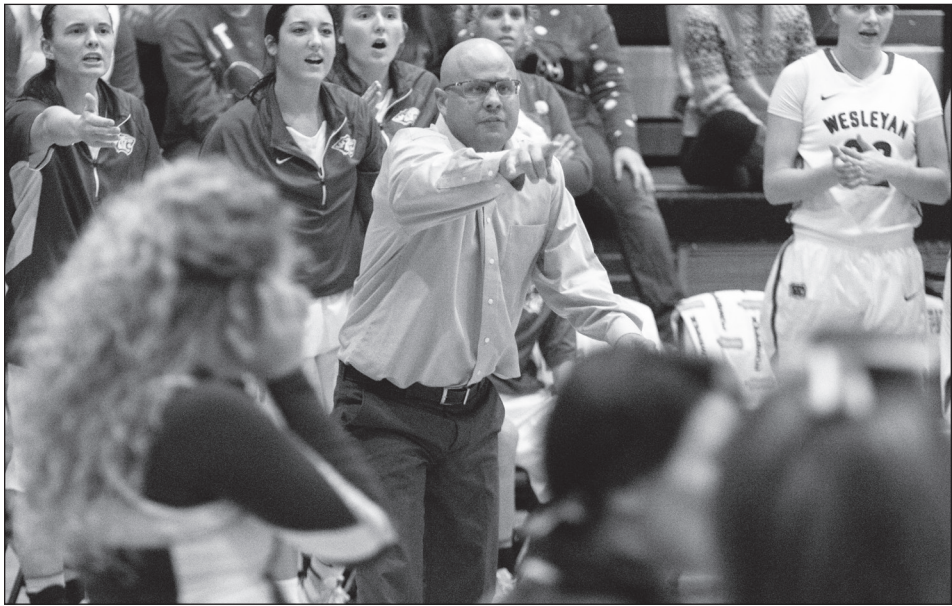


Dakota Wesleyan Excited For Game At USD



DAKOTA WESLEYAN SPORTS INFORMATION
Dakota Wesleyan women's basketball coach Jason Christensen, pointing, will take his Tigers squad, ranked 12th in the latest NAIA Division II poll, into the DakotaDome tonight (Thursday) to face the University of South Dakota.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Never one to shy away from a boxing reference, Jason Christensen equates his program's latest challenge to the movie 'Rocky IV.'

"You know, in Rocky IV, he did beat the Russian," the Dakota Wesleyan women's basketball coach joked Wednesday, as he watched game film of his next opponent.

That next opponent? The University of South Dakota.

It marks a unique opportunity – and quite the challenge – for DWU, which will count tonight's 7 p.m. game at the DakotaDome as an exhibition. USD, meanwhile, will mark it as a counter.

The appearance of a Division I game on the schedule is nothing new for Dakota Wesleyan. Three seasons ago,

Christensen's program played an exhibition at the University of Wyoming, and will return to Laramie next season.

Getting USD on the schedule, though, came down to timing; being in the right place at the right time.

During a state high school basketball tournament in Brookings two years ago – from what Christensen remembered – the DWU coach ran into USD assistant coach Chuck Love (who handles the scheduling duties) at a restaurant. The conversation eventually led to a verbal agreement.

"It was neat that Amy let us do this," Christensen said, referring to USD head coach Amy Williams.

In most situations like this, when a high-major team brings in a lower-level opponent for a game, connections and relationships play a key

role.

In terms of the USD and DWU connections, one in particular stands out: USD's new Director of Basketball Operations, Amanda Hart, is a former player for and assistant coach under Christensen.

"It's kind of special with Amanda there," Christensen said. "I'm looking forward to that."

Beyond that, the number of South Dakota and area players on both rosters would catch attention.

Dakota Wesleyan has 12 South Dakota natives and three Minnesota natives on its roster, while USD boasts five South Dakota products and four from neighboring Nebraska.

"We've got a lot of local kids, and Amy's gotten some kids from this area, so that's

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Texas Tech Surges Past Jackrabbits

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Toddrick Gotcher scored 17 points and Zach Smith chipped in 13, including five points during a key second-half surge, to propel Texas Tech to a 79-67 win over South Dakota State Wednesday night.

With the victory, the Red Raiders (7-1) increased their win streak to six games. The Jackrabbits dropped to 9-2 — suffering both losses on the road.

South Dakota State's Reed Tellinghuisen scored 19 points, Deondre Parks 17, Tevin King 12 and Mike Daum 11.

With Texas Tech clinging to a 53-52 lead with 12:26 left in the second half, Justin Gray jumpstarted an 11-0 run over the next two-and-a-half minutes — capped off by a thunderous Smith dunk — that broke the game open as the Red Raiders led 64-52.

From that point on, Texas Tech cruised to its sixth straight win of the season and kept its home record at an unblemished 5-0.

Wayne State 87, MMC 57

WAYNE, Neb. — Wayne State College overcome a slow start in the first half to outscore Mount Marty College 50-31 in the second half for a 87-57 non-conference men's college basketball win at Rice Auditorium in Wayne Wednesday evening. The Wildcats improve to 3-7 on the season while the contest was an exhibition game for the 1-10 Lancers.

David Anderson had 15 points and nine rebounds, and Jordan Cornelius scored 14 points to lead Wayne State. Adam Moon had 11 points. Brian Goodwin had four of Wayne State's 20 assists while JJ Zumbrennen recorded three of Wayne State's 15 steals in the contest.

Mount Marty College was led in scoring by Alex Irvine with 11 points while Jalen Hurley had 10 pounds.

The two teams traded leads in the first five minutes of the contest. With Mount Marty leading 8-7, Wayne State went on a 19-4 run over the next eight minutes to take a 26-12 lead at the 6:50 mark of the first half.

The Lancers got as close as 10 at 31-21 with 2:07 to play in the half before Wayne State took a 37-26 lead into the locker room at halftime. Mount Marty made three of its first four shots of the second half and pulled within nine of WSC at 43-34 until the Wildcats put the game out of reach with a 15-3 win over a stretch of 6:13 to take a 58-37 lead with 11:19 to play. The Wildcats extended the lead to as much as 35 at 81-46 with 3:14 remaining before finishing with the 87-57 win.

The Wildcats return to Northern Sun Conference play Saturday evening with a 6 p.m. contest at No. 2 Augustana University in Sioux Falls. Mount Marty returns to Great Plains Athletic Conference action at home against Hastings on Saturday, a 4 p.m. start.

MOUNT MARTY (1-10)
K.J. DeCristino 1-7 0-0 2, Anthony Stransky 3-7 0-0 9, Alex Irvine 5-6 1-4 11, Patrick Ciganovic 2-4 3-4 7, Cody Willett 0-5 0-0 0, Zach Telles 1-1 0-0 3, Derin Denning 1-3 0-2 6, Drew Matsushima 1-3 0-2 3, Ben Hegge 0-0 0-0 0, Hunter Martin 1-1 0-0 3, Jeremy Grundmeyer 1-1 0-0 2, Jalen Hurley 4-6 0-1 10, Taylor Millay 2-5 1-2 5, Drew Cheskie 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 22-49 5-11 57.

WAYNE STATE (3-7)
Adam Moon 4-6 3-4 11, Vance Janssen 1-3 4-4 6, Matt Thomas 3-8 2-3 9, Jordan Cornelius 6-8 0-2 14, Joel Hesch 3-3 0-2 6, Tyler Nagy 2-3 0-0 5, Doy-gas Burnella 2-4 0-0 4, Austin Esters 3-6 1-3 7, Brian Goodwin 3-5 1-2 8, Spencer Pauley 0-1 0-2 0, J.J. Zumbrennen 0-6 2-2 2, David Andersen 6-8 2-4 15. TOTALS: 33-61 15-28 87.

At the half: WSC 37, MMC 26. Three-Pointers: MMC 8-18 (Stransky 3-5, Hurley 2-2, Telles 1-1, Matsushima 1-2, Martin 1-1, DeCristino 0-1, Ciganovic 0-1, Denning 0-1), WSC 6-18 (Cornelius 2-4, Thomas 1-3, Nagy 1-2, Goodwin 1-1, Andersen 1-1, Zumbrennen 0-6). Rebounds: WSC 36 (Andersen 9), MMC 29 (three with 5). Personal Fouls: MMC 19, WSC 15. Fouled Out: None. Assists: WSC 20 (Goodwin 4), MMC 15 (Irvine 5). Turnovers: MMC 24, WSC 9. Blocked Shots: WSC 3, MMC 1. Steals: WSC 15 (Zumbrennen 3), MMC 5 (Stransky 2, Willett 2). Attendance: 454.

Menno Girls Win In OT

MENNO — Menno earned its first win of the season in an overtime victory over Scotland 40-38 in girls' basketball action on Tuesday in Menno.

For Menno, Ashton Vaith scored a team-high 11 points. Courtnee Edelman scored 10 points and led the game in steals with seven. Tara Spencer recorded 13 rebounds and

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Tough Schedule Paying Off For SDSU



P&D FILE PHOTO
South Dakota State guard Chloe Cornemann brings the ball up the court during a game in the 2014-15 season. Cornemann, a senior from Yankton, and the Jackrabbits scored a top-25 victory for a fourth straight season with a home victory over 16th-ranked DePaul on Tuesday.

Jackrabbit Women Look To Build Momentum Off A Win Over No. 16 DePaul

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Knocking off a ranked team inside Frost Arena.

Is that becoming old hat for the South Dakota State women's basketball team?

"I think you have to look at the results to see if your team is that kind of team or not," Johnston said Wednesday, the day after his program defeated No. 16-ranked DePaul 88-79 in Brookings.

The results would certainly show that the Jackrabbits, 9-2 this season, are capable of upsetting top-25 teams, either on the road but particularly at Frost Arena.

The win over DePaul marked the fourth consecutive season that SDSU has beaten a ranked team in Brookings. First came No. 15 Nebraska (2012), then came No. 12 Penn State (2013), then came No. 25 Arkansas (2014) and then DePaul.

While it's certainly no easy task to lure a high-major program to Brookings, SDSU has been able to secure home-and-home contracts with some of the nation's biggest names in the world of women's basketball.

"We always try to play some of the best teams in the country, and each year we've gotten closer and closer to winning more of those," Johnston said.

To that point, SDSU's only two losses this season were to top-25 teams Notre Dame and Maryland — by a combined 18 points.

It's one thing to dot your schedule with challenges, it's another to come away with wins in those games.

"When you get to this level, you have to measure yourself in much smaller increments; in small steps you can take," Johnston said.

The success of Johnston's program — 374 wins and six

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Basketball: Vermillion Boys Power Past Lennox

VERMILLION — The Vermillion Tanager picked up a 59-50 victory over the Lennox Orioles on Tuesday night in boys' basketball action at Vermillion.

The Tanagers were led by Cooper Williams, who posted 22 points in the contest. Jacob Manger added 15 points and six rebounds in the win.

Lennox's Jacob Hinker finished with a game-high 24 points and 16 rebounds, while Colin Mcentee added 14 points.

Vermillion will host Tri-Valley next Tuesday, while Lennox hosts Madison on Thursday night.

LENNOX (0-2).....9 27 37 50
VERMILLION (2-0).....14 22 37 59

while Grant Wragge added 11 points.

Hartington Cedar Catholic's next game will be in the Knight Classic in Fremont, Nebraska, on Dec 22 against a team to be announced.

Crofton will host Creighton on Friday.

CROFTON (0-4).....5 16 27 38
HART. CEDAR CATHOLIC (2-2).....6 17 26 44

Ponca 80, Laurel-Concord-Col. 70

LAUREL, Neb. — Ponca's boys basketball handed Laurel-Concord-Coleridge its first loss of the season, 80-70 in Lewis & Clark Conference action on Tuesday night.

Logan Kingsbury scored 39 points, including 4-4 from three-point range, to lead Ponca. Derrek Touney added 15 points, hitting three three-pointers. Jack Charlson added nine rebounds in the victory.

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge was led by Dillon Wolfram, who scored 31 points. Brant Eddie recorded eight rebounds for the home side.

Both teams will be in action on Thursday night with Ponca at Emerson-Hubbard and LCC hosting Plainview.

PONCA (2-3).....15 31 51 80
LAUREL-CONCORD-COL. (4-1).....21 39 55 70

Parker 64, Baltic 48

PARKER — The Parker Pheasants had four starters reach double figures in a 64-48 victory over the Baltic Bulldogs on Tuesday night in Parker.

Landon Leberman posted a game-high 17 points while adding seven rebounds. Both Kelby Peters and Cody Knock finished with 14 points, and Zack Anderson totaled 11 points for Parker.

For Baltic, Sam Muston had 13 points and five rebounds, and Jon Wilhelmssen had 12 points. Chaden Roggow finished with six points and eight rebounds for the Bulldogs.

Parker will have a road game with Alcester-Hudson on Thursday, while Baltic hosts Sioux Valley on Thursday.

BALTIC (1-1).....12 24 34 48
PARKER (1-1).....13 34 47 64

Dakota Valley 57, Beresford 33

BERESFORD — Dakota Valley picked up a 57-33 road win over the Beresford Watchdogs on Tuesday night in Beresford.

For Dakota Valley, Tyler Johnson scored a game-

high 16 points, while Bubba Rosenquist totaled 11 points and eight steals.

Logan Busch led Beresford with 11 points and eight rebounds.

Dakota Valley (1-1) will be in action again on Friday, as they host Canton. Beresford (2-0) will play host to Madison on Monday.

Niobrara-Verdigre 72, Ewing 18

NIOBRARA, Neb. — A 31-point first quarter propelled Niobrara-Verdigre to a 72-18 win over Ewing in boys' basketball action on Tuesday night.

Cade Kalkowski put up 17 points to lead the home side, and Nate Sandoz followed with 11 of his own. Cauby Drobny recorded eight rebounds for winning side.

There are no stats reported for Ewing, which hosts Boyd County on Friday.

Niobrara-Verdigre travels to Wausa on Monday.

EWING (0-5).....3 9 13 18
NIOBRARA-VERDIGRE (5-1).....31 44 63 72

Wynot 64, Homer 20

HOMER, Neb. — Wynot crushed Homer 64-20 in high school boys' basketball ac-

tion on Tuesday in Homer, Nebraska.

For Wynot, Jalen Wieseler led the team with 14 points, while Cody Stratman added 11. Ethan Lange lead all players in rebounds with seven.

Jordan Sanford and Jonah Schmitt led with five points each for Homer, while Brent Schmidt led the team with five rebounds.

Wynot will host Wausa on Friday for its next game and Homer will travel to Bancroft-Rosalie on the same day.

WYNOT (3-1).....27 39 54 64
HOMER (1-3).....9 13 16 20

Randolph 57, Wakefield 16

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Randolph made quick work of Wakefield, outscoring the Trojans 41-7 in the first half on the way to a 57-16 victory in Lewis & Clark Conference boys' basketball action on Tuesday.

Logan Nordhues scored 15 points and Connor Bloomquist had 13 points to lead Randolph. Mason Stubbs netted 11 points, and Landyn Anderson had eight rebounds and four assists in the victory.

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