

Nation's Top Sharp-Shooters Face Off Tonight



MELISSA WINTEMUTE/DAKOTA WESLEYAN
Dakota Wesleyan guard Amanda Hart, 20, leads NAIA Division II with 80 three-pointers made this season, an average of 3.64 made per game.

BY JILANNE DOOM
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Out of 130 participating schools and over 2,000 athletes in NAIA Division II women's basketball, two South Dakota natives rank number one and two in the nation in three pointers per game. Dakota Wesleyan's Amanda Hart ranks number one and Mount Marty's Taylor Forsch sits at the number two spot.

At number one, Hart, a sophomore guard from Alexandria, has sunk 80 3-pointers in 22 games so far this season, averaging 3.64 per game.

Currently leading the Tigers in scoring with 269 total points, Hart said that the 3-ball is a large part of her game.

"It always has been," Hart said. "There's been times when I've tried to develop different parts of my game, but I kind of always go back to the three because it's just what has always worked for me."

The two will face each other in a Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) showdown tonight (Wednesday) as Dakota Wesleyan travels to Yankton to face MMC (12-9, 7-6) at 6 p.m. at Laddie E. Cimpr Arena.

Last season as a freshman, Hart ended the year ranked 13th in NAIA Division II for 3-pointers made with 83 in 31 games. This season she has nearly tied that mark with nine regular season games left for the Tigers.

"Lately, I've just been trying to concentrate on

moving without the ball a little better. Last year I just let myself shoot within the offense we were in and this year I'm shooting a lot more in transition," Hart said.

According to Head Coach Jason Christensen of DWU (13-9), Hart is valuable to the team in other aspects as well as her long range shot.

"Of course she can make shots; that helps us out when the ball is going in, but she does a lot of other things," Christensen said. "She is probably one of our better passers on the team and overall she has a really good basketball IQ."

Forsch, a junior guard from Baltic, ranks number two after hitting 67 three's in 20 games, averaging 3.35 treys per game.

"In my freshman and sophomore years I was always told to shoot, shoot, and shoot. To me that meant to shoot the 3-ball," Forsch said. "It's always been a big part of my game to shoot three's."

Forsch, who is also ranked 10th in the NAIA in 3-point field goal percentage at 42 percent, is excited about the new role she will play for the Lancers this season.

"Before the season even started, the coaches told me that I have a bigger role on the team this year and that I will have to come up with more scoring, and that was fine with me," Forsch said. "Last year I



P&D FILE PHOTO
Mount Marty guard Taylor Forsch ranks second in NAIA Division II with 67 three-pointers, an average of 3.35 per game.

SHOOTERS | PAGE 9

MMC Hall To Induct Four

Teresa (Ellis) Jensen, Jason Selchert, Aaron Kranz and Dr. Rich Lofthus have been selected for induction into the Mount Marty College Lancer Athletic Hall of Fame, the institution announced Tuesday.

The four will be introduced during halftime of the Nebraska Wesleyan at MMC men's basketball game, Jan. 28, at Laddie E. Cimpr Arena. The formal induction ceremony will be held Sunday, May 6, on the MMC campus.

Jensen, a 1994 graduate, was an outstanding two-sport star for the Lancers. In volleyball, she was part of one of the most successful two year runs in Lancer volleyball history, winning 57 matches, just missing a berth in the NAIA National Tournament in 1993. She still owns six volleyball records, including the most assists and digs in a season. In basketball, Jensen was on the career charts in seven different categories at the time of graduation. Two times she was named All-Conference in both sports and was named All-District in volleyball in both 1992 and 1993.

A 1996 graduate, Selchert was a tremendous two-sport star for the Lancers. He started in 285 contests for the Lancers from 1992 to 1996. His senior season he saw the Lancers win South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference Championships in both baseball and basketball. Selchert's baseball career included helping the Lancers win 133 games; the most wins in any four year period for any sport. Currently, he is among the top four in Lancer history in 9 of the 13 career statistical categories; including the record for runs scored. Selchert was named All-Conference and to the All-Region Team during his career and in 1995 he was named the NAIA Midwest Region Player of the Year. In basketball, he currently is on the Lancer's top 10 career charts in six categories.

A 1999 graduate, Kranz was one of the most outstanding basketball players to ever play the game for the Lancers. On teams that were among the most successful in Lancer history, Aaron was an integral part. These teams won 79 games over a four year period, from 1995 to 1999, which included two conference championships and an NAIA National Championship Final 4 team. Currently, Aaron is still on the career charts in seven statistical categories, including 6th in points scored, and 2nd in field goal percentage. Aaron led the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference in scoring, was named the conference's Most Valuable Player, and was named 2nd Team All-American his senior year. He was also named to the



Jensen



Selchert



Kranz

MMC HALL | PAGE 9

Kernels Power Past YHS



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Emily Fedders, left, goes up for a layup against Mitchell's Dana Misiaszek during the first half of their Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' basketball game Tuesday at the Summit Center.

Girls' Basketball: Top-Ranked Mitchell Surges In Second Half To 62-52 Win

BY JEREMY HOECK
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As was the case in the first meeting between the two teams, Mitchell used a strong second half to run past the Yankton Gazelles.

Though this time featured a potent 1-2 punch for the victors.

Top-ranked Mitchell used a 15-1 run in the third quarter to beat Yankton 62-52 in an ESD girls' showdown Tuesday night at the Summit Center.

Sure, the Kernels (12-1) got 24 points from senior Kerri Young, but it was Macy Miller who gave the Gazelles the bigger headache.

Miller, a sophomore who didn't play in the first meeting in Mitchell, scored 21 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

"I told coach (Wes) Morgan before the game that he's got arguably two of the top players in all of basketball," Yankton coach Doug Pesicka said. "Those two get a lot done and are difficult to stop."

"We had the kids we wanted guarding them, and they did a good job, but it's hard to slow them down."

When the teams met Dec. 20 at the Corn Palace, Mitchell broke through a 2-point halftime lead to score a 14-point victory.

Tuesday night, it was more of the same for the Gazelles — who led 35-34 at halftime but trailed 50-43 after three quarters.

"I thought we started really well, but we have to work on finishing games," said senior Chloe Cornemann, who scored 10 points. "We've got to play all the way to the end; can't have let-ups like this."

Not even a hot start from the Gazelles played a huge role.

Yankton hit four of its first six three-pointers to jump ahead 16-9 in the first quarter. From there, Young personally got the Kernels back in the game, scoring nine straight points to put Mitchell ahead 18-16 — the game was tied at 18 after one quarter.

The high-scoring affair continued in the second, as Yankton jumped in front 32-27 on a jumper and free throw by Sarah Ekeren.

Mitchell came back to tie the game, but the Gazelles led 35-34 at halftime.

"The way we came out right away, I thought, 'EGood, we're going to have one of those nights,'" Cornemann said. "But we didn't do a good job keeping the pressure on."

After a Tory Gross free throw tied the game at 40 midway through the third quarter, the Kernels took complete control.

Down by five points in the third quarter, Mitchell reeled off a 15-1 run to jump in front 49-40, simultaneously taking over on offense and shutting down the Gazelles.

Yankton, which shot nearly 50 percent in the first half, was suddenly cold — especially in the fourth quarter.

The Gazelles started 1-of-10 from the field in the final quarter, and the Kernels made them pay. The Mitchell lead reached double figures, 56-45, on a layup and free throw by Young with 2:00 to play.

Yankton shot 32 percent in the second half, including a pair of baskets with under 30 seconds to play.

"It's hard to figure," Pesicka said. "When we don't shoot well, we tend to lose our focus. It's kind of a mental thing, and it affects other parts of the game."

The Gazelles put four players in double figures, led by 14 points from Emily Fedders. Cornemann, Mikala Hora and Kelsey Fitzgerald all added 10 points.

Yankton's 5-game homestand continues Thursday night against Sioux Falls O'Gorman. The Knights (8-5) have been one of the hottest teams in the state, with six wins in their last seven games — prior to Tuesday night's action.

"Our schedule's always going to be tough, especially this year," Cornemann said. "You literally can't take a game off, it's that good."

In sub-varsity action, Mitchell won the JV game 42-37 behind 21 points and 11 rebounds from Tay-

GAZELLES | PAGE 9

Bucks Split Triangular At Madison

MADISON — The Yankton Bucks wrestlers fell just short of a sweep of SF Roosevelt and Madison in a pair of duals held in Madison on Tuesday.

Yankton lost to SF Roosevelt 34-33. Matt Huber, Jordan Lightner, and Royce Reisner all scored pins in the dual, but the Bucks fell just short after a few mental lapses.

Yankton then easily handled the Madison Bulldogs in their dual, 47-19.

"We wrestled well tonight," Yankton Head Coach Ryan Hage said. "We came out with a little more intensity than usual."

Hage then spoke about the close loss to SF Roosevelt.

"We lost focus in a couple places, and that loss of focus cost us a few matches. The lost matches then turned into the lost dual."

"We just weren't able to convert when we needed to."

Hage felt that the experience in

Madison would be beneficial for his team.

"We just need to work on wrestling for a whole six minutes. If we can do that then we will win those close matchups."

Yankton will now travel to Brookings for the Brookings Invitational.

"It will be a very difficult tournament," Hage said. "It will be a nice break from all of the duals, it is set-up the same as the state tournament."

Hage then spoke of how this tournament can serve as a warm-up for the state tournament.

"Our wrestlers will get a chance to see how they stack up against the best in the state," Hage said. "They will get to see teams and wrestlers from around the state and around the region that they have not yet seen."

The Brookings Invitational takes place on Saturday, with a start time of 9 a.m.

Ethan Girls Escape Freeman Academy 40-37

FREEMAN — The Freeman Academy Bobcats put up a mighty effort against the Ethan Rustlers on Tuesday night, but eventually fell short 40-37 in Freeman.

The Bobcats entered the game with a 2-8 record while Ethan was 10-2.

The Rustlers were led by Shelly Tilberg with 18 points and 13 rebounds. Darbi Gustafson added 12 points and four assists for Ethan.

Freeman Academy was led by Jamie Tschetter's double-double, 10 points, 15 rebounds, and five blocks. Natalie Miller contributed 13 points in the loss.

Ethan will now turn their focus to their road matchup at Mitchell Christian on Thursday. Freeman Academy also takes the road on Thursday, they will play Irene-Wakonda in Wakonda.

ETHAN (11-2)	8	22	29	40
FREEMAN ACADEMY (2-9)	10	18	25	37

Parkston 74, Platte-Geddes 52
PARKSTON — Marie Malloy and Erica Herold teamed up to pour in 47 combined points as the Parkston Trojans rolled past the Platte-

Geddes Black Panthers 74-52 on Tuesday.

Malloy ended the night with 29 points for the Trojans, who now hold an 8-3 record overall. Herold ended with 18 points on the night.

Leading the way for Platte-Geddes was Shelby Rabenberg with 16 points, and Josie DeGroot added 12 points for the Black Panthers.

Platte-Geddes pulled out a close win in the junior varsity matchup between the teams, 35-33.

Up next for Parkston is a home game against Avon on Friday. Platte-Geddes will be in Hartford to play West Central on Saturday.

PLATTE-GEDDES (6-8)	13	31	40	52
PARKSTON (8-3)	20	41	59	74

Elk Point-Jefferson 61, Akron-Westfield 34
ELK POINT — The Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies, behind 30 points from Keely Bertram, rolled past the visiting Akron-Westfield Westerners of Iowa, 61-34.

Bertram also added six rebounds and five steals in the lopsided Huskies' victory. Audrey Truhe posted 18 points and three assists for EPJ.

Leading the Westerners was Monica Harvey with eight points.

The Huskies will now travel to Colton to take on Tri-Valley on Friday. Akron-Westfield will host South O'Brien on Thursday.

AKRON-WESTFIELD (4-12)	8	17	27	34
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ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (3-10)	18	28	46	61
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Irene-Wakonda 50, Marion 45
MARION — The Marion Bears were held to one point in the fourth quarter as the Irene-Wakonda Eagles came from behind to steal away a road victory from the Bears, 50-45.

The Eagles trailed 44-40 heading into the fourth quarter.

Haley Hinseth fueled the I-W victory with 20 points and 14 rebounds.

Kylie Hughes ended the game with 16 points and four steals to lead Marion. Katherine Luke ended with 10 points and four assists for the Bears.

Irene-Wakonda also took the JV game 31-10.

Marion will play next on Saturday against Menno in the Cornbelt Classic, hosted in Freeman. Irene-Wakonda will host Freeman Academy on Thursday in Wakonda.

IRENE-WAKONDA (6-7)	8	25	40	50
MARION (1-11)	12	31	44	45

Plainview 48, Hartington 25
HARTINGTON, Neb. — The Plainview Pirates traveled to Hartington on Tuesday to take on the Wildcats, and left with a big 48-25 road win.

HOOPS | PAGE 9

MOUNT MARTY
LANCER
BASKETBALL

Mount Marty vs. Dakota Wesleyan

6:00 p.m. Women/8:00 p.m. Men • Jan. 25, 2011 • Laddie E. Cimpr Arena • 1105 W. 8th St. • Yankton

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