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(Neb.)-CSC Women To Play At Wayne State On New Years Eve

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 12/29/2012 10:48 AM

The Chadron State College women's basketball team will close out 2012 by playing at Wayne State College a few hours before the New Year arrives. The tipoff will be at 4 p.m. (CST) on Monday, Dec. 31.

The Eagles and the Wildcats have not met on a regular basis since Chadron State joined the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference in 1990. However, the Wayne State women visited CSC in November 2011 and won a 70-57 decision behind 6-foot-2 All-American Ashley Arlen, who scored 33 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

Arlen averaged 18.1 points and 9.4 rebounds during the Wildcats' remarkable 32-3 season that included a 20-2 record and the Northern Sun Conference championship.

Arlen was among Wayne State's seniors last year, and just three members of last year's team are on this year's roster. However, the Wildcats are solid again this year. They have a 6-2 record and 5-0 at home. Both losses have been by wide margins. Augustana defeated the Cats 82-56 on Dec. 1 in Sioux Falls and Winona State of Minnesota won 74-35 on Dec. 15.

One of Wildcats' leaders is Jordan Spencer, a 5-11 sophomore who is averaging 17.1 points and 8.1 rebounds. She is shooting 53 percent from the field.

Next on the scoring list is 5-8 sophomore Ashton Yossi at 14.9 points a game. She has made 20 of her team's 39 3-pointers. Another mainstay for the Cats is 6-1 junior Ellen Hansen, who is averaging 9.5 points and 7.4 rebounds.

Chadron State is 1-8 this season. The 78-70 victory was over Western State at home on Dec. 1. Junior forward Kattie Ranta is leading the Eagles at 14 points and 7 rebounds a game. Sophomore guard Dallas Shaw is next in scoring at 11.8 points a game and has made 22 of 55 3-point shots. Another sophomore guard, Kate Simonton, is averaging 9.6 points after overcoming a leg injury that hampered her in the early games.

Coach Tim Connealy said the Eagles, who have just one senior—center Sadie Waugh— on the

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roster, have played hard and are improving, but need to cut back on their mistakes.

"Lack of effort is certainly not our problem," the coach said. Turnovers have been a problem. The Eagles have 218 for the season, exactly 100 more than the opponents and an average of 24 a game. Connealy said he likes to have a game soon after Christmas to help his team get back in the groove prior to beginning the final two months against RMAC opponents.

Both CSC teams will begin the New Year by hosting Fort Lewis and Adams State on Friday and Saturday, January 4 and 5.

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