

Gazelle Gymnasts Open Season Today

BY ADRIENNE KUSEK
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With just three upperclassmen, the Yankton-Bon Homme girl's gymnastics team is young. Coach Luke Youmans said it is one of the team's biggest strengths.

"We have a lot of young girls who have been in the club program, so they already have experience before joining the high school team," Youmans said. "It will be good to have them for years to come."

Yankton-Bon Homme has one

sophomore, Ashley Schweitzer, seven freshmen — Sophie Bisgard, Cheyenne Crisman, Haleigh Diede, Kaitlin Guthmiller, Nikole Knox, Morgan Mason and McKeely Merkwant — and six middle schoolers — Emily Duffek, Alexa Griffith, Samantha Kortan, Cameron Spect, Hannah Vetter and Lauren Vik — competing this season.

Because the team is so young, Youmans is looking to seniors Elsie Kotalik and Ashtyn Haak, and junior Chelsey Hisek, to be leaders.

"These girls have been in the pro-

gram for years. I hope they will help the younger ones make the transition to high school athletics," Youmans said.

Last year at the State Meet, Yankton-Bon Homme placed seventh.

"Realistically, I want to be a top five team at state this year," Youmans said.

Injury has set them back for the first half of the season but, Youmans expects the team get stronger as the season progresses.

"For the second half of the season we will be back full strength and have

a full Varsity and JV team."

The Yankton-Bon Homme gymnastics team is excited to be back in the gym according to senior Ashtyn Haak. "We worked all summer, but it's nice to be together practicing everyday," she said.

The Yankton-Bon Homme gymnastics team will compete tonight (Monday) in Yankton against Sioux Falls Washington and Mitchell at 6:30 p.m.

You can follow Adrienne Kusek on Twitter at twitter.com/AdrienneKusek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

GYMNASTICS

Gazelles 2013-14 Schedule

Dec. 2 vs. Mitchell/Washington	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 7 Sioux Falls Inv.	11 a.m.
Dec. 9 vs. Mitchell (JV/VMS)	4 p.m.
Dec. 10 Lincoln/lat Mitchell	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 12 vs. Roosevelt/O'Gorman	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 16 at Wagner	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 20-21 Mitchell Inv.	TBD
Jan. 11 Brookings Inv.	noon
Jan. 18 Pierre Inv.	noon
Jan. 23 vs. Vermillion (VMS)	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 28 vs. O'Gorman/Wash.	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 8 ESD (Mitchell)	noon

State — Feb. 21-22 at Aberdeen

SDSU Powers Past Northern Arizona In Playoff Opener

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Zach Zenner rushed for 249 yards and two touchdowns to lead South Dakota State to a 26-7 victory over Northern Arizona Saturday night.

The victory sends SDSU (9-4) to a second round matchup with Eastern Washington (10-2) on Saturday, Dec. 7. Start time is set for 3 p.m. Central.

After a scoreless first quarter, Northern Arizona got on the board first at 9:56 in the second on a 6-yard Zach Bauman run. Zenner answered for the Jackrabbits with an 87-yard touchdown run on first down to put the halftime score at 7-7.

In the third quarter, Bauman was dropped for an SDSU safety. On the Jackrabbits next possession, Zenner rushed 34 yards for a second touchdown to put South Dakota State up 16-7.

The Jackrabbits shut out Northern Arizona in the second half, scoring 19 unanswered points, including a Justin Syrovatka field goal and a Reginald Gandy rushing touchdown.

Kyren Poe threw for 216 yards for the Lumberjacks (9-3) and Bauman rushed for 101 yards and a touchdown.

S. DAKOTA STATE 26, N. ARIZONA 7

S. DAKOTA STATE 0 7 9 10 — 26

N. ARIZONA 0 7 0 0 — 7

Second Quarter
NAZ—Bauman 6 run (Wildier kick), 9:56.
SDSU—Zenner 87 run (Syrovatka kick), 3:14.

Third Quarter
SDSU—Lally Safety, 7:46.
SDSU—Zenner 34 run (Syrovatka kick), 6:49.

Fourth Quarter
SDSU—FG Syrovatka 20, 11:53.
SDSU—Gandy 7 run (Syrovatka kick), 7:05.
A—5,077.

	SDSU	NAZ
First downs	18	16
Rushes-yards	50-343	35-53
Passing	56	248
Comp-Att-Int	4-15-1	18-32-3
Return Yards	96	0
Punts-Avg	7-44.6	8-49.6
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	4-41	8-68
Time of Possession	33:10	26:50

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Loeffler Powers USD Women Past Wyoming



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

South Dakota's Lisa Loeffler (44) scored a career-high 24 points as the South Dakota women's basketball team gave Wyoming its first loss of the season with a 82-78 win in the DakotaDome Saturday.

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — It had been a while since Lisa Loeffler had a shooting performance like she put together Saturday.

The stat line for the USD junior: 11-of-14 from the field for a career-high 24 points. And six rebounds.

Turns out, every one of those makes and rebounds were needed. The Coyotes shot 55 percent after halftime and used a plus-21 edge on the glass to hold off Wyoming 82-78 Saturday afternoon at the DakotaDome.

Loeffler, a native of Maplewood, Minn., eclipsed her total number of shots made from the previous five games. She even equaled her previous career high of 14 points by halftime.

So yeah, it had been a while since she produced like that?

"Yeah, but geez, it's been a while," Loeffler said. "During warmups, it didn't feel special or anything, but once that first one went down, it started to feel good."

Coming off a sluggish 48-point output at Creighton earlier in the week, the Coyotes (3-5) had their best shooting performance of the season against a previously-undefeated Cowgirls (4-1) squad.

A 12-2 run — with seven straight from Nicole Seekamp — early in the second half surged the Coyotes to a 57-46 lead with 12:24 to play.

Not content to get run out of the dome, the Cowgirls went on a 10-2 spurt to get them within 59-56 with 8:51 remaining.

Wyoming never relented, though, getting within 81-78 with seven seconds left. Seekamp was fouled and hit the second of two free throws, icing the victory that was all but easy.

"I think we can definitely

do a better job finishing games," USD head coach Amy Williams said. "We struggle a little bit keeping good penetrators in front of us; giving up those quick buckets."

"We'll have to work on that a little bit, finishing stronger."

Of course, when you can get 24 points from your four spot, you feel pretty good, Williams said.

"Polly (Harrington) calls those 'layups' for Lisa," the second-year coach said. "We're all surprised when she misses one of those baseline jumpers. She's dangerous on those."

Loeffler scored 10 of USD's first 18 points, helping the Coyotes build a 34-32 lead at halftime. As was the case in the second half, most of Loeffler's points came on baseline jumpers off feeds from drivers.

"They're the reason I got those," Loeffler said. "They drive and kick it to me. I think it helps knowing that we have different options; that if the drive isn't there, we have other weapons."

As a result, Seekamp finished with a team-high six assists to go along with 18 points — 14 coming after halftime.

"She can shoot those jumpers all day and we know she'll make most of them," Seekamp said. "I have faith in her, because we've seen her do that hundreds of times in practice."

It was more than just offense that propelled USD to the win. It was a 45-24 edge on the glass. Wyoming was held to just six offensive rebounds, a defensive low for the Coyotes this season.

"That was huge," Loeffler said. "That was our goal. We knew that if we won that, we'd have a great shot to win the game."

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Coyote Men Top Graceland In Home Opener



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

South Dakota sophomore point guard Trey Norris (1) slices through the Graceland defense for an easy two points during their men's basketball game on Saturday at the DakotaDome. Norris had 11 points and a season-high nine assists as USD scored a 112-85 victory.

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — It took about 25 minutes, but eventually order was restored and the USD men's basketball team was able to out-gun its NAIA opponent.

But talk about surviving a scare.

Holding serve in their home opener, the Coyotes used a 25-2 run in the second half to run past Graceland University 112-85 on Saturday afternoon at the DakotaDome.

The story, early at least, was the way the visiting Yellowjackets were able to keep pace with USD (2-3) and score 53 points in the first half.

"It got shaky there for a while, and I started thinking, 'Oh man, we have to put these guys away,'" said Coyote point guard Trey Norris, who recorded 11 points and nine assists — with zero turnovers.

"We answered in the second half, so that's all that mattered."

And what an answer it was. In scoring its most points in three years, USD shot 58 percent, made 13 three-pointers, dished out 24 assists and put eight players in double figures.

The trick now is playing a consistent 40 minutes, according to interim head coach Joey James.

"That's something I continue to remind this young team," he said. "You can't just come out and play for 20 minutes."

With the home team stunned in the first half (or as Norris later said, perhaps over-looking Graceland), the Yellowjackets — who came in averaging 90 points — kept on running and kept on shooting.

Although USD led by as many as 15 points in the first half, Graceland shot 51 percent (thanks to 8-of-15 on three-pointers) to close within 54-53 at halftime.

Just about everything but the score frustrated the Coyotes.

"They were hitting some tough shots, I'll give them credit for that, but we didn't do a good job of keeping them out of the lane or contesting those shots," said junior guard Brandon Bos, who scored 15 points.

Graceland then continued its surge into the second half, leading briefly before battling to a 67-67 tie at the 15:20 mark.

That's when the Coyotes finally got rolling.

Norris made consecutive baskets, Casey Kasperbauer and Tavian Pomlee drilled consecutive threes and Pomlee converted a layup to close a 15-0 run within under three minutes.

With Graceland struggling through a 24-percent second half, the Coyotes reached 100 points with 5:46 remaining and were able to showcase their depth. All 12 players who saw the court scored in the win.

Pomlee led the way with 16 points, followed by Bos (15), Adam Thoseby (14), Kasperbauer (12), Trevor Gruis (11), Norris (11), Tyler Flack (10) and Eric Robertson (10).

"I'd bottle that up right now and take it every game if I could," James joked.

"The fact that we had 24 assists shows that we're an unselfish basketball team. We have guys that can score the ball, not just two or three."

The Coyotes return to Division I action tonight (Monday) with a 7 p.m. home date

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Fort Wayne Women Upend Michigan State

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Amanda Hyde scored 23 points and led five Fort Wayne players in double digits in an 81-76 upset win over No. 21 Michigan State on Sunday.

The Mastodons (4-4) controlled the game with 53.7 percent shooting from the floor, including 13 of 23 from beyond the arc. Joining Hyde in double digits was Haley Seibert and Rachel Mauk, with 14 points apiece, Ariana Simmons, who added 12 points, and Mur Hagerman with 10.

Michigan State (5-2) hit just 30 of its 73 shots from the floor (41.1 percent), and 7 of 20 from 3-point range, marking its first home court loss of the season. Trailing by as many as 10 points in the second half, the Spartans narrowed the gap to 79-76 on a Kiana Johnson layup with 5 seconds remaining but the rally stalled.

Aerial Powers led Michigan State with a game-high 28 points and 14 rebounds.

NO. 18 OKLAHOMA 80, CREIGHTON 52: NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma scored the first 10 points in three minutes and the No. 18 Sooners never let up in an 80-52 defeat of Creighton on Sunday afternoon.

The Sooners (5-2), coming off a loss to unranked UCLA, built leads of as many as 35 points behind the shooting of Sharane Campbell, who was 10-for-14 from the field for a career-high 25 points.

Aarjn Ellenberg added 13 points and 10 rebounds, Nicole Griffin 17 points and nine boards. Marissa Janning, with 18 points, was the only player to reach double figures for the Bluejays (4-3). Janning scored all her points on 3-point baskets — she was 6 of 13 from behind the arc, matching a career high.

Creighton lobbed 41 3-pointers, hitting just 11 and was an icy 21 percent field-goal shooting. The Bluejays were whistled for 25 fouls and Oklahoma scored 20 points at the line in 30 attempts.

Saturday

SIoux FALLS 70, SOUTHWEST MINN. STATE 60: SIoux FALLS — Laura Johnson had 19 points and 10 rebounds to lead Sioux Falls to a 70-60 victory over Southwest Minnesota State in the Northern Sun opener for both squads.

Parkston native Marie Malloy had six points and four rebounds for USF (5-0).

Alison Nagel had 17 points and nine rebounds, and Rebekah Rolling had 16 points for SMSU (2-3).

AUGUSTANA 86, MIDLAND 68: SIoux FALLS — Augustana overcame a slow start to

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