

USD Set For Quality Home Opponent In Green Bay

BY JEREMY HOECK

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In search of quality home non-conference games, the University of South Dakota men's basketball program scheduled a home and home series with Wisconsin-Green Bay.

And all with the idea that the Phoenix — who go by just Green Bay — could very well be a NCAA Tournament contender by the time they were set to return to the Dakotadome.

Mission accomplished. "Up to this point in the Dome, there's no question, Green Bay is

probably the best team," said USD interim head coach Joey James, whose Coyotes host the Phoenix tonight (Saturday) at 7 p.m. in Vermillion.

The preseason favorite to win the Horizon League, Green Bay (5-3) is ranked No. 12 in the latest mid-major poll and already own an ACC win over Virginia last Saturday.

Oh, and Green Bay — which beat the Coyotes last season — also lost by three points at nationally-ranked Wisconsin.

"We wanted to try to get more of a quality opponent in the dome, one our guys can relate to," James said.

"Youngstown State (which hosts USD on Dec. 29) is in our same football conference, so that one was pretty easy to get. They were willing to do a home and home."

The late departures of Oakland and Kansas City from the Summit League all but forced USD to add a third lower-level game this season, once the school got permission from the conference. As such, the Coyotes have Graceland (which they beat 112-85), Iowa Wesleyan (Jan. 4) and Peru State (Feb. 4) on the schedule.

"Don't get me wrong, those NAIA games are fine, but those are more

based on getting yourself a win and giving all your guys a chance to play minutes," James said. "But with a team like Green Bay, it's horses against horses."

"It'll be a battle." The Phoenix, coming off an 18-win campaign last season, boasts two pre-season All-Horizon League first team selections in senior center Alec Brown and junior guard Keifer Sykes.

Brown, a 7-foot-1 native of Winona, Minn., averages 12.3 points and 6.1 rebounds. He is considered by many websites as a future NBA prospect — NBAdraft.net lists him

at No. 48 in the latest mock draft. James said USD at one point recruited Brown, who owns a triple-double this season.

And then there's 5-foot-11 junior point guard Keifer Sykes, who averages 21.4 points and 4.9 assists. He had a streak of six consecutive 20-plus point games snapped earlier this week.

"He's a very electrifying point guard. He's got like a 44 and a half inch vertical," James said. "He's explosive in the open court, can shoot the pull-up and can hit threes."

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Dark Side Of The Summit



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

The Yankton High School student section tries to distract Watertown's Marcus Gravatt (40) as the Arrow shot a free throw during the second half of their Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' basketball game on Friday at the Summit Center. This was the first game of the new seating configuration at the Summit Center. Watertown was just 9-17 from the line for the game as Yankton won 82-71 in overtime.

Bucks Roar Past Arrows In OT

Sawatzke, Hale Combine For 54 In 82-71 Win

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How about that for a season opener?

One hundred fifty-three points.

Most importantly for the Yankton Bucks, though, was the 54 between sophomore Reid Sawatzke (29) and junior Brady Hale (25).

"That was a crazy offensive battle," said Sawatzke, who sparked Yankton to an 82-71 overtime win over Watertown on Friday night at the Summit Center.

After rallying from seven points down with 2:37 left in regulation, the Bucks (1-0) scored the final 10 points of overtime.

A Hale breakaway dunk just ahead of the final buzzer put the finishing touches on an impressive debut.

"That's a credit to our kids, to keep playing and keep making plays," head coach Chris Haynes said. "When you're down that big, it's on defense that wins you the game."

"You can't keep giving up points; you need stops."

And Yankton's 1-2 punch weren't stopped all that much.

Sawatzke scored 12 points in the final 3:02 of the fourth quarter and finished the

game 10-of-17 shooting. Hale, meanwhile, was 9-of-16.

"We found something that worked," Sawatzke said. "If they doubled Brady, I could kick it to him. We just wanted to attack."

Especially in crunch time. Watertown built as much as a 9-point lead in the fourth quarter, but Sawatzke's driving layup with 39 seconds left put the Bucks in front 63-62.

Watertown's Nate Davis tied the game with a layup of his own with three seconds left, sending the game to overtime.

"We were down by so much, but nobody quit. We knew it wasn't over," Sawatzke said.

Not when two of your starting guards combine for 54 points.

"We can't expect, but hey, we'll take it," Haynes said. "With J.J. not playing right now, we need some scoring to come from other guys."

To that end, senior Ryan Olson added eight points, while senior Chipper Granflaten and junior Evan Greenway both scored six points.

Watertown, which committed 20 turnovers but led 26-24 at halftime, kept itself going by hitting 10-of-18 three-pointers.

"That's hard to do in a gym all by yourself," Haynes said. "But that's their game, they can stretch the floor so well."

The Arrows put four players in double figures, led by

Jesse Poppen's 18 points.

The story, though, was Sawatzke and Hale.

"I'm just so happy for those two, they deserve this," said Haynes, whose team visits Mitchell next Tuesday. "They put in a lot of time in the off-season, just like all of our guys did."

"It was pretty evident they took last season to heart."

In sub-varsity action, Yankton won the JV game 42-41 behind 10 points from Tanner Frick and 10 rebounds from Evan Greenway.

Watertown rallied to win the sophomore game 41-34.

The Arrows won the freshman 'A' game 42-40. Michael Heine led the Bucks with 12 points. Yankton won the 'B' game 44-26 behind eight points apiece from A.J. Fernandez and Jordan Payer.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

WATERTOWN (0-1)
Nate Davis 5-11 0-4 11; Logan Gabriel 0-0 0-0 0; Mark DeSpiegler 1-4 0-0 3; Jordan Terronez 4-8 2-3 12; Trevor Jutting 4-7 0-0 11; Jesse Poppen 5-11 5-5 18; Mark Gravaat 6-9 2-4 14; Nate DeSpiegler 0-0 0-0 0; Harrison Jones 1-2 0-1 2. TOTALS 26-52 9-17 71.

YANKTON (1-0)
Tanner Frick 1-2 0-0 2; Ryan Olson 2-6 2-4 8; Reid Sawatzke 10-17 6-8 29; Austin Johnson 0-1 0-0 0; Lane Sawatzke 1-2 0-0 2; Mitchell Gullikson 2-6 0-0 4; Chipper Granflaten 2-4 2-6 8; Brady Hale 9-16 6-25 25; Evan Greenway 3-3 0-0 6. TOTALS 30-57 16-24 82.

WATERTOWN 6 26 43 64 71
YANKTON 16 24 39 64 82
Three-Pointers: Watertown 10-18 (Jutting 3-4, Poppen 3-4, DeSpiegler 1-2, Davis 1-4), Yankton 6-16 (R. Sawatzke 3-8, Olson 2-4, Hale 1-3, Gullikson 0-1). Total Rebounds: Yankton 30 (Gullikson 7), Watertown 28 (Terronez 7). Assists: Yankton 7 (Hale 3), Watertown 7 (Davis 5). Turnovers: Watertown 20, Yankton 13. Personal Fouls: Watertown 21, Yankton 16. Fouled Out: Jutting.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Reid Sawatzke goes in for a layup during their Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' basketball game with Watertown on Friday at the Summit Center.

Bucks 1-2 In Vermillion Quad

VERMILLION — The Yankton Bucks went 1-2 in a wrestling quadrangular on Friday at Vermillion High School.

In the Bucks' 60-22 victory over Dakota Valley, Cody Vornhagen (106), Victor Lacey (113), Noah Vetter (120), Spencer Huber (126), Jamee Bruegman (138), Casey Skillingstad (145), Ryan Sternhagen (160) and Cody Hanzlik (170) all won by pin. Schuyler Walchek (132), Brady Dam (152) and Cameron Trudeau (285) won by pin for Dakota Valley.

In Vermillion's 45-24 victory over Yankton, Regan Bye (152), Brandon Hertz (160), Brett Bye (170) and Seth Heine (195) won by pin for Vermillion. Vetter (120), Huber (126) and Bruegman (138) won by pin for the Bucks.

In Brandon Valley's 55-20 win over Yankton, Vornhagen (106) and Skillingstad (145) won by pin. Vetter (120) won by technical fall for the Bucks.

Yankton competes in the Sioux Falls Washington Invitational on Dec. 21.

VERMILLION 45, YANKTON 24: 106 — Trey Hage V dec. Cody Vornhagen Y 10-5, 113 — Jake Husby V by forfeit 120 — Noah Vetter Y pin. Kyle Seibel V in 0:53, 126 — Spencer Huber Y pin. Brett Culver V in 0:53, 132 — Mason Pickett V dec. Skylar Elle Y 5-4, 138 — Jamee Bruegman Y pin. Noah Walker Y in 3:55, 145 — Casey Skillingstad Y dec. Carter Kratz Y 5-0, 152 — Regan Bye Y pin. Jordan Lucht Y in 49, 160 — Brandon Hertz Y pin. Ryan Sternhagen Y in 2:16, 170 — Brett Bye V pin. Cody Hanzlik Y in 1:16, 182 — Open, 195 — Seth Heine V pin. Brock Folkers Y in 2:58, 220 — Noah Westergard V dec. Zach Hanzlik Y 4-1, 285 — Landon Binder V dec. Zach Westergard V 2-0.

BRANDON VALLEY 55, YANKTON 20: 106 — Cody Vornhagen Y pin. Krembock B 12-4, 110 — Heidrick BV pin. Cody Hanzlik Y 4-3, 126 — Eigenberg BV by forfeit, 195 — Sorenson BV pin. Brock Folkers Y in 1:52, 220 — Ebright BV pin. Zach Hanzlik Y 4:33, 285 — Ode BV by forfeit.

YANKTON 60, DAKOTA VALLEY 22: 106 — Cody Vornhagen Y pin. Dylan Ryder DV 50, 113 — Victor Lacey Y pin. Mitchell Kistner DV 28, 120 — Noah Vetter Y pin. Robert Shreter DV 43, 126 — Spencer Huber Y pin. Kaleb Martin DV 2:56, 132 — Schuyler Walchek DV pin. Skylar Elle Y 5:28, 138 — Jamee Bruegman Y pin. Evan Mansfield DV 1:54, 145 — Casey Skillingstad Y pin. Jordan Lucht Y 2:22, 160 — Ryan Sternhagen Y pin. Gage Butler DV 0:57, 170 — Cody Hanzlik Y pin. Chris Claren DV 2:54, 182 — Dylan Lynde Y by forfeit, 195 — Brock Folkers Y by forfeit, 220 — Ryan Parker DV maj. dec. Zach Hanzlik Y 10-0, 285 — Cameron Trudeau DV pin. Landon Binder Y 0:26.

Canton Quad

CANTON — The Parkston Trojans went 3-0 in wrestling quadrangular at Canton on Thursday.

Parkston beat Adrian, Minn., 32-24, Tri-Valley 68-12 and Canton 52-12. For the Trojans, Logan Mahoney (106), Kyler

Huether Powers Viborg-Hurley Past Freeman In Opener

HURLEY — Behind 29 points from senior Jack Huether, Viborg-Hurley was able to roll Freeman 72-54 on Friday night.

Dylan Kludt helped the Viborg-Hurley (1-0) cause with 13 points.

Cole Paulson led Freeman (0-1) with 22 points. Joe Weier added 15 points in the loss.

Viborg-Hurley travels to Scotland on Monday. Freeman will travel to Bon Homme on Monday.

VIBORG-HURLEY (1-0).....14 30 52 72
FREEMAN (0-1).....9 27 37 54

Crofton 61, Emerson-Hubbard 49

CROFTON, Neb. — Behind 47 percent shooting from the field, Crofton was able to continue their hot start with a 61-49 victory over Emerson-Hubbard on Friday evening.

Brock Mueller and Tyler Koch helped lead the Warriors (3-0) with 13 points. Eric Kleinschmit

added 12 points, while Austin Wockman added 10 points and three steals.

Travis Emmonds led Emerson-Hubbard (1-2) with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Chance Morgan and Eric Hansen each added 10 points in the loss.

Crofton will travel to Cedar Catholic on Tuesday. Emerson-Hubbard hosts Wakefield on Tuesday.

CROFTON (3-0).....23 34 47 61
EMERSON-HUBBARD (1-2).....12 20 35 49

Alcester-Hudson 62, Freeman Academy 46

FREEMAN — Grant Johnson scored 21 points to lead Alcester-Hudson past Freeman Academy 62-46 in Friday night's season opener in Freeman.

Zach Ronning added 12 points for the Cubs, while Lyle LaFramboise scored 10 points. Johnson and Chris Klemme both grabbed six rebounds.

ALCESTER-HUDSON (0-0).....4 20 36 62
FREEMAN ACADEMY (0-1).....11 24 32 46

Vermillion Girls Hold Off Bon Homme 41-36

TYNDALL — Vermillion outplayed Bon Homme 41-36. It was close throughout the game with the score at the end of the first half 16-15 with Vermillion in the lead.

The end of the third quarter was just as close 27-26 to Vermillion.

Josie Huber lead Vermillion in points with 20. Huber led in rebounds with seven. Haleigh Melstad added 18 points to the Tanagers' score.

Kelsey Sutura lead Bon Homme with putting up 12 points and grabbing 6 rebounds. Liz Kubal scored 10 points.

Bon Homme travels to Scotland Thursday and Ver-

million plays at Sioux Falls Christian also on Thursday.

VERMILLION (1-1).....2 16 27 41
BON HOMME (1-1).....7 15 26 36

Gayville-Volin 53, Baltic 46

GAYVILLE — Gayville-Volin comes up from behind the first half 20-31 against Baltic to take the win 53-47 at Friday night's contest in Gayville.

Baltic started the second half ahead by 11 points. By the end of the third quarter Gayville-Volin closed the gap to just one point making the score 38-39 with Baltic in the lead.

Kella Barta of Gayville-Volin out up the game high of 28 points. Genny Clark scored 12 points and Megan Hirsch grabbed 12 rebounds.

For Baltic Mariah Hansch scored 14 points, and Allie Walker added 12 points and 14 rebounds. Baltic travels to Parker Monday and Gayville-Volin heads to Wasaw, Nebraska on Tuesday.

BALTIC (0-1).....8 31 39 47
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (2-0).....6 20 38 53

Avon 50, Gregory 23

AVON — Avon kept the game against Gregory pretty close at the half 17-12 but then exploded their scoring in the second half putting up 25 points in the fourth quarter winning 50-23 in Avon.

Leading Avon, Chesney Nagel put up 18 points and Amanda Reiff added 10. Hedi Cap grabbed 13 rebounds and Nagel grabbed 10.

For Gregory, Courtney Opbroek netted 10 points and Briana Leber snatched eight rebounds. Avon won the JV game against Gregory 33-25.

Gregory hosts Dakota Christian on Tuesday and Avon heads across the state line to Hartington Cedar Catholic in Nebraska Thursday.

GREGORY (1-1).....6 12 17 23
AVON (1-0).....7 17 25 50

Beresford 59, Madison 52

BERESFORD — Beresford was able to edge out Madison 59-52 on Friday evening in girls' basketball action.

Shelby Bickett led Beresford (1-0) with 15 points.

Miranda Kern led Madison (0-1) with 17 points and nine rebounds.

Beresford will host compete in the Tea Area tournament today. Madison hosts Elk Point Jefferson today, as well.

BERESFORD (1-0).....21 32 44 59
MADISON (0-1).....12 28 34 52