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Big welcome today for Norse hoops fans

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

Basketball Fan Day launches the NKU season today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Regents Hall on campus.

"Fan Day is a way for us to get our fans of all ages to come and welcome in the season," said Assistant Athletic Director Scott Eaton.

Longtime Athletic Director Jane Meier is positive about the men's program.

ADVERTISEMENT "It is a very young team in regards to playing experience, and every time the team plays it will get better and better," she said. Center Gavin Ludgood, a transfer from Florida Atlantic University, is the only senior on the roster.

The Norse look to put last Saturday's preseason loss to Xavier behind them in their Nov. 18 opener against Findlay at Regents Hall.

"Coach Bezold and his staff are doing everything right," Meier said. "They need some time and they will get it done."

Women's coach Nancy Winstel is hoping to build on last year's 16-12 season.

"This year's team is very young, we have tremendous chemistry and a good work ethic," she said.

The Norse were picked third in a Great Lakes Valley Conference East preseason poll in late October.

"Our goal is to be competitive in every game we play," Winstel said. "We plan on pushing the ball on offense and playing an up-tempo style of basketball. We hope that fans will come and watch us play."

The women open their season Wednesday against Wilberforce at Regents Hall.

The \$60 million special-events Bank of Kentucky Center is scheduled to open in December 2007.

"When the Bank of Kentucky Center opens we will have an attractive basketball-playing facility and anticipate generating more interest and gaining more support in our community," Meier said.

If you go

What: Fan Day.

When: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today

Where: Regents Hall, Northern Kentucky University

Highlights: Presentations by the men's and women's basketball coaches, a visit from the new NKU mascot, performances by the NKU cheerleaders and dance teams, team schedules to all who attend, and basketballs with the new NKU logo to the first 500 fans to arrive.

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