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## **MSCC Greyhounds to Open Home Season Saturday at Marion High School**

Mid-South Community College will make history on Saturday when it plays the first regular-season intercollegiate basketball games in Crittenden County. The Greyhounds will host Northwest Mississippi Community College in a doubleheader beginning at 2 p.m. at Marion High School.

“After a seven-hour bus trip last weekend, we’re ready for a game on our home court,” said Greyhounds Head Coach Andy Stoglin. “We’ll be playing a very good team, but I think we’ll be ready. We’re still finding ourselves, but I think the fans will be excited by our style of play.”

“We’re really looking forward to playing close to home,” said Lady Greyhounds Head Coach Chris Parker. “We made a long trip last weekend to play in the Harrison tournament, so it will be nice to be taking the floor in Crittenden County. We’re hoping to give our fans plenty of reasons to cheer on Saturday.”

Northwest Mississippi’s men are 1-1 and will play Thursday night against Hinds Community College. The Rangers defeated Southwest Mississippi Community College 64-63 in the opening game of the SMCC Classic and lost a 77-75 overtime decision to Copiah-Lincoln Community College in the second tournament game.





The Lady Rangers are 0-2 going into Thursday night's clash with Hinds. They lost 70-67 to Southwest Mississippi Community College in their first game and 66-53 to Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Both MSCC teams enter the home opener without a victory, but that's not entirely unexpected considering this is the Greyhounds' first year of intercollegiate competition. Every team MSCC plays will have tradition and experience on their side, and most will also have athletes who have been recruited and awarded scholarships.

"After playing two quality teams, our guys have a better idea about the type of competition we're going to face," Coach Stoglin said. "We played two scrimmage games, and we didn't face near that level of competition. We blew out one of the teams 117-85, and our guys might have thought that all the teams were going to be like that. Now they kind of have their eyes open. They know we have to play smarter, harder, and more together to win."

"We've been able to play with the first two teams from a physical standpoint, and that's one of the questions I had before the season. We have done a good job matching up with our opponents. It's going to take us a little time to catch up with the teams that offer scholarships, but we're making progress."

Stoglin said LaGregory Hinkle has been the team's most consistent player in the early going. Hinkle, a graduate of Lee High School in Marianna, scored 26 points in the tournament opener. "He played really well in both games," the coach said.

MSCC's women have shown resiliency and determination in their first three games, and Coach Parker said that's a good sign.

"The girls have been hustling, and they haven't shown any sign of backing down," Parker said. "They have been really good to battle to the finish against teams that have a lot of advantages over us right now."

While victories are one of the desired outcomes of a sports program, they are not No. 1 for MSCC.

"This is not going to be just an attempt to win trophies and garner championships," said MSCC President Dr. Glen Fenter. "It is an attempt to prove that you can still do these things in the right way with the right motives and produce great results in the lives of our students."

"We are emphasizing academic performance and are providing a high level of support to our athletes, just as we do all of our students. Our goal is to help these young men and women have the opportunity to earn a scholarship at a four-year school, based both on their athletic prowess and their academic achievement. The bottom line is the number of kids' futures we can enhance through our sports program."