

# Bucks Put Five On 11AA All-State Team

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Leadership and versatility. The combination of those two qualities helped Yankton capture its second straight Class 11AA state championship, with another overtime thriller decided on a defensive stand by the Bucks.

At one point this season, Yankton suffered three losses over a four-game span (including consecutive shutout defeats), but found a late-season spark thanks to versatile weapons like Sheldon Gant (FB), Tanner Frick (WR) and Rayden Terca (DB).

That senior trio, along with Bradey Sorenson (OG) and Colin Muth (LB), were rewarded for their efforts by being named to the Class 11AA All-State Football Team, as chosen by the South Dakota Football Coaches Association.

What role did those five seniors play in Yankton's football resurgence?

"It's their commitment," head coach Arlin Likness said. "It was not only their only work ethic, but their desire to see it through."

"Even when things didn't go our way this year with injuries and everything else, they got back at it even harder to get better."

And those five players produced in a number of ways once they got on the field.

\* Including the championship game, Gant rushed for a team-high 625 yards with nine touchdowns (second-most), and caught a team-high 32 passes for a team-high 442 yards.

\* Frick, who in particular emerged late in the season after a mid-season quarterback switch, rushed for 453 yards and 10 touchdowns, and caught 19 passes for 361 yards and three scores.

\* In addition to his offensive duties (as a one-time quarterback and rusher), Terca recorded 42 tackles on defense with one interception



P&D FILE PHOTOS

The 2015 champion Yankton Bucks put five on the Class 11AA all-state football team, as selected by the South Dakota Football Coaches Association. Honorees included (clockwise from top left) fullback Sheldon Gant (34), wide receiver Tanner Frick (20), linebacker Collin Muth (45), guard Bradey Sorenson (65) and defensive back Rayden Terca (24).



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# No. 4 Briar Cliff Holds Off Mount Marty Women



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty's Alex Kneeland goes up to block a shot attempt by Briar Cliff's Morgan Hansen during their Great Plains Athletic Conference women's basketball game on Wednesday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND  
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The Mount Marty College Lancers women's basketball team brought the game within three points with under a minute to play after trailing by 17 at the end of the third against No. 4 Briar Cliff before falling 77-72 at Cimpl Arena in Yankton on Wednesday.

Fueling the comeback for Mount Marty was Alex Kneeland, who scored 17 of her game-high 26 points in the fourth quarter.

"They put a lot of effort to get back into it and we didn't do a very good job of handling it as they were chipping away at the score," Briar Cliff coach Mike Power said. "Momentum kind of jumped on their side and we had a hard time getting it back and [Kneeland] was hitting shots and we left her open too."

The closest the Lancers would get was 75-72 with 16 seconds remaining following a three hit by Mikayla Prouty. Jessi Corrick nailed her ninth and tenth free throws of the

game for the Chargers a few seconds later to put the game out of reach for good.

"Have a big lead like that and teams have a tendency to lose it mentally," Power said. "I've said all year long, whatever happens we seem to find ways to win, sometimes ugly and sometimes pretty."

In the first half, Briar Cliff raced to a 22-13 lead on the back of Morgan Hansen with 11 of her team-high 19 points coming in the first quarter. The Chargers didn't look back with a lead and with the help of a press, which forced 13 Lancer turnovers in the first half, they took a 39-28 lead into the locker room.

"I think we were just too soft, didn't meet passes, and kept getting the ball knocked away from us on ball pressure," Lancers coach Tom Schlimgen said. "I think we got better at that and got a little more determined."

Briar Cliff did more of the same in the third quarter, taking a 17 point lead at 58-41 into the final ten minutes, before Mount Marty would storm back in the fourth.

"I think we were just really aggressive, we got some of our own press, double teamed a bit, and I think they were a little hesitant and we just attacked offensively and moved the ball a little better," Schlimgen said of the fourth quarter rally. "We were much more aggressive in the second half, first half we were kind of just sitting around waiting for them to attack us."

The loss marks Mount Marty's 11th straight loss to a ranked opponent, dating back to January 2014, and third straight loss to Briar Cliff.

"We don't get too caught up in rankings because in our league it seems like everyone is ranked," Schlimgen said. "We just know they are a good basketball team, the next game we play they are going to be a good basketball team in our league."

"We've got six teams up there in the polls, but we just play them as they come."

The Lancers will take on

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# GPAC Basketball: No. 11 Chargers Pull Away From Lancer Men

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG  
P&D Correspondent

Mount Marty's Lancers held a prolific Briar Cliff Charger team in check and took an early lead, but the Chargers, who score over 96 points-per-game, broke free late in first half and scored a 90-64 win over the Lancers at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena Wednesday night.

"Offensively, we were moving the ball really well and moving well without the ball," Mount Marty head coach Andrew Baker said of the Lancer's fine start. "We were crisp offensively and playing well defensively and rebounding the ball well at that point."

The 11th-ranked Chargers had five players score in double-figures as they managed to pull away for their second GPAC win of the year.

The Lancers steadily built a 15-6 lead as K.J. DeCristino knocked down a 3-pointer and Patrick Ciganovic dished inside to Alex Irvine for a bucket.

The Chargers knitted together a 10-0 run on a 3-point play from Bryan Forbes and a reverse lay-in from Austin Homan to take a 16-15 lead.

Mount Marty answered with DeCristino, who cued up for a 2nd 3-pointer and Ciganovic tipped in a missed jumper from Irvine. Ciganovic was fouled on the tip and finished the 3-point play at the free-throw line for a 24-20 Lancer lead.

However, the hosts were stuck on 24 for nearly four minutes while the high-flying Chargers found their spark.

Austin Lefler and Erich Erdman swished 3-pointers, and a pair of free throws by Lefler put Briar Cliff in front 32-24.

Drew Matsushima scored from downtown, but Briar Cliff was in charge at the half, 44-32.

Though the Lancers stymied the Chargers for the first 10 minutes of the half and held top-scorer Clay Harreld scoreless for 20 minutes, Briar Cliff still managed to shoot 51.9-percent from the floor.

Harreld got in the act to start the 2nd half.

The 6-2 senior guard scored 11 points in the first 4:21 of the half as the Chargers increased their lead to 61-38.

Jay Wolfe, who scores 2.63 points-per-game for Briar Cliff, scored eight points down the stretch to cap off the 90-64 Charger win.

"It was a good start, but we stopped doing some of the things that got us there," Baker said. "It's frustrating when one of the things you can control is your effort and you kind of let that go."

Anthony Stransky scored 13 points in the second half and led Mount Marty with 16 points.

Willett finished with 10 points.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

The Mount Marty College bench celebrates during a timeout in Wednesday night's GPAC game against Briar Cliff at Cimpl Arena. MMC led midway through the first half, but the Chargers pulled away for a 90-64 victory.

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# SDSU Men Roll Past Wildcats

BROOKINGS – South Dakota State's Deondre Parks notched his first-career double-double and three other Jackrabbits reached double figures as SDSU downed NCAA Division II Wayne State 80-53 in men's basketball action on Wednesday at Frost Arena. The victory was the Jackrabbits' 20th straight at home.

While the Jackrabbits took the decision, it was not smooth, according to head coach Scott Nagy.

"I saw things tonight that I haven't seen all year, and I'm frustrated by what I saw," he said. "We're not rebounding the ball very well, we did take better care of the ball in the second half, the first half was a complete debacle as far as taking care of the basketball. I'm not overly concerned about percentages or what the score was, I'm

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