

Coyotes Not Focused On Hype Prior To State-U Showdown

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VERMILLION — Following interviews with local media, three members of the University of South Dakota men's basketball team were literally right back to work at practice.

Sure, there's a rivalry game this week, but life shuffles forward.

As much as possible, the Coyotes say they are trying to keep Thursday night's Summit League showdown with South Dakota State, the first in eight years, to exactly that — one game.

"The juices will be flowing, but you can't let the hype take over what the game is supposed to be about," USD senior Louie Krogman said. "You have to keep it in perspective.

A Rivalry Renewed



South Dakota and South Dakota State face each other in conference basketball action for the first time since 2004. Follow the coverage in print and online with the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan staff.

"Coach (Dave) Boots has a lot to do with that," he added. "He doesn't get too involved with the hype, and we feed off that."

Though it's not always that simple, Krogman added, especially considering the two programs haven't seen each other in eight years.

Despite the media attention, including two area TV stations and a print reporter on hand in Vermillion on Monday afternoon, the Coyotes (6-9, 1-5) can't afford to let the game become bigger than it is, according to their coach.

"I don't see any difference this week then we had last week, in the way we prepare and study film on the next opponent," said Boots, who is 19-15 against the Jackrabbits in his 24-year career at USD.

"We're not familiar with them and they're not familiar with us; we're at different stages."

Making the jump to the Division I ranks in 2004, SDSU initially struggled in its move. The Jackrabbits had seasons of 10, 9 and 6 wins in their transition, before going 8-21 in their first sea-

son in the Summit League in 2007-08.

An area of chief concern for SDSU during those early Summit League years was an 0-19 start to conference road games.

Life is different now for the post-season eligible Jacks, who are 13-5 overall and 5-1 in league play this season — leading Boots to call them a "complete team."

Still, SDSU knows the importance of not allowing the rivalry game balloon in importance, head coach Scott Nagy said.

"In a general sense, it's just another game; one of 18 we have to play," Nagy said Monday. "We can't make it more than it is. We can't throw all our eggs in one basket."

Asked about USD's trek through the transition waters, Nagy was quick to point out the

success the Coyotes have experienced. In its first four years at the D-I level, USD has put together a 66-43 record — including a Great West Conference title and a post-season berth in 2009-10.

"We didn't fare as well as they have, quite frankly," Nagy said. "They've won a lot more games and been more successful year to year. Maybe some of that is watching us go through it, but I think they've been pretty well equipped to go through it."

Year one in the Summit League has provided its share of frustrations for the Coyotes, however. USD lost its first five conference games before last Saturday's 19-point win at UMKC.

"They've (SDSU) been in for it for how long, so they're a lot farther along," Krogman said. "But

we're right there too. They've gotten a head start in the Summit, but after us winning the last game, we've got that in the back of our minds that we can win here."

The two teams haven't squared off since March 5, 2004, when the Coyotes won in the North Central Conference Tournament in Omaha, Neb. Both home team won the other two matchups that season.

Eight years later, the preparations for the Jackrabbits have not changed, Boots said.

"We've never been a program that lets those two games define our season," he said. "You've got to get through them and move on to the next ones. It's no different

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Second Half Slump Sinks Bucks

Boys' Basketball: Yankton Held To 4 FGs In Final 16 Minutes

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When the offensive production in the final 16 minutes is limited to four baskets, logic would dictate it's tough to have a good night.

In the case of the Yankton Bucks boys' basketball team, that was exactly the frustration at hand Tuesday night.

Holding Yankton to eight points on 18 percent shooting in the second half, Brookings dominated after halftime on the way to a 53-37 Eastern South Dakota Conference rout at the Summit Center.

At one point looking fluid and loose on offense, the Bucks (1-7) just as quickly faded back to their cold-shooting, turnover-prone ways.

"We talked before the game about which Bucks team would show up," Yankton coach Randy Gross said. "And I guess it was the same kind of stuff that's gotten us into trouble before."

"We're just too inconsistent right now, and at the varsity level, that hurts you."

In a span of seven minutes, spanning from the second to third quarters, the Bobcats (4-3) erased a 10-point deficit to pull in front for good.

In those final 16 minutes, Brookings out-scored Yankton 30-8 — proof that both teams looked different after halftime.

"That was definitely a tale of two halves, like you always hear about," Brookings coach Travis Engebretson said. "We didn't come out with much energy, but thankfully got it figured out in the last two (quarters)."

Up by only one point, 10-9, after the first quarter, the Bucks put together a 7-0 run to start the second quarter — leading 19-9.

Yankton led 29-19 with 2:24 to play before halftime, yet the Bobcats cut it to 29-23 at the break — slowing down the Bucks to do so.

"I thought we played well in the first half, especially getting a lot of guys involved," Gross said. "We built ourselves that nice lead, but it should've probably been more

going into halftime.

"The last thing we wanted to do is give them any momentum."

That offense that once looked efficient — shooting 55 percent in the first half — for Yankton came to a quick halt in the third quarter.

The only basket for the Bucks was a Jackson Seitzinger jumper at the 5:36 mark. Meanwhile, Brookings took advantage, including a pair of late threes — highlighted by a last-second trey by Landon Busch ahead of the horn to put the Bobcats ahead 37-31.

Things only got worse for Yankton in the fourth quarter.

Brookings ballooned a 6-point lead into a 16-point victory by the time the dust had settled.

Evidence that it was the Bobcats' night: Tanner Odegaard flipped a layup over his head and watched it roll in the basket with 45 seconds to go. He finished the night with 16 points, one of three Bobcats in double figures.

There was no such production for the Bucks.

"I'm not really sure what happened," Gross said. "It was like the lid was on the basket for us. But our guys got impatient again; forced some shots and make some mistakes."

Seitzinger led Yankton with 12 points, all coming in the first half. Jackson Pasco, Connor Vlasman and Connor Fitzsimmons all added six points.

Yankton, whose bench scored just four points, committed 16 turnovers.

"They got after us a little bit more in the second half, but still, we've got to make some baskets," Gross said. "We need to get that going here, moving forward."

Yankton begins its long road trip Friday night at Huron, followed by three straight non-conference games.

In sub-varsity action, Brookings rallied for a 49-42 JV victory. Michael Rucker led the Bucks with 13 points and Drew Konopasek added nine points.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Jackson Seitzinger slips between a pair of Brookings defenders for a shot attempt during the first quarter of their Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' basketball game on Tuesday at the Summit Center.

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ESD: Gazelles Hold Off Bobcats 34-29



TROY MARONEY/BROOKINGS REGISTER

Chloe Cornemann splits the defense of Brookings' Morgan Mahanke (40) and Emily Johnson to get off a jump shot during the third quarter of the Gazelles' 34-29 Eastern South Dakota Conference win over the Bobcats on Tuesday at Bob Jostad Gymnasium in Brookings.

BROOKINGS — The Yankton Gazelles struggled to make many shots in Brookings on Tuesday night, but a strong defensive showing lifted Yankton over Brookings for the second time this season.

The first time these teams met Yankton claimed a 55-31 season-opener win over Brookings. This meeting was drastically different as Yankton won 34-29 on Tuesday night to improve to 5-3 overall and 5-2 in Eastern South Dakota Conference play. Brookings falls to 1-7 overall and 1-6 in the ESD.

"We are pretty fortunate to walk out of the gym with a win," head coach Doug Pesicka said. "We shot 28 percent from the field and 40 percent from the free throw line while being out-rebounded, normally you don't win when all of those things happen."

Chloe Cornemann led the Gazelles with 17 points on 8-of-13 shooting. The rest of the Gazelles shot a combined 6-of-37 on the night.

"No doubt, Chloe carried us offensively," Pesicka said. "But we had some kids off the bench step it up for us defensively."

Yankton's defense and ability to take care of the ball were the main reasons for the victory. The Gazelles turned the ball over only six times while forcing 21 Brookings' turnovers, and also held every Bobcat player under 10 points.

"The flipside to the poor shooting was our defense," Pesicka said. "The kids grinded it out on a night when we were clearly not at our best."

Emily Fedders scored eight points on the night and grabbed five rebounds for Yankton. Brookings was led by Kaitlin Kwasniewski with nine points.

Pesicka spoke of what he feels would remedy the shooting problems that the Gazelles have

had in the past few outings.

"We need to shoot with confidence," Pesicka said. "We have a team that I believe can make some noise throughout the season and during tournament time, but we need to start having more confidence in our shots."

Pesicka also looked forward to their next game, which is a home game against Sioux Falls Lincoln on Saturday.

"Lincoln poses some problems. They are very good and have some players that will cause matchup problems. We will have to play very well to get a win."

Brookings swept all of the sub-varsity games on Tuesday.

The JV Bobcats won 47-42. Morgan Tessier led Yankton with 16 points and seven rebounds, and Whitelee Larson had 15 points and five rebounds.

In the Sophomore game Brookings won 40-32. Brooke Loecker led Yankton with seven points and four rebounds.

Brookings freshmen won 42-38. Andi Sprakel scored 16 points and grabbed six rebounds to lead Yankton. Madison Dangler had nine points and nine rebounds for the Gazelles.

YANKTON (5-3, 5-2 ESD)
Jenn Granfilaten 1-5 0-0 2, Chloe Cornemann 8-13 0-1 17, Tony Gross 2-10 0-2 4, Kelsey Fitzgerald 2-10 0-2 4, Emily Fedders 2-8 3-5 8, Audrey Fuks 0-5 0-0 0, Sarah Ekern 1-5 1-2 3, Courtney True 0-0 0-0 0, Vanessa Rockne 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 14-50 4-10 34.

BROOKINGS (1-7, 1-6 ESD)
Kaitlin Kwasniewski 2-9 4-5 9, Emily Johnson 1-8 0-0 3, Andee Weisbeck 0-3 4-6 4, Amelia Miller 0-5 0-0 0, Rachel Mielke 3-4 1-2 7, Melissa Knobloch 0-0 0-0 0, Kaitlyn Hadley 1-1 0-0 2, Lauren Coughlin 1-3 0-0 3, Morgan Mahanke 0-0 0-0 0, Margaret Chell 0-0 0-0 0, Alyssa Tvedt 0-2 1-2 1. Totals 8-31 10-15 29.

YANKTON 13 19 30 34
BROOKINGS 6 14 24 29

3-point goals — Y 2-5 (Granfilaten 0-3, Cornemann 1-2, Fedders 1-3, Fuks 0-1); B 3-9 (Kwasniewski 1-2, Johnson 1-2, Miller 0-2, Coughlin 1-3). Rebounds — Y 29 (Fitzgerald 5, Fedders 5, True 5); B 36 (Miller 9). Assists — Y 8 (Granfilaten 2, Cornemann 2, Fedders 2); B 7 (Johnson 3). Steals — Y 11 (Fedders 3); B 3 (Coughlin 2). Blocks — Y 2 (Fitzgerald, Fedders). Turnovers — Y 6; B 21. Total fouls — Y 14; B 14. Fouled out — None.

Marion Girls Clip Freeman Academy

FREEMAN — Katherine Luke and Devin Nelson led the Marion Bears to a 47-37 girls' basketball triumph over District 7 rival Freeman Academy on Tuesday night in Freeman.

Luke scored 17 points, while Nelson chipped in with 11 points and four steals. Erica Schoenwald added 10 rebounds and four steals of her own for the Bears.

Kylie Hughes added four assists and four steals for Marion (2-6).

Freeman Academy (2-5) was led by Jaime Tschetter's double-double of 12 points and 11 rebounds, to go along with five blocks.

Marion returns to Freeman on Thursday to play Freeman. Freeman Academy travels to Corsica on Friday to face Dakota Christian.

CANISTOTA 35, Gayville-Volin 24
GAYVILLE — The Canistota Hawks outscored the Gayville-Volin Raiders 15-4 in the final quarter to score a victory on the road, 35-24.

Canistota was led by Haley Jerman's 13 points and Chloe Nielsen contributed nine points.

Gayville-Volin was led by Rachel Haas with 10 points and Maggie Bertrand with nine points and seven re-

bounds.

Up next for the Hawks is a home game against Marion on Saturday, while GV travels to Hurley to face Viborg-Hurley on Thursday.

CANISTOTA (4-5) 7 11 20 35
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (1-9) 6 16 20 24

Vermillion 54, Madison 39
VERMILLION — The halftime score was tied at 24 between the Vermillion Tanagers and the Madison Lady Bulldogs before a furious second half by Vermillion concluded with a 54-39 win over Madison.

Vermillion's scoring was led by Lexi Regnerus with 16 points. Kelly Amundson ended the night with 12 points and nine rebounds, while Val Robinson added 11 points and four steals.

Madison was led by Holly Fiegen with 14 points, Chloe Nordling with 11 points, and Bailey Milne with nine points, eight rebounds, and four assists.

Vermillion now looks forward to a home matchup against Lennox on Thursday. Madison's next action will be at Flandreau on Friday.

MADISON (1-8) 7 24 29 39
VERMILLION (7-1) 16 24 43 54

Bon Homme 51, South Central 14
BONESTEEL — The Bon Homme Lady Cavaliers outscored South Central 43-4 after the opening period of a 51-14 victory over the Cougars on Tuesday.

South Central led 10-8 after one quarter, then was held scoreless in each of the next two periods.

Raquel Sutera notched 25 points and seven rebounds to lead Bon Homme.

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