

NCAA Looking For Ways To Speed Up Game, Increase Scoring

BY MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA may be ready to spice up college basketball.

After a feeding frenzy of complaints over reduced scoring and longer games, rules committee members told a small group of reporters Monday that next season's potential changes could include a shorter shot clock, tighter calls to reduce contact and a different timeout structure to help speed things up at the end of games.

"We've got games that are just not edible," said John Adams, the outgoing head of college referees. "Some of this is officiating and some of this is play."

online

■ The NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Game Was Not Completed By Presstime. Read About The Game Online At yankton.net

The 35-second shot clock to 30 seconds, moving the restricted area arc from 3 feet to 4 feet to eliminate collisions and better enforcement of rules in regard to defending players without the ball, in the post and on screens. Belmont coach Rick Byrd,

the rules committee chairman, also acknowledged that they will look for ways to reduce the amount of in-game stoppages including a reduction in timeouts. It could work like the NBA, which assesses some media timeouts to the teams on an alternating basis.

"We're definitely going to address that part of it," Byrd said in reference to the timeouts. "The question is how many timeouts can we reduce? It's not like TV isn't utilizing 30-second timeouts to sell product."

The rules committee will evaluate the proposals when it meets from May 12-15 in Indianapolis.

Research on whether or not they will work is already underway.

Dan Gavitt, the NCAA's vice president of men's basketball championships, said scoring increased about 5 percent to 71.5 points in 2013-14 when 19.1 fouls per game were called but lost almost all of that gain this season, falling to 66.7 points when 18.2 fouls were called.

Those numbers prompted NCAA officials to experiment with a 30-second shot clock in the three recently-completed lower-tier basketball tournaments. Data showed scoring went up slightly, less than two points per game, while the number of possessions per game increased by just 1.02.

Numbers are not the only measurement, though.

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VCSU Cools Off Lancers



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Mount Marty College second baseman, right, forces out a Valley City State runner during Monday's non-conference game at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

Vikings Slug Past MMC 18-11

BY ROGELIO RODRIGUEZ

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Valley City State outslugged Mount Marty 18-11 in a rain-soaked seven-inning contest on Monday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

The second game was cancelled due to the rain. The opener was the first time the Lancers played in rain on the new artificial turf.

"The turf held up pretty well, what we were most concerned about was the outfield," said MMC head coach Andy Bernatow.

Plays on the turf went rather smooth compared to the occasional slips on the natural grass outfield. The only thing the rain affected on the infield was the confidence of the Lancer pitchers.

"It's going to make things slick ... I don't feel like they [pitchers] had as good of footing as they are used to," said, Bernatow.

He emphasized the role of

the pitchers in this game and their ability to adapt to the conditions on the field as well as their confidence in their pitches.

Benatow also touched on the the physical and mental effects that the conditions had on the players, and how it affected their confidence. At times it seemed that players on both teams were more worried about slipping than they were about finishing a play.

Mount Marty utilized four different pitchers and Valley City State five during this contest. Michael Sadler opened up for the Lancers but was unable to adapt to the conditions on the field.

Brody Ries was brought on but only pitched against eight batters. Dakota Kirkman followed and pitched against 12 players, striking out three.

Mike Janish was the man to close out the final three innings and bring a little pace to the otherwise lethargic game. Janish gave up two hits and struck out two players.

"It was a bit of a rough day that kind of got contagious," said Bernatow.

The explosive start by the Vikings seemed to hinder the Lancer's ability to respond properly. The game was being played at a rather slow pace up until Janish began to pitch.

Both teams started off in good form with the Vikings getting six runs in the first and the Lancers following up with five runs. Valley City State continued in the second with five more runs to Mount Marty's one. In the second, Valley City State was able to do as they pleased and it cost the Lancers five runs.

"We could have easily taken five runs off the board there," said Bernatow.

On two occasions Mount Marty was struck out with their bases loaded, a detail that could have played a big role in the outcome of this game. It was not until the final inning that Mount Marty was able to find their groove and really start building a come-back. However, it was a

little too late from the Lancers.

"Defensively we had a few small-ball things that came up, we didn't get them down and we let them score," said Bernatow.

Offensively, the Lancers did not struggle too much. The big key that turned the tides against Mount Marty was the defensive errors committed coupled with the lack of confidence in the opening pitches. Valley City State was able to capitalize on their chances and was able to exploit the mistakes made by the home side.

Valley City State improved its record to 21-17. The Vikings will travel to Aberdeen on Saturday to play Presentation.

Mount Marty, 22-15, will travel to Dordt College today (Tuesday) for a non-conference game.

You can follow Rogelio Rodriguez on Twitter at twitter.com/RogelioUlisesR. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Linze Cowman watches her tee shot on Hole No. 6 during the Gazelles' golf dual with Sioux Falls O'Gorman on Monday at Hillcrest Golf and Country Club. Cowman shot Yankton's low score on the day, a 50, as O'Gorman won the dual.

Knights Down Yankton In Rain-Shortened Dual

Sioux Falls O'Gorman topped Yankton 176-212 in a nine-hole girls' golf dual at Hillcrest Golf and Country Club on Monday. The dual was shortened to nine holes due to poor weather conditions.

O'Gorman's Emily Olson earned medalist honors with a 40. Teammates Elle Carlson and Kelsey Johnson each shot 45 for the Knights.

Yankton was led by Linze Cowman's 50. Payton Pierce shot 52, Darian Tramp shot 54 and Kasey Erickson shot 56 for the Gazelles.

O'Gorman also won the JV dual, 219-244, led by Abi Bell's 50. For Yankton, Ashley Van Meeteren and Gabby Pietila each shot 59. Steph Schwartz and Peyton Tramp each carded a 63.

The Gazelles travel to Mitchell's Lakeview Golf Course for the Parkston Invitational on Friday.

VARSTITY: O'Gorman 176, Yankton 212
INDIVIDUAL: Emily Olson OG 40, Elle Carlson OG 45, Kelsey Johnson OG 45, Jamie Benedict OG 46, Linze Cowman Y 50, Payton Pierce Y 52, Darian Tramp Y 54, Kasey Erickson Y 56
JV: O'Gorman 219, Yankton 244
INDIVIDUAL: Abi Bell OG 50, Sophie Jansa OG 54, Carly Kunkel OG 56, Ashley VanMeeteren Y 59, Gabby Pietila Y 59, Jenna Sutcliffe OG 59, Steph Schwartz Y 63, Peyton Tramp Y 63

USD Softball Looks To Continue Momentum

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION – Having taken a game from the three-time defending Summit League champs, the University of South Dakota softball team now wants to keep that momentum rolling.

Though the Coyotes stand at 11-20-1 on the season, they came out of their second conference weekend with a 3-3 record after winning one of three games at North Dakota State.

So far so good, according to players and coaches.

"Honestly, I think it's going awesome right now, we're all hitting the ball well and our pitchers are really stepping up," junior first baseman Yvon Minogue said.

"We played the two hardest teams in our conference to start off, so now we know we can beat them. We know it's possible."

Perhaps the biggest confidence boost to date this season came after winning a game last Friday in Fargo against North Dakota State, which has won five of the last six Summit League championships.

The Coyotes got an early look at Bison ace Krista Menke. The Nebraska native boasts a 21-2 record this season inside the pitching circle, with a sub 2.00 earned run average and 255 strikeouts.

"To play them early was nice to see where we're at," USD head coach Amy Klyse said. "And to take one game from them was good."

"I don't want to say we're satisfied with losing two of three, but our goal was to get to know Krista Menke better."

What the Coyotes also did was discover that in a 1-game scenario, they could beat the league's best – just as they did in winning a series the previous weekend at IUPUI – which would come in handy by the time the post-season tournament rolls around.

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Seniors Anchor Class B All-State Basketball Team

BY ERIC MAYER

Mitchell Daily Republic

MITCHELL — Senior leadership is counted on for many high school basketball teams to achieve success.

This year's Class B boys basketball all-state first team is full of seniors that provided vital leadership for their respective teams throughout the season.

No leader played a bigger role for his team than Hanson's Jordan Marquardt. The 6-foot senior point guard was instrumental in leading the Beavers to their first boys basketball state title since 1986. The Dakota Wesleyan University recruit scored 19 points in Hanson's 47-44 overtime win over Langford Area in the championship game. He averaged 19.3 points, 5.7 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game this season. "Jordan has been our leader

for the past three to four years," Hanson head coach Josh Oltmanns said. "His ability to relinquish the ball when teams were really focusing on him. That really stood out this year. He trusted his teammates and made them better."

Joining Marquardt on the Class B all-state first team, which is chosen by the South Dakota Basketball Coaches and South Dakota Sports-writers Associations, are Langford's Bo Fries, Wolsey-Wessington's Lorenzo Williams, Platte-Geddes' Coby Johnson, Elkton-Lake Benton's Heath Schindler and White River's Justin Prue. All six members on the first team are seniors.

Fries, who finished with the most points in the voting, led the Lions to the Class B state championship game against Hanson. The 6-foot-4 senior, who plans to play basketball at Northern State University, averaged 21.8 points, 6.5 rebounds and

5.5 assists per game this season for Langford Area.

"He's been the cornerstone of our team for three years, and he's done it on both ends of the floor for us," Langford Area head coach Paul Raasch said. "He brings a lot of qualities that aren't seen on the stat sheet, but that doesn't mean he doesn't fill the stat sheet."

Johnson scored more than 1,500 career points and led the Black Panthers to two state tournament appearances in 2013 and 2014. In his senior season, Johnson, a future Dakota Wesleyan University Tiger, averaged 21.2 points and 9.3 rebounds per game, while shooting 36 percent on 3-pointers and 48 percent from the field.

"He was a great player for us for four years," Platte-Geddes head coach Frank Cutler said. "He did a lot of everything for us, rebounding, scoring and his leadership was

good. He can go inside and shoot the three. He was good at all areas of the game."

Wolsey-Wessington's Lorenzo Williams led the Warbirds to an undefeated regular season and a sixth-place finish at the Class B state tournament. The South Dakota State University football recruit averaged 27.3 points, 9.5 rebounds and 4.9 assists per game in his senior campaign.

"He did everything for us," Wolsey-Wessington head coach "He's a fierce competitor. He always wanted to win whether we were in practice or a game. He's a winner. He's grown a lot from when he was a freshman in his leadership and character."

Schindler led the first team in scoring, as the 5-foot-11 guard averaged 27.3 points, 9.5 rebounds and 4.9 assists per game for the Elks. He helped Elkton-Lake Benton to a 19-3 record.

White River's Prue rounds out the first team, averaging 15.7 points and 5.4 assists per game this season. Prue helped the Tigers to a fourth-place finish at the state tournament in March.

Irene-Wakonda's Gabe King and Parker's Zach O'Keefe top the all-state second-team list, along with Faith's Tyler Hohenberger, White River's Justin Folkers, Hanson's Taylor Nichols and Ethan's Camden Myers. King, Nichols and Myers each averaged a double-double per game this season.

The all-state third-team is highlighted by Canistota's Shay Jolley, followed by Arlington's Andrew King, Summit's Jake Steinocker, Freeman's Cole Paulson, Hitchcock-Tulare's Landon Gatzke and Warner's Michael Rogers.