

Iowa Gears Up To Stop Stanford QB In Rose Bowl

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AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stanford running back Christian McCaffrey did nearly everything it's possible to do with a football in his hands this season, dropping jaws and breaking long-standing NCAA records along the way.

With a big performance in the Rose Bowl on Friday, he might even become famous in Iowa City.

"I hadn't heard too much about him," Iowa linebacker Cole Fisher said of McCaffrey. "I didn't follow him (before) the Heisman race too much. That was probably the first time I heard about him."

Fisher can be excused for missing those late-starting Pac-12

games. After all, many Heisman Trophy voters undoubtedly did the same during McCaffrey's incredible sophomore season, which concludes with his debut in the Granddaddy of Them All.

The Hawkeyes (12-1) are up to speed on the challenge posed by Stanford's do-it-all back with speed, instinct, a throwing arm and an uncanny knack for turning almost anything into a positive gain. Even after a season spent largely shutting down the best run games in the Big Ten, the Hawkeyes' defense hasn't faced anybody as daunting as McCaffrey.

"You've got to make sure you know where he's at, (because) he's at the quarterback, he's at wide receiver, they put him in the

backfield," Iowa defensive coordinator Phil Parker said. "It's going to be hard. It's going to be a good competition for us."

Although Alabama's Derrick Henry won the Heisman, McCaffrey won The Associated Press' player of the year award last week — and his accomplishments are stunning by any measure.

McCaffrey ran for 1,847 yards, led Stanford (11-2) with 41 receptions for 540 yards and returned kicks while setting the NCAA record for all-purpose yards. Most recently, he turned in a 461-yard performance against Southern California in the Pac-12 title game.

Stanford offensive coordinator Mike Bloomgren knows which award voters make sense to him.

"We think (the Heisman voters) got it wrong," Bloomgren said. "We think the AP got it right. I texted him as soon as the AP (award) came out, and I was like, 'Well, at least we've got one of those things right.' He fired back with: 'I guess AP stands for "all purpose," because at least they like my all-purpose yards.'"

After a few weeks of watching McCaffrey on film, Parker seems inclined to agree with the AP voters.

"People bounce off him," Parker said. "You see guys hitting him, and he doesn't go down. You'd better be able to wrap him up, and we've got to do a better job of that."

Yet Parker believes his defense is capable of challenging McCaffrey and his imposing offensive line.

The Cardinal scored 37.2 points per game and dominated time of possession all season long.

"It's going to take all 11 people on defense running to the ball," Iowa defensive back Jordan Lomax said. "(McCaffrey) is a great back. It's going to start with our D-line up front to get after their offensive line. Their offensive line is built just like our offense. It's going to come down to who dominates the run game."

Iowa's defense is a study in simplicity, according to coaches and players on both sides of the matchup.

Although the Hawkeyes present few of the gimmicky fronts and un-

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High School Basketball

Cougars Claim Tourney Title

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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VERDIGRE, Neb. — An early-season loss to Elgin Public-Pope John had the Niobrara-Verdigre boys looking for balance.

They feel like they've found it.

Senior post Cade Kalkowski scored 19 points and guards Christian Swalley and Ricky Bickerstaff scored 16 and 10 points as the Cougars edged Osmond 58-55 in the boys' championship of the Verdigre Booster Club Holiday Tournament on Wednesday in Verdigre, Nebraska.

The win propelled the Cougars to 8-1 on the season with their seventh straight victory.

"We knew this was going to be a test," said Cougars head coach Todd Runnels. "We knew these guys would bring a good game."

The Cougars' top four scorers — two inside and two outside — combined for 54 of 58 points on the night. That balance is something the Cougars have worked for, Runnels said.

"In our loss to Elgin (Public-Pope John), we went 4-29 from three-point," he said. "Since then (our guards) have learned to use our big guys more. It's helped balance us out."

Brock Johnson scored 19 points and Cole Moes had 15 points for Osmond (4-2), which saw its four-game win streak snapped. Tucker Timmerman added 10 points for the Tigers.

"They were tough to stop," Runnels said. "Their high post game was causing us problems."

The Cougars used their balance to score the game's first seven points, then saw Osmond answer with the next seven. It took a 10-2 run midway through the first half for Niobrara-Verdigre to build a 24-17 lead.

But Osmond erased that lead as well, scoring nine straight points to tie the game at 28.

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Boys: Crofton Beats Wynot For First Win

CROFTON, Neb. — Tanner Crosley scored 10 points and Grant Wragge had a strong all-around game as the Crofton Warriors rallied past Wynot 48-44 for their first win of the season in Wednesday night's showdown in Crofton.

Wragge recorded nine points, five steals and three assists for Crofton, which trailed 33-31 after three quarters. Josh Allen added nine points, three rebounds and three assists in the win.

Jalen Wieseler scored 12 points and grabbed four rebounds for Wynot (4-3), while Cody Stratman had 10 points, and Justin Lange and Austin Lange both added six points.

Crofton visits O'Neill on Saturday and Wynot will next play in the Hartington-Newcastle Post-Holiday Tournament on Jan. 7.

WYNOT (4-3).....4 21 33 44
CROFTON (1-6).....10 19 31 48

Huron Holiday Classic Gayville-Volin 65, Faulkton Area 63

HURON - The Gayville-Volin Raiders overcame a pair of 20-point performances to edge Faulkton Area 65-63 at the Huron Holiday Classic on Wednesday.

Brook Van Osdel hit six three-pointers on the way to 21 points to lead Gayville-Volin. Luke Hummel netted 18

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Niobrara-Verdigre's Ricky Bickerstaff dribbles around a screen by teammate Cade Kalkowski, 10, during the boys' championship of the Verdigre Booster Club Holiday Tournament on Wednesday in Verdigre, Nebraska.

Queen Bees Rally For Holiday Title Bloomfield Moves To 5-3

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Bloomfield's Sarah Casteneda tries to get a shot up against the Niobrara-Verdigre defense during the championship of the Verdigre Booster Club Holiday Tournament on Wednesday in Verdigre, Nebraska.

VERDIGRE, Neb. — Bloomfield's Sarah Casteneda scored her 28th and 29th points with four seconds left, lifting the Queen Bees to a 54-53 come-from-behind victory over host Niobrara-Verdigre in the girls' championship of the Verdigre Booster Club Holiday Tournament, held Wednesday in Verdigre, Nebraska.

Castaneda also had 14 rebounds for the Queen Bees, who take a 5-3 record into January. Bloomfield won just eight games in the 2014-15 season.

"It's great," Castaneda said of the team's start. "We want to keep building on it, keep winning."

Emily Knust scored 21 points and Ashley Guenther had 11 points for Niobrara-Verdigre (2-7).

The Queen Bees gave Niobrara-Verdigre a steady dose of Castaneda in the first half, as the 5-10 junior scored 13 of Bloomfield's first 20 points. Two more three-pointers in the second quarter — the second beating the halftime buzzer — gave the Queen Bees a 30-22 halftime edge.

"Sarah is a phenomenal player," said Bloomfield head coach Terry Mlady. "Tonight we saw the '32' we had thought we'd see all season."

But after Bloomfield scored first in the second half, the Cougars surged back. Niobrara-Verdigre used a steady dose of inside baskets by Knust and Guenther to score 13 straight points and take a 35-32 lead.

Bloomfield surged back to regain a 47-42 lead, but the Cougars again attacked the basket to score. An 11-3 run late in the game gave Niobrara-Verdigre a 53-50 edge.

An Amber Bruegeman basket pulled the Queen Bees within one, setting up the game-winning possession. Castaneda got the ball on the blocks and powered the ball in, drawing a foul. The free throw was missed, but the Cougars' last-second attempt hit the backboard and fell harmlessly to the floor.

"They did the things we practice every day," Mlady said. "We wanted it in Sarah's hands. She's been a game-changer."

Bloomfield will now look to ride the momentum of its three-game win streak into Saturday's matchup with another Class C2 opponent, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge.

Niobrara-Verdigre hosts Neligh-Oakdale on Tuesday.

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Girls: Wausa Captures Creighton Holiday Tourney Crown

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Wausa defeated Boyd County 42-30 to win the Creighton Holiday Tournament in the girls' division on Wednesday in Creighton, Nebraska.

Krissy Kumm led the way for Wausa with 15 points and five steals, while Megan Kleinschmit had a team-high eight rebounds.

For Boyd County, Rebecca Hiatt finished with a game-high 13 rebounds and team-

high nine points.

Wausa will host Elkhorn Valley on Tuesday, while Boyd County will travel to Santee the same day.

WAUSA (6-3).....8 18 31 42
BOYD COUNTY (5-3).....6 16 21 30

Hartington-Newcastle 61, Creighton 26

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Hartington-Newcastle jumped out to a 16-3 lead after one quarter and never looked back, beating Creighton 61-26 in the consolation game of the Creighton

Holiday Tournament on Wednesday.

No statistics were reported for Hartington-Newcastle, 4-4, which hosts its Post-Holiday Tournament Jan. 7-8.

For Creighton, Cassidy Moeller led the way with 12 points.

Creighton travels to Bloomfield on Tuesday.

Regular Season Crofton 82, Wynot 43

CROFTON, Neb. — Monica Arens and Kelsey Sanger each recorded a double-double as Crofton rolled past Wynot 82-43 in a Wednesday night

matchup between two Nebraska powerhouse programs.

Arens recorded 16 points, 12 rebounds and two blocks, while Sanger had 19 points, 13 assists, three rebounds and two steals.

Also in the win for Class C2 Crofton (6-2), Katie Petersen scored 15 points, Breanna Allen had 14 points, Kaitlynn Vornhagen grabbed five rebounds and Josie Sanger dished out four assists.

In the loss for Class D2 Wynot (6-2), Danielle Wieseler scored 15 points, Skylar Arkfeld had 12 points, Cortney Arkfeld had six points and Carissa Kuchta chipped in with four points. Crofton plays at O'Neill on Saturday

Mount Marty Women Close Kansas Trip With Win

SALINA, Kan. — Mikayla Prouty and Alex Kneeland each scored 23 points as the Mount Marty College women's basketball team downed McPherson 79-66 in the RibCrib Kansas Wesleyan Coyote Classic.

Prouty went 5-7 from three-point range and 6-6 from the line for her best collegiate scoring game of her career. Her previous best was eight points, achieved Tuesday night against Kansas Wesleyan.

MMC also got 19 points and 14 rebounds from Raquel Sutera. Denae Veldkamp and Cassidy Gebhart each had four assists in the victory.

For McPherson (5-12), Ashton Bruner scored 23 points. Bailey Brown had 15 points and Amanda Allen grabbed nine rebounds in the effort.

MMC, 9-6, returns to Great Plains Athletic Conference action on Saturday at Nebraska Wesleyan.

MCPHERSON (5-12)
Amanda Allen 4-5 0-0 8, Bailey Brown 4-8 6-8 15, Ashley Bruner 8-23 6-10 23, Whitney Jefferson 0-0 0-0 0, Sunny Smart 2-5 0-0 5, Megan Acklin 0-0 0-0 0, Kristina Battle 1-10 1-4 3, Kendahl Kelly 0-0 0-0 0, Taryn Lee 0-0 0-0 0, Reagan McClellan 1-1 0-0 2, Brooke Racette 1-6 2-5 5, Georgia Smart 2-5 1-2 5. TOTALS: 23-63 16-26 66.

MOUNT MARTY (9-6)
Cassidy Gebhart 1-5 4-8 6, Alex Kneeland 7-13 6-6 23, Raquel Sutera 4-8 8-8 19, Logan Wagner 0-5 0-0 0, Kellie Winckler 1-3 0-0 2, Samantha Blake 0-0 1-2 1, Brittini Bormann 1-3 0-0 2, Erica Dreckman 0-0 0-0 0, Sammy Kasowski 0-2 0-0 0, Mikayla Prouty 6-8 6-6 23, Denae Veldkamp 1-1 1-2 3. TOTALS: 21-48 26-32 79.

MCPHERSON.....23 35 51 66
MOUNT MARTY.....24 41 55 79
Three-Pointers: MMC 11-26 (Prouty 5-7, Sutera 3-5, Kneeland 3-8, Gebhart 0-2, Wagner 0-4), MC 4-10 (Bruner 1-1, Brown 1-2, S. Smart 1-3, Racette 1-3). Rebounds: MMC 39 (Sutera 14), MC 32 (Allen 9). Assists: MMC 14 (Gebhart 4, Veldkamp 4), MC 11 (Battle 5). Turnovers: MMC 20, MC 14. Blocked Shots: MMC 2, MC 1. Steals: MC 9 (Brown 3), MMC 7 (Sutera 2, Winckler 2). Personal Fouls: MC 24, MMC 24. Fouled Out: None.

SDSU 76, Denver 39

DENVER—The South Dakota State women's basketball team used a 25-10 run in the first quarter and recorded a 76-39 victory over Denver Wednesday night in its Summit League opener at Magness Arena.

The Jackrabbits, 11-3, 1-0, were led by sophomore Macy Miller (Mitchell), who finished with a game-high 17 points. She also added six rebounds, three assists, two steals and a block. Freshman Madison Guebert (Apple Valley, Minn.) had 15 points on a personal-best five 3-pointers. All 12 Jacks scored in the game.

Denver (2-11, 0-1) was led by Jacqlyn Poss with 12 points.

The 39 points were the fewest points allowed by the Jackrabbits since holding Utah Valley to 38 points in an 87-38 win Nov. 12, 2010.

SDSU opened the game on an 18-8 run fueled by three 3-pointers, two by Guebert. On defense, the Jackrabbits limited Denver to six points in the second quarter. The Jacks led 44-16 at half.

Sophomore Alexis Alexander (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) gave South Dakota State its largest lead, 44 points, with a jump shot for a 70-26 margin with 5:31 remaining.

The Jackrabbits return to action Sunday when they play North Dakota State at 4 p.m.

Men

Friends 71, MMC 57

SALINA, Kan. — Friends survived a second half surge by Mount Marty to down the Lancers 71-57 in the RibCrib Kansas Wesleyan Coyote Classic on Wednesday.

Friends led 37-28 at the half, but MMC used a 12-0 run in the second half to briefly

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and Wynot next plays in the Hartington-Newcastle Post-Holiday Tournament on Jan. 7.

WYNOT (6-2).....7 18 31 43
CROFTON (6-2).....17 47 66 82

Verdigre Holiday Tourney.

Allen 46, Osmond 39

VERDIGRE, Neb. — Allen defeated Osmond 46-39 in the third-place game of the Verdigre Booster Club Holiday Tournament girls' division on Wednesday in Verdigre, Nebraska.

For Allen, Gabby Sullivan led the

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