Feb. 18, 2012 – 2 p.m.

#22 Point Park University (21-5) at Daemen College (21-6)

Location: Lumsden Gymnasium, Amherst, N.Y.
Last Meeting: Point Park won, 51-43, Jan. 28 at home
Live Audio: WPPJ-AM 670 and MSA Sports Network
Twitter: @PointParkSports. Facebook.com/PointParkAthletics

THE MATCHUP:

Summary: Point Park visits Daemen for the regular-season finale for both teams. On the line is the AMC Regular Season title. A win for Point Park would give the Pioneers the title outright. A win for Daemen would give the teams share the league’s regular season title at 12-2.

Point Park is ranked No. 22 in the NAIA Division II, and Daemen is in the ‘others receiving votes’ section. Daemen needs a win to lock up the No. 2 seed in the AMC playoffs. A loss by the Wildcats and a win by Roberts Wesleyan, would force a tie for second place.

Last Meeting: Point Park won, 51-43, at home Jan. 28. It was the first win over Daemen since at least 1997-98 (records prior to that not available). The Pioneers were up, 27-21, at the break built a 12-point margin early in the second half and managed the lead from there. Joncelyn Peterkin had 14 pts, 9 rebs, April Austin added 12 pts and Kristen Veseleny 11. Monica Kosior led Daemen with 10 pts, 11 rebs.

#22 POINT PARK PIONEERS (21-5 overall, 12-1 AMC)

Top Storylines: Point Park is ranked No. 22 in the NAIA Division II Top 25 (Feb. 13) and has already locked up the No. 1 seed in the upcoming AMC Tournament. The Pioneers have also clinched at least a share of the AMC Regular Season title regardless of the result at Daemen. Point Park can win the regular season crown with a win over the Wildcats. Point Park (12-1 AMC) has a two-game lead over Daemen (11-2) with one game to play. Point Park will host a 1st round playoff game Feb. 21. Time is TBA although it is likely 7 p.m. Point Park has won 16 of 17 games since a 5-4 start. The Pioneers have held 13 of their last 17 opponents to 50 points or less.

Last Time Out: Won at Carlow, 66-39, Tue., (Feb. 14). April Austin and Katresa Savisky had 11 pts each, and the Pioneers led, 38-19, at the break. Point Park forced Carlow into 21% shooting and 22 turnovers. Carlow made just five field goals in each half.

Key Stats: The Pioneers rank second in the nation in scoring defense (50.8 ppg), second in turnover margin (+8.2), third in field-goal defense (.326), 9th in steals (12.6 spg) and 12th in scoring margin (+14.5 ppg). Point Park scores 65.3 ppg and shoots 37.5% from the field.

Key Players: April Austin (10.5 ppg, 3.8 apg) and Joncelyn Peterkin (9.9 ppg, 7.2 rpg) are the leading scorers on the perimeter and on the inside, respectively. The other three starters and the sixth man combine to score 29.1 ppg and all average between 5.0 and 8.3 ppg.

Wins Record: The Pioneers have set a school record for wins in a season at 21-5. The previous highs were 19-12 ('93-94) and 18-8 ('83-84).

Head Coach: Tony Grenek is in his first season as head coach at Point Park. He was formerly the top women’s assistant at Seton Hill the last five years. Before that, he was the men’s head coach at Butler County CC for five seasons. His career women’s record is 21-5.

DAEMEN WILDCATS (21-6 overall, 11-2 AMC)

Top Storylines: Daemen was No. 19 in NAIA DII when it lost at Point Park Jan. 28. The Wildcats dropped their next game after that at Roberts Wesleyan but have won their last three to get to 11-2. Daemen has reached the 20-win mark for the 10th year in a row and was in the NAIA DII national tournament last year. It was the eighth national tourney appearance under head coach Dave Skolen, who has 408 wins in 20 years at his alma mater.

Key Stats: Daemen has a strong defense that ranks first in NAIA DII in defensive rebounds (32.9 rpg), total blocks (203), field-goal defense (.306) and 3-point field goal defense (.226). Daemen scores 66.2 ppg, and gives up 51.7 ppg, the latter of which ranks third nationally.

Key Players: Guard Ellie Allen (14.3 ppg, 6.7 rpg), guard/forward Chelsea Andorka (11.4 ppg) and center Monica Kosior (11.9 ppg) give three double-digit scorers.

LOOKING AHEAD:
The Pioneers will host an AMC Tournament first-round game Feb. 21 with the opponent and time TBA (either Houghton or Carlow). The AMC Finals are Feb. 25 and will be at PPU, if necessary. The AMC Champion will get the league’s automatic bid to the NAIA Division II National Championship March 7-13 in Sioux City, Iowa. The pairings for the 32-team national tournament will be announced Feb. 29. There are 21 automatic bids to the national field that come from conferences. There are 10-11 at-large bids. There is also a host-team bid that will be awarded, that is if the host team doesn’t earn an automatic bid.
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The table above shows the performance of the players in terms of points, assists, and other relevant statistics.