

A student who is a member of a high school team may not participate in games, practice, tryouts, etc., in that particular sport during the same season on an independent or non-high school team or as a member of any 'All-Star' team, or completely unattached on an individual basis.

SDHSAA Constitution & Bylaws, Chapter II, Part I, Section 7

Suspended For An Intramural Game

Bon Homme Basketball Player's Story A Cautionary Tale About In-Season Participation

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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When the Bon Homme Cavaliers boys' basketball team takes to the floor in the Region 5A Tournament on Tuesday, senior guard Andrew Roland will be on the bench.

Not because he is a reserve or is injured, but because he helped a friend out by playing five minutes of an intramural game.

Roland's season was ended by a rule designed to keep student-athletes from playing on travel teams or all-star teams during their season.

"The penalty is very severe," said Wayne Carney, executive director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association. "That's why we continue to encourage athletic directors and coaches to continue to impress upon their athletes that they can't do these things."

The rule states that a student-athlete who participates for a high

school team "may not participate in games, practice, tryouts, etc., in that particular sport during the same season on an independent or non-high school team or as a member of any 'All-Star' team, or completely unattached on an individual basis." (From SDHSAA Constitution and Bylaws, Chapter II, Part I, Section 7)

According to Andrew's father, Rusty Roland, Andrew was at the Mount Marty-Dakota Wesleyan basketball games on Feb. 18, then stayed in Mitchell with friends as they planned to attend a "college day" at DWU the next day. A friend who already attends DWU had an intramural basketball game later that night, and the Bon Homme students went to the DWU rec center to watch that game. Another friend played the next game, and that friend's team had only five players available. Roland was asked to be a substitute to give those five a breather, and ended up playing five to seven minutes in the game.

Students with ties to another high school saw Roland playing in the intramural game, videotaped it and sent that to their coach, who forwarded it to the SDHSAA.

"We don't go out looking for them," Carney said. "If we hear about it, if someone calls us, then we get to be the 'bad guy.'"

The SDHSAA had informed Bon Homme athletic director Mike Duffek of the infraction and the penalty: Roland's season was over.

"Our AD came and told me about it," said Bon Homme boys' basketball coach Chris Gubbrud. "We sat down with Andrew, and he explained what he was doing."

"I don't think he was trying to gain a competitive advantage. He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Roland's appeal was heard earlier this week and was denied. A similar case involving a girls' basketball player in Rapid City was also heard that day with similar results. Carney

noted that three cases regarding the rule were heard in the fall, with two student-athletes being reinstated because of circumstances that were not known at the time of the suspension.

"They upheld the ruling but said that the infraction does not fit the penalty," Rusty Roland said. "They want the Activities Association to review the policy."

Rusty Roland also said that the appeal could have been taken to the full board of the SDHSAA, which meets next week, but that falls the day after the Cavaliers' first-round game. Barring an upset, Bon Homme's season could be over before then.

Without the senior starting guard, the Cavaliers will move on. They played their final regular season game with Roland on the bench, and will try to keep their season alive next week.

"He's a kid that started most of our games this season," Gubbrud said. "I wouldn't want to lose any kid that way, whether they were a starter

or not. "He's still a part of our team even if he can't participate. He'll still be on the bench."

While he is not angry with the SDHSAA for their decision, Rusty Roland is hoping they will take another look at the penalty for the infraction.

"The Activities Association does a great job for kids," he said. "But I don't think that (a season-long suspension) was the intent for the rule. There was no competitive advantage gained, and no intent to harm another team."

Gubbrud agreed. "Hopefully they take a look at it," he said. "If anything else, I hope this is a cautionary tale for other athletes."

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

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USD Women Clinch Share Of SL Title

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Eleven months ago, it was a post-season title. Now, the University of South Dakota women have added a regular season crown.

The fact that they might have to share it is all the motivation the Coyotes need to go out and capture the outright crown.

"We're definitely hungry after this win," said senior Nicole Seekamp, who scored 13 points in USD's 69-53 Summit League win over IUPUI on Thursday night at the DakotaDome.

"We really don't want to share it."

The first-place Coyotes (22-6, 12-3) can clinch the outright title with a win Saturday against Western Illinois — no matter what South Dakota State, which is one game back, does that day.

"I think we're ready for Saturday," said Coyote junior point guard Tia Hemmiller. "We know what it's going to take to win."

"We don't want to share it."

The performance Thursday from USD was a far cry from the first meeting in Indianapolis. That day, the Coyotes committed 21 turnovers and had their lowest offensive output (43) of the season.

That outcome was no doubt mentioned a couple times this week.

"(There were) some gentle reminders about that 25-point shellacking, and how that felt," joked head coach Amy Williams.

In response, the Coyotes were aggressive against a team that plays four girls who stand at least 6-foot. South Dakota had a 32-16 edge in points in the paint, and turned 17 IUPUI turnovers into 16 points.

For a team that consistently stresses defense, its coach lauded the attention to detail.

"I thought it was one of our best defensive performances of the year," Williams said. "We were focused and locked in on our defensive game plan. I'm extremely proud of the way we carried that out."

The game's only drama was limited to the opening minutes. The Coyotes built a double-digit lead late in the first half and never let the Jaguars (14-14, 9-6) within single digits for the game's final 24 minutes.

Though they didn't reach 80 points in a home game for the first time this season, the Coyotes were balanced. Seekamp led with 13 points, while senior Lisa Loeffler had 10 points, three others had nine points, and two reserves scored eight points.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota's Lisa Loeffler goes up for a shot against the defense of IUPUI's Mikale Rogers during their Summit League women's basketball game on Thursday at the DakotaDome.

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ESPN Expert: USD Could End Up As 14 Seed If Win SL Tourn.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Charlie Creme has spent 11 years projecting the NCAA women's basketball tournament for ESPN.

It's not always the easiest thing to do, but as he says, it's not a bad way to earn a living.



Creme

As you can imagine, it always leads to criticism from fans: 'Why do you have so-and-so as a 5 seed and not a 4?' and so on.

The way Creme tells it, "I don't have a dog in the fight. My only agenda is that I would be right."

In his most recent bracket projections, Creme has the University of South Dakota women as a No. 15 seed playing No. 2 Baylor in Waco, Texas.

A year ago, the Coyote women won the Summit League tournament and earned a 15 seed into the NCAA Tournament, where they were sent to Ames, Iowa, to play Stanford in the first round.

With a week until this year's Summit League tournament, Creme took time Thursday afternoon to chat with the Press & Dakotan about the NCAA Tournament selection process and where the USD women could find themselves if they repeat as league champions — hint, Iowa could be an option again.

Jeremy: What's the easiest way to describe how you go about projecting the field?

Charlie: What I try, as best as one person can, to do is mimic the process the committee goes through, and evaluate teams from the same criteria (top 25 wins, top 50 wins, road/neutral records, conference records). They have conversations about it and they take votes. My wife will substantiate that I have conversations with myself, or I'll talk to the TV or the dog (laughs), so I

Bloomfield Boys Upend Randolph For D1-6 Title

PIERCE, Neb. — Bloomfield outscored Randolph 15-10 in the fourth quarter to rally to a 34-33 victory over the defending state champion Cardinals in the championship of the Sub-District D1-6 boys' basketball tournament on Thursday.

The Bees now advance to the District D1-3 final on Tuesday.

Aaron Millikan and Cody Beckmann each had eight points for a balanced Bloomfield squad. Beckmann also had nine rebounds and three assists in the victory.

No statistics were reported

for Randolph, which finishes with a 15-6 record.

RANDOLPH (15-6).....5 14 23 33
BLOOMFIELD (15-8).....5 14 19 34

D2-3: Bancroft-Rosalie 43, Wynot 38

PONCA, Neb. — Bancroft-Rosalie claimed the Sub-District D2-3 boys' basketball tournament title with a 43-38 victory over Wynot in the championship game on Thursday.

The win advances the Panthers (25-1) to the District D2-2 final on Tuesday.

Ian Nottlemann had 12 points and seven rebounds to lead a balanced Bancroft-Rosalie attack. Kenneth Appleton Jr. netted 11 points and Mario Aldrich had 10 points in the victory.

For Wynot, Cody Stratman and Jalen Wieseler each had 11 points. Stratman also had four steals for the Blue Devils, who finish at 18-8.

BANCROFT-ROSALIE (25-1).....9 22 33 43

WYNOT (18-8).....11 17 28 38

C2-7: Hartington Cedar Catholic 73, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 38

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Cedar Catholic defeated Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 73-38 to win the Nebraska C2-7 boys' basketball tournament.

At this time there are no stats available for Hartington Cedar Catholic.

Dylan Wolgram scored 12 points for Laurel-Concord-Coleridge and Jayden Reiferrath added 11.

Cedar Catholic will play against the winner of the C2-8 tournament on Monday night.

LAUREL-CONCORD-COLE (8-16).....9 19 30 38
HARTINGTON CEDAR CATH. (17-7).....18 37 59 73

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EPJ, DV Advance To 4A Final

ELK POINT — Elk Point-Jefferson fought their way in to the 4A girls' basketball championship with a 47-45 win over Lennox on Thursday night.

McKenzie Mennenga put up 20 points to lead EPJ and also added five rebounds. Karlee Shatswell added 12 points and seven rebounds.

Taylor Weeldreyer, Jordan Kruse, and Courtney Weeldreyer all scored 11 points for EPJ.

Lennox ends their season with a 10-12 record while EPJ will face Dakota Valley in the A4 championship on Tuesday night in Vermillion.

LENNOX (10-12).....10 15 27 45
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (18-3).....12 18 33 47

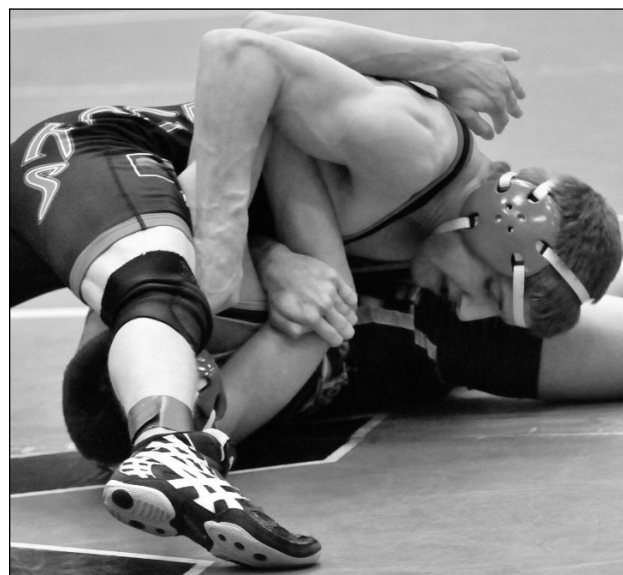
Dakota Valley 66, Beresford 45

ELK POINT — Dakota Valley defeated Beresford 66-45 on Thursday night to claim their spot in

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Yankton Sends Three To State 'A' Wrestling Today



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton's Spencer Huber tries to finish off Sioux City North's Alex Torno during their 126-pound quarterfinal at the Yankton Invitational wrestling tournament earlier this month. Huber, Cody Vornhagen and Brock Folkers will represent Yankton in the South Dakota State Class A Wrestling Tournament, beginning today (Friday) at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls.

Vermillion Qualifies Nine, Dakota Valley Three For Tournament

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Yankton Bucks will take three wrestlers to the South Dakota State Class A Wrestling tournament, which begins today (Friday) at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls. It is the first SDHSAA post-season event to be held in the recently-completed arena.

Juniors Spencer Huber, Cody Vornhagen and Brock Folkers will represent the Bucks in the event. While the Bucks would have liked to have more, Coach Ryan Hage can see the progress made in the past three months.

"We took 12, and 11 of them had an opportunity to win a match on the second day (of regions)," he said. "We're better today than we were in November, and everyone will be back in the (wrestling) room next year."

"I don't think anyone else in the state can say that."

As the trio of Bucks prepared for the tournament, their final preparations have been focused greatly on fitness.

"We want those guys to be able to push opponents to the breaking point," Hage said. "We want them to be able to earn some easy points in the third period, which increases the chances their hands will be raised after the match."

Folkers (195 pounds, 5-9) wrestled just 14 matches on the season due to injury.

"Brock had a shoulder injury in the first week of practice," Hage said. "I have to give a lot of credit to Brock. He was in the room every day or he was in the training room rehabbing his shoulder."

"This is his reward for it."

Folkers draws Sioux Falls Roosevelt sophomore Carter Carstens (37-13) in the opening round.

Vornhagen ranks second on the Bucks in victories, going 33-20 on the season. He will battle Belle Fourche junior Cody Tupper (42-8) in the opening round at 113 pounds.

"This is his best season so far. He's worked hard in the off-season to put himself in this position," Hage said.

"He's starting to get his confidence going. He will be a difficult opponent for anybody he comes across."

Spencer Huber (43-3), who set a school record with 47 victories a season ago (47-13), could tie that record if he wins a state title. Huber, who was sixth at 126 pounds a season ago, is ranked second at 43-3 and has beaten the top-ranked wrestler in the division, Pierre's Jebben Keyes in one of three meetings.

"One of Spencer's goals since he was little was winning a state title. He won multiple state titles as an AAU wrestler, and he wants to keep that tradition going," Hage said. "He's second-ranked and has beaten number one. Unfortunately that match could be in the semis."

Huber opens against Watertown sophomore Brady Bollinger (25-15). A matchup with Keyes would happen in the semifinals because of seeding of the four region champions is done randomly.

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