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WOMEN'S HOOPS

UDM wins 1st league matchup

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CHICAGO -- Free throws were key for the University of Detroit Mercy as the Titans held on to win their Horizon League opener, 71-64, Saturday against Loyola.

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Detroit had a 14-point lead with just more than five minutes left, but Loyola managed to cut the deficit to four with 20 seconds remaining. In the closing seconds, redshirt freshman Talicia Washington of Auburn Hills made both of her attempts at the line, and junior Chanica Hall tacked on another point to help secure the Titans' victory.

Washington ended the game perfect from the free throw line (6-of-6).

UDM improved to 5-7; the Ramblers fell to 5-6.

More state games

Northwood 84, Wayne State 60: The host Timberwolves (9-2, 4-2 GLIAC) outscored the Warriors, 13-8, in the opening five minutes. Lindsey West (Royal Oak Kimball) scored a career-high 16 points, including making six of seven from the foul line for the Warriors (3-8, 1-5 GLIAC). Northwood made 27 of 30 shots from the free-throw line, including a stretch of 18 straight in the second half.

Lake Superior State 83, Saginaw Valley State 37: The host Lakers (9-5, 2-4 GLIAC) were led by Alyssa VanderWal with 13 points. Kelley Wesp scored 13 for the Cardinals (1-10, 0-6 GLIAC).

Oakland 61, North Dakota State 47: Brittany Carnago scored a game-high 14 points and senior April Kidd contributed 11 points and nine rebounds for the host Golden Grizzlies (10-4, 2-1 Summit League).

Big Ten

Minnesota 52, Illinois 48: Minnesota rookie Kiara Buford scored eight late points, including a decisive three-pointer in the final minute for the visiting Golden Gophers. Buford led with 14 points as Minnesota improved to 10-4 overall, 2-1 in the [Big Ten](#).

Top 25

No. 1 Connecticut 76, LSU 63: Host Connecticut (13-0) led the Tigers (6-5) by two points in the second half when Renee Montgomery took over. [The Huskies](#) point guard scored 10 of her 21 points, passed for three assists and made a steal during an 18-3 run.

No. 8 Tennessee 55, No. 15 Rutgers 51: Shekinna Stricklen scored 16 points, and the visiting Lady Vols (11-2) rallied from their biggest deficit in school history, trailing 33-13 at the break. Rutgers fell to 8-3.

Iowa State 55, No. 20 Vanderbilt 51: Alison Lacey scored 20 points, Heather Ezell added 18 and host Iowa State survived a long first-half scoring drought. The Cyclones (11-2) went 7:15 without a point and fell behind, 12-6, but put together a 23-5 run spanning halftime to open a 29-17 lead. They led the rest of the way but had to hold off a late rally by the Commodores (11-4).

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