

Bridgeport hands Marauders first loss

Special to the Snapper

The University of Bridgeport extended its basketball home court win streak to 22 games Monday night as the Purple Knights, led by guard Lamont Jones, handed Millersville its first defeat of the season, 97-90. The loss snapped an 11-game Marauder win streak dating to mid-February, 1992 and dropped MU's current season record to 4-1.

Bridgeport (5-3), last season's NCAA Division II tournament runner-up, has its hands full with a determined Millersville club that received an outstanding performance from junior forward Nate Robinson.

Robinson scored a career-high 32 points, including 22 of MU's 43 second half points, and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds. He kept the Marauders within striking distance until the

final 1:10 when the Purple Knights pulled away on three free throws by forward Bill Bush, a Keith Hanley foul shot, a layup by guard David Sweeting and a Jones layup.

Millersville also received strong play from senior guard Kenny Brown who connected on five three-pointers enroute to a 28-point effort.

In a fast-paced game between two teams that entered the contest with plus-100 point scoring averaged, Bridgeport and Millersville were tied five times exchanged leads on 11 occasions until the Purple Knights took the lead for good as Bush slam-dunked and center Kris Steele converted a three-point play for a 77-73 Bridgeport lead with 6:50 remaining.

Bridgeport extended its lead to 81-75 before Robinson and Brown combined for seven points on a mini-run to cut the MU deficit

to one, 83-82 with 4:25 to play.

The victors then scored six quick points and went ahead 89-83 as Jones hit two layups and forward Keith Hanley connected

on a 15-footer.

The Marauders would not surrender as Brown hit his fifth and final trey to pull MU within three, 89-86, with 2:25 remaining.

After a flurry of missed shots by both squads, Bridgeport, which prevailed despite miserable free throw shooting, received three clutch foul shots from Bush that triggered the Purple Knights' decisive surge.

In addition to Jones' effort which included nine assists and six steals, Bridgeport had five other players score in double figures.

Guard Jim McClintock was MU's other double figure scorer with 11. Center Jon Dunmeyer, who entered the game with a 19.3

scoring average, was limited to seven points.

In a fast-paced first half, Bridgeport broke away after five early lead changes and went on a 15-2 run, including 11 in a row, over a three minute span. The run gave Bridgeport a 31-19 lead at the 10-minute mark.

The Marauders responded with superb shooting. Four treys, including three consecutive from Brown sparked a 12-2 run the pulled MU within two, 33-31.

Bridgeport then scored eight of the next ten points, but over the final 4:15 Millersville pecked away at the Bridgeport lead and were able to catch the Purple Knights on Bryant Byrd's trey that knotted the score a 47-47.

Brown and Robinson combined for 25 first half points to lead Millersville and Hanley totaled 12 points and five rebounds to pace Bridgeport at the break.