

Broders Showing Her Power As USD Softball Opens Season

Coyote Junior, Yankton Native Had Two Homers In First Five Games

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — Her coach calls it “intensity.” Christine Broders said it was “confidence.”

Either way, the junior shortstop from Yankton for the University of South Dakota softball team had herself a solid start to the 2013 season by showcasing some extra enthusiasm.

Not to mention some new-look power.

“We just wanted to win early,” Broders said Monday evening after arriving back in Vermillion from a flight to Omaha, Neb. “Last year, we started off pretty bad and eventually got better. So I didn’t want to waste any time.”

In five games at the Red Desert Classic in Utah over the weekend, Broders recorded five hits (in 12 at-bats), includ-



Broders

ing two home runs, and six runs batted in. The Coyotes went 2-3, with both wins Sunday.

Not only were those numbers tops for her team, they were far and away anything like she had done in the past.

Prior to the season opener, Broders had played in 104 games in her college career, and had combined for four home runs and 25 runs batted in.

And though her junior season is off to quite a start, statistically, USD coach Amy Klyse was most impressed with where those hits came in the course of a game. On Sunday against Idaho State, Broders tied the game with a 3-run homer and later won the game in the seventh inning with a walk-off homer.

“It’s definitely great to see her perform like that in high-pressure situations,” Klyse said. “Her maturity as an upperclassman now is already there; she’s worked hard on that.”

Broders specifically worked on consistent hitting, she said. Her batting average of .262 ranked second on the team last spring, and was still more than a 100-point improvement from her freshman season in 2011.

“Last year, most of us thought we didn’t hit like we should, so I just changed my way of thinking about batting,” she said. “I knew that I have to get it done.”

The Coyotes, as a team, batted .224 last season on the way to a 16-39 overall record — 12-12 in the Summit League. Unlike this season’s rather solid start, USD won two of their first 20 games a year ago.

When it came to Broders, she was re-

sponsible for not only production at the plate, but manning a leadership position in the field at shortstop.

“Seeing this level of competition all the time, it makes you realize that in order to be successful consistently, you have to get those fundamentals perfected,” Klyse said.

With some added work in the off-season, Broders said she and her teammates are ready to contend for the Summit League title.

The Coyotes returned their top two pitchers in Erica Denney (Sr.) and Missy Blackburn (Sr.), three infield starters in Kassie Loe (Sr.), Lindsey Boyd (Jr.) and Broders, as well as four outfielders with starting experience in Katie Dinning (So.), Morgan Hancock (So.), Kate Snow (Sr.) and Katelyn Wudel (Jr.).

“We were really excited and upbeat; knew that we could win,” Broders said. “We’re just pumped and confident the

whole time. It’ll be that way the whole season.”

The Coyotes hit the road again this weekend for Hammond, La., and the Southeastern Louisiana Tournament. There, USD will play SE Louisiana, Texas Southern, Maryland-Baltimore County, LSU-Alexandria and Texas-El Paso.

Although the early portion of the season will be spent away from Vermillion, the Coyotes are already feeling confident that they could contend in any location, Klyse said.

“It was fun to see where we’re at already,” she said. “There are things you think about in the off-season that could go your way, but it’s hard to know until you get out there. We’ve got that fight that could be fun to see.”

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Iverson’s Rams Make Top-25 For First Time Since 1954

BY ARNIE MELENDREZ STAPLETON

AP Sports Writer

The buzz in the Colorado State locker room was all about the basketball polls Monday — and that was even before the Rams learned they had cracked the rankings for the first time since 1954.

“We were all kind of wondering if Miami was going to jump up to No. 1 after all those upsets,” Rams senior forward Greg Smith said. “That was more of the discussion in the locker room. It wasn’t really about us.”

After the two-hour practice ended at 9 a.m., an exhausted Smith grabbed some breakfast and hit the books.

“Then my Twitter started blowing up. Everybody was saying, ‘We’re ranked! We’re ranked!’” Smith said. “People sent me links. That’s how I found out. Then, my teammates starting calling me.”

The Rams are 24th in both The Associated Press men’s basketball poll and the USA Today poll, their first foray into the rankings since March of 1954 — 20 months before Colorado State coach Larry Eustachy was born.

“It’s neat for our players and for our program. That’s exciting news for our guys, but we still have to play very difficult games” this week against San Diego State and Air Force, said Eustachy, ever the pragmatist, downplaying the polls.

“I think right now all of us are really excited,” Smith said, noting that transfers Daniel Bejarano (University of Arizona) and Colton Iverson (University of Minnesota) “are the only two guys who have played on a ranked team. They know how to handle it.”

“But I think all of us that have been around here for a while are really just happy that we’re finally being recognized as being one of the best teams in the nation. We’ve just got to go out and keep playing like it, starting Wednesday.”

By the way, Miami, the object of the Rams’ early morning curiosity, rose to No. 3 in the rankings, behind only No. 1 Indiana and No. 2 Duke after a succession of impressive wins and losses by highly ranked teams.

The Rams (19-4, 6-2 Mountain West) face preseason favorite San Diego State (18-5, 6-3) Wednesday night at Moby Arena, where they’ve won 26 straight games.

Only Syracuse (37) and South Dakota State (27) boast longer home winning streaks.

“I was just talking with my brother. I was like, three years ago, would you ever be thinking that if San Diego State were to beat us that it would be an upset?” Smith said. “It’s nice to have that target on our back. But now we’ve got to go out there and keep doing what we’re doing.”

Smith said the senior-laden Rams should have no trouble keeping all this national recognition from going to their heads, too.

“Honestly, we’ve got a lot of seniors,” he said. “We should stay pretty grounded because of our age. It’s only a label. Just a couple of days ago we were the 28th-best team. Miraculously, three days later, we’re the 24th-best team. We’ve just got to stick to what we’re doing, go out and focus and keep getting wins.”

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Bloomfield Takes Playoff Opener

Queen Bees Battle Past Allen In Sub-District D1-6 Opener

WAUSA, Neb. — Bloomfield defeated Allen 51-48 in overtime of the opening round of the girls’ Sub-District D1-6 Tournament on Monday.

Philomenia Lammers led Bloomfield (7-13) with 17 points. Autumn Luger tallied 15 points. Ashley Fiddler added 10 points in the victory.

Lexi Oswald led Allen with 11 points. Lindsay Sullivan added 10 points in the loss.

Bloomfield advances to take on number-one seed Emerson-Hubbard tonight (Tuesday) in Wausa. With the loss, Allen ended its season with a 5-14 record.

BLOOMFIELD (7-13)	8	16	27	48	51
ALLEN (5-14)	4	17	24	48	48

Sub-District C2-8

Creighton 67, Niobrara-Verdigre 42

O’NEILL, Neb. — Creighton defeated Niobrara-Verdigre 67-42 in the opening round of the girls’ Sub-District C2-8 game on Monday in O’Neill.

Rebecca Eggerling led Creighton (10-13) with 19 points. Jessica Coggert added 14 points in the victory.

Mickayla Eisenhower led Niobrara-Verdigre with 10 points. Jessica Ives and Catheryn Hanzlik each had seven points in the loss.

Creighton will advance to the second round to play unbeaten Crofton in O’Neill at 6 p.m. tonight (Tuesday). With the loss, Niobrara-Verdigre ended its season with a 6-15 record.

CREIGHTON (10-13)	21	31	51	67
NIORARA-VERDIGRE (6-15)	5	22	27	42

Sub-District D2-6

Wausa 48, Santee 8

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Wausa defeated Santee 48-8 in the opening round of the Sub-District D2-6 Girls’ Basketball Tournament on Monday in Randolph.

Tori Clausen led Wausa (8-14) with 12 points. Breanna Gallup and Abi Hegge each added seven points in the victory.

Miranda Sheridan and Adrianna Duarte led Santee (0-18) with three points.

Wausa advances to take on

number-one seeded Osmond today in Randolph. With the loss, Santee has ended their season.

WAUSA (8-14)	15	27	39	48
SANTEE (0-18)	1	4	6	8

Sub-District D2-5

Winside 67, Walthill 46

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Winside defeated Walthill 67-46 in the opening round of the Sub-District D2-5 Girls’ Basketball Tournament in Hartington on Monday.

Nazya Theis led Winside (4-15) with 15 points. Morgan Jensen added 14 points in the victory.

X’oawinn Parker led Walthill (3-20) with 15 points. Jahise Rondol added 12 points in the loss.

Winside will play Wynot today (Tuesday) in the second round. Walthill ends its season with a 3-20 record.

WINSIDE (4-15)	17	27	44	67
WALTHILL (3-20)	11	26	41	46

Regular Season

Avon 55, Gayville-Volin 40

AVON — Avon defeated Gayville-Volin 55-40 in South Dakota ‘B’ girls’ basketball action on Monday night.

Chesney Nagel led Avon (14-5) with 24 points and three assists. Ariana Oorlog added 17 points and 10 rebounds in the victory.

Kelia Barta was the lone lead scorer for Gayville-Volin (4-14), with 15 points and three rebounds.

Avon travels to Irene-Wakonda today (Tuesday). Gayville-Volin will host Freeman Academy on Thursday.

AVON (14-5)	15	21	41	55
GYVILLE-VOLIN (4-14)	8	19	33	40

Sub-District C1-8

Battle Creek 40, Madison 34

NORFOLK, Neb. — Battle Creek jumped out to a 13-4 lead after one quarter and kept Madison at bay the rest of the way to claim a 40-34 victory over the Dragons in the opening round of the Sub-District C1-8 Girls’ Basketball Tournament on Monday at Norfolk Senior High School.

Battle Creek (3-19), which ended a 10-game losing streak and avenged two earlier losses to the Dragons, will face top-seeded Pierce in the semifinals today (Saturday). Boone Central-Newman Grove faces Norfolk Catholic in the other semifinal.

BATTLE CREEK (3-19)	13	18	23	40
MADISON (9-14)	4	13	17	34



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Bloomfield’s Amanda Goeden shoots over the top of an Allen defender during the first half of their opening round game in the Sub-District D1-6 Girls’ Basketball Tournament on Monday in Wausa, Neb. Bloomfield scored a 55-48 victory in overtime, earning a semifinal berth against top-seeded Emerson-Hubbard today (Tuesday).

Avon Boys Down Raiders

AVON — Avon defeated Gayville-Volin 58-39 in South Dakota boys’ ‘B’ basketball action on Monday night.

Brandon Kocmich led Avon (6-11) with 20 points and eight rebounds. Logan Mudder and Logan Powers each had 11 points in the victory. Mudders added 10 rebounds as well, to give himself a double-double.

Brandon VanOsdel led Gayville-Volin (0-18) with 12 points. Ryan Adams added 10 points in the loss.

Avon will travel to the Corn Palace on Thursday to take on Wosley-Wessington Springs. Gayville-Volin will host Freeman Academy on Feb. 21.

AVON (6-11)	10	29	47	58
GYVILLE-VOLIN (0-18)	3	19	25	39

Laurel-CC 66, Neligh-Oakdale 17

LAUREL, Neb. — Laurel-Concord-Coleridge defeated Neligh-Oakdale 66-17 in Nebraska boys’ basketball action this past weekend.

Dillon Wolfgram led LCC (10-11) with 15 points. Kyle Kardell added 10 points in the victory.

There were no stats available for Neligh-Oakdale (1-21).

LCC will host Wynot on Friday to wrap-up the regular season. Neligh-Oakdale hosts Howells-Dodge on Friday, as well.

LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE (10-11)	25	38	61	66
NELIGH-OAKDALE (1-21)	5	10	15	17

Creighton 78, Plainview 40

PLAINVIEW, Neb. — Creighton defeated Plainview 78-40 in Nebraska boys’ basketball action this past weekend.

Bronson Pahl led Creighton (15-5) with 25 points and five rebounds. Cole Thomas added 16 points and three assists in the victory.

There were no stats available for Plainview (4-16) in the loss.

Both teams will wrap the regular season up on Friday. Creighton will host Ponca and Plainview will travel to Humphrey.

CREIGHTON (15-5)	18	40	63	78
PLAINVIEW (4-16)	7	23	27	40

CHAMPS AT CROFTON TOURNEY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Yankton Fury took first place in their seventh grade girls’ division at the Crofton Booster Club Youth Basketball Tournament, held Jan 19-20. Team members include (front) Emily Oswald, Holly Hicks, Anna Savey, (back) Kara Ulmer, Maddie Cordell, Aurora Papstein, Kylie Rodig, Holly Mines and Leah Waid.