

MMC Guard Has Foes Hopping

Ackelson Helps Lancers Get Back In GPAC Mix

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Mitch Ackelson isn't the first product of a pipeline between a small school in Wyoming and Mount Marty College, but he is undoubtedly the most productive.

Though there are some situations where people say 'stats don't tell the whole story,' it's also true in Ackelson's case. But for good measure, his numbers back up his impact.

"I've always been competitive. I don't like to lose," said Ackelson, a Fort Collins, Colo. native who came to Yankton after a year at an NCAA Division II school and two seasons at Northwest Community College in Wyoming.

"I've tried to do everything I can to help the team, no matter what it is."

A senior transfer at point guard, Ackelson has provided a blend of leadership, competitive fire and unique talents — think: Do-it-all — to guide the Mount Marty men this season.

The Lancers sit 9-10 overall and 5-7 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) prior to today's (Saturday) 4 p.m. showdown at Midland University.

One of the keys to those records? Ackelson's knack for never slowing down or coasting.

"We like players who get after it and play hard, and he certainly does that," MMC coach Jim Thorson said. "He's a great example on the floor. He brings it every day in practice and in games."

The area in particular where Ackelson surprised his new team was rebounding.

Sure, Ackelson leads the Lancers in assists (3.4) and steals (2.3), and ranks fourth in scoring (10.4), but he also leads the team in rebounding (9.3).

Yes, the 6-foot guard is not only his team's best rebounder, but ranks 12th nationally.

"It's more of just hitting the glass every single time; catching those point guards napping," Ackelson said. "It puts a little pressure on them, because they're not used to that."

"The harder you go, the more rebounds you'll get."

Positioning and luck plays a key role in rebounding, too, but it's one stat dependent on effort, Thorson said.

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P&D FILE PHOTO

Mount Marty senior point guard Mitch Ackelson, 10, squares up a Morningside ball handler during a home game earlier this season. The transfer leads MMC in assists, steals and rebounding, and currently leads the Great Plains Athletic Conference with 9.3 rebounds per game.

SDSU Women Roll Past North Dakota State

FARGO, N.D. — Four South Dakota State Jackrabbits reached double-figures as SDSU handled the North Dakota State Bison in Fargo, claiming an 88-52 Summit League win over the Bison.

Leading the Jackrabbits with 20 points and seven rebounds was Ashley Eide. Jennie Sunnarborg scored 17 points, and Rachel Walters and Steph Paluch each scored 10 points.

North Dakota State was led by Janae Burich's 12 points, and Danielle Muri tallied 10 points and six rebounds.

WAYNE STATE 70, WINONA STATE 64, OT. WINONA, Minn. — Ashley Arlen posted 21 points and 16 rebounds, and went over 1,000 points for her career as No. 10 Wayne State escaped Winona State 70-64 in Northern Sun women's basketball action Friday.

Eva Benson scored 13 points and Ashton Yossi netted 11 points off the bench for Wayne State (16-2, 10-2 NSIC). Alisha

Brown added seven assists off the bench in the win.

For Winona State (11-7, 6-6 NSIC), Michelle McDonald scored 22 points and Becca Frestleben added 20 points, hitting six three-pointers.

SIoux FALLS 94, S.D. MINES 60: SIOUX FALLS — The University of Sioux Falls put five players in double figures in a 94-60 victory over S.D. Mines in women's basketball action Friday.

Elizabeth Hildreth scored 17 points on 6-7 shooting to lead USF (11-2). Jamey Hofer had the Cougars' first double-double of the season, finishing with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Vanessa Johnson and Alyssa Rushton each had 13 points. Hollie Aggen added 10 points and seven assists.

Also for USF, Maggie Malloy (Parkston) had six points and five rebounds, and Chrissy Strassburg (Elk Point) had four points.

Hillary Hawkins led Mines (8-8) with 18 points. Justine Blade added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Men

WINONA STATE 61, WAYNE STATE 47: WINONA, Minn. — Winona State shot 71.4 percent in the second half to pull away to

a 61-47 victory over Wayne State in Northern Sun men's action Friday.

Winona State (16-2, 11-1 NSIC) shot 15-21 from the field in the second half to break a 26-all tie at halftime.

Taylor Cameron scored 20 points and Zander Culver had 16 points on 6-7 shooting to lead Winona State. Grant Johnson added 12 points in the win.

Amny Shelby led Wayne State (4-12, 3-9 NSIC) with 15 points. Derrell Williams scored 12 points and Vontrell Seroyer added 11 points for the Wildcats, who were limited to two points of bench scoring.

SIoux FALLS 85, S.D. MINES 65: SIOUX FALLS — Scotland native Skyler Bloch went 6-7 from the field and from the line, finishing with 19 points to lead Sioux Falls to an 85-65 victory over South Dakota Mines in men's basketball action Friday.

Parkston native David Maxwell had 12 points for USF (9-7). Platte native Keith Cutler and James Rader each had 11 points. Derek Brown added 10 points in the win.

For Mines (9-8), Tanner Friesen scored 19 points to lead the way. Tommy Smith, Kyle Doerr, Lucas Nolan and Caleb Shockman each had 10 points.

Scotland Girls Bounce Black Panthers 57-48

SCOTLAND — The Scotland Highlanders improved to 9-3 on the season with a 57-48 home victory over the Platte-Geddes Black Panthers, 57-48.

Haley Brunke led the Highlanders with 13 points. Ashley Alvey compiled a full stat sheet with 10 points, seven rebounds, four assists, and five steals.

The Black Panthers received 22 points, five rebounds, and four steals from Josie DeGroot.

Scotland claimed the junior varsity meeting between the teams, 36-25, and the Highlanders claimed a C-Game victory 30-19.

Platte-Geddes will play at Parkston on Tuesday, and Scotland will play Bridgewater-Emery in Emery on Tuesday.

PLATTE-GEDDES (6-8)10 27 36 48
SCOTLAND (9-3)19 30 44 57

the season when they travel to Scotland on Jan. 27. Avon will play South Central in Burke on Tuesday.

AVON (6-4)7 19 26 32
WAGNER (14-0)23 40 56 71

Crofton 62, Plainview 38

PLAINVIEW, Neb. — After holding a 10-point lead at halftime, the Crofton Warriors added 14 more points to their lead over the Plainview Pirates in the third quarter to extend their lead to 24 points before the fourth quarter. By the end of the night Warriors held a 62-38 advantage when the final buzzer sounded.

Crofton was led by Kelsey Foxhoven with 17 points and eight rebounds, and Allison Arens with 10 points and seven assists. Maria Wortmann grabbed 12 rebounds.

The Pirates were led by Brittany White with 17 points and D-J Hart with 12 points.

Crofton won the junior varsity matchup 36-16.

Plainview will play at Hartington on Tuesday, and Crofton will play at Pierce on Jan. 26.

CROFTON (12-3)9 21 46 62
PLAINVIEW (6-9)6 11 22 38

varsity match as they beat Menno 50-35.

Freeman will have to bounce back right away as they play St. Francis on the road today (Saturday). Menno gets a short break as they will play at the Combelt Classic in Freeman on Jan. 28.

FREEMAN (9-3, 4-0)16 30 40 54
MENNO (5-9, 1-3)7 13 23 32

Elkhorn Valley 59, Creighton 47

CREIGHTON — Elkhorn Valley pushed their season record to 15-1 with a 59-47 victory over Creighton on Friday night.

Creighton jumped out to a 17-8 first-quarter lead and led 31-21 at the half, but it was all Elkhorn Valley after that as the Bulldogs were outscored 38-16 in the second half.

Becca Eggerling had 29 points and eight rebounds to lead Creighton.

Elkhorn Valley will host West Boyd today (Saturday). Creighton, 4-10, plays at Niobrara-Verdigre today (Saturday).

ELKHORN VALLEY (15-1)8 21 38 59
CREIGHTON (4-10)17 31 35 47

Betsy Thomas led Sergeant Bluff-Luton (11-3) with 20 points.

EP-J hosts Akron-Westfield on Tuesday.

SERGEANT BLUFF-LUTON (11-3)12 33 45 61
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (2-10)9 19 39 49

Tri-Valley 52, Dak. Val. 30

COLTON — Tri-Valley improved to 10-3 this season with a 52-30 victory over Dakota Valley on Friday in Colton.

Nicole Fritz led the Mustangs with 15 points. Allison Cross added 11.

Dakota Valley was led by Abbie Huber's eight points. Callie Frisch scored five and added five rebounds for the Panthers.

Tri-Valley hosts Harrisburg tonight (Saturday). Dakota Valley, 5-5, plays Pine Ridge today (Saturday) at the Dakota Valley Classic.

DAKOTA VALLEY (5-5)10 16 23 30
TRI-VALLEY (10-3)17 31 42 52

Central-Montrose Fighting Cougars 50-40 on Friday night.

Kelly Johanson contributed 13 points for Flandreau and Makayla Dietrich added 10 points and five rebounds to push the Filers to a win.

MCM was led by Sierra Miles with nine points and 11 rebounds, and Katie Binder with nine points and nine rebounds.

Flandreau will now host Parker today (Saturday), and the Fighting Cougars play at Freeman on Monday.

FLANDREAU (4-7)9 28 36 50
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (4-7)12 24 29 40

S.F. Lincoln 54, Huron 35

HURON — The SF Lincoln Patriots displayed a defensive dominance on Friday night holding the Huron Tigers to 22 points in the first three quarters, and only 35 points for the night. SF Lincoln eventually won 54-35.

The Patriots were led by a big night from Darby Hugin with 27 points. Cera Ledbetter ended with 13 points for SF Lincoln.

Huron was led by Katelyn Allerding with nine points.

SF Lincoln will now look forward to their matchup at in-city rival SF Washington on Jan. 24. Huron will also take the floor again on Jan. 24 as they will host Pierre.

SF LINCOLN (5-4)15 25 41 54
HURON (0-11)6 14 22 35

Thursday

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 56, Battle Creek 27

BATTLE CREEK, Neb. — Audrey Kastrup and Mandy Nelson combined for 31 points to lead Laurel-Concord-Coleridge to a 56-27 victory over Battle Creek in girls' basketball action on Thursday.

Kastrup finished with 17 points and Nelson had 14 points and four steals for LCC. Jade Cunningham added six rebounds.

Kylee Daum led Battle Creek with 10 points and six rebounds.

LCC, 10-4 and winners of three straight, travels to West Holt today (Friday). Battle Creek, 1-11, hosts Pierce Saturday.

LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE (10-4)13 19 40 56
BATTLE CREEK (1-11)6 12 14 27

Flandreau 50, MCM 40

SALEM — The Flandreau Filers, behind 16 points and seven rebounds from Brooke Relf, topped the McCook

VAST SWIMMERS SHINE

ALLI ALLISON/ SUBMITTED PHOTO

Several members of the Vermillion Area Swim Team were the high-point winners in their age group at the Sioux City Tri-State meet, held Jan. 15 in Sioux City, Iowa. Honorees include (front) Gabe Telleria (boys' 8 and under champ), Megan Muriuki (girls' 9-10 champ), Abril Telleria (girls' 11-12 champ), Tally Allison (girls' 8 and under champ), (back) Jacob Krier (boys' 15-16 champ) and VAST Head Coach Mike Moran. Not pictured is Kylie Martin, girls' 17-18 champ.



Tigers Power Past BV; Groton Sweeps Quad In Arlington

HURON — The Huron Tigers won seven straight decisions in the middle weights to defeat Brandon Valley 49-20 in an Eastern South Dakota Conference wrestling dual on Friday.

Huron's Michael Johnson won at 132 pounds to begin the streak for the Tigers, who got consecutive technical falls from Cain Glanzer (138) and Mackenzie Harvey (145).

Brandon Valley got wins from Adam Presler (113), Josh Miller (120), Grant Dougherty (126) and Colin Wible (195).

HURON 49, BRANDON VALLEY 20: 106 — Wyatt Shillingstad H pin, Connor Rowbotham 3:29; 113 — Adam Presler BV dec, Chet Glanzer 4-2; 120 — Josh Miller BV tech, fall Jesse Mikrut 15-0; 126 — Grant Dougherty BV pin, Tyler Skogstad 5:14; 132 — Michael Johnson H dec, Connor Smith 8-3; 138 — Cain Glanzer H tech, fall Braden Hiedbrink 19-2; 145 — Mackenzie Harvey H tech, fall Mike Frazer 22-6; 152 — Reagan Francom H dec, Wyatt Winter 8-1; 160 — Hartmann Katz H dec, Gabe Langner 9-3; 170 — Austin Meyers H pin, Austin Eigeberg 2:54; 189 — Tyler Kleinsasser H by forfeit; 195 — Colin Wible BV pin, Dustin French 3:20; 220 — Matt Halter H pin, Clayton Ebright 3:02; 285 — Raleigh Jungmann H pin, Josiah McGee 5:20

Arlington Quad

ARLINGTON — The Groton Area Tigers rolled to three lopsided wins in a wrestling quadrangular Friday in Arlington.

Groton Area defeated Lyman County 55-12, Sioux Valley 63-10 and Kingsbury County 66-15.

Kingsbury County finished 2-1 at the quad, while Sioux Valley was 1-2. Lyman County was the only winless team in the event.

Compton Named FCS Lineman Of The Year

PHILADELPHIA — University of South Dakota senior offensive tackle Tom Compton was named FCS Lineman of the Year by the College Sports Journal, as part of the publication's first FCS All-America team Thursday.

Other top honors went to Rob Ambrose of Towson as Coach of the Year and Georgia Southern's Laron Scott as Special Teams Player of the Year.

North Dakota State's Preston Evans, a Sioux Falls native, was chosen in a tough vote as the playoff Most Valuable Player after leading the Bison to their first national championship at the Division I level.

Compton left his mark on a South Dakota program that is transitioning to full Division I status. He anchored an offensive line for the Coyotes that rushed for 3,694 yards and threw for 1,954 yards.

The 6-foot-6, 314-pound blocker is considered one of the top offensive line prospects from FCS for the NFL Draft, with the potential to be selected as high as the fifth round, and will be playing in the prestigious East-West Shrine all-star game today (Saturday) in St. Petersburg, Fla. He is the only Great West Conference player selected for the contest.

Johnson Powers Platte-Geddes Past Lennox

PLATTE — Cody Johnson's 16 points and five rebounds led Platte-Geddes past Lennox 56-51 on Friday night in boys' basketball action in Platte.

Cody Wagner scored 14 and pulled down five rebounds for the Black Panthers. Richard Sternberg and Tate Van Zee each added 10 for Platte-Geddes.

Dusty Javers scored 19 points to lead the Orioles.

Platte-Geddes, 8-1, plays Clark-Willow lake today (Saturday) at the Hanson Classic in Mitchell.

Lennox, 6-4, hosts Parkston on Thursday.

Lennox won the JV game.

LENNOX (6-4)13 21 36 51
PLATTE-GEDDES (8-1)16 25 37 56

Dakota Valley 63, Tri-Valley 52

COLTON — The Dakota Valley Panthers topped the Tri-Valley Mustangs, 63-52, in a battle of the "Valley's" held in Colton.

The score was tied at 31-31 during halftime, but a 20-4 third quarter run by Dakota Valley decided the game.

Blake Van Ginkel led the Panthers with 14 points. Blake Nesje added 12 points and eight rebounds, and Brock Bergman reached a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Tri-Valley was led by Kenton Welbig with 19 points. Trae Bergh scored 12 points, and Kyle Erickson had 10 points.

Dakota Valley plays Pine Ridge in North Sioux City today (Saturday), and Tri-Valley will host Harrisburg today.

DAKOTA VALLEY (8-1)14 31 51 63
TRI-VALLEY (5-5)14 31 52

Sergeant Bluff-Luton 53, Elk Point-Jefferson 49

ELK POINT — Cole Croston of Sergeant Bluff-Luton, Iowa scored with 57 seconds left in the game to give SB-L the lead for good and a road win over the Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies.

Elk Point-Jefferson held a six point lead heading into the final quarter of the game.

SB-L was led by Cole Croston with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Ryan Gase chipped in 11 points and five steals in the winning effort.

The Huskies were led by a strong showing from Brock Zeller with 22 points and four steals. Tyler Koupal ended with 14 points for the EP-J.

The Huskies will take on another Iowa opponent as they face Akron-Westfield in Elk Point on Tuesday.

SERGEANT BLUFF-LUTON5 19 29 53
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (5-6)12 26 35 49

Wausa 75, Winside 27

WAUSA, Neb. — Wausa improved to 12-4 on the year with a 75-27 thrashing of Winside Friday.

Junior Marcus Claussen led the Vikings with 21 points, eight rebounds and four steals. Spencer Rosberg added 10 points for Wausa.

Wausa, 12-4, plays at Clearwater-Orchard on Thursday. Winside, 2-13, travels to Hartington on Thursday to take on the Wildcats.

WINSIDE (2-13)4 12 19 27
WAUSA (12-4)18 31 58 75

Creighton 60, Elkhorn Valley 53

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Ryan Mittes scored 26 points to lead Creighton to a 60-53 victory over Elkhorn Valley on Friday night in Creighton.

Kory Wagner added 10 points for the Bulldogs (12-2).

Creighton goes on the road today (Saturday) to play Niobrara-Verdigre. Elkhorn Valley, 7-9, hosts West Boyd today (Saturday).

ELKHORN VALLEY (7-9)8 16 34 53
CREIGHTON (12-2)21 27 45 60

Bridgewater-Emery 77, Gayville-Volin 37

BRIDGEWATER — Bridgewater-Emery raced out to a 32-8 first-quarter lead on the way to a 77-37 win over Gayville-Volin on Friday night in Bridgewater.

Bridgewater-Emery (8-3) was led by Clayton Dye's 19 points, 13 rebounds and seven blocks. Jacob Schweitzer scored 14 points for the Huskies while Seth Wethor added 12 points, 11