

McDermott Powers Creighton Past Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Creighton-Nebraska rivalry is alive and well.

It showed on the face of the Bluejays' Grant Gibbs, the 3-inch claw mark down his left cheek and the scratch under his right eye.

Players on both sides, no doubt, left the Devaney Center with bumps and bruises after 16th-ranked Creighton's 64-42 victory Thursday night.

"It was physical," Gibbs said. "We anticipated that and for the most part we reacted pretty well to it. A lot of guys stepped up and played tough."

The Bluejays pulled away in the second half after Nebraska's strong defensive play prevented them from establishing much rhythm early.

Doug McDermott scored 27 points, Gregory Echenique had 12 points and 12 re-

bounds and Gibbs had 10 assists for the Bluejays (8-1), who won in Lincoln for the first time since 2004.

Creighton was without Josh Jones, its first guard off the bench. Jones blacked out during pregame warmups, about a half-hour before tipoff, and was taken to a hospital for tests. Jones had heart surgery in September 2007 to replace an infected aortic valve.

"It was hard for our guys to get focused, hard for me to get focused, when something like that happens 20 minutes before game time," coach Greg McDermott said.

Dylan Talley scored 14 points and Brandon Ubel had eight points and 10 rebounds to lead the Cornhuskers (6-2), who were off to their best start since 2008-09.

"It's a disappointing loss for Husker

fans," Nebraska coach Tim Miles said. "We wanted to come out and compete and make it a game to the last possession. It's still a learning process. We're trying to build our program to where we're on the other end of this outcome."

Creighton and Nebraska were meeting for the 46th time, and the home team had won the last seven games. The Huskers lead the series 25-21.

The crowd of 13,368 was the first sell-out at the Devaney Center since the 2011 game against Kansas and first for a non-conference game since Creighton visited in 2006.

The Huskers drew the more talented Bluejays into a sacrifice-the-body type of game.

No play illustrated it better than when Nebraska's Mike Peltz, a walk-on guard

from Alliance, went to the floor near mid-court to fight for a loose ball with Avery Dingman and Gibbs in what looked like a rugby scrum.

"One of those momentum plays you just try to run with," Gibbs said.

Nebraska fans, undoubtedly envious of the basketball success of the 6,000-student Jesuit school 50 miles away in Omaha, cheered any and all achievements of their Huskers, whether it was winning a loose ball or making a layup.

They howled when Miles drew a technical for protesting a no-call on what he and most folks in the building thought was traveling as McDermott scored inside. McDermott made the two free throws for a 15-point lead.

The Bluejays used a 13-5 run to pull away in the second half and led by as

many as 22 points. Fans began leaving with 6 minutes to play.

"Our defense was really important tonight," Greg McDermott said. "Nebraska did a good job taking us out of our offensive flow the first half. We got into the teeth of their defense the second half."

Nebraska's Andre Almeida had the first of his four blocks on the first shot of the game, by Echenique, in what was a symbolic start to a sloppy first half in which the Huskers shot 25 percent and the Bluejays 37 percent. The Huskers finished at 32 percent, the Bluejays at 46 percent.

McDermott, who had a shot swatted by Almeida, found the going tough inside and missed six of his first eight shots.

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Lynx Power Past Yankton

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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With one player with varsity experience, the Yankton Gazelles struggled with their first game of the season against Brandon Valley. Head coach Doug Pesicka said he will look to use the experience as a teaching opportunity.

The Gazelles faced the Lady Lynx in Thursday night basketball action at the Summit Activities Center, losing 57-43.

Brandon Valley jumped ahead with an early 14-4 lead at the end of the first quarter. Yankton's attempt to close the gap brought them six points behind the Lady Lynx with 4:31 left in the half, still behind 18-12.

At the half, Kelsey Butler had four rebounds and two points, while Andi Sprakel put up two rebounds and five points. Morgan Tessier also had four points and one rebound.

Brandon Valley, Lexi Hoover made six points and three rebounds and Allie Koehn made four points and four rebounds. Brooke Merry also contributed four points and three rebounds.

Pesicka said the Gazelles came back stronger in the second half, but just couldn't keep up with Brandon Valley's three-pointers.

"In the second half, when we did run our stuff, we got the shots we think we have to get," he said. "We had the same number as field goals as Brandon Valley, but they had more threes. It was clearly a factor, but we have to play man-to-man to get better."

The Gazelles came back stronger after the first half with four points in a row, but struggled against Brandon Valley's offense. Yankton went in to the fourth quarter down 41-29, but would get no closer.

Yankton's Kelsey Fitzgerald had a total of 18 points, Tessier scored 12 points and grabbed four rebounds and Sprakel had seven points and two rebounds.

Koehn put up a total of 16 points and eight rebounds for the

Lynx, and Hoover had 11 points with three rebounds. Rist also put up seven points and two rebounds.

Pesicka said his team will look to gain as much experience as possible throughout the rest of the season, and knows his team will look better by January.

"Outside of Fitzgerald and Hora, no one has played a minute of extensive varsity basketball," he said. "The best teacher is experience. We have to take every opportunity to make these experiences teaching moments. We have a lot of teaching to do with our kids. Especially with young kids, they lack discipline as far as running offense and being in the correct positions defensively. That will come as time goes on."

For Sprakel, a sophomore, she and her teammates will use their first experience to focus improve on defense.

"We can improve a lot of missed shots, and we got the shots but we have to execute more," she said. "I was really nervous at first, and I know a lot of the other players were nervous too because we haven't played together before. We're going to work on our efforts defensively for tomorrow at Watertown."

Yankton returns to action tonight (Friday) at Watertown.

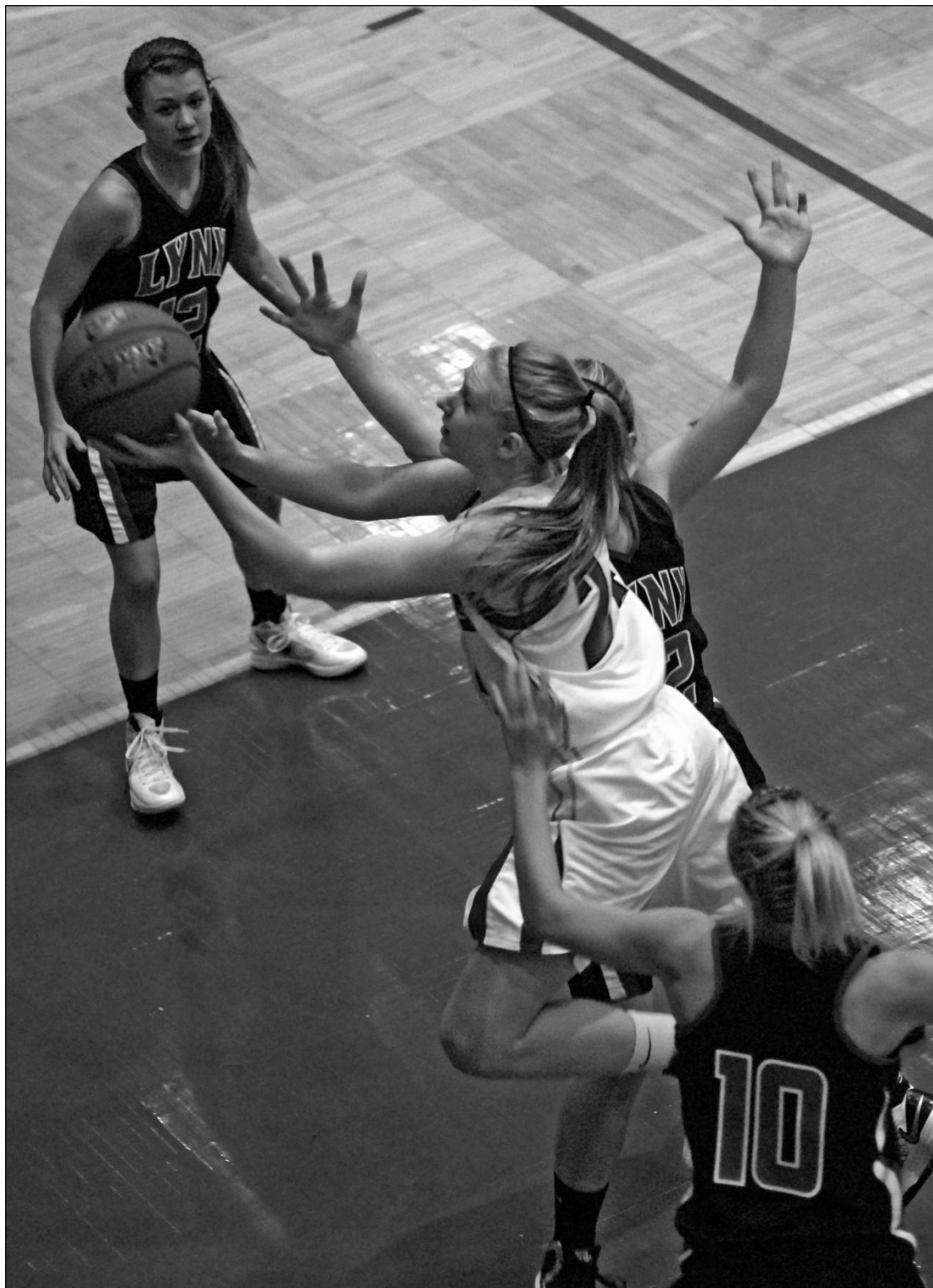
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BRANDON VALLEY (1-0)
Byrnie Rist 3-4 0-0 7; Lexi Hoover 3-7 2-2 11; Val Peltier 3-4 2-3 8; Jordyn Griffin 0-1 4-5 4; Allie Koehn 5-14 1-2 16; Kara Schroeder 0-0 0-0 0; Taylor Thorsen 1-1 0-1 2; Brooke Merry 1-12 2 4; Brooklyn Smith 0-0 0-1 0; Kayla Glogoe 0-0 0-0 0; Alana Hall 0-0 0-0 0; Becca Long 0-1 0-0 0; Carley Kueler 1-5 3-4 5. TOTALS 17-38 14-20 57.

YANKTON (0-1)
Andi Sprakel 2-4 3-4 7; Whitlee Larson 0-2 0-0 0; Kelsey Fitzgerald 8-15 2-3 18; Morgan Tessier 5-10 2-4 12; Kelsey Butler 2-3 0-4 4; Brianna Newman 0-2 0-0 0; Jessica Wirth 0-2 0-0 0; Anna Gulick 0-0 0-0 0; Becky Frisk 0-1 2-4 2; Katie Rodig 0-0 0-0 0; Abbie Mitchell 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 17-39 9-15 43.

BRANDON VALLEY 14 24 41 57
YANKTON 4 17 29 43

Three-Pointers: Brandon Valley 3-8 (Lexi Hoover 2, Allie Koehn 1), Yankton 0-1. Rebounds: Brandon Valley 17 (Allie Koehn 4), Yankton 10 (Kelsey Butler 4). Assists: Yankton 5 (Andi Sprakel 2), Brandon Valley 3 (Lexi Hoover 2). Turnovers: Brandon Valley 11, Yankton 9. Blocks: Yankton 1, Brandon Valley 0. Steals: Yankton 6 (Kelsey Fitzgerald 3, Morgan Tessier 2, Whitlee Larson 1), Brandon Valley 5 (Byrnie Rist 2, Jordyn Griffin 1, Allie Koehn 1), Brandon Valley 1. Personal Fouls: Brandon Valley 8, Yankton 6. Fouled out: none.



Yankton senior Kelsey Fitzgerald splits the Brandon Valley defense for a shot attempt during the first half of their Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' basketball game on Thursday at the Summit Center.

Pierre Girls Win Opener Over Huron

PIERRE — In the opening night of girls Class AA basketball, the Pierre Lady Governors defeated the Huron Tigers 61-51 in Eastern South Dakota action Thursday night in Pierre.

Taylor Hyde led the Lady Gov attack with 23 points. Kaitlyn Severyn, a South Dakota State commit, posted 12 points and three steals. Kristi Livermont also contributed eight points in the effort. Katie Berg also had seven points for Pierre.

Brittany Steffen led Huron with 16 points and three rebounds. Kaitlyn Allerding contributed eight points in the loss. Sarah Carr and Bailey Rathjen each had four points a piece.

Pierre will travel to Brandon Valley to play the Lynx on Dec. 12. Huron will host the Brookings Bobcats on Saturday.

PIERRE (1-0) 10 21 41 61 — 61
HURON (0-1) 12 23 34 51 — 51

Hanson 72, Bridgewater-Emery 19

ALEXANDRIA — Cassidy Graham scored 18 points as the Hanson Beaverettes opened their season with a 72-19 convincing home win over Bridgewater-Emery on Thursday night.

Kynedi Cheeseman added nine points for Hanson, while Kendra Cheeseman posted eight points and five assists. Lindsay Dey grabbed nine rebounds.

In the loss for the Huskies, Justice Dye scored four points.

Hanson hosts Parkston on Monday and Bridgewater-Emery hosts Viborg-Hurley next Tuesday in Emery.

BRIDGEWATER-EMERY (0-1) 4 9 14 19
HANSON (1-0) 12 34 53 72

Estelline 61, Lake Preston 37

LAKE PRESTON — Estelline

defeated Lake Preston 61-37 in Class B girls South Dakota high school basketball on Thursday night. Estelline had four players in double figures.

Shelby Reed and Michaela Derby each had 12 points to lead Estelline in the victory. Erin Begalka contributed 11 points.

Katie Hendrickson posted 10 points respectfully. Savannah Dolezal posted eight points as well.

Breanna Paul led Lake Preston (0-2) with 12 points and four rebounds. Kristen Longville and Marley Vendrig each posted 10 points.

Estelline will travel to Arlington on Dec. 13. Lake Preston will travel to Willow Lake on Dec. 10 to play Clark-Willow Lake.

ESTELLINE (1-0) 20 37 51 61 — 61
LAKE PRESTON (0-2) 5 12 20 37 — 37

Gazelles Post Season-Best Score In Triangular At S.F. O'Gorman

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The Yankton Gazelles gymnastics team finished second at the Sioux Falls O'Gorman triangular on Wednesday.

O'Gorman finished first with a team score of 133.6, followed by Yankton (129.75) and Sioux Falls Roosevelt (129.65).

Lindsay Larson finished second for YHS on the beam, while Elsie Kotalik was third on the floor routine. In the bars, Char-

lotte Taggart was third and Chelsey Hisek was fourth.

Yankton's junior varsity team finished second with 96.6 points. Sophie Bisgaard finished first in the vault and bars events, and third in the beam. Emma Stewart took third in the vault.

The Gazelles return to action Monday at home for a dual against Wagner, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Minn. Gov.: No Plan To Redo Vikings Stadium Plan

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Gov. Mark Dayton on Thursday downplayed the sluggish start of a statewide gambling initiative being counted on to help fund the new Minnesota Vikings stadium, saying doesn't plan to redo the financing package during the upcoming legislative session.

Dayton told reporters the early revenue projections are worth watching but shouldn't cause alarm about the merits of the electronic terminals that are only starting to appear in bars and restaurants. Relatively few establishments now offer the iPad-style machines that patrons to play low-stakes games, but the availability has as much to do with vendors working to clear regulatory hurdles.

The bill to finance a \$975 million stadium that will be built in downtown Minneapolis won approval last spring. The legislation authorized electronic pull-tab and linked bingo games, making Minnesota the first state to permit that form of gambling statewide.

The novelty of the games and

the challenges of constructing a new gambling system from the ground up take time, Dayton said in arguing against revisiting the financing plan next year.

"I certainly wouldn't favor it unless it becomes absolutely necessary and I don't think it is at this point," Dayton said.

Republican state Sen. Julie Rosen, who sponsored the stadium plan, also warned against jumping to early conclusions. She said she favors a public relations campaign to market the games to the public before dwelling on whether an alternative money source is needed.

"It's too early to do anything to correct it," Rosen said. "Let the entire program work like it should." Since September, one company has been cleared to provide terminals but others are in the pipeline. Others potential vendors have background checks pending or are hanging back to see how robust the Minnesota market is.

That's meant the proceeds flow-

Twins Deal Revere To Phillies For Worley, May

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Phillies filled their biggest need right before the winter meetings ended, acquiring center fielder Ben Revere from the Minnesota Twins for right-handers Vance Worley and Trevor May on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Revere is expected to be Philadelphia's answer in center. He batted .294 with 40 stolen bases in 124 games last season.

"Ben is an outstanding, young, controllable center fielder who fits nicely with our club," general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said.

The Phillies were seeking an everyday center fielder after trading two-time All-Star Shane Victorino last July. They pursued

free agents B.J. Upton and Angel Pagan before turning to the trade route. Upton left Tampa Bay for a \$75 million, five-year deal with Atlanta. Pagan got a \$40 million, four-year deal to stay in San Francisco.

Michael Bourn and Josh Hamilton drew Philadelphia's interest. Both All-Stars are still free agents and expected to command significant contracts.

Desperate to improve their pitching, the Twins have traded two center fielders in a week. They sent Denard Span to Washington for minor league right-hander Alex Meyer. Before acquiring Worley, left-hander Scott Diamond was Minnesota's only starter assured of a spot in the

2013 rotation.

Darin Mastroianni is expected to get a chance to start in center for the Twins. He hit .252 in 163 at-bats last season. Aaron Hicks, the team's first-round draft pick in 2008, could be the long-term solution. Hicks finished the season in Double-A, hitting .286 with 13 homers, 61 RBIs, 11 triples, 32 steals and a .384 on-base percentage in 129 games for the New Britain Rock Cats. Prospect Joe Benson also will be in the mix after an injury-riddled season in the minors.

"They had a lot of interest in a center fielder, and they had some pitching they were willing to give

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USD Women Cruise Past Dakota State

BY CHRIS RILEY
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VERMILLION — After trailing 8-6 just over three minutes into Thursday night's contest, the University of South Dakota outscored Dakota State University 84-27 the rest of the way in an overwhelming 90-35 defeat over the Lady Trojans in women's basketball action at the DakotaDome.

Dakota State, a NAIA program, hit a pair of early treys to aid their scoring in the first three minutes but managed only four other three-pointers in the final 37 minutes of action.

The Coyotes, who improve to 4-5 with the win, took 23 more shots from the field than Dakota State and also outscored the Lady Trojans from the free-throw line, 14-3.

This was the first meeting between the two schools since 2006, and while the Coyotes had not played since Saturday's victory over Utah Valley, the Lady Trojans were playing for the second consecutive night after losing to Mount Marty in Madison on Wednesday.

Even though Dakota State might have been overmatched, USD head coach Amy Williams still saw Thursday's game as an opportunity to work on some specific defensive skills.

"One of our big keys for tonight's game was contesting shots with high hands and getting in their face," she said. "This was a good test for us because Dakota State has some good three-point shooters who can shoot it from deep."

While the Lady Trojans managed to shoot only 24 percent from the field, the Coyotes had their biggest offensive game of the season with 90 points.

"Our team has been like a roller coaster ride with our offensive production," Williams said. "What needs to be constant is we have got to depend on our defensive intensity and effort."

That effort was apparent as the Coyotes grabbed 18 steals and forced DSU into 26 turnovers as opposed to committing only six themselves.

"As a team, to go with having six turnovers the entire game is a huge statistic," Williams said.

Sophomore guard Nicole Seekamp continued her hot streak, scoring 20 points on 8-10 shooting while also making all four of her free-throw attempts. Seekamp, who now scored at least 20 points in three of the last four games and is fifth in the Summit League in scoring (14 points per game), said that taking the focus off of herself has led to her high production as of late.

"I'm not trying to think about myself and scoring," she said. "I'm just playing within the team goals."

Junior Polly Harrington, currently seventh in the league in scoring and fifth in rebounding, recorded a double-double for the Coyotes, scoring 16 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. The 5-11 forward is now 40-46 on free throws for the season after draining all six of her attempts Thursday night.

Harrington said it was the defense, especially in the second half, that sparked a majority of USD's offense.

One of those defensive leaders for the Coyotes was Sam Mehr. The senior guard grabbed three steals in only 11 second-half minutes.

"Sam was a defensive bright spot for us," Williams said. "She came in and made some plays happen."

Freshman Tia Hemiller was the only other Coyote to finish in double figures, with 13 points. Tampestt Wilson and Maragert McCloud each added nine points as all 10 players on USD's active roster made at least one field

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