



Sierra College Women's Basketball

2008-2009 Sierra College
Women's Basketball

Remaining Big 8 Schedule

Thursday Feb. 12th - DVC

Tuesday Feb. 17th - @ Delta

Friday Feb. 20th - ARC



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10-1 in the Big 8; Wolverines Vie For a Conference Championship

With only three games left in Big 8 Conference play, Sierra College Women's Basketball has potentially set themselves up for a showdown in Stockton for an outright conference Championship.

The Wolverines latest victory came against league rival Santa Rosa on Tuesday night. With a final score of 84-71, Sierra surpassed their Big 8 scoring average by 20

points.

Chelsey Ruscillo led the way for Sierra shooting an impressive 5-5 from the 3pt line and 4-4 from the free-throw line to go along with her 3 assists. Brandi Stephens scored 18 points, going 10-12 from the free-throw line, and also led in rebounds (8) and had 3 assists. Tamica Williamson scored 11 or her 13 points from the ft line on going 11-

14. Kayla Hines chipped in 12 points and also had 3 assists.

With Delta losing to Sac City on Tuesday night, the Wolverines need to beat DVC this Thursday at home to set up a conference championship game against Delta next week.

Sierra is currently ranked 5th in the North section and 16th overall in the state.

Stephens Shines for Sierra

Freshman guard Brandi Stephens has quietly become a shining star for the Sierra women's basketball team this season. With three games left in the regular season, Stephens has helped propel her team to a 10-1 Big 8 record and a chance for a conference championship. She currently leads the team in scoring (14/gm), steals (1.7/gm), 3pt field goal% (38%), and free-throws attempted (67). She's second in assists (2.4/gm), field goal % (47%), and the third leading rebounder with 5.7 a game.

"Brandi is a fierce competitor who steps up when it's crunch time. Her ability to rip down boards on the defensive end and attack the rim on the offensive end force teams' to put their best defender on her each night. Having played for local coaching legend Bill Baxter at El Camino, she came to Sierra College mentally tough and fundamentally sound. The two most important qualities that we look for in recruits here at Sierra." Head Coach Brandie Murrish.

Her debut with the team was highly anticipating after practicing with the team last season. After a couple of setbacks early in the pre-season, Stephens has shown that she would do anything to pursue her dream of playing at the next level.

"No matter how tough life gets, in order to overcome adversity and be the best, you just have to pick up the pieces and do everything like it's your last moment. Give it your all and be the best you can be!" Brandi Stephens.

Words Stephens has truly lived and played by.



Brandi Stephens

And Then There Were 10...

"Don't count the things you do, do the things that count."

After a season plagued with injury, illness, disciplinary action, and family trauma, the Wolverines have weathered quite the storm of adversity this season. Despite all of the turmoil, having no returners and listing only one sophomore on the roster, Sierra has shown how capable they are of not only rising above challenges, but succeeding in the face of them.

The Wolverines find themselves in complete control of their destiny en route to their ultimate goal this season; a Big 8 Conference Championship.

"I couldn't be happier with the group of girls we have. Not only are they a talented young group of ladies, but they refuse to let anything they've been through this season be an excuse as to why they can't accomplish the goals we've set out back in September. It's a testament to the heart and passion of these players." Coach Gatson remarks.

Darla Bishop, the lone sophomore for Sierra, has come alive during conference play. She leads the team in rebounding in conference (7.5/game) and is the third leading scorer (9.1/game).

"It's great to see her come into her own, and there's no better time of her to do it. She put a lot of pressure on herself early on, and I feel like she's finally letting herself just play. She's incredibly athletic and a really great person. She's been a great lift for us down the stretch."

Needless to say the Wolverines have had a slew of freshman step up and take on the task of leading the team to a conference title match up next week. A season long goal that will easily turn into that of a state championship by next season.

Picture of the Month



Buddy Challenge Karaoke Night
at Wild Dan's Pizza

"Let's not limit our challenges, instead, let's challenge our limits!"

The players went all out for karaoke night. And yes, the performances were as entertaining as their outfits!

LEADERS FOR SIERRA

(Big 8 play game averages)

PTS	BRANDI STEPEHNS	14.2
REB	DARLA BISHOP	7.5
ASTS	TAMICA WILLIAMSON	3.3
STLS	BRANDI STEPHENS	1.7
3PT %	BRANDI STEPHENS	38%
FT%	CHELSEY RUSCILLO	82%
BLKS	KAYLA HINES	.5
FG%	DARLA BISHOP	53%

SPOTLIGHT

(Each issue X's and O's will profile one player from the team)

This month we profile: **Darla Bishop**

When is your birthday? *June 9th, 1988*

Do you have any brothers or sisters? *3 older brothers.*

How old were you when you started playing? *I was 8 years old when I started playing basketball.*

What is your most significant basketball achievement? *Winning all tournament my junior year in high school.*

What is the best thing about being a Wolverine? *The best thing about being a wolverine is the unity and the work ethic.*

What is your major basketball goal? *My main goal in basketball is to learn aspects of the game and continue to play until I am no longer able.*

Who has had the most influence on your basketball career? *My parents and my older brothers. They have provided endless support. Without their encouragement I wouldn't be where I am at today.*

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? *In 5 years I see myself playing at the next level or coaching basketball.*

Do you have any unique or special talents? *I play the piano on my spare time.*

Favorite movie? *Kung Fu Panda/Nightmare Before Christmas*

Favorite Band/Singer? *Chris Brown*

If you could have dinner with anyone in the world, dead or alive, who would it be? *Probably Johnny Depp!*



Darla Bishop

Position: Forward

Height: 5'11"

Number: 34

Class: Sophomore



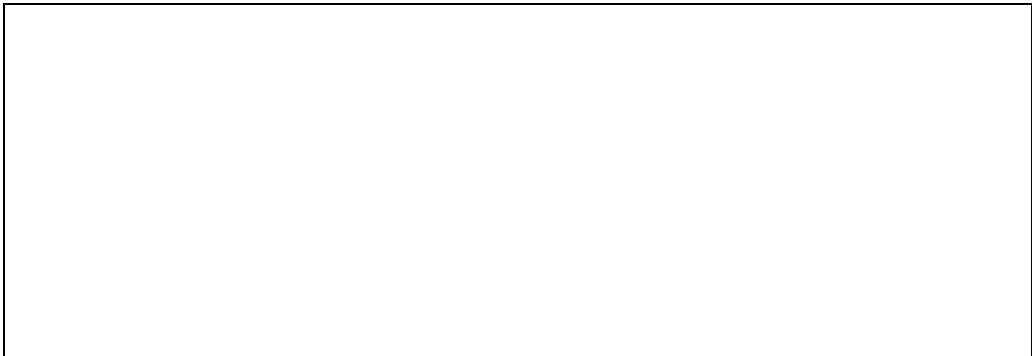
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"We Run!"



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