

SDSU Radio Voice: Wolters' Record-Setting Night Was 'Quite A Ride'

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Officially, there were 1,362 people in the stands to witness history.

Mere hours later, however, the rest of the national sports landscape had heard what happened: Nate Wolters, the senior point guard at South Dakota State, scored 53 points — the most in NCAA action this season.

Tyler Merriam won't have to lie and claim he was there Thursday night in Fort Wayne, Ind. years later. No, he was closer to the action than most, broadcasting the game for the Jackrabbit Sports Network on 570 WNAX in Yankton.

"It was quite a ride," Merriam said Friday afternoon from the SDSU team hotel in Auburn Hills, Mich., where the

Jackrabbits play Oakland today (Saturday) at 4 p.m.

Wolters made 17-of-28 shots from the field, including a school-record nine three-pointers, and was 10-of-11 at the free throw line to account for his school-record 53 points. And oh by the way, SDSU needed a second-half comeback to beat the Mastodons 80-74.

That set off Wolters hysteria.

Once again — like happened last season with the win at Washington and the NCAA Tournament berth, and the upset this season at New Mexico — the unassuming All-American found himself in the national spotlight.

Highlights from the record-setting night were sent from TV affiliates in Fort Wayne to ESPN, where they later appeared on SportsCenter. From there,

other national media outlets wanted to speak with Wolters, who also found himself trending nationally on Twitter.

Even a day later, it was clear that Wolters is the perfect candidate for such attention, according to Merriam.

"We're lucky in the standpoint that he's a very humble kid, he doesn't let things go to his head," Merriam said. "It would be easy to get a very inflated perception of yourself. Nate just laughs; just how he is."

There was a time Thursday night, though, when there weren't many laughs in Jackrabbit circles.

Fort Wayne, which was up 37-29 at halftime, led by as many as 11 points in the second half.

SDSU, in other words, needed every basket and every point from its senior

leader. Wolters put the Jacks ahead for good, 70-68, on a three-pointer with 1:47 remaining, his eighth of the game.

He broke the school record with his ninth try at the 58-second mark and later added four free throws. By the time the dust had settled, Wolters had scored 24 points in the final 6:22 of action.

"Probably the weirdest part of it all was that while all this going on, we're in a dog-fight with Fort Wayne," Merriam said. "I couldn't go off script and ramble about Nate. It wasn't until the last 30 seconds that the game was put away."

Merriam compared the potential for a bittersweet record as to when Wolters set the SDSU career scoring record in a loss to the University of South Dakota in Vermillion back on Jan. 5. In other words, the focus would've turned to a

frustrating loss instead of a record.

"As he was getting to 45 (points), I remember thinking, 'This is going to make my job difficult,'" Merriam said. "If they lost the game, it would've been, 'It's nice, but we lost to a team we should beat.' That was in the back of my mind the whole time."

Aside from his early tendency to defer to teammates in the first half, Wolters took many by surprise with his three-point shooting: 9-of-14.

"The most impressive part of it is that he's incredibly unselfish. He tries to get other people involved," Merriam said. "He might get a couple steals and some breakaways, but very rarely does

WOLTERS | PAGE 10

Tigers Avenge Loss To Yankton

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A strong fourth quarter at the foul line led Huron past Yankton by a final of 53-43 on Friday night at the Summit Center and kept the Bucks from nailing down the season sweep against the Tigers in ESD boys' basketball action.

Yankton, 4-11, looked strong early, jumping out to a 10-3 lead midway through the first quarter, but eventually fell behind the Tigers as Huron used a 26-10 run throughout parts of the second and third quarters to build a commanding lead.

After a Michael Rucker three-pointer from the left wing completed a Yankton comeback from a 10-point second-half deficit to give the Bucks a 38-37 lead at the beginning of the final period, the Tigers took over and made 10 of their 13 fourth quarter free-throw attempts as the Bucks struggled to get shots to fall.

"We couldn't make some of our shots," Rucker, who finished with a team-high 16 points said. "We battled - we worked hard the whole game."

Rucker hit a trio of three-pointers in the first quarter, but other than his try to begin the fourth, he was kept in check by Tiger defense.

"Unfortunately, other than Michael we didn't make any outside shots," Bucks coach Chris Haynes said. "Huron started keying on Michael and our inside game and when you don't make any other outside shots it makes it tough."

Following Rucker's three at the beginning of the fourth, which gave Yankton a 38-37 lead, Huron took advantage of Yankton's aggressiveness and hit both ends of a pair of one-and-ones to take a three point edge with just under four minutes left to play.

The Tigers closed the game on a 16-5 run to make margin of victory appear wider than most of the game indicated.

"Maybe things will go our way next time," Rucker added. "We've got get into everybody's heads that we can play with the best teams in the state because we've proven it by knocking a few of them off and even competing with them. Even if our record doesn't show it we know how good we can be."

Haynes was happy with his team's aggressiveness and praised Huron as a state tournament-worthy team, but also noted that the Bucks must take care of their own business as the regular season winds down.

"We've just got to continue to work hard and worry about our own stuff," Haynes said. "If we defend and rebound like we did tonight and get a little more consistent on the offensive end we think we can play with anyone."

Senior Kellen Soulek scored seven points and grabbed six rebounds for the Bucks, who finish the year with three more home games. Junior J.J. Hejna also



Yankton's Reid Sawatzke, left, looks for an opening against Huron's Will Carr during the second half of their Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' basketball game on Friday at the Summit Center.



Gayville-Volin's Nikki Guy, 24, comes away with the ball against Centerville's Logan Wieseler, bottom, during their girls' game Friday night in Gayville.

O'Malley Powers Centerville Past Raiders

GAYVILLE — Kieran O'Malley connected on six three-pointers on the way to a game-high 36 points as Centerville started strong and rolled past Gayville-Volin 75-41 on Friday night in Gayville.

O'Malley, a Mount Marty recruit, also grabbed seven rebounds, dished out six assists and had three steals for the Tornadoes (16-2).

Centerville led 23-5 after one quarter and 41-22 at halftime.

Logan Wieseler added 14 points, while Brittany Austin posted nine points, five assists and two steals. Carleigh Oster also grabbed eight rebounds.

For the Raiders (3-13), Kelia Barta scored 15 points and Rachel Haas added 10 points. Nikki Guy hauled in six rebounds and had two steals.

Centerville visits Beresford tonight (Saturday) and Gayville-Volin travels to Avon on Monday.

CENTERVILLE (16-2).....23 41 60 75
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (3-13).....5 22 32 41

Wynot 68, Hartington 57

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Maggie Schulte scored 20 points Friday night to lead Wynot in a 68-57 win against Hartington in Hartington.

Shelby Hochstein added 11 points in the win, with Kelsey Higgins contributing eight points.

Myranda Fischer scored 21 points for Hartington, while Ashley Mortch, Michaela Deninger and Samantha Huss each added 10 points.

Hartington will face Randolph in Sub-Districts D1-6 Tuesday in Wausa, while Wynot faces the winner of the Walthill-Winside game in D2-5 Sub-Districts in Hartington.

WYNOT (20-3).....17 40 53 68
HARTINGTON (9-11).....8 23 35 57

Avon 56, Tripp-Delmont-Armour 41

ARMOUR — Avon defeated Tripp-Delmont-Armour 56-41 in South Dakota girls' basketball action Friday night.

Chesney Nagel led Avon (13-5) with 28 points. Ariana Oorlog added 10 points in the victory.

Kelli Batterman was the lone leading scorer for TDA (2-16) with 14 points and 15 rebounds.

Avon will host Gayville-Volin on Monday. TDA will travel to Corsica to take on Corsica-Stickney on Tuesday.

AVON (13-5).....11 23 38 56
TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (2-16).....16 24 32 41

Elk Point-Jefferson 46, Beresford 34

ELK POINT — Keely Bertram put up 12 points to lead the Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies in a 46-34 win against the Beresford Watchdogs Friday night in Elk Point.

Bertram also added seven rebounds in the win, while Haylee Erickson scored 10 points and had eight rebounds.

Taryn Twite scored 14 points and had eight rebounds for the Watchdogs, with Alyson Johnsen adding nine points and three assists.

Beresford hosts Centerville today (Saturday), while the Huskies travel to Centerville Tuesday.

BERESFORD (14-4).....9 15 30 34
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (11-7).....14 26 31 46

Crofton 75, Randolph 37

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Crofton continued their road for perfection with a pummeling of Randolph, 75-37, in Nebraska girls' basketball action Friday night.

Allison Arens led Crofton (21-0) with 18 points, eight rebounds and six steals. Quinn Wragge tallied 15 points. Brianna Allen added 10 points in the victory.

Kirsten Fink led Randolph (4-12) with 10 points.

Both teams will begin sub-districts starting on Tuesday.

CROFTON (21-0).....24 41 58 75
RANDOLPH (4-12).....4 8 23 37

Scotland 64, Gregory 23

SCOTLAND — Scotland defeated Gregory 64-23 in South Dakota girls' basketball action Friday night.

Aisha Abbink led Scotland (13-5) with 19 points. Carley Skarepa added 16 points and eight rebounds in the victory.

Briana Leber led Gregory (1-16) with eight points and five rebounds. Sierra Thomas added seven points in the loss.

Scotland will host Dakota Christian on Tuesday. Gregory will host Colome on Monday.

SCOTLAND (13-5).....20 34 44 64
GREGORY (1-16).....8 13 17 23

Andes Central 44, Menno 33

MENNO — Kellie Winckler recorded 15 points Friday night to lead the Andes Central Eagles in a win against the Menno Wolves with a score of 44-33 in Menno.

Winckler also had eight rebounds and four assists in the win, with Krista Winckler adding 13 points and seven rebounds.

For the Wolves, Kylee Kessler scored 12 points and had nine rebounds, while Christina Herboldt had six points, 16 rebounds and three steals.

Menno hosts Howar Monday, while Andes Central travels to face Parkston Tuesday.

Harrisburg 65, Vermillion 31

HARRISBURG — Scoring 16 points, Hailey Halling led the Harrisburg Tigers in a 65-31 win Friday night against the Vermillion Tanagers in Harrisburg.

Halling also had seven rebounds on the night, while Morgan Krier put up 11 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Alex Johnson also had five assists for Harrisburg, now 17-1.

Josie Huber led Vermillion (10-9) with 13 points. Harrisburg hosts Dell Rapids Tuesday, while Vermillion hosts Wagner.

GIRLS | PAGE 9

Zeller Powers Elk Point-Jefferson Past Beresford

ELK POINT — Brock Zeller had a big night and the Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies shot 59 percent from the field in a 62-49 home win over Beresford on Friday night.

Zeller recorded 15 points, nine rebounds, six assists and three steals for EPJ (7-11), which led 28-21 at halftime. Blake Donnelly added 12 points and five assists and Andrew Flynn chipped in with nine points.

In the loss for the Watchdogs (5-11), Oliver Doeden scored 17 points and Austin Meester added 14 points, six rebounds and five steals. Logan Busch had eight points.

Beresford visits Lennox on Tuesday and EPJ travels to Tea Area next Friday.

BERESFORD (5-11).....10 21 35 49
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (7-11).....12 28 49 62

Centerville 84, Gayville-Volin 47

GAYVILLE — Centerville defeated Gayville-Volin 84-47 in boys' basketball action Friday night.

Shamus O'Malley led Centerville (12-3) with 16 points. Ty Martz added 12 points, while Luke Abbas added 10 points in the victory.

Ryan Adams had 18 points for Gayville-Volin (0-16). Brandon VanOsdal had 10 points in the loss.

Centerville will play Sully Butes today in Mitchell. Gayville-Volin will travel to Avon on Monday.

CENTERVILLE (12-3).....34 58 75 84
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (0-16).....10 19 34 47

Viborg-Hurley 45, Parker 33

PARKER — Tyler Gerdes put up 16 points and six rebounds Friday night to lead the Viborg-Hurley in a win against Parker with a score of 45-33.

Jack Huether added nine points and five rebounds in the win, with Andrew Hora contributing seven points and eight rebounds.

Jake Anderson scored eight points and had

seven rebounds for Parker, while Zach O'Keefe recorded seven points and two rebounds.

Parker hosts Hanson Monday, while Viborg-Hurley faces Aberdeen Roncalli in Mitchell today (Saturday).

VIBORG-HURLEY (14-2).....10 18 33 45
PARKER (0-9).....8 14 22 33

Wagner 62, Chamberlain 53

WAGNER — Dylan Brunings scored led the Wagner Red Raiders in a win against the Chamberlain Cubs Friday night in Wagner.

Brunings scored 20 points and had eight rebounds in the win, with Chris Kuca adding 17 points. Noah St. Pierre also had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Gage Basting put up 13 points and eight rebounds for the Cubs, while Hudson Preibse scored 10 points.

Wagner travels to Vermillion Tuesday, while Chamberlain

WAGNER (8-9).....14 30 41 62
CHAMBERLAIN (12-3).....9 19 33 53

Bloomfield 60, Allen 47

ALLEN, Neb. — Nick Nagengast scored 19 points Friday night to lead Bloomfield to a win

60-47 against Allen in Allen.

Chet Beckmann added 16 points and three assists on the night, with Kane Fiedler contributing 10 points and two assists.

No stats were reported for Allen.

Bloomfield travels to play against Wausa Friday, while Allen travels to Winnebago.

Wausa 48, Osmond 38

WAUSA — Marcus Claussen scored 19 points Friday night to lead Wausa in a 48-38 win against Osmond in Wausa.

Trevor Wakely, who scored his 1,000 point during the game, added 13 points in the win, with Adam Kleinschmidt and Austin Conn each recording five points.

Daniel Wiess scored 17 points for Osmond, while Caleb Krohn added six points. Ben Johnson also had four points.

Wausa hosts Bloomfield Friday, while Osmond hosts Elkhorn Valley.

WAUSA (19-2).....11 17 40 48
OSMOND (4-14).....6 14 32 38



Ryan Adams, middle, of Gayville-Volin is trapped by the Centerville defense of Ty Knutson, left, and Seamus O'Malley during their boys' game Friday night in Gayville.

BOYS | PAGE 9