

Lancer Women Look To Build On Wednesday's Upset Win

Mount Marty Scored Road Win Over No. 4 Morningside

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The residual effect from a defining victory for the Mount Marty College women's basketball team was still being felt Thursday, even if the focus inevitably had to move forward.

For now, before hitting the road again Saturday to Doane, the Lancers are quite content enjoying their 77-68 upset Wednesday night at fourth-ranked Morningside in Sioux City, Iowa.

"It's been an exciting day. I'm just really happy that we won," senior forward Britany Little said Thursday afternoon. "It's definitely one we really wanted; we talked about it all week."

Not only was it a win the Lancers (11-7, 6-4) wanted, it was one they needed in their bid of putting together an NIAA Tournament resume.

In the Great Plains Athletic Conference

poll released Monday, Mount Marty found itself tied for sixth place with Dordt — a team the Lancers beat in Sioux Center, Iowa, in November. Typically five GPAC teams make the national tournament, so the goal was simple.

"We know we have to beat some teams ranked above us in this league. It just so happens that most are in the top 10," head coach Tom Schlimgen said Thursday, with a slight chuckle.

"We've beaten Morningside at their place, so we knew we could do it," he said. "It's not like our kids thought it's totally impossible. We say, 'Yes we can' all the time."

To that end, such wins as Wednesday are not foreign to the Lancers, or any other team in the GPAC — a league that boasts five teams in the top 25 this week.

The upset of Morningside was the 12th victory over nationally-ranked teams for Mount Marty since 2008, when Schlimgen

took over. Last season the Lancers beat No. 3 Briar Cliff and two years ago they defeated No. 3 University of Sioux Falls.

Does this most recent win, though, give MMC an extra pep in its step?

"We've been thinking we had some pep earlier, but it certainly felt nice to be able to say we did it; that the hard work paid off," Schlimgen said. "We've been getting a little bit better all along, but we're feeling pretty good about our team."

The Lancers had extra reason to celebrate on Wednesday night at a stunned Allee Gym, as well.

Senior guard Taylor Forsch drained three three-pointers to break the school's all-time record by one, surpassing former standout and three-time All-American Michelle Amundson. Forsch made her 201st career three late in the first half Wednesday, when the Lancers started building a commanding lead.

Forsch, a Baltic native, has been especially hot from deep this season. She hit

90-of-224 treys last season for 40 percent, but has jumped to 63-of-123 for 51 percent as a senior.

"We mentioned during our meeting this morning (Thursday), that we think she's the best shooter in the conference," Schlimgen said. "We're trying to get her some good looks, and our kids have done that."

Forsch has excelled in her new role as an off-guard, with junior April Winne assuming point guard duties. Winne led the charge Wednesday with 21 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, and she was able to find open shooters like Forsch.

"It was a perfect time for her," Little said of Forsch's record. "She's one of the best we've ever had, and we all know she worked hard to get that record."

"I don't know how she does it," Little added. "I wish I could shoot like that."

The focus now for the Lancers turns to Saturday's meeting with Doane in Crete, Neb. The Tigers (5-13, 0-10) are the lone winless team in GPAC action and have struggled with a young lineup that features

one senior and three juniors.

Doane — whom Schlimgen said is "too good not to win" — averages 20 turnovers a game and is led by sophomore Hannah Dostal, who averages 9.6 points and 6.6 rebounds a game.

"That's a must-win, we need to beat a team like that," Little said. "We need to play like we did (Wednesday). It can be hard to get really up for a game like this, but we can't overlook them."

"We need to come out with a win."

Beating Doane would only continue momentum felt from a close loss last week at Briar Cliff, a home win over Hastings last Saturday and the win Wednesday at Morningside, Schlimgen said. Of course, losing could cancel all those out.

"We just personally can't have a let-down ourselves," Schlimgen said. "You lose a game like that, it negates the big one you just got. We've got a smart team, they know what's at stake."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Gazelles Blast Past Arrows

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Sparked by Morgan Tessier, the Yankton Gazelles took a rather big step forward in its progression.

Start to finish, the hosts controlled the pace and in the process continued to build confidence.

"We really needed that," Tessier, a junior guard, said after Yankton rolled past Watertown 46-31 in ESD girls' basketball action Thursday night at the Summit Center.

The Gazelles (2-5) shot 50 percent, out-rebounded the Arrows by 17, limited the visitors to 18 percent shooting and overcame 16 turnovers to pick up a hard-fought win.

Of all the stats, though, the biggest was perhaps in the way Yankton scored its points: Balance.

Tessier led the way with 15 points and eight rebounds, while Jessica Wirth added eight points off the bench, Mikala Hora recorded seven points and 14 rebounds, and Kelsey Fitzgerald posted seven points.

"We think we're better when we can have performances like that, when other kids are stepping up," Yankton coach Doug Pesicka said. "We gave those kids some looks and they played with confidence to be aggressive."

Yankton out-rebounded the smaller Arrows 39-23 and recorded 10 assists on 18 made baskets.

"We moved the ball probably the best we have all season, and it worked," Tessier said. "Our biggest focus was being aggressive; we knew they'd be that way."

The Gazelles also limited the visiting Arrows (2-6) to three field goals and 13 percent shooting in the first half, building a double-digit cushion that was only threatened on a few occasions.

"That's the way our season's been going, we can't get down by six or eight points," Watertown coach Pat McClemons said. "We had to create some things late

and it wasn't nearly enough."

Watertown struggled early offensively and defensively against Yankton's length, with Hora, Fitzgerald and Kelsey Butler.

The Gazelles used a 9-0 run to build an early 9-2 lead and held Watertown to two field goals in pulling in front 13-7 after one quarter.

Wirth drained a pair of three-pointers in the second quarter for Yankton, which led by as many as 14 points and took a 26-14 lead into halftime.

It was going to be a long night if reserve players were hitting shots like that, McClemons admitted later.

"We're a pretty small team anyway, but I felt like we did a good job against Hora and Fitzgerald," he said. "Of course, that's when their other kids got hot."

Watertown twice got the deficit under 10 in the third quarter, thanks to full-court pressure defense, but the Gazelles stayed in control 36-25 heading into the final frame.

"We just had to step back and take a breath," Tessier said. "Composure was the key."

The Arrows got as close as 38-28 in the fourth quarter, but the Gazelles used a 7-0 spurt — keyed by a banked-in three from Hora, which elicited more than a few chuckles — to pull away.

It was only fitting that Tessier had the ball in her hands as the clock hit zero.

"Morgan did a lot of nice things, which we know she can do," Pesicka said. "People really focus on our inside, so we need kids like Morgan to take a step up."

Watertown, which got 10 points from reserve Macy Denzer and eight points from Elli Stevenson, travels to Brookings on Saturday.

The Gazelles also hit the road Saturday afternoon for a matchup at Sioux Falls Lincoln, a team that boasts experience. Yankton, on the other hand, is looking to develop exactly that.

GAZELLES | PAGE 9A



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Morgan Tessier pulls up for a shot during the third quarter of the Gazelles' game with Watertown in Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' basketball action. Tessier scored a team-high 15 points as Yankton scored its second straight victory, 46-31.

Jacks Bounce Back With Win Over Oakland

BROOKINGS (AP) — Tony Fiegen scored 24 points and Jordan Dykstra had a double-double with 22 points and 13 rebounds to pace South Dakota State to an 81-74 victory over Oakland on Thursday night.

Dykstra scored eight key points in the final 10 minutes of the game to help South Dakota State (12-6, 3-2 Summit) pull away.

Nate Wolters scored 16 points and dished out nine assists for South Dakota State. Chad White scored 11 points, including three 3-pointers.

Corey Petros led Oakland (7-11, 2-2) with 22 points and 15 rebounds. Travis Bader scored 21 points, and Ryan Bass scored 16, including three 3-pointers.

S. DAKOTA ST. 81, OAKLAND 74
OAKLAND (7-11)
Valentine 3-9 2-2 9, Petros 10-16 2-2 22, Bader 4-17 11-15 21, Mondy 2-8 3-4 7, Bass 6-15 0-0 15, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Carter 0-0 0-0 0, Poches 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-85 18-23 74.

S. DAKOTA ST. (12-6)
Fiegen 11-15 2-4 24, Dykstra 7-13 7-9 22, Wolters 5-13 6-7 16, Carlson 1-4 1-2 4, C. White 4-9 0-0 11, Bitlle 0-1 2-2 2, Prince 0-0 2-2, Heemstra 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-55 20-25 81.
Halftime—Oakland 37-35, 3-Point Goals—Oakland 6-24 (Bass 3-6, Bader 2-11, Valentine 1-4, Mondy 0-3), S. Dakota St. 5-16 (C. White 3-6, Carlson 1-3, Dykstra 1-4, Wolters 0-3). Fouled Out—Carlson. Rebounds—Oakland 40 (Petros 15), S. Dakota St. 38 (Dykstra 13). Assists—Oakland 15 (Mondy 7), S. Dakota St. 18 (Wolters 9). Total Fouls—Oakland 23, S. Dakota St. 16. Technicals—Prince, S. Dakota St. Bench. A.—3, 819.

NEBRASKA-OMAHA 90, IUPUI 79; OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — John Karhoff scored 20 points, CJ Carter added 19 and hot-shooting Nebraska-Omaha withstood a late rally for a 90-79 victory over IUPUI on Thursday night in the first-ever meeting between the schools.

Karhoff was 7 of 9 from the field, Carter was 8 of 9 and Justin Simmons, who scored 16, was 7 of 12 for the Mavericks (5-14, 2-5 Summit League), who shot 62 percent from the floor. Alex Phillips chipped in 15 points on 6-of-7 shooting.

Donovan Gibbs led the Jaguars (6-14, 1-5) with a career-high 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Sean Esposito scored 20.

Nebraska-Omaha led most of the second half but saw IUPUI pull within 82-79 on Gibbs' dunk with 1:12 left. But the Mavericks scored the game's last eight points on an Alex Welhouse layup, a Simmons dunk and four free throws.

The Mavericks, Summit League newcomers this season, won despite committing 18 turnovers.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE 67, IPFW 55; FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Taylor Braun scored 16 points to lead North Dakota State to a 67-55 win over IPFW on Thursday night.

Luis Jacobo scored 21 points for the Mastodons (8-10, 1-3 Summit League).

Braun was 7 of 12 from the field for North Dakota State (14-3, 5-0). Lawrence Alexander had 12 points and 10 rebounds. Marshall Bjorklund had 14 points, and TrayVonn Wright added 10.

North Dakota State led 37-32 at halftime and never trailed in the second half. North Dakota State's largest lead was 16. North Dakota State shot 57 percent from the field for the game, while IPFW shot 37.7 percent.

Jacobo was 5 of 12 from 3-point range. Frank Gaines scored 12 points for the Mastodons. Mario Hines had seven rebounds.

The game was the 15th meeting between the two teams. IPFW leads the series 8-7.
MONTANA 77, NORTH DAKOTA 62; GRAND

COLLEGE | PAGE 9A

Wagner Girls Upend Parkston 48-44

PARKSTON — The Wagner Red Raiders used a 16-7 edge in the third quarter to claim a 48-44 victory over Parkston in Southeast South Dakota Conference girls' basketball action on Thursday.

Nicole Weber and Alli Kuca each had 11 points for Wagner. Gina Soukup finished with 10 points and nine rebounds. Jessa Doom also had nine rebounds in the victory.

Erica Herrold scored a game-high 17 points to lead Wagner. Logan Wagner netted 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Wagner, 7-4, and Parkston, 6-3, will both be at the Hanson Classic on Saturday in Mitchell. Wagner faces Aberdeen Recolli at 10:30 a.m., followed by Parkston against Clark-Willow Lake at 1 p.m.

WAGNER (7-4).....10 15 31 48
PARKSTON (6-3).....9 16 23 44

Big Sioux Conference

Sioux Falls Christian 44, Elk Point-Jefferson 33

CANTON — Sioux Falls Christian defeated Elk Point-Jefferson 44-33 in the opening round of the Big Sioux Conference Tournament in Canton Thursday night.

Hayley McCarron led SFC (7-3) with 17 points and 15 rebounds. Kristin Stern added nine points and five assists in the victory.

Keely Bertram led EPJ (4-4) with eight points and 10 rebounds. Skylore Curry recorded eight points in the loss.

SFC will advance to the winners bracket play Canton today (Friday). EPJ will drop down to the losers bracket and will play Tea.

Beresford 50, Dakota Valley 48

BERESFORD — Beresford defeated Dakota Valley 50-48 in the opening round of the Big

Sioux Conference Tournament in Beresford Thursday night.

Alyson Johnsen led Beresford (6-2) with 14 points. Taryn Twite added 13 points in the victory.

McKenzie Mennega led Dakota Valley (5-3) with 15 points. Allison Sexton netted 12 points.

Beresford will advance to the winners bracket and will host Tri Valley today (Friday). Dakota Valley drops down to the losers bracket and will play Dell Rapids today (Friday) in Beresford.

BERESFORD (6-2).....14 25 40 50
DAKOTA VALLEY (5-3).....19 28 43 48

Tri-Valley 52, Dell Rapids 33

BERESFORD — The Tri-Valley girls basketball team defeated Dell Rapids 52-33 in the opening round of the Big Sioux Conference Tournament in Beresford Thursday night.

Mariah Swier led Tri-Valley (8-0) with 15 points. Allison Cross also netted 15 points. Sammy Kosowski added 14 points in the victory.

Corynn Hoff led Dell Rapids (2-5) with eight points. Mikaela Stefferahn and Karen Eddy each recorded seven points in the loss. Tri-Valley will advance to the second round of the Big Sioux Conference Tournament and will compete against host Beresford today (Friday). Dell Rapids drops to the losers bracket and will compete against Dakota Valley in Beresford.

TRI-VALLEY (8-0).....12 23 37 52
DELL RAPIDS (2-5).....11 17 24 33

Canton 60, Tea Area 41

CANTON — In the final game of the opening round of the Big Sioux Conference Tournament Canton defeated Tea Area 60-41 in Canton on Thursday night.

Atlanta Lundstrom led Canton (4-3) with 19 points. Janet VandeStroet added 13 points and five rebounds in the victory.

Taylor Gjersten led Tea Area (0-9) with 16 points and six rebounds. Crystal Zitterich added five assists in the loss.

Canton advances to the winners bracket and will host Sioux Falls Christian today (Friday). Tea

GIRLS | PAGE 9A

Centerville Outguns Eagles

CENTERVILLE — Seamus O'Malley scored 36 points, 30 by halftime, as Centerville rolled past Irene-Wakonda 90-60 on Thursday night in Centerville.

Ty Knutson had 22 points and seven rebounds for the Tornadoes (7-0), while Logan Hunter added 17 points, five rebounds, eight assists and seven steals.

Centerville led 55-28 at halftime. Dustin Livingston had 18 points, eight rebounds and four assists for the Eagles (5-4), while Garrett Anderson had 13 points and Gabe King added 11 points.

Both teams are in action Saturday at the Tri-Valley Classic in Alcester. Centerville plays South Central and Irene-Wakonda plays Ethan.

IRENE-WAKONDA (5-4).....19 28 48 60
CENTERVILLE (7-0).....26 55 77 90

Viborg-Hurley 76, Gayville-Volin 36

GAYVILLE — Senior Andrew Hora's 18 points on Thursday night led Viborg-Hurley to a dominating 76-36 victory over Tri-Valley Conference Rival Gayville-Volin.

Viborg-Hurley, 7-0, also got 11 points apiece from Tyler Gerdes and Dylan Kludt while Trevor Jacobsen added 10. The Cougars led 31-5 after one quarter of play pushed their lead to 50 points at the end of three.

Gayville-Volin, 0-8, got 11 points from Ryan Adams and nine from Brandon Van Osdel.

Viborg-Hurley also won the JV game, 40-24. Both teams play on Saturday as Viborg-Hurley battles Corsica-Stickney at the Elmen Center in Sioux Falls while Gayville-Volin plays at the Tri-Valley Conference Classic in Alcester.

VIBORG-HURLEY (7-0).....31 57 76 76
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (0-8).....5 17 20 36

BOYS | PAGE 9A

Area Schools Earn Academic Achievement Team Awards

PIERRE — Several area schools had programs recognized by the South Dakota High School Activities Association with its Academic Achievement Team Award for the fall 2012-13 season.

Initiated during the 1996-97 school year, the program is designed to recognize varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups for their academic excellence. All varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups that participate in Association sponsored activities are eligible for this recognition program. All varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups that achieve a combined grade point average of 3.0 or higher, are eligible to receive the award.

Here is the list of area schools and programs recognized:

Alcester-Hudson: All-State Chorus. Oral Interpretation. Boys Cross Country Team. Football Cheerleaders. Volleyball Team

Andes Central: All-State Chorus. Volleyball Team. Football Cheerleaders. Football Team

Beresford: Boys Cross Country Team. Girls Cross Country Team. Bon Homme: Boys Cross Country Team. Girls Cross Country Team

Dakota Valley: Football Cheerleaders. All-State Orchestra. Boys Golf Team. Competitive Cheer Team. Competitive Dance Team. Volleyball Team. Boys Cross Country Team. All-State Chorus. Girls Cross Country Team

Elk Point-Jefferson: Oral Interpretation. Volleyball Team

Freeman: Boys Cross Country Team. Girls Cross Country Team. Oral Interpretation. Football Cheerleaders. Volleyball Team

Tripp-Delmont: Volleyball Team

Vermillion: Boys Golf Team. Oral Interpretation. Girls Cross Country Team. Boys Cross Country Team. Girls Tennis Team. All-State Chorus. Volleyball Team

Viborg-Hurley: All-State Chorus. Football Cheerleaders. Oral Interpretation. Boys Cross Country Team. Girls Cross Country Team. Volleyball Team

Wagner: Football Team. Volleyball Team. Oral Interpretation. Boys Golf Team. All-State Chorus. Football Cheerleaders

Freeman Academy: All-State Chorus

Marion: Boys Cross Country Team. Girls Cross Country Team. Football Team. Football Cheerleaders. Volleyball Team

Menno: Oral Interpretation. Volleyball Team. Football Team. Football Cheerleaders. Boys Cross Country Team. Girls Cross Country Team. All-State Chorus

Parker: Boys Cross Country Team. Oral Interpretation. Football Cheerleaders. Volleyball Team. Girls Cross Country Team. All-State Chorus

Parkston: All-State Chorus. Boys Golf Team. Volleyball Team. All-State Orchestra. Football Team. Girls Cross Country Team. Boys Cross Country Team. Football Cheerleaders

Platte-Geddes: Football Cheerleaders. All-State Chorus. Oral Interpretation. Boys Cross Country Team

Scotland: Girls Cross Country Team. Oral Interpretation. Volleyball Team. All-State Chorus. Football Cheerleaders

Tripp-Delmont: Volleyball Team

Vermillion: Boys Golf Team. Oral Interpretation. Girls Cross Country Team. Boys Cross Country Team. Girls Tennis Team. All-State Chorus. Volleyball Team

Viborg-Hurley: All-State Chorus. Football Cheerleaders. Oral Interpretation. Boys Cross Country Team. Girls Cross Country Team. Volleyball Team

Wagner: Football Team. Volleyball Team. Oral Interpretation. Boys Golf Team. All-State Chorus. Football Cheerleaders