

# Klimisch To Head MMC Women’s Tennis Program

**BY JEREMY HOECK**  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

It’s only fitting that Rob Klimisch got the job.

After all, it was essentially his idea to add women’s tennis at Mount Marty College.

“You see all those girls going to other schools, and it makes you think, ‘We should have a tennis program right here in town,’” said Klimisch, who Friday was named the head coach of the women’s program that begins competition at MMC next fall.

“That’s all it took. I went to (athletic director) Chuck Iverson and basically said, ‘You should think about adding tennis.’”

So began the process that materialized on Nov. 16, when Mount Marty announced it would become the ninth Great Plains Athletic Conference school to sponsor the sport. Three weeks later, the NAIA school has its coach.

Klimisch, who also serves as the



Klimisch

Yankton County State’s Attorney, has a tennis background that spans nearly 40 years. He has assisted the Yankton High School girls’ program, city league squads and other youth programs across the area.

“Tennis is a passion of mine; I love the concept of it being a life-long sport,” he said. “I’m the perfect example. I’m getting old, but I still play it and still enjoy it.

“That’s what I try to pass on to kids all the time, that literally anybody can play.”

It was that energy, coupled with his knowledge of the area tennis scene, that made Klimisch an ideal candidate among a small pool of applicants, Iverson said.

“His background, in a variety of ways, is really impressive, especially when we thought about starting a new program,” Iverson said. “He has a lot of contacts;

knows a lot of people.

“He’s been around in a few summer tournaments, and those coaches and players he knows might be very useful in the recruiting process.”

The average number of athletes among GPAC schools with tennis is nine, so a range of 8-11 recruits is what Klimisch will start with in his journey.

“The idea of having to go recruit isn’t something completely foreign to me. I know a lot of the players across the state, not to mention their parents,” he said. “Even (Friday), I’ve been making phone calls to whoever I can think of, just to get our name out there.”

From there, hopefully the interest will pick up, Iverson said.

“Once Rob gets on campus and starts talking with people, hopefully more people start thinking about it,” he said. “Maybe a student already here, who was a former athlete, might consider it, but our focus is recruiting new student-athletes to campus.”

To that end, the process will natu-

rally start in Yankton and branch out from there.

Yankton has had no shortage of girls’ tennis players sign with college programs — including recent standouts Melanie Rockne (University of South Dakota), Gabbie Kachena (Augustana) and Bridget Henderson (Northern State).

Klimisch was not shy in saying he will try to persuade his daughter, Lexie, to consider playing at Mount Marty. Lexie, a senior for YHS this past season, recorded 123 career singles wins in her career, which ranks among the best in school history.

The same goes for fellow Yankton senior Vanessa Rockne, who ranks first in all-time wins at YHS.

“That’s kind of how the idea for tennis (at MMC) started,” Rob Klimisch said. “There’s always been great local support for our athletes, and if we could keep them close to home, that’d be great.”

Though he is starting literally from

scratch, Klimisch did say he has plans next week to criss-cross the state in an attempt to lure potential recruits. He listed a handful of cities that have found recent success in tennis, which he hopes translates to the college level.

“That’s one of the most exciting parts, is that whatever program is created is my program,” Klimisch said. “That’s exciting to put it together the way you want, and bring in the right kind of kids.”

Because, at the end of the day, that was what his initial idea was all about.

“It took me two times that convince Chuck that it would be a good idea to take it to the Board (of Trustees),” Klimisch said. “Chuck did a great job with the groundwork; all I did was bring up the idea. He had to work out the budgets, talking to other schools; all those logistics.

“But I’m glad it worked out,” he added. “I’m just excited to get started.”

## Watchdogs Clip Cavs

**BERESFORD** — The Beresford Watchdogs held the lead throughout the game and walked away with a 57-43 girls’ basketball win over Bon Homme on Friday night in Beresford.

The Watchdogs (2-0) were led by Alison Klostergaard who finished the night with 12 points, eight rebounds, six assists, and seven steals. Alyson Johsen contributed 14 points, six assits, and six steals for Beresford.

Bon Homme (1-1) got 13 points and eight rebounds from Tara Ronke, while Raquel Sutera scored 17 points.

Beresford will travel to Harrisburg on Dec. 16 to face off against the Tigers. Bon Homme will play at Scotland on Dec. 15.

**Avon 51, Gregory 44**

**AVON** — Chesney Nagel scored 23 points to lead the Avon Lady Pirates past Gregory 51-44 in a girls’ basketball comeback thriller on Friday night in Avon.

Lanae Van Gerpen added nine points, eight rebounds and two assists for the Lady Pirates (1-0), while Nagel pulled down seven rebounds and had three steals.

Gregory led 36-29 after three quarters, only to see Avon score 22 points in the final frame.

In the loss for the Gorillas (1-1), Courtney Petersen scored 15 points and Shelby Rajewich added 11 points. Paxten Johnson chipped in with eight rebounds.

Both teams return to action on Tuesday, with Avon in Corsica against Corsica-Stickney and Gregory at home against Dakota Christian.

Gregory (1-1)	9	22	36	44
Avon (1-0)	6	15	29	51

**Creighton 42, Neligh-Oakdale 31**

**CREIGHTON, Neb.** — The Creighton Bulldogs and Neligh-Oakdale Warriors both struggled to score on Friday night, but the Bulldogs were able to put together a strong third quarter to pull away from the Warriors.

The halftime score saw Creighton head into the locker room with a 16-11advantage. After three quarters Creighton extended their lead to 33-21, eventually winning the game 42-31.

The Bulldogs were led by Becca Eggerling’s 18 points, five rebounds, four assists, two steals, and two blocks. Abbey Schwindt followed closely with 10 points, six rebounds, two blocks, and two steals.

Neligh-Oakdale was led by Joselyn Lemon’s 10 points, and Kelley Carden with nine points.

Creighton will now host Osmond on Dec. 13, Neligh-Oakdale will be at St. Mary’s on that same day.

Neligh-Oakdale (1-3)	4	11	22	31
Creighton (2-1)	4	16	33	42

**Canton 47, Elk Point-Jefferson 37**

**ELK POINT** — The Canton C-Hawks did enough work early on to win an important early season Big Sioux Conference road game as they beat the Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies 47-37 on Friday night in Elk Point.

Elk Point-Jefferson outscored Canton 17-5 in the fourth quarter, but a 22 point lead proved to be too much for EP-J.

Canton was led by Heather Willett’s double-double performance with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Atalinda Lundstrom buried three



Yankton’s Jenn Granflaten goes up for a layup during the opening half of the Gazelles’ matchup with Brookings, Friday at the Summit Center.

# Beresford Boys Power Past Bon Homme

**BERESFORD** — The Beresford Watchdogs out-scored Bon Homme 28-8 in the second half on the way to a 53-28 season-opening rout on Friday night in Beresford.

Matt Hoines recorded 16 points and eight rebounds for the Watchdogs (1-0), who led 25-20 at halftime and 40-28 after three quarters.

Trevor Anderson added 14 points in the win and Austin Carlson scored 12 points.

In the loss for the Cavaliers (0-1), Charlie Bentzen scored eight points and grabbed eight rebounds, while Kodi Larson also had eight rebounds.

Bon Homme hosts Freeman on Monday and Beresford visits Dell Rapids on Tuesday.

Bon Homme (0-1)	8	20	28	28
Beresford (1-0)	9	25	40	53

**Canistota 76, Marion 12**

**CANISTOTA** — The Hawks of Canistota beat up on Marion Friday night, dominating

with a score of 76-12.

After the first quarter of play, the Hawks jumped out to a 20-2 lead and never let up.

Canistota (1-0) was led by Trevor Schroder who finished the night with 22 points, and 10 rebounds. Alex Robertson finished added 12 points, eight assits, and eight steals. Tyler Decker contributed 10 rebounds for the Hawks.

The Bears (0-1) were led by Brady Vite who contributed six points for Marion.

Canistota will host Irene-Wakonda on Monday. Marion is scheduled to host Centerville on Dec. 17.

Marion (0-1)	2	5	6	12
Canistota (1-0)	20	41	62	76

**Tri-Valley 63, Garretson 62**

**TRI-VALLEY** — A close contest ended with a one-point victory for the Tri-Valley Mustangs on Friday night, defeating the Garretson Blue Dragons in overtime 63-62.

Tri-Valley was led by Kenton Welbig who finished with 20 points and nine rebounds for the Mustangs (1-0). Trae Bergh finished with 11 points and Brendon Boomsma finished with 10 points for Tri-Valley (0-1).

Garretson was led by Chad Stoterau who finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Sawyer Gibson contributed with 14 points, and Dustin Steckler added 13 points and nine assits.

Garretson (0-1)	19	32	46	54	62
Tri-Valley (1-0)	13	29	38	54	63

**Watertown 58, Pierre 51**

**PIERRE** — Watertown opened its season with a victory Friday night, outshooting the Pierre Governors 58-51.

The Arrows’ dominance behind the arc proved to be the difference as Watertown went 11of 24 behind the three-point-line compared to the Governors three of 14.

The Arrows (1-0) were led by Tanner

Heiser who finished the night with 31 points, two rebounds, and one steal. Bick Gottsleben contributed 15 points, two rebounds, and one steal.

As a team, The Arrows shot 17 of 44 on field goals, and 11 of 24 from behind the arc.

The Governors were led by Zack Hanson. Hanson finished the night with a double-double with 21 points, 10 rebounds, one assist, and five blocks. Conner Berg finished the night with nine points, and three rebounds. The Governors shot 21 of 55 on field goals, and three of 14 from behind the arc.

Watertown will travel to Aberdeen Central on Tuesday for action against the Golden Eagles and Pierre will travel to Mitchell on Tuesday to face off against the Kernals.

Pierre (0-1)	10	25	36	51
Watertown (1-0)	17	36	41	58

MOUNT MARTY

LANCER

BASKETBALL

Mount Marty vs. Midland

2:00 p.m. Women/4:00 p.m. Men • Dec. 10, 2011 • Laddie E. Cimpl Arena • 1105 W. 8th St. • Yankton

Special Thanks To Corporate Game Sponsor: Smith Insurance