Setting the scene
Welcome to Founders Hall and today's Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference men's basketball contest between Bluffton College and Transylvania University. Both these teams were handed league losses Wednesday night but have been playing well as of late, as Bluffton is 4-3 in its last seven HCAC games and Transy is 3-2 in its last five league contests. These two teams met at Transylvania on Jan. 18 with the Beavers winning 93-83. Following today's game, Bluffton has one more HCAC game (Wed. at Defiance), while Transy has two more HCAC contests. The HCAC tournament tips-off Tues., Feb. 25.

HCAC tournament shaping up
A handover has locked up the #1 seed in the HCAC tournament and will have a first round bye before hosting the final four and championship games on Feb. 28 and March 1. A handover will host a first round tournament game on Feb. 25, but the two other first round home games have yet to be decided. Bluffton could have one of those two first round home games if it wins its last two HCAC games and gets help from various teams around the league. Check the Bluffton men's basketball website on Sunday evening for updated HCAC tournament information.

Welcome BC basketball alumni
A special welcome is extended to the Bluffton alumni who are playing in today's annual alumni basketball game. Your support of BC basketball is very much appreciated!

The series (BC leads 2-1)
Last year marked the first time that these two schools had ever met on the basketball court. Bluffton now leads the all-time series 2-1, which includes Bluffton's win at Transy earlier this season.

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. Transylvania is led by second-year head coach Brian Lane, who held coaching positions at such schools as North Carolina State, South Carolina and North Carolina-Charlotte before returning to his alma mater.

While a player at TU from 1986-1990, Lane scored 1,286 points, which now ranks 23rd on the school's all-time points list.

Season records
After getting off to a slow start in league play, Bluffton has turned it on as of late, winning four of its last seven HCAC games and fashioning an 8-6 record since the middle of December. The Beavers are now 10-12 overall, which matches their win total from last season, and 4-6 in the HCAC. Transy started off the season 5-2 but hit a mid-season slump to fall to 6-9 overall. However, the Pioneers are 3-3 in their last six games with wins at home over Franklin and Defiance and a win at Mt. St. Joseph. TU is now 9-12 overall and 3-8 in the HCAC.

Leimeister nearing 1000 points
Bluffton senior Mike Leimeister is nearing the 1,000 career point total, as his 30 point effort Wednesday night at Franklin now gives him 960 points, which ranks 23rd on the career scoring list. When he reaches the 1K 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. He scored 450 points last season as a junior and has scored 508 so far this season, which is already the 10th-highest single-season output in BC history.

Last game
Both these teams are coming off HCAC losses Wednesday night. Bluffton suffered an 87-68 loss at Franklin despite 30 points and 10 rebounds from Mike Leimeister. It was Leimeister's 11th career 30-point game and his 6th career double-double. In the first half Franklin shot over 58% from the floor and was 14-for-14 from the line. Bluffton ended the game 50% of their shots from the field and going 12-for-14 from the free throw line en route to a 49-36 halftime lead, and the Grizzlies, who earlier this season handed 12th ranked Hanover its only loss of the season, kept their hot shooting alive in the second half by hitting 50% of their shots from the field and going 12-for-14 from the line. Bluffton ended the game just 1-for-16 from 3-point range, which although did extend its streak of consecutive games with a 3-pointer to 264 in a row, didn't prove to be enough to cut into Franklin's lead in the second half as the Grizzlies swept the

Probable starters:

Bluffton
G 3 Derek Denero 6-1 Sr.
G 5 Marcus Bixler 6-1 Sr.
G 10 Scott Bergman 6-2 Fr.
F 30 Mike Leimeister 6-3 Sr.
C 44 Eric Sweet 6-6 Fr.

Transylvania
G 25 Nick Nash 6-3 Sr.
G 32 Robert Pendleton 6-1 Fr.
F 33 Andrew Coyle 6-7 Jr.
G 42 Derek Springate 6-0 Jr.
F 55 Matt Finke 6-5 Fr.

The broadcast:
Today's game is being broadcast by WBCR, Bluffton's campus radio station, with Tony Cleveland and Aaron Wiechart informing the call. A text-only webcast is also available on the BC sports website.

Next up for Bluffton: A trip to Defiance on Wed. Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m., live broadcast at WDOH 107.1 FM and over the internet at www.wdoh.com.

All-time scores in this series:
1/18/03 BC 93, TU 83 (at TU)
2/9/02 BC 87, TU 78 (at TU)
1/12/02 TU 64, BC 61 (at BC)

Gameday notes continued on back page.
season series against the Beavers. Bluffton's one made trey and 6% effort from beyond the arc marked new season-lows. Going cold from trey land was something Bluffton hadn't had happen to them in over a month. In their previous eight games heading into W ednesday night the Beavers had connected on 68-of-134 three-point attempts for a 50.8% efficiency and owned a league-best 39.6% shooting clip from 3-point range for the season. Transy, meanwhile, suffered an 80-63 loss to H CA C -leader H anover W ednesday. Derek Springate led the Pioneers with 16 points, while M att Finke had 13 and B ryan H oward chipped in 12. The 9th-ranked Panthers shot 56% from the field while holding Transy to a 39.2% clip.

BC at Transy earlier this season
Bluffton shot a season-high 75% from 3-point range, hitting 12-of-16 shots from beyond the arc, which set a BC record for 3-point accuracy in an H CA C game, as the Beavers topped Transylvania 93-83 on Jan. 18 in Lexington. Bluffton shot a season-high 63.3% for total field goals and held off a second-half Transy comeback as Mike Leimeister scored a game-high 29 points and freshman Scott Bergman scored a career-high 20 points in his first collegiate start. That duo combined to hit 6-of-8 three-pointers in the game, while M arcus Bixler and Derek DEn ero were both 2-for-2 from trey land and finished with 12 and 10 points, respectively. Bluffton led by as many as 17 points in the first half at 32-15 with 5:25 remaining before halftime but the Pioneers went on an 13-0 run at that point to cut the lead to four points with 1:31 left. BC led 38-29 at the intermission and pushed their lead back up to 18 points with 11:55 remaining in the game. Transylvania clawed their way back into the game, however, to again trail by just four points with under six minutes to go, but the Pioneers got no closer as Leimeister scored Bluffton's next 11 points to keep Bluffton ahead.

Last season
These two teams split the season series last year as both clubs won away from their home court. Transy topped Bluffton 64-61 here in Founders H all on Jan. 12 as the Beavers shot a season-low .339 from the field to fall despite holding TU to 64 points, which was the lowest point total BC allowed in an H CA C game the entire season. Bluffton returned the favor on Feb. 9, however, pulling out an 87-78 win in overtime in Lexington in a game highlighted by then-senior Rod O vemyer scoring his 1000th career point. Bluffton trailed by four points with under a minute to go but came back to force overtime and take control in the extra session. Derek DEn ero and Brad Boyles led BC in scoring in both games, as DEn ero scored 17 and 21 and Boyles added 11 and 13. For Transy, A dam C oyle scored a game-high 26 points in the game at Bluffton, while Jimmy K osieniak led the Pioneers with 22 points in the game at TU. Both these teams finished 3-11 in the H CA C last season, as BC finished 10-16 overall and Transy finished 4-20.

Bluffton leaders
M ike Leimeister continues to lead the H CA C in scoring at 23.1 points per game, which ranks 10th in the country, and his 8.2 rebounds per game ranks 2nd in the league. Senior Derek DEn ero (11.3 ppg, 3.8 rpg) is the other one BC player averaging in double figures, while senior M arcus Bixler (9.9 ppg, 3.7 rpg) ranks 2nd in the H CA C in assists (4.1 apg) and 4th in free throw percentage (.812), steals (1.7 spg), 3-point percentage (.443) and assist-to-turnover ratio (1.43). Junior Brad Boyles (9.5 ppg, 2.7 rpg) ranks 2nd in the H CA C in field goal percentage (.521).

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 (5.2 ppg), Scott Bergman (5.1 ppg), Darren Clark (3.4 ppg), Simeon Talley (2.4 ppg) and Bryan Yelley (2.6 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 season when three freshmen did it, including G reg R awski (141), N ate M orris (139) and D an G udorf (113).

Transylvania leaders
The Pioneer's top four scorers all are within 1.6 points of each other and are led by senior forward J immy Kosieniak, who was a starter last season but has been predominantly coming off the bench this season. He is second on the team in scoring at 10.8 points per game and 4.1 rebounds per game. Freshman Robert P endleton (10.0 ppg) leads the team with 40 three-pointers (5th in H CA C ) and 57 assists. Sophomore N ate V alentine (10.9 ppg, 4.8 rpg) owns the team's top scoring average and along with senior N ick N ash (9.3 ppg) round out Transy's top scorers. Freshman A dam C oyle leads the H CA C in 3-point accuracy at .510 (26-for-51).
### 2002-03 Bluffton College roster

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>Pos.</th>
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Non-varsity, as of February 10

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<td>6-8</td>
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<td>Wakarusa, Ind./Northwood</td>
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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 schedule and results

Current record: 10-12 overall, 4-8 HCAC

#### November

- 22 Ozarks % .................................. L, 90-88
- 23 North Central U. % ...................... L, 63-60
- 26 at Earlham .................................. W, 72-68
- 29 Marygrove # .............................. W, 94-70
- 30 Heidelberg # .............................. L, 84-81

#### December

- 4 Manchester* .................................. L, 71-58
- 7 at #16 Hanover * (wdoh) .............. L, 88-70
- 14 Mt. Joseph * .............................. L, 67-60
- 21 Denison .................................. W, 78-74
- 30 Madonna & .............................. W, 86-79
- 31 Muskingum & .............................. W, 69-62

#### January

- 4 at Adrian (wdoh) ............................. W, 77-69
- 8 Franklin * ................................. L, 65-53
- 11 at Anderson* (wdoh) ..................... L, 89-87
- 15 at Thomas More (wdoh) ............... L, 89-75
- 18 at Transylvania ......................... W, 93-83
- 22 Defiance * ................................. L, 97-93
- 25 Hanover * (wdoh) ......................... L, 74-59
- 29 at Manchester* (wdoh) .................. L, 79-73 ot

#### February

- 1 at Mt. St. Joseph* (wdoh) ............... W, 79-86
- 8 Anderson* ................................. W, 93-84
- 12 at Franklin* (wdoh) ..................... L, 87-68
- 15 Transylvania * ......................... 3 p.m.
- 19 at Defiance* (wdoh) ..................... 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Thomas More .............................. 3 p.m.
- 25 HCAC first round ......................... TBA
- 28 HCAC semi-finals ........................ TBA
- 3/1 HCAC finals ............................. TBA

* - Heartland Conference game
% - at North Central College Tip-off Tourn.
# - Comfort Inn/Taco Bell Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament
& - McDonald's of Bluffton Holiday Tourn.
(wdoh) - broadcast live on WDOH 107.1 FM, also available at www.wdoh.com

### 2002-03 Bluffton College statistics

Statistics will be placed here in the Gameday program on Saturday.
2002-03 Transylvania University roster

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<th>No.</th>
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All hometowns Kentucky unless otherwise noted.

Head coach: Brian Lane (Transylvania '90)
Assistant coaches: Toby Carrigan (Hanover '98), Rob Goodman, Alec Henderson, Luke Coffey, Gus Hauser

Quick facts available
Transylvania University quick facts are located on page 28 of the media guide along with all Heartland Conference members. Bluffton quick facts are located on page four of the media guide.

2002-03 Transylvania University 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
- Tailing at the half ................................. 2-8
- Tied at the half ....................................... 2-1
- Leading with 5:00 left ................................ 7-0
- Tied with 5:00 left ................................... 2-0
- Tailing with 5:00 left ................................ 2-12
- In overtime games .................................. 1-1
- Out-rebounding opponent .......................... 5-3
- Opp. outrebounds BC ............................. 4-8
- Rebounds are equal ................................ 1-1
- Shooting 50 pct. or better .......................... 8-4
- Shooting less than 50 pct. ........................... 2-8
- Opp. shoots 50 pct. or better ..................... 1-4
- Opp. shoots less than 50 pct. ....................... 9-8
- BC shoots better than opp. ......................... 8-4
- Opp. shoots better than BC ......................... 73.9%
- BC scores 70 or more ............................... 9-6
- BC scores less than 70 ............................... 1-6
- O p pp. scores 70 or more ........................... 7-9
- O p pp. scores less than 70 .......................... 3-3
- BC 15 or less TOs ................................... 4-5
- BC has more TOs than opp. ......................... 4-7

Statistical comparisons

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<td>Steals per game</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blocks per game</td>
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Bluffton and Transylvania against the Heartland Conference this season

**Hanover (21-1, 11-1 HCAC)**
- beat Bluffton 88-70 on Dec. 7 (at HC)
- beat Bluffton 74-59 on Jan. 25 (at BC)
- beat Transylvania 86-62 on Jan. 8 (at HC)
- beat Transylvania 80-63 on Feb. 12 (at TU)

**Anderson (15-7, 7-4 HCAC)**
- beat Bluffton 89-87 on Jan. 11 (at AU)
- plays at Bluffton Feb. 8
- beat Transylvania 98-81 on Jan. 15 (at AU)
- plays at Transylvania on Feb. 19

**Manchester (14-9, 6-6 HCAC)**
- beat Bluffton 71-58 on Dec. 4 (at BC)
- beat Bluffton 79-73 in OT on Jan. 29
- beat Transylvania 91-87 on Dec. 14 (at TU)
- beat Transylvania 77-72 on Feb. 1 (at MC)

**Mount St. Joseph (11-11, 5-6 HCAC)**
- beat Bluffton 67-60 on Dec. 14 (at BC)
- lost to Bluffton 79-76 on Feb. 1 (at MSJ)
- beat Transylvania 71-69 on Jan. 4 (at TU)
- lost to Transylvania 72-70 on Feb. 5 (at MSJ)

**Franklin (9-13, 5-6 HCAC)**
- beat Bluffton 65-53 on Jan. 8 (at BC)
- beat Bluffton 87-68 on Feb. 12 (at FC)
- lost to Transylvania 73-60 on Jan. 22 (at TU)
- hosts Transylvania on Feb. 22

**Defiance (13-9, 5-7 HCAC)**
- lost at Bluffton 97-93 on Jan. 22
- hosts Bluffton on Feb. 19
- beat Transylvania 86-79 on Jan. 11 (at DC)
- lost to Transylvania 77-72 on Feb. 8 (at TU)

Bluffton alumni roster

- Denny Thompson, Class of 1978
- Jeff Sass, Class of 1989
- Mike Harrison, Class of 1994
- Jim Conner, Class of 1994
- Kort Fledderjohann, Class of 1995
- Jon Kirkton, Class of 1996
- Jeremy Best, Class of 1996
- Scott Minnig, Class of 1997
- Dan Gudorf, Class of 1999
- Kevin Morris, Class of 1999
- Nathan Morris, Class of 1999
- Derrick Wills, Class of 1999
- Darnell Parker, Class of 2000
- Chris Sheldon, Class of 2001
- Chad Cramer, Class of 2001
- Kevin Grey, Class of 2002
- Rod Overmyer, Class of 2002

Heartland Collegiate Athletic 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 Kurdziel, Defiance
- Jan. 19: Mike Leimeister, Bluffton
- Jan. 26: Ryan Lanning, Hanover
- Feb. 2: Julian Guess, Manchester
- Feb. 9: Ben Lye, Hanover

2002-03 Heartland Conference Overall standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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<th>Overall</th>
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<tr>
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<td>11-1</td>
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<td>7-4</td>
<td>15-7</td>
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