

Beresford Hurler To Join Mount Marty Softball Program

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Finch

Beresford native Jessica Finch was looking for a small school close to home where she could study to be a nurse. Being able to continue her softball career is an added bonus. Finch, a talented pitcher who helped her club team to second in the North American Fastpitch Association national tournament, will attend Mount Marty College and play softball for the Lancers, the institution has announced. For Finch, MMC met all the criteria

she had in picking a college. "Mount Marty is a small school with a good nursing program," she said. "That's what I want to go into, and that's what made me decide to go there." The Beresford senior put herself on MMC coach Albert Fernandez's radar with her work in the pitching circle. In 144 innings this past summer, she struck out 114 while walking just 42 and posting a

2.72 earned run average. "She has the ability to be a starter and log a lot of innings," he said of Finch. "She has good velocity and good movement (on her pitches), as well." Finch has worked with a coach in Omaha, Neb., to improve her pitching. "At one point I had lost my speed, but I'm getting it back and my pitches are starting to break," she noted. "That makes me effective." Finch also brings a level of determination to the field. Besides her success on the softball field, she was also a part of Beresford's Class A state runner-up

basketball team in 2011, and is competing on the Watchdogs' ranked squad this season. "The one thing I really like is that she is a competitor," Fernandez noted. "We need kids that want to be there." Besides being a solid pitcher, Finch may also have the opportunity to contribute in the regular lineup. A solid contact hitter who batted .386 with four doubles, a home run and just eight strikeouts in 145 at-bats, she could give the Lancers a solid option at first base. "She has the ability to play first, and that 5-11, 6-footer over there saves you a

lot of bad throws," Fernandez said. "If she continues to work at her offense, she could give us the ability to DP for somebody else when she's pitching or go with a straight nine." While the strong nursing program was a big draw for Finch, the proximity to home was another. "I wanted to be able to bring my laundry home, and get a home-cooked meal on the weekend," she chuckled. "Being close to home and being at a small school that's a fit for me, that's a win-win."

WRESTLING

EPJ Claims MCM Invite

Sturgis Beats Out Wagner For Floyd Farrand Title

SALEM — Elk Point-Jefferson did not have an individual champion, but put five wrestlers in the finals and had 13 wrestlers take home medals in edging Philip for top honors at the McCook Central-Montrose Invitational wrestling tournament, held Friday in Salem. EPJ finished with 189.5 points, 3.5 points better than Philip to win the 16-team event. Flandreau placed third at 147, followed by Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes (137.5) and McCook Central-Montrose (127). Philip, Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes, Alcester-Hudson, Kingsbury County-Dakota Valley and Marion-Freeman each had two individual champions. Flandreau and host MCM had the other two top wrestlers. Philip's Lane Blasius was named the Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament, going 4-0 in his first four matches of the season. Dakota Valley's Taylor Lambert earned the Pinner Award. Alcester-Hudson's Lance Merrick improved to 18-0 with his 3-0 day and 138-pound title. KWLPG's Korbin Bely remained unbeaten at 16-0 after winning the 113-pound title. Flandreau's Cody Reed moved to 15-0 with his 126-pound title. MCM senior Dominic Blindert improved to 19-0 in winning the 170-pound title.

TEAM SCORES: Elk Point-Jefferson 189.5, Philip Area 186, Flandreau 147, Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes 137.5, McCook Central-Montrose 127, Burke-Gregory 125, Bon Homme 108, Plankinton-Mount Vernon-Corsica 106, Alcester-Hudson 83, Kingsbury County 82.5, Dakota Valley 66, Marion-Freeman 66, Parker 60, Scotland 45, Lyman 40, Wessington Springs-Woonsocket-Walsey-Wessington 13. OUTSTANDING WRESTLER: Lane Blasius, Philip Area (132-pound champion). PINNER AWARD: Taylor Lambert, Dakota Valley (3 pins, 1:50 total time). CHAMPIONSHIP: 106 — Austin Gilbertson, Kingsbury County dec. Nick Donnelly, Philip 4-0; 113 — Korbin Bely, KWLPG maj. dec. Jared Heuser, EPJ 10-0; 120 — Dylan Konechne, KWLPG dec. Alex McLauri, EPJ 6-5; OT: 126 — Cody Reed, Flandreau dec. Lincoln Stoebner, Bon Homme 6-2; 132 — Lane Blasius, Philip pin. Nick Weis, EPJ 1-40; 138 — Lance Merrick, Alcester-Hudson maj. dec. Tate Lacey, Flandreau 15-4; 145 — Chandler Sudbeck, Philip dec. Derrick Lundberg, Alcester-Hudson 8-4; 152 — Rick Heiman, Alcester-Hudson dec. Darren Daum, KWLPG 10-5; 160 — Stacie Mutchellenas, Marion-Freeman dec. Blase Vanacek, Bon Homme 8-2; 170 — Dominic Blindert, MCM pin. Kyle Scofield, Flandreau 1-42; 182 — Eugene Martin, Kingsbury County pin. C.J. Geary, EPJ 0:57; 195 — Bryce Saylor, Marion-Freeman dec. Lukas Forsling, EPJ 3-1; 220 — Taylor Lambert, Dakota Valley pin. Robert Holten, MCM 4-0; 285 — Tanner Lambert, Dakota Valley dec. Cody Eichmann, MCM 5-3. THIRD: 106 — Tim Savitsky, EPJ dec. Joseph Veska, BG 6-5; 113 — Kurt Braun BG dec. Jared Sutton, Flandreau 5-3; OT: 120 — Hunter Anderson, Parker dec. Jordan Jossop, Lyman 9-7; OT: 126 — Levi Schoenbaun, BG tech. fall Noah Beck, BG JV 16-0; 132 — Jace Christensen, Flandreau dec. Levi Merrick, Alcester-Hudson 7-4; 138 — Brian Vermeulen, PMVC dec. Austin Kau, Bon Homme 5-1; 145 — Jerry Kappennan, MCM dec. Mason Van Vuren, PMVC 9-5; 152 — Clint Everett Stout, Philip pin. Jake Scofield, Flandreau 5-45; 160 — Luke Wargicka, KWLPG dec. Tanner Radway, Philip 11-6; 170 — Chance Clay Knutson, Philip pin. Turner Blasius, KWLPG 4-05; 182 — Cameron Kostal, PMVC dec. Mitch Fuerst, Scotland 7-3; 195 — Logan Ammons, Philip pin. Quinton Koch, PMVC 0:36; 220 — Gavin DeVries, Philip pin. Payton Jensen, Parker 4:25; 285 — Evan Smith, Lyman dec. Dan Stibral, Scotland 4-2. FIFTH: 106 — Duncan Stoebner, Bon Homme dec. Blake Konstant, Scotland 5-4; 113 — Justice Jennings, Lyman pin. Trent Lunders, MCM 0:27; 120 — Brady Flandreau, Lyman JV pin. Alex Norby, EPJ JV 2:51; 126 — Blake Perryman, Dakota Valley pin. Dorian Vorhay, Parker 2:53; 132 — Brandon Warke, BG by default over Miles Moody PMVC; 138 — Joe Beck, BG by default over Jared Limoges, EPJ; 145 — Aaron Slaum, EPJ pin. Ty Klein, BG 2:36; 152 — Turner Sen, BG dec. Jon Hassenbank, EPJ 6-0; 160 — Jonah Beck, BG pin. John Holten, MCM 1:27; 170 — Ryan Donnelly, EPJ dec. Shay Johnson, PMVC 5-4; 182 — Tad Reiner, MCM dec. Dakota Petersen, Flandreau 3-0; 195 — Evan Larsen, Kingsbury County pin. Dowain Kerner, BG 2:59; 220 — Andrew Teply, EPJ dec. Austin Moore, WSWWW 7-0; 285 — Braden Kliner, Bon Homme dec. Marshall Spaans, MCM unattached 6-2. SEVENTH: 106 — Chance Fredericksen, KWLPG by default over Dylan Rice, Flandreau; 113 — Alex Caba, Bon Homme pin. Reed Gray, Lyman 2:38; 120 — Grady Carley, Philip pin. Ty Schunk, Dakota Valley 2:17; 126 — Cody Davis, EPJ pin. Matt Neitzel, BG JV 0:56; 132 — Dalton Combs MCM pin. Michael Cremer, Marion-Freeman 4:10; 138 — Reed Johnson, Philip dec. Dalton Bely, KWLPG 6-3; 145 — Casey Johnson, Flandreau maj. dec. Andrew Rigby, Kingsbury County 14-4; 152 — Tyler Urban, PMVC dec. Thomas Milze, Bon Homme 2-0; 160 — Jacob Stanfield, PMVC pin. Seth York, Marion-Freeman 3:53; 170 — Ryan Auch, Scotland pin. Justice Verhey, Parker 3:08; 182 — Hunter Dykes, KWLPG pin. Adam Harms, Parker 2:51; 195 — Dylan Hines WSWWW pin. Logan Barboza, Flandreau 2:32; 220 — Nathaniel Schroeder, KWLPG maj. dec. Kreg Kepplinger 11-3; 285 — Chris Splet, Marion-Freeman pin. Cole Carter, BG 0:33.



HOLIDAY MAT ACTION

ABOVE: Dakota Valley's Taylor Lambert puts the squeeze on Nathaniel Schroeder of Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes during their 220-pound quarterfinal at the MCM Cougar Invitational, Friday in Salem. Lambert won the tournament's pinner award, going 3-0 with three pins in 1:50. Elk Point-Jefferson won the team title. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)

LEFT: Vermillion's Brett Bye competes on the final day of the Floyd Farrand Invitational Friday at Sioux Falls Lincoln High School. Bye won the 132-pound title for the Tanagers. (Photo Courtesy Tanager Wrestling)

Oral Roberts Keeps USD Winless In Summit Play

VERMILLION (AP) — Dominique Morrison hit five 3-pointers among his 27 points to pace Oral Roberts to a 79-67 victory over South Dakota on Friday night. Warren Niles and Steven Roundtree scored 16 points apiece for the Golden Eagles (11-4, 3-0 Summit League), who have won four in a row. Roderick Pearson had 12 assists. Allen Saint-Gelais hit 8 of 11 shots and led the Coyotes (5-8, 0-4) with 20 points. Louie Krogman scored 14 and Charlie Westbrook 10. Oral Roberts shot 54 percent (30 of 56) and made 10 of 19 3-pointers. The Golden Eagles, who never trailed, expanded a 44-30 halftime edge to 61-43 on Jake Lliteras' 3-pointer with 11:33 left. The Coyotes roared back with an 18-4 spurt capped by Saint-Gelais' dunk to trim it to 65-61 with 6:46 to go, but they got no closer. ORAL ROBERTS 79, S. DAKOTA 67. ORAL ROBERTS (11-4) Pearson, Jr. 2-5 0-0 5, Niles 7-15 0-0 16, Bell-Holler 2-5 0-0 4, Morrison 10-15 2-3 27, Craion 2-3 1-2 5, Lliteras 2-3 0-0 6, Roundtree 5-9 6-7 16, Mangum 0-1 0-2 0. Totals 30-56 9-14 79. S. DAKOTA (5-8) Westbrook 3-10 4-4 10, L. Krogman 5-8 3-3 14, Bos 2-6 2-2 8, Andreotti 1-3 0-2, Gruis 2-5 3-4 7, Boots 0-1 0-0 0, Tecker 2-3 1-1 6, Hilliard IV 0-0 0-0, Bartling 0-1 0-0 0, Saint-Gelais 8-11 2-3 20. Totals 23-48 15-17 67. Halftime—Oral Roberts 44-30, 3-Point Goals—Oral Roberts 10-19 (Morrison 5-8, Lliteras 2-2, Niles 2-7, Pearson, Jr. 1-1, Mangum 0-1), S. Dakota 6-12 (Saint-Gelais 2-2, Bos 2-3, Tecker 1-1, L. Krogman 1-3, Westbrook 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Oral Roberts 27 (Niles 5), S. Dakota 29 (Andreotti 9), Assists—Oral Roberts 25 (Pearson, Jr. 12), S. Dakota 14 (Boots 4). Total Fouls—Oral Roberts 15, S. Dakota 16. A—1,689.

Huskars Upend Penn State

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Jordan Hooper scored 31 points, including a clinching 3-pointer with 17 seconds left, and No. 23 Nebraska won its Big Ten debut with a 71-63 victory over No. 16 Penn State on Friday night. Hooper also had 12 rebounds and Lindsey Moore added 16 points for the Cornhuskers (12-1, 1-0), who trailed by nine points in the second half but rallied by holding the Nittany Lions to just one field goal over a 8:18 span. Nebraska used a 13-2 run to take a 60-58 lead with 4:39 left. The game was tied twice more in the late stages and Penn State still trailed by just one point after a made foul shot by Alex Bentley with 1:58 left. The Cornhuskers sealed the victory by scoring the final seven points of the game. NO. 20 PURDUE 57, MINNESOTA 53: WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — Antonette Howard scored the go-ahead basket and K.K. Houser had 15 points to lead No. 20 Purdue to a 57-53 victory over Minnesota in the Big Ten opener for both teams Friday night. The Boilermakers (11-3) shot just 30.4 percent, but tied the game at 50 on a free throw by Sam Ostarello (Fort Pierre), and then Howard scored on a layup to give Purdue its first lead in the second half at 52-50. Howard scored again with 1:27 left in the game to give the Boilermakers a 54-52 lead. She finished with 13 points and four rebounds.

All-American Juco RB Commits To Coyotes

EL DORADO, Kan. — An All-American running back from the nation's second-ranked junior college football program is heading to the University of South Dakota. Jasper Sanders, a sophomore at Butler Community College (Kan.), announced this week via Twitter and later confirmed to the Press & Dakotan that he committed to USD last week. "I'm excited to become a Coyote and I'm already ready to get the season started," he told the P&D on Friday. Sanders, a 5-foot-10 Kansas City native, rushed for 939 yards and 15 touchdowns last season, earning him honorable mention All-America honors. A high school quarterback, Sanders has transitioned to tailback in college and

recorded 1,424 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns in his career. Butler CC — located in El Dorado, Kan. — has gone 22-2 in his two years, including a loss in the 2010 national title game, and Sanders scored the game-winning touchdown in this past season's Citizens Bank Bowl on Dec. 4. Sanders will join a USD offense that averaged 158.2 yards on the ground in 2011, but will graduate four linemen, its starting quarterback, its starting running back and two receivers. The Coyotes, under new coach Joe Glenn, will return their top rusher Marcus Sims (660 yds, 4 TD) for 2012. The next-higher rusher was backup quarterback Josh Vander Maten (72 yds, 1 TD).

Jackrabbit Men Remain Unbeaten In Summit League

BROOKINGS (AP) — Nate Wolters and Brayden Carlson teamed up to lead South Dakota State to a 76-64 victory over Oakland on Friday night. Wolters had 19 points and seven assists for the Jackrabbits (12-4, 4-0 Summit League), who won their third in a row and seventh in their last eight. Carlson achieved a career high for the second straight game, going 6 for 6 from the field, including all four 3-pointers, for 18 points. Jordan Dykstra added 17 and Tony Fiegen 10. Reggie Hamilton scored 20 points and Drew Valentine had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Golden Grizzlies (8-8, 2-2), riding a four-game losing streak for the first time since 2006-07. Corey Petros and Laval Lucas-Perry scored 12 each for Oakland, which took an early 15-5 lead but quickly fell back. The Jackrabbits led 34-32 at the half and expanded that to 13 points late in the game. S. DAKOTA ST. 76, OAKLAND 64. OAKLAND (8-8) Valentine 5-7 3-5 15, Petros 6-6 0-0 12, Bader 1-5 1-2 3, Lucas-Perry 4-10 4-6 12, Hamilton 8-9 1-1 20, Williams 1-4 0-0 2, Bass 0-0 0-0 0, Sikora 0-0 0-0 0, Asbury 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-51 9-14 64. Halftime—S. Dakota St. 34-32, 3-Point Goals—Oakland 5-19 (Hamilton 3-9, Valentine 2-3, Bader 0-3, Lucas-Perry 0-4), S. Dakota St. 9-19 (Carlson 4-4, Callahan 2-3, Dykstra 2-5, Wolters 1-6, White 0-1), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Oakland 29 (Valentine 10), S. Dakota St. 27 (Callahan 7), Assists—Oakland 13 (Hamilton 5), S. Dakota St. 15 (Wolters 7), Total Fouls—Oakland 18, S. Dakota St. 15. A—3,803.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE 84, IPFW 68: FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Lawrence Alexander scored a career-high 26 points and Marshall Bjorklund had 23 points in 13 rebounds to lead North Dakota State to an 84-68 win over IPFW Friday night. The Bison (10-3, 3-1 Summit) scored 14 straight points to break away from a 54-54 game with 9:01 to play. Alexander was 14 of 16 from the free-throw line, where North Dakota State made 33 of 42, both team season highs. Mike Felt scored 14 points, including all three of the Bison's 3-pointers. Frank Gaines scored 26 points to lead the Mastodons (7-6, 1-3). Justin Jordan added 14 points and Trey McCorkle scored 10 for IPFW, which was scoreless for 6 minutes in the NDSU run. IUPUI 75, WESTERN ILLINOIS 68: INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Stephen Thomas scored 18 points and IUPUI opened the second half with a 16-2 spurt en route to a 75-68 victory over Western Illinois on Friday night. Ian Chiles added 15 points, including the first seven of the game-turning run, as the Jaguars (7-8, 1-2 Summit League) won their fifth in a row. Alex Young scored 15 points, taking over third place on the school's all-time scoring list. Mitchell Patton added 10.

Terrell Parks led the Leathernecks (6-5, 1-2) with 19 points. Oki Emegano added 17, Tommie Tyler 16 and Ceola Clark 14. The Jaguars led 40-36 at halftime before their decisive run made it 56-38 with 11:45 left. Western Illinois later ran off 11 in a row, including seven straight by Clark, to cut it to 62-55 with 3:47 left but could not finish the comeback. The Jaguars sank 7 of 13 attempts from the 3-point distance. SOUTHERN UTAH 91, UMKC 77: KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Ramell Taylor scored 21 points, and all five Southern Utah starters scored in double figures in a 91-77 victory over UMKC Friday night. Taylor also had a game-high seven rebounds for the Thunderbirds (7-6, 2-1 Summit). Matt Massey scored 19 points, Jackson Stevenett had 15 points, Ray Jones Jr. scored 13 and Damon Heur had 11 points. Southern Utah shot 63 percent from the field, 68 percent in the second half when it pulled away from a 34-31 halftime edge. The Thunderbirds missed both of their 3-point tries in the game, but scored 52 points in the paint and went 21 for 23 from the free-throw line. Reggie Chamberlain led all scorers with 22 points for the Kangaroos (7-9, 1-3). Nate Rogers had 13 points, and Thomas Staton and Dustin Dibble scored 11 each for UMKC, which made 53 percent of its shots. COPPIN STATE 93, NEBRASKA-OMAHA 83: SEATTLE (AP) — Michael Harper came off the bench to score 19 points, and Ron "Fang" Mitchell picked up his 400th victory as Coppin State's coach as the Eagles beat Nebraska-Omaha 93-83 in the Elgin Baylor Classic Friday night. Tony Gallo added 17 points, Akeem Ellis scored 16, Logan Wiens scored 15 and Antonio Williams chipped in 13 points for Coppin State (5-8), which overcame a pair of 12-point first-half deficits to snap a three-game losing streak and win its first road game in nine tries this season. Mitchell is 400-365 at Coppin State. He is in his 26th season at the Baltimore school. Mitch Albens scored 24 points for Nebraska-Omaha (6-10), which is making the transition to Division I. CJ Carter added 21 points and John Karhoff tallied 19. Coppin State finished the first half on a 19-4 run to lead 39-36 at halftime and the Eagles never trailed after that.