



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty's Bud Smith splits the Hastings defense for a shot during their Great Plains Athletic Conference men's basketball game on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

## MMC Looks To Refocus After Loss To Hastings

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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As the Mount Marty College men dropped an 85-42 decision to Hastings College Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena, the typically-fierce head coach of MMC sat in stunned silence. After the game, his players did the talking.

"Their message was that we have three games left. We need to refocus, understand who we are as players and as a team, and make the most of them," head coach Andrew Baker said of the 20-minute post-game meeting after the loss, MMC's 21st in 25 games this season.

Hastings (19-6), ranked second in the Great Plains Athletic Conference and 15th in the nation, took control of the game early, scoring the game's first 20 points and leading 31-3 before the Lancers got going. That stretch included eight missed shots — five of them layups — and nine turnovers by Mount Marty.

The Lancers scored eight straight points to close to within 20, but Hastings stretched the lead back to 29 by halftime. In the second half, the margin was no less than 27.

Baker admitted that fatigue was a factor for his young team, a senior-less squad that faced a Hastings squad that starts three seniors and two juniors, and brings five more seniors off the bench. MMC only has three players that came into this season with more than 20 varsity experiences.

"They have some mental fatigue, especially when we're 4-21," Baker said. "They're not used to playing as many games, and they're not used to losing."

Senior Ibou Fall posted 19 points and eight rebounds off the bench to lead Hastings. Seniors Jake Hamburger (17 points), Brady Lollman (12 points, 6 assists) and Brett Wells (10 points) were also in double figures.

Tyler Payer led MMC with eight points. Chris Richardson had seven points, five rebounds and three steals.

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# Bucks Rally Past O'Gorman 40-39

SIoux FALLS — Through the first three quarters of the season, the Yankton Bucks had not won a game that it had scored less than 54 points.

On Saturday, the Bucks scored just 40 points, but it was enough for a 40-39 victory over Sioux Falls O'Gorman in boys' basketball action.

The victory was Yankton's third straight and seventh in eight games as the Bucks improved to 11-5 on the season. O'Gorman dropped to 8-8.

O'Gorman had outscored Yankton 16-7 in the third quarter to claim a 37-30 lead. But the Bucks outscored the Knights 10-2 in the final period for the victory.

Ryan Olson and J.J. Hejna each had 13 points for Yankton, as Reid Sawatzke and Brady Hale were each held to five points.

For O'Gorman, Davis Cowan led the way with nine points.

Yankton faces Brandon Valley in a key Eastern South Dakota Conference and District 2AA matchup today (Monday). The Lynx won the first meeting 45-42 on Jan. 11, Yankton's previous season-low for scoring before Saturday.

In sub-varsity action, O'Gorman won the JV game 40-30. Austin Johnson and Bradey Sorenson both scored seven points for the Bucks.

O'Gorman won the sophomore game 47-25. Sorenson and J.J. Payer both had seven points in the loss.

In freshman action, O'Gorman won the 'A' contest 55-30 despite 10 points from Yankton's Wesley Privett. The Knights won the 'B' game 43-37 despite 14 points from Yankton's Riley Stanga.

YANKTON (11-5)  
Ryan Olson 5 1-2 13, Reid Sawatzke 2 0-0 5, Lane Sawatzke 1 0-0 2, JJ Hejna 4 5-6 13, Chipper Granfilaten 1 0-0 2, Brady Hale 2 1-2 5, Tanner Frick 0 0-0 0, Austin Johnson 0 0-0 0, Mitch Gullickson 0 0-0 0, Evan Greenway 0 0-0 0. Totals 157-10 40.

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O'GORMAN (8-8)  
Tanner Schulte 0 2-2 2, Antonio Caselli 0 2-2 2, Braxton Elliott 3 0-1 8, Davis Cowan 4 1-3 9, Jack Peery 3 0-0 6, Spencer Hopkins 2 1-1 5, Tommy Entwistle 3 1-1 7, Max Donohue 0 0-0 0. Totals 157-10 39.

YANKTON .....15 23 30 40  
O'GORMAN .....12 21 37 39  
3-pointers - Y 3 (Olson 2), OG 2 (Elliott 2). Rebounds - Y 23, OG 29. Total fouls - Y 16, OG 13. Fouled out - None.

Lewis & Clark Conf.  
Randolph 60, Wausa 44

RANDOLPH, Neb. — The hometown Randolph Cardinals out-scored Wausa 38-19 after halftime on the way to a 60-44 semifinal win Saturday at the Lewis & Clark Conference tournament.

Nolan Nordhues had 18 points, five rebounds, three assists and four steals for Randolph (15-2), which plays Winnebago for the league title.

Logan Nordhues added 16 points and five rebounds, while Garrett Watters had 11 points and five rebounds.

For the Vikings (15-4), Austin Conn scored 23 points, Spencer Rosberg had nine points and Hunter Vanness chipped in with four points.

Wausa returns to action Tuesday night at home against Hartington.

RANDOLPH (15-2) .....11 22 41 60  
WAUSA (15-4) .....14 25 35 44

Winnebago 71, Wynot 52  
RANDOLPH, Neb. — Winnebago outscored Wynot 21-8 in the second quarter, then pulled away down the stretch for a 71-52 victory over the Blue Devils in the semifinals of the Lewis & Clark Conference boys' basketball tournament on Saturday.

Winnebago, 19-3, will face Randolph in the championship, today (Monday) at Laurel, Neb. Wynot, 15-5, hosts Irene-Wakonda on Tuesday.

WINNEBAGO (19-3) .....16 37 51 71  
WYNOT (15-5) .....17 25 40 52

Mid-State Conf.  
Third: Pierce 63, Crofton 56

NORFOLK, Neb. — Lane Rohrich scored 21 points, including an 11-12 effort from the line, in leading Pierce to a 63-56 victory over Crofton in the third place in the Mid-State Conference boys' basketball tournament on Saturday.

Noah Fisher added 16 points, going 10-10 from the line, for Pierce. The Bluejays went 28-32 from the line in the contest.

Brock Mueller posted 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Tyler Koch had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Crofton. Eric Kleinschmit netted 11 points and Austin Wrookman had nine points for the Warriors.

CROFTON .....12 23 40 56  
PIERCE .....13 26 39 63

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# Gazelles Third In ESD



BROOKE CERSOSIMO/MITCHELL REPUBLIC

Yankton-Bon Homme's Elsie Kotalik competes on the vault during the Eastern South Dakota Conference gymnastics meet Saturday afternoon at the Corn Palace in Mitchell. Kotalik finished seventh in the all-around, leading the Gazelles to a third place finish in the team standings.

MITCHELL — Yankton-Bon Homme finished third in the Eastern South Dakota Conference gymnastics meet, held Saturday at the Corn Palace in Mitchell.

Top-ranked Mitchell scored a 148.775 to earn top honors. Aberdeen Central scored a 139.575, followed by the Gazelles (139.025), Brookings and Watertown, each at 138.6. Pierre (134.225) and Huron (133.575) rounded out the field.

The meet doubled as a state-qualifying meet for Class AA, with the top two squads earning automatic spots.

"Going in, our goal was an automatic qualifying spot," Youmans said. "We had to be really good to get that. We fell short, but we knew we put up a good enough score to get us there."

Based on scored from the ESD meet and the East-West qualifier (non-ESD teams), Yankton-Bon Homme ranked fifth overall and qualifies for state.

"Now we shift the focus on becoming the third place team at state," Youmans said. "(Saturday) was a great team effort. We had little hiccups that we didn't plan on, but that's why there are five other girls to pick up the pieces."

Mitchell sophomore Quinci Herll earned all-around honors, scoring a 37.9 to edge out Wa-

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# Crofton Clips Norfolk Catholic For Mid-State Girls' Title

BY BRUCE VIERGUTZ  
P&D correspondent

NORFOLK, Neb. — Aaron Losing's halftime speech didn't rattle the mirrors of the Crofton girls basketball team's locker room.

But it was enough to make the Warriors look at how they were playing in the first half against Norfolk Catholic.

"It was pretty intense," Warrior junior Allison Arens said of Losing's intermission talk. Arens led with 18 points, 13 in the second half.

Crofton slapped on its nearly full court defensive pressure and took the life out of the Knights offense in a 53-43 victory in the Mid-State Conference championship game Saturday night at Northeast Community College's Activities Center.

Crofton, which joined the Mid-State last year, repeated as conference champions.

The Warriors, which stared at a 28-23 deficit after the Knights' Jennifer Keenan drained a nearly half-court shot at the buzzer, got into a defensive flow and outscored the Knights 20-6 in the third quarter to lead 43-34.

"Coach (Losing) told us our shots weren't falling the first half and that we needed to execute a little different on offense," said Arens. "We needed more drive and needed to get our transition buckets going. We had to play solid, man-up 'D.'"

Arens, who had a hard time getting a shot to fall in the first half, scored seven points in the third quarter and Allison Tramp swished in a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give Crofton a nine-point cushion heading into the fourth.

"That's kind of her speciality," Losing said of Tramp's 3-point ability. "That also helped continue our momentum into the fourth quarter."

Crofton's defensive pressure caused nine Norfolk Catholic turnovers in the third and 24 for the game. The Warriors turned the ball over 10 times.

The Warriors (19-1) hit just 3 of 10 free throws in the first half and were 10 of 12 in the second half. Crofton connected on 7 of 14 field goals in the third after going 9 of 29 the first two quarters.

"Norfolk Catholic makes you earn things," said Losing. "They're a great coached team and Tim Kassmeier does a great job with them. Their kids were prepared and the first half showed that. But credit our kids for being more aggressive against them in the second half. And our mindset was a little bit different, offensively. We took the basket to the hole more and didn't settle for outside shots."

Crofton began the fourth quarter with a 12-2 run and led 54-36 after Quinn Wragge sank 1

of 2 free throws with 5:42 left in the game. Wragge added 14 points for the Warriors who play at Norfolk Catholic on Thursday.

"In the first half we hit a couple of shots and our kids were playing with confidence," said Norfolk Catholic coach Tim Kassmeier. "We had a really good flow to what we were doing. But give Crofton credit, they really picked up the intensity in the second half. We didn't handle their pressure as well as we would have liked to have done. But you have to give credit to a team that takes it to you, too."

Keenan led the Knights (14-6) with 16 points.

Losing said winning the conference title is special because of the quality of teams in it.

"There are five or six teams which have a chance to win make it to state and make a run at the title," said Losing. "I hope we can be one of them."

## Girls: Knights Power Past YHS

SIoux FALLS — For the first 16 minutes, the Yankton Gazelles played toe-to-toe with a Sioux Falls O'Gorman squad that was fresh off an upset of top-ranked Sioux Falls Washington.

In the second half, though, the Knights surged to claim a 56-23 victory in girls' basketball action on Saturday.

Peyton Bjorkman scored 13 points and Rachel Townsend had 12 points — all on three-pointers — for O'Gorman, which improved to 13-4 on the season. Dalee Stene added five assists for the Knights.

For Yankton, Morgan Tessier led the way with 10 points. Andi Sprakel added seven points.

O'Gorman, 13-4 and winners of six straight, travels to Pierre on Thursday.

Yankton now prepares for a key matchup on Tuesday, hosting Brandon Valley. The teams are currently fourth and fifth in District 2AA, and the winner of Tuesday's game will likely host a third meeting between the teams, in the district play-in game. Brandon Valley won the first game 46-33 in Brandon on Dec. 19.

O'Gorman won the JV game 53-23. For Yankton, Ellie Fedders scored five points and Brianna Benjamin had four points.

The Knights also

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# No. 5 Hastings Spoils Homecoming For Lancer Women

BY MICHAELA RAMM  
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Fifth-ranked Hastings College spoiled homecoming for the Mount Marty College women's basketball team, downing the Lancers 80-65 in Great Plains Athletic Conference action on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

Jamie Van Kirk scored 23 points, including 19 in the first half, to lead Hastings (23-3, 13-3 GPAC). Laurel Zwiener gained 15 points and 12 rebounds, while Frankie Peterson contributed 13 points and 10 rebounds in the effort.

Logan Wagner led Mount Marty with 16 points. Denae Veldkamp scored 12 points and Holly Hegge notched 10 points and seven rebounds in the effort.

Hastings started with a seven-point lead early on in the first half, setting the tone for the rest of the game. The Lancers' offense kept the effort to keep their opponent from gaining a larger lead.

"Our offensive played really well, and we had a lot of flow today," said Lancer guard Cassidy Gebhart.

Hastings kept ahead of the Lancers throughout the first half by playing from the outside, with the Broncos' Van Kirk gaining two three-point shots. Towards the end of the first half, the Mount Marty powered through to close the gap between the scores with one-point difference behind Hastings 31-30.

"We wished we could have gotten a better start," said MMC head coach Tom

Schlimgen. "We had a lot of really good shots early, but we got behind 10 points in the first six minutes."

Schlimgen, though, was still pleased with how the team played.

"We're proud of how hard they played," he said. "Our effort was really good, but we played a really great basketball team with a really great season. We did a lot of things we prepared for really well. We tried to do what we could do and it wasn't good enough. I'm not happy with how the game turned out, but I'm pleased with how the players did. It's never easy to not get a victory."

Gebhart noted that Saturday's effort was an improvement from the first meeting between the teams, a 93-77 Hastings victory just before Christmas.

"We did better on guarding and drive and guarding their post players," she said.

However, Hastings pulled ahead with a three-point shot by Autumn Zenon, along with a two-point free throw and a two-pointer netted by Van Kirk. The Broncos' final drive left the halftime score at 37-30.

After a close first half for the teams, the Mount Marty's defense wasn't enough to keep Hastings at bay for long. Hastings pulled ahead from the Lancers, managing to gain over a 10-point lead for the rest of the second half.

The Mount Marty women head to Sioux City, Iowa, on Wednesday night to play Briar Cliff (14-12, 7-9 GPAC). Gebhart is confident the team will do well.

"We'll be ready for the next game, espe-

cially with a lot of hurt players coming back," she said.

The Lancers have been experiencing a surprising number of injuries this season, including leading scorer Raquel Sutura, who was unable to play on Saturday. However, head coach Schlimgen is hopeful that the team will be "healthier" for the game on Wednesday.

"Our kids are playing a lot of minutes, but the efforts still there," he said. "We're not the only team out there doing that. We have to do with what we've got."

Schlimgen also hopes to gain a few victories in the team's final three games.

"We're trying to get some wins before the season comes to a screeching halt. We're confident we can do that."

You can follow Michaela Ramm on Twitter at twitter.com/Michaela\_Ramm. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

HASTINGS (23-3, 13-3 GPAC)  
Cami Bruckman 5-10, 4-5 14, Abby Jackson 1-4 0-0 2, Jamie Van Kirk 9-18 3-3 23, Frankie Peterson 4-6 5-6 13, Laurel Zwiener 6-14 3-4 15, Autumn Zenon 4-8 0-0 9, Shanellie Farmer 0-3 0-0 0, Chelsey Morten 0-0 0-0 0, Hailey Samuelson 0-2 0-0 0, Alex Edwards 0-2 0-0 0, Sierra Williamson 1-6 2-2 4. TOTALS: 30-73 17-20 80.

MOUNT MARTY (10-17, 2-15 GPAC)  
Cassidy Gebhart 4-7 1-2 9, Logan Wagner 5-19 4-4 16, Cheyenne Lambley 2-6 3-4 7, Holly Hegge 4-10 2-3 10, Allison De Kam 4-14 0-0 8, Denae Veldkamp 2-7 8-8 12, Kellie Winckler 0-3 3-4 3. TOTALS: 21-66 21-25 65.  
At the half: HC 37, MMC 30. Three-Pointers: HC 3-18 (Van Kirk 2-6, Zenon 1-4, Bruckman 0-1, Samuelson 0-1, Edwards 0-1, Jackson 0-2, Farmer 0-3), MMC 2-12 (Wagner 2-8, Gebhart 0-1, Hegge 0-1, Veldkamp 0-2). Rebounds: HC 52 (Zwiener 12), MMC 36 (Hegge 7). Personal Fouls: HC 19, MMC 15. Fouled Out: Peterson, De Kam. Assists: HC 11 (Jackson 3), MMC 10 (Hegge 3). Turnovers: HC 12, MMC 11. Blocked Shots: HC 4 (Jackson 2), MMC 2. Steals: HC 7 (Van Kirk 2), MMC 1 (Lambley). Attendance: 412.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty's Kellie Winckler, right, shoots over Hastings' Laurel Zwiener during their Great Plains Athletic Conference matchup on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.