Setting the scene
Bluffton College hosts Thomas More College Saturday in the Beavers’ final game of the regular season. Bluffton will be traveling to Anderson University Tuesday night for a first round Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament game (live webcast available).

The series (TM leads 18-9)
Thomas More leads the all-time series 18-9, which dates back to the 1989-90 season. Thomas More has won the last two meetings against Bluffton after the Beavers had won five straight games over the Saints prior to that. The two teams are tied at six wins each when playing in Founders Hall.

The coaches
Bluffton is led by 14th-year head coach Guy Neal, who ranks second on the BC all-time wins list with 145 victories. Neal is closing in on leader Glenn Snyder, who won 150 games between 1968-85. Neal’s six winning seasons are second only to Hall of Famer A.C. Burcky’s total of seven. Thomas More is led by sixth-year head coach Terry Conner, who is a 1992 graduate of TM C and owns an overall record of 42-90 at the helm of the Saints program.

Season records
From the middle of December through the first week of February Bluffton went 8-5 to bring its season record up to 10-11, but the Beavers have dropped three straight games since then to see their record slip to 10-14 overall and 4-10 in the HCAC. Two of Bluffton’s last four losses, however, have been in overtime. The Beavers are 6-6 at home this season. Thomas More’s six wins are the most for the Saints since the 1998-99 season as TMC has now fashioned an overall record of 6-16. Thomas More is an independent member of N C A A Div. III but plays each HCAC member twice. So far TMC has collected four wins over HCAC members, including home wins over Bluffton, Franklin and Mt. St. Joseph plus a road win at Transylvania. The Saints are 2-7 on the road this season and their result at Defiance Friday night was unavailable at press time.

Leimeister nearing 1000 points
Bluffton senior Mike Leimeister is nearing the 1,000 career point total, as he now has 988 points, which ranks 22nd on the career scoring list. When he reaches the 1,000 point total he’ll become the 22nd player in the history of BC basketball to accomplish that feat. His point total is especially amazing considering that he scored a combined total of just two points as a freshman and sophomore, which will become the smallest point total in those seasons of any of the other 21 players in the 1,000 point club. Before Leimeister, the player in the 1,000 point club to score the fewest amount of points as a freshman and sophomore was Jamie Yount, who scored 94 points those two seasons but went on to end his career with 1,054. Leimeister scored 450 points last season as a junior and has scored 536 so far this season, which is tied for the 7th-highest single-season output in BC history.

Last game
Bluffton out-shot and out-rebounded Defiance Wed. night, but the host Yellow Jackets scored 32 points off 28 Bluffton turnovers en route to an 85-72 win at Defiance’s Karl H. Weaver Center. A season-high 1,600 fans saw Bluffton shoot 55.3% from the floor, compared to 46.7% for Defiance, and out-rebound the Jackets 31-29, but Defiance went on a 17-2 run mid-way through the first half en route to a 50-35 halftime lead that the Beavers were unable to overcome in the second half despite out-scoring...
Bluffton College vs. Thomas More College

Saturday, February 22, 2003

Game day notes continued from front page.

Bluffton leaders
Bluffton is led by its three seniors, Marcus Bixler, Derek DeNero and Mike Leimeister. That trio has combined to score 1,028 points so far at Bluffton, which is the most since the 1995-96 season when seniors Jeremy Best, Greg Liebrecht and Jon Kirton combined to score 1,067. Leimeister's 22.3 points per game leads the HCAC and ranks 15th in the country, and his 8.5 rebounds per game ranks 2nd in the HCAC. DeNero (10.9 ppg, 3.8 rpg) is the one other BC player averaging in double figures, but close to it are junior Brad Boyles (9.9 ppg) and Bixler (9.6 ppg). Boyles leads the HCAC in field goal percentage (.625), while Bixler ranks 2nd in assists (4.1 apg), 3rd in steals (1.8 spg), 4th in free throw percentage (.806) and 5th in 3-point shooting percentage (.425). DeNero has hit a team-high 33 3-pointers, while Bixler has hit 31. Both are among the league's top-15 in 3-pointers made.

Bluffton freshmen making waves
Bluffton's 12-member freshman class has made an immediate impact this season. Of BC's top 10 scorers, five of them are freshmen, including Eric Sweet (5.5 ppg), Scott Bergman (4.8 ppg), Darren Clark (3.6 ppg), Simeon Tolley (2.9 ppg) and Bryan Yelley (1.9 ppg). Each of those five players has scored in double figures at least once this season, and Sweet and Bergman have both already gone over the 100-point mark. The last time that Bluffton had more than one freshman score over 100 points in the same season was seven years ago during the 1995-96 campaign when three freshmen did it, including Greg Rawski (141), Nate Morris (139) and Dan Gudorf (113).

Thomas More leaders
The Saints returned their top two scorers this season from last year's squad, but so far it's freshman Chris Thompson who is leading TMC in scoring this season at 11.3 points per game. Senior Dustin M. Ulber, who led TMC in scoring last year with 11.1 ppg, has come off the bench this season and is averaging 5.9 ppg. At H Anover last week he hit his school-record 136th 3-pointer. The Saints' other leading scorer from last season, Kyle Booth, has played in just six games this season and none recently. Sophomore Marcus Johnson (11.0 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 31.3-3pts) is the other TMC player in double figures this winter, while sophomore Chad Wach (8.3 ppg, 5.9 rpg) leads the team in rebounding. Senior guard Mark Klein (7.4 ppg) leads the Saints in assists (75) and steals (49).

3-point streak continues
Bluffton has made at least one 3-point field goal in 266 consecutive games. The last time BC didn't make a 3-pointer was Jan. 6, 1993 when BC was 0-1 from behind the arc against Adrian in Founders Hall but won anyway 64-57.

Record in Founders Hall
Bluffton is now 289-266 (.521) in Founders Hall but won anyway 64-57. BC was 0-1 from behind the arc against Adrian in Founders Hall since the facility opened in 1952. Over the last 10 seasons, however, that winning percentage jumps to .571, as BC is 64-48 in Founders Hall since the start of the 1993-94 season.

Around the HCAC
Elsewhere around the Heartland Conference today, A. nderson hosts H. anover, Franklin hosts Transylvania and M. anchester hosts M. ount S. tope.

After the game
Box scores from today's game will be available at the scorer's table 10 minutes after the game. Visit the Bluffton College men's basketball website (www.bluffton.edu/sports/mensbasketball/) after the game for statistics, game recaps, pictures and much more.

Live coverage of BC basketball
Check the BC men's basketball website for games that will be webcast live over the internet. In addition, games that are broadcast over W DOH 107.1 FM can also be heard over the internet by visiting wdoh.com. See page 25 in the media guide for the 2002-03 W DOH broadcast schedule.
2002-03 Bluffton College roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>Pos.</th>
<th>Ht.</th>
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Non-varsity, as of February 17

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All hometowns Ohio unless otherwise noted.

Head coach: Guy Neal (Bowling Green '82)
Assistant coach: Blake Kindle (Ohio State '87)
Head athletic trainer: Phill Talavinia (Anderson '85)

2002-03 Bluffton College statistics

Statistics will be placed here in the Gameday program on Saturday.
2002-03 Thomas More College roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Wt.</th>
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</table>

All hometowns Kentucky unless otherwise noted.

Head coach: Terry Conner (Thomas More '92)
Assistant coaches: Del Walters, Jeff Hetzer and Chris Bartlett

2002-03 Thomas More schedule and results

Current record: 6-16 overall

**NOVEMBER**
- 22 at Virginia Wesleyan ............ W, 64-60
- 23 at #25 N.C. Wesleyan ........... L, 73-81
- 27 Northern Kentucky ............ L, 58-79

**DECEMBER**
- 4 Transylvania .................... L, 74-87
- 7 Manchester ...................... L, 62-82
- 14 Anderson ....................... L, 69-96
- 18 Centre .......................... W, 81-70
- 30 Huntington ..................... L, 71-79

**JANUARY**
- 3 at LaGrange ..................... L, 75-78
- 4 at Methodist .................... L, 74-86
- 8 at Mt. St. Joseph ............... W, 64-73
- 15 Bluffton ....................... W, 89-75
- 18 at #9 Hanover .................. L, 82-99
- 25 at Manchester .................. L, 71-80
- 27 at Transylvania ............... W, 82-81
- 29 at Centre ....................... L, 75-87

**FEBRUARY**
- 1 Franklin ......................... W, 86-78
- 5 Defiance .......................... L, 77-83
- 8 Franklin ......................... L, 77-83
- 10 Mt. St. Joseph ................. W, 78-67
- 12 at Anderson ..................... L, 76-101
- 15 #9 Hanover ...................... L, 52-74
- 21 at Defiance ..................... 7:30 p.m.
- 22 at Bluffton ..................... 3:00 p.m.

**MARCH**
- 1 at Maryville ..................... 2:00 p.m.

2002-03 Thomas More College statistics

Statistics will be placed here in the Gameday program on Saturday.
Bluffton's record when...
Playing ranked teams............................. 0-2
Leading at the half................................. 6-3
Trailing at the half............................... 2-10
Tied at the half ....................................... 2-1
Leading with 5:00 left ............................ 7-0
Tied with 5:00 left .................................. 2-0
Trailing with 5:00 left .......................... 2-14
In overtime games .................................. 1-2
Out-rebounding opponent ......................... 5-5
Opp. outrebounds BC .............................. 4-6
Rebounds are equal .................................. 1-1
Shooting 50 pct. or better ......................... 8-5
Shooting less than 50 pct. ....................... 2-9
Opp. shoots 50 pct. or better ................. 1-4
Opp. shoots less than 50 pct. ................. 9-10
BC shoots better than opp. ................... 8-6
Opp. shoots better than BC ................... 2-6
BC scores 70 or more ............................ 9-7
BC scores less than 70 ........................... 1-7
Opp. scores 70 or more ......................... 7-11
Opp. scores less than 70 ......................... 3-3
BC 15 or less TOs .................................. 4-5
BC has more TOs than opp. .................. 4-9

Bluffton vs. the Heartland
Conference this season

Hanover (23-1, 12-1 HCAC)
- beat Bluffton 88-70 on Dec. 7 (at HC)
- beat Bluffton 74-59 on Jan. 25 (at BC)

Anderson (16-8, 8-5 HCAC)
- beat Bluffton 89-87 on Jan. 11 (at AU)
- lost at Bluffton 93-84 on Feb. 8

Manchester (15-9, 7-6 HCAC)
- beat Bluffton 71-58 on Dec. 4 (at BC)
- beat Bluffton 79-73 in OT on Jan. 29

Defiance (15-9, 7-7 HCAC)
- lost at Bluffton 97-93 on Jan. 22
- beat Bluffton 85-72 on Feb. 19 (at DC)

Franklin (9-15, 5-8 HCAC)
- beat Bluffton 65-53 on Jan. 8 (at BC)
- beat Bluffton 87-68 on Feb. 12 (at FC)

Mount St. Joseph (11-13, 5-8 HCAC)
- beat Bluffton 67-60 on Dec. 14 (at BC)
- lost to Bluffton 79-76 on Feb. 1 (at MSJ)

Transylvania (11-12, 5-8 HCAC)
- lost to Bluffton 93-83 on Jan. 18 (at TU)
- beat Bluffton 76-66 in OT on Feb. 15 (at BC)

2002-03 Heartland Conference Player-of-the-Week
honorees

Nov. 24  Tom Luther, Mount St. Joseph
Dec. 1  Derrick Clevenger, Hanover
Dec. 8  Jimmy Kosieniak, Transy
Dec. 15  Erik Chapman, Anderson
Dec. 22  Curt Croy, Defiance
Dec. 29  Tom Luther, Mount St. Joseph
Jan. 5  Mike Leimeister, Bluffton
Jan. 12  Mike Kureziel, Defiance
Jan. 19  Mike Leimeister, Bluffton
Jan. 26  Ryan Lanning, Hanover
Feb. 2  Julian Guess, Manchester
Feb. 9  Ben Lye, Hanover
Feb 16  Mike Kureziel, Defiance

Bluffton's record when...
Playing ranked teams............................. 0-2
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