

THE NEXT BASKET

*The Griffons end the season
12-18*

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Missouri Western State University men's basketball team had a year for the books. Although many of the players believe this was not their best year, does not mean they did not put sweat and blood into the season.

Junior Wes Mitter scored a total of 122 points this past season.

"We had rough parts to our season but we ended the season well," Mitter said. "No matter what happened on the court we always tried our very best, and that is what's important."

Missouri Western ended the season with an overall of 12 wins and 18 losses. For these 12 wins 10 of the wins were home games. Meaning clearly being at home has a big impact on the success rate of the men winning the games. While, only two or the losses were away game.

The men scored an average of 71.6 points per game while the opponent was only 5 points ahead scoring an average of 75.5 points per game.

At the beginning of January, Missouri Western had lost three times in a row setting the men back some. Although they soon picked up at the end of the season and started bringing home the wins, it wasn't quite enough to cover their losses at the beginning of the season.

Sophomore Seth Bonifas had a similar opinion on the season.

"I think it was a roller coaster year for us," Bonifas said. "We didn't star out the way like we wanted, but we finished strong. I think we could have found our stride sooner. It took until February for us to really start playing our best basketball, and I felt like we could've figured that part out sooner in the season to have a more successful season."

Although the men had a hard time to the start of the season, everyone would agree they ended the season with a big bang and pretty successfully. Player Mason Hughes explains that the season was not what they expected, but he was happy to talk about the highest peak of the season.

"The highest peak was beating Washburn during the conference tournament," Hughes said. "We could have found our stride a lot sooner, but the end of the season went very well for us."

The men played Washburn on January 13th and came up short of a win with the ending score being Washburn 78, Western 67. Soon the men were back at it with Washburn during their conference tournament. Western got their playing pants on and came out winning the game, Western 70, Washburn 54.

"Beating Washburn and advancing to Kansas City in the conference tournament was our highest peak as a team for the following season," Bonifas said.

Aaron Emmanuel goes for a layup against Missouri Southern University. Emmanuel averaged 11.3 points per game this season.



12 WINS 18 LOSSES

Miles Wentzien goes against a player from Pittsburg State University. Wentzien averaged 6.9 points per game.

