



NORTH TEXAS BASKETBALL

SUN BELT TOURNAMENT GUIDE UPDATE

NO. 2 NORTH TEXAS VS. NO. 6 DENVER
SUN BELT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS
MARCH 8, 2010 • SUMMIT ARENA • HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

Comeback Kings

North Texas trailed by as many as 14 points, but Eric Tramiel powered the Mean Green's comeback efforts against ULM in the Sun Belt Tournament quarterfinals. The lone senior in North Texas' starting lineup posted 22 points and a career-high 17 rebounds - both were game-highs. Down by 11 with 8:51 remaining, NT out-scored ULM 25-10 thereafter. North Texas took its first lead in the game when Josh White hit a 3-pointer with 1:48 left. White finished with 18 points and five assists.

No Strangers To The Tourney

North Texas will be playing in the semifinals of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament for the third time in the last four years. NT won the SBC title in 2007 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1988. Last year, NT fell to Western Kentucky in a heated battle. Since 2006-07, NT has posted an 8-2 record in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Nation's 7th Longest Winning Streak

With the win over ULM in the Sun Belt quarterfinals, North Texas extended its winning streak to nine games, which ties with Oakland for the seventh longest current winning streak in the nation. NT went undefeated in the month of February for just the third time in school history, and for the first time since 1988, when NT advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time. The school record for consecutive wins is 14.

NCAA's Longest Winning Streaks

1. Butler 19
2. Utah St. 15
3. New Mexico 14
- UTEP 14
5. Jackson St..... 13
6. Wofford 12
7. **North Texas** **9**
- Oakland 9

School Record Wins On The Line

At 22-8 on the season, North Texas is just one win shy of tying the 2006-07 squad's school record for single-season wins at 23. NT advanced to the NCAA Tournament after knocking off Arkansas State in the Sun Belt Tournament final in 2007. The Mean Green is currently tied with the 1977-78 and 1975-76 teams for the second most wins in school history.

Devastating Duo

Earlier this year, Josh White became the 18th player in NT history to score 1,000 career points, and now Tristan Thompson is about to become the 19th. The junior now has 979 career points, which ranks 21st in school history. If Thompson can score the 21 points this season he and White would become just the second set of teammates in NT history to reach 1,000 career points in the same season. The only other combo to accomplish that feat was Kenneth Lyons, the leading scorer in program history, and David Vasher back in 1982.

Charity Stripe Champs

For a second straight year, NT leads the NCAA in free throws made per game. NT is averaging 20.2 makes per game, which represents 27 percent of the Mean Green's 74.9 points per game - the nation's 57th ranked offense.

Road Warriors

The Mean Green has been the Sun Belt's top road team in 2009-10. NT is 10-6 away from the Super Pit this year, which is the best road record in the league. NT tied the 1976-77 school record for true road wins at nine.

Four Straight Over Denver

North Texas holds a 13-8 lead in the all-time series with Denver, but this will be the first matchup in postseason play. NT has won six of the last seven games against the Pioneers, including each of the last four. On Jan. 5, 2009, NT tied the school record with a 21-point comeback win over the Pioneers, knocking off DU 69-62 in Denton.

Magness Madness

Luckily, the Mean Green only had to face the Pioneers once in 2009-10 and it was in the friendly confines of the Super Pit. Winning in Denver's Magness Arena can be quite a chore, as the entire Sun Belt can attest. Over the last two seasons, North Texas is the only SBC squad to win in regulation in Denver. DU was 9-0 at home in SBC play this year.

DU Thriving In Hot Springs

Denver and its Princeton offense has struggled on the road at times, but seems to enjoy playing in Hot Springs in '10. The Pioneers are 2-11 in true road games this season, but have won two neutral court contests in each of the last two days, including a win over No. 3 Middle Tennessee.

Last Time vs. Denver

NT's last meeting with Denver came just a month ago, as Josh White scored the Mean Green's final nine points to ice a 64-59 victory at the Super Pit on Feb. 13. White hit only one 3-pointer in the game and it came with only 1:49 on the clock and NT down by one point (56-55). That 3-pointer put NT ahead for good, and White would hit six free throws in the closing seconds. He finished the game with a team-high 17 points, all in the second half. Denver held a four-point lead, 51-47, with 5:18 left in the game following a Chase Hallam three-pointer. North Texas went on a 17-8 run to overtake the Pioneers. Denver shot 70 percent from the three-point line in the second half, hitting 7-of-10 shots from behind the arc. The Pioneers finished with 11 threes, the most given up by a Mean Green team this season. Shannon Shorter was one point shy of tying a career high with 13 points. He led all scorers in the first half with nine points. Eric Tramiel and Tristan Thompson all scored in double-figures with 11 and 10 points, respectively. George Odufuwa led the team with eight rebounds.

