



WAYNE STATE COLLEGE

sports Information

Mike Grosz, Director
migrosz1@wsc.edu
(402) 375-7326 (office)
Brian Disch, Graduate Asst.
brdisch1@wsc.edu
(402) 375-7326 (office)
(402) 375-7271 (fax)
1111 Main Street
Wayne, Neb. 68787

2006-07 MEN'S BASKETBALL PROSPECTUS

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL: Wayne State College
LOCATION: Wayne, NE
ADDRESS: 1111 Main Street
Wayne, NE 68787
FOUNDED: 1910
ENROLLMENT: 3,200
NICKNAME: Wildcats
SCHOOL COLORS: Black and Gold
HOME COURT: Rice Auditorium
SEATING CAPACITY: 2,500
AFFILIATION: NCAA Division II
CONFERENCE: Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conf.
PRESIDENT: Dr. Richard Collings
ALMA MATER: University of Louisville
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS: Eric Schoh
ALMA MATER: Iowa State University
ATHLETIC DEPT. PHONE: (402) 375-7520
TICKET INFORMATION: (402) 375-7520

HISTORY

First Year of Basketball: 1912-13
Overall All-Time Record: 1,115 - 960 (91 seasons)
Years in NCAA Tournament/Last: 2/ 99-00 season

SPORTS INFORMATION

Sports Information Director: Mike Grosz
Email: migrosz1@wsc.edu
Office Phone: (402) 375-7326
Fax Number: (402) 375-7271
Sports Information Asst.: Brian Disch
Email: brdisch1@wsc.edu
Office Phone: (402) 375-7326
MAILING ADDRESS: 1111 Main Street
Wayne, NE 68787

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Rico Burkett
ALMA MATER: University of North Dakota (1993)
RECORD AT SCHOOL: 69-96 (7th season)
OFFICE PHONE: (402) 375-7309
ASSISTANT COACH: Matt Murken (4th season)
OFFICE PHONE: (402) 375-7515
ATHLETIC TRAINER: Andrea Blecke
TRAINING ROOM PHONE: (402) 375-7310
ATHLETIC OFFICE: (402) 375-7120

TEAM INFORMATION

Overall Record Last Year: 8-17
2005-06 Conference Record/Finish: 6-8/T-4th
Final Ranking Last Year: Unranked
Conference Tournament Finish: L/1st round
Starters Returning/Lost: 4/1
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/2
2006-07 Captains: TBA

MEDIA INFORMATION

Radio Stations: KTCH 1590 AM, 104.9 FM
Newspaper: Wayne Herald
Newspaper Contact person: David Carstens
Address: 114 Main Street
Wayne, NE 68787
Telephone: (402) 375-2600
WSC Athletics Homepage: www.wsc.edu/athletics

Media Services: Final box scores will be available approximately 30 minutes following the completion of all home matches. The WSC Sports Information office will also call and/or fax results to desired location. Contact the Sports Information Office prior to the match with a media list.

2006-07 MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM INFORMATION

Key Returners for the 2006-07 Season

<u>Name</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>POS</u>	<u>Applicable Statistics from 2005-06</u>
Dallas Hodges	6-3	Sr.	G	13.2 ppg, 2.76 apg, 4.0 rpg, 19 steals All-Conference Second Team
Bryce Caldwell	5-11	Jr.	G	11.2 ppg, 1.8 apg, 3.6 rpg, 15 steals Started 24 out of 25 played
Matt Rathje	6-8	Jr.	C	8.4 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 54.3 FG% Started 23 out of 24 played
Tim Taylor	6-3	Sr.	G	5.0 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 11 steals Played in all 25 games
Jonathon Thomas	6-6	So.	F	4.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 13 blocks, 11 steals Played in all 25 games as a freshman
David Walters	6-1	So.	G	3.9 ppg, 0.9 rpg, 11 steals Played in 23 games as a freshman
Eric Johnson	6-9	Jr.	F	3.0 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 16 blocks, 8 steals 64.6% Field goal percentage

Starters / Key Losses from the 2005-06 Season

<u>Name</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>POS</u>	<u>Applicable stats from 2005-06</u>
Dusty Smith	6-1	Sr.	G	8.6 ppg, 3.6 apg, 2.6 rpg 4-year starter at point guard
Tom Sherlock	6-7	Sr.	F	9.2 ppg, 5.3 rpg 50.0 Field goal percentage

Newcomers for the 2006-07 Season

<u>Name</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>POS</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
Jamar Diggs	6-2	Fr.	G	Minneapolis, Minn. (DeLasalle HS)
Blake McGriff #	6-3	Fr.	G	New Sharon, Minn. (North Mahaska HS)
Brian Metz	6-8	Fr.	F/C	Keswick, Iowa (Tri County HS)
Ryan Rudloff #	5-11	Fr.	G	Newman Grove, Neb. (Newman Grove HS)
Sean Thurston #	6-8	Fr.	F/C	Minneapolis, Minn. (Patrick Henry HS)

= Redshirting in 2006-07 season

2006-07 WSC MEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON OUTLOOK (Continued)

The Wayne State College men's basketball team will look to improve on last season's 8-17 overall mark and 6-8 Northern Sun Conference record (T-4th). WSC will lose only two seniors from the 2005-06 team and will have eight returning letter winners, including four returning starters. Five incoming freshmen join the team with two of them expected to see substantial playing time throughout the 2006-07 season.

Head coach Rico Burkett, entering his seventh season with a 69-96 record at WSC, is optimistic about the Wildcats in 2006-07, especially with the experience returning. "This team has a lot of physical tools to become a very good basketball team," commented Burkett. "We have some athleticism on the perimeter that will allow us to get after teams on the defensive end of the floor while offensively we look for more balance. With the development of our younger players, we have a group that can knock down perimeter jumpers, but also attack the basket or hurt teams inside with our low post game."

Two seniors will provide leadership for the Wildcats this season. Dallas Hodges returns as a four-year starter at guard for the Wildcats and was a member of the 2005-06 All-Conference Second Team. Hodges, a graduate of Washington High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has started 63 of 79 games played at Wayne State and is the team's top returning scorer at 13.2 points per game. He also enters this season with 852 career points and will likely become the 28th player in school history to surpass the 1,000 point mark. "Dallas has the versatility to post up inside or step out and knock down the open perimeter jump shot," said Burkett. "We look for Dallas to provide leadership and direction for our younger guys in the program."

The other senior is 6-3 guard Tim Taylor, who averaged 5.0 points in 25 games last season. Taylor is expected to give the Wildcats a boost off the bench this season.

Bryce Caldwell, a 5-11 junior guard from Davenport, Iowa (North HS) was a pleasant surprise for Wayne State during the 2005-06 season. Caldwell averaged double figures in scoring (11.2) and averaged 3.6 rebounds per game. The two-year starter is a major threat from the three point line especially after hitting 10 three-pointers against St. Cloud State last season, which puts him second all-time for three-point field goals in a single game. "Bryce has a scorer's mentality and he has the ability to get hot and carry a team with his shooting ability," remarked Burkett about Caldwell. "Bryce really came into his own last year and has had a great summer making individual improvement, so we feel this can be a big year for Bryce Caldwell."

With the Wildcats running a three guard offense, the third guard position will be determined between two underclassmen. Sophomore David Walters and true freshman Jamar Diggs will battle for the spot. Walters, a sophomore guard from Conrad, Iowa (BCLUW HS) played in 23 games and averaged 3.9 points per game last season. Diggs, a freshman guard from Minneapolis, Minn. (DeLasalle HS) helped his team win the Minnesota Class 3A state title last season.

Jonathon Thomas will start at the forward position for the 'Cats after starting seven of the last eight games last season. The sophomore from Earlville, Iowa (Maquoketa Valley HS) averaged 4.4 points and 3.6 rebounds in 2005-06. "Jonathon brings a lot of versatility to the floor," said Burkett. "He has range to the three point line, but can also slash to the basket or get on the offensive glass. Jonathon really had a great post season getting stronger, which will have a positive impact on his season." Redshirt freshman Michael Dickes will back up Thomas at the forward position. The Sioux Center, Iowa graduate sat out last season with a medical redshirt.

Matt Rathje, a 6-8 junior from Watkins, Iowa, is expected to be the 'Cats starting center. Rathje has battled several knee injuries in his first three seasons with the Wildcats, and managed to average 8.4 points and 3.9 rebounds per game last season. "Matt was a pleasant surprise after spending two seasons on the sideline due to injury," remarked Burkett. "Matt is a physical post that does an outstanding job on the defensive end of the floor and offensively does a great job of sealing and scoring with angles."

Junior Eric Johnson, sophomore Joshua Hughes and freshman Brian Metz will compete for playing time in the post with Rathje. Each player has the ability to be effective as starters or role players. "Eric showed signs of improvement last season providing energy and rebounding," said Burkett. "With his shot blocking and rebounding, he can have a positive impact when he comes into the game. Joshua continues to develop and expand his low post game. He shows signs of his potential and will only get better."

As always, Wayne State College plays a tough schedule against some of the top teams in the North Central Region. Wayne State faces five teams that qualified for last year's regional tournament including two of the teams twice. Non-conference games against St. Cloud State, Nebraska-Kearney and South Dakota will prepare the Wildcats for another tough slate in the Northern Sun Conference, led by NCAA Division II National Champion Winona State and North Central Regional qualifier Northern State.

Wayne State opens the 2006-07 season at home on Wednesday, November 15 against York College at 7:00 p.m. in Rice Auditorium. The Wildcats also face South Dakota, a North Central Regional qualifier last season, on Saturday, November 18 at 7 p.m. in Vermillion.

WAYNE STATE COLLEGE
2006-07 Men's Basketball Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Nov. 15	York College	7:00 pm
Nov. 18	@ South Dakota	7:00 pm
Nov. 24	vs. North Dakota #	6:00 pm
Nov. 25	vs. Dakota State #	4:00 pm
Nov. 28	Nebraska-Kearney	7:00 pm
Dec. 1	Bemidji State*	8:00 pm
Dec. 2	Minnesota-Crookston*	8:00 pm
Dec. 8	@ Northern State*	8:00 pm
Dec. 9	@ University of Mary*	8:00 pm
Dec. 16	St. Cloud State	7:00 pm
Dec. 21	Augustana	8:00 pm
Dec. 30	Mount Marty College	3:00 pm
Jan. 5	Winona State*	8:00 pm
Jan. 6	Upper Iowa*	8:00 pm
Jan. 8	Morningside College	7:00 pm
Jan. 13	@ Southwest Minnesota State*	8:00 pm
Jan. 19	@ MSU Moorhead*	8:00 pm
Jan. 20	@ Concordia-St. Paul*	8:00 pm
Jan. 26	@ Minnesota-Crookston*	8:00 pm
Jan. 27	@ Bemidji State*	8:00 pm
Feb. 2	University of Mary*	8:00 pm
Feb. 3	Northern State*	8:00 pm
Feb. 9	@ Upper Iowa*	8:00 pm
Feb. 10	@ Winona State*	8:00 pm
Feb. 17	Southwest Minnesota State*	8:00 pm
Feb. 23	Concordia-St. Paul*	8:00 pm
Feb. 24	MSU Moorhead*	8:00 pm
Feb. 28	NSIC Red Baron Classic First Round Game	TBA
Mar. 3	NSIC Semi-Finals	TBA
Mar. 4	NSIC Finals	TBA

* Denotes NSIC Opponents

Denotes Hardee's Classic in Marshall, Minnesota

Home Games In Bold

Home Games played at Rice Auditorium

**2006-07 Wayne State College
Men's Basketball Roster**

No.	Name	Pos	Ht	Yr	Hometown (Last School)
5	Jamar Diggs	G	6-2	Fr.	Minneapolis, Minn. (DeLasalle HS)
10	Ryan Rudloff \$	G	5-11	Fr.	Newman Grove, Neb. (Newman Grove HS)
11	Jonathon Thomas	F	6-6	So.	Earlville, Iowa (Maquoketa Valley HS)
14	Blake McGriff \$	G	6-3	Fr.	New Sharon, Iowa (North Mahaska HS)
20	Dallas Hodges	G	6-3	Sr.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Washington HS)
22	David Walters	G	6-1	So.	Conrad, Iowa (BCLUW HS)
24	Michael Dickes	F	6-4	R-Fr.	Sioux Center, Iowa (Sioux Center HS)
25	Tim Taylor	G	6-3	Sr.	Pomona, Calif. (Golden West College)
30	Bryce Caldwell	G	5-11	Jr.	Davenport, Iowa (North HS)
32	Sean Thurston \$	F/C	6-8	Fr.	Minneapolis, Minn. (Patrick Henry HS)
40	Brian Metz	F/C	6-8	Fr.	Keswick, Iowa (Tri County HS)
42	Eric Johnson	F	6-9	Jr.	Newell, Iowa (Newell-Fonda HS)
53	Matt Rathje	C	6-8	Jr.	Watkins, Iowa (Benton Community HS)
55	Joshua Hughes	C	6-7	So.	Forest City, Iowa (Forest City HS)

\$ Redshirting in 2006-07 season

Head Coach: Rico Burkett (7th season)

Assistant Coach: Matt Murken

Graduate Assistant: Pat Monaghan

Managers: Terry Doggett