POINTER PARK MEN’S BASKETBALL GAME NOTES - Feb. 8 at #22 IU East

Point Park Pioneers (12-9, 4-4 KIAC) at No. 22 IU East (20-7, 8-2 KIAC)

Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015 at 3 p.m. ET (Earlham College) / ON-AIR: Point Park Sports Network
All-Time Series: IU East leads, 4-0. Last Year: IU East, 93-88 (Richmond, Ind.); IU East, 96-94 (Pittsburgh, Pa.)

Today’s Matchup: Point Park visits No. 22 IU East for an important, KIAC North Division battle on the campus of Earlham College in Richmond, Ind. The Pioneers (12-9, 4-4 KIAC) are trailing IU East (20-7, 8-2 KIAC) by 2.5 games for the division lead with five games left on their schedule. This is the first of two meetings between the teams before the season is through. Point Park is 0-4 all-time versus the Red Wolves with an equal 0-2 showing at home and one the road.

Last Game: Won, 88-73, at Carlow Tuesday, Feb. 3. The Pioneers built a 42-29 lead at the half and were ahead by 20 points in the second half to even their KIAC record at 4-4 and put an end to a two-game losing streak. Jerah’me Williams had 24 points and nine assists. Sa’iid Allen had 15 points and like Williams made four treys. Barry Smith posted a double-double of 14 points, 12 rebounds.

Head Coach: Bob Rager is in his 26th year as head coach at his alma mater. He has a career record of 360-350 at Point Park, and he is the all-time wins leader at the school. Rager has led the Pioneers to three trips to the NAIA national tournament, including a trip to the NAIA DI Final Four in 1996-97.

On The Road: Point Park has had its struggles on the road this year although Tuesday’s win at Carlow made the road record more respectable at 4-6. The Pioneers had won just one of their first four KIAC road games before that victory over the Celtics. By contrast, the Pioneers own a 6-3 home record overall and were 2-0 in KIAC home games before the defeat to IU Southeast Jan. 30.

Statistical Rankings: Point Park is fourth in NAIA DII in scoring offense at 88.4 ppg, a figure that ranks second in the KIAC behind Tuesday’s opponent Rio Grande (89.4 ppg). Point Park is 11th in the nation and first in the KIAC with 9.0 made 3-point field goals per game. The Pioneers also appear in the national statistics at 12th in steals per game (9.3 spg), 14th in offensive rebounds (13.3 rpg), 16th in turnover margin (+3.5), 17th in total rebounding (39.8 rpg) and 24th in assist to turnover ratio (+1.2)

80 or Bust: Eighty points has been a key figure for the Pioneers as they are 10-2 when scoring 80 or more points and 2-7 when scoring less than 80 points. The 10-2 record includes one victory with exactly 80 and one loss with exactly 80. The only two wins for the Pioneers with less than 80 points were over Cincinnati Christian – 75-71 on Dec. 6 and 78-76 over then-No. 17 CCU on Jan. 20.

Low Turnovers: The Pioneers have taken great care of the ball the last two weeks as they have just 14 total turnovers in their last three games. Point Park is riding a streak of four straight games with less than 10 turnovers and they have six such games on the year. Point Park averages just 12.5 turnovers per game and have had 9, 6, 3 and 5 in its last four games.

Gotta Make Shots: The Pioneers’ style relies on converting at a high rate from the field. The Pioneers are 10-1 when shooting 45 percent or better from the field. Conversely, they are 2-8 when shooting less than 45 percent from the field. The Pioneers have just 23 turnovers their last four games, but they have cracked 45 percent field goals just once in that stretch and are 2-2 since.

Jera’me Williams: Point guard Jera’me Williams is showing he’s one of the best guards in the KIAC. He’s 16th in the country and second in the KIAC with 20.3 ppg. He’s also sixth in the nation and first in the KIAC with 6.7 apg. His team-high 51 treys include 43-percent accuracy from outside the arc. Williams has scored double digits all 21 games with 12 20-point games and one 30-point game.

Alan Heter: Senior forward Alan Heter is 6-7 and provides production down low at 13.5 ppg and 7.7 rpg. He is eighth in the KIAC with four double-doubles and teams with Barry Smith for a strong inside tandem.

Barry Smith: Senior forward Barry Smith, who stands 6-6, is fourth in the KIAC with six double-doubles. In addition to 12.3 ppg, he is ninth in the nation with 9.5 rpg, 14th with 2.2 spg and 30th with 1.3 bpg.

T.J. Lanier: Junior guard/forward T.J. Lanier, who is 6-6, has started the last 10 games. He is riding a streak of 11 straight games in double figures, and he is averaging 15.8 ppg during that stretch to bring his season average to 12.0 ppg.
Sa'id Allen: Freshman shooting guard Sa'id Allen started at Carlow and scored 15 points with four made 3-pointers. It was his first start in 10 games. Although he had started the first 11 games, he had been coming off the bench since. He upped his scoring average to 10.1 ppg to give the Pioneers six active players averaging double figures.

12 Wins: With the victory at Carlow, the Pioneers have surpassed last year’s win total when they were 11-17 overall. They still have five more regular season games and the playoffs of which to build on the win total.

Series vs. IU East: Point Park is 0-4 all-time versus IU East, and every game has been a high-scoring affair. Point Park lost, 93-88 (away) and 96-94 (home) last year. The Pioneers lost 112-94 (home) and 100-96 (away) in 2012-13.

Scouting IU East: The Red Wolves are the first team in the KIAC to 20 wins after Thursday’s victory over IU Kokomo, 74-60. That was a rebound win following a 87-73 loss at Cincinnati Christian on Tuesday, which was the first game since the Red Wolves moved up in the NAIA DII Top 25 at No. 22. Traditionally an offensive team, IU East has added defense as a specialty this year. It ranks second in the KIAC in scoring defense (72.2 ppg), first in field-goal defense (.406) and first in rebounding (42.8 ppg). IU East leads the nation in rebounding average with a starting front line measuring 6-9, 6-8 and 6-6. Guard Tyler Fangman (13.9 ppg) and forward Huston Clark (12.9 ppg, 8.9 rpg) lead an offense that is fourth in the KIAC and 32nd nationally with 79.3 ppg. The Red Wolves averaged 87.6 ppg last year to rank 11th in the country. But they’ve traded offense for a more defensive approach after going 11-20 overall a year ago.

KIAC Standings (as of games played Feb. 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KIAC North Division</th>
<th>KIAC</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 IU East</td>
<td>8-2</td>
<td>20-7</td>
<td>W1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point Park</td>
<td>4-4</td>
<td>12-9</td>
<td>W1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Grande</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>16-9</td>
<td>L1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IU Kokomo</td>
<td>2-8</td>
<td>8-17</td>
<td>L1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlow</td>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>2-18</td>
<td>L5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KIAC South Division</th>
<th>KIAC</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Streak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asbury (Ky.)</td>
<td>7-2</td>
<td>18-7</td>
<td>W1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(RV) Brescia (Ky.)</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>14-8</td>
<td>L1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(RV) Cincinnati Christian</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>18-8</td>
<td>L1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Lloyd (Ky.)</td>
<td>5-4</td>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>L2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IU Southeast</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>7-14</td>
<td>W3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Week in the KIAC

Tue., Feb. 5
Point Park 88, Carlow 73
(RV) Cincinnati Christian 87, No. 22 IU East 73
IU Southeast 90, Rio Grande 85
IU Kokomo 70, (RV) Brescia (Ky.) 58

Thur., Feb. 5
Asbury (Ky.) 79, (RV) Cincinnati Christian 68
No. 22 IU East 74, IU Kokomo 60

Fri., Feb. 6
IU Kokomo at Berea (Ky.), 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 7
Asbury (Ky.) at Alice Lloyd (Ky.), 4 p.m.
Carlow at Rio Grande, 4 p.m.
(RV) Cincinnati Christian at (RV) Brescia (Ky.), 5 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 8
Point Park at No. 22 IU East, 3 p.m.