



Freeman's Hillary Paulson holds up the Region 5B trophy after the Flyers won the title last March in Mitchell. Paulson is hoping to lead the Flyers back to state after the team earned its first state berth a year ago.

Off The Beaten Path: Freeman's Paulson Adjusting To Senior Role

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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What was your 'welcome to high school' moment?

It was just walking down the halls and everyone bumping into you and no one caring, not saying you're sorry. Just realize that you are there.

My eighth grade year, being told by a senior that I was running too fast, and to slow down. I wasn't ready for that.

Last season you had a senior to defer to, Dayna Peterson. This year, you're the big senior. What has been the toughest part of that adjustment?

That eyes on me. Before, if I was playing bad, I could look to Dayna. You look to the older kids, and now that I am the older kid, it's a little more stressful, trying to always play good.

What is the strangest thing you've seen or heard on the court, from a teammate, an opponent or from the fans?

That I'm a very good actress. I was told that I was acting, and that I was a very good actress when I got fouled.

I wasn't even acting. I was driving in and the girl slapped me, and I made a weird noise because she hit me in the stomach, so it was an automatic grunt. So she told me I was a really good actress.

You've signed to go to Minnesota State-Mankato next year. What drew you to the college and the program?

They play basketball the same way I want to play. They get up and down, try to go fast, fast breaks. And they offer pre-optometry, which is the major I plan on going into. Those were the top two things I needed.

I liked the coach and the girls. I had a great time when I went up there.

Them winning the national championship (NCAA Division II) last year, that didn't play any part?

I didn't find out about that until I went up there to visit them. But I was already interested before I found out about that.

Freeman made its first-ever state tournament last season. How much has that been a motivator this season?

It's a big motivator. Now that I've been there, and the team's been there, we know what it's like, and we know how disappointing it would be not to make it back there. It's nice to be like, we want to get back to this. We have to work hard.

Last year we'd always say it, but we never knew what it was like being there. Now that know what it's like, it's easier to work hard trying to get there.

Finish this statement: Freeman will win the state title if ...

We can come together and play as a team, and our shots fall. If we just have fun when we're out there, not worry about who did what, and play hard.

Get To Know ... Hillary Paulson

Born
June 13, 1991

What's on my iPod (MP3)
Country. I like Rascal Flatts, Carrie Underwood, Alan Jackson

Must-See Television
I don't really watch much TV. If there's one I watch, CSI.

■ OTBP, Page 7A please

Bucks Avenge Loss To Mitchell

BY SCOTT MORRISON
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The Yankton Bucks defeated the Mitchell Kernels 56-48 on Friday night in Eastern South Dakota basketball action at the Summit Activities Center.

Yankton senior Theryn Groetken had a great night shooting the ball, scoring a game-high 16 points and hitting four of his seven shots from three-point range.

The Bucks had three players score nine points including Ryan Berry, Nate Lien and Cole Drotzmann. Drotzmann added 11 rebounds.

The Bucks shot the ball well throughout the game, hitting 52 percent of their shots overall (22-for-42) and 56 percent of their shots (13-for-23) in the second half.

"We played good overall and had a lot of players step up,"

Yankton coach Randy Gross said. "We had some stretches where we made mistakes, but we overcame these and played solid."

Both teams exchanged baskets in the first quarter. Sam Fosness hit a three-pointer on the first shot of game during Mitchell's opening possession. He proceeded to have a strong first half, scoring 11 of his 13 total points.

The Bucks looked to out-hustle the Kernels on the glass as both Groetken and Drotzmann scored on offensive put-backs.

"There were a few times when we got hurdled and gave up rebounds that we shouldn't have," Mitchell coach Gary Munsen said.

The Bucks came out on top in the first quarter with a 13-10 lead. They tacked onto their lead in the beginning of the second quarter as they went on a quick 7-0 run.

During the run Nate Lien hit a three-pointer and Bryan Youngberg hit a deep jumper. This

gave the Bucks a 20-11 lead.

At this point the Bucks had an opportunity to step on the gas pedal, but the Kernels went on a 9-2 run to end the half. During the run, Fosness, Jake Schmidt and Brett Victor were among the scorers. The run got the Kernels within two of the Bucks at 22-20.

"We had opportunities in the first half to get a couple double-digit lead, but Mitchell would just come right back," Gross said.

In the first half the Bucks hit 47 percent of their shots (9-for-19) while Mitchell hit 32 percent (7-for-22) of their shots.

The lead exchanged hands multiple times throughout the third quarter until the Bucks put together a run. Down 32-31 they went on a 9-2 run that extended into the fourth quarter.

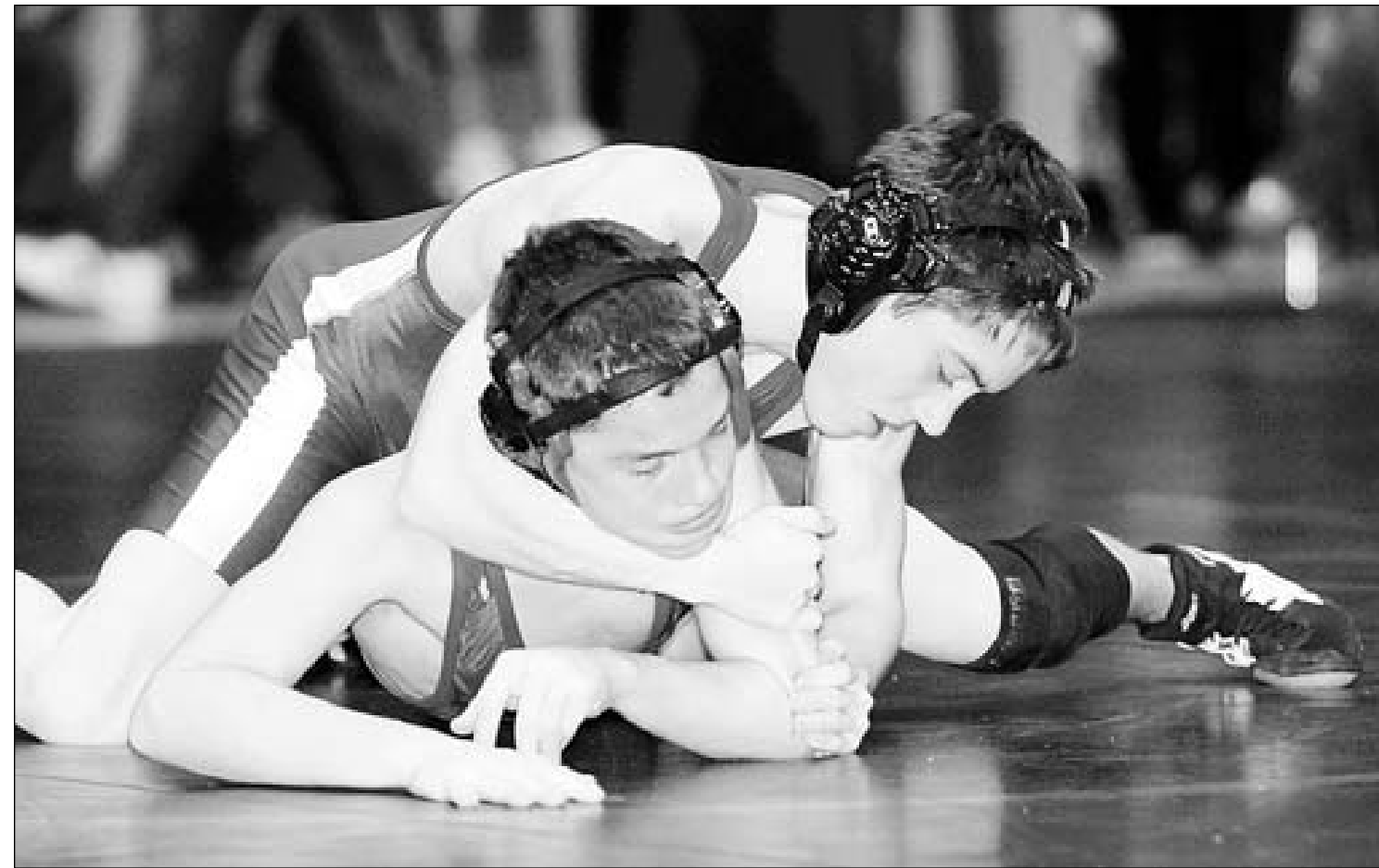
Drotzmann, Lien, and Derik Nelson all had a part in giving the Bucks a 40-34 lead.

■ **BUCKS**, Page 7A please



Yankton's Cole Drotzmann shoots between Mitchell's Sam Fosness, 43, and Brett Victor during their Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' basketball game Friday at the Summit Center.

Tanagers Take Region 2A Title



Vermillion's T.J. North (top) holds down Matt Huber of Yankton during their 112-pound championship match at the Region 2A Wrestling Tournament, held Friday night in Brandon.

Vermillion Edges YHS For Crown; Both Send 10 Wrestlers To State

BY JUSTIN RUST
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BRANDON — Yankton's fourth-ranked Bryce Saylor may have about 25 pounds on Vermillion's seventh-ranked Will Mart.

But in the end, Mart was 3 points better than Saylor to claim third place individually, but it was the determining factor in the Tanagers winning the Region 2A title.

Mart and Saylor wrestled at 285 pounds, and Vermillion had a slight advantage, but the winner of the match would determine the winner of Region 2A.

"I told Will to go out there and be a hero," Vermillion head coach Joe Delvaux said smiling. "Bryce is experienced and strong, but he is a pinner, so I knew it would come down to speed and heart and Will has both of those."

The thought of going against a much bigger opponent went through Mart's head, but good coaching helped get him ready for the match.

"Coach told me to use my speed and to wear down the bigger opponent," he said. "It was great coaching on his part. Oh, and he told me to be a hero."

Delvaux took a calculated risk in the match by putting Mart down to start the second period, but he got the escape to earn one point.

"I always believe he can win and that's the whole team's mentality," he said. "I took that chance, but Will never stopped working in that match." Mart said went out there and competed for the team.

"I knew I had to go out there and give it my all and I did it for the team," Mart said.

For Yankton, Saylor may have lost the decisive match, but Yankton head coach Ryan Hage said that wasn't the sole reason the Bucks lost the region title.

"We left a lot of points out there and Vermillion has a solid line-up," he said. "Bryce is a competitor, but he struggles with quick competitors and that's the type of wrestler Will is."

Vermillion was down 169-158 going into the last four matches, but had the strongest part of its lineup due up with third-ranked Chris Mart at 171 pounds, Nick Mart, ranked in Class A's Dynamite Dozen, at 189 pounds and fourth-ranked Gerrit Heine at 215 pounds.

Each one of them won their match by decision to slowly chip away at Yankton's lead and eventually give the Tanagers the lead heading into the last match.

■ **REGION**, Page 7A please

Hoops: Parkston Girls Upend Freeman 56-52

FREEMAN — Marie Malloy had 19 points and five steals to lead the first-ranked Parkston Trojans past Freeman 56-52 Friday night in Freeman.

Erica Herold added nine points for the Trojans (18-1), while Emma Murtha grabbed nine rebounds.

The scored was tied 39-39 at the end of the third quarter.

For the Flyers (16-4), Hillary Paulson posted a double-double with 21 points and 17 rebounds, while Carly Uecker added 12 points.

Parkston will play McCook Central/Montrose in the District 10A Tournament at a site and time to be determined, while Freeman will play the winner of Avon and Menno in semi-finals action in Menno next Thursday night.

PARKSTON (16-1).....8 28 39 56
FREEMAN (16-4).....7 29 39 52

Dakota Valley 52, Tri-Valley 46

COLTON — The Dakota Valley Panthers led by seven after three quarters of play and would eventually edge Tri-Valley 52-46 Friday night in Colton.

Alyssa Wall notched a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Panthers (14-5), while Abbie Huber added 17 points, five rebounds and three assists.

For the Mustangs (16-4), Tara Otto had

15 points and six assists, while Nicole Fritz dropped 10 points.

Dakota Valley will play Beresford in semi-finals action in the District 8A Tournament on Tuesday in Elk Point, while Tri-Valley will host the semi-finals action in the District 9A Tournament on Tuesday in Colton.

DAKOTA VALLEY (14-5).....13 22 40 52
TRI-VALLEY (16-4).....10 23 33 48

Freeman Acad. 58, Gayville-Volin 27

FREEMAN — The Freeman Academy Bobcats had a 25-point lead after three quarters and would coast to defeat Gayville-Volin 58-27 Friday night in Freeman.

The Bobcats (11-7), had three scorers with 10 points Alicia Hofer, Lillie Koerner and Jamie Tschetter.

For the Raiders (2-17), Natalie Harkness had six points and four steals.

Both teams will play on Monday, with Freeman Academy playing Menno it start the District 11B Tournament in Menno and Gayville-Volin playin Irene-Wakonda in the District 8B Tournament in Viborg.

FREEMAN ACADEMY (11-7).....32 25 43 58
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (2-17).....10 15 18 27

Hanson 58, Hurley 37

ALEXANDRIA — The seventh-ranked Hanson Beavers had a comfortable led to cruise past Hurley 58-37 Friday night in Alexandria.

Ashley Robinson had 17 points and seven rebounds for the Beavers (16-4), while Ashley Steilen added 11 points and five rebounds.

For the Bulldogs (8-12), Jasmyin Hansen supplied 14 points and six rebounds, while

Haley Jorgensen added 10 points and eight rebounds.

Hanson will play the winner of Mitchell Christian and Plankinton in semi-finals of the District 10B Tournament in Mitchell on Tuesday, while Hurley will play Canistota in semi-finals action of the District 7B Tournament in Tea on Tuesday.

Hanson won the JV game 45-9.

HANSON (16-4).....19 31 43 58
HURLEY (8-12).....8 15 25 37

Sub-District C2-7

Cedar Catholic 79, Ponca 39

WAYNE, Neb. — The Hartington Cedar Catholic Trojans wasted no time ending Ponca season 79-39 Thursday night in Wayne, Neb.

Tracy Peitz tallied 18 points, eight steals, three rebounds and three assists for the Trojans (17-4), while Shelby Neuhafen added 14 points, six rebounds, two blocks and two steals. The Trojans had a 35-point lead the half.

For the Indians (8-12), Amber Stark had 10 points and five rebounds, while Megan Pollard and Beth Finnegan each added nine points.

HCC will play Homer tonight (Friday) for the Sub-District C2-7 Tournament championship in Wayne, Neb.

HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC (17-4).....22 45 61 79
PONCA (8-12).....4 10 20 39

Friday's Boys

Elk Point-Jefferson 65, Harrisburg 59

ELK POINT — Brock Zeller had an explosive offensive game with 31 points to lead the

Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies past Harrisburg 65-59 Friday night in Elk Point.

Ben Stamm added 13 points and three rebounds for the Huskies (13-5), while Ethan Pace and Drake Zeller each notching eight points. Pace also added 14 rebounds which ties the school with 212 on the season.

For the Tigers (9-10), Eric Hensch tallied 24 points and five rebounds, while Jordan Budde added 18 points and nine rebounds.

EPJ will host West Central on Monday, while Harrisburg will host Sisseton next Friday.

ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (13-5).....12 30 44 65
HARRISBURG (9-10).....19 29 40 59

Menno 50, Scotland 44

SCOTLAND — Macon Oplinger's all-around performance lead the Menno Wolves past Scotland 50-44 Friday night in Scotland.

Oplinger had 23 points, four assists, three rebounds and three steals, while Will Massey added 14 points, four rebounds and two blocks for the Wolves (7-10).

For the Highlanders (3-15), Spencer Bloch had 21 points, 16 rebounds and three blocks, while Nick Setje added nine points and seven rebounds.

Menno will play the winner of Scotland and Freeman Academy in semi-finals action of the District 11B Tournament in Freeman on Mar. 2, while Scotland will play Freeman Academy in opening round of the District 11B Tournament in Freeman on Mar. 1.

Menno won the JV game in overtime 35-29.

MENNO (7-10).....6 18 29 59
SCOTLAND (3-15).....11 18 25 44

■ **HOOPS**, Page 7A please

Kernels Hold Off Yankton To Complete Season Sweep

BY LUKE HAGEN
Mitchell Daily Republic

MITCHELL — With a Yankton defender's hand in her face, Mitchell's Natalie Roth knocked down a 3-pointer on the Kernels' opening possession Friday night. She closed the game with two free throws.

Roth — one of two seniors on Mitchell's roster — knocked down three 3-pointers on senior night, finishing with 14 points to lead her team over the Gazelles 62-52 at the Corn Palace.

"It was kind of her night," Morgan said. "She was feeling it, and I don't mind that. When a kid's feeling it, and they hit a couple shots, I don't mind if they take a couple shots out of character."

The Kernels — who normally feed off fast-break points and inside buckets from

their two dominant freshmen — were 7-of-12 from behind the arc en route to shooting 49 percent from the field. They were led, though, by freshman Kerri Young with 16 points, who didn't knock a three down all game.

No matter how good Yankton's defense was Friday night, the shots always seemed to fall at the right time for the Kernels.

"They're a tough guard if their kids are going to make those shots," Yankton coach Doug Pesicka said. "I don't know if they've made those shots all year, but they stepped out and knocked them down."

After a 9-0 run by the Gazelles, Yankton trailed 38-34 with two minutes left in the third quarter.

Then Mitchell's Megan Farnham grabbed a rebound off her own free-throw miss and tipped a shot in, and Kristin Sabers drained a three as time expired in the quarter to get

Mitchell's lead — which was as high as 12 points in the first half — was back to 10 points entering the fourth.

Courtney Miller's two 3-pointers early pushed the lead to 15, and the Kernels held on to the lead despite a shaky defense to end the game.

"Getting our outside shooting will prepare us for a lot of things," Morgan said. "That's one of the things we haven't had happen yet."

"Our outside shooting kept us in it tonight, but we're going to have to play better defense in our next game."

Mitchell opened the game on a 12-0 run. Roth hit her three, Mitchell scored on two fast breaks and Roth had a three-point play to extend the lead to 10.

Yankton never went away, though. Emily Fedders hit a 3-pointer for the Gazelles' first score of the game with 2:35

left to go in the first, and she scored on a three-point play less than 30 seconds later to get Yankton within eight. Fedders — a sophomore — scored a team-high 14 points, as she hit Yankton's only two 3-pointers.

After Mitchell pulled out to another 11-point lead, Riley Paulson hit two free throws, but Mitchell got another outside shot to keep its safe lead.

Charlee Nelson hit her only shot of the game — a 3-pointer from the wing — with two minutes left in the second to pull the Kernels' lead to 12.

Yankton ended the half on a 5-1 run, trailing 30-21 at halftime.

Roth opened the second half on back-to-back three pointers, and Mitchell's lead jumped to 15, its biggest of the game.

■ **YHS**, Page 7A please



Mount Marty vs. Dana

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