



SEAN WELSH/THE BROOKINGS REGISTER  
Yankton's Whitlee Larson (4) puts up a shot over Brookings' Kelsey Parker (left) and Jenna Thomas (20) during the Gazelles' 44-36 ESD loss to the Bobcats on Monday night.

# Hoops: Gazelles Fall At Brookings

BROOKINGS — Morgan Tessier and Kelsey Fitzgerald combined for 26 points and 20 rebounds but it wasn't quite enough, as Brookings beat the Yankton Gazelles 44-36 in Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' basketball action Monday night.

Tessier recorded 16 points and nine rebounds, while Fitzgerald had 10 points and 11 rebounds. Yankton (0-4), however, shot just 28 percent on the night.

"The shooting percentage was really the difference," YHS head coach Doug Pesicka said. "I give our kids a lot of credit, though. We were able to get a lot of makeable shots in our offense, we just didn't knock many of them down."

Brookings (1-3) wasn't much better, shooting 36 percent from the floor, but did knock down five three-

pointers. Lauren Coughlin led the Bobcats with 13 points and Amelia Miller added 10 points.

Yankton trailed by 11 points after three quarters and out-scored Brookings 10-7 in the fourth quarter, but came up short. Kelsey Butler added three points and eight rebounds in the loss, while Brianna Newman scored three points.

The Gazelles return home to host Aberdeen Central on Saturday afternoon.

"They are a serious contender, no doubt," Pesicka said of the Golden Eagles. "They have size, strength and experience. We have a few days now to correct some things."

Brookings won the JV game 33-15.

Jaclyn Arens scored six points for Yankton.

The Gazelles won the sophomore

game 36-29 behind 16 points from Danielle Schmidt and eight points from Madison Dangler.

**YANKTON (6-4, 0-3 ESD)**  
Andi Sprakel 1-7 0-0 2, Jessica Wirth 0-2 0-0 0, Kelsey Fitzgerald 4-14 2-4 10, Morgan Tessier 6-13 4-8 16, Kelsey Butler 1-3 1-3 3, Brianna Newman 1-3 0-0 3, Whitlee Larson 0-5 0-0 0, Becky Frick 1-3 0-0 2. TOTALS 14-50 7-15 36.

**BROOKINGS (1-3, 1-3 ESD)**  
Kaitlyn Hadley 2-7 0-0 6, Emily Johnson 2-12 0-1 5, Lauren Coughlin 5-8 2-3 13, Amelia Miller 3-6 3-4 10, Margaret Chell 3-5 0-0 6, Jenna Thomas 0-0 0-0 0, Sidney Berreth 0-1 0-0 0, Morgan Mahanke 0-1 0-0 0, Sara Tvedt 1-4 0-0 2, Kelsey Parker 1-3 0-0 2. TOTALS 17-47 5-8 44.

**YANKTON** ..... 7 19 26 36  
**BROOKINGS** ..... 8 26 37 44

3-point goals — Y 1-6 (Newman 1-1, Tessier 0-1, Sprakel 0-2, Wirth 0-2), B 5-12 (Hadley 2-3, Coughlin 1-2, Miller 1-2, Johnson 1-5). Rebounds — Y 35 (Fitzgerald 11), B 35 (Chell 6). Assists — Y 2 (Fitzgerald 2), B 10 (Hadley, Johnson, Miller, Mahanke 2). Steals — Y 7 (Tessier, Newman 2), B 10 (Thomas 4). Blocks — Y 4 (Fitzgerald 4), B 5 (Chell 3). Turnovers — Y 13, B 13. Total fouls — Y 9, B 12. Fouled out — none.

## Vermillion 47, Madison 32

MADISON — Josie Huber had a big night as the Vermillion Tanagers defeated Madison 47-32 on Monday night in Madison.

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# Winne Back In Full Effect

## Junior Point Guard Leading MMC Women After Injury

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

With another drastic twist of her hand, April Winne could very well be relegated to a spectator on the bench for the Mount Marty College women's basketball team.

Instead, she is the catalyst for a team that has won four of its last five games.

A 5-foot-7 junior guard from Olivet, Winne injured her right hand while diving for a ball during a Nov. 10 exhibition game at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. The violent way her hand bent back underneath her body was immediate cause for concern.

"The X-rays came back negative, but they said I could be out four to six weeks with no basketball," Winne said Monday. "I made the decision to keep playing through it. It's still pretty swollen, though."

When it came down to it, was there much of a decision?

"No way," she said, emphatically. "That would've been into Christmas break."

Judging from her recent results, not only did it prove to be a good call, but the hand is slowly recovering. Winne is second on the team in scoring (10.8) from her starting point guard role, but has seen production increase to 13.4 points a game in Great Plains Athletic Conference action.

Over her last four games — three wins for Mount Marty — Winne has scored 17, 29, 14 and 22 points, and has done so with a wrap on that right hand.

"We were really afraid she broke her hand. She almost had to play one-handed for a while," said head coach Tom Schlinggen, whose Lancers (7-5, 4-3) play Grace University tonight (Tuesday) in Omaha, Neb., at 6 p.m..

"She's starting to get some great results."

Naturally, though, it took some time for that production to come around.

In the five games immediately following her injury, Winne combined to make just 5-of-35 shots, with one basket in each of those games. The pain in her hand limited what she could do on offense, Winne said.

"It hurts the most when I shoot way out," she



P&D FILE PHOTO

Mount Marty guard April Winne, 15, passes around the defense of Doane's Erin DeVries during their GPAC women's game Dec. 1 at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Winne has recovered from a hand injury to lead the Lancer women during a recent hot stretch.

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# Andes Central Hoops, Golf Star Winckler Signs With MMC



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Andes Central High School standout Kellie Winckler, center, signs with the Mount Marty College women's basketball and golf programs last week. Pictured are parents Randy and Carla Winckler.

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The size and tight-knit culture of the Mount Marty College campus is certainly helping the women's basketball program.

Its 2013 recruiting class added another area piece Monday when the school announced that Andes Central standout Kellie Winckler signed to play basketball and golf for the Lancers.

A 6-foot forward, Winckler already holds the Andes Central record for career points and averages 22 points and 11 rebounds this season for the Eagles. The four-time All-Conference player said Monday that size and proximity played big roles in her final decision.

"I was looking for something smaller so I can have smaller classes to have more interaction with teachers, in case I need help," Winckler said. "I'm one of those people that likes to know pretty much everyone in the class."

Winckler joins previous Mount

Marty basketball commits Kieran O'Malley (Centerville), Denae Veldkamp (Sioux Falls Washington) and Haley Froelich (Lemmon).

Though she has spent a lot of her high school career at a guard, Winckler figures to translate more to a forward in college, according to Mount Marty head coach Tom Schlinggen. With that in mind, she has worked on that through the early stages of her senior season.

"The coaches talked to me about where I would fit in with their rotation, so I've been working on rebounding and post moves," Winckler said. "I just want to get better under the basket."

In her career at Andes Central, Winckler has averaged 20 points, 13 rebounds, 7 assists and 6 steals, and has shot 45 percent from the field and 85 percent at the free throw line.

"She can basically do anything out on the court; she's that versatile," said

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# Vikings RB Peterson Remaining Focused While Chasing Dickerson

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The record many thought would never be broken is right there in front of him, and Adrian Peterson can smell it.

His powerful legs have been chewing up the yards at a staggering pace over these last two months, chasing down Eric Dickerson's single-season rushing mark with the relentlessness that helped him come back from a devastating knee injury in less than nine months.

As Peterson continues that pursuit, Minnesota Vikings coach Leslie Frazier is comfortable in knowing that while the record is important to his star running back, making the playoffs trumps everything. Actually, the two may

go hand in hand.

Heading into the final two games of the season, Peterson is 294 yards away from eclipsing Dickerson's record 2,105 yards set in 1984 and the Vikings (8-6) almost surely need wins over Houston and Green Bay to get into the playoffs.

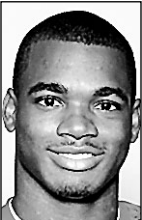
With all that in mind, Frazier had a chat with Peterson on Monday just to make sure that the focus remains where it needs to be.

"The record would be great," Frazier said the day after the Vikings won in St. Louis to stay alive in the playoff race. "But the most important thing is to get a win in Houston. And the fact that he feels that way, that will perme-

ate through the rest of our team. He wants to really concentrate on winning this game, more so than the record."

Peterson was unavailable for comment on Monday after racking up 212 yards and a touchdown in the 36-24 victory over the Rams, but he said after the game that he knows how to prioritize the two pursuits.

"It's something that I'm not focusing on, it's in the back of my mind, but I want to accomplish that," Peterson said of the record. "I want to let the chips fall where



Peterson

they may. I look at today's game, I could have had 300 (yards), but it wasn't meant to happen. We got the 'W,' we got closer. Let's move on."

To say that Peterson is "only" 294 yards away from Dickerson's record with two games to go is remarkable in its own right. The game has evolved from Dickerson's day to a quarterback-centric universe, one where running backs are lucky to get a dozen carries in a game just to keep the defense off balance.

Perhaps that's why Dickerson felt relatively comfortable that his mark would stand. In five of Dickerson's first six seasons, he had at least 379 carries for the Los Angeles Rams and Indianapolis Colts.

Peterson's career high for carries is 363 in 2008, and he enters the game against the Texans with just 289 on the season.

"He's a phenomenal player and seems like a good dude," Dickerson told CBSsports.com last week. "If a player was to break it, I'd probably want it to be Adrian, but I like having the record. I don't think it's going to be broken."

The Vikings are a throwback to the days when running backs ruled. They rely on Peterson as their first, second and third option to move the ball down the field, and he has delivered even with opposing defenses crowding the line of scrimmage in an all-out

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# YHS Lineman Soulek To Be A Jackrabbit

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Kellen Soulek, a sought-after football recruit from Yankton High School, plans to don the blue and yellow for South Dakota State.

The Class 11AA all-state offensive guard for the Bucks said Monday that he informed SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier when the coach called Sunday night to ask for a recruiting update.

Instead, he got a final decision. "When I told him I wanted to come up there, he was really excited," Soulek said Monday evening. "He said he wanted to high-five me over the phone."

Soulek, who will sign his National Letter of Intent on Feb. 6, chose a 70-percent scholarship offer from the Jackrabbits over a general offer from Northern Iowa. He had also received earlier communication from North Dakota State and the University of Sioux Falls, before narrowing his final list down to two schools.

"This was my goal since middle school," Soulek said. "It's a big weight off my shoulders, now I just have to focus on basketball and getting ready for next year and that big change."

Soulek had attended various college football camps this summer and made an official visit to the Brookings campus three weeks ago.

"The whole trip went great," he said of his visit. "We all seemed to connect up there, it just felt right."

The 6-foot-4 Soulek has slimmed down 15 pounds from his fall football playing weight of 270, in big part because of basketball, he said. Soulek is a starting post for the Yankton boys' basketball team.

When it comes to football, however, he will compete for playing time on the SDSU defensive line.

"I wanted to play on defense," he said. "I just have a lot more fun and have more freedom on that side."

There could be another Soulek on the Jackrabbit roster next season, as well. Former Yankton standout Ty Soulek plays to attempt to walk on to the SDSU team next fall, Kellen said.

"That would be fun," the younger Soulek said.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)

# Frisco To Be More Prepared For NDSU Fans

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The story that is now becoming legendary — North Dakota State fans ate and drank the adjacent suburbs of Frisco and Plano, Texas, out of house and home during last year's Football Championship Subdivision title game — also is serving as a word of warning. Be prepared this year.

NDSU's FCS semifinal victory over Georgia Southern on Friday night qualified Bison fans to return to the scene of a Texas-sized party. NDSU, the defending national champion, plays for a repeat national title Jan. 5 against Sam Houston State at FC Dallas Stadium, about 20 miles north of Dallas. Last year, NDSU had the fan advantage — both in and out of the stadium, when the Bison beat Sam Houston State.

"Now we have a bit of a track record. They've seen us in action," said Sherri Schmidt, NDSU's associate executive director for the Alumni Association. "That's my No. 1 challenge."

Schmidt flew to the area last week and met with various people in case the Bison did make it again. This year, she said, the local convention and visitors bureau is involved.

NDSU will hold its Friday, Jan. 4, pep fest at the Plano Centre. It's the biggest space available in the entire Dallas area, Schmidt said, and she's wondering if that's even big enough.

The pep fest last year was held at a Marriott hotel in Plano, which ran out of alcohol with an overflow crowd.

"We have to convince all the establishments to be prepared with food and beverage," Schmidt said.

She said the Plano Centre also has outdoor space if needed. The NDSU event is competing with the Cotton Bowl, professional games and concerts for meeting space. The

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