Strong Start Powers Rushmore Past Oahe

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Faced with the prospect of making a cross-state drive to play the opening game of the weekend, the members of the Rushmore Thunder were understandably a tad nervous.

A first-period goal, followed by five more, calmed those

"I was literally shaking while I was packing to come here," said Rushmore freshman goalie Anna Veazey, who made 11 saves in the Thunder's 6-0 win over Oahe in Friday's opening game of the State Girls' JV Hockey Tournament at Alcoa Arena.

"It was almost like a panic attack; I was that nervous. But I'm glad it worked out OK and we

Not only did it work out, the third-seeded Thunder (15-7) dominated. Rushmore held a significant edge in shots on goal, $\overline{27}$ -11, and scored goals from five different players.

Maddy Herman scored the game's first goal at the 5:20 mark of the first period — 9:40 into the game — to give the Thunder a little breathing room.



Rushmore defenseman Abby Fenhaus streaks up the ice with the puck during the first period of the Thunder's matchup with at the South Dakota State Amateur Association State JV Girls' Tournament on Friday at Alcoa

"That's a great way to start the weekend," Rushmore coach Chris Bessette said. "The girls started out a little nervous in the first period, but they really picked up momentum."

Cheyenne Trautman scored at the 4:13 mark of the second period, and Allie Burress and Annabelle Schulz followed with

goals within three minutes of each other to make the score 4-0.

Burress ended the second period with a goal at the 13:47 mark, giving the Thunder a commanding 5-0 lead heading into the final intermission.

They played a great game in the first and second periods, you have to give them credit," Oahe

AREA CALENDAR

coach Danielle Morem said. "It's a tough loss.

Rushmore's leading scorer Abby Fenhaus found the back of the net at the 1:52 mark of the third period, and Veazey closed out the shutout from there.

"I felt like we all worked really well together," the 6-foot Veazey said. "It actually felt like we did better than we usually do, which is awesome."

Rushmore advances to today's (Saturday) 4 p.m. semifinals against the winner of No. 2 Watertown and No. 7 Sioux Cen-

ter, Iowa. For now, there's plenty to cel-

ebrate.

"We're really young. For a lot win in a state tournament," Bessette said.

Oahe (7-11), meanwhile, falls to consolation semifinal action against the Watertown-Sioux Center loser today at 2 p.m.

"We'll come back with a vengeance," Morem said. "Girls, especially this young, are re-

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

at Yankton - Fifth (8:30 a m): Third (11

m.); Championship (1:30 p.m.)

HOCKEY, BANTAM State 'A'

TRACK & FIELD. COLLEGE IN

Monday, February 25 BASKETBALL, BOYS' Neb. Dis-tricts — C2-4 (Crofton); S.D. Districts — 7B at Tea (Freeman, Freeman Acad-

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' S.D. Dis-

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE IN-

DOOR Summit League Champi at Vermillion (USD)



JILANNE DOOM/P&D

Osmond's Laurel Krohn drives passed Wynot's Devin Jacobs for a layup Friday night in the Nebraska D2-3 District Final. Osmond defeated Wynot 47-34 earning a spot in the Nebraska state tournament.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

FRIDAY'S S.D. BOYS Aberdeen Christian 66, Northwestern Chamberlain 77, Stanley County 40 Dell Rapids 51, Pipestone, Minn. 38 Estelline 56, Florence/Henry 41

Harding County 85, Takini 61 Herreid/Selby Area 51, Edmunds Cen-Hitchcock-Tulare 64, Sunshine Bible Academy 32 Langford 58, Waverly-South Shore 29 Lemmon 86, Wakpala 81

Faith 54, Wall 39

Leola/Frederick 56, Ipswich 44 Little Wound 73, Lower Brule 56 McCook Central/Montrose 57, Baltic Miller 63, Highmore-Harrold 43 New Underwood 49, Jones County 43 Newell 61, Bison 60

> Sisseton 76, Harrisburg 61 Spearfish 57, Custer 43 Sully Buttes 70, Eureka/Bowdle 37 Tiospa Zina Tribal 59, Wilmot 47 Vermillion 77, Canton 64

Red Cloud 79, St. Francis Indian 65 Sioux Falls Roosevelt 63, Sioux Falls

FRIDAY'S S.D. GIRLS

District 4A Championship euel 42, Sioux Valley 41 District 13A Championship Winner 64, Todd County 49 District 7B Championship

District 8B Championship enterville 56, Alcester-Hudson 43 District 11B Championship District 15B Championship Timber Lake 52, McIntosh 48

Sub-Distict C1-1 Finals Falls City 52, Syracuse 43 Sub-Distict C1-5 Finals Milford 51, Centennial 49 Sub-Distict C1-6 Finals Adams Central 48, Grand Island Cen

Sub-Distict C1-9 Finals Sub-Distict C2-1 Finals

FRIDAY'S NEB. BOYS

Sub-Distict C1-8 Finals
Boone Central/Newman Grove 52,
Norfolk Catholic 46

District B-4 Finals Distict C1-2 Finals Wahoo 52, Omaha Concordia 51 Distict C1-4 Finals

Sub-Distict C2-10 Finals

Southern Valley 56, Ravenna 36 Sub-Distict C2-2 Finals Sub-Distict C2-6 Finals Lutheran High Northeast 49, Stanton

Sub-Distict C2-7 Finals

Sub-Distict C2-8 Finals Crofton 46, Creighton 38
Sub-Distict D1-3 Finals Sub-Distict D1-9 Finals

Sterling 42, Falls City Sacred Heart 41 Sub-Distict D2-7 Finals Giltner 65, Hampton 25 FRIDAY'S NEB. GIRLS

District B-1 Finals

Johnson County Central 39, Nebraska

Saturday, February 23
BASKETBALL, MEN'S Great
Plains Athletic Conf. Semifinals
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Western Illinois at USD (2 p.m., KVHT-FM, MidcoSN); Great Plains Athletic Conf. BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. Dis-

tricts — 8B at Hurley (Alcester-Hudson vs. Gayville-Volin, 6:30 p.m.)11B at Menno (Scotland at Menno, 3 p.m.); 12B (Marty vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Armour, 7 p.m.; Andes Central at Colome, 7 p.m.); Beresford at Tea Area; Neb. Sub-Districts — D2-5 at Hartington (Championship — Wynot vs. Bancroft-Rosalie. 7 p.m., KVHT-FM) HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV State Tourn.

Chadron 76, Gothenburg 49 Distict C2-1 Sutton 42, Palmyra 19 District C2-2 Aquinas 43, Yutan 28 Distict C2-4
Crofton 76, Homer 50
Distict C2-5 Hastings St. Cecilia 65, Wood River

Distict D1-1 Friend 47, Exeter/Milligan 37

Distict D1-2 Distict D1-3

m.); Semifinals (4 & 6 p.m.); Seventh ace (8 p.m.)

HOCKEY, BANTAM State 'A'

SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE

Tourn, at Sioux Falls: State 'B' Tourn, at

Summit League Championships at Rochester, Mich. (USD)

WRESTLING, PREP S.D. State

Class A Tourn. at Watertown; S.D. State Class B Tourn. at Aberdeen

BracketBuster (USD at Montana State, 2 p.m., KVHT-FM)

Sunday, February 24
BASKETBALL, MEN'S ESPN

HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Yankton at

HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV State Tourn.

Distict D1-4 St. Mary's 55, Ansley-Litchfield 31

Distict D1-5

Lindsay Holy Family 48, Humphrey 43

Distict D2-3 Osmond 47, Wynot 34 Distict D2-4 Giltner 42. Axtell 40. OT Distict D2-5
Wauneta-Palisade 59, Brady 48
Distict D2-6
Sandhills/Thedford 55, Sioux County

Crofton Boys Remain Alive With Upset Of 'Dogs

O'NEILL, Neb. — Crofton upset number one seed Creighton 46-38 in the championship of Sub-District C2-8 on Fri-

Ben Hegge led Crofton (11-13) with 16 points, six rebounds, and four blocks. Brock Mueller added 10 points and 10 rebounds. Dakota Miller posted nine points and six rebounds in the victory.

Creighton was led by Bronson Pahl and Reid Liska with 12 points a piece. Pahl added five assists and tour steals. Liska added three rebounds in the

With the victory, Crofton advances to Districts on Monday in Norfolk. Creighton finished their season with an 18-6 record. CROFTON (11-13)... CREIGHTON (18-6).

Sub-District C2-7

Cedar Catholic 49, Wakefield 45

PONCA, Neb. — James Kaiser scored 15 points Friday night to lead Hartington Cedar Catholic in a 49-45 win in the championship Sub-Dsitrict C2-7 in Ponca.

Grant Howell added 12 points in the win, with Logan Feilmeier and Taylor Kathol each adding

Jacob Lunz scored 19 points for Wakefield, with Evan Nicholson adding 10 points on the

Hartington Cedar Catholic advances to district play next week, while Wakefield ended their season with a 15-11 record. HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC (22-6)11 25 37 49

Sub-District C1-8 Boone Central-Newman

Grove 52, Norfolk Cath. 46

NORFOLK, Neb. — Boone Central/Newman Grove defeated Norfolk Catholic 52-46 in the championship of Sub-District C1-8 on Friday.

Beau Bremer led Boone Central/Newman Grove (22-6) with 13 points. Tyler Hedlund added 11 points in the victory.

Connor Ketter led Norfolk Catholic with 15 points. Riley Knake added 13 points in the

Boone Central/Newman Grove advances to Regional play next week. Norfolk Catholic ended their season with a 15-12 record. BOONE CENTRAL/NEWMAN GROVE (22-6)10 25 36 52 NORFOLK CATHOLIC (15-12)11 24 45 46

Regular Season

Vermillion 77, Canton 64

VERMILLION — Austin Krier scored 21 points Friday night to lead the Vermillion Tanagers in a 77-64 win against the Canton C-Hawks in Vermillion.

JT Sorensen also added 19 points and nine rebounds in the win.

For the C-Hawks, Cody Willett scored 23 points and had 13 rebounds, while Anders Peterson had 12 points. Jay Lems also recorded 11 points.

Vermillion faces Elk Point-Jefferson in districts Thursday in Dakota Valley, while Canton will host Lennox.

CANTON (12-8) VERMILLION (12-8) ...

Wagner 49, Gregory 38

WAGNER — Wagner defeated Gregory 49-38 in South Dakota boys 'A' basketball action Friday

Dylan Brunsing led Wagner (16-5) with 15 points and three assists. Noah St. Pierre added 14 points and 10 rebounds in the

Gavin Thomas was the lone lead scorer for Gregory (1-19) with 10 points and two rebounds

Both teams will compete in Districts next week. WAGNER (16-5) GREGORY (1-19) ...

Sioux Falls Christian 60,

Tri-Valley 29COLTON — Jordan Baker led the Sioux Falls Christian Chargers to a 60-29 win against Tri-Valley Friday night in Colton.

Baker scored 19 points and had 19 rebounds to lead the Chargers to their 20th win of the season, with Brandon Eide adding 11 points and Brendan Reu recording five rebounds.

Brandon Boomsman scored 11 points for Tri-Valley, while Logan Otto added 10 points and Brett Page contributed seven rebounds.

SIOUX FALLS CHRISTIAN (20-0)......11 31 45 60 TRI-VALLEY (8-12).......4 10 18 29

Freeman Academy 78, **Gayville-Volin 46** GAYVILLE — Josh Stahl

scored 27 points to key Freeman Academy past Gayville-Volin 78-46 in the regular season finale for both teams Thursday night in Gayville.

Noah Yoder added 17 points

and Ben Carlson had 12 points for the Bobcats (2-18), who out-

scored GV 42-19 after halftime. For the Raiders (0-19), Ryan Adams had 13 points, and Brandon VanOsdel added nine points

and 10 rebounds. FREEMAN ACADEMY (2-18).... ...18 36 54 78

Girls

District 8A

Beresford 46, Elk Point-Jeffer-

BERESFORD — Beresford de feated Elk Point-Jefferson 46-42 in the District 8A semi-finals on Fri-

Alyson Johnsen led Beresford (15-6) with 16 points. Taryn Twite added 14 points in the vic-

Keely Bertram led EPJ with 12 points and nine points in the Beresford advances to the Re-

gion 8A championship against Harrisburg on Tuesday night in Tea. EPJ finished with a 13-8 record. BERESFORD (15-6).....ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (13-8).....

Hanson 43, Scotland 30 HANSON — With 16 points,

Kynedi Cheeseman led the Hanson Beverettes in a 43-30 win against the Scotland Highlanders Friday night in Hanson.

Kendra Cheeseman added eight assists in the win, while Hailey Doyla recorded six rebounds.

Carley Skorepa scored 10 points for Scotland, with Hannah Mogok adding three rebounds.

Osmond Upends Wynot In D2-3 Final Blue Devils Could offensive game," Brown said of his team's game plan.

Advance To State With A Wild Card

BY JILANNE DOOM sports@yankton.net

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Defeating the reigning Class D state

champions was just an added bonus for the Osmond Tigers as they earned a spot to the Nebraska Class D State Basketball tournament Friday night in Hart-Osmond overpowered the

Wynot Blue Devils 47-34 in the District D2-3 final, en route to their first state berth since the "It's been a long time since the

Osmond girls have made it to state," head coach Mike Brown said. "I think the last time was '98. This bunch of seniors — I have seven seniors — has been close a lot of times so they deserve this.' The Tigers began their scoring

run from the opening tip as Brianna Kumm finished on a threepoint play under the basket. A couple of buckets by Laurel Krohn and Alison Schmit would cause Wynot to call their first timeout, trailing 10-2. Although the break would

slow the pace, Osmond's quick hands caused fits for the Blue Devils. A number of steals and finished layups by the Tigers ended the quarter 17-4.

But the second quarter belonged to the Blue Devils — more specifically to their point guard Ashley Heine. The senior sunk eight points, including a pair of three-pointers, to give her team a boost while Osmond scored only one basket late in the quarter.

The Tigers headed into the locker room with the 19-15 lead, but Wynot had the momentum.

"We had to get a hand in their shooters' faces and just play our

And that is exactly what his players did as the Tigers stole the momentum from the Blue Devils entering the third quarter. Osmond's Krohn quickly put up two baskets to give her team some padding on the scoreboard. As both teams battled for possession, it was finally untimely fouls that would plague Wynot.

The Blue Devils put their opponent in the bonus midway through the third, out-fouling them 9-3.

And the Tigers couldn't miss from the line.

Osmond entered the final quarter with a 31-25 advantage, and, thanks to more free throw opportunities and steals, extended that lead to 12 — their biggest of the night. The Blue Devils jumped into a

press for the final minutes but more fouls again sent the Tigers to the stripe. Osmond finally punched their ticket to state, which senior Lau-

rel Krohn said was something her team had been working toward for many years. 'It's just indescribable," she said. "We've been together since third grade and we earned. All

the girls earned it." Krohn led all players with 16 points while her teammates Carissa Gutz and Kumm scored 12 and 11, respectively.

Wynot's Ashley Heine put up 12 points to lead her team and Maggie Schulte added nine. Osmond will advance to the

state tournament in Lincoln, Neb., Febr. 28 through March 2. Despite the loss, defending champion Wynot will likely still qualify for state as an at-large. The Blue Devils came into the game ranked second in power points in D2, and two wild cards are selected in the class.

You can follow Jilanne Doom on Twitter at twitter.com/JilanneDoom

rest of the Bluejays haven't capital-

ized as much as they would have

liked on the scoring opportunities

afforded to the players left open.

Bluejays Need McDermott To Take Over Offense Again trated on stopping McDermott, the

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Doug Mc-Dermott isn't dominating games like he was a month ago, and Creighton's returning All-American

thinks he knows why. "A lot of it is on me and the kind of effort I give out," McDermott said. "Earlier in the year, it came a little easier because teams hadn't seen me as much. Now that we're in the grind of conference play, teams are figuring us out a little more and putting a lot of attention

McDermott is averaging 15.6 points the last five games - production that would be more than acceptable for most players. But McDermott has established himself as one of the country's most prolific offensive players the past two seasons, and he averages nearly 20

points a game for his career. As he goes, so go the Bluejays (22-6), and they aren't the same team they were a month ago, either. They're 5-5 since starting 17-1 and play Saturday at Saint Mary's (23-5) in the BracketBusters' fea-

McDermott's total of 78 points the last five games is his fewest over a five-game span since he was a freshman two years ago.

Once considered among the front-runners for national player of the year, McDermott now is often mentioned in the second tier of candidates even though he started the week second nationally in scoring with his season average of 22.9

points.

"He's still the same player, and highly regarded and valued," ESPN analyst Jay Bilas wrote in an email

to The Associated Press. "Seasons have ups and downs, even for POY candidates. Doug is in my top five. He's a great player having an outstanding year.' McDermott has had five games

scored 21 or more in 17 of the Blue-

of 30 points or better, and he

He bounced back from an eightpoint game at Indiana State on Feb. 6 with 24 against Illinois State both losses — and then had 15 in a loss at Northern Iowa.

He scored 21 in a win at Evansville before Southern Illinois, the last-place team in the Missouri Valley Conference, clamped down on him Tuesday and held him to 10.

Valley opponents have done all

they can to deny McDermott the ball, and when he gets it they run double- and triple-teams at him. "Limit his catches. When he

gives it up, don't let him get it back." Southern Illinois coach Barry Hinson said. McDermott took 15 or more

shots in eight of Creighton's first 11 Valley games. He's taken 12 or fewer in four of the last five. While opponents have concen-

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