



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

A composite shot of the over 5,000 fans in attendance as South Dakota hosted South Dakota State in men's basketball on Thursday night in the DakotaDome. USD, which raced out to a big lead and held on for the 72-68 upset

of the Jackrabbits, will try to repeat that magic tonight as it plays host to another Summit League and former North Central Conference rival, North Dakota State.

Next Challenge For USD: Repeat SDSU Performance Against Bison

Coyote Men Have Little Time To Enjoy Upset Win Over Jackrabbits

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — A win that will go down as perhaps the biggest in the Division I transition Just ask Dave Boots. “We have to stay with the philosophy that you just get ready for the next game on your schedule,” the University of South Dakota men’s basketball coach said Friday, a day after his team pulled a 72-68 upset of rival South Dakota State at the DakotaDome. “We’ve always tried to keep things in perspective like that.” Sure, Thursday was a monumental win for the program, but there wasn’t much celebrating for those involved. Why? Because there’s another rivalry game waiting for them today (Saturday).

North Dakota State, the Summit League’s third-place team that routed the Coyotes by 23 points a month ago, comes to Vermillion tonight for the first time in eight years. There lies the challenge for USD (9-14, 4-10): Revving up the system again for another intense, emotional game. “It’s hard to do that, to be consistent every night,” Boots said. “That’s the challenge. You know you can’t play your best every time out, but you just have to get ready as best you can.” That certainly wasn’t an issue Thursday for USD. After getting blown out of Brookings by 30 points in mid-January, the Coyotes started hot in Vermillion stayed that way — 68 percent shooting in the second half didn’t hurt. The visiting Jackrabbits made it close down the stretch but never looked com-

fortable in front of a DakotaDome crowd of 5,189. One person who wasn’t surprised by the outcome? North Dakota State head coach Saul Phillips, who is well aware of rivalries in the Summit League. “When you think about the nature of a rivalry, home court can have huge swings,” Phillips said Friday. “Certainly there’s a lot of emotion involved. “I mentioned to one of my assistants after we saw that score, that it was in the realm of possibilities for them to beat SDSU because of the rivalry factor.” Though to a lesser extent than with South Dakota State, tonight’s rematch with North Dakota State will mark the first time since 2004 that the programs will face each other in Vermillion. The Bison (15-9, 8-6), who lost at UMKC by 11 on Thursday, come to the

Dome having lost five times in their last seven games. Still, as Boots pointed out, NDSU — one of the youngest teams in the conference — is well-equipped to give the Coyotes fits. “They’re a very good young team, with some really tough matchups,” Boots said. “They’ve got really good personnel.” The Bison boast only two seniors, and their top five scorers are either freshmen or sophomores. NDSU has four players in double figures, led by Taylor Braun (16.1 ppg, 6.8 rpg). Jordan Aaberg was the biggest thorn in USD’s side up in Fargo. The 6-foot-9 forward had 15 points and 11 rebounds in just 25 minutes of action. “We have to come out and play with them offensively on our end,” Boots said. “Defensively, we’ve been right there; we’ve seen improvement on that

end. We just have to make shots, and we don’t always do that.” The fact that the senior tandem of Louie Krogman and Charlie Westbrook had one of their worst performances — 13 points between them — of the season up in Fargo certainly didn’t help the Coyotes. Yet, even Phillips acknowledged that it won’t be the case today. Krogman and Westbrook have combined to shoot 56 percent (35-of-62) from the field over the last two games and score a total of 91 points. According to Boots, Westbrook is questionable tonight with back spasms. “When their backcourt plays like they have been, they’re very dangerous,” Phillips said. “You can put them up with anybody. When they’re firing like

COYOTES | PAGE 15

Yankton Earns Sweep Over Eagles

Bucks Score Defense Powers Gazelles To Fourth Straight Victory

Road Win At Aberdeen

BY DEB SMITH
deb.smith@yankton.net

ABERDEEN — Yankton combined hot free throw shooting and a big rebounding advantage for a win on a night when the field goal shooting was cool. Yankton grabbed the lead in the second quarter on the way to a 63-51 win over Aberdeen Central on Friday in an Eastern South Dakota Conference high school boys’ basketball game at Golden Eagles Arena. The home team struggled defensively throughout the game and shot just 30 percent from the field. “We didn’t come with very good intensity on defense early and we never really got that intensity throughout the game,” said Central boys’ coach Brent Norberg. “When you don’t defend, and don’t get after rebounds, and shots don’t go in, it’s hard. When shots don’t go in, it’s tougher to play defense on the other end.” The Bucks opened the second quarter with a 13-2 run including three straight field goals by Jackson Seitzinger to open up a 25-15 lead. The Golden Eagles, who shot 31 percent from the field in the first half, pulled to within five points at 27-22 at halftime. A huge difference at halftime was rebounding where the Bucks held a 19-12 edge. “Rebounding was a huge key. I thought our shot selection was pretty good early we just didn’t make them and we didn’t turn up the defense,” said Norberg. In the third quarter Yankton opened up a 10-point lead at 39-29 on consecutive field goals by J.J. Hejna and Michel Rucker. The Golden Eagles committed their 10th foul early in the fourth quarter and the Bucks were in the double bonus the rest of the way. The Bucks made 12 of 16 free throws in the final period. “We’ve been putting an emphasis on shooting free throws,” said assistant coach Arlin Likness. “Those are called ‘free’ throws for a reason and we need to execute them. Our goal is that we want to shoot in the 70 percent range consistently. Tonight (Friday) we shot the ball fairly well from the line and as a result we came away with a win.” The Bucks made 24 of 32 free throws in the game for 75 percent. “A lot of the reason we ended up putting them on the free throw line was we didn’t guard them early so they got to the rim and we had to try and come and contest and we’re not shot blockers,” said Norberg. “We were late and that’s



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

The Yankton bench celebrates a Gazelles score during the second half of their victory over Aberdeen Central on Friday at the Summit Center. Yankton won 46-37 for its fourth straight victory.

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

A battle between a pair of top-5 teams certainly had the feel of one. Defensive pressure, rebounding battle and limited offensive surges. And for the fourth-ranked Yankton Gazelles, all those factors resulted in a 46-37 win over No. 3 Aberdeen Central in ESD girls’ action Friday night at the Summit Center. Helping Yankton (11-5) win for the fourth straight time was a stifling man-to-man defense that held the visiting Golden Eagles (12-4) to two field goals in the first and 25 percent shooting for the game. “I guess when you let a team score 37 points against you, it’s a pretty good thing,” said senior Emily Fedders, who led the way with 16 points including her team’s first nine. After a relatively close first quarter, the Gazelles erupted for a 13-0 run midway through the second quarter to put the game seemingly out of reach. The only real drama came in the final two minutes when Aberdeen Central closed a 12-point deficit to just seven with 34 seconds left. Yankton was able to hit a handful of free throws, but it was a little too close for comfort for the hosts. “We’re never going to be disappointed in a win; they’re tough to come by in this league, but we’d

GAZELLES | PAGE 10

Crofton, Avon Boys Earn Close Victories

CROFTON, Neb. — The Crofton Warriors held off a late surge from Randolph to win 30-29 in boys’ basketball action in Crofton, Neb. on Friday. The Warriors (10-10) held a 25-17 lead after three quarters of play, and held on to win by a single point. Leading Crofton was Evan Wockman with eight points and three steals. Eric Kleinschmit scored seven points and had four rebounds. For Randolph, Severin Bach and Levi Lackas each scored eight points. Crofton will now host Boone Central on Feb. 18, Randolph will host Hartington on Feb. 17. RANDOLPH (14-5).....4 10 17 29 CROFTON (10-10).....5 15 25 30

Avon 45, Tripp-Delmont-Armour 43

AVON — The Avon Pirates used a friendly homecourt advantage to top the Tripp-Delmont-Armour Nighthawks 45-43 in Avon on Friday. Leading the Pirates was Luke VanGerpen with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Nick Poppe added 15 points in the win. TDA was led by Trevor Payer with 13 points and seven rebounds. Adam Fink also scored 13

points and added five assists. Avon will now play at Gayville-Volin on Feb. 13. The Nighthawks will host Corsica-Stickney in Armour on Feb. 14. TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (12-5).....6 16 27 43 AVON (11-6).....14 28 37 45

Vermillion 42, Harrisbg 26

VERMILLION — The Vermillion Tanagers had their way with Harrisburg in a dominating 42-26 victory on Friday night in Vermillion. Anthony Leber led the Tanagers (8-9) with nine points. Tanner Anderson and JT Sorensen each added eight points in the win. Linden Niewenhuis paced Harrisburg with nine points and seven rebounds. Both schools are in action on Tuesday as Vermillion travels to Wagner while Harrisburg plays at Dell Rapids. Harrisburg won the JV game, 54-49. HARRISBURG (4-13).....7 15 17 26 VERMILLION (8-9).....14 27 35 42

Gregory 48, Scotland 45

GREGORY — After losing 11 straight games to start the season, Gregory has now won three out of their last four including a Friday night victory over Scotland by a score of 48-45. Freshman Gavin Thomas led the Gorillas with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Senior Nolyn Mikkelsen chipped in 10 points in the win, which improves Gregory to 3-12 on the year. Garrett Kotalik led Scotland with 12 points. Kyle Gall added eight rebounds. Gregory travels to Mission on Tuesday to take on Todd County. Scotland, 1-16, plays

Platte-Geddes on Monday in Platte. SCOTLAND (1-16).....10 24 29 45 GREGORY (3-12).....6 16 31 48

Centerville 72, Gayville-Volin 39

CENTERVILLE — Seamus O’Malley poured in 24 points for the Centerville Tomatoes as they rolled past the Gayville-Volin Raiders 72-39 on Friday. O’Malley also ended with eight steals and five rebounds on the night. Also for the Tomatoes, Aaron Anderson and Josh DeRaab each scored eight points and each grabbed 10 rebounds. Luke Abbas added eight more rebounds to Centerville’s total. Gayville-Volin was led by Kyle Kocmick with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Centerville will now host Canistota on Feb. 17, and the Raiders will host Avon on Monday. GAYVILLE-VOLIN (4-15).....10 20 28 39 CENTERVILLE (14-4).....22 35 56 72

Parker 71, Canton 61

PARKER — Jake Anderson and Cedric Hay combined to score 57 of Parker’s 71 points as the Pheasants defeated Canton 71-61 on Friday night in Parker. Anderson scored 29 points and grabbed a team-high five rebounds to lead the Pheasants. Hay scored 28 and added four rebounds and three steals in the win. Grant Flicek and Cody Willett each scored 13 points to pace Canton. Cody Majeres and Zach DeJong added 11 points each for the C-

Hawks. Parker, 10-8, travels to Alexandria on Monday to battle Hanson. Canton, 4-11, hosts Madison today (Saturday). CANTON (4-11).....15 27 37 61 PARKER (10-8).....19 31 48 71

Wynot 59, Hartington 29

WYNOT, Neb. — The Wynot Blue Devils jumped out to a 31-9 halftime lead and cruised to a 59-29 victory over Hartington on Friday night in Nebraska boys’ basketball action. Nathan Wieseler led the Blue Devils with 14 points. Adam Hochstein scored 12 points to pace Hartington. Wynot, 18-2, plays Dodge on Friday to close out their regular season. Hartington, 6-12, plays at Randolph on Friday. Hartington won the JV game by a score of 42-34. HARTINGTON (6-12).....4 9 15 29 WYNOT (18-2).....14 31 53 59

Platte-Geddes 76, Bon Homme 40

TYNDALL — Richard Sternberg and Matthew Randall each scored 15 points to lead Platte-Geddes in a rout of Bon Homme 76-40 on Friday night in Tyndall. Drew Turnis grabbed a team-high eight rebounds for the Black Panthers, who improve to 12-4 on the year. Bon Homme (2-16), which won the JV game

45-35, was led by senior Charlie Bentzen’s seven points. Platte-Geddes hosts Scotland on Monday in Platte. Bon Homme, 2-16, hosts Dakota Valley on Tuesday in Tyndall. PLATTE-GEDDES (12-4).....22 41 59 76 BON HOMME (2-16).....13 19 27 40

Pierre 39, Brandon Valley 37

PIERRE — In a low-scoring affair the Pierre Governors barely held off the visiting Brandon Valley Lynx 39-37 in an Eastern South Dakota Conference matchup. Leading the Gobs was Lane Severn with 10 points and eight rebounds. Joe Tetzlaff added 10 points and seven rebounds. For Brandon Valley Ben Schultz had 13 points and 12 rebounds. Each team will take the court again today (Saturday). Pierre will play at Sioux Falls O’Gorman, and the Lynx will play at Sioux Falls Roosevelt. BRANDON VALLEY (5-11, 4-8).....7 14 24 37 PIERRE (13-4, 9-3).....8 18 29 39

Lennox 40, West Central 32

HARTFORD — Lennox improved to 10-6 this year with a 40-32 victory over West Central on Friday night in a Class A boys’ basketball rivalry game in Hartford. Alex Lane led the Orioles with 10 points. Zach Koosman added nine. Mitch Brockhaus had 16 points to pace the Trojans. Lennox, 10-6, plays at Tea Area today (Saturday). West Central, 4-13, hosts Canton in Hartford on Tuesday.

Late Thursday

Gayville-Volin 38, Marion 31

GAYVILLE — After enduring a nine-game losing streak that stretched most of January, the Gayville-Volin

BOYS | PAGE 9



Mount Marty vs. Hastings

2:00 p.m. Women/4:00 p.m. Men • Feb. 11, 2011 • Laddie E. Cimpr Arena • 1105 W. 8th St. • Yankton

Special Thanks To Corporate Game Sponsor: Yankton Medical Clinic