

Coyote Women Take Hold Of Third In Summit



JILANNE DOOM/P&D
South Dakota's Polly Harrington attempts a post move on Western Illinois' Paige Harmon Saturday afternoon in the DakotaDome. USD won 71-67 to move to 14-14 on the season, 9-6 in Summit League play.

BY CHRIS RILEY
sports@yankton.net

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota Coyotes followed a recipe for home success on Saturday afternoon that had served them so well this season, using a strong second-half push fueled by rebounding and a suffocating defense to claim their regular season home finale over Western Illinois by a final of 71-67. The win, which gives the Coyotes a home record of 9-4, moves USD back to .500 (14-14) and solidifies their third-place Summit League women's basketball standing (9-6) with one regular season contest left to play. After taking a 31-29 halftime lead, the Coyotes fell behind Western Illinois by seven points with just under 10 minutes to play, but USD outscored the Leathernecks 24-13 over the final 8:38 of action to escape with the win. "As a team down the stretch we came together and did what we were supposed to do," Coyote senior Tempestt Wilson said. "This game was really big for us, we needed this win."

Wilson was honored along with the other seniors on the USD roster prior to the game in what would be memorable final DakotaDome game for the group of upperclassmen. "This was a huge win," fellow USD senior Alexis Yackley said. "We had hit a rough patch losing those two games on the road, but winning on Thursday (56-39 over IUPUI) and then today is huge going into the last week in the regular season." Western Illinois started off hot from deep, hitting six three-pointers in the first 12 minutes of action, but the Leathernecks would only get one more try in the final 28 minutes of the game. Using a mix of lay-ups and jumpers, Western Illinois took a 54-47 edge with 9:35 left to play, but that is when Wilson took the game over. The USD senior guard scored seven of the game's next nine points while the Coyotes used a 9-0 run to take their first lead in nearly 10 minutes. "It really felt like Tempestt made it up in her mind the we would not lose today

COYOTES | PAGE 8



NICK ROBINSON/P&D
The Watertown Lakers celebrate their 3-1 victory over Sioux Falls in the championship of the South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association's JV Girls' Tournament on Sunday at Yankton's Alcoa Arena.

USD Men Lead After Day 1

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — The senior from Eureka had himself one of those 'eureka' moments as he closed in the final stretch of his distance race.

Jeff Mettler, the standout runner for the University of South Dakota, had in his sights a conference and DakotaDome record in the 3,000-meter run at Sunday's first day of the Summit League Indoor Track & Field Championships.

"Once I knew that it was a possibility, I wanted it," he said after clocking a time of 8:18.69 — a new league best by just under a second. Mettler was one of three Coyote men to win individual titles on day one, helping USD to first place in the team standings with 59 total points. The Coyote women are fourth after day one.

Though he had the top qualifying time in his main event, Mettler said he tried to keep a "cautious confidence."

"I knew it was in my capabilities, but there's a big difference between knowing you're capable and coming out and actually doing it," he said.

That was the dilemma for Jeff O'Connell in the long jump. The sophomore from Philip won the event on his final attempt for a winning mark of 24-feet-3 3/4.

"I knew that I was about point-two behind Andy (Lillejord of NDSU), so I had to pop off a big one," O'Connell said. "I scratched a couple that would've been close to that, so I moved my mark back a little bit and went from there."

Of course, competing in your home facility can be a benefit, much like it was for the Coyotes, according to pole vaulter Kyle Ballew.

The senior from West Hills, Calif., held serve in the event he has led all season with a winning jump Sunday of 17-feet-1 — almost four inches above second place.

"It's definitely a confidence booster, practicing in the same location every day and knowing exactly what to expect," he said. "It's good that the crowd is rooting for you."

One Coyote who didn't compete in a final but had a big day in front of the home crowd was senior sprinter Michael Burrus.

The league's top-ranked runner in the 60-meter dash cruised to the top time in his preliminary heat and the semifinals — with a clocking of 6.83.

"I wasn't used to running two



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
South Dakota's Jeffrey Mettler took the lead early and never looked back during finals of the men's 3000-meter run at Sunday's Summit League Championships held in the DakotaDome. Mettler set a new meet record with a time of 8:18.69.

Bison, Jacks Shine On Opening Day

BY CHRIS RILEY
sports@yankton.net

VERMILLION — Day one of the Summit League Indoor Track and Field Championships featured mostly preliminary and semifinal events leading up to today's (Monday) finals but did include a handful of event finals.

North Dakota State and the University of South Dakota took the early lead in the team standings, with NDSU leading USD in the women's standings, 41-28, and the USD men edging NDSU, 59-52. South Dakota State sits fourth in the women's standings (22 points) and third in men's (31 points) after the completion of the first day.

SDSU's Brooke Garner nearly won the women's weight throw title, with a toss of 63-6, but was bested by Dana LaRue of Western Illinois who threw 63-7 in her final attempt directly after Garner's throw to set a new Summit League meet record.

Jackrabbits head coach Rod De-

Haven was pleased by the effort of his senior from Rapid City.

"Brooke threw great and as a senior we certainly want to see her come through," he said. "She had a big last throw."

Nathaniel Marshall of Western Illinois made it a clean sweep for the Leathernecks in the weight throw with a victory on the men's side. He was followed by four Bison who scored 23 points for NDSU in that single event.

In running finals, Kansas City's Courtney Frerichs won the women's 3000 meter run, finishing in 9:51.26, just .3 ahead of Oakland's Brittini Hutton.

USD's Jeff Mettler won the men's 3000 meter run as expected (8:18.69), but SDSU managed to put the next three individuals across the line. Trent Lusignan was 2nd, former Rapid City Central standout Michael Krsnak placed third and Anthony Bongard finished fourth for the Jackrabbits.

"We were kind of depending on getting some significant points (in the 3k) and the guys ran pretty smart and con-

trolled," DeHaven added.

In the final running event of the evening, the distance medley relay, North Dakota State beat USD by less than one-half second on the women's side while Kansas City ran away with the victory in the men's event. The best finish of the day was for second though at USD's Ethan Marquardt edged out SDSU's Joel Reichow by .01 to claim second for the Coyotes' DMR squad.

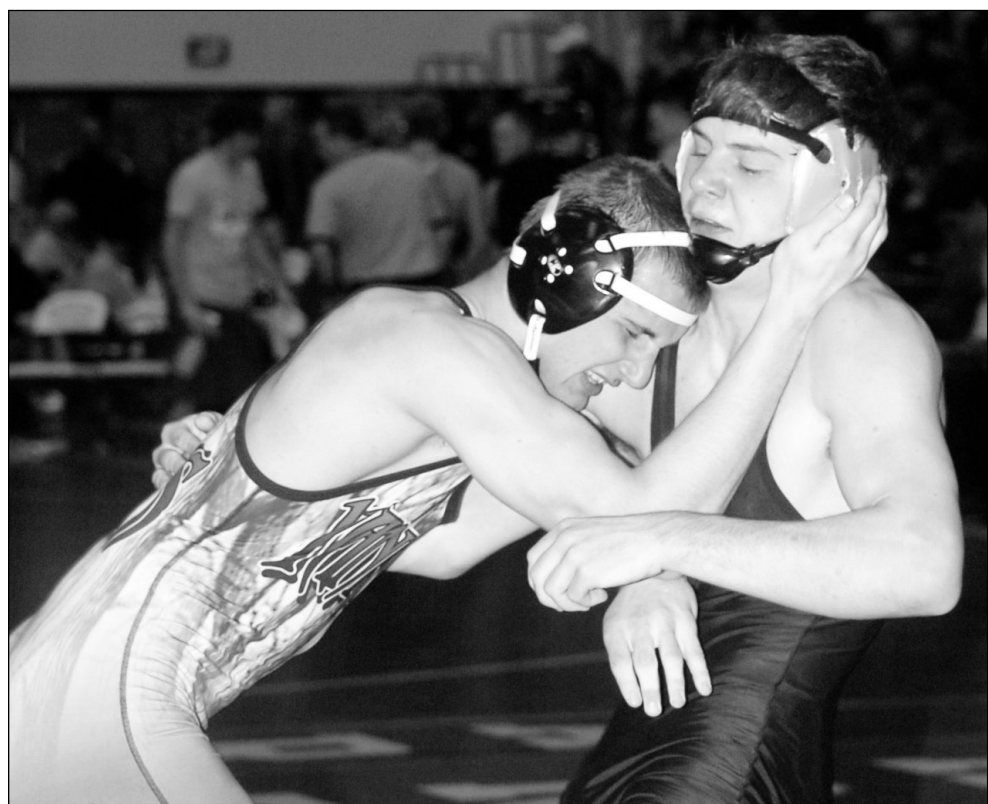
DeHaven said that overall the first day went mostly as planned, with a few competitors making today's (Monday) event finals that were not anticipated.

"We got some athletes in the finals that we didn't expect," DeHaven said. "Things are alright, not perfect, but we knew that coming in."

Action concludes today with all remaining event finals, beginning with the men's heptathlon at 9:30 a.m.

You can follow Chris Riley on Twitter at twitter.com/ChrisCRiley

Bucks Earn Five Medals At State Wrestling



ROGER MERRIAM/WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION
Yankton's James Hisek, left, goes for the takedown against Sturgis' Tate McVay during their fifth place match at 160 pounds in the South Dakota State Class A Wrestling Tournament on Saturday at the Watertown Civic Arena. Hisek won 7-2 to place fifth, the top finish among the five Bucks who brought home medals from the tournament.

Parkston Wins Class B Title

WATERTOWN — The Yankton Bucks finished with 31 points in the South Dakota State Class A Wrestling Tournament, which concluded Saturday in Watertown.

Pierre scored 180 points to earn the Class A title. Rapid City Central finished second at 159.5, with Huron third at 145 points.

The top finisher for Yankton was senior James Hisek, who beat Sturgis' Tate McVay for fifth place at 160 pounds. Senior Matt Huber placed seventh at 145 pounds, with senior C.J. Warren (170), junior Casey Skillingsstad (132) and freshman Noah Vetter (106) each placing eighth.

Dakota Valley finished at 71 points, led by twins Taylor and Tanner Lambert each winning titles. Tanner topped Huron's Matt Halter 5-2 to defend his heavyweight crown. Taylor pinned Rapid City Central's Jarran Jensen for the 220-pound title. Blake Perryman finished third at 138 for the Panthers.

Vermillion's Regan Bye won the 145-pound title, edging Aberdeen Central's Mitchell Johnson 4-3 for the crown. Teammate Brett Bye finished third at 152 pounds.

Class B

ABERDEEN — The Parkston Trojans set a Class B state record for tournament points in running away with the South Dakota State Class B Wrestling Tournament team title on Saturday in Aberdeen.

Parkston finished with 164 points, breaking the old mark of 157 points (Redfield, 1981). PHNNO was a distant second at 115 points, followed by Wagner (111.5), Canton (111) and Tri-Valley. Bon Homme placed sixth at 83.5, with Beresford seventh at 74.

Trojan wrestlers won two titles, led by sophomore Brady Reiff, who capped an unbeaten season at 220 pounds with a 59-second pin of Logan Tonak of Clark-Willow Lake. Blake Bietz pinned Bon Homme's Alex Caba in 5:27 for the 113-pound title.

WRESTLING | PAGE 8

Watertown Wins State JV Title

BY NICK ROBINSON
sports@yankton.net

The Watertown Lakers were crowned champions of the 2013 South Dakota girls JV state tournament on Sunday afternoon at Alcoa Arena in Yankton.

"This is such an awesome feeling," Watertown forward Stephanie Kasten said. "There's a lot of young girls on the team. I'm happy they get to experience the win."

The second-seeded Lakers defeated a tough four-seeded Sioux Falls Flyers team 3-1 to earn the state title.

"Wow, what a good game," Watertown coach Keith Muhl said. "We had a great tournament. We wanted to keep them from taking quality shots and we had to play good team defense."

To start the game off, the Sioux Falls Flyers played great defense. They contested and blocked any Watertown shots in the passing lanes.

At the end of the first period, the score was knotted at 0-0. Both teams were neck-and-neck fighting for the upper-hand.

To start the second half, the Lakers scored their three goals in less than five minutes to give a knockout punch to the Flyers.

"We had good control of the puck," Muhl said. "We had our top players open around the net. They made us go wide and we found open shots, it worked very well for us."

Kasten started the rally with an assisted goal from Samathan Nogelmeier.

Seconds later, Tiffany Hamman scored on a coast-to-coast goal to give the Lakers some momentum.

The Flyers tried to answer right back, but Watertown goalie Stacey Dunbar stayed grounded and kept the puck from entering the net.

Elena Hoffman stole a Sioux Falls pass and took the puck all the way into the net from the wing to give the Lakers the knockout punch before intermission.

In the third period, the Sioux Falls Flyers were determined not to give up in the contest.

Hanna Mutschelknaus scored on a power-point play to give the Flyers some life late in the game and cut the deficit to 3-1.

"We had to bring our intensity back up," Kasten said. "We always play like the game is at 0-0."

After a scrappy third period, the Lakers were able to edge out the Flyers to earn a state title.

Watertown had 21 shots on goal to 14 from Sioux Falls. The Lakers ended their season with a 21-2-1 record, while the Flyers finished at 13-11.

"This is really good for our team," Muhl said. "We have a lot of young skaters, it gives us confidence. This team will have to step up and play varsity in a few years. It's great momentum for us."

You can follow Nick Robinson on Twitter at twitter.com/theFRANCHISE_9

Wynot Boys Upend Panthers For D2-5 Title

HARTINGTON, Neb. — The Wynot Blue Devils avenged a loss to Bancroft-Rosalie, beating the Panthers 57-52 in the championship of the Sub-District D2-5 Boys' Basketball Tournament on Saturday in Hartington, Neb.

Wynot, which lost to the Panthers 78-72 in four overtimes on Feb. 2 in the Lewis & Clark Conference Tournament, will face Wausa in the District D2-3 final on Tuesday.

Jackson Sudbeck led Wynot with 17 points. Davis Wieseler scored 14 points and Nathan Wieseler had 11 points in the victory.

Preston Peters scored 18 points and Nick Sjuts had 17 points to lead Bancroft-Rosalie.

BANCROFT-ROSALIE (19-6).....15 27 39 52
WYNOT (21-3).....14 26 42 57

District 8B

Alcester-Hudson 56, Gayville-Volin 33

HURLEY — Alcester-Hudson jumped out to a 19-8 lead after one quarter and claimed a 56-33 victory over Gayville-Volin in the opening round of the District 8B Boys' Basketball Tournament on Saturday in Hurley.

The victory advances the Cubs to a semifinal matchup with top-seeded Viborg-Hurley on Tuesday in Viborg.

Grant Johnson scored 15 points and Lyle LaFramboise had 12 points to lead Alcester-Hudson. Erik Barnes snagged eight rebounds in the effort.

Brandon Van Osdel led Gayville-Volin with a game-high 17 points.

ALCESTER-HUDSON (5-15).....19 31 43 56
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (0-20).....8 18 22 33

District 12B

Colome 68, Andes Central 55

COLOME — Colome outscored Andes Central 32-18 in the second half to claim a 68-55 victory over the Eagles in the opening round of the District 12B Boys' Basketball Tournament on Saturday.

Cohl Ratemann scored 28 points and Reed Harter had 26 points and eight assists to lead Colome. Brady London added 13 points and four steals in the win.

For Andes Central, Gabe Courmoyer led the way with 18 points. Aaron Swanson had 14 points, 15 rebounds and five steals. Joe Evans scored 10 points, Darrin Hopkins had 10 rebounds and Zach Courmoyer added six assists for the Eagles.

Colome advances to a semifinal matchup at Dakota Christian on Tuesday.

ANDES CENTRAL (5-13).....15 37 46 55
COLOME (9-12).....13 36 55 68

District 11B

Menno 53, Scotland 31

MENNO — Dylan Lehr posted 17 points and 10 rebounds to lead Menno to a 53-31 victory over Scotland in the opening round of the District 11B Boys' Basketball Tournament on Saturday.

Austin Herbold had 13 points and five steals for Menno. Caleb Preszler had five assists in the win.

For Scotland, Seth Ireland led the way with 11 points. Garret Kotalik grabbed 10 rebounds and Tanner Skorepa added nine rebounds for the Highlanders.

HOOPS | PAGE 8