# Women win on senior day, finish second in NE10

**By Draven Dabrowski**
**Sports Writer**

The Owls closed out their home schedule with a dominating 88–63 win over Saint Michael's College on Feb. 21.

The night was dedicated to celebrating the team's senior class, a group that has helped shape the team's identity over the past few seasons.

"They're amazing human beings and really talented, skilled basketball players," Head Coach Kate Lynch said.

The game did not start off how it ended for the university.

Both teams battled through a tight first quarter, with the Owls holding a slim 19–17 advantage after the opening 10 minutes.

The Owls then went on a 24–4 run, turning that two-point game into a commanding lead.

During this stretch, the university shot 9–13 from the field and 406 from the three-point line, showing off their offensive rhythm.

Guard Taeya Steinauer, a sophomore, scored 12 of the team's 24 points during the run, helping push the Owls ahead 37–19.

The university continued to bring the heat, outscoring Saint Michael's 18–2 over the first five minutes of the second quarter.

To cap off the half, guard Ally Sentance, a senior, made a contested three pointer at the buzzer, sending the Owls into the break with a commanding 49–27 lead.

For Sentance, the moment made senior night even more memorable.

"I was feeling it," Sentance said. "It brought a lot of hype to the team going into the second half."

The Owls wasted little time building on that momentum to open the second half.

Things started to slow down for the Owls, as Saint Michael's responded with a 20–9 run, but that only cut the lead to 63–47 with just a minute remaining in the third quarter.

The Purple Knights may have trimmed the margin, but it was not threatening.

In the fourth quarter, the Owls quickly put the game out of reach.

The university opened the period on an 8–0 run, highlighted by a pair of three-pointers from forward Rheyna Steinauer, a senior.

R. Steinauer has been one of the NE10's most consistent offensive threats this season and is the only player in the conference to record multiple 30-point performances.

In the final minutes of the game, Lynch benched the senior starters, who received an ovation from the home crowd.

Steinauer led the team with 22 points, adding six assists and three steals.

Fellow senior Sentance finished with 18 points as both players shot 5–7 from beyond the arc.

Guard Hope Fox, a senior, added 16 points and six assists, continuing the strong showing from the older players.

While the seniors made their mark on the court, they say the program has left an even greater impact on them.

"I have learned how to persevere with some adversity," Fox said. "I also have met a lot of people, some I call my best friends."

Steinauer echoed those feelings about the program's impact on her life.

"It's a great community, and it's made me better every day," Steinauer said.



PHOTOS | WADE BARILLARO

**Guard Taeya Steinauer, a sophomore, passes the ball.**



**Forward Tish Blackwood, a freshman, fights through contact in the paint.**



**The team celebrates after a three pointer during the game against Saint Michael's College.**

# Adelphi University falls, Owls ready for Semifinal

**By Draven Dabrowski**
**Sports Writer**

The No. 2 ranked Owls proved why they sit near the top of the standings, dominating No. 7 ranked Adelphi University 76–39.

Forward Tish Blackwood, a freshman, made her playoff debut for the university. She set the tone early for the team with her energy on the glass and physical presence inside the paint.

"That's just Tish," Head Coach Kate Lynch said. "She does her job every single day, and I am really proud of her."

With this win, the university improves to 22–5 and will advance to the NE10 Championship Semifinals, where the Owls will host No. 6 Southern New Hampshire University on Thursday, March 5 at James Moore Field House.

Against Adelphi, the Owls did not wait long to take control of the game.

They opened up on a 20–2 run, knocking down shots from the perimeter and forcing Adelphi into tough possessions.

By the time the Panthers were able to find any rhythm, the Owls had already built themselves a comfortable lead.

Guard Taeya Steinauer, a sophomore, led the team offensively with 22 points, connecting on four three pointers and even converting off of a flashy between-the-legs assist.

Steinauer's performance did not go unnoticed by her teammates. They have come to expect that kind of dominance from her.

"I try to learn off of her. Her work ethic is unbelievable," Blackwood said. "I am just thankful to have a teammate like her."

Forward Rheyna Steinauer, a senior, added 10 points of her own, as the Steinauer sisters once again made their presence known.

The first quarter made it clear the game was going the Owl's way.

The university shot efficiently and moved the ball well, finding open looks early.

Defensively, they did not allow anything to develop, forcing multiple turnovers that quickly turned into scoring opportunities.

By the half, the university had created separation.

The defense continued to pressure the ball and contest shots, limiting Adelphi's second chance opportunities.

The rebounding advantage, thanks in part to Blackwood, played a major role in preventing the Panthers from making a push before halftime.

Coming out of the break, the Owls did not let up.

Even as the shots stopped falling, the team continued to lean on its defense.

The largest lead of the night came in the fourth quarter, as the university extended the margin to more than 30 points, putting the game out of reach.

Every aspect of the game was in the hands of the Owls.

The fast start was no accident, as the team emphasized its preparation and focus heading into the playoff matchup.

"We came ready to play," Taeya said. "We got out there, and we did what we had to do."

They out-rebounded Adelphi and consistently turned defense into offense.

No matter who was out on the floor, the team played at a high level, with the bench even stepping up when called upon.

"You gotta bring A+ game every single day, and especially in the playoffs," Lynch said. "We call it a dog fight. Everyone's fighting for the same thing."