

Yankton Boys Win Third Straight

BY VANCE JANAK
P&D Correspondent

The Yankton Bucks had one of their best defensive efforts Thursday night against Sioux Falls O'Gorman.

Yankton continued its winning streak by holding the three-time defending Class AA state champion Knights to just three points during a key third-quarter run that carried the Bucks to a 56-49 victory at the Summit Activity Center.

Yankton made 42.9 percent of its shots (21-of-49) while limiting the Knights to 39 percent on 16-of-41 attempts. The Bucks (4-6) won their third straight game by playing a stifling man-to-man defense that forced 14 turnovers. O'Gorman (5-8), which lost its fifth straight game, made only 2-of-10 shots in the third quarter, scored only three points for the majority of the third quarter.

"We came out really strong on defense, especially in the first half," Yankton junior JJ Hejna said. "We let up a little bit there at the end of the first half and coach (Chris Haynes) reiterated how that's how we've won most of our games this season. We came out in the third quarter and held them to three points most of the third quarter."

"Then our offense took us where we needed to be. That was huge for us."

Hejna was unstoppable to start the third quarter. The 6-foot-4 forward scoring eight of his game-high 18 points during the pivotal spurt by beating the Knights inside for putbacks or layups.

"We always want to play inside-out," Haynes said. "JJ scored in all facets. We need JJ to play like that for us. He should be a double-figure scorer and a great rebounder for us and a staple on the defensive end as well. We were really happy with how well we got the ball inside."

In addition to Hejna, the Bucks also got production from senior reserve Kellen Soulek, who much like Hejna, muscled his ways to nine points in the paint.

"He gave us great minutes off the bench. He's capable of doing that when he plays under control and with balance," Haynes said. "He can do some good things for us. We're pleased with his progression. Hopefully that continues for us."

Yankton continued to hold a comfortable advantage for much of the fourth quarter. There Bucks were up 47-34 after Andrew Hummel's driving layup with 2:11 to play. The Knights then outscored Yankton 9-1 to get within 48-43 on Braxton Elliott's third made 3 of the game with 44.9 seconds to go.

O'Gorman never got closer after Hejna made two free and junior Ryan Olson made 6-of-6 attempts in the final 35.4 seconds to seal the win.

"We really thought Ryan Olson did a great job of stepping up and hitting six free throws at the end," Haynes said. "... He always kept us to where it was a three-possession game, which was really big."

Yankton looks to continue its winning ways against Sioux Falls Roosevelt today at 7:30 p.m.

"Playing well on the defensive end is obviously huge for us," Hejna said. "We spend a good portion of our practice working on defense. We hammer that home. Coach always says the shots can be put



Yankton's Andrew Hummel, left, defends O'Gorman's Braxton Elliott during the first half of their boys' basketball game on Thursday at the Summit Center. The Bucks won 56-49 for their third straight win.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Dell Rapids Boys Edge Vermillion Bucks Go 0-2 At Roosevelt

DELL RAPIDS — Dell Rapids defeated Vermillion 55-52 in South Dakota 'A' boys basketball action Thursday night.

Bryce Koch led Dell Rapids (8-5) with 15 points and eight rebounds. Cole Langer netted 14 points in the victory.

Tanner Anderson led Vermillion (8-4) with 15 points. Austin Krier added 12 points in the loss.

Dell Rapids will host Canton on Tuesday. Vermillion will travel to Beresford on Tuesday.

DELL RAPIDS (8-5)	15	29	42	55
VERMILLION (8-4)	11	29	40	52

Andes Central 63, Bon Homme 58

LAKE ANDES — Andes Central used a 20-11 edge in the second quarter to take control on the way to a 63-58 victory over Bon Homme in boys' basketball action on Thursday.

Darrin Hopkins led four Andes Central players in double figures with 15 points, and added seven rebounds. Neulan Dion netted 14 points and had five assists. Joe Evans and Aaron Swanson each had 12 points in the victory.

For Bon Homme, Les Jelsma led the way with 12 points. Mike Mesman had 11 points and nine rebounds.

Andes Central, 4-6, hosts Dakota Christian on Monday. Bon Homme, 4-9, travels to Stick-

ney Monday to face Corsica-Stickney. Bon Homme won the JV game 28-16.

BON HOMME (4-9)	19	30	41	58
ANDES CENTRAL (4-6)	16	36	44	63

Wausa 50, Clearwater-Orchard 47

WAUSA, Neb. — Wausa defeated Clearwater-Orchard 50-47 in Nebraska boys basketball action on Thursday night.

Trevor Wakely led Wausa (14-1) with 15 points. Mark Claussen netted 11 points in the victory.

There were no stats available for Clearwater-Orchard in the loss.

Both teams will compete in the Lewis and Clark Conference tournament next week.

WAUSA (14-1)	13	26	40	50
CLEARWATER-ORCHARD (12-3)	17	27	32	47

Freeman 66, Dakota Christian 60

FREEMAN — Freeman defeated Dakota Christian 66-60 in South Dakota 'B' boys basketball action Thursday night.

Cole Paulsen led Freeman (7-4) with 16 points and six rebounds. Caleb Lang added 15 points in the victory.

Darren Fallis led Dakota Christian (4-7) with 15 points. Cater Dykstra also added 15 points, seven rebounds and four steals in the loss.

Freeman will host Scotland on Monday. Dakota Christian will host Wessington Springs on Saturday.

FREEMAN (7-4)	9	29	43	66
DAKOTA CHRISTIAN (4-7)	15	27	31	60

Cedar Catholic 69, Wagner 46

WAGNER — Hartington Cedar Catholic jumped out to a 17-9 lead after one quarter and didn't look back, beating Wagner 69-46 in boys' basketball action on Thursday.

James Kaiser scored 17 points, and Logan Feilmeier and Taylor Kathol had 15 points each to lead Cedar Catholic. Feilmeier and Trent Jensen each had five rebounds, and Kaiser added three assists in the victory.

For Wagner, Noah St. Pierre led the way with 17 points, hitting 3-3 from three-point range. Dylan Brunings netted 10 points.

Cedar Catholic, 10-7 and winners of three straight, travels to Wynot tonight (Friday). Wagner, 4-7, travels to Scotland today.

CEDAR CATHOLIC (10-7)	17	33	53	69
WAGNER (4-7)	9	22	40	46

Viborg-Hurley 74, Centerville 50

VIBORG — Viborg-Hurley defeated Centerville 74-50 in South Dakota 'B' boys basketball action Thursday night.

Trevor Jacobsen led Viborg-Hurley (11-1) with 24 points. Tyler Gerdes added 15 points. Andrew Hora added a spark with 13 points.

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Gazelles Fall At O'Gorman

SIoux FALLS — The Yankton Gazelles played toe-to-toe with a tough Sioux Falls O'Gorman squad for three and a half quarters before the Knights pulled away to a 43-33 victory in girls' basketball action on Thursday.

The game was tied at 30 in the fourth quarter when O'Gorman scored four straight points and finished the game on a 13-3 run.

"I thought our kids gave a good effort," said Yankton head coach Doug Pesicka. "We had a week to prepare, and our defense did a lot of good things in this one. They had a difficult time scoring."

Dalee Stene led a balanced O'Gorman attack with 13 points. Jessica Mieras netted 12 points and Ally Kneip added 11 points in the victory.

For Yankton, Kelsey Fitzgerald scored a game-high 15 points. Morgan Tessier netted 10 points.

The Gazelles are off until Feb. 1, when Yankton hosts Pierre. Yankton travels to Aberdeen Central the next day.

"We're in a difficult stretch of games. This is an O'Gorman team that has won nine games," Pesicka said. "But the schedule favors us right now. The kids had a great week of practice last week, and we'll have four, five practices to get ready for next weekend."

"Coaches love practices, the players don't necessarily. But our kids are continuing to get better. We'll get better."

O'Gorman won the JV game 47-33. Anna Gulick and Becky Frick each had eight points for Yankton.

The Knights edged Yankton 39-36 in the sophomore game. Paige Thiemman scored 11 points and Madison Dangler had 10 points for Yankton.

Hannah Bockholt scored 12 points and Kate Weinandt had 11 points to lead Yankton to a 38-29 victory in the freshmen game. Sophie Drotzmann snagged seven rebounds in the victory.

YANKTON (2-9)	10	16	28	33
O'GORMAN (9-6)	9	18	30	43

3-pointers — Y.O, OG 2 (Kneip, Stene). Rebounds — Y, 24, OG 31.

Newman 0-0-0, Sprakel 1-0-0, Larson 2-0-1 4, Wirth 0-0-0, Hora 0-0-0, Frick 0-0-0, Fitzgerald 6-3-7 15, Tessier 3-4-4 10, Butler 1-0-0 2, Totals 13-7-12 33.

O'GORMAN (9-6)

Kneip 3-4-4 11, Stene 4-4-6 13, Hermanson 0-0-0-0, Howes 1-1-2 3, Bjorkman 1-0-0 2, Leistikoll 0-0-0 0, Cartwright 0-0-0 0, Messler 0-0-0 0, Wilson 1-0-0 2, Mieras 3-6-6 12, Totals 13-15-18 43.

YANKTON (2-9)

O'GORMAN (9-6)

3-pointers — Y.O, OG 2 (Kneip, Stene). Rebounds — Y, 24, OG 31.

Other Games

Crofton 44, Pierce 35

CROFTON, Neb. — In a battle of two unbeaten, Crofton defeated Pierce 44-35 in Nebraska girls' basketball action on Thursday night.

Amy Mueller led the way for Crofton (16-0) with 16 points, four rebounds and four assists. Bridget Arens recorded 14 points, three rebounds and three assists in the victory.

Kristina Koepke led Pierce (17-1) with 13 points. Taylor Bretschneider and Rachel Wienfield each added eight points in the loss.

Both teams will be participating in the Mid-states Conference tournament next week.

CROFTON (16-0)	10	16	32	44
PIERCE (17-1)	8	15	23	35

Wagner 61, Scotland 45

WAGNER — Wagner defeated Scotland 61-45 in South Dakota girls basketball action Thursday night.

Gina Soukup had 20 points for Wagner (11-4). Nicole Weber netted 15 points and seven assists. Ali Kuca posted a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Carley Skorepa led Scotland (9-4) with 21 points. Kennedy Asche added 10 points and nine rebounds.

Wagner will host Andes Central on Jan. 31. Scotland will host West Sioux, Iowa, on Saturday.

WAGNER (11-4)	16	31	43	61
SCOTLAND (9-4)	5	19	36	45

Bon Homme 52, Andes Central 34

LAKE ANDES — Bon Homme overcame a 21-point performance by Andes Central's Kellie Winckler to claim a 52-34 victory over the Eagles in girls' basketball action on Thursday.

Karlee Kozak had 15 points and seven rebounds, and Kelsey Sutera had 11 points and four assists to lead Bon Homme. Jody Kriz added nine points, seven rebounds and six steals in the victory.

For Andes Central, Krista Winckler had seven points and eight rebounds. Cybil Chyka had three steals.

Bon Homme, 6-8, hosts Gregory on Monday. Andes Central, 6-4, travels to Alcester-Hudson on Saturday.

BON HOMME (6-8)	9	17	35	52
ANDES CENTRAL (6-4)	8	18	24	34

Centerville 63, Viborg-Hurley 47

VIBORG — Behind 35 points from Kieran O'Malley, Centerville was able to breeze past Viborg-Hurley 63-47 in South Dakota girls basketball action Thursday night.

Logan Weiseler added 17 points for Centerville (11-2). O'Malley and Wieseler each added five boards in the victory.

Abby Hora led Viborg-Hurley (7-6) with 18 points and six rebounds. Val Sanderland added nine points in the loss.

Both teams will compete in the Tri-Valley Classic starting today.

CENTERVILLE (11-2)	14	26	50	63
VIBORG-HURLEY (7-6)	16	19	33	47

Bloomfield 55, Gayville-Volin 29

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Bloomfield defeated Gayville-Volin 55-29 in a border battle on Thursday night.

There were no stats available for Bloomfield (8-8) in the victory.

Kelia Barta led Gayville-Volin (2-10) with 12 points.

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Mavericks Outgun South Dakota 95-90



JILANNE DOOM/P&D

Jueval Myles of South Dakota, 5, hits the breaks to avoid an Omaha double-team during the first half of their Summit League men's basketball matchup on Thursday at the DakotaDome. Omaha avenged an earlier loss to the Coyotes with a 95-90 victory.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — One-hundred and eighty-five points.

In a rather high-scoring Summit League affair in the DakotaDome, defensive issues again cost the University of South Dakota men's basketball team.

Sliced another way, not only where the Coyotes again efficient — 15 assists to just five turnovers — on offense, they allowed conference newcomer Omaha to fare just a little bit better in a 95-90 loss Thursday night.

"We didn't play poorly tonight. When you score 90 points, you hope you can win a basketball game," USD coach Dave Boots said. "I feel bad for our kids, they're working as hard as they can."

Yet, for the Coyotes (8-13, 4-5), the up-and-down nature to the season continues.

USD still hasn't won consecutive games since late November, and those were against NAIA opponents. In other words, for every win over South Dakota State and Oakland comes a defensive let-down to Kansas City and Omaha.

"That's a tough one to swallow," said senior guard Jueval Myles, who scored 26 points. "We fought back, but we don't want to keep saying, 'It was a nice effort. We want to say, 'It's a nice effort and a nice win' at the end of the night."

Sure, the Coyotes made a furious comeback from a 15-point deficit in the second half, getting to within two points twice in the final minute, and had a shot at a game-tying three in the closing seconds, but Omaha hit four free throws late.

The Mavericks (6-16, 3-6) hit plenty of other shots, as well. Omaha — which came in averaging 69 points — shot 56 percent and drained 13 three-pointers. Justin Simmons was especially dangerous, as he scored 26 points.

Part of the problem for the Coyotes could be attributed to over confidence after winning the first matchup by 23 points, said junior Steve Tecker.

"We beat them by, what, 30 last time, so we probably overlooked them a little bit," said Tecker, who had 14 points and nine rebounds. "They came out shooting the ball really well."

The visiting Mavericks shot 55 percent from the field, with seven 3's, in the first half and led most of the way.

Omaha started hot — 8-of-14 at one point — and never really slowed up against the Coyotes, building an 11-point cushion before USD rallied to lead twice. Omaha drained a three-pointer late to lead 43-41 at halftime.

The visitors then drained four 3's in the first four minutes after halftime and jumped out to a 75-60 lead with 9:16 remaining.

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