Feb. 4, 2012 – 4 p.m.
#25 Point Park University (17-4) at Houghton College (11-9, 3-5)

Location: Houghton, N.Y. (Nielsen Center)
Last Meeting: Point Park won, 65-50, at home Jan. 17
Live Audio: WPPJ-AM 670 and MSA Sports Network
Twitter: @PointParkSports. Facebook.com/PointParkAthletics

THE MATCHUP:
Summary: Point Park visits Houghton for the second half of the AMC, home-and-home series. Point Park is ranked No. 25 in NAIA Division II and has won 12 games in a row. Houghton took a three-game losing streak into Friday’s home game vs. Fisher, although results of that game are not in these game notes. Point Park is in first place in the AMC standings while Houghton is currently in fourth.

Last Meeting: Point Park won, 65-50, at home Jan. 17, although it was a one-point game, 49-48, with eight minutes to go. But the Point Park defense did not allow a field goal the final 7:49 and ended the game on a 15-2 run. Kristen Beatty had a career-high 20 pts (9-16 FGs) and April Austin added 16 pts. Kristen Moose had 16 pts (5-10 FGs) and Jennifer Hudson had 13 (5-15 FGs), but they both had 9 turnovers.

#25 POINT PARK PIONEERS (17-4 overall, 8-0 AMC)
Top Storylines: The Pioneers are riding high on a three-game winning streak and a recent No. 25 national ranking in this week’s NAIA DII Top 25 Poll. They maintained first place in the AMC at 8-0 with Tuesday’s win, their first time playing with a national ranking. The three-game, AMC road trip continues today, and head coach Tony Grenek admittedly said he was not entirely happy with Tuesday’s game. Point Park has six games remaining, all in AMC play. The Pioneers have not lost since Dec. 3 when they were 5-4 after nine games.

Last Time Out: Won at Wilberforce, 83-58, on Tue. (Jan. 31). The Pioneers used all 15 players and 13 scored. Point Park led, 39-25, at the half. Beatty had 14 pts, Peterkin had 13 pts and 7 steals and Scharnter added 11 pts. Wilberforce made 29 TOs, and shot a respectable 38%.

Key Stats: Point Park has one of the top defenses in NAIA DII. The Pioneers rank second in the nation in scoring defense (52.1 ppg), second in turnover margin (+8.4), fourth in field-goal defense (.335), seventh in steals (13.3 spg) and 10th in point-field-goal defense (.262).

Key Players: Point guard April Austin does a little bit of everything at 10.5 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 3.8 apg, 2.9 spg. Center Joncelyn Peterkin (9.4 ppg, 7.1 rpg) is an inside presence averaging 2.4 bpg. Other starters Kristen Beatty (8.7 ppg), Emily Scharnter (8.2 ppg) and Kristen Veseleny (5.2 ppg) are solid contributors on both ends as is Katresa Savisky (7.1 ppg), the first player off the bench.

Chasing Wins Record: At 17-4, the Pioneers already rank among the most wins in program history. The record for wins in a season came in 1993-94 with a 19-12 record. The second-most wins came in 1983-84 at 18-8. The 17 wins this year are the third-most in program history.

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 17-4.

HOUGHTON HIGHLANDERS (11-9 overall, 3-5 AMC)
Top Storylines: Houghton was looking to end a three-game losing streak entering its Friday night home game with Fisher. The Highlanders entered that one having lost to Daemen, Roberts Wesleyan and Walsh in succession. Houghton had taken a 2-1 AMC record to its game at Point Park Jan. 17, but a 65-50 loss sent them on a 1-4 streak in conference play. The only win in that stretch was 83-80 vs. Wilberforce.

Key Stats: The Highlanders turn the ball over 20.3 times per game, slightly more than the 19.9 turnovers they force. They attempt 21.6 3-pointers per game. Houghton scores 65.4 ppg and gives up 62.0 ppg. They shoot 32% from long range and hold opponents to 25% from deep.

Key Players: Kristen Moose (15.8 ppg, 6.5 rpg) and Jennifer Hudson (14.9 ppg) are both 5-9 guards who account for most of the production. Megan Sampson (8.2 ppg) has started 9 of 20 games. Alicia Marhefka (5.6 ppg) and Beth Lord (4.7 rpg) are the main inside players.

Head coach: Skip Lord is in his 25th season as Houghton’s basketball coach. He is also the athletic director at his alma mater.

LOOKING AHEAD:
Point Park continues its road trip at Walsh Feb. 7. The Pioneers return home Feb. 11-12 vs. Roberts Wesleyan and Fisher. Senior Day is Feb. 12 vs. Fisher. The final week of the regular season includes a trip to Carlow (Feb. 14) and a road game at Daemen (Feb. 18).
Individual Points-Rebounds-Assists (Game by Game)