

Solid defense propels SIUE women to 60-49 win over Tennessee Tech

by Eric Hess

December 31 2016 3:34 PM



EDWARDSVILLE - A solid defense went a long way for the **SIUE women's basketball team** Saturday at the Vadalabene Center.

The Cougars stifled Tennessee Tech 60-49 to win their [Ohio Valley Conference](#) opener. SIUE improved to 5-9 overall. Tennessee Tech, which defeated Southeast Missouri 74-63 on Thursday in Cape Girardeau, Mo., fell to 4-11 and 1-1.

"Our team really locked in defensively," SIUE Head Coach [Paula Buscher](#) said. "We were switching between man-to-man and zone defenses, and we did a good job with them."

The Cougars allowed the fewest points thus far this season. They also held Missouri-St. Louis to 49 points on Dec. 11—and limited Tennessee Tech to 23 of 64 shooting, including 2 of 17 from 3-point land.

"I think we all did well defensively," SIUE center [Gwen Adams](#) said. "We locked down on playing good defense and bought into it."

Adams certainly did her part. The 5-foot, 11-inch junior scored a team-best 18 points and snared 13 rebounds. It was the third consecutive game she achieved a double-double in scoring and rebounding.

"I'm just trying to do my best to help the team get wins," Adams said. "It's always good to start off conference play with a win."

Buscher added, "Gwen is a player that has a great basketball IQ, and she has been doing a great job for us. She's really shooting the ball well."

Adams made 5 of 12 shots and converted all eight of her free throws. Teammate [Donshel Beck](#), the latest OVC Player of the Week, pitched in 17 points, while [Lauren White](#) contributed 10 points.

Overall, SIUE made 17 of 57 shots, including 3 of 7 treys. The Cougars sank 23 of 29 free throws and outrebounded the Golden Eagles 44-40.

Tennessee Tech's Yaktavia Hickson, a 30-point scorer against SEMO, was limited to seven points by SIUE's smothering defense. She fouled out with 4:02 remaining.

"Hickson's a great player, but we didn't let her get loose," Buscher said.

SIUE led 30-17 at half and shot ahead 34-19 early in the third quarter. Tennessee Tech got to within 53-47 late in the third quarter before Beck tallied five successive points to make it 58-47 and seal the victory.

The Cougars resume OVC action Jan. 5 at Eastern Kentucky.