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Goodwill and Good Shots

Women's Hoop Team to Play 5 Games in China

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—The Keuka College women's basketball team has made its share of road trips in recent years.

But nothing like the one that began May 30.

The two-time defending North Eastern Athletic Conference champions will spend 14 days and play five games in China.

Coach Dave Sweet's cagers will play teams from the four schools where Keuka offers its bachelor's degree in organizational management—Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, Tianjin University of Science and Technology, Jimei University, and Wenzhou University—as well as Huaqiao University, another collaborative partner.

Sweet expects the competition to be rugged. Thanks in part to Yao Ming, the Chinese import who has garnered NBA All-Star honors with the Houston Rockets, basketball is immensely popular in China. The Yunnan team won the national championship of Chinese Universities last year.

"I'm not worried about wins and losses," said Sweet. "This trip is about the players learning from cultural exchanges and broadening their horizons."

The players, who will receive Field Period credit, will get a taste of Chinese college life by residing in the residence halls at the schools where they will play. Tours of the cities are planned and after arriving in Beijing, the players will visit The Great Wall, Forbidden City, and Tiananmen Square. The tour will end in Shanghai.

Accompanying Sweet, his assistant coaches and players will be President Joseph G. Burke, Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students James Blackburn, Associate Dean for Professional Studies and International Programs Gary Smith, Associate Professor and Chair of the Division of Business and Management Ann Tuttle, and Associate Professor of Management and Accounting Keith LaSota.

The Keuka representatives will welcome Chinese students into the ranks of Keuka alumni during commencement ceremonies at Tianjin University of Science and Technology and Yunnan University of Finance and Economics.