

Bucks Roll Past Mitchell In Tune-Up For Top-Ranked Huron



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Ryan Olson, 4, shoots over the top of Mitchell's Keegan Soukup to score just ahead of the third quarter buzzer during the Bucks' victory Mitchell on Friday at the Summit Center.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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There was no concern of a trap game for the Yankton Bucks.

A dominating start prevented that from happening. In advance of today's (Saturday) matchup with No. 1 Huron, Yankton shot 63 percent and started on a 31-6 spurt in rolling past Mitchell 65-42 in Eastern South Dakota Conference action Friday night at the Summit Center.

Unselfish was a word tossed around a couple times after the game for the Bucks (9-4), who move to 8-2 in the ESD. "Our passing was really good, especially down low," said junior Brady Hale, who scored a game-high 15 points on 6-of-9 shooting. "We were talking about

looking down low for a few extra seconds, because we knew we were bigger."

And rather successful in the paint.

Senior J.J. Hejna had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, while senior Ryan Olson added 10 points and three rebounds.

With such a big lead, Yankton was able to play its reserves more minutes. Sophomore Tanner Frick scored eight points on 4-of-5 shooting, and seniors Mitchell Gullikson and Chipper Granflaten combined for eight points and four rebounds.

As they have most of the season, the Bucks were aggressive on defense — forcing 21 turnovers and scoring 15 points off those takeaways. "The defensive intensity and pressure was there to

start, and we were able to create some offensive opportunities because of it," Yankton coach Chris Haynes said.

Partly because of that pressure and partly out of being hurried, the Kernels (1-14) shot 30 percent for the game and didn't make a basket for a 13-minute span in the first half.

It was more of the same from the first meeting this season when Yankton won by 20 points.

"Their offense is just so much more fluid than the first time we saw them," Mitchell coach Erik Skoglund said.

Kanin Nelson led the Kernels with 13 points and six rebounds, and impressed his coach with his willingness to branch out.

"He got out of his comfort zone tonight," Skoglund said. "He was very physical down

low and was being active."

That's exactly what the Bucks will have to be for tonight's 7 p.m. game with top-ranked Huron (11-1), which beat Yankton by 10 points in the first matchup.

"We're going to have to be at the top of our game to be in it and have a chance," said Haynes, who referred to 18 turnovers as something to eliminate.

"They're number one for a reason."

At 9-1 in the ESD, Huron stands a game ahead of Yankton (8-2). A win over the Tigers would make things interesting in the conference title race.

"It's nice because we decide our own destiny," Hale said. "We're a lot better defensively

BUCKS | PAGE 8

Record Night For Miller Powers Kernels Past YHS

BY NICK MCCUTCHEON
Mitchell Daily Republic

MITCHELL — Macy Miller set Mitchell's single-game girls' scoring record with 43 points in a win over Yankton Friday at the Corn Palace in Mitchell.

The No. 2 Kernels (13-1, 11-0 ESD) topped the Gazelles 68-42 to stay perfect in Eastern South Dakota Conference play.

"The first half I just came out strong, getting some steals and I didn't really realize it," Miller said about her performance.

The Kernels jumped out quick, grabbing a 10-0 lead in the first quarter and led by seven after the first stanza on the strength of 12 by Miller, who finished the game shooting 17-of-22 from the field.

Yankton would climb back into the game in the second quarter by forcing Mitchell into several turnovers.

"We were having a tough time getting the ball swung," MHS coach Wes Morgan said. "Also, we wanted to work on our zone at a crucial time. They were able to pass through it for some easy baskets."

Mitchell had 18 turnovers as a team, with 10 coming in the first half.

The Gazelles cut the deficit to five points, before Mitchell went on a 14-0 run to stretch its lead to 33-14.

Miller hit a three-pointer at the end of the first half to go into the locker room with 25 points on 9-of-12 shooting. Mitchell led by 15 at the half and continued to stretch their advantage after the break.

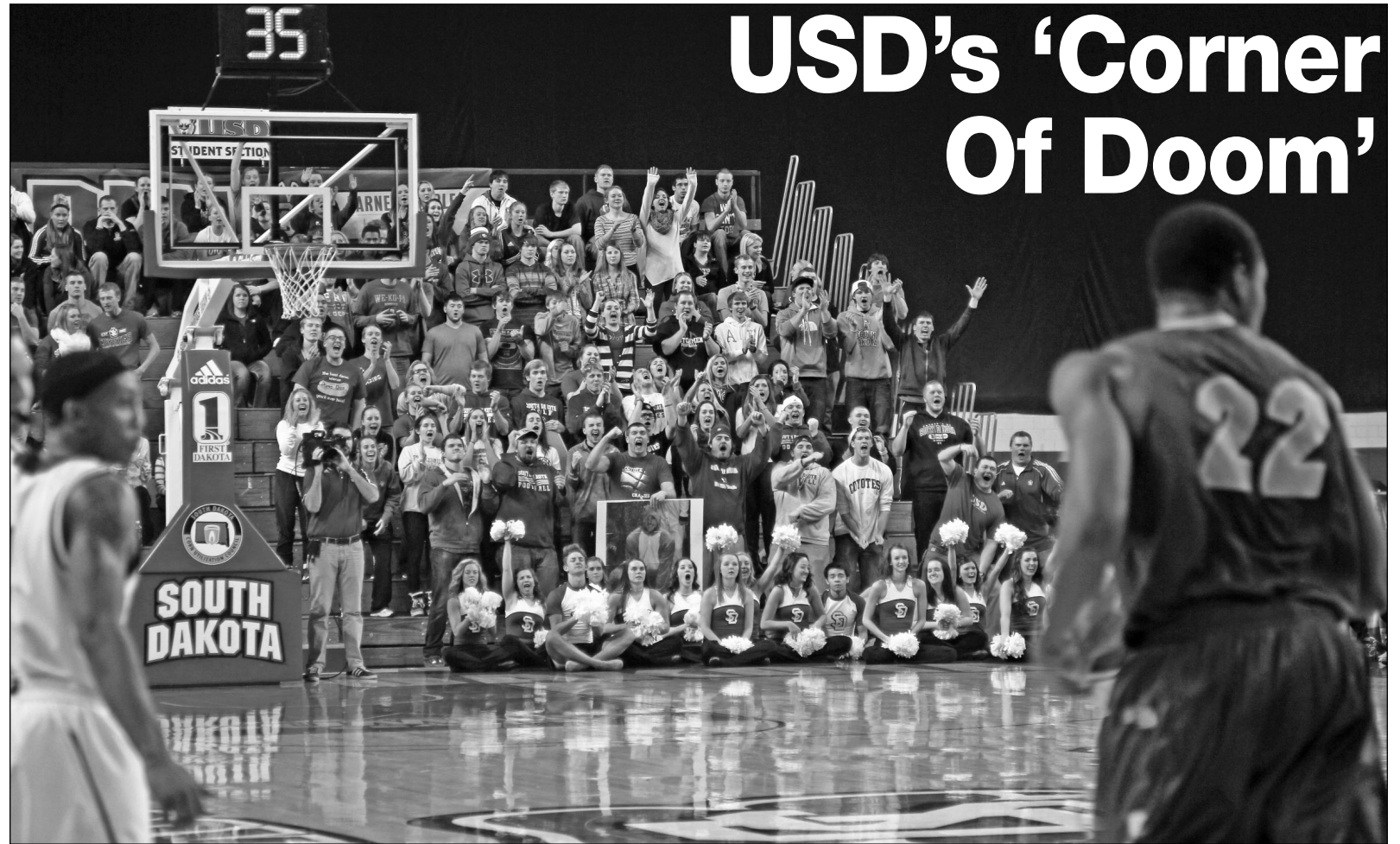
With less than three minutes to play in the third quarter Miller would steal the ball, drive the length of the court for a lay in to tie the school record of 34 points, which was set in 2003 by Jenna Hoffman.

Less than a minute later, Miller would break the record on another lay in.

"It was good to break it on a layup," Miller said. "It's much easier than a jump shot."

The Kernel defense led to several easy points for Mitchell, as the home team turned steals into fast-break points. The Kernels finished

KERNELS | PAGE 8



JILANNE DOOM/FOR THE P&D
The 'Corner of Doom' celebrates after a late South Dakota three-pointer during the Coyotes' loss to North Dakota State on Thursday. This ever-growing part of the student section as brought energy to Coyote home basketball games. The 'Corner' is expected to be out in full force today (Saturday) as USD hosts rival South Dakota State.

Group Of USD Students Bringing Energy To Home Basketball Games

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Among the groups geared up for today's (Saturday) highly-anticipated men's basketball at the DakotaDome is an ever-growing cluster of passionate University of South Dakota students.

Indicative of a trend that seems to be bringing more and more students to home basketball games, this group calls itself the "Corner of Doom." And its impact is already being felt across the DakotaDome.

As the Coyotes (8-12, 3-3) prepare for today's 4 p.m. Summit League contest against rival South Dakota State (11-10, 3-3), the home school's fan base is ready to support their team.

"I'm just excited to play in front of all the students," USD sophomore guard Adam Thoseby said after Thursday night's home game with North Dakota State — a game the Bison won 66-63. "Having that sixth man out there,

also

Follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter for updates on this weekend's USD-SDSU games. @jhoeck

bleachers.

Not an officially-recognized organization — not quite to the 'Coyote Craziest' status — the group did not have an official starting date but has quickly taken off, said founder Scott Stoll of Yankton.

Instead it was "some really passionate students who wanted to have some fun," said Stoll, a regular at Coyote games.

Currently comprised of mostly football players and golfers, the group has seen a quick rise in its popularity — as Stoll says, "At the start, it was just a couple guys standing in

the bleachers, now it's blossoming."

Far from simply waving their arms during opponent free throws or cheering for the home team, the members of this group make it their mission to heckle the opposing bench that is located mere feet away.

The players closest to the bleachers are typically the walk-ons or little-used reserves. They are the ones subjected to the good-natured ribbing.

"If we get a smile or if they look over, we know we got them," said Miles Death, pronounced "deeth," one of the key members.

For Thursday night's game against the first-place Bison, the group brought some props.

The first was a home-made sign with a photo of NDSU standout Taylor Braun dressed up in a frog costume — the caption read, "Position Leap Frog." The other item was a marker board that the group would hold up to show the other students.

What was on the board? "Mostly just stuff about a player,"

Death said. "One (NDSU) guy, we wrote down his girlfriend's name. We just try to get it down to the smallest detail."

Nothing gets ignored, Stoll maintains.

"Taylor worked at Wendy's," he said. "How many people in the dome would know that?"

Typically, though, it's not a star player that attracts the most attention; it's usually those end-of-the-bench guys.

"Fort Wayne had this kid with long hair, so we cheered for him," Stoll said. "Any time he made a shot in warmups, we went crazy."

"He was five for six," Death added.

In advance of today's game with South Dakota State, the group naturally did its research — across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Such research for the Jackrabbits includes girlfriend's names, photos of Jackrabbit players taking "selfies" — photos of themselves.

DOOM | PAGE 9

Basketball: Wagner Girls Power Past Scotland 65-49

SCOTLAND — Wagner defeated Scotland 65-49 in a girls' basketball showdown on Friday evening in Scotland.

Ali Kuca led Wagner (3-0) with 22 points and 10 rebounds, while Emily Bruning added 21 points.

Carley Skorepa led Scotland (1-3) with 18 points and six rebounds.

Wagner will travel to Andes Central next Friday, while Scotland will travel to Alcester-Hudson today (Saturday).

WAGNER (3-0).....18 24 50 65
SCOTLAND (1-3).....10 19 29 49

Avon 47, Parkston 34

PARKSTON — Avon grabbed the lead early and kept grasp of it throughout the entirety of its game against Parkston Friday night and won 47-34 in Parkston.

Ariana Oorlog led Avon and the contest with 20 points. Chesney Nagel tallied seven points, and Cheyee Nagel added seven to the win.

For Parkston, Halli Heisinger tallied eight points.

Avon hits the road for Menno Tuesday, and Parkston hosts McCook Central-Montrose the same day.

AVON (10-4).....14 24 36 47
PARKSTON (3-10).....3 15 29 34

Elk Point-Jefferson 64, Tri-Valley 51

COLTON — Mackenzie Mennenga scored 27 points and Keely Bertram added 19 as Elk Point-Jefferson beat Tri-Valley 64-51 in a pair of region leaders Friday night in Colton.

EPJ, now 11-2, is atop Region 4A, while Tri-Valley (11-2) leads Region 5A. Brittany Hanson added eight points and six rebounds for the Huskies, while Amy Zeller grabbed six rebounds. Payton Donnelly dished out four assists.

For the Mustangs, Emma Johnson

had 19 points, 11 rebounds and six assists, while Sam Kasowski added 13 points.

The two teams will meet again today (Saturday) at the Dakota XII Classic in Madison.

ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (11-2).....13 25 46 64
TRI-VALLEY (11-2).....12 22 34 51

Lennox 51, Beresford 45

BERESFORD — Lennox and Beresford battled it out Friday night in Beresford. Lennox emerged the victor 51-45.

Tara Kuper led Lennox with 17 points. McKenzie Weeldreyer added 10 points to the win.

For Beresford, Jen Swanstrom cashed in 11 points, and Shelby Bickett tallied 10.

Both teams play Saturday in Madison at the Dak XII Conference classic.

LENNOX (6-6).....11 18 34 51
BERESFORD (9-5).....7 19 29 45

Big East Conference

Parker 57, Flandreau 45

FLANDREAU — Parker shocked the state with a 57-45 defeat of Flandreau on the consolation bracket of the Big East Conference Tournament in Flandreau on Friday.

Lauren Hanstad led Parker (2-11) with 24 points, while Rylie Christensen added 12 points.

Shanay Lunday led Flandreau (7-6) with 11 points.

Parker will compete in the fifth place game, while Flandreau will compete for seventh.

PARKER (2-11).....20 29 43 57
FLANDREAU (7-6).....9 22 34 45

Sioux Valley 61, McCook Central-Montrose 40

FLANDREAU — Sioux Valley advanced to the semifinals of the Big East Conference Tournament on Friday with a 61-40 beating of McCook Central-Montrose.

Carley Peterson led Sioux Valley (10-2) with 14 points, while Anna Keefe added 13 points.

Morgan Koepsell led MCM (7-5) with 18 points.

Sioux Valley advances to the championship, while MCM will go to the third place game.

SIoux VALLEY (10-2).....17 30 49 61
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (7-5) 3 15 30 40

Dakota Oyate Chall.

Marty 64, Omaha Nation 51

HURON — Marty topped Omaha Nation 64-51 in the semifinal game of the Dakota Oyate Challenge in Huron on Friday.

Apollonia Zephier and Amanda Iron Elk led Marty (7-4) with 17 points a piece. Rose Drapeaux added 13 points in the victory.

Breana Parker led Omaha Nation (5-4) with 21 points. Donnette Blackbird added 10 points in the loss.

Marty will advance to the championship to take on Tiopasa Zina, while Omaha Nation will face Crow Creek. Both games will be played tomorrow.

MARTY (7-4).....21 39 48 64
OMAHA NATION (5-4).....11 18 37 51

Tiopasa Zina 55, Crow Creek 42

HURON — Tiopasa Zina defeated Crow Creek 55-42 in the semifinal game of the Dakota Oyate Challenge in Huron on Friday.

Jordee Appenayled and Julissa Max Tiopasa Zina (7-5) with 11 points. Fidelity Eastman added 10 points in the victory.

Jamie Marks led Crow Creek (5-9) with 14 points, while Cheyenne Red Water added seven points in the loss.

Tiopasa Zina advances to the championship game today, while Crow Creek will play for third place.

TIOPASA ZINA (7-5).....11 15 41 55
CROW CREEK (5-9).....8 17 35 42

Flandreau Ind. 74, Takini 20

HURON — Cassie Obago scored 20 points and Savannah Veiter added 19 points as Flandreau Indian rolled past Takini 74-20 in the consolation semifinals Friday of the Dakota Oyate Challenge.

Shoshane Jorgenson added 13 points for FIS, which will face Crazy Horse for the consolation title today (Saturday) at noon.

Alannis Cook, Carlee Candon and Cassandra Larabee all scored six points for Takini, which plays Tiopasa Topa for seventh place today at 9 a.m.

Crazy Horse 42, Tiopasa Topa 27

HURON — Shantay Gilbert scored 26 points to lead Crazy Horse past Tiopasa Topa 42-27 in the consolation semifinals Friday at the Dakota Oyate Challenge.

Shantay Philbrick added eight points for Crazy Horse, which led 24-9 at halftime.

For Tiopasa Topa, Natasha Guajardo scored nine points.

Other Games

Winner 58, Mt. Vernon-Plankinton 51

PLANKINTON — Winner had a stronger second half over Mt. Vernon-Plankinton Friday night in Plankinton to win 58-51.

Leading in scoring was Sara Husher with 16 points for Winner. She also grabbed seven rebounds. Katie Mathis cashed in 17 points and snatched seven rebounds as well. Cassidy Hanson put up 12 points and Kelsey Bertram added 10 points to the win.

For Mt. Vernon-Plankinton, Megan Bulisma netted 12 points. Becca Ganser tallied 10 and Makaela Karsthad eight points and five assists.

Winner heads across the state border to play Ainsworth, Nebraska Tuesday and Mt. Vernon-Plankinton heads to Mitchell Christian the same day.

WINNER (13-1).....9 18 35 58
MT. VERNON-PLANKINTON (9-4).....14 29 37 51

GIRLS | PAGE 8

Tri-Valley Boys Hold Off EPJ

COLTON — Elk Point-Jefferson tried to make a comeback in the final quarter, but fell short with Tri-Valley winning 49-44 Friday night in Tri-Valley. Brendon Boomsma led Tri-Valley with 21 points.

For Elk Point-Jefferson, Brandon Koupal cashed in 21 points, Adam Shanks grabbed seven rebounds.

Tri-Valley heads to West Central Monday, and Elk Point-Jefferson heads to Dakota Valley Friday.

ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (5-8).....6 15 27 44
TRI-VALLEY (5-8).....17 28 38 49

Dakota Oyate Chall.

Marty Indian 54, Crow Creek 41

HURON — Xiomar Zephier scored 13 points and Lonnie Gray added 12 as Marty Indian advanced to the boys' basketball championship of the Dakota Oyate Challenge after beating Crow Creek 54-41 on Friday night in Huron.

Trent Stepp scored 11 points for Crow Creek.

Marty and Tiopasa Zina will meet in today's (Saturday) 8 p.m. championship in Huron.

Tiopasa Zina 47, Omaha Nation 44

HURON — Stefan Shepper scored 14 points as Tiopasa Zina rallied to beat Omaha Nation 47-44 in Friday night's semifinals of the Dakota Oyate Challenge at Huron Arena.

Jeff Max Jr. added 10 points for Zina, which trailed 26-19 at halftime.

Flandreau Indian 87, Tiopasa Topa 41

HURON — Clinton Ten Fingers scored 27 points, thanks to six 3-pointers, as Flandreau Indian beat Tiopasa Topa 87-41 in Friday's consolation semifinals of the Dakota Oyate Challenge.

Griffin Cross added 11 points for FIS.

For Topa, Timothy Pickner scored 13 points and Jake Frazier added 12 points.

Takini 86, Crazy Horse 44

HURON — R.J. Marrowbone and Saige Iron Hawk both scored 23 points as Takini rolled past Crazy Horse 86-44 in the consolation semifinals Friday at the Dakota Oyate Challenge.

Trevor Logg added 18 points and Jacob Fire Cloud had 13 points for Takini, which led 50-18 at halftime.

For Crazy Horse, Clayton Red Elk scored 18 points and Ian Dull Knife had 14 points.

Other Games

South Central 44, Tripp-Delmont-Armour 39

ARMOUR — South Central defeated Tripp-Delmont-Armour 44-39 on Friday evening.

Sam Hazen led South Central (7-7) with 12 points and 15 rebounds.

Cody Hrdlicka led TDA (5-9) with 15 points and three rebounds.

South Central will travel to Marty on Friday, while TDA goes to Marty on Saturday.

SOUTH CENTRAL (7-7).....10 25 37 44
TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (5-9).....6 12 22 39

Pierre 60, Brandon Valley 57

PIERRE — The Pierre Governors held of Brandon Valley in ESD action Friday night to move to 10-2 on the season by a score of 60-57.