



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
South Dakota's Trevor Gruis attacks the basket against a Fort Wayne defender during their Summit League men's basketball game on Saturday at the DakotaDome. Fort Wayne won 64-51, extending the Coyotes' losing streak to six games, the longest under head coach Dave Boots.

Men: Fort Wayne Sends South Dakota Skid To Six

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — A previously efficient, high-rolling offense hit a significant speed bump on Saturday night.

Facing stiff defensive pressure all night, especially in the face of its guards, the University of South Dakota men's basketball dropped its sixth straight game, 64-51, to Fort Wayne at the DakotaDome.

Keyed by 38 percent shooting and just 5-of-17 on three-pointers, the Coyotes also reached the program's longest losing streak in 25 years — the year before head coach Dave Boots assumed command.

"When you're not hitting shots like that, it's a little deflating," said reserve Jordan Boots, who was one of two seniors honored prior to the game. "It takes the energy out of you."

"Makes you work harder on defense to keep it close, and that's maybe taking a little bit of energy away from you."

The Coyotes (8-18, 4-10) narrowly avoided a season low for points scored and needed a late flurry to avoid their worst shooting performance, but it was far from any consolation.

Starting guards Juevol Myles and Brandon Bos were held to 15 combined points on 4-of-16 shooting, after having combined for 45 points in a one-point loss to Oakland two days previous.

"They really guarded our perimeter; did a great job on Juevol and Brandon," coach Boots said. "They both had come off such good games on Thursday and couldn't get anything going tonight."

Not much went right for the Coyotes from the opening tip, as uncharacteristic cold shooting appeared at a bad time.

Making matters worse — and there were plenty in a 30 percent (7-of-23) effort — was that Fort Wayne closed a sluggish first half on a 15-2 run.

USD began the second half on a 10-2 spurt, but again, the ball not finding the bottom of the net on a consistent basis was the ultimate frustration.

"The funny thing is, we were getting stops in the first half, and that kept us in the game," Myles said. "But after a while, not scoring the basketball puts pressure on your defense, and it wears you out."

Though they trailed by double digits for the entire second half, the Coyotes got as close as 42-31 on a Trevor Gruis basket with 11:19 to play.

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Bulldog Defense Shows Its Bite

Concordia Forces 28 Turnovers In Win At MMC

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Concordia showed the defense bite that they've had on opponents the entire season, forcing 28 Mount Marty turnovers on the way to an 88-61 victory over the Lancers in the Great Plains Athletic Conference women's basketball regular season finales for both teams.

Both teams will be in the GPAC Tournament, which begins Wednesday. Concordia (24-5, 16-4 GPAC), the second seed, will host Dordt, while Mount Marty (16-13, 10-10 GPAC) will travel to third-seeded Northwestern.

The seventh-ranked Bulldogs had beaten MMC by 30 points in November, and seemed well on that way as they built a 43-20 lead with 2:51 to play in the first half. But MMC finished the half on an 8-3 run to close to within 17 at the break, 45-28.

"We knew that this was a different kind of pressure than we see from other teams, and we knew we had issues with it," said MMC head coach Tom Schlimgen. "But I thought we did a better job in the second half. And I thought our success rate in our offense was pretty good when we got the ball across halfcourt."

After Concordia returned their margin to the 20s, MMC went on a 9-0 run midway through the second half to get within 12, 62-50. Concordia's Bailey Morris responded with a layup, starting a 10-2 Bulldog run. MMC got no closer than 17 points the rest of the way.

"Mount Marty made a couple of good runs, but our kids did a nice job of responding," said Concordia head coach Drew Olson. "When they cut it to 12, Bailey Morris had a nice drive, and that helped relax us."

Kristen Conahan had 19 points on 5-7 shooting from three-point range to lead Concordia. Katie Rich netted 16 points, going 10-10 from the free throw line. Morris and Tracy Peitz each had 13 points. Lori Loboda had seven rebounds in the victory.

Peitz, a Hartington, Neb., native and Cedar Catholic graduate, scored the game's first six points and helped the Bulldogs get off to a fast start.

"The start she had gave her some confidence," Olson said of Peitz, who is averaging 7.2 points per game but had not scored in double figures since Jan. 8. "She's coming along with her shooting."

Peitz said that having a group of fans who came up from Hartington to watch her was an added boost.

"I had a lot of hometown fans here today," she said. "It got me pumped for the game. I was ready to come out and be aggressive."

Senior Brittany Little, playing in what will likely be her final home game, led MMC with 12 points and eight rebounds. Holly Hegge had 11 points off the bench, her second double-figure performance in the past

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Mount Marty's Sarah Crosgrove, right, is defended by Concordia's Bailey Morris during the first half of their Great Plains Athletic Conference women's basketball game on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Concordia spoiled senior day for the Lancers, as the Bulldogs claimed an 88-61 victory. MMC opens the GPAC Tourney at Northwestern on Wednesday.

A Game To Remember



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Mount Marty head coach Jim Thorson, right, talks to senior Joe Hieb during a break in the action in the Lancers' Great Plains Athletic Conference matchup with Concordia on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Hieb scored a career-high 43 points, one off the MMC single-game record, as the Lancers rolled to an 84-48 victory.

Hieb Scores 43 As Lancers Finish On Positive Note

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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After a season to forget, Mount Marty senior Joe Hieb gave Lancer fans something to remember.

Hieb scored a career-high 43 points — one off the Lancers' single-game scoring record — and the MMC defense held Concordia to 24.2 percent shooting as the Lancers routed the Bulldogs 84-48 in Great Plains Athletic Conference men's basketball action on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

The victory was of little importance in the GPAC standings, but was a positive note going into the off-season for MMC, which finished 8-21 overall and 4-16 in the GPAC. MMC had lost eight straight and 13 of 14 entering the contest.

"It was good to see," said MMC head coach Jim Thorson. "The seniors came out and all had great efforts. They finished out a tough year. They never gave up, which was nice to see."

For Hieb, whose previous career high was 25 points and who never scored more than 34 points in a single game at Chamberlain High School, things got going early. He drained a three-pointer on the team's openign possession, then drilled a jumper to give the Lancers an early 5-0 lead.

Concordia scored the next five points, but the Lancers put the game out of reach early. A 23-5 run had MMC up 28-10 with 6:19 left in the half. Eighteen of those 28 points were by Hieb.

"Ever once in a while you get a kid in a zone like that," Thorson said of Hieb. "I don't know how big the basket looked for him at the end."

By halftime, MMC had extended to a 40-19 lead, with Hieb going 9-11 from the field for 23 points. After the half, though, Hieb didn't hit a field goal until the 10:09 mark left in the game. He quickly added two more, then drained his fifth three-pointer of the game. He stepped off the floor for the final time as a Lancer with 1:45 to play, leaving Mason Billings' 1989-90 mark of 44 points safe by one point.

Hieb's 43-point performance marks the most points scored by a GPAC player this season. It ties for the fourth-most points scored by an NAIA Division II player this season.

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Lady Gavs Avenge Loss To YHS

PIERRE — Sydney Palmer hit a free throw with no time on the clock to lift Pierre to a 30-29 victory over Yankton in Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' basketball action on Saturday in Pierre.

Andi Sprakel had tied the game at 29 in the final minute, hitting 1-2 from the line. Palmer was fouled attempting a shot as time expired, then hit the first free throw attempt to claim victory for the Lady Gavs.

Palmer finished with 14 points for Pierre. Katie Berg had eight points. Kaitlyn Severyn added 11 rebounds and five steals in the win.

Mikala Hora led Yankton with nine points. Kelsey Fitzgerald had seven points and five rebounds. Morgan Tessier recorded four steals for the Gazelles.

Both teams have tough tests in their regular season finales, but could have a say in the ESD champion. Pierre (10-9, 7-6 ESD) hosts Aberdeen Central and Yankton (4-13, 4-9 ESD) hosts Mitchell. Aberdeen Central and Mitchell are tied for first in the ESD at 12-1 in league play.

Pierre also won all three subvarsity games, including the JV contest 49-21. Molly King had five points and Abby Schulte grabbed 11 rebounds for Yankton.

In the sophomore game, the Governors won 35-31. Madison Dangler had nine points and eight rebounds for the Gazelles, while Brianna Benjamin had eight rebounds.

In the lone freshman game, Pierre won 24-14 despite five points from Yankton's Ellie Fedders.

YANKTON (4-13)
Mikala Hora 3-10 3-4 9, Kelsey Fitzgerald 3-10 1-1 7, Kelsey Butler 1-3 1-2 3, Andi Sprakel 0-4 1-2 1, Morgan Tessier 3-5 0-0 6, Brianna Newman 0-0 0-0 0, Whiteie Larson 1-3 0-0 3, Jessica Wirth 0-0 0-0 0, TOTALS: 11-35 6-9 29.

PIERRE (10-9)
Kaitlyn Severyn 2-11 2-2 6, Katie Berg 4-6 0-1 8, Taylor Hyde 0-4 0-0 0, Sydney Palmer 6-9 1-1 14, Kristi Livermont 1-4 0-0 2, Courtney Brandt 0-1 0-0 0, Stevi Claussen 0-0 0-0 0, Miranda Panser 0-2 0-0 0, Kelsey Schmitz 0-1 0-0 0, TOTALS: 13-38 3-4 30.

YANKTON 4 9 22 29
PIERRE 8 10 19 30

Three-Pointers: Y 1-4 (Larson 1-2, Hora 0-2), P 1-11 (Palmer 1-4, Panser 0-1, Severyn 0-2, Hyde 0-2, Livermont 0-2). Rebounds: P 28 (Severyn 11), Y 25 (Fitzgerald 5). Personal Fouls: Y 10, P 10. Fouled Out: None. Assists: Y 3 (Hora 2), P 3. Turnovers: P 14, Y 14. Blocked Shots: Y 4 (Fitzgerald 4), P 1. Steals: P 10 (Severyn 5), Y 6 (Tessier 4).

District 12B
Andes Central 63, Colome 47

LAKE ANDES — Mount Marty recruit Kellie Winkler had 22 points and 14 rebounds to lead Andes Central past Colome 63-47 in District 12B girls' action Saturday in Lake Andes.

Cybil Chytka added 13 points for the Eagles (8-10), while Krista Winkler scored 10 points and dished out five assists.

Tracy Routh scored 18 points for Colome, while Tiffany Hauf had nine points and Tara Farley hauled in 10 rebounds.

Andes Central plays South Central on Tuesday night in Burke.

COLOME 7 15 28 47
ANDES CENTRAL (8-10) 19 32 52 63

Tripp-Delmont-Armour 62, Marty Indian 44

MARTY — Kelli Batterman scored 15 points as Tripp-Delmont-Armour rolled past Marty Indian 62-44 in District 12B action Saturday in Marty.

Jessica Sandau added seven points for TDA (3-18), while Morgan Polreis had four assists and six steals.

For Marty (10-10), Amanda Iron Elk scored 13 points and Dominique Diaz added 12 points.

TDA advances to play top-seeded Dakota Christian on Tuesday night in Corsica.

TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (3-18) 10 27 41 62
MARTY INDIAN (10-10) 5 19 34 44

District 7B
Bridgewater-Emery 41, Freeman Academy 40

TEA — Tiara Kayser and Kadra Kayser each scored 16 points to lead Bridgewater-Emery past Freeman Academy in the first round of District 7B girls' action Saturday in Tea.

Kadra Kayser also recorded eight rebounds, six steals and two assists, while Kelsey Kotas posted six points and Mackenzie Schulte hauled in six rebounds.

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Pierre Edges Bucks As Summit Goes Green

Yankton Fans Don Opponent's Colors, Open Their Wallets In Honor Of Cancer-Stricken Pierre Player

BY JILANNE DOOM
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It was an unusual sight in the Summit Center on Saturday night as both Yankton and Pierre fan sections donned matching team colors. While both sections cheered for different schools, almost the entire gymnasium wore green, uniting under one cause — "Conrad's Clan."

Yankton Athletics dedicated the boys' basketball contest to T. F. Riggs junior Conrad Adam, the University of South Dakota basketball recruit diagnosed with bone cancer in August. Before the 58-50 Governor victory, a group of Bucks juniors presented a check for over \$3,500, raised by YHS athletics, to their opponents for Adam. Fundraisers before and during the game brought that total to \$4,704.81.

"I went to Mount Marty College so I understand what the Yankton community's all about," Pierre head coach Terry Becker said of the donation. "It doesn't surprise me that they would do something like this. They're very generous and I know Conrad and his family really appreciate it."

But the Bucks did not hand over the game quite as easily. Yankton's Kellen Soulek put

the first points on the board but Creighton recruit Zach Hanson answered with a reverse layup for Pierre, beginning his post dominance early. Scoring-wise, the opening quarter seemed to belong to the Governors as they forced the Bucks down to the last seconds on the shot clock possession after possession, but Yankton fought back and built momentum until the buzzer with a last-second jumper by Landon Breen to put the Bucks within one.

Despite troubles covering the 6-foot-9-inch Hanson in the post, the Bucks battled in the second with help from the outside by Ryan Olson. A steal and a layup from Olson would keep Yankton in the game at the end of the half, but Hanson's 16 first-half points gave the Governors a 29-25 advantage heading into the locker room.

Becker said the whole night was a battle for his team, especially against a fiery Bucks squad in the first half.

"They came out with a lot of intensity and we had to adjust to that a little bit," Becker said. "We didn't really have the right intensity on the defensive end and that got them into a rhythm and they made some shots. It was kind of a battle from there."

Yankton once again jumped out and grabbed the intensity to start the third quarter as JJ Hejna finished a three-point play, putting his team within one.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's J.J. Hejna, 24, goes up for a shot against Pierre's Carson Eisenbeisz, 13, and Cooper Walton, 50, during their Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' basketball game on Saturday at the Summit Center. Yankton hosts Mitchell on Thursday to finish the regular season.

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