technology firm Penn Atlantic, will stream live internet video of four MWC men's and women's basketball contests free of charge on Friday, January 13. The four contests, which will be aired with full video, will feature Lake Forest College at Ripon College and Grinnell College at Lawrence University. The women's contests are scheduled to tip-off at 5:30 p.m. and the men's games will follow at 7:30 p.m.

SEASON HEATS UP, literally, as a handful of MWC teams prepare for holiday trips. A list of who is going where...

| | MEN | WOMEN |
|------------------|--|--|
| Beloit | Vanguard Uni. Holiday Tourney (Costa Mesa, Calif.) | Vanguard Uni. Holiday Tourney (Costa Mesa, Calif.) |
| Carroll | Daytona Beach, Fla. | Daytona Beach, Fla. |
| Illinois College | Cal Tech Tournament (Pasadena, Calif.) | --- |
| Lawrence | Vanguard Uni. Holiday Tourney (Costa Mesa, Calif.) | Vanguard Uni. Holiday Tourney (Costa Mesa, Calif.) |
| Monmouth | Aruba | --- |
| Ripon | Hoop N Surf Basketball (Honolulu, Hawaii) | Trinity Uni. Tourney (San Antonio, Texas) |
| St. Norbert | Wittenberg Tourney (Springfield, Ohio) | San Diego Surf 'N Slam Tourney (San Diego, Calif.) |

CONFERENCE PLAY resumes on Friday Jan. 7 for men and women.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Midwest Conference. MWC weekly basketball releases have concluded for 2005 and will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 3. Midweek notes will continue to be posted on Dec. 22 and Dec. 29.

