

Hockey | S.D. State JV Girls' Tournament

# S.F. Flyers Blank Oahe 2-0 For State Title

BY CODY BALL  
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Sticking to the game plan led the Sioux Falls Flyers to a 19-1-0 record, and the title of State Champions at the S.D. State Girls JV Hockey Tournament.

Sioux Falls edged out the Oahe Capitals 2-0 on Sunday afternoon. The Flyers took 42 shots-on-goal, compared to Oahe's eight shots-on-goal.

"Our game plan was to keep pressing on offense and take as many shots as possible," Sioux Falls head coach Brian Wrightsman said. "I told the girls if it was going to take 50 shots to beat this team, that's exactly what we were going to do. We took 42 shots and that worked to be enough."

In the first period the Flyers came out firing. Sioux Falls took six shots-on-goal in the first two minutes of play. Oahe's goalie, Tessa Singleton deflected and stopped all six shots. Singleton continually handled the Sioux Falls attack throughout the first period. Sioux Falls took 17 shots-on-goal in the opening period, but was not able to find the net on any of their attempts.

The Capitals took four shots-on-goal in the first period, with no goals.

In the second period, the Flyers continued to threaten to score, but each time was held scoreless by Singleton and the Capitals. With seven minutes left in the period, two Oahe players were sent to the penalty box, leaving only four Capitals on the ice. Sioux Falls did the best they could to take advantage of the penalties, but could not convert.

The first penalized Capital left the box to strengthen the Oahe defense, but as the penalty time ran out for the second penalized Capital, Sioux Falls finally broke through into the net.

With 5:11 left in the second period, Oahe was barely getting back to full strength when Maggie Drexler finally broke the scoreless tie right in front of the Sioux Falls crowd. The Flyers' section of the stands erupted in cheers as Mollie Drexler and Madison Elkins assisted in the goal.

Neither team was able to score for the rest of the period. Sioux Falls took 14 shots-on-goal in the second period, while Oahe took two shots-on-goal in the period.

The Capitals were being out-shot by 25 shots heading into the final period, but found themselves only down by a single goal. The game was well within reach for the Capitals.

With 3:34 left on the clock, Alex Bettmeng of the Flyers sent a per-

fect pass from behind the net to Jennika Wrightsman, who was directly in front of the goal. Wrightsman took the pass and flipped the puck into the net. With a two-goal advantage and only a few minutes left on the clock the Flyers knew they had clinched the game, and the state title.

Sioux Falls took 11 shots-on-goal in the period, compared to Oahe's two shots-on-goal in the period.

"It feels pretty good to win this one. It was a tough game," Brian Wrightsman said. "It has been a long time coming. Our program has been down for the past two or three years, but now we have a state championship, and have a chance to continue winning because about 75 percent of our team is eighth-graders."

Oahe head coach, Christy Hockett also reflected on the game.

"It was a good game," Hockett said. "If we could have had a few more bumps or shots to go our way we could've come out with a win. I am very proud of our team"

The play of Oahe's Singleton stood out in the game.

"She is one of the better goalies in the state, if not the best," Wrightsman said.

Singleton stopped 40 shots in the game.

"It was an intense game with a lot of shots taken," Singleton said. "I felt good about how I played, and I am glad I had my teammates there to help me stop their shots."

The play of Sioux Falls' goalie Cassie Nack was also impressive.

"I can't say enough about Cassie," Wrightsman said. "She pitched back-to-back shutouts in the state tournament."

For the weekend, Nack had 21 shots taken on her, and 21 saves.

Jennika Wrightsman ended the tournament with four points (three goals and one assist), in only two games.

"I am very excited and just really happy to have won," Jennika Wrightsman said. "I am proud of my team."

When asked about her outstanding performance during the weekend, Wrightsman replied:

"I am proud of myself. It makes me feel like I was part of the championship in a big way," Wrightsman said.

Oahe ends their season as the state runners-up, and a record of 14-6-1-0.

"It was a good season for us," Singleton said. "We came into the tournament in third place, and ended in second place."

Sioux Falls ends their season at 19-1-0, and as the S.D. State Girls JV State Tournament Champions.



JUSTIN NELSON/P&D

Oahe Capitals defender McKenzie Grode, left, tries to knock the puck away from Sioux Falls' Alex Bettmeng, middle, during Sunday's championship game of the S.D. State Girls' JV Hockey Tournament at Alcoa Arena. Oahe goalie Tessa Singleton, right, looks on. Sioux Falls won 2-0 to claim the title.

## Mitchell Rallies Past Brookings For Third

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS



JUSTIN NELSON/P&D

Mitchell Marlins goalie Cara Beck dives to stop a shot from Brookings' Ashley Rennich during their third place game Sunday at the S.D. State Girls' JV Hockey Tournament at Alcoa Arena.

The Mitchell Marlins rallied from deficits of 1-0 and 2-1 to claim a 3-2 victory over the Brookings Rangers in the third place game of the South Dakota State JV Girls' Hockey Tournament on Sunday at Yankton's Alcoa Arena.

Ashley Rennich put Brookings on the board at the 6:51 mark with an unassisted goal. After Mitchell's Michelle Wyatt converted assists from Cassidy Stuck and Emily Spates for the tying goal, the Rangers regained the lead with a Lauren Moody conversion of a Shelby Meyer pass.

Jacey Brunsen scored the game-tying goal at the 10:51 mark of the second period. Sixty-three seconds later, Kassi Barington scored the game-winner. Wyatt assisted on the tying goal, with Brunsen and Spates assisting on the winner.

Mitchell then survived a third period in which it was outshot 10-5 to preserve the win. The Rangers outshot the Marlins 34-23 in the contest.

Cara Beck made 32 saves for Mitchell in the win. Lexi Lynn took the loss, stopping 20 shots.

Each team had eight penalty minutes and were held scoreless on power play opportunities.

## Hamann Powers Watertown Past Yankton In Consolation Final



JUSTIN NELSON/P&D

Watertown's Tiffany Hamann, 44, pushes the puck up the ice against Yankton's Angel Schild, 6, during the consolation championship of the South Dakota State JV Girls' Hockey Tournament on Sunday at Alcoa Arena. Hamann had two goals and an assist to lead the Lakers to a 4-3 victory.

BY CHRIS RILEY  
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Watertown's Tiffany Hamann continued her stellar play this season, scoring three points on Sunday morning to lead the Lakers to a 4-3 consolation championship victory over the hometown Yankton Miracle in the final day of the S.D. State Girls JV Hockey Tournament.

After a scoreless first period, Yankton got on the board first with a goal 43 seconds into the second frame.

Hope Logue found teammate Alysha Watzel in front of the Laker net to put the Miracle up 1-0 off of the power play.

"Alysha was in the right position when she needed to be," Yankton coach Mike Freeman said.

The majority of the second period would belong to the Lakers however, as Watertown out-shot Yankton 9-3 and managed to find the net on three occasions in the middle period.

At the 4:47 mark in the second, Watertown tied the game on a Stephanie Kasten goal. Hamann and Samantha Nogelmeier got credit for the assist.

Only 31 seconds later, at 5:18,

Hamann found the net for an unassisted goal which would give the Lakers a lead that they never surrendered.

"There were a lot of opportunities both ways," Watertown coach Keith Muhl said. "Defensively, both teams made the other take wide shots all game long."

Nogelmeier hit the back of the net with an unassisted goal at the 8:38 mark in the second to top off the 3-0 Laker run that took all of four minutes.

"Once we got the lead it kind of put the pressure on Yankton," Muhl said.

The Miracle responded as Watzel scored her second goal of the game with just 13 seconds left in the second period.

Hamann added an insurance goal 8:41 into the third, her third goal of the tourney.

Hamann's goal ended up being the deciding factor as Yankton's Kendra Nelsen cut the deficit back to one with an unassisted goal at the 10:35 mark in the third.

"Kendra had a nice goal at the end," Freeman said. "I told her that she needed to take some high shots and she got one in."

Watertown's goalie, sophomore Stacey Dunbar, admitted that

Nelsen made her nervous throughout the match.

"Number 13 (Nelsen) has a really good shot; I just tried to keep my eye on it," Dunbar said.

Even as the Miracle pulled their goalie at the end to add another skater, Dunbar and the Lakers held off a barrage of Yankton shots on goal.

"We've never been in the situation where we've had to pull our goalie," Miracle coach Freeman said. "It was a nice learning experience for our younger kids."

Yankton used 11 shots on goal in the third period to give them a 19-16 edge for the game, but Watertown's defense and Dunbar withstood the assault to seal the one-goal victory.

"A lot of these tournaments come out to how the goalie played," Lakers' coach Muhl said. "These are by far her (Dunbar) best games of the season. She did a tremendous job."

Dunbar finished the tourney with a .918 save percentage on 56 saves off of 61 shots on goal.

With the victory, Watertown wins the consolation title and fifth place overall in the tournament.

## Wrestling

From Page 7

Justin Haneke led the Watchdogs with a runner-up finish, dropping a 6-3 decision to Howard's Luke Loudenberg. The two had faced off one week earlier in the Region 2B final, where Haneke gave Loudenberg his only loss of the season.

"Loudenberg had to wrestle a great match to win to beat Haneke," said Beresford head coach Tyler Sorenson. "That's all you can ask for as a coach."

Also for Beresford, Colby Schoellerman (120) finished fourth, Josh Manning (126) finished fifth and Josh Casperson (160) finished seventh.

"Colby was not even ranked in the top eight and he got fourth," Sorenson said. "Manning had some tough luck in his draw — he could have just as easily won a state title. Casperson came back after a

couple tough losses to finish strong."

Sorenson feels the team's finish will be a motivator going into the off-season.

"I guarantee that not winning a state title will weigh heavily on their minds," he noted.

One other area wrestler also came one win short of a state title, as Alcester-Hudson's Lance Merrick dropped a 3-0 decision to Canton's Alex Davies in the 138-pound title match. Twin brother Levi placed fifth at 132 pounds.

Five other teams each had two placewinners apiece.

For Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes, Dylan Konechne (120) finished third and Darren Daum (152) placed seventh. Marion-Freeman had Bryce Saylor (195) finish fourth and Slade Mutchelknous

(182) place eighth. Elk Point-Jefferson's Tim Savitsky (106) placed fifth and Jared Hueser (112) place sixth. Scotland's Mitch Fuerst (182) and Dan Stibral (285) each finished sixth. For Bon Homme, Lincoln Stoebner (126) finished sixth and Austin Kaul (138) finished seventh.

### Class A

ABERDEEN — The Pierre Governors became the first Eastern South Dakota and first East River wrestling program to win a Class A title since 2003 when it beat out Huron, Rapid City Central and Sturgis for top honors in the South Dakota State Class A Tournament on Saturday at the Barnett Center on the Northern State University campus.

Pierre finished at 158 points, with Huron 145 and Rapid City Central 143. Sturgis finished fourth at 132.5, followed by Mitchell (110) and defending champion Rapid City Stevens (102).

Since Watertown won the Class B title in 2003, Sturgis won five titles, Stevens won two and Winner won once.

Led by the Lambert twins, Dakota Valley finished at 40 points. Tanner Lambert led the way, up-ending Stevens' Cody Benne for the heavyweight title. Taylor Lambert finished sixth at 220 pounds.

Vermillion finished with 37 points, as Brett Bye — upset in the semifinals for his only loss of the season — finished third at 132 pounds with a major decision over Rapid City Central's Evan Weiler. Teammate Will Mart finished fourth, pinned by Rapid City Central's Jake Weber at heavyweight.

Yankton finished with 35.5 points, led by Logan Smith's third place finish at 145 pounds. Smith beat out Dell Rapids' Tyler Gee, who handed Smith a semifinal setback, by injury default.

Also for Yankton, Casey

Skillingstad finished sixth at 132 pounds. Skillingstad dropped a 6-0 decision to Washington's Dylan Larson.

Yankton will return seven of the eight wrestlers it qualified for state, including Skillingstad, a two-time state placewinner.

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