

Sanford Pentagon Classic

Notebook: Wynot Gets Its Look At High-Level S.D. Hoops

BY JEREMY HOECK

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ST. THOMAS FALLS – There was a moment in the second quarter where Wynot got an open-court steal, like it does 20 times a game, but a layup was blocked from behind from a defender that had raced down the floor.

That was the story of the game.

Wynot was playing at a whole different level.

Invited to participate in this year's Sanford Pentagon Girls' Basketball Classic, held Saturday in Sioux Falls, Wynot – a Nebraska Class D2 powerhouse – was matched up with St. Thomas More, which has won two straight state titles in South Dakota.

Even before the teams took the court Saturday night, it was bound to be a significant challenge for Wynot.

But it was a challenge the small northeast Nebraska school was ready to embrace.

"Any time you can see that quality, it only makes you better," Wynot coach Steve Wieseler said after his team was handed a 48-31 defeat.

"As long as you learn from it and use it."

One thing Wynot learned from its taste of high-level South Dakota basketball? St. Thomas More is certainly longer than most teams Wynot would ever see in Nebraska.

The starting lineup for St. Thomas More went 5-11, 5-11, 5-11, 5-10 and 6-1, while Wynot's starters go 5-4, 5-9, 5-3, 5-6 and 5-9.

"They're definitely something we've never seen before," Wynot junior standout Courtney Arkfeld said.

"That just makes you better, though."

In what ways?

"You can compare yourselves," Arkfeld said. "You see how a team like that plays, and you try to do the same thing."

While that's physically impossible for the small but scrappy Wynot roster, seeing that level in person was a new experience for the Blue Devils.

Last season, for example, Wynot played only one South Dakota team (Irene-Wakonda), but played a majority of its games against Nebraska teams from higher levels – including O'Neill St. Mary's, Ponca, Emerson-Hubbard and Guardian Angels Central Catholic.

No doubt that schedule prepared Wynot for the rigors of the post-season. The Blue Devils won five straight games heading into state, and advanced all the way to the D2 title game – the program's sixth consecutive trip to the championship game.

St. Thomas More, which has produced and will produce a number of Division I recruits, was a little different, though.

The Cavaliers, based in

Rapid City, built a 22-3 lead after one quarter and held Wynot without a field goal for the first 7 minutes and 16 seconds of the game.

"It maybe took them a little while to adjust to who we were playing and where we were playing," Wieseler said.

The things that Wynot usually does to teams – speed them up, force them into mistakes, wear them out – were things St. Thomas More did, thanks in most part to its length and athleticism.

There were no open three-pointers. Looks under the basket were swallowed up. Even the passing lanes required Wynot players to jump.

And yet, the Blue Devils kept it respectable against the high-flying Cavaliers.

"Sometimes in games like that, you just play to play it out, but our girls kept working hard," Wieseler said.

Crofton Comes Up Short

Crofton, another Nebraska girls' basketball powerhouse, is accustomed to playing some of the best teams in South Dakota.

On the way to a 29-0 record and a fourth straight state title last season, the Lady Warriors faced the likes of Sioux Falls Washington (won a championship), West Central and St. Thomas More (won a championship).

And Saturday afternoon, Crofton was back at the Sanford Pentagon Classic, this time matched up with Sioux Falls O'Gorman.

It was another opportunity for Crofton to beat a big-city team, but unlike a year ago, the Lady Warriors struggled at times and the Knights came away with a 43-34 victory.

"I thought we showed good toughness and desire, but our execution is still lacking on offense," Crofton coach Aaron Loring said.

For a team that has scored 69, 70, 68, 63 and 73 points in five wins this season, the Lady Warriors are still a work in progress on the offensive end against some of the more talented squads. For example, Crofton scored 35 points in a loss Dec. 12 at Guardian Angels Central Catholic – snapping its 57-game win streak.

"There's a vast discrepancy from the top and bottom teams on our schedule," Loring said. "And against the better teams, we've struggled a little bit."

But that's part of the reason Crofton plays in such classics like the one in Sioux Falls. Losing added. It's all designed to test the players before post-season action.

Crofton will also play in the CNOS Foundation Classic (Jan. 9 in Sioux City, Iowa) and the Hanson Classic (Jan.

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ABOVE: Viborg-Hurley's Kirsten Paetow shoots over the top of a Warner defender during their matchup in the Edith Sanford Breast Center Girls' Pentagon Classic on Saturday in Sioux Falls. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)

LEFT: Crofton's Bre Allen pressures O'Gorman's Molly Doetzel during their matchup in the Edith Sanford Breast Center Girls' Pentagon Classic on Saturday in Sioux Falls. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)



ABOVE LEFT: Wynot's Courtney Arkfeld passes out of a double-team by St. Thomas More during their matchup in the Edith Sanford Breast Center Girls' Pentagon Classic on Saturday in Sioux Falls. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)

ABOVE RIGHT: Avon's Heidi Cap, 40, puts up a shot between two Hanson defenders during their game Saturday morning at the Sanford Pentagon Classic in Sioux Falls. (Jeremy Hoeck/P&D)

Girls

FROM PAGE 2B

2-4 19, Lindsey Hale 2-6 5-10, Bailey Kortan 2-3 5-6 10, Jessica Reinhardt 0-0 0-0 0, Emily Oswald 3-4 0-0 6, TOTALS: 20-36 19-30 62.
BRANDON VALLEY (1-3)
Emma Terveer 1-5 2-2 4, Taylor Thorson 4-7 8-10 18, Elise Zajcek 3-6 3-4 9, Courtney Bickley 1-3 1-2 3, Kaseya Poliena 1-4 0-0 3, Becca Koehn 0-1 0-0 0, Courtney Klatt 0-1 0-0 0, Ali Woodward 1-4 5-5 7, Aly Reinschmidt 0-0 0-0 0, Danica Kocer 2-5 0-2 4, Sydney Buchheim 0-1 0-0 0, Brooke Eirheim 0-0 0-0 0, TOTALS: 13-37 19-25 48.
YANKTON9 24 40 62
BRANDON VALLEY15 27 32 48
Three-Pointers: Y 3-9 (Frick 1-1, Kortan 1-2, Hale 1-5, Benjamin 0-1), BV 3-11 (Thorson 2-2, Poliena 1-4, Terveer 0-1, Koehn 0-1, Kocer 0-1, Woodward 0-2). Rebounds: Y 28 (Hale 7), BV 20 (Buchheim 5). Personal Fouls: BV 25, Y 19. Fouled Out: Zajcek. Assists: Y 16 (Tessier 7), BV 11 (three with 2). Turnovers: BV 25, Y 22. Blocked Shots: None. Steals: BV 11 (four with 2), Y 7 (Tessier 2, Oswald 2).

Freeman 53,

Platte-Geddes 43

PLATTE – Erika Sage scored 23 points to lead Freeman past Platte-Geddes 53-43 in girls' basketball action

on Saturday.

Hannah Eberts had 14 points and four steals, and Karli Maske scored 12 points for Freeman (4-0). Taylor Hermesen added eight rebounds in the victory. Alexis Peterson scored 10 points to lead Platte-Geddes. Jada Nelson pulled down a game-high 14 rebounds.

Freeman hosts Centerville on Tuesday. Platte-Geddes (2-1) plays Wall in the Snowball Classic on Dec. 29 in Winner.

Platte-Geddes won the JV game 29-25.
FREEMAN (4-0)13 26 40 53
PLATTE-GEDES (2-1)4 14 25 43

Wynot 69, Wausa 36

WYNOT, Neb. – Wynot picked up their fifth win of the season on Friday night, as they defeated the Wausa Vikings by a score of 69-36 in Wynot.

In the win for Wynot, Danielle Wieseler scored 19 points and dished out five assists, while Courtney Arkfeld recorded 15 points, nine rebounds and five assists. Carissa Kuchta added 12 points.

For Wausa, Megan Kleinschmit finished with a team-high eight points and eight rebounds. Kissy Kumm added

seven points and five rebounds, while Regan Hennings added six points and six rebounds.

Wausa will host Niobrara-Verdigre today (Monday).
WAUSA (3-3)5 13 27 36
WYNOT18 38 51 69

Lyons-Decatur Northeast 72, Allen 10

LYONS, Neb. – Lyons-Decatur Northeast jumped out to a 55-6 halftime lead on the way to a 72-10 victory over Allen in girls' basketball action on Saturday.

Tessie Collins led LDN with 13 points. Lexie Bacon scored 12 points and Brienne Haskell had 10 points for the Cougars, who had eight players score six points or more.

Madisen Schneiders scored four points for Allen.

LDN, 5-1, plays in the Omaha Nation Holiday Tournament Dec. 28-29. Allen plays in the Verdigré Booster Club Holiday Tournament Dec. 28-29.
ALLEN (2-9)2 6 10 10
LYONS-DECATUR NE (5-1)31 55 61 72

South Sioux City 93, Sioux Falls Lincoln 75

ST. THOMAS FALLS – Carissa Powell scored a game-high 38 points, one of four Cardinals in double figures as South Sioux City downed Sioux Falls Lincoln 93-75 in the final game of the Edith Sanford Breast Center Girls' Pentagon Classic, held Saturday in Sioux Falls.

Kori Fischer scored 15 points, Ashley Hohenstein had 11 points and Augusta Thrasher posted 10 points, seven assists and four steals for SSC, which pulled away with a 32-18 edge in the third quarter.

Anna Brecht scored 28 points to lead Lincoln. Izzy Van Veldhuizen netted 22 points, including 9-9 from the free throw line. South Sioux City 6-0, hosts Omaha Mercy today (Monday). Lincoln, 1-1, continues a stretch of five out-of-state opponents in six games with Marshall, Minnesota, at home on Tuesday.
SOUTH SIOUX CITY (6-0)17 40 72 93
SF LINCOLN (1-1)16 40 58 75

Western Christian 57, Washington 49

ST. THOMAS FALLS – Ashlyn Veerbeek and Erika Feenstra each posted a double-double to lead Western Christian (Hull, Iowa) past Sioux Falls Washington 57-49 in the Edith Sanford Breast Center Girls' Pentagon Classic, held Saturday in Sioux Falls.

Verbeek finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds, and Feenstra had 11 points and 12 rebounds to lead Western Christian. Kaira Moss

added 12 points and nine rebounds as the Wolverines held a 57-40 edge on the boards.

Anna Goodhope scored a game-high 22 points and had four steals to lead Washington. Sydney Arrington scored 10 points and Maddie Wiley had four steals for the Warriors.

Western Christian (4-2) hosts Sergeant Bluff-Luton on Tuesday. Washington, 3-1, hosts Yankton on Tuesday.

WESTERN CHRISTIAN (4-2)15 27 41 57
SF WASHINGTON (3-1)12 21 37 49

Brookings 50,

Watertown 48

BROOKINGS – Brookings jumped out to a 13-point first-half lead and held on for a 50-48 victory over Watertown in Eastern South Dakota conference girls' basketball action on Saturday.

Sara Tvedt scored 14 points, and Baylee Tetzeloff had 13 points and nine rebounds to lead Brookings.

Mateya Walder and Alexa Close each scored 14 points for Watertown, which outscored the Bobcats 30-24 in the second half to make the game close. Tatum Hemiller added four steals for the Arrows.

Brookings, 1-1, continues a three-game home stand on Tuesday with Huron. Watertown travels to Aberdeen Central on Tuesday.

WATERTOWN (1-1)7 18 32 48
BROOKINGS (1-1)9 26 37 50

RC Central 62, Huron 60

HURON – Rapid City Central overcame a 27-point performance by Huron's Sarah Carr in

a 62-60 victory over the Tigers in girls' basketball action on Saturday.

Abigail Johnson scored 22 points and Maddison Sullivan had 16 points to lead Central. Karlie O'Brien added 14 points and four assists in the win.

Karissa Schroeder scored 16 points and had five assists for Huron. Carr also had nine rebounds.

Central, 5-0, hosts Douglas on Tuesday. Huron travels to Brookings on Tuesday.

RC CENTRAL (5-0)16 28 44 62
HURON (1-3)18 32 48 60

Sioux Val. 72, Hamlin 48

COLMAN – Sioux Valley put four players in double figures and had a near-triple-double from Jessica Pepperman in a 72-48 rout of Hamlin at the Entinger Classic on Saturday in Colman.

Pepperman posted 13 points, eight rebounds and nine assists for Sioux Valley. Kaylee Granum had a game-high 23 points. Carly Granum scored 12 points and Carley Peterson had 10 points in the win.

Lexi Wadsworth led Hamlin with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Brooke Opdahl scored 13 points and Molly Koist added 11 points in the effort.

Sioux Valley, 5-0, travels to Parker today (Monday). Hamlin, 2-1, is off until Jan. 5 when the Chargers travel to Henry to face Florence-Henry.
SIOUX VALLEY (5-0)12 35 48 72
HAMLIN (2-1)12 24 39 48

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