

Lancer Women Have Long Road Ahead To Return To Sioux City

MOUNT MARTY WOMEN'S BB				
19-9, 10-8 GPAC				
Starters	Pts	Reb	Ass	Stl
Michelle Amundson	17.1	3.9	3.7	2.4
Jenny Miller	14.3	3.1	3.0	1.5
Cassie Neth	11.8	6.8	1.6	1.1
Kylie Gross	8.5	6.9	0.7	0.9
Kendra Schomer	6.3	4.3	2.8	1.0
Top Reserves	Pts	Reb	Ass	Stl
Alexa Berg	3.3	0.9	1.2	0.3
Whitney Lickteig	3.3	1.7	0.4	0.3
Taylor Fitcher	3.1	1.2	1.1	0.7
Taylor Fench	2.7	1.1	0.8	0.6
Kelly Schilling	1.8	1.3	0.8	0.1
Brittany Little	0.9	1.6	0.2	0.1
Kellie Boer	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
james.cimburek@yankton.net

After a season with an incredible peak early, followed by a sharp drop, the Mount Marty College women's basketball team still has the opportunity to make history as the Great Plains Athletic Conference Tournament begins tonight (Tuesday) at sites around the league.

The Lancers, 19-9 overall and 10-8 in GPAC play, will likely need to advance to the tournament championship — or possibly win it — to make a return trip to the NAIA Division II National

Tournament. This despite two wins over No. 11 Morningside, and wins over No. 4 Black Hills State, No. 10 Jamestown, No. 21 Concordia and previously-top 10 Bethel (Ind.).

"We have as many wins against the top 25 as anyone in the conference, except maybe Hastings," said Mount Marty head coach Tom Schilling. "But those non-conference wins against Black Hills State, Jamestown and Bethel don't seem to have as much meaning in the eyes of the raters."

After a 13-1 start that propelled them to No. 7 in the nation, MMC lost seven of nine games — includ-

ing six losses on the road to the likes of top-seeded Hastings, second-seeded Northwestern and third-seeded Briar Cliff.

"I think the schedule has a lot to do with the results," Schilling said. "This season we knew the schedule would not be favorable. We had Hastings away. We played Morningside twice, a good Dorndt team twice.

Three of those games, two losses against Dorndt and another at Sioux Falls, were particularly painful.

"Dorndt, both games, especially the one at home where we shot 30 percent. USF, we thought we out-

played them for 35 minutes and had someone go off on us in the last five," Schilling said. "We gave some games away that we shouldn't have, and that hurt us in the conference standings."

Despite the setbacks, the Lancers are still on the verge of back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time in school history.

"If you'd have told us at the beginning of the season we'd be 19-9, we thought it'd be great," Schilling noted.

The Lancers enter the tournament as the seventh seed, meaning

Lancer Men Hope To Finish On High Note

BY JUSTIN RUST
sports@yankton.net

Last year, the University of Sioux Falls showed it is possible to win four straight road games in the Great Plains Athletic Conference Tournament to claim the title.

The Mount Marty men's team goes into the tournament, which starts tonight (Tuesday), as the 10th seed at 7-22 (5-13 in the GPAC) and will have to follow USF's model in order to make a run at the GPAC title and earn a berth in the NAIA national tournament.

Even though it may seem like a pipe dream to think a team from the conference can pull off the same feat, Lancer head coach Jim Thorson isn't ruling his team out of the picture.

"I think we have demonstrated that we can play with any of the teams in the conference," he said. "If we can shoot the ball like we are capable of, we can compete with anyone."

The 'if' is the biggest factor because the Lancers have the lowest scoring offense in the GPAC at 60.7 points per game.

However, in two of Mount Marty's last three games, the Lancers have put up their highest scoring outputs of the season.

Feb. 13, Mount Marty scored a then-season high 81 points in a home win against Midland Lutheran.

Last Saturday against Dana College, the Lancers crushed the previous total by scoring 93 points and hit 13 three-pointers, their most three's in a game in five years.

"The guys are legitimately playing well down the stretch," Thorson said. "That Dana game was one of our best games in moving the ball and making good passes and doing things the way it should be done."

There are a couple reasons Mount Marty's offense has struggled throughout much of the season.

First, the Lancers have turned the ball over 466 times, an average of 16.1 times per game and second worst in the league, compared to 395 turnovers for their opponents.

Also, Mount Marty has the ninth worst shooting percentage in the GPAC at 41.4 percent.

"Most of the time, our problems center around our inability to put points on the board at critical times, and our turnovers have been excessive at times," Thorson said. "You can pin our record on a combination of poor shooting, both from the floor and from the free throw line, and our turnovers."

Mount Marty doesn't have a single player scoring in double-digits and is led by center Jared Wall at 9.8 points per game.

The Lancers counter their problematic offense with the fewest points allowed in the GPAC at 67.8 points allowed per game, but Thorson said the defense still needs work as well.

"We could improve a lot on defense, too, when you analyze it," he said. "Our defense has improved as the year has gone on to the point where the scores are within reach for our offense."

Mount Marty's defense will face a stiff test in the first round of the GPAC tournament with a road game against Northwestern College (14-14, 9-9).

The Red Raiders will test the Lancer's defense with the fewest points allowed in the GPAC at 62.2 points per game.

Mount Marty has lost both games to Northwestern this year. The first game was played in Yankton, and the Lancers dropped a close game to the Red Raiders 75-72.

But in the second contest in Orange City, Iowa, Northwestern thoroughly handled the Lancers to the tune of an 81-59 victory.

"We weren't ready to play that night; Northwestern was hustling

Nebraska Sub-Districts Begin

Verdigre Upends Lions In D2-6

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Justin Jacot's all-around performance helped lead the Verdigré Hawks past Niobrara 68-51 Monday night in Creighton, Neb. This was the opening round of Sub-District D2-6.

Jacot had 22 points, 12 rebounds and six steals, while Camden Liska also posted a double-double with 15 points and 18 rebounds for the Hawks (9-10).

For the Lions (1-17), David Johnson had a double-double with 16 points and 18 rebounds, while Wade Foner added 11 points.

Verdigre will play St. Mary's to start semi-finals action today (Tuesday) in Creighton, Neb.

VERDIGRE (9-10)	23	41	52	68
NIORBARA (1-17)	8	20	37	51

Sub-District D1-7 Hartington 53, Winside 31

WAUSA, Neb. — The Hartington Wildcats found enough offense to cruise past Winside 53-31 Monday night in Wausa, Neb. This kicked-off the opening round of the Sub-District D1-7 Tournament.

Neil Kramer dropped 20 points for the Wildcats (8-10), while Riley Noecker added 15 points.

For Winside (1-18), Tanner Woslager notched nine points. Winside trailed by 12 points going into the final quarter.

Hartington will play top-seed Randolph on Tuesday in Wausa, Neb. to continue the Sub-District D1-7 Tournament.

HARTINGTON (8-10)	9	18	32	53
WINSIDE (1-18)	3	7	20	31

Sub-District D2-5 Coleridge 62, Santee 29

HARTINGTON, Neb. — The Coleridge Bulldogs had 18-point lead at halftime and would not falter defeating Santee 62-29 Monday night in Hartington, Neb. This kicked-off opening round action of the Sub-District D2-5 Tournament.

Trevor Hefner had 14 points for the Bulldogs (3-15), while Clinton Wernhoff added 11 points.

For the Warriors (0-15), Shawn Gilman supplied 12 points.

Santee season came to a close, but Coleridge's season continues playing number one seed Newcaste today (Tuesday) in Hartington, Neb.

COLERIDGE (3-15)	14	32	46	62
SANTEE (0-15)	4	21	29	29

Sub-District C2-7 Homer 42, Wakefield 40

WAYNE, Neb. — The Homer Knights trailed by four at the half, but would make up ground edging Wakefield 42-40 Monday night in Wayne, Neb. This was opening action for the Sub-District C2-7 Tournament.

Chad Clay posted 21 points for the Knights (7-14), while Alex Schultz added eight points.

For the Trojans (10-12), Adam Show tallied 10 points, while Zach Utermark notched nine points.

Wakefield's season came to a close, but Homer will play number one seed Hartington Cedar Catholic today (Tuesday) in Wayne, Neb.

HOMER (7-14)	12	22	29	42
WAKEFIELD (10-12)	15	26	33	40

Sub-District D1-6 Walthill 55, Allen 49

LAUREL, Neb. — The Walthill Bluijays only allowed Allen to score eight points in the third quarter which was the deciding factor as Walthill defeats Allen 55-49 Monday night in Laurel, Neb.

DeAngelo Springer led the way with 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Bluijays (7-9), while David Walker added 12 points.

For the Eagles (2-16), Cody Stewart posted a double-double with 14 points and 17 rebounds, while Cody Logue added 15 points and three rebounds.

Walthill will face one number seed Emerson-Hubbard to continue Sub-District D1-6 action today (Tuesday) in Laurel, Neb.

WALTHILL (7-9)	12	28	35	55
ALLEN (2-16)	14	25	33	49

Menno Girls Upend Avon In District 11B Opener

MENNO — The Menno Wolves came away with enough defense to defeat Avon 33-30 Monday night in Menno, to start the opening round of the District 11B Tournament.

Kelsey Walloch had a double-double with 13 points and 17 rebounds for the Wolves (12-9), while Paige Herrboldt added 11 points and four assists.

For the Lady Pirates (11-10), Gina Cuka had 11 points and seven



Vermillion's Kylen Friedel shoots over the top of Pine Ridge's Orié Brown during their boys' basketball game Monday at Vermillion. Pine Ridge won 56-55. Statistics were not made available at presstime.

Sub-District C1-9 Lutheran High Northeast 67, Battle Creek 34

NORFOLK, Neb. — Lutheran High Northeast had a big lead by halftime and didn't look back to beat Battle Creek 67-34 in Norfolk, Neb. on Monday to move onto the second round of the Sub-District C1-9 tournament.

Lutheran High Northeast (8-12) had a 30-12 lead at halftime.

Ross Freudenburg hit five three-pointers and scored 19 points for LHNE, and Dylan Pospisil came off the bench to score 13 points.

Ty Austin was Battle Creek's (2-17) lone double-figure scorer with 12 points.

Lutheran High Northeast's second round game will be against Norfolk Catholic in Norfolk today (Tuesday). Battle Creek's season is now over.

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHEAST (8-12)	12	30	45	67
BATTLE CREEK (2-17)	3	12	34	34

Regular Season Wagner 51, Bon Homme 40

TYNDALL — The fifth-ranked Wagner Red Raiders only scored nine points in the opening frame, but their offense rebounded to defeat Bon Homme 51-40 Monday night in Tyndall.

Brett Kuca and Trevor Greger each tallied double-doubles for the Red Raiders (16-3). Kuca had 19 points and 11 rebounds, while Greger added 12 points and 11 rebounds.

For the Cavaliers (10-9), Robbie Jelsma notched eight points and 10 rebounds, while Zac Frank added eight points.

Both teams will play on Friday, with

Sub-District C1-9 Parkston 57, Parker 46

PARKSTON — The Parkston Trojans maintained a 10-point lead through the first three quarters of play which proved to be enough to defeat Parker 57-46 Monday night in Parkston.

Tanner Weber and Chance Roth each posted 16 points for the Trojans (3-17). Roth also had five steals.

For the Pheasants (4-16), Ryan Preheim tallied 17 points.

Parkston will play Wagner in the District 10A Tournament on Monday, while Parker will play Hurley to start the District 7B Tournament Saturday in Hurley.

Parker won the JV game 39-37.

PARKSTON (3-17)	16	30	44	57
PARKER (4-16)	9	20	34	46

Elk Point-Jeff. 68, West Central 62

ELK POINT — Elk Point-Jefferson capitalized on West Central's missed opportunity to win the game in regulation and the Huskies scored a 68-62 overtime victory at home over the Trojans on Monday.

With the game tied at 55-55, West Central's (6-13) Devon Albers missed two free throws at the end of regulation to send the game into overtime.

Elk Point-Jefferson (14-5) shot 51.1 percent (23-45) in the game and got two double-doubles.

Brock Zeller led the way for the Huskies with 21 points and 10 rebounds and Ethan Pace had the other double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Ben Staum con-

Sub-District C1-9 Berezford 56, Tea Area 55

BERESFORD — Holden Cotton's all-around performance helped the Berezford Watchdogs edge Tea Area 56-55 Monday night in Berezford.

Cotton had 16 points, eight rebounds and five steals, while Jordan Powell added 12 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Watchdogs (11-8). Andrew Erickson had a strong offensive game with 14 points.

For the Titans (7-12), Nate Walnofer had 17 points, while Alex Irvine added 14 points.

Berezford will host Elk Point-Jefferson on Monday, while Tea Area will travel to Garretson on Friday.

BERESFORD (11-8)	26	37	48	56
TEA AREA (7-12)	27	36	44	55

Platte-Geddes 69, Gregory 51

PLATTE — Platte-Geddes combination of potent offense and stingy defense helped the Black Panthers handle Gregory 69-51 at home on Monday.

Platte-Geddes (10-10) shot 49 percent (24-49) while holding Gregory (9-9) to 34.5 percent (19-55) shooting.

Platte-Geddes also pulled away in the second quarter after outscoring Gregory 21-9 for a 39-23 halftime lead.

Travis Campbell led the Black Panthers' attack with 15 points. Carter Kormitz followed with 12 points and Hunter Johnson grabbed a team-high seven rebounds and scored 10 points.

Gregory lost despite getting an outstanding performance from Adam Mikkelsen. He had a double-double with 20 points and 12 rebounds. Sid Eagle Star chipped in 15 points and Nate Schwartz netted 11 points.

Platte-Geddes next game will be against Gregory in the District 13A tournament with the site undetermined at this point. Gregory's next game will be Friday at home against Wagner.

PLATTE-GEDDES (10-10)	12	23	32	51
GREGORY (9-9)	18	39	52	69

Hanson 60, Scotland 37

ALEXANDRIA — Ninth-ranked Hanson pulled away from Scotland in the third quarter for a 60-37 in Alexandria win on Monday.

Hanson (16-4) was only up 21-18 on Scotland (3-17) before the Beavers outscored the Highlanders 23-9 in the third quarter for a 44-27 lead.

Trevor Doyle had a big night for Hanson with 23 points and seven rebounds. Pierce Smith had a workman like 10 points and eight rebounds.

Scotland got a double-double from Spencer Bloch with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Bloch also had four assists. Nick Settle added 10 points and five rebounds.

Hanson won the junior varsity game 49-14.

Hanson's next game will be in the District 10B Tournament with the site and opponent yet to be determined. Scotland will play in Freeman Monday with the opponent to be decided.

SCOTLAND (3-17)	4	18	27	37
HANSON (16-4)	15	21	44	60

Tri-Valley 80, Baltic 54

COLTON — The Tri-Valley Mustangs had no trouble cruising past Baltic 80-54 Monday night in Colton.

Cameron Krump posted a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Mustangs (13-6), while Jace Eckstaine added 19 points. Tre Bergh supplied 14 points, while Jacob Kinder notched 10 points.

For the Bulldogs (11-8), Ethan Johnson had 21 points, while Brenden Tideman added 12 points. Jeff Meland had a strong game with 11 points.

Both teams will play on Friday, with Tri-Valley traveling to Sioux Falls Christian and Baltic traveling to McCook Central/Montrose.

TRI-VALLEY (13-6)	27	47	65	80
BALTIC (11-8)	8	25	40	54

DeSmet 88, Arlington 81

ARLINGTON — Arlington overcame a double-digit deficit late in the game to force double-overtime, but DeSmet held on to win 88-83 in Arlington on Monday.

Arlington (11-9) was down 45-32 at the end of the third quarter, but put on an offensive display in the fourth quarter by scoring 33 points to tie the game at 65-65.

Both teams were deadlocked at 75-75 at the end of the first overtime before DeSmet (10-9) finished off Arlington.

The Cardinals had three of its top four scorers in the game foul out. Four players in all — Austin King, Curtis Price, Terran Chapin and Kyle Krahn — fouled out for Arlington.

DeSmet had two players with double-doubles: Brittan Spader fouled out but not before scoring 13 points and grabbing 10 boards. Matt Anderson had the other double-double with 19 points and 14 rebounds and dished out six assists and blocking three shots.

DeSmet had five players in all score in double-figures. Damian Kannegieter had 19 points and eight steals to go along with five assists. Cam Garry scored 18 points and Christian Hojer chipped in 10 points.

Terran Chapin led the Cardinals with 19 points and hit four three-pointers while getting a double-double with 11 assists and had four steals.

Darrik Bunker scored 16 points and Kyle Krahn had 14 points and nine rebounds. Austin King added 13 points.

Both teams next games will be in their District tournament, with Arlington starting play in the District 3B Monday and DeSmet will play in the District 4B tournament. The sites and opponents for both games are yet to be determined.

DESMET (10-9)	17	29	45	65	75	88
ARLINGTON (11-9)	12	23	32	65	75	81

NSU's Meyer To Retire After Season

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — One of the winningest men's basketball coaches in history is retiring.

Northern State coach Don Meyer said Monday he no longer has the physical or mental energy to run the basketball program at its "highest possible level." He will retire at the end of the season.

The 65-year-old Meyer in September 2008 was critically injured in a car accident that later resulted in the amputation of his left leg below the knee.

Doctors then discovered he had an inoperable form of cancer.

"It is time for someone with more energy and time available to deal with the unique challenges of a basketball program like Northern State," Meyer said.

Meyer has continued to coach despite his health problems, with 922 wins and 323 losses headed into the final week of this season. In January

MOUNT MARTY
LANCER
BASKETBALL

Mount Marty vs. Dakota Wesleyan
Women's 7:00 p.m. • Feb. 23, 2010 • Laddie E. Cimpl Arena • 1105 W. 8th St. • Yankton
2010 Playoffs

■ LANCERS, Page 9 please

■ MEYER, Page 9 please