

Seekamp Powers USD Past Utah Valley



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota's Nicole Seekamp, 35, drives to the basket against Utah Valley's Taylor Huber during their women's basketball game on Saturday at the DakotaDome.

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — Coming off the worst offensive performance of the season, the University of South Dakota women's basketball team rebounded in a big way two days later.

More to the point, the Coyotes shot their way out of those doldrums.

Spurred by a season-high 10 three-pointers, USD erased bad memories from last Thursday night's performance by routing Utah Valley 72-48 on Saturday night at the DakotaDome. The win was also the 100th in the career of first-year coach Amy Williams.

Forty-eight hours after making just 14 field goals in a 69-45 loss to Idaho State, the Coyotes (3-5) nearly made that many shots from deep — a tribute to a renewed focus.

"We were moving the ball a lot more and playing harder," said sophomore Nicole Seekamp, who scored a game-high 27 points after making just one basket Thursday.

"We were working hard before we had the ball, making harder cuts to get open, which allowed us to get easy shots."

USD's previous high for three-pointers in a game was nine, set Nov. 24 in a win over Seton Hall. By comparison, the Coy-

otes were just 2-of-6 from deep Thursday.

"The big difference, we were aggressive offensively," Williams said. "Everybody contributed in some way, shape or form. We got 30 attempts from the 3-point line, and fortunately some of them were going in."

It took a while for the offense to find a rhythm, but once it did for the Coyotes, the baskets came in a barrage.

From an 11-all tie, USD surged to a 16-4 run to lead 27-15 at the 9:11 mark of the opening half. Utah Valley responded with a 10-1 spurt to get within three, but it wasn't nearly enough.

The Coyotes closed the half on a 13-4 run to lead 41-29 at the break — spurred by the kind of shooting not seen much of this season and a defensive spark.

Was it one of those times where the defense keyed the offense?

"We talked about that lot. Coach says a lot of the time we're a 'sunny day' team," said junior Polly Harrington, who recorded 16 points and 11 rebounds. "We try not to be."

"We're working hard to change that."

The season-tying 10th three-pointer came by reserve Sam Mehr with 7:49 remaining, with the Coyotes already up 63-

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty's Alexa Berg attacks the basket against Doane's Hannah Dostal, 32, during their Great Plains Athletic Conference women's basketball game on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Berg scored a career-high 22 points to lead MMC to a 70-58 victory.

Berg Hits Career-High 22 Points As MMC Downs Doane 70-58

BY NICK ROBINSON

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After spotting Doane the game's first eight points, the Mount Marty College women's basketball team went to work, using a career day from senior guard Alexa Berg and strong days from other key players to claim a 70-58 victory over the Tigers in Great Plains Athletic Conference action on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

The Lancers started the game off in an 8-0 deficit, one that could have been the start to a rough afternoon for them. However, Mount Marty didn't give up.

"Coach called a time-out and said we needed to step up," senior forward Brittany Little said. "We needed this victory, we came out really well (after the time-out) and shot the ball well."

Mount Marty climbed out of the hole and scored 18 unanswered points, along with four three pointers in a row to give the Lancers momentum for the rest of the first half.

"We came in wanting to shoot the ball well at home," Berg said.

Doane responded with a few three pointers of their own, cutting the lead from 10 points all the way down to four at one point.

The Lancers continued to hit shot after shot in the first half, shooting 54 percent from the field and 60 percent from three point range.

Late in the first half, when both teams were in the bonus, Mount Marty took advantage of some key free throws that put the lead to 38-29 for the Lancers. Berg had a game-high 16 points by halftime.

Mount Marty opened up the second half focused on playing fundamental defense and to take away the back-door cuts.

"We needed to keep going," Little said. "We stepped up and did well with pressing and shot the ball better."

The second half was all Mount Marty until a three-pointer by Doane guard Brittany Luettel, which brought the game within five points, 60-55.

As the pressure continued to mantle upon the Lancers, they took advantage of the easy lay-ups and free throw attempts.

"Basketball is a game of spurts," assistant coach Todd Schlimgen said. "We stopped their spurts when we needed to."

With a 10-point lead and a key steal by junior April Winne with 2:30 to play, the Lancers locked in their second GPAC victory of the season.

"This victory means a lot," Berg said. "It was a long time coming, they swept us last year. It was a conference win at home too, which is even better."

Berg led the way for the Lancers, posting a career-high 22 points on the afternoon. Coming into the contest Berg was 2-of-29 from beyond three-point range. Saturday, Berg was 3-of-4.

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Myles Makes His Mark

Senior Scores 26 To Lead USD Past IUPUI 88-68

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — A pair of in-depth conversations in the 48 hours between Thursday night's game and Saturday's game paid immediate dividends for the University of South Dakota men's basketball team.

First, the message to senior guard Juevol Myles from coach Dave Boots was simple: Pick and choose when you drive to the basket, use that deadly jump shot.

Message obviously received.

A transfer point guard from Kansas State, Myles keyed a new-look offense with 26 points and six assists as the Coyotes rolled past IUPUI 88-68 in Summit League action Saturday night at the DakotaDome.

Myles connected on his first eight shots from the field — all jumpers — and finished 9-of-14 and seemed to adjust from the chat with his coach after a 5-of-16 effort — a lot of drives to the hoop — in Thursday's loss to Western Illinois.

"This level has great bigs, they're going to block a lot of that stuff," Boots said. "He's a great shooter, he can really shoot the three and he can shoot pull-ups. We just talked about play to that a little more."

The second area of focus between the two games was on tweaking the offensive system, going to more of a motion-style look. USD (4-4, 1-1) responded by shooting 68 percent and scoring 49 points in the first half Saturday, a continuation of Thursday's second half performance of 64 percent and 52 points.

"We're coming together, guys are starting to know their roles, and are hitting shots," Myles said. "I feel like with this offense, if we keep on growing with it and stay with it, then hopefully it'll work throughout the season."

Building a double-digit lead, 41-31, late into the first half, the Coy-

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota guard Juevol Myles brings the ball upcourt during the Coyotes' Summit League men's basketball game against IUPUI on Saturday at the DakotaDome. Myles scored a season-high 26 to lead USD to an 88-68 victory.

Fast Start Lifts Bison Past SDSU

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Brock Jensen passed for two touchdowns and ran for another Saturday to help North Dakota State defeat South Dakota State 28-3 in the second round of the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs.

The Bison (11-1) shut down SDSU's vaunted ground game, holding the leading rusher in FCS, Zach Zenner, to 46 yards on 15 carries.

The Jackrabbits (9-4) scored first on a 26-yard field goal by Justin Syrovatka late in the first quarter. The Bison responded with a six-play, 75-yard drive capped by a 12-yard touchdown pass

from Jensen to Garrett Bruhn.

Jensen added a 2-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and a 10-yard scoring toss to Bruhn in the fourth.

NDSU's John Crockett rushed for 90 yards on 11 carries.

N. DAKOTA ST. 28, S. DAKOTA STATE 3

S. DAKOTA STATE.....3 0 0 0 — 3

N. DAKOTA ST.....0 21 0 7 — 28

First Quarter

SDSU—FG Syrovatka 26, 2:58.

Second Quarter

NDSU—Bruhn 12 pass from Jensen (Keller kick), 14:56.

NDSU—R. Smith 32 run (Keller kick), 8:48.

NDSU—Jensen 2 run (Keller kick), 3:04.

Fourth Quarter

NDSU—Bruhn 9 pass from Jensen (Keller kick), 5:27.

A—18, 482.

	SDSU	NDSU
First downs	10	19
Rushes-yards	23-21	45-218
Passing	196	110
Comp-Att-Int	17-31-1	15-25-0
Return Yards	11	4
Punts-Avg.	6-46.3	5-47.8
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	6-49	3-38
Time of Possession	22:06	37:54

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—S. Dakota State, Zenner 15-46, Gandy 1-(minus 1), Sumner 7-(minus 24), N. Dakota St., Crockett 11-90, Ojuri 19-65, R. Smith 1-32, Jensen 8-14, Lang 5-10, Vraa 1-7.

PASSING—S. Dakota State, Sumner 17-31-1-196, N. Dakota St., Jensen 15-25-0-110.

RECEIVING—S. Dakota State, Rollin 5-49, Kool 5-48, Daughters 3-20, Hubert 2-58, Zenner 1-14, Schneider 1-7, N. Dakota St., R. Smith 5-31, Vraa 4-28, Bruhn 2-21, Crockett 1-12, Ojuri 1-11, Moody 1-6, Lang 1-1.

Bucks Go 0-4 In Watertown No. 14 Tigers Escape Mount Marty Men 66-61

WATERTOWN — The Yankton Bucks went 0-4 to finish eighth in the Watertown Dual Wrestling Tournament, held Saturday at the Watertown Civic Arena.

The Bucks were open at eight weight classes due to injuries.

Milbank beat Yankton 54-22 in the seventh place match. The Bucks lost to Pierre 75-3, Aberdeen Central 54-18 and Canby, Minn., 54-19 in pool play.

Noah Vetter went 4-0 on the day, competing at 166 pounds. Spencer Huber went 3-1 at 113 pounds. Thomas Kruse went 3-1, competing at 195 and 220. Mason Strahl had two wins and Casey Skillingstad had one victory for the Bucks.

Yankton travels to Sioux Falls for a quadrangular on Tuesday. The Bucks will face Washington, Lincoln and Lennox.

The Bucks also went 0-4 in JV action. Yankton lost to Mitchell 24-12 in the seventh place match. The Bucks lost to Milbank (30-12), Aberdeen Central (45-30) and Canby (42-30) in pool play.

Creighton Inv.

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Parkston put nine wrestlers in the finals, winning four titles, on the way to top honors in the Creighton Invitational wrestling Tournament on Saturday.

Parkston had 12 wrestlers earn top-four finishes, including titles from Mitch Heisinger (160), Miles Semmler (170), Brady Reiff (220) and Austin Bertram (285). Pender won six titles and eight top-four finishes to place second in the team rankings. Battle Creek finished third, with one champion.

Creighton-Verdigris, which finished sixth, was led by titles from Owen Pavlik (145) and Braden Forker (195). Randolph finished eighth. Parkston JV finished 10th, led by Tyler Holzbauer's 106-pound finish. Laurel-Concord-Coleridge placed 12th, with Crofton 15th.

Io-Dak Tourn.

CANTON — Host Canton went 5-0, edging Bon Homme 34-31 in the final round, to claim top honors in the Io-Dak Dual Wrestling Tournament on Saturday.

Canton beat Lennox 78-6, Madison 45-30, West Lyon 64-13 and Sioux City West 72-12. Bon Homme finished 4-1, beating West 55-21, West Lyon 68-15, Lennox 61-15 and Madison 45-31.

Madison went 3-2 on the day, with West Lyon winning two matches and West claiming one victory.

Canton's Alex Davies, the individual champion at 145 pounds, earned Most Outstanding Wrestler honors for the tournament. Canton's Riley Ostbye recorded four pins in 6:47 to earn the Pinner Award. John Lerner (120), Chase Beitzel (220) and Tanner Broughton (285) also won weight classes for the host C-Hawks.

Duncan Stoeber (106), Alex Caba (113), Lincoln Stoeber (132), Blase Vanecek (160) and Thomas Mitzel (170) won weight classes for Bon Homme. Madison had three champions: Brendon Walner (138), Matthew Guth (152) and Tyler Currey (162). West Lyons' James Dubbelde (126) and Jordan Schemmel (195) won the other two weight classes.

Flandreau Inv.

FLANDREAU — Pipestone, Minn., Area beat out several top South Dakota small-school programs for top honors at the 40th annual Flandreau Booster Club Wrestling Tournament on Saturday.

Led by MVP Brady Bos (152) and three other weight class champions, Pipestone finished at 219 points. Howard placed second at 151, followed by Elk Point-Jefferson (130) and Flandreau (115).

EPJ was led by champions C.J. Geary (195) and Andrew Teply (220).

South Sioux City Tri.

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. — Dakota Valley opened its wrestling season with a pair of losses to non-South Dakota teams on Thursday night at a triangular in South Sioux City, Neb.

Maple Valley-Anthon-Oto (Minn.) beat the Panthers 64-24, while South Sioux City later beat Dakota Valley 57-18.

Tyler Schunk (120), Blake Perryman (138) and Taylor Lambert (220) went 2-0 on the night for the Panthers, who were open in six weight classes.

College

Cliff Keen Inv.

LAS VEGAS — Nebraska sophomore Robert Kokesh (Wagner) won the 174-pound weight class to lead Nebraska to a fifth place finish at the Cliff Keen Invitational on Saturday.

Kokesh, the top seed in the weight class, beat fourth-seeded Matthew Miller (Navy) by 17-5 major decision in the semifinals before beating third-seeded Daniel Yates (Michigan) by injury default in the final.

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE

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After a win against the sixth-ranked team in the nation, the Mount Marty Lancers were ready for another on Saturday.

The Lancers faced the Doane Lancers in conference basketball action. MMC fell to the Tigers 66-61 at the Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

Senior Joe Heib said he and his teammates were not happy with their performance, but they are ready to keep going and improve as a team.

"We just have to keep going, because that helps our team," he said. "We're a new squad — I haven't played with hardly any of these guys and it's a process of getting to know each other and working together."

The Lancers started out strong with a 15-10 lead over the Tigers, but Doane eventually jumped ahead 20-19. The Tigers kept the lead for the rest of the match, with a score of 37-29 at the half.

At the half Heib led the Lancers with seven points, followed by Austin Harms with six points. Jose Pena-Benjamin and Chris Richardson each put up four points.

For the Tigers, Connor Beranek made 17 points, Domonique Smith had 10 points and Nick Reed put up four points.

MMC was able to close the gap, Doane still leading 43-41, but struggled against the Tigers 40 percent three-point shooting. The Tigers increased their lead against the Lancers 55-45, and finished out the game 66-61, matching their win total from last season.

Saladin Smith had 16 total points and four rebound for the Lancers, while Harms put up 12 points and four rebounds. Scott Odekirk had nine points for the game and Pena-Benjamin had a total of eight points and two rebounds.

Doane's Beranek put up a total of 20 points and seven rebounds, and Smith had 20 points for the day. Reed also contributed 14 points and five rebounds. The Tigers shot at 57.1 percent compared to the Lancers 44.4 percent. Doane also shot 75 percent of their free throws, compared to MMC's 66.7 percent.

Head coach Jim Thorson was impressed with the Lancers motivation to play to

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty guard T.J. Johnson brings the ball upcourt during the Lancers' Great Plains Athletic Conference matchup with 14th-ranked Doane on Saturday. Doane held off MMC 66-61.