

# MMC Women Begin GPAC Tourney Today



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
**Mount Marty College senior Holly Hegge drives through the Morningside defense during their GPAC women's game earlier this season. MMC travels to third-ranked Concordia today (Wednesday) in the opening round of the GPAC Tournament.**

## Lancers Headed To No. 3 Concordia

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Despite having 19 victories, including nine in the toughest NAIA league in the country, the Mount Marty College women's basketball team will need a victory — and more than likely, two — in the Great Plains Athletic Conference Tournament to give themselves a chance at their first NAIA Division II Tournament appearance in four years. The Lancers (19-11, 9-11 GPAC) begin that tough road at No. 3 Concordia tonight (Wednesday) in the opening round.

While the Lancers have had some bumps in the road, they have finished strong, according to senior forward Holly Hegge.

"The season went OK. It's never as good as you want it to be unless you finish first," the Crofton, Nebraska, native said. "We made the tournament, so anything's possible."

One of the things that has helped the Lancers finish strong, winning 12 of 17 to finish the regular season, has been

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■ Head coach Tom Schlimgen and seniors April Winne and Holly Hegge talk about the GPAC Tourney. **yankton.net**

keeping opponents in check, according to head coach Tom Schlimgen. "I think we've played a lot of good basketball," he said. "We've gotten a lot better defensively, but that has to continue to be a chore for us. If you've got a defensive flaw, teams in the GPAC will find it."

Offensively, MMC has relied on the outside game, hitting a school-record 289 three-pointers. MMC leads the conference in that category, as well as three-point percentage (.342). Nine different Lancers have hit 10 or more three-pointers on the season, led by leading scorer Alex Kneeland (16.1 ppg, 84 made 3s), senior guard April Winne (12 ppg, 46 made 3s) and top reserve Logan Wagner (7.7 ppg, 52 made 3s). Starters Raquel Sutera (10 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 37 made 3s), Hegge (9.7 ppg, 5.9

ppg, 19 made 3s) and Cassidy Gebhart (4.3 ppg, 14 made 3s) have also been outside threats, as have reserves Kieran O'Malley (3.2 ppg, 11 made 3s), Kelsey Schmidt (3.1 ppg, 10 made 3s) and Denae Veldkamp (2.6 ppg, 10 made 3s). "We think we've got a lot of good offensive players," Schlimgen said. Senior Cheyenne Lambley (5.7 ppg, 4.0 rpg) and sophomore Kellie Winckler (3.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg) have provided a strong inside lift off the bench, both recording double-figure scoring efforts down the stretch.

The Lancers' top two scorers this season were not on the floor for MMC a year ago, something that Winne — who missed the 2013-14 season due to injury — has been an adjustment.

"Alex had never played with any of us. I hadn't played with Cassidy, Alex or any of the (this year's) sophomores," said the senior from Scotland. "We've definitely come a long way."

The Lancers face a tough Concordia (28-2) team whose only two setbacks of the season came at the hands of league champion and national top-ranked

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## Cedar Catholic, LCC Advance In Sub-Districts

RANDOLPH, Neb. — James Kaiser scored 20 points as Hartington Cedar Catholic beat Crofton 63-45 in the semifinals Tuesday of the Sub-District C2-7 boys' tournament in Randolph.

Jared Wiebelhaus added 12 points, and Stephen Hillis posted 10 points and eight rebounds for Cedar Catholic (15-7), which plays for the sub-district title on Thursday.

Grant Wragge hit 6-of-12 three-pointers for 24 points in the loss for Crofton, which finishes its season 4-17. Josh Allen added seven points, Tyler Koch scored six points and Dylan Potts grabbed seven rebounds.

CROFTON (4-17).....11 19 31 45  
 HARTINGTON CEDAR CATH. (15-7)....14 29 45 63

## Laurel-Concord-Col. 57, Hartington-Newcastle 55

RANDOLPH, Neb. — In the semifinals of the Sub-District C2-7 tournament, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge downed Hartington-Newcastle 57-55 Tuesday night in Randolph.

Dillian Wolfram netted 21 points for LCC. Jordan Jansen added 12 points. Jayden Reifenrath snatched 10 rebounds, and Jackson Metheny had nine rebounds.

No stats were given for Hartington-Newcastle.

LCC will play Hartington Cedar Catholic in the finals Thursday, and Hartington-Newcastle ends its season with a 16-8 record.

HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE (16-8).....16 32 44 55  
 LAUREL-CONCORD-COL. (9-15).....19 30 44 57

### Sub-District D2-3

#### Wynot 51, Lyons-Decatur Northeast 48

PONCA, Neb. — Austin Lange scored 18 points as the Wynot Blue Devils used strong defense in the second half to beat Lyons-Decatur Northeast 51-48 in the Sub-District D2-3 semifinals Tuesday in Ponca.

Wynot (16-7), which trailed 32-31 at halftime, will face Bancroft-Rosalie for the sub-district title on Thursday in Ponca.

In the loss for LDNE (8-14), Chevy Henneman hit seven three-pointers on the way to 25 points.

LYONS-DECATUR NORTHEAST (8-14).....8 32 41 48  
 WYNOT (16-7).....14 31 43 51

#### Bancroft-Rosalie 60, Wausa 30

PONCA, Neb. — Top-seeded Bancroft-Rosalie rolled past Wausa 60-30 in the Sub-District D2-3 semifinals Tuesday in Ponca.

Carsten Tietz scored 17 points for Bancroft-Rosalie (22-1), while Kenny Appleton had 15 points and Mario Aldrich scored 11 points.

In the season-ending loss for Wausa (8-15), Jordan Burns scored 19 points.

WAUSA (8-15).....8 13 25 30  
 BANCROFT-ROSALIE (22-1).....15 30 46 60

### Sub-District C1-8

#### Norfolk Catholic 75, Stanton 61

NORFOLK, Neb. — Norfolk Catholic put four players in double figures in a 75-61 victory Tuesday over Stanton in the Sub-District C1-8 Tournament in Norfolk.

David Engelhaupt scored 16 points in the win, while Seth Montag (14), Matt Miller (13) and Myles Vrbka (12) all had double digits.

In the loss for Stanton, Kyle Sperl scored 16 points and Christian Heppner added 14 points.

NORFOLK CATHOLIC.....13 36 55 75  
 STANTON.....19 35 50 61

#### Pierce 65, BC-NG 39

NORFOLK, Neb. — Taggart Bailey scored 20 points as Pierce rolled past Boone Central-Newman Grove 65-39 in the Sub-District C1-8 tournament Tuesday in Norfolk.

Brady Starkel added 19 points and Noah Fisher had 16 points for Pierce.

BOONE CENTRAL-NEWMAN GROVE...11 22 34 39  
 PIERCE.....14 36 45 65

### Monday

#### D1-5: Pender 42, Allen 41

WISNER, Neb. — Pender outscored Allen 31-23 in the second half to rally to a 42-41 victory over the Eagles in the opening round of the Sub-District D1-5 Boys' Basketball Tournament on Monday.

Dylan Roth led Pender with 14 points. Corbin Lamplot added nine points in the victory.

For Allen, Coleman Knieff scored 16 points and Brian Boese had 15 points and 11 rebounds to lead the way. Tayler Kumm added five steals.

## High School Girls' Basketball

# Tornadoes Beat GV In 10B



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
**Centerville's Shannon O'Malley is fouled as she goes to the basket during the Tornadoes' District 10B semifinal against Gayville-Volin on Tuesday in Alcester. The Tornadoes upset Gayville-Volin 54-46 to advance to Friday's championship in Beresford.**

## Centerville To Face Viborg-Hurley In Final

ALCESTER — For the second season in a row, the top seed in the District 10B Girls' Basketball Tournament was sent home in the first round.

The fourth-seeded Centerville Tornadoes provided more drama in the tournament, beating Gayville-Volin 54-46 on Tuesday night in Alcester.

Shannon O'Malley scored 18 points and Rebecca Hybertson added 10 points for Centerville (15-6), which will play Viborg-Hurley for the district title Friday in Beresford.

Emily Snyder added eight points for the Tornadoes, while Val Sunderland had eight points and nine rebounds, and Logan O'Toole recorded six points and six rebounds.

In the season-ending loss for Gayville-Volin (18-3), Genny Clark scored 14 points, Megan Hirsch had nine points and 10 rebounds, Traia Hubbard had nine points and 19 rebounds, Laura Nelson scored nine points and Kelia Barta added six steals.

CENTERVILLE (15-6).....11 26 38 54  
 GAYVILLE-VOLIN (18-3).....10 20 38 46

## Viborg-Hurley 55, Irene-Wakonda 46

ALCESTER — Abby Hora recorded 23 points and 11 rebounds as Viborg-Hurley beat Irene-Wakonda 55-46 in the District 10B Tournament on Tuesday in Alcester.

Hannah Jorgensen added 11 points and Duana Lee scored nine points for Viborg-Hurley (17-4), which moves to Friday's district final against Centerville in Beresford.

Andrea Sokolowski had 12 points and seven rebounds in the season-ending loss for Irene-Wakonda (13-7), while Erin Hansen had 10 points and six rebounds, and Caitlin Hinseth chipped in with eight points.

IRENE-WAKONDA (13-7).....13 21 33 46  
 VIBORG-HURLEY (17-4).....15 34 48 55

### District 9B

#### Freeman 41, Menno 31

MENNO — Top-seeded Freeman held off Menno 41-31 in the semifinals Tuesday of the District 9B Tournament in Menno.

Erika Sage had 11 points and five steals for Freeman (16-5), while Hannah Eberts grabbed seven rebounds and Shelby Jensen dished out five assists.

In the season-ending loss for Menno (9-13), Abby Herrboldt scored 11 points, Tara Spencer and Lindzie Vaita both

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# Twins Again Bank On Starting Pitching After Big Spend

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — The fall of the Minnesota Twins over the last four seasons can be traced to several factors, none more influential than the struggles of the starting rotation.

So for the second straight winter, the Twins spent millions of dollars to try to fix it.

"We all know that we weren't very good last year as a whole and that we have to be a lot better," right-hander Phil Hughes said. "It's not some big secret, so it doesn't really need to be said when we come in here."

Hughes was hardly the problem. In fact, had the Twins not signed him after his departure from the New York Yankees, there's no telling how ragged the rota-

tion would have been. Hughes had as many walks as wins, 16, while setting a major league record for strikeout-to-walk ratio, 11.63, among pitchers with a qualifying amount of innings.

"He obviously developed confidence as the year went on. You could see it just progress from month to month, start to start, and there's no reason to think that's not going to continue for him," manager Paul Molitor said. "We're going to put him up there at the top, and hopefully he'll kind of go from there."

The Twins gave Hughes a new contract through 2019 that added three years and \$42 million in guaranteed money to the \$24 million he

first got last season. They signed Ervin Santana for \$55 million over four years, too. The previous winter, they doled out deals to Ricky Nolasco (\$49 million, four years) and Mike Pelfrey (\$11 million, two years). That's what happens when a team ranks next-to-last (5.40 in 2012), last (5.26 in 2013) and last (5.06 in 2014) in the majors in starting pitching ERA over a three-season span.

Over the last five years, Santana averaged 12 wins, 207 innings and 164 strikeouts while making 30 or more starts each season. Kyle Gibson was Minnesota's second-best starter last year with a 4.47 ERA in 31 starts. So the Hughes-Santana-Gibson trio ought to form a solid if un-

spectacular trio.

The rest of the rotation is where the focus will be for the rest of spring training.

Nolasco faltered badly in his first American League season, allowing 203 hits in 159 innings while fighting through some forearm problems.

"That's behind us now. I think we need to move forward with Ricky and see if we can get him going because he's capable of throwing 200 innings and that would be very welcome here," general manager Terry Ryan said.

Then there's the five-way troyout for the fifth spot. Alex Meyer is the organization's top pitching prospect, poised for his major league debut. He's said he'd be fine starting

in the bullpen, but his talent and potential might be too much for Ryan, Molitor and pitching coach Neil Allen to keep out of the rotation.

"I'm 25 years old now, so I'm just going to go in there and do everything I can to try and force their hand," Meyer said.

Trevor May is another prospect, a bit ahead of Meyer in experience after making nine starts for the Twins last season but not as widely acclaimed by evaluators and thus likely headed for a return to Triple-A Rochester. After a winter's worth of yoga, May said he feels as strong as he's ever felt with better balance be-

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