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LINDENWOOD

Men's game vs. Evangel postponed due to accident

The Lindenwood University men's basketball game with Evangel University Saturday has been postponed to give players time to recover from an accident Thursday that injured eight--including six players.

LU's women's game with Evangel Saturday will be played as scheduled.

The Lions, now 18-6 on the season, were traveling on Interstate 70 in two vans Thursday to Missouri Valley College in Marshall, MO when one of the vans flipped, ejecting at least four individuals from the vehicle. The van rolled at least three times, according to reports.

Saturday morning, St. John's Mercy Medical Center listed assistant coach Scott Allen and junior forward Dave Soval in satisfactory condition. They were upgraded from serious condition on Friday.

Both had bruised lungs and shoulders and broken ribs. Allen had a punctured lung and a fractured clavicle.

Players Robbie Miller and Steve Medford were released from St. Joseph Hospital West in Lake Saint Louis just a few hours after the accident. Players Matthew Guthman, Jasen Best and Travis Brooks along with athletic trainer Brian Zolner were kept Thursday night at University Medical Center in Columbia. They were released Friday.

In an emotional team meeting on Friday, players agreed to postpone the Evangel game. They visited their assistant coach and teammate, and then Coach Dale Ribble, along with seniors Medford, Best and Guthman, addressed the media.

"Nobody wanted to play," said Ribble. "Mentally, right now, basketball is the least of our concerns. I want to make sure these guys are healthy and together."

Ribble said the crash has brought his team and the Lindenwood family even closer together.

"The support and prayers from everyone on this campus, and from people all over the country has been something I will never forget," he said.

Ribble was traveling in the lead van when passengers in that vehicle noticed they could no longer see their teammates behind them. The stopped at the next exit to wait, and motorists told them the other van had flipped.

Ribble's van returned to the scene, where the coach made it a point to speak to each of the eight who were injured. Medford said he remembers his coach telling him he loved him.

"I just told him that I loved him back," said Medford.

The Lions will play at Culver Stockton on Monday.

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