

Hockey: Bucks Sweep Watertown, Improve To 6-3-1

Tyler Wenande stopped all 33 shots he faced as Yankton completed a weekend sweep of Watertown with a 4-0 victory over the Lakers in JV boys' hockey action on Sunday at Alcoa Arena.

Jacob Hubbs had a goal and two assists, and Charles Stephenson had a goal and an assist for Yankton. Mitchell Vavra and Austin Barger also scored a goal each for the Bucks. Landon Withrow had an assist in the victory.

Robbie Lukin stopped 27 shots for Watertown.

Yankton, 6-3-1, is off until a set against Sioux Falls, Jan. 18-19 in Yankton.

YANKTON 3, WATERTOWN 1: Austin Barger scored twice to lead Yankton to a 3-1 victory over Watertown on Saturday at Alcoa Arena.

Logan Megard scored the other goal, and Colby Benson had two assists for Yankton.

Luke Eide scored the lone Watertown goal. Hunter Riddle and Jaron Kranz had assists for the Lakers.

Christian State stopped 26 shots for Yankton in the victory. Robbie Lukin made 38 saves for Watertown.

JV Girls
BROOKINGS 9, YANKTON 1: BROOKINGS — Brookings topped Yankton 9-1 in JV girls' hockey action on Saturday.

Allysen Zerfas scored three goals and Jady Peterson had two goals for Brookings.

Erica Westerman scored Yankton's goal. Jessica Laidlaw stopped 13 shots for Brookings. Renee Cross made 28 saves for Yankton.

Yankton hosts Aberdeen Jan. 11 and 12 at Alcoa Arena.

Bantam
SIoux FALLS EAST 9, YANKTON 'A' 0: SIoux FALLS — Bryce Christie scored three goals to lead Sioux Falls East to a 9-0 victory over Yankton on Sunday in Bantam 'A' action.

Sawyer Mulenburgh scored twice in the victory. Tyler Breck preserved the shutout, stopping seven shots. Sean Garcia made 30 saves for Yankton.

Yankton hosts Sioux Falls West on Jan. 18, then hosts a rematch with East on Jan. 19. Those will be the final two home matches of the Miracle's season.

WATERTOWN 7, YANKTON 'A' 1: Dawsyn Wirkus, Dalton Barse and Adam Thomas each scored twice in a 7-1 victory over Yankton in Bantam 'A' hockey action on Saturday at Alcoa Arena.

Trey Bakke scored Yankton's goal. Nathan Eichacker and Oakley Palmer had assists for the Miracle.

Parker Young stopped 38 shots for Watertown. Sean Garcia made eight saves for Yankton.

WATERTOWN 6-6, YANKTON 'B' 0-0: Watertown scored a pair of 6-0 victories over Yankton in Bantam 'B' hockey action on Saturday at Alcoa Arena.

In the early game, Kody Johnson scored three goals in the win. Kody Sykora stopped five shots in goal for the shutout.

James Bouska made 46 saves for Yankton.

In the nightcap, Will Wilde and Mitchell Lloyd each scored twice for Watertown. Sykora stopped 14 shots in the win.

Bouska made 30 saves for Yankton. Yankton hosts Sioux Falls on Jan. 18.

PeelWee
YANKTON 'A' 6-2, SIoux CENTER 5-7: SIoux CENTER, Iowa — The Yankton Miracle split a doubleheader with Sioux Center in Pee Wee 'A' hockey action on Saturday.

In the opener, Keith Schenkel scored two goals and four other Miracle players scored goals in a 6-5 victory.

Jace Kapla had a goal and two assists, and Cody Larson, Isaac Klimisch and Nate Bohnsack had goals for Yankton. Elijah Berry added an assist in the victory.

Freddy Bullock scored four goals for Sioux Center.

Ryan Eichacker made 19 saves in the win. Alex Koops stopped 17 shots for Sioux Center.

In the nightcap, Bullock scored three goals and Adam Heide had two goals and an assist for Sioux Center.

Christian Curran and Christian Budig scored goals for Yankton. Berry and Kapla had assists.

Koops stopped 13 shots in the win. Eichacker made 31 saves for the Miracle.

The Miracle, who have completed the road portion of their schedule, host Brookings for two matches on Saturday, Jan. 11.



Yankton's Austin Barger, left, gets past Watertown's Parker Piorkowski for a shot attempt during the second period of their JV boys' hockey match on Saturday at Alcoa Arena.

Coyotes Clip Cleveland State

Sophs Lead Short-Handed USD To 74-70 Victory

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — With two key pieces wearing street clothes, the University of South Dakota women's basketball team was once again able to will itself to another win.

But it was from easy.

Nearly blowing a double-digit lead in the second half, the Coyotes were able to hold off Cleveland State 74-70 to win their seventh game in eight tries Saturday night at the DakotaDome.

"It was kind of scary. I think we need to go in and shoot free throws," joked sophomore point guard Tia Hemiller, who recorded her first career double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

"We need to finish at the end."

Up by nine points with 1:23 remaining, the Coyotes (9-6) gave up a three-pointer on the next trip down the court and proceeded to miss four consecutive free throws — four of their 12 misses of the game.

The Horizon League member Vikings got within 73-70 with five seconds left, but was forced to foul, and USD hit the first two foul shots to ice the win.

"We really felt like we played well enough for this to be a 12 to 15 point win," head coach Amy Williams said. "We just didn't slam that door shut."

Many times during their recent hot streak, the Coyotes haven't really needed to win close games. The margins in their seven wins since the end of November have been 4, 10, 32, 20, 28, 11 and now 4 points.

The key difference Saturday, though? USD was minus two key cogs.

Down two starters with injury — Heidi Hoff for the season (ACL) and Nicole Seekamp out for a short time (ankle) — for the second game in a row, the Coyotes had to rely more on their reserves.

And in turn, those bench players combined for 32 points, 20 rebounds and seven assists.

"We had a lot of people stepping up and getting that confidence," said sophomore Margaret McCloud, who had 17 points and seven rebounds off the bench. "She is a huge part of the team, but we have a lot of people stepping up and trying to fill that role."

With the backup point guard (Seekamp) out, Hemiller is going to be asked to play more minutes, Williams said. The Watertown native played 30 minutes Saturday and consistently fought through traffic in the paint to haul in rebounds.

"Because of the fact that we give Tia the pirate title, she gets to pick up the ball in the backcourt," Williams



South Dakota's Margaret McCloud scores a one-handed layup during the second half of basketball action against Cleveland State Saturday. She led the Coyotes' offense with 17 points.

Lancers Earn First GPAC Wins

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Mount Marty College women's basketball team earned its first Great Plains Athletic Conference victory of the season, beating Nebraska Wesleyan 78-63 on Saturday in Lincoln, Neb.

After playing to a 29-all tie at the half, MMC opened up the lead with a 23-7 run midway through the second half. The Lancers iced the game at the line, scoring the game's final eight points from the charity stripe.

Kelsey Schmidt went 4-5 from three-point range on the way to 18 points for Mount Marty. Raquel Sutera netted 17 points. Logan Wagner had 12 points. Cassidy Gebhart scored 10 points, all from the free throw line. Allison De Kam just missed a double-double, finishing with nine points and nine rebounds in the victory.

Felicia TeKolste led Nebraska Wesleyan (1-11, 0-7 GPAC) with 16 points. Courtney Cook added 11 points.

Mount Marty, 7-8 and 1-7, hosts Briar Cliff on Wednesday. Start time is 6 p.m. at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

MOUNT MARTY (7-8)
Raquel Sutera 4-10 7-8 17, Logan Wagner 4-14 2-4 12, Cassidy Gebhart 0-7 10-12 10, Allison De Kam 2-5 6-8, Kieran O'Malley 0-0 0-0 0, Kelsey Schmidt 5-7 4-4 18, Denae Veldkamp 2-5 2-2 6, Cheyenne Lambly 1-3 1-2 3, Erica Dreckman 1-2 0-1 2, Kellie Winckler 0-1 1-2 1, Kelli Curtis 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 19-55 32-41 78.

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN (1-11)
Felicia TeKolste 5-10 6-7 16, Courtney Cook 4-7 3-4 11, Bridget Bucher 2-7 5-7 9, Kelly Sanchez 2-6 0-0 0, Amanda Diaz 0-0 0-0 0, Kylee Ashley 3-5 0-0 6, Cassandra Sulski 2-4 0-0 5, Lauren Ziegenbein 2-4 0-0 5, Alexis Albert 2-3 0-1 5, Emma Neal 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 22-51 14-19 63.

Parkston 3-0 On Final Day At The Clash

ROCHESTER, Minn. — The Parkston Trojans bounced back from a 1-2 opening day, going 3-0 in the seventh bracket of The Clash wrestling tournament on Saturday.

Parkston beat Archbishop Moeller (Ohio) 42-24, New Prague (Minn.) 34-27 and Thompson, Ala. (44-24). Weslee Dvorak, Miles Semmler, Mitch Heisinger and Brady Reiff all went unbeaten for Parkston.

Parkston hosts Wagner on Thursday.

MCM Inv.

SALEM — The Beresford Watchdogs won four weight classes and put 13 wrestlers on the awards stand in winning the McCook Central-Montrose Invitational wrestling tournament on Saturday.

Beresford finished with 241 points, with Dakota Galt (106), Justin Haneke (132), Josh Caspersen (182) and Tristan Lutter (220) earning titles. Philip Area finished second with 220.5 points, with Jed Brown (126), Nick Donnelly (138), Lane Blasius (152) and Chandler Sudbeck (170) earning titles.

Bon Homme-Scotland was third, with Duncan Stoeber (113), Alex Caba (120) and Dan Stibral (285) earning titles. Also claiming titles were Dakota Valley's Blake Perryman (145), Flandreau's Jace Christiansen (160) and Elk Point-Jefferson's Lukas Forsling (195).

Duo Leads Kernels Past Gazelles

BY NICK ROBINSON

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Coming into Saturday's contest, the Yankton Gazelles knew they would have their hands full with Mitchell's Macy Miller and Taylor Volesky. The Kernels' dynamic duo lived up to billing, scoring a combined 49 points in a 71-39 victory over Yankton in Eastern South

Dakota Conference action at the Summit Center.

On Friday, Miller and Volesky scored 46 of their teams 49 points for Mitchell in a 49-41 victory over Aberdeen Central.

"We're well aware of who and what Macy Miller is," said Yankton head coach Doug Pesicka. "I thought in the first half she really set the tone of the game."

Against the Gazelles, Miller scored a game-high 27 points, with Volesky scoring 22.

In the first quarter, Yankton (2-3) came out of the gate roaring, as they went on a 6-3 run in the opening minutes.

Miller and Mitchell (6-0) answered the bell and set the tone in

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Yankton's Brady Hale is defended on the baseline by Mitchell's Jaron Jamison, left, and Ethan Jones, right, during an Eastern South Dakota Conference game against Mitchell Saturday at the Corn Palace in Mitchell.

Defense Powers Yankton Past Mitchell

Bucks Roll 62-42

BY AARON SAUNDERS

Mitchell Daily Republic

MITCHELL — According to head coach Chris Haynes the Yankton Bucks played perhaps their best defensive game of the season Saturday at the Corn Palace.

The Bucks held the Mitchell Kernels to a 30 percent shooting night en route to earning a 62-42 Eastern South Dakota Conference victory.

"We thought our defense was great," Haynes said. "We were able to force a couple of turnovers and get into transition."

The Bucks (2-2, 2-1 ESD) forced 17 turnovers with pressure man-to-man defense in the half court. Yankton elected for a full court press when Mitchell was taking the ball out.

The Kernels (1-7, 1-3 ESD) were able to break the press with relative ease. But the pressure did affect Mitchell, which finished the night 15-of-49 from the field.

More than half of the 49 shots taken by the Kernels were 3-pointers. While Mitchell took 26 threes it converted only six.

"They took us out of what we wanted to do," Mitchell senior guard Jaron Weich said. "The shots weren't falling. We probably took too many threes and we should have gone to the hoop more."

Weich finished with a team-high nine points. Seven of those nine points came in the first half, while the Kernels were fighting back and forth with Yankton.

Junior guard Beau Brown chipped in with seven points and five rebounds. Junior Forward Carter Brewster had eight points for Mitchell, which out-rebounded Yankton 40-32.

At the end of the first quarter Mitchell trailed Yankton 12-8.

The Bucks built their lead to 21-14 in the second quarter. But the Kernels answered back with a 7-3 run to close the gap to three points with just under two minutes to go in the half.

Yankton forward's Brady Hale and JJ Hejna answered the Mitchell run with a run of their own. Hejna scored four points in the paint to close out the half and Hale converted a 3-point play to give the Bucks a 31-23 lead at the half.

Both players finished the half with 12 points. Hale would go on to score a game-high 19

points, while Hejna tallied 18 points.

Down eight points at half, Mitchell had hopes of coming back and making it a game. But any hopes the Kernels had of winning were dashed early in the third quarter as Yankton went on a 15-2 run to start the quarter. During that run the Bucks lead ballooned from eight to 21 points.

"To only be down eight was a good thing," MHS basketball coach Erik Skoglund said. "We thought we could go on a 10-point run there. All we needed was two minutes, but it snowballed on us real quick."

Skoglund said this was supposed to be the weekend that his team turned things around. The first-year Kernel coach was referring to Mitchell's back-to-back home games at the Corn Palace on Friday and Saturday. But instead of winning its two home games Mitchell went 0-2.

The Kernels will hit the court again in hopes for a better result at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Brandon Valley. Yankton hosts Brookings at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Mitchell won the JV game 33-24. For Yankton, Austin Johnson scored eight points, Bradley Sorenson added six points.

Alex Withrow scored 11 points as Yankton rolled past Mitchell 45-21 in the sophomore game. Keenan LaCroix added eight points in the victory.

Mitchell claimed the freshmen 'A' game 42-31. For Yankton, Mason Townsend scored 13 points. Cole Lewno added seven points.

Yankton rolled to a 41-17 victory in the freshmen 'B' game. Blake Cwack scored 10 points and Riley Stanga had eight points for Yankton. Chris Kinsley added 10 rebounds in the victory.

MITCHELL (1-7, 1-3 ESD)
Jaron Weich 4-10 0-0 9, Derek Miller 2-7 1-1 5, Beau Brown 2-6 1-2 7, Neil Schillingen 2-7 0-0 5, Kamin Nelson 2-7 2-2 6, Noah Thompson 0-0 0-0 0, Tyler Houman 0-1 0-0 0, Connor Morgan 0-1 0-0 0, Ben Miller 0-0 0-0 0, Carter Brewster 3-4 0-0 8, Ethan Jones 0-4 2-2 2, Keegan Soukup 0-1 0-0 0, Jon Jamison 0-1 0-0 0, Tyler Larson 0-0 0-0 0, Alex Hartman 0-0 0-0 0.
YANKTON (2-2, 2-1 ESD)
Ryan Olson 2-8 3-4 8, Reid Sawatzke 4-10 0-0 8, Chipper Granflette 2-6 0-0 4, Lane Sawatzke 1-2 0-0 3, Brady Hale 7-11 4-5 19, Austin Johnson 0-2 0-0 0, Brody McClure 0-0 0-0 0, Matt Fitzgerald 0-1 0-0 0, JJ Hejna 6-9 6-10 18, Mitchell Gulikson 1-3 0-1 2, Evan Greeneway 0-1 0-4 0, Nick Raab 0-0 0-0 0, Sam Bisgard 0-0 0-0 0.

YANKTON 12 31 48 62

MITCHELL 8 23 29 42

3-point goals: Mitchell 6-26 (Weich, Brown, Brewster, Schillingen), Yankton 3-16 (Olson, Sawatzke, Hale); Rebounds: Mitchell 40 (Nelson, Johnson, 32 (Olson 6); Assists: Mitchell 8 (Brown, 2, Houman 2); Yankton 9 (Sawatzke 2, Sawatzke 2); Steals: Mitchell 4 (Weich, Brown, Schillingen, Brewster); Yankton 11 (Olson 4); Turnovers: Mitchell 17, Yankton 11; Team fouls: Mitchell 19, Yankton 15; Technical fouls none.