

Kirkwood women jump to No. 1 in NJCAA

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It's only December, but the Kirkwood women's basketball team is already enjoying a terrific season.

Hall of Fame Coach Kim Muhl collected his 800th victory at Kirkwood two weeks ago and now the Eagles have climbed into the No. 1 spot in the NJCAA Division II national rankings.

The Eagles (9-0) were ranked No. 2 last week, but they changed spots with Pima, Ariz., after Pima fell to 9-2 for the campaign.

Simone Goods leads a balanced attack for Kirkwood at 13.8 points and 7.6 rebounds. Deleyah Harris (9.4 points), Shaneequah Watkins (9.3), Olivia Usher (8.6) and Awal Ajak (8.3) are the next top scorers.

The Eagles are outscoring their opponents by an average of 20.1 points per game. Their victory margins have been 28, 13, 30, 14, 28, 53, 35, 26 and 36, with none of the games in single digits.

The Kirkwood men's basketball team, which was ranked No. 1 in the preseason poll as the defending national champion, has dropping completely out of the Top 20 following an 81-73 loss to Black Hawk College last week for its third setback of the campaign.

Kirkwood hosts John Wood College in a doubleheader Wednesday night at Johnson Hall. The women's game is scheduled for 5:30 and the men's game is set for 7:30.