

No. 8 Northwestern Ends Mount Marty's Season



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
 Taylor Forsch, left, of Mount Marty dribbles away from Northwestern defender Alli Dunkelberger in their GPAC Women's Tournament quarterfinal game Wednesday night in Orange City, Iowa. Forsch finished with 27 points but Northwestern, the three-time defending NAIA Division II champions, ended Mount Marty's season with an 89-63 decision. MMC finished with a 16-14 record.

Three-Time Defending National Champs Outgun Lancers 89-63 In Quarterfinals Of GPAC Women's Basketball Tour.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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ORANGE CITY, Iowa — The challenge, in the end, proved to be a little too much for the Mount Marty women's basketball team.

And the three-time defending national champions proved to be a title contender once again.

Third-seeded Northwestern dominated all phases and ran its way past sixth-seeded Mount Marty 89-63 in the quarterfinal round Wednesday night of the GPAC Women's Tournament in Orange City, Iowa.

In short, not much went right for the Lancers, who finish 16-14. "Obviously I'm sad that it's over, but I thought we played really hard; didn't play with regret," said senior Taylor Forsch, who drained six three-pointers — including yet another record —

on the way to a game-high 27 points.

"We've talked about that all along, playing as hard as you can."

That effort wasn't enough, though, to contend with the physical Red Raiders (22-6) and their fast-moving offense — not to mention their plus-27 edge on the glass.

Northwestern shot 58 percent and had 25 assists on its 37 made field goals. Standout Kendra De Jong had a big night with 23 points, 16 rebounds and five assists, and helped key the efficient attack.

"Our goal was to try to not give layups and holy smokes did they make layups on us," Mount Marty head coach Tom Schlimgen said.

"We switched up defenses but they were still too much," he added. "They're a physical team

that moves like crazy."

About the only positive for Mount Marty was an 11-0 run late in the first half that trimmed an 18-point deficit into a 36-29 margin. Northwestern, however, closed on a 9-3 run to regain control.

The closest the Lancers got after halftime was 12 points, but that was within five minutes of the second half — the latest was a 13-point deficit with 13:33 remaining.

Northwestern's cushion hit 20 at 64-44 at the 10:37 mark and was as much as 26 points.

"There are definitely things we could've done better, but it wasn't because of lack of effort," senior Alexa Berg said. "This was going to be a tough one for us, but we didn't slow down."

Senior Brittany Little was the

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Hardwood Classroom

Even With Playoffs Looming, Poppe Keeps Focus On Fundamentals

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fifth part of a continuing series following Avon basketball coach Brad Poppe during the 2012-13 season.

MITCHELL — Even as crunch time in the season approaches, Brad Poppe continues to teach.

Only a handful of practices remain before the Avon boys' basketball team opens the District 11B Tournament next week in Mitchell, but half of the 75-minute practice is still spent drilling fundamentals.

"I really believe that fundamentals are key to what we want to do," Poppe said. "If we do well fundamentally, it will make the other things click for us."

And working in things that some coaches reserve for only the opening weeks of the season hasn't made the team bored, Poppe said.

"I give the boys a lot of credit," he said. "We're a week away from districts, and they're still working hard on fundamentals."

The Avon girls put in extra time — including a rare Saturday practice — to get ready for their Tuesday night matchup with Scotland in the District 11B Tournament. The Highlanders had won the first meeting, 50-39 on Jan. 3.

"Once we knew for sure that we would be playing Scotland, we got extra scouting reports and extra video on them," Poppe said. "We don't typically practice on Saturdays, but we had one of our



ABOVE: Avon coach Brad Poppe holds up a basketball during a drill in boys' practice on Tuesday afternoon. Poppe balanced preparing the boys' team for post-season play, as well as the girls' District 11B game later in the day.



LEFT: Poppe stands in front of his team's bench during the District 11B Girls' Basketball Tournament on Tuesday at the Corn Palace in Mitchell. Avon lost to Scotland in double-overtime, ending the Lady Pirates' season.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Miles Winning Fans, If Not Games, At NU

BY ERIC OLSON
 AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Tim Miles had just wrapped up his postgame radio interview when a bunch of pep band members, cheerleaders and other students started chanting, "Coach Miles, Coach Miles, Coach Miles."

The kids were imploring him to join them in shooting a video of the latest dance craze, the "Harlem Shake."

Miles was in good spirits because Nebraska had just beaten Penn State, so he gladly obliged. It took all of 45 seconds. The YouTube video has almost 140,000 views in less than two weeks.

One might wonder what mingling with the student body has to do with his job as the Cornhuskers' first-year coach.

There are two answers: nothing, and everything.

Miles isn't winning many games. No one expected him to, at least not yet.

He is, however, winning over fans and boosters and students, too. That's a good place to start for a coach at a school with a dearth of basketball tradition and where interest in the program has been lukewarm for decades.

"He's very shrewd," longtime radio play-by-play man Kent Pavelka said. "He's pushing every button there is to push out there."

Miles built his reputation as a fan-friendly coach at Colorado State, where he shot zany videos promoting the Rams and began his practice of tweeting his thoughts at halftime. The program was down when he took over at CSU, so he did all he could to compete for attention with the Denver pro sports teams and the mountains.

There aren't nearly as many distractions in the Cornhusker State, he said.

"Here, at least, we have a captive audience," he said. "They just need to be stirred. That's our job, to put out the type of program that people love watching. Husker fans will support quality and they will support success. It also is my job to be the front man for the program, whether that be to speak to the masses or to promote our program. There is a CEO element of the job, no doubt about it."

One of Miles' first tasks is to make Nebraska basketball relevant. The wins might not come in bunches immediately, but he's well on his way to cultivating a supportive environment outside the walls of the team's Hendricks Training Center headquarters.

"I haven't talked to an ex-player or alum who doesn't love the guy," said Beau Reid of Lincoln, who played for the Huskers from 1988-91. "He's everything he's supposed to be. He's genuine, very excitable and passionate — which is what it takes to sell this place."

If all goes according to his plan, the Huskers will become more entertaining to watch as new players come in the next couple years. Miles said several five-star recruits have visited and gone away impressed. The trick is to get them to sign.

Nebraska's selling points are impressive. The year-old practice facility is the envy of most college teams and even some in the NBA. Next year the 16,000-seat Pinnacle Bank Arena opens in downtown Lincoln, replacing the Devaney Center.

"State-of-the-art stuff means a lot to recruits," Miles said. "We have a great gear contract. That means a lot to young people, too. What we don't have is this steadfast tradition that's been there over and over and over. But these young people have a short memory, when history is almost instantaneous,

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Wausa, Randolph Earn District Berths

RANDOLPH, Neb. — The Wausa Vikings moved within a game of their first state tournament berth in a decade with a 56-40 victory over Ewing in the championship of the Sub-District D2-6 Boys' Basketball Tournament on Wednesday at Randolph High School.

The game was moved up from today (Thursday) due to expected poor weather conditions.

Marcus Claussen led Wausa with a game-high 21 points. Trevor Wakeley added 17 points in the victory.

For Ewing (14-12), Jake Walton scored 11 points.

Wausa, 24-2, awaits the winner of tonight's D2-5 final between Wynot and Bancroft-Rosalie. The matchup will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at a site and time to be announced.

EWING (14-12).....8 25 32 40
 WAUSA (24-2).....13 31 41 56

Sub-District D1-6

Randolph 45, Hartington 34

WAUSA, Neb. — The Randolph Cardinals earned their 20th victory of the season and moved within a game of a third straight state tournament bid with a 45-34 victory over Hartington in the Sub-District D1-6 Championship game on Wednesday at Wausa High School.

The game was moved up from today (Thursday) due to ex-

pected poor weather conditions.

Grant Anderson scored a game-high 20 points and Levi Lackas added 10 points for Randolph (20-4).

For Hartington, which finished with a 10-13 record, Derek Jueden and Eric Derickson each had nine points. Nick Miller added eight points.

RANDOLPH (20-4).....7 20 30 45
 HARTINGTON (10-13).....6 11 21 34

District 8B

Boys' Opener Moved Up

HURLEY — The opening round game in the District 8B Boys' Basketball Tournament, originally scheduled for Monday, Feb. 25, has been moved to Saturday, Feb. 23, in Hurley.

The game will feature Alcester-Hudson against Gayville-Volin and begin at 6:30 p.m.

At this time, semifinals remain on Tuesday, Feb. 26, in Hurley, with the championship set for Friday, March 1, in Tea.

District 7B Girls

Parker 63, Marion 39

TEA — Parker used four players in double figures to overcome 20 points from Marion's Kylie Hughes in a 63-39 victory.

Micalanne Hanten scored 19 points, and Morgan Hay and Shayna Burt each had 13 points for Parker (13-8). Tessa Weeldreyer had 12 points, nine re-

bounds, six assists and four steals. Burt had 10 rebounds and Hay added five assists in the win.

Katherine Luke had four steals for Marion (8-12).

Parker will face Freeman in the district final on Friday in Tea. Start time is 6:30 p.m.

MARION (8-12).....6 22 35 39
 PARKER (13-8).....19 30 46 63

Freeman 55, Bridgewater-Emery 34

TEA — Freeman claimed a 33-8 halftime lead on the way to a 55-34 victory over Bridgewater-Emery.

Dina Soulek led Freeman (9-10) with 17 points, five assists and four steals. Erika Sage netted 10 points. Nicole Saarie added seven rebounds in the win.

For Bridgewater-Emery (8-13), Justine Dye led the way with 10 points. Mackenzie Schmitz added eight rebounds.

Freeman will face Parker in the district championship on Friday in Tea. Start time is set for 6:30 p.m.

BRIDGEWATER-EMERY (8-13).....0 8 18 34
 FREEMAN (9-10).....14 33 45 55

Correction

The headline on the girls' basketball roundup that appeared in Wednesday's *Press & Dakotan* had an incorrect headline.

Scotland beat Avon in double overtime in the semifinals of the District 11B Girls' Basketball Tournament.

We apologize for the error.

USD Football Program Announces 2012-13 Team Awards

VERMILLION — Senior wide receiver Will Powell, senior running back Marcus Sims and junior linebacker Tyler Starr were among the award recipients at the 2012 University of South Dakota Football Awards Show held earlier this month in the ballroom of the Muenster University Center.

Powell was named Henry Heider Most Valuable Player after leading the team with 55 catches for 625 yards and two touchdowns. His 21 career touchdown receptions are a program record and his 2,521 yards receiving are the second-most in program history.

Sims was named Dave Triplett Offensive Player of the Year and Starr was named Joe Salem Defensive Player of the Year. Sims rushed for 586 yards and four touchdowns while averaging 4.9 yards per carry. Starr had 74 tackles, four sacks and seven tackles-for-loss.

Senior punter Cole Zwiefelhofer was named Beanie Cooper Special Teams Player of the Year after averaging 41 yards a punt and placing 15 inside the 20-yard line. Linebacker Keyen Lage was named Harry Gamage Most Valuable Freshman after recording 33 tackles and netting two sacks in 11 games. Senior defensive end Jordan Eaton was named Tim McFarland Lineman of the Year after

registering 37 tackles and 2.5 sacks.

First-year fullback Trevor Bouma received the Offensive Scout Player of the Year award and first-year defensive lineman Chris Wiseman received Defensive Scout Player of the Year.

Senior linebacker Tim Marlette garnered the Coaches Award and the Tim Mojzik Bulldog Award, which is chosen by members of the football team. Marlette led the team with 85 tackles. He had one sack and 7.5 stops behind the line-of-scrimmage. Marlette had 136 stops during his four-year career.

Full list of honorees:

Henry Heider Most Valuable Player: Will Powell

Dave Triplett Offensive Player of the Year: Marcus Sims

Joe Salem Defensive Player of the Year: Tyler Starr

Beanie Cooper Special Teams Player of the Year: Cole Zwiefelhofer

Offensive Scout Player of the Year: Trevor Bouma

Defensive Scout Player of the Year: Chris Wiseman

Tim Mojzik Bulldog Award: Tim Marlette

Harry Gamage Most Valuable Freshman: Keyen Lage

Tim McFarland Lineman of the Year: Jordan Eaton

Coaches Award: Tim Marlette