

Wolters Helps Jackrabbit Men Upset No. 16 New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A 1,220-mile bus trip, a gimpy ankle and a nationally ranked opponent were no hindrance to South Dakota State guard Nate Wolters against No. 16 New Mexico. Wolters scored 28 points and handed out seven assists, leading South Dakota State to a 70-65 upset of No. 16 New Mexico on Saturday.

“I definitely wasn’t 100 percent,” Wolters said. “But once I got going I just tried to feed off my teammates. It felt pretty good out there.”

After a loss to Belmont, the Jackrabbits had to take a bus from Nashville, Tenn., because of a snowstorm.

“It wasn’t very fun, crossing the country, especially after a loss and the way we played on Wednesday, so this was big for us and we have to feed off it,” Wolters said.

Kendall Williams scored 21 to lead the Lobos, who went 7 of 12 from the foul line in the closing minutes to frustrate their own comeback efforts.

Wolters’ ankle has been hampered his play of late, so much so that Jackrabbits coach Scott Nagy warned him he might watch a good bit of the game from the bench.

“I told him if I see what I’ve seen in the past few games, I was going to sit

him down because he couldn’t get by anybody,” Nagy said. “He had no burst. Maybe that’s what he needed to decide to give his ankle a try. And he pushed his ankle today and he did pretty well.”

Jordan Dykstra had a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Jackrabbits, who went 10 for 11 from the line down the stretch to preserve their lead. Chad White added 13 points for South Dakota State and Brayden Carlson had 10.

The Jackrabbits (10-4) led the final 37 minutes of the game after taking the lead with an early 8-0 run.

Wolters’ 3-pointer with 4:49 left in the

first half gave South Dakota State its largest lead at 35-23. But the Lobos (12-1) closed the half with an 11-3 run to trail 38-34 entering the second half.

“The Wolters kid is the real deal and as a good a point guard as we’ve played all year,” New Mexico coach Steve Alford said. “I thought he really controlled the game for 40 minutes and did a really good job of running their team. You can tell that he’s their leader and other guys play very well off of him.”

New Mexico never got closer than three points the rest of the way. Williams, the team’s leading scorer for the season, sat out the first 5:33 after he

and fellow starter Chad Adams arrived late.

SOUTH DAKOTA ST. 70, No. 16 NEW MEXICO 65
SOUTH DAKOTA ST. (10-4)
Fiegen 3-7 0-0 6, Dykstra 4-8 0-0 10, Wolters 9-15 9-11 28, Carlson 4-6 0-0 10, C. White 3-7 4-4 13, Bittle 1-4 0-0 3, Prince 0-1 0-0 0, Heemstra 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 24-50 13-15 70.
NEW MEXICO (12-1)
Bairstow 3-4 0-0 6, Kirk 2-7 2-2 6, Thomas 0-1 0-0 0, Greenwood 2-4 3-6 8, Snell 3-9 5-8 13, Adams 1-1 0-0 3, K. Williams 6-15 7-10 21, Fenton 2-7 0-0 6, Banyard 0-2 0-0 0, Walker 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 20-54 17-24 65.
Halftime—S. Dakota St. 38-34, 3-Point Goals—S. Dakota St. 9-25 (C. White 3-7, Carlson 2-4, Dykstra 2-6, Bittle 1-3, Wolters 1-5), New Mexico 8-24 (Fenton 2-4, K. Williams 2-7, Snell 2-7, Adams 1-1, Greenwood 1-2, Banyard 0-1, Walker 0-2). Fouled Out—Carlson. Rebounds—S. Dakota St. 36 (Dykstra 10), New Mexico 28 (Kirk 6). Assists—S. Dakota St. 13 (Wolters 7), New Mexico 13 (K. Williams 4). Total Fouls—S. Dakota St. 23, New Mexico 15. Technical—New Mexico Bench. A—15,278.
GREEN BAY 72, SOUTH DAKOTA 55: GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Alec Brown scored 19 points on 8-of-10

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Golden Eagles Top Gazelles

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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The Yankton Gazelles girls’ basketball team put forth one of its best efforts of the season Saturday afternoon, but ultimately fell short.

Aberdeen Central defeated the Gazelles 55-35 at the Summit Center, but despite the loss, Yankton junior Morgan Tessier said the team is still moving forward.

“That was our best start that we’ve had this year. We played our best basketball for the longest period of time,” she said. “We came off really strong, we had a really good start and we played a really nice first half of basketball.”

Tying the game early 8-8, the Gazelles went in to the second quarter with a 12-10 lead against the Golden Eagles. The game tied for the last time 16-16, and Aberdeen Central finished ahead to end the first half 25-18.

Kelsey Fitzgerald led the Gazelles (0-4) at the half with six points and one rebound, with Whitlee Larson adding four points and two rebounds. Aberdeen’s Samantha Knecht scored 10 points and had 12 rebounds at the half, followed by Brynn Flakus with five points and one rebound. Tessier led the Gazelles with 10 total points on the day.

Yankton’s head coach Doug Pesicka said the Gazelles played hard for the first half, but Aberdeen Central was able to come out and show their experience in the third quarter.

“The third quarter, Aberdeen was flexing their muscles a little bit,” he said. “They’re big and strong and very experienced. That got us a little bit in the third, but I’m very proud of how our kids competed. We played to the end and we’re just trying to create positive moments we can hang on to. We have a lot of those after this game.”

With 5:07 left in the third quarter, the Golden Eagles led the Gazelles 29-22, and were able to keep their lead to finish out 40-22 by the end of the quarter, and finish the game defeating the

Gazelles 55-35.

Aberdeen’s head coach Dawn Seiler said the Golden Eagles were flat the first half, but were able to control the ball better during the second half and pull off the win.

“We have to give Yankton a lot of credit,” she said. “They came out and played exceptionally hard in that first half. We were just flat. We got into some foul trouble and didn’t play very well in that first half. We got enough done to get a lead, but that was about it.

“The nature of basketball is that you make adjustments. We were really loose with the ball that first quarter, but in the second half, we did a better job of taking care of the ball and that created some scoring opportunities for us — we were able to hit the shots.”

Aberdeen Central will prepare to face Rapid City Stevens on Friday, and Rapid City Central on Saturday.

“They’ve both got some good athletes, so we have to be ready to play,” Seiler said. “Our kids are going to have four days off, and it’s going to be a good four days. They looked fatigued to me, so hopefully when they come back they’ll have fresh legs, be ready to go. This is a group that loves to play together, so we’re looking to get a little rest and get back to it.”

Yankton hosts Huron on Jan. 3, and Tessier said the Gazelles will continue to improve.

“We’ve been working on improving defense in practice, and running our offense will be important, because we’ve really picked up our defense a lot,” she said. “We’re not going to get beat back to four anymore — they’re not going to get that break on us. This whole season our coach has given us three options: give in, give up or give it your all. I believe in this team and we’re not going to give in — we’re going to give it our all.”

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/ENiebrugge



Yankton freshman Becky Frick, right, is guarded by Aberdeen Central defender Brianna Kusler during their ESD girls’ basketball game Saturday afternoon at the Summit Center.

JILANNE DOOM/P&D

Rebounding Sends Aberdeen Central Boys Past YHS



Yankton's Ryan Olson, right, reaches to tip the ball away from Aberdeen Central's Braden LeGrand, left, during the first half of Saturday's game at the Golden Eagles Arena.

JOHN DAVIS/ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS

BY DEB SMITH
Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN — For the first time this season the Aberdeen Central boys’ basketball team outrebounded an opponent and that led to another first — the first win of the season for the Golden Eagles.

Aberdeen Central defeated Yankton 58-51 in a Saturday afternoon matinee at Golden Eagles Arena in high school boys’ basketball. The Eastern South Dakota Conference matchup left Yankton still searching for its first win of the season. The Golden Eagles held the rebounding advantage 29-22.

“We were more consistent blocking out and doing the little things,” said Aberdeen coach

Brent Norberg. “We had to be because we didn’t get off to a very good start offensively. At one point we had a 10-9 lead near the end of the quarter and I looked at coach (Trent) Kurtz and said, ‘How are we up by one point?’ Mainly, it was because we were rebounding better. After the first quarter I thought we played better in all phases of the game.”

The Bucks built a 9-2 lead in the opening five minutes of the game only to see the Eagles grab the lead for the first time in the game at 10-9 on a field goal by Carter Paulson with 22 seconds left in the first quarter. The Bucks scored a quick field goal on a shot by Landon Breen and a buzzer beater on a steal and layup by Andrew Hummel on Central’s in bounds pass for a 13-

10 lead to end the period.

Yankton maintained the lead for much of the second quarter and built a nine-point lead at one point. With two minutes left in the half the Bucks still held a 25-18 lead. Aberdeen scored eight unanswered point to take a slim 26-25 lead at halftime.

A pair of three-point field goals by Central’s Aaron Lorenz jump started the offense to begin the third quarter. It was the best offensive quarter for both teams as Yankton tallied 16 points but Aberdeen added 22 points to spread the lead out to 48-41 after three quarters.

Both teams struggled offensively in the final period. Central

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Parkston Wins Floyd Farrand Wrestling Title

SIOUX FALLS — The Parkston Trojans continued their strong wrestling season with a 22-point win over Class A power Sturgis at the Floyd Farrand Invitational, which concluded Saturday at Sioux Falls Lincoln High School.

Parkston, with two individual champions and three third-place finishers, recorded 199.5 total team points. Sturgis was second at 177.5, followed in the top five by Canton (151), Brookings (145) and Wagner (132.5).

The Vermillion Tanagers finished 13th with a score of 55.5

Winning weight class titles for Parkston were Weslee Dvorak (145 pounds) and Brady Reiff (220), while Logan Mahoney (106), Blake Bietz (113) and Myles Bialas (138) finished third.

Wagner had a pair of champions in Tyler Dion (138) and David Kocer (160), while Vermillion’s Brett Bye continued his unbeaten season with the 152-pound title.

TEAM SCORES: Parkston 199.5, Sturgis 177.5, Canton 151, Brookings 145, Wagner 132.5, Brandon Valley 123.5, Watertown 122, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 120, Sioux Falls Washington 119, Howard 114, Harrisburg 69, Milbank 57, Vermillion 55.5, Garretson 54, Sioux Falls O’Gorman 36, Sioux Falls Lincoln 29, Tea Area 25.5, Lennox 22.5, Sisseton 11
CHAMPIONSHIP: 106 — Chase O’Connor SFW dec. Zane Joens, Sturgis 1-0; 113 — Kahlen Morris SFR dec. Bailey Neises, Howard 5-4; 120 — Luke Loudenburg, Howard dec. Brady Burghard, Watertown 7-3; 126 — Justice Lamer, Brookings dec. Adam Presler, Brandon Valley 6-3; 132 — Kyle Yasgar, SFR dec. Pete Hansen, Brookings 8-4; 138 — Tyler Dion, Wagner maj. dec. Evan Donahue, Howard 10-1; 145 — Weslee Dvorak, Parkston dec. Alex Davis, Canton 2-1 OT; 152 — Brett Bye, Vermillion dec. Mitch Heisinger, Parkston 5-3 OT; 160 — David Kocer, Wagner pin. Jesse Forman, Watertown 3-32; 170 — Mason Bender, Brandon Valley dec. James Jungwirth, Howard 12-5; 182 — Blake Zepher, Wagner dec. Triston Wirjes, Watertown 10-4; 195 — Kase Jacobs, Canton dec. Matt Schirado, Harrisburg 8-3; 220 — Brady Reiff, Parkston pin. Ryley Ostbye, Canton 0-29; 285 — Justin Behrend, Brookings dec. Tanner Broughton, Canton 13-9
THIRD PLACE: 106 — Logan Mahoney, Parkston dec. Jordan Sehr, Canton 7-1; 113 — Blake Bietz, Parkston dec. Brody Jensen, Sturgis 6-4; 120 — David Poiratz SFW dec. Brock Kortan SFR 6-2; 126 — Grant Rosheln, SFW dec. Jesse Skidmore, Sturgis 7-2; 132 — Zach Gross, Harrisburg dec. Alex Schoeberl, Sturgis 8-2; 138 — Myles Bialas, Parkston pin. Taylor McLaughlin, Watertown 2-11; 145 — Nick Hanson, Brookings dec. Austin Soukup, Wagner 5-2; 152 — Devon Crandall, Brookings dec. Wyatt Winter, Brandon Valley 5-4; 160 — Sean McFadden, Garretson by default over Tate McVay, Sturgis; 170 — Spencer Folk, Milbank dec. Trevor Lansing, Wagner 10-4; 182 — Jacob Kirk, Sturgis dec. Wyatt Resmen, Brookings 6-2; 195 — Andrew Semmler, Parkston dec. Dan Marelle, SFW 4-3; 220 — Jack Schurer, SFOG pin. Chase Morin, SFR 1-54; 285 — Chris Vroman SFW pin. Austin Bertram, Parkston 2-39

Preps: I-W Girls Hold Off Menno

MENNO — Makayla Mohr led four players in double figures with 21 points as Irene-Wakonda held off Menno 69-64 in girls’ action Saturday in Menno.

Kyleigh Melstad added 18 points for the Eagles, while Caitlin Hinseth and Andrea Sokolowski each had 14 points.

In the loss for Menno (2-4), Kylee Kessler had 25 points and 16 rebounds, while Christina Herrboldt added 11 points and 10 rebounds. Ashton Diede chipped in with eight points and eight assists.

Both teams are off until Jan. 4, when Irene-Wakonda travels to Gayville-Volin and Menno hosts Alcester-Hudson.

IRENE-WAKONDA.....16 34 52 69
MENNO (2-4).....14 29 39 64

Friday
Wynot 66, Randolph 54

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Ashley Heine scored 20 points and Maggie Schulte added 20 as the Wynot Lady Blue Devils upended Randolph 66-54 on Friday night.

Schulte also grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked three shots, while Shelby Hochstein had 14 points and three steals.

Erica Burbach chipped in with six points and five rebounds for Wynot (7-1), which plays O’Neill St. Mary’s on Friday in Crofton.

Brenna Thies led Randolph (4-3) with 18 points and Kristen Fink added 16 points.

WYNOT (7-1).....20 38 53 66
RANDOLPH (4-3).....12 24 42 54

VIKINGS | PAGE 9

Vikings Win 23-6, Deny Texans Home-Field Playoff Advantage

HOUSTON (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings don’t need record-setting days from Adrian Peterson to stay in the playoff race.

Peterson rushed for 86 yards, falling far short of the 2,000-yard mark, yet helping the Vikings (9-6) keep their post-season chances alive with a 23-6 upset of the Texans on Sunday. Christian Ponder threw a touchdown pass, Toby Gerhart added a score and Blair Walsh kicked three field goals as the Vikings won their third straight.

The win raises the stakes for the Vikings, who host Green Bay next Sunday in the regular-season finale.

“We obviously have a big one next week, and if we don’t win that one, this one doesn’t mean anything,” Ponder said. “Our No. 1 goal is to make the playoffs.”

The loss kept the Texans (12-3) from clinching home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs. They would still claim home-field advantage with a win next week at Indianapolis.

“Very disappointing because we had a chance to line up here and get something done today,” coach Gary Kubiak said. “That doesn’t mean we still can’t get it done. That’s the most important thing.”

Peterson had his lowest rushing total since getting 79 yards on Oct. 14 in a loss at Washington, breaking a streak of eight 100-yard games. Peterson, who is from Palestine, Texas, had more than 100 family and friends at the game.

“We knew they were going to focus on the run, which is OK,” Peterson said of the Texans. “It felt good to see other guys get involved and us continue to

move the ball down and score some points.”

He has 1,898 this season and needs 208 yards to break the NFL single-season rushing record held by Eric Dickerson. Minnesota coach Leslie Frazier said he took Peterson out late as a precaution because he has a sore abdomen.

“I’ll get some rest and be ready to get a W and break that record,” Peterson said.

The Vikings took a 10-3 lead when Walsh kicked a 56-yard field goal. The kick gave Walsh, a rookie, the NFL record with nine field goals of 50 yards or longer this season.

The Texans failed to score a touchdown for the first time since 2006.

“We didn’t play well,” Kubiak said. “I think we battled defensively, but offensively we probably played as bad as

we’ve played. I take full responsibility for that. It’s a huge, huge disappointment. We’ve got to get over it really quick.”

J.J. Watt had a sack to leave him with 20 1/2 this season.

Houston got within 10 points before Gerhart’s 3-yard run extended the lead to 23-6 with about five minutes left in the fourth quarter. That drive was helped by a 29-yard run by Ponder.

Ponder, who got married on Monday, was 16 of 30 for 174 yards to help the Vikings pile up 345 yards. He finished with seven rushes for 48 yards — 14 more yards rushing than the Texans had.

“Christian had a terrific day throughout, playing with a lot of poise, a lot of control — he did all the things we needed,” Frazier said. “But it was all set

up by our run game.”

Arian Foster had 10 rushes for 15 yards before leaving with about nine minutes left in the third quarter with an irregular heartbeat. Kubiak said he is OK, but he was taken out as a precaution.

“I’ll be fine,” he said. “I’ll be OK. It’s a very minor situation.”

Ben Tate took over and didn’t fare much better with four carries for 17 yards.

The Texans were foiled by their inability to convert third downs, going 1 of 11. Quarterback Matt Schaub went 18 of 32 for 178 yards.

Houston got to the Minnesota 1 with a 12-yard reception by Kevin Walter late