

# USD Looks To Recover From ‘Embarrassing’ Home Loss

## Coyote Men Host Rival SDSU Today

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Following what its coach and two players called an “embarrassing” home loss, the University of South Dakota men’s basketball team wasted little time expressing a desire to move forward.

In that way, perhaps there is no better time for a rivalry game with South Dakota State.

“We have to have a short memory on this one,” USD junior center Trevor Gruis said Thursday night after the Coyotes were steamrolled by North Dakota State to the tune of 92-66.

About the only positive thing to come out of that game was that the Coyotes (6-10, 2-2) did not have to wait long for another chance to get back out on the court — this time against their rivals.

“It’ll tell you a lot about our team how we bounce back,” Gruis added.

Today’s (Saturday) 4 p.m. game in Vermillion is not only the first hoops installment of the South Dakota Showdown Series, it marks the end of a 6-game road trip for the Jackrabbits.

“It feels like we’ve been on the road for a month,” SDSU coach Scott Nagy said Friday while on the bus near Sioux City, Iowa.

Since their last home game on Dec. 9, the Jackrabbits (11-5, 2-1) have defeated Big Sky champion Montana, lost at NCAA Tournament qualifier Belmont, upset nationally-ranked New Mexico and lost a tight affair at North Dakota State.

And then Thursday, SDSU hit a dozen three-pointers in a 16-point win at Kansas City.

“How we’ve done on the road, I’ve been pretty pleased with how we’ve handled that,” Nagy said.



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Now comes the challenge of exacting revenge in the DakotaDome, where the Jacks lost by four — despite scoring just 24 points by halftime — last season.

“Some people try to make a big deal out of it,” Nagy said. “They beat us. Sometimes you get in conference games on the road and you don’t play well. USD really played well.”

Still, one Jackrabbit who did play well in the dome is senior point guard Nate Wolters. He had 27 points in that losing effort, but won’t need near that many today to solidify his place in the SDSU history books.

Wolters needs 15 points against the Coyotes to break the all-time SDSU scoring record of 1,931 set by Mark Tetzlaff (1981-85).

“It’s easy to say he’s the best player who’s ever played here, when you look at the competition level,” Nagy said of Wolters. “God willing, if Nate stays willing, he’ll get the record and go well past it.”

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P&D FILE PHOTO

Mount Marty senior Taylor Forsch went over 1,000 points for her career on Wednesday, and sits just five makes away from tying the MMC career record of 200 three-pointers.

## MMC’s Forsch Finding Long-Range Success

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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From the moment Taylor Forsch stepped on to the Ladie E. Cimpl Arena hardwood, the guard from Baltic was a gunslinger. But work to become quicker on the draw and to extend her range are about to make her the top long-range sniper in Mount Marty women’s basketball history.

Forsch, who scored her 1,000th career point against Briar Cliff on Wednesday and will be honored for that achievement prior to today’s (Saturday) game with Hastings, sits just five three-pointers away from tying the Lancer record for career three-pointers, held by former Lancer All-American Michelle Amundson (2007-10).

“Michelle was a great player,” said Forsch, who played alongside Amundson earlier in her career. “It would be such an honor to pass her.”

When Forsch committed to Mount Marty after a stellar career at Baltic High School, she knew she would have to improve her game in order to be successful.

“Everyone knows I can shoot threes, so I’ve had to work on speeding up my shot, and I’ve had to be able to get shots off three, four feet behind the (three-point) line,” she said.

Forsch played a reserve role as a freshman, but still averaged nearly a made three-pointer a game. Her percentage dipped slightly as a sophomore, when she first cracked the starting lineup for six games, then made over 40 percent from outside as she made 90 three-pointers last season.

This year she was off to an even better pace, making 32 of 67 (47.8 percent) in her first nine games.

“She’s such a good shooter,” said Lancer head coach Tom Schlimgen. “She’s got a much quicker release. Like most good shooters, she’s earned it by putting in a lot of hours in the gym.”

In the last five she is 25 of 41 (61 percent), including a 5-6 effort against Grace on Dec. 18, followed by a 7-11 effort against Webber International on Dec. 28. MMC’s post players have also had good games in that stretch, something that has helped both the inside and outside game.

“We always try to create that inside-outside game,” Schlimgen said. “We were able to get the ball inside more than ever against Briar Cliff’s zone (on Wednesday), and that opened up passes outside. Those are the easiest perimeter shots, because the shooter is already square to the basket.”

While Forsch has a slightly unorthodox shooting motion, the result is a near-perfect trajectory, according to Schlimgen.

“We’ve worked with her footwork and to get a little dip out of her motion, but otherwise we’ve let her go,” he said. “She’s got such a perfect arch on her shot, a consistent arch. She has a quick release and good follow-through, and she had most of that before she got here.”

Forsch credits hours in the gym with her father for much of her shooting success.

“If it wasn’t for dad, I wouldn’t be having the success I am,” she said.

The Lancers take a 9-7 record, 4-4 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference, into today’s matchup with Hastings. With 12 conference games to go, MMC is looking to return to the NAIA Division II Tournament after a year away.

With the career three-pointers record easily within reach, and Amundson’s single-season record of 95 made three-pointers also a possibility, more recognition could come the senior’s way. But Forsch is more interested in seeing the team do well.

“I hope that the team reaches its potential and gets to the national tournament,” she said. “If I break a few records along the way, then I do, but the main goal is getting to nationals.”

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at [twitter.com/aceman904](https://twitter.com/aceman904)

# Bucks Score First Win

## YHS Survives Third Quarter Surge To Beat Huron 46-43

HURON — J.J. Hejna scored 18 points on 6-of-11 shooting as the Yankton Bucks basketball team and first-year head coach Chris Haynes won their first game of the season, 46-43, Friday night in Eastern South Dakota Conference boys’ action in Huron.

“I’m so happy for them for our guys; they deserve it,” Haynes said. “When you practice as long as we have without getting a win, it’s tough. As much as the coaches preach how close we are, it’s still hard.

“It’s a testament to our guys and their character.”

In preparing for a Huron front line of 6-foot-6 Justin Decker and 6-foot-5 Adam Zwaziger, Haynes said he and his assistant coaches “challenged” Hejna to be more aggressive.

“We saw a glimpse of it tonight,” Haynes said. “That’s what we want, for him to look to score. He did tonight and he took advantage.”

Yankton built a 22-17 cushion at halftime, but the hometown Tigers reeled off a 20-10 edge in the first quarter. The Bucks flipped the script in the fourth quarter, outscoring Huron 14-6 to leave town with the victory.

Michael Rucker and Brady Hale added seven points apiece for the Bucks (1-5), who out-rebounded the physical Tigers 35-30. Landon Breen chipped in for Yankton with five points and five rebounds, while Sam Wendte added four points off the bench.

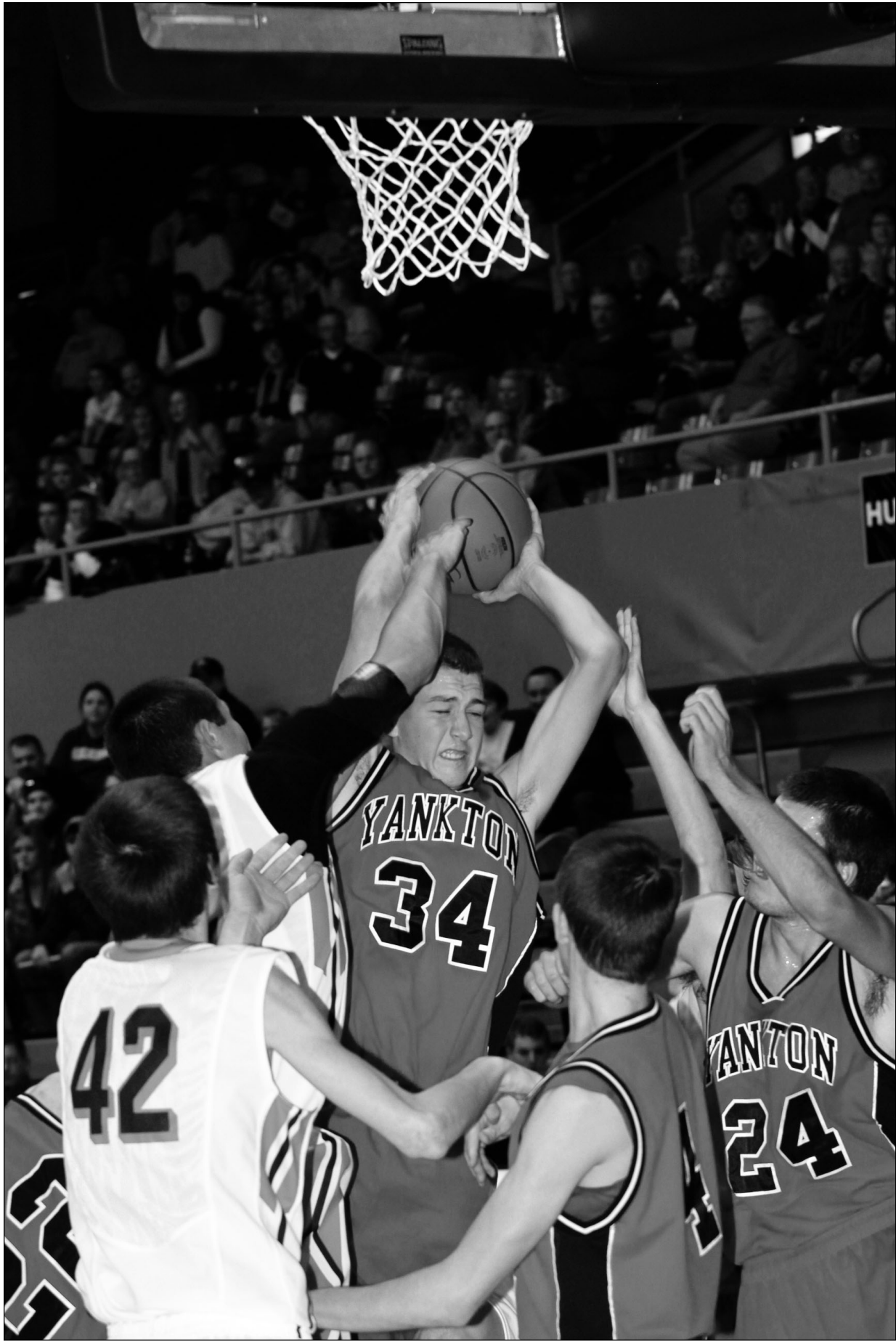
Caleb Carr scored 12 points for Huron (4-2), while Zwaziger posted a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds. Decker added nine points before fouling out.

The Bucks return to Yankton tonight (Saturday) for a 7:30 p.m. ESD showdown with Brookings at the Summit Center. Not only is it a 24-hour turnaround for Yankton, it’s against a completely different system, Haynes said.

“It’ll be a complete 360 for us,” he said. “Huron is an inside team, and Brookings is more perimeter oriented, with dribble penetration and jump shots.

“There’s not much time to prepare, so it’ll be a huge challenge for our guys.”

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MIKE CARROLL/HURON PLAINSMAN

Yankton's Brady Hale comes down with a rebound against Huron's Adam Zwaziger during their game Friday at Huron Arena. Hale, making his first career start, finished with seven points and junior J.J. Hejna posted 18 points and nine rebounds to lead the Bucks to a 46-43 victory, Yankton's first win of the season.

# Bucks Topple Kernels For First ESD Win Huber Powers Tanager Girls Past Parkston



AARON SAUNDERS/MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLIC

Yankton's Ryan Sternhagen tries to turn Mitchell's Austin Mohr Friday in a 152-pound match during a wrestling dual in Mitchell. Yankton won the dual 46-27 for the Bucks' first ESD dual victory of the season.

MITCHELL — The Yankton Bucks earned their first conference victory of the season, beating Mitchell 46-27 in Eastern South Dakota Conference wrestling action on Friday at the Mitchell High School gym.

Yankton head coach Ryan Hage was happy to see the Bucks start the new year off right, after struggling after the Christmas break in recent years.

“The last few years I’ve been disappointed with the way we’ve stepped out on the mat in that first dual after Christmas vacation. It’s like we’re still on break,” he said. “Tonight we switched that around. We addressed the problem very directly in practice, prepared both mentally and physically, and imposed our will on the mat.”

The Bucks were aided by five pins: Noah Vetter, Matt Huber, Cody Hanzlik, C.J. Warren and Thomas Kruse.

“Noah Vetter helped got us going. Cody Hanzlik had a nice fall — it was good to see him come off the mat with a smile on his face,” Hage said. “Matt Huber, C.J. and Kruse did what we expect seniors to do.”

Also for Yankton, James Hisek

VERMILLION — Josie Huber’s 28-point performance led the Tanagers to a 57-34 victory over Parkston on Friday night in South Dakota girls’ basketball action in Vermillion.

Vermillion, now 5-2 this season, also got 12 points from Brooke Schwasinger and seven rebounds from Mackenzie Huber. Blair Gilkyson led the Tanagers in steals and assists with three apiece. Vermillion held a 36-17 halftime edge.

Parkston, 6-2, got eight points from Krista Radke and seven from Erica Herrold.

Vermillion travels to Madison on Tuesday to battle the Bulldogs.

Parkston hosts Wagner on Thursday.

PARKSTON (6-2).....9 17 27 34  
VERMILLION (5-2).....18 36 42 57

## Irene-Wakonda 48, Gayville-Volin 40

GAYVILLE — Dana Schenk scored 15 points as Irene-Wakonda battled past Gayville-Volin 48-40 on Friday night in Gavville.

Makayla Mohr added 10 points for the Eagles (2-5), who led 26-19 at halftime. Kelia Barta scored 26 points and grabbed

nine rebounds for the Raiders (2-5).

Irene-Wakonda is at Parker next Monday and Gayville-Volin visits Canistota on Tuesday.  
IRENE-WAKONDA (2-5).....13 26 36 48  
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (2-5).....11 19 28 40

## Alcester-Hudson 55, Menno 37

MENNO — Alcester-Hudson defeated Menno 55-37 in South Dakota girls’ B’ basketball action on Friday night in Menno.

Shena Doering led the way for Alcester-Hudson (4-2) with 15 points and nine rebounds. Courtney McKee netted 12 points and five rebounds. Taylor Kiose recorded 11 points and nine rebounds in the victory.

Kylee Kessler led Menno (2-5) with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Abby Herboldt tallied seven points and two steals. Kaylee Kessler netted six points and an assist in the loss.

Alcester-Hudson will host Viborg-Hurley on Monday in Alcester. Menno will host Bridgewater-Emery on Jan. 10.

ALCESTER-HUDSON (4-2).....16 33 44 55  
MENNO (2-5).....1 18 26 37

## Centerville 58, Canistota 36

CENTERVILLE — Logan Wieseler hauled in 12 rebounds as the Centerville Tomatoes used a 25-point second quarter to roll past Canistota 58-36 on Friday night in Centerville.

Brittany Austin had eight rebounds for the

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