

Williams Comes Full Circle With Game At Nebraska

USD Coach Played For Huskers, Will Lead USD Against Alma Mater Today

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Amy Williams is coming full circle.

The head coach for the University of South Dakota women's basketball team will be guiding her Coyotes against her alma mater in today's (Saturday) showdown in Lincoln, Neb. The game tips off at 2:30 p.m.

Williams, a four-year letterwinner with the Huskers, graduated in 1998 before embarking her coaching career that included stops at Nebraska-Kearney, Texas-San Antonio, Oklahoma State, Tulsa and Rogers State.

"A lot of things have changed

since I left," she said, smiling, after Thursday night's 76-48 home win over College of Saint Mary.

The most direct change? A new arena in Lincoln.

Nebraska is playing its first season in Pinnacle Bank Arena, a \$179 million project that serves as the new home for Husker men's and women's basketball.

The personal connection will still be there, but just not in the same way, Williams said.

"It'd be totally different if we were going to the Devaney Center, where I played, but it's a brand new arena, so I'm excited to see that," she said.

Just not so anxious to play the No. 19-ranked Huskers (8-2), who

have advanced to the Sweet 16 twice in the last four seasons.

The Huskers are led by 6-foot-2 senior post Jordan Hooper, who averages 19.9 points and 11.2 rebounds — she has 31 double-doubles in her career.

Combined, Nebraska's front line of Hooper, Emily Cady and Hailie Sample average 40.7 points and 25.7 rebounds per game.

Comparatively, USD's two starting posts, Polly Harrington and Lisa Loeffler, average 17 points and 10 rebounds between them.

So naturally, the Coyotes will key on the rebounds, an area which they only had a plus-3 edge in Thursday's win over NAIA College of Saint Mary.

"Going into the Nebraska game, it would've been nice to have a better game, to get that 8-day rust off you," said USD junior Nicole Seekamp, who had 11 points and 10 rebounds in Thursday's win.

Not only is today a regional foe, USD will be playing its third game against a ranked Division I team since joining the D-1 waters in 2008. The Coyotes lost at No. 18 Iowa State earlier this season.

In all, USD is 1-7 against BCS conference schools.

"That's the reason everybody plays sports, to have those chances to do something special," Williams said. "All our kids are looking forward to it."

"I just wish we were going down

there at full strength, but we'll be anxious to play."

To that end, the Coyotes will be without two key pieces today. Sophomore starter Heidi Hoff left Thursday's game with a knee injury that Williams later called "pretty serious," and sophomore reserve Margaret McCloud won't make the trip because of a family matter.

Still, the Coyotes are welcoming today's challenge.

"It always helps show us, a young team, where we need to get better at," Seekamp said. "Those teams have more experience, so it'll be a great test."

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

Wynot Tops Wausa In D2 Showdown

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

WYNOT, Neb. — In what could have easily been a state tournament game, Wynot and Wausa resumed their boys' basketball rivalry Friday night.

Though in an early-season meeting and not on a neutral court.

The result, a 57-46 home victory for last season's Class D2 state champion Wynot, only further established that the Blue Devils are ready to defend their title — and in the process, move on from a loss in last month's state football semifinals.

And yes, the two goals are connected. "I think this refocused us after football season," said Wynot senior guard Jackson Sudbeck, who had 16 points (11 in the fourth quarter) and eight assists.

"There was a lot of disappointment after that, and it took us a while to get going for basketball."

Friday night did exactly that.

The visiting Vikings (5-1), ranked second in D2 after reaching the state tournament last season, got within 42-36 with 4:18 to play in the fourth quarter but couldn't close the gap.

Instead, Wynot drilled four three-pointers in the final quarter.

As evidenced by the capacity crowd, with extra fans standing against the walls, the game meant a little more than a typical regular season showdown.

"We've been playing against those guys since sixth grade, so we know each other pretty well," Sudbeck said. "The rivalry is always fun, especially when we're both good."

That they are.

Senior Davis Wieseler added 13 points for Wynot (4-1), while senior Brady Stratman and sophomore Austin Lange each scored eight points.

Despite finishing minus-9 in rebounding, the Blue Devils appeared ready to start rolling — following a 1-point loss to Class C2 Homer earlier this week.

"I'm pretty sure this gets our momentum going in the right way," Sudbeck said.

Holding the Vikings to essentially one and done (particularly in the paint), the Blue Devils raced out to a 21-8 lead and took a 25-12 cushion into halftime.

Wausa got within 34-27 late in the third quarter and went into the fourth quarter down by seven.

Senior Austin Conn finished with 14 points, while seniors Devon Munter and Spencer Rosberg each added eight points.

A key win in hand, the Blue Devils can really kick-start the rest of their season.

"Now we're anxious to play again," Sudbeck said. "This is a huge step in the right direction."

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Wausa's Devon Munter, left, soars in for a layup in front of Wynot defender Cody Stratman during their showdown Friday night in Wynot, Neb.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Bucks Fall At Washington

SIoux FALLS — Sioux Falls Washington finished the first half on a 7-0 run, then kept Yankton at bay the rest of the game in a 61-50 decision over the Bucks in boys' basketball action on Friday night.

Brett Stanley scored 14 points and Sam Siganos had 11 points, seven rebounds and four steals for Washington, which shot 57 percent from the field for the game. Deng Geu added 10 points on 5-5 shooting in the win.

Ryan Olson scored a season-best 18 points to lead Yankton. Brady Hale netted 13 points.

Yankton shot 55.6 percent from three-point range (10-18), but just 6-28 from inside the arc.

Yankton, 1-2, is off until Jan. 4, when the Bucks travel to Mitchell.

Washington won the JV game 63-53 behind 12 points and 11 rebounds from Matt Farniok. Carter Keller added 11 points in the win.

For Yankton, Bradey Sorenson led the way with 14 points. Austin Johnson had eight points.

Washington also claimed the sophomore game, 51-32. For Washington, Kane Miedema posted 20 points and seven rebounds, while Tyler Olmstead scored 16 assists.

Yankton was led by Alex Withrow with 14 points. Keenan LaCroix added 10 points.

The Warriors claimed the freshmen game 52-35. For Washington, Zack Bolden had 16 points.

Michael Heine led Yankton with 11 points. Nate Stephenson added seven points.

YANKTON (1-2) Ryan Olson 6-15 2-4 18, Reid Sawatzke 2-7 1-2 7, Lane Sawatzke 0-1 0-0, Chipper Granflaten 0-2 0-0, Brady Hale 4-10 3-4 13, Tanner Frick 1-6 0-2 2, Austin Johnson 2-4 0-0 6, Brody McClure 0-0 0-0 0, Bradey Sorenson 0-0 0-0 0, Evan Greenway 1-1 2-5 4. TOTALS: 16-46 8-17 50.

WASHINGTON Sam Siganos 4-9 2-3 11, Brett Stanley 7-13 0-14, Kevin Nelson 3-4 1-2 7, Deng Geu 5-5 0-2 10, Austin Heins 1-2 2-2 4, Iyasu Woche 0-0 0-0, Carter Keller 0-1 0-0 0, Ty Smith 4-7 1-3 9, Cole Benson 3-5 0-0 6, Matt Farniok 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 27-47 6-12 61.

YANKTON 16 29 40 50
WASHINGTON 14 35 49 61
Three-Pointers: Y 10-18 (Olson 4-7, Hale 2-2, Johnson 2-3, R. Sawatzke 2-4, Frick 0-2), W 1-7 (Siganos 1-1, Nelson 0-1, Keller 0-1, Stanley 0-2, Smith 0-2). Rebounds: W 33 (Siganos 7), Y 24 (R. Sawatzke 5, Hale 5). Personal Fouls: W 15, Y 11. Fouled Out: None. Turnovers: Y 11, W 7. Blocked Shots: None. Steals: W 10 (Siganos 4), Y 6 (Frick 2).

Short-Handed Gazelles Fall At Washington



Wausa's Tara Munter, 23, has her shot blocked from behind by Wynot's Maggie Schulte during their girls' basketball game Friday night in Wynot, Neb.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Girls' Basketball: Wynot Rolls Past Wausa 70-26

SIoux FALLS — Out two regulars and playing a third game in four days is not the best time to be playing the top-ranked team in the state, as the Yankton girls' basketball team found out in a 67-23 loss to No. 1 Sioux Falls Washington on Friday in Sioux Falls.

Starting center Sophie Drotzmann and reserve forward Kami Cornemann missed the game due to illness. Senior guard Andi Sprakel left the game, also due to illness.

Anna Goodhope led Washington (4-0) with 14 points. Kelsey Knecht had 11 points and five steals. Michaela Mayer added 10 points in the win.

Senior Morgan Tessier led the Gazelles with 13 points.

"We did some good things tonight. It's tough when you know you're down from the get-go," said Yankton assistant coach Heather Olson. "Now we'll just get ready for Jan. 4."

Tonight (Saturday), Washington faces Richfield, Minn., which went 29-4 and placed third in the Minnesota State Tournament a year ago.

The Gazelles, 2-2, are now off until a Jan. 4 home matchup with perennial power Mitchell.

Washington won the sub-

varsity game 60-15. Josie Saylor had six points for Yankton.

YANKTON (2-3) Andi Sprakel 0-0 0-0, Whitee Larson 0 1-2 1, Becky Frick 0 0-0 0, Morgan Tessier 6 1-1 13, Allie Murphy 0 0-0 0, Sarah Rookne 0 0-0 0, Lauren Graves 0 0-0 0, Anna Gulick 1 0-0 2, Lindsey Hale 2 0-0 5, Allie Thiessen 0 0-0 0, Carson Smith 0 0-0 0, Danielle Schmidt 1 0-0 2. Totals 10 2-3 23.

WASHINGTON (4-0) Hanna Nieman 1 2-2 5, Kelsey Knecht 4 0-0 11, Ellye Benson 1 7-10 9, Sydney Koel 3 0-0 6, Michaela Mayer 3 4-6 10, Maddie Wiley 0 0-0 0, Jade Visker 0 0-0 0, Sarah Nolan 1 0-0 3, Anna Goodhope 4 5-9 14, Madison Aasen 2 0-2 4, Peyton VandeBrake 0 0-4 0, Lauren Farrior 2 0-1 5. Totals 21 18-34 67.

YANKTON 5 12 14 23
WASHINGTON 15 36 51 67
3-pointers — Y 1 (Hale), SFW 7 (Knecht 3); Rebounds — Y 22 (Tessier 4), SFW 32 (Koel 7); Total fouls — Y 21, SFW 10. Fouled out — Murphy; Assists — Y 2 (Larson 2); SFW 11 (Benson 4); Turnovers — Y 28, SFW 10; Steals — Y 5 (Tessier 3); SFW 20 (Knecht 5).

Wynot 70, Wausa 26

WYNOT, Neb. — Maggie Schulte and Jenna Heine combined for 36 points and the Wynot Lady Blue Devils forced 37 turnovers in a 70-26 victory over Wausa in Friday night's girls' basketball showdown in Wynot.

Schulte recorded 17 points, five rebounds, four assists and three blocks, while Heine added 16 points and four steals. Danielle Wieseler chipped in with nine points, six steals and three assists.

Wynot, now 4-1, led 38-10 at halftime. In the loss for the Lady Vikings, Britani Claussen scored eight points and Krissy Kumm added eight points.

Wynot, 4-1, hosts Randolph tonight (Saturday). Wausa hosts Niobrara-Verdige tonight.

WAUSA (0-8) 5 10 20 26
WYNOT (4-1) 23 38 50 65

Dakota Valley 57, Canton 51

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Jessica Feilmeier scored 12 points Friday night to lead the Dakota Valley Panthers in a 57-

51 win against the Canton C-Hawks in North Sioux City.

Allison Sexton scored 10 points in the win, with Carlie Long adding nine points. Canton had a total of 30 rebounds to Dakota Valley's 17, and the C-Hawks also had nine assists and 19 turnovers.

Canton hosts Centerville Jan. 7, while the Panthers face West Central in Hartford Jan. 3.

CANTON (2-2) 17 22 31 51
DAKOTA VALLEY (4-0) 15 24 44 57

Crofton 83, Vermillion 37

VERMILLION — Crofton blew out Vermillion 83-37 in Friday night's contest in Vermillion.

Leading in points for Crofton is Quinn Wragge, putting up 22 points and grabbing six rebounds. Allison Arens added 18 points and had 11 assists. Kelsey Famger netted 17 points, had 10 assists and picked up six steals. Maria Wortmann scored 12 points and snatched eight rebounds.

Haleigh Meistad scored 16 points for Vermillion.

Vermillion hosts Tea Jan. 3.

Crofton (4-1) 29 47 64 83
VERMILLION (2-2) 8 17 32 37

Freeman 76, Canistota 57

FREEMAN — Shelby Jensen scored 19 points Friday night to lead the Freeman Flyers in a 76-57 win against the Canistota Hawks in Freeman.

Mady Pravacek scored 16 points and had six rebounds in the win, while Nicole Saarie scored 13 points and had five rebounds. Erika Sage and Taylor Hermesen each scored 11 points.

Chloe Nielsen scored 13 points for the Hawks, while Jenny Hofer put up 12