Van Laecken Humble As He Heads Into The Sunset

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK james.cimburek@yankton.net

"You don't really need to talk to me, do you?"

Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D **Sports Staff on** local and national high school, college and pro sports.



As someone who has worked with Parkston girls' basketball coach and athletic director Rob Van Laecken for my entire career. I knew that would be one of the first things he said when I called him on Thursday, the day after it was made public that he would be retiring after the 2013-14 school year. Van Laecken isn't just another coach retiring. He's a holdover from the early days of high school girls' basketball in South Dakota, beginning his run at Parkston in 1977. He's also the winningest coach in the state's illustrious girls' basketball history.

His reasoning: simply put, it was time. "They tell you that you'll know when it's time to retire," he said. "You just will know, and I kinda got that it's time to go."

The Lady Trojans (5-11), barring a strong finish, will have just the third losing record on Van Laecken's 37 seasons at the helm. He was quick to point out, though, that this year has nothing to do with the decision.

"I've probably enjoyed this season as much as any season I have," he said. "The kids we've got here have really worked hard, we've gotten a lot better as the season went. "It has nothing to do with that."

For Van Laecken, records and attention have never been a driving force. Like many who stick it out in teaching and coaching, it's been about the kids.

'The kids that I've had in this program, we wouldn't be near where we're at without them," he said. "These kids are not only great athletes, they're very good in the classroom. They're in all types of ac-tivities, not only basketball. They could be golfers, they could be tracksters, they play volleyball, many of them are in band, many of them are in vocal, many of them are in other organizations in the school. Amazing kids, and it's been like that all the way through.

'I've had outstanding young ladies. They've been such a joy to work with.

While Van Laecken is now considered one of the pioneers for girls' basketball in the state, he credits another one of those pioneers, former Yankton coach and activities director Bob Winter.

"The biggest influence in my life starting out was Bob Winter. He did a lot of stuff for me when I was voung. I learned a lot of stuff from him, worked a lot of his camps," said Van Laecken, who said he modelled his program after the successful Gazelle programs that won eight state championships from 1975-91 under Winter. "He's very supportive, a great guy. He was very good to me, and I appreciate everything he did for me.

'I've had a lot of mentors, but he was probably the greatest influence."

Besides the student-athletes, Van Laecken said that he'll miss the regular interaction with those he got to know through coaching.

"I'm going to miss a lot of good friends that I've met, not only coaches and referees, but other people that I've met through my coaching," he said. "It's really an amazing fraternity that coaches have, and unless you're a coach, no one really understands that. I'm going to miss those guys, being with them,

not that I'm not going to see them, but it won't be quite the same as competing against them." Both Van Laecken and his wife Joanne are retiring after the school year, and there are no plans to "iump into anything." But that doesn't mean he will stay retired.

"I'm going to sit back and enjoy it for a little while, then make some decisions after that," he said. "There are some options out there, maybe we'll see what's going to happen."

No matter what Van Laecken ends up doing, there is no way to measure the impact he's had on Parkston and on girls' basketball, said Dakota Wesleyan freshman Erica Herrold, one of his former players.

"I don't think people give him enough credit. He's helped a lot of people," she said. "I think he'll be missed quite a bit.

Van Ginkel Signs With USD Football

VERMILLION — South Dakota head football coach Joe Glenn is pleased to announce the signing of Andrew Van Ginkel to a national letter of intent. He will play linebacker and be eligible to play starting in the fall.

A first-team All-State defensive back out of Rock Valley High School in Iowa, Van Ginkel accrued 162 tackles, six interceptions and six fumble recoveries for the Boyden-Hull/Rock Valley Nighthawks. He also played several positions on the offensive side of the ball for the Nighthawks, including quarterback last season where he accumulated 1,500 yards passing and 1,400 yards rushing.

"We think Andrew is one of the best all-round athletes in the region," Glenn said. "He was always in the middle of the action on the field at Rock Valley. He is an incredible player both on the gridiron

and on the hardwood." On the basketball court, Van Ginkel is currently

averaging 23 points per game for Rock Valley this season. Van Ginkel will join former high school teammate Brandt Van Roekel on the USD roster. Van Ginkel's signing brings the South Dakota 2014 re-

cruiting class to a total of 31. **SDSU's Dykstra A Finalist**

For Senior CLASS Award

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. - South Dakota State forward Jordan Dykstra was one of 10 finalists named for the Senior CLASS Award, announced on Thursday. To gain eligibility for the award, a student-ath-

lete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior, with notable achievements in four areas of excellence - community, classroom, character and competition.

An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

National media chose the list of 30 candidates announced in October. Nationwide fan voting began immediately to help select the winner. Fans can vote on the Senior CLASS Award website through March 24. Fan votes, combined with media and Division I head coaches' votes, determine the winners, with the Senior CLASS Award winner announced during the 2014 NCAA Men's Final Four.

Augustana's North Moves **Up To Third In Nation**

EDMOND, Okla. — Augustana's T.J. North continued his climb up the ratings, moving to third

in the latest NCAA Division II wrestling rankings. North, from Elk Point, is 24-3 on the season, including 12-0 against NCAA Division II competi-

Sioux Falls Christian's Wynja Earns Gatorade Honor

CHICAGO - Sioux Falls Christian's Lee Wynja has been named the Gatorade South Dakota boys' soccer Player of the year.

The 6-foot, 170-pound junior midfielder scored 18 goals and passed for seven assists this past season, leading the Chargers (9-2-3) to the state semifinals. The Soccer605.com Small Program Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Wynia was a First Team All-State selection by the South Dakota Soccer Association. He concluded his junior year with career totals of 43 goals and 18 assists.

Wynja has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the school band, he has volun-

Wagner

Diego State, 6:30 p.m.) TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE INDOOR Iowa

te Creek (Creighton-Verdigre, Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ponca); D-2 at Pender (Randolph); McCook Central Quad

(Andes Central); Alcester-Hudson/Marion-Freeman at

Saturday, February 15 BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD at IUPUI (1 p.m.,

IT-FM) BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S IUPUI at USD (2

BASKETBALL, BOYS' Aberdeen Central at

YHS (4:30 p.m.); Dakota Plains Inv. at Marty (Free-man Academy, Marty, Santee); Dakota Wesleyan

Classic (Parkston vs. Dell Rapids, 3:30 p.m.; Platte-Geddes vs. Sully Buttes, 6:30 p.m.); Ethan at Free-

man; Hartington Cedar Catholic at Lutheran High

BASKETBALL, BOYS' JV Aberdeen Central at

BASKETBALL, BOYS' SOPH Aberdeen Central

BASKETBALL, BOYS' 9TH Aberdeen Central

'HS (1:30 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRLS' YHS at Aberdeen Cen-

32

Luton, Iowa 58

Cedar Valley 29

Ravenna 53, Adams Central 45

Sandhills/Thedford 58, Arthur County

South Sioux City 74, Sergeant Bluff-

Spalding/Spalding Academy 57,

St. Mary's 59, West Holt 19 Stanton 61, Clarkson/Leigh 44 Sutherland 47, Paxton 17

Syracuse 63, Conestoga 39

tral (4:30 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM); Dakota Plains Inv. at Marty (Andes Central, Marty Indian, Santee); Alcester-Hudson at Colman-Egan; Parkston vs.

Bridgewater-Emery at Emery

Laurel-Concord 75, Wisner-Pilger 57

Maxwell 62, Medicine Valley 30

Omaha Concordia 44, Wayne 31

Omaha Skutt Catholic 48, Norris 38

Omaha Westside 42, Omaha North

Minden 74, Wood River 20

Palmyra 48, Pawnee City 30

Ralston 54, Schuvler 44

Pender 61, Scribner-Snyder 25

ond half

WRESTLING, PREP Neb. Districts — C-2 at Bat-

AREA CALENDAR

Friday, February 14 BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S MMC at Grace (5

., KYNI-AM) BASKETBALL, BOYS' Dakota Plains Inv. at

Marty (Freeman Academy, Marty, Santee); Baltic at Alcester-Hudson; Bon Homme at Platte-Geddes; Boyd County at Niobrara-Verdigre; Canton vs. Irene-

Wakonda at Wakonda; Dell Rapids at Dakota Valley;

Elk Point-Jefferson at Beresford: Gavville-Volin at

Centerville; Hartington at Wynot (KVHT-FM); Homer at Ponca; Laurel-Concord-Coleridge at Bancroft-Ros-alie; Parker vs. Viborg-Hurley at Hurley; Parkston at

Tea Area; Plainview at Creighton; Randolph at Crofton; Scotland at Gregory; Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Avon; Wagner at Chamberlain; Wausa at Osmond

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Dakota Plains Inv. at Marty (Andes Central, Marty Indian, Santee); Baltic

at Alcester-Hudson; Bon Homme at Platte-Geddes;

Emery at Marion; Canton vs. Irene-Wakonda at Wakonda; Dell Rapids at Dakota Valley; Elk Point-Jef ferson at Beresford; Gayville-Volin at Centerville; Hartington at Wynot (KVHT-FM); Homer at Ponca;

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge at Bancroft-Rosalie; Parker vs. Viborg-Hurley at Hurley; Plainview at Creighton; Randolph at Crofton; Scotland at Gregory; Tripp-Del-mont-Armour at Avon; Wagner at Chamberlain;

BOWLING. HS CLUB S.F. Washington at Yank-

SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Campbell Cartler Tourn.

City 27

24

at San Diego (USD vs. Cal, 4 p.m.; USD vs. San

Wausa at Osmond

k 46

Cn

Guardian Angels 47, Pierce 37

Hartington Cedar Catholic 79, Battle

Hastings St. Cecilia 42, Sutton 22

Haves Center 62, Perkins County 51

Heartland Lutheran 44, Nebraska

Humphrey/Lindsay Holy Family 58,

Kearney Catholic 83, Arcadia-Loup

College

Thursday night with a 59-49 victory over Denver. The Jaguars (6-21, 1-9 Summit League) en-

tered the game having lost nine straight and 14 of their last 15 but broke their losing streak, holding

Denver (12-12, 5-4) to its lowest point total of the

jah Ray and Khufu Najee had 12 apiece for IUPUI,

which shot 54.1 percent from the field. The Jaguars closed the first half on a 9-2 run to take a 25-20 halftime lead and never trailed for

Marcellus Barksdale added 13 points while Eli

From Page 8A

ett Olson added 10

Huber

is 39-10 with several matches

"Coach told Casey, Noah

and I that we'd have a chance

at setting the school record

said. "After he told us that, I

set that as one of my goals.'

lowed Huber to rack up wins

is the fact that he hasn't gone

out of tournaments quickly,

.ancers

From Page 8A

One of the things that's al-

for wins this year," Huber

on Saturday before regions

From Page 8A

and state.

Heartland 47, Osceola 42, OT

Boyd County at Niobrara-Verdigre: Bridgewate

teered locally at Children's Care Hospital & School and as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

Bowling: Yankton Splits With West Central

Yankton split with West Central in bowling action on Friday, Feb. 7.

In the varsity I match, Malan Moody rolled a 655 series, Henry Borgstrom rolled a 618 series and Chandler Losing rolled a 556 series as Yankton swept West Central. Dylan Mace's 519 series led Yankton's varsity II squad as it dropped a close match to West Central.

Aaron Felton rolled a 413 for the JV squad. Dakota Mace dropped a close decision, rolling a 411 series.

Yankton finishes the home portion of its season today (Friday) against Sioux Falls Washington. Start time is 4 p.m. at Yankton Bowl.

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' JV YHS at Aber

tral (1:30 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRLS' SOPH YHS at Ab-

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' 9TH YHS at Aberdee

rai (1:30 p.m.) HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Yankton at Watertown (8

, HOCKEY. BANTAM Yankton A at Watertown (6

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE INDOOR lowa

e Classic (USD); Dordt Inv. (MMC) WRESTLING, PREP Huron Inv. (YHS, 10 a.m.);

Neb. Districts - C-2 at Battle Creek (Creighton-Verd

gre, Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Con-cord-Coleridge, Ponca), D-2 at Pender (Randolph); Dakota XII Conf. Tourn, at North Sioux City (Beres-

ford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Vermillion, 10

a.m.): Holland Inv. at Howard (Bon Homme-Scotland,

Topeka, Kan. (DH) SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Campbell Cartler Tourn.

at San Diego (USD vs. Texas State, 11 a.m.)

Sunday, February 16 BASEBALL, COLLEGE Ashford vs. MMC at

Tri County 41, McCool Junction 17

Valentine 57, North Central 35 Waverly 69, Hastings 48 Dakota Plains Tournament

Marty Indian, S.D. 74, Santee 29

East-West Shootout Tournament

Lexington 49, Gering 38 McCook 60, Scottsbluff 28

North Platte 50, Alliance 2

SDSU (18-8, 9-1 Summit), which trailed 34-30

at the half, was led by 18 points from Mariah Clarin. Megan Waytashek netted 15 points. Steph

Paluch and Chynna Stevens each had 12 points. Gabby Boever added 10 rebounds in the victory.

scored 30 points off the bench to lead the

blocked shots.

For Omaha (9-14, 1-8 Summit), Ericka House

Taljhe Kelly had 16 points, 12 rebounds and eight

Thursday night. Hooper made 8 of 10 field goals, including 3 of 3 behind the arc, and 4 of 4 free throws for Ne-braska (18-5, 8-3 Big Ten), which shot 59 percent

from the floor, 55 percent from 3-point range and 86 percent from the free-throw line.

The Cornhuskers used a 20-9 run, including eight points from Hooper, to open up a 57-45 lead with 14:16 left.

Michigan (15-10, 6-6) scored six straight to

Cyesha Goree paced the Wolverines with 20

pull within 74-68 with 37 seconds remaining, but Hoover found Allie Havers for a jumper 12 sec-

onds later to ice the game.

DOKET, DATUM Talkovi (4 p.m.) SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Briar Cliff Scrimmages at South Sioux City (MMC vs. McPherson, 8 a.m.; MMC vs. Bethel, noon); Campbell Cartler Tourn. at San Diego (USD vs. 51; Mary's, 11 a.m.; USD vs. Cal State Suiden 1:30 a.m.)

State Fulle

a.m.), nomina ... Parker, 10 a.m.)

SCOREBOARD

1:13.31.

nah Nelson 3:01.66

Hauser 2:47.31

Peitz 1:15.63.

Richardson 1:34.75

son Peitz 2:40.53.

Platt, Parker Kisch

GIRI S' 15-OVER

GIRLS' 13-14

SWIMMING

SIOUX CENTER TRI-STATE

Feb. 8 at Sioux Center, Iowa BOYS' 8-UNDER 50 BACKSTROKE: 3, Evan Schott 53.14 50 FREESTYLE: 6. Evan Schott

41.95. 200 FREESTYLE: 1, Evan Schott 3:32.45.

BOYS' 9-10 50 BACKSTROKE: 1, Jake Peitz 43 11

50 BUTTERFLY: 4, Jake Peitz 45.18. 50 FREESTYLE: 5, Jake Peitz

34.25. 100 FREESTYLE: 4. Jake Peitz 1:20.42.

100 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 5, Jake Peitz 1:33.63.

GIRLS' 9-10 50 BACKSTROKE: 1, Emma Schott

37.80. 2, Madisyn Bietz 41.76. 50 BREASTSTROKE: 1, Emma Schott 41.98. 5, Madisyn Bietz 46.29. 50 BUTTERFLY: 4, Madisyn Bietz

41.33. 50 FREESTYLE: 1. Emma Schott

31.86. 4, Madisyn Bietz 34.32. 100 FREESTYLE: 1, Emma Schott

1:09.13. 200 FREESTYLE: 1, Madisyn Bietz 2:49.63.

BOYS' 11-12 50 BACKSTROKE: 11, Chase Bun-

nis 45.59. 100 BACKSTROKE: 0, Ryan Trail

100 BREASTSTROKE: 6, Ryan Trail 1:58.12.

100 BUTTERFLY: 1, Layne Bunnis 1:19.27. 0. Chase Bunnis 2:00.96.

50 FREESTYLE: 1, Layne Bunnis 28.82. 12, Chase Bunnis 35.64. 17, Ryan Da

Trail 41.12. 100 FREESTYLE: 1, Layne Bunnis 1:03.37. 8, Chase Bunnis 1:27.18. 10, Ryan Trail 1:37.57. 200 FREESTYLE: 2, Layne Bunnis

2:23.21. 3, Ryan Trail 3:20.00. 100 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 1, Layne Bunnis 1:14.17.

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 5, Chase

50 BREASTSTROKE: 10, Hannah THIRD: Dylan Sloan, Josh Riibe, Ja Nelson 45.31. 21, Grace Taggart 1:23.67. 50 BUTTERFLY: 4, Hannah Nelson clyn Kyte, Dylan Howe , Evan Nelson, Langdon Klinkhammer, Jordan Dahl, 39.19. 13. Grace Taggart 1:04.50. Devon Coke Joelton Reimnitz-Hahn Kaden Sage, Oliver Reindl, Ocean Hawk, 50 FREESTYLE: 24, Grace Taggart 42.36. 100 FREESTYLE: 7, Hannah Nelson Parker FOURTH: Chase Howe, Karter Rolston, Shaylor Platt, Dane Weidmeier FIFTH: Jace McCorkell

100 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 10. Hannah Nelson 1:26.47. 19, Grace Taggart 2:10.14. 200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 3, Han-

BASKETBALL YANKTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

100 BACKSTROKE: 3, Katie Hauser EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS 1:20.23. 100 BREASTSTROKE: 1, Katie A – NORFOLK 38, YANKTON 30: YMS Leading Scorers – Madie Cordell 11, Holly Hicks 9 B — NORFOLK 33, YANKTON 25: 100 BUTTERFLY: 2. Katie Hauser 1:26.34. 200 FREESTYLE: 1, Katie Hauser 2:25.82.

YMS Leading Scorers — Taylor Hamilton 9, Cassidy Weinandt 6 200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 1, Katie THURSDAY'S S.D. GIRLS

Clark/Willow Lake 100 BACKSTROKE: 2, Addison Redfield/Doland 46 Dell Rapids St. Mary 63, Oldham-mona/Rutland 61 100 BREASTSTROKE: 8, Tara

Harrisburg 85, Brookings 77 Lake Preston 48, DeSmet 43 100 BUTTERFLY: 1, Addison Peitz

1:12.88. 50 FREESTYLE: 5, Addison Peitz 28.77. 7, Tara Richardson 34.65. 100 FREESTYLE: 3, Addison Peitz Menno 51. Canistota 48 Pine Ridge 77, Hot Springs 48 Potter County 101, Faulkton 44 South Central 54, Andes Central 35

1:02.91, 7, Tara Richardson 1:16.29, Wall 47, Bison 30 Waverly-South Shore 49. Great 200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 2, Addi-

Plains Lutheran 43 West Central 63, Pipestone, Minn. 43 WRESTLING

Western Christian, Hull, Iowa 76, Sioux Falls Christian 62 YANKTON YOUTH WRESTLING Dakota Plains Tournament

SCOTLAND TOURN. FIRST: Taten Bahm, Shayce Platt, Ashton Keller, Joe Smith, Jaclyn Kyte Freeman Academy 70, Crazy Horse 29 Marty Indian 77, Santee, Neb. 41 SECOND: Tucker Bahm, Josh Riibe,

mian Janish, Beckett Kisch THIRD: Dylan Sloan, Karter Rolston, THURSDAY'S S.D. GIRLS Dell Rapids 50, McCook Central/Montrose 37

Evan Nelson FOURTH: Alana Bahm, Shaylor Eureka/Bowdle 41, Edmunds Central BON HOMME TOURN. FIRST: Shayce Platt, Ashton Keller, 27

Great Plains Lutheran 48, Waverly-South Shore 43 Hitchcock-Tulare 68, Iroquois 16 Joe Smith, Damian Janish, Patrick Gur-

Wessington Springs 50, Miller 38 West Central 60, Vermillion 48 Winner 77, Platte-Geddes 28 Dakota Plains Tournament Little Wound 115, Crazy Horse 13 Marty Indian 74, Santee, Neb. 29 Takini 48, Andes Central 38

Rosholt 62, Grant-Deuel 45 Spearfish 72, Belle Fourche 58

Sully Buttes 37. Herreid/Selby Area

Summit 50, Tiospa Zina Tribal 31

THURSDAY'S NEB. BOYS

Boys Town 60, Lincoln Christian 49 Clearwater/Orchard 78, Elgin Pub-Falls City 64, Humboldt/Table Rock-

Steinauer 36 Friend 42. Meridian 37 Giltner 43, Silver Lake 30 Hartington Cedar Catholic 72, Battle

19

Creek 60 Hastings 57, Waverly 50 57, Heartland Lutheran 74, Blue Hill 65 Medicine Valley 54, Maxwell 41 Norris 48, Omaha Skutt Catholic 46

Omaha Central 66, Bellevue East 38 Omaha Gross Catholic 59, Arlington 47

Omaha Nation 51, College View Academy 29 Omaha Westside 66, Omaha North 45

Palmyra 35, Pawnee City 34 Spalding/Spalding Academy 62, Cedar Valley 23 Wood River 64, Minden 47

Dakota Plains Tournament

Marty Indian, S.D. 77, Santee 41 East-West Shootout Tournament Gering 76, Lexington 43 Scottsbluff 78, McCook 47 Lutheran 43 Twin River 27

THURSDAY'S NEB. GIRLS

Allen 40 Bloomfield 19 Ashland-Greenwood 43, Omaha ercy 39 Bellevue East 60, Omaha Central 52 Blue Hill 38, Grand Island Central

Catholic 28 Clearwater/Orchard 62, Elgin Pub-

gart 56 00

GIRLS' 11-12 50 BACKSTROKE: 20, Grace Tag-50 BACKSTROKE: 20, Grace Tag-Ira Greger, Payton Johnson

ney

lic/Pope John 56 CWC 68, Burwell 47 Lemmon 52, Grant County, N.D. 46 Deshler 60, Red Cloud 20 Lennox 52, Parkston 38 Friend 62 Meridian 32 Pierre 45, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 44 Giltner 52, Silver Lake 38 Potter County 70, Dupree 34

Hoops

From Page 8A

Shay Jolley led Canistota (9-8) with 13 points

Menno will play Viborg-Hurley on Tuesday, while Canistota will host Howard on Monday. MENNO (8-10) CANISTOTA (9-8)9 24 35 48

Bloomfield 54, Allen 26

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. - Bloomfield defeated Allen 54-26 in men's basketball action on Thursday night in Bloomsfield. Kane Fiedler was the leading scorer

for Bloomfield with 11 points scored and three rebounds gained. Cody Beckmann tallied 10 points and six rebounds, while Aaron Millikan gained nine points and an assist for the team

Allen's Tayler Kumm scored nine points for the team, while Austin Connot netted eight points in the effort. Bloomfield (10-9) will play Wausa at their home court next Friday night. Allen (2-19) will play next Friday night as well, against Winnebago in Allen. BLOOMFIELD (10-9)17 29 47 549 14 23 26 ALLEN (2-19)

Corsica-Stickney 65,

Freeman 56

FREEMAN - Corsica-Stickney defeated Freeman 65-56 on Thursday evening in Freeman Eli Řan Roekel led Corisca-Stickney

-7) with 21 points and seven rebounds. **Cole Paulson and Brennan Schmidt**

led Freeman (8-8) with 13 points a piece. Corsica-Stickney will travel to Elkton-Lake Benton on Saturday, while Freeman

hosts Ethan. CORSICA-STICKNEY (9-7)..... FREEMAN (8-8).....15 33 42 657 16 27 56

Ethan 62,

Mt. Vernon-Plankinton 47 VERNON ·

a 62-47 victory over the Mt. Vernon-Planktinton Ti-tans on Thursday night in boys' basketball action in Ethan.

Blake Bartscher led the team with 25 points and three assists for Ethan, while Camden Myers netted 17 points and Tyler Myers gained nine points and eight rebounds. For the Titans, Deric Denning scored 14 points

and gained three assists while Nick Lawson tallied 10 points. Ethan (15-3) will face off against Freeman on

Saturdav in Freeman. Mount Vernon-Plankinton (9-7) will play in the Dakota Westleyan Classic against Potter County on Saturday in Mitchell. ...15 34 48 62 ETHAN (15-3) MOUNT VERNON-PLANKINTON (9-7) .16 21 31 47

Harrisburg 85,

BROOKINGS — Harrisburg defeated Brookings 85-77 in a barn-burner double-overtime vic-

Ings 65-77 in a ballhourine double-overline vic-tory on Thursday. Gunar Rang led Harrisburg (7-8) with 23 points and five rebounds. Shaye Slaughter added 13 points and 11 rebounds in the victory. Tyler Nagy led Brookings (3-13) with 17 points and fine activity. Mikey Deal odded Victority and

and five assists. Mikey Daniel added 14 points and

four rebounds in the loss. Harrisburg will host Pierre on Saturday, while Brookings will travel to Watertown. HARRISBURG (7-8) BROOKINGS (3-13).

Coyotes

From Page 8A

"It just shows that defense is critical," Seekamp said. "If we stick to our game plan and actually play defense, we're going to be a tough team to beat."

After the Coyotes led 40-33 at halftime, they scored the first 16 points of the second half. Fort Wayne didn't make a basket until the 14:02 mark — and by then, USD's lead was 56-35.

A constant point of emphasis for the Covotes. Williams said, is the first five minutes of the second half.

"We're consistently striving to put 40 solid minutes together," Williams said. "That's a critical time that you can set the tone for the rest of the game, and I think our kids have really bought into that.'

Fort Wayne (12-12, 5-5) got the margin down to as much as 14 points on five occasions (and 13 for the final), but had trouble slowing a Covote offense that put four starters

and five players overall in double figures. Sophomore reserve Mar-

garet McCloud had 14 points and nine rebounds, while junior Raeshel Contreras added 12 points. The biggest thorn in Fort Wayne's side, though was sophomore point guard Tia Hemiller.

The native of Watertown finished with 11 points, a career-high 11 rebounds and five assists.

Does any other point guard in the league rebound like Hemiller?

"If they do, I don't know who it is," Williams said. "She has a tremendous knack for the basketball, and she impacts the game in so many

ways. Ariana Simmons led the Mastodons with 21 points and eight rebounds off the bench, while the high-scoring duo of Haley Seibert and Amanda Hyde combined for 37 points.

The road doesn't get any easier for the Coyotes, as first-place IUPUI comes to town Saturday afternoon. Sure, USD may have turned a corner the last couple of

weeks, but it's far from where it wants to be, Williams maintained.

"We do feel like there's still plenty of room for improvement over the next few weeks, but we think we're heading in the right direction," she said.

Particularly on defense, Hemiller added.

"Each and every game we keep striving to be a better defensive team, and that's a huge part of winning," she said.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

FORT WAYNE (12-12, 5-5) Rebecca Bruner 1-3 0-0 2; Rachel Mauk 1-5 0-0 2; Rebecca Brunet 1-3 0-0 2; Kacnel Mauk 1-5 0-0 2; Haley Seibert 6-12 6-6 19; Amanda Hyde 6-15 5-7 18; Mur Hagerman 0-4 1-2 1; Stefanie Mauk 2-12 1-1 6; Ar-iana Simmons 7-9 7-8 21; Jessie Manwaring 0-2 0-0 0; Rachel Rinehart 0-1 0-0 0; Courtney Ogle 1-5 0-0 2. TOTALS 24-68 20-24 71.

 TOTALS 24-06 20-24 71.

 SOUTH DAKOTA (13-11, 4-5)

 Lisa Loeffler 4-9 1-1 9; Polly Harrington 2-4 5-5 10;

 Tia Hemiller 3-7 5-8 11; Raeshel Contreras 4-8 2-2 12;

 Nicole Seekamp 6-11 4-4 19; Madeleine White 0-0 0-0

 0; Kelly Stewart 1-7 0-0 3; Taylor Moore 1-2 0-0 2; Bridget Arens 2-3 0-2 4; Margaret McCloud 5-5 4-4 14. TO-TAL S 28-65 01-26

60, Keny Steval 1-1 KHON, Kylon Jack T. 1. 10-TALS 28-56 21-26 Halftime: USD 40-33. Three-Pointers: FW 3-27 (Hyde 1-4, Seibert 1-6, Mauk 1-8 USD 7-17 (Seekamp 3-4, Contreras 2-4, Harrington 1-1, Stewart 1-4, Loef-fler 0-1, Moore 0-1, Hemiller 0-2). Total Rebounds: FW 36 (Simmons 8), USD 42 (Hemiller 11). Assistis: FW 30; avith 1), USD 17 (Seekamp 7). Turnovers: FW 11, USD 14. Personal Foul: FW 20, USD 29. Fouled Out: Con-treras Technical Foul: Contreras. Attendance: 1289. treras Technical Foul: Contreras Attendance: 1289

goals while shooting 55 percent from the floor and hitting 8 of 17 from 3-point range. Its 17 assists also tied a season high. Rob Lewis was the only Houston Baptist (4-

Conference) used a 27-6 run to blow the game

open. The Golden Eagles led by double-digits the

rest of the way and by as many as 22 in the sec-

ORU tied a season high by making 33 field

21, 1-12) player to score in double figures, finish-ing with 19 points, as the Huskies shot just 35.7 percent (20 of 56) from the field. NO. 21 NEBRASKA 76, MICHIGAN 68: ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Jordan Hooper scored 23 points — moving into second on Nebraska's alltime scoring list — and grabbed nine rebounds as the No. 21 Cornhuskers beat Michigan 76-68

Korey Billbury added 12 points and nine re-bounds for ORU.

Women

JV - MOUNT MARTY 73, BRIAR CLIFF 63: Brittani Bormann scored a team-high 26 points to lead Mount Marty to a 73-63 victory over Briar Cliff in JV women's basketball action on Thursday. MMC's varsity beat Briar Cliff on Wednesday.

the remainder of the game, earning just their sec-ond road win of the season. Kellie Winckler posted a double-double, finish-ing with 16 points and 13 rebounds for MMC. Jill Chris Udofia led Denver with 13 points while indreau added 15 points in the victory.

ORAL ROBERTS 80, HOUSTON BAPTIST **CIVAL KOBERTIS 00, FIOSTON DAFTIST 66:** HOUSTON (AP) — Shawn Glover scored 23 points on 11-of-15 shooting — topping the 1,000-point plateau at Oral Roberts — as the Golden Ea-gles beat Houston Baptist 80-66 Thursday night. MMC, 8-6, finishes the JV season at Min-S.D. STATE 71, OMAHA 60: BROOKINGS -Summit League co-leader South Dakota State survived a slow start, beating Omaha 71-60 in league After falling behind 9-4 in the first 3 minutes of the game, Oral Roberts (13-12, 7-5 Southland

action on Thursday.

even after he's taken a loss. "It's a credit to Spencer,

how he's been able to bounce back after a loss," Hage said. "He's done that in every tournament. That's why his match count has gone up."

Huber's toughness has also played a factor in his success, Hage noted.

"He's a bull. He's unbelievably strong," Hage said of the 126-pounder. "He goes out there and imposes his will, and he keeps coming at you." Huber's work prior to

stepping on the mat has also been a factor.

"Spencer's been a lead-by-

for O'Malley at his future basketball home, Muller said. "I think with coach Baker

You can follow Jeremy

twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss

Hoeck on Twitter at

being young and getting some local recruits, it's really

going to help," Muller said. "Getting some new coaching "Cody is really tough, he doesn't back down from anyexperiences should be exciting down there in Yankton." body," Baker said. "He's great Ideally, Mount Marty

attacking the basket. would like to try to sign be-Such a mentality will tween 10-15 recruits for next come in handy for the trio of season, Baker said, in part to recruits as they help build develop depth. The Lancers the Lancers into a contender do not have a senior on the in the Great Plains Athletic roster this season. Conference, Baker said. 'I told our guys (Wednes-

"The biggest thing with day), 'We're four and 22, we these three so far is that they need to go bring in some understand the challenge of guys to push everyone, to building this," he said. make us better," he said. There's a reward of leaving a

legacy. 'Some kids don't want that pressure, but these guys do. They want to work for it." That shouldn't be an issue

points, 10 rebounds and six assists. Emily Cady scored 15 and Rachel Theriot added 13 and six assists for Nebraska. example guy," Hage said. "We tell the kids to look and see

how he prepares for a match. He's ready to wrestle from the opening whistle.

"If more of our kids learn from that, they're going to find success.⁴

While the school record for victories is a nice mark on the resume, Huber has no intentions of stopping there.

"I definitely want to place at state. At the beginning of the year, I was shooting for top five, and I am definitely hoping to do that," he said. "I also want to be region champ.'

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

