

Coyote Men Coast Past Iowa Wesleyan

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — The way mismatched games go, the University of South Dakota men's basketball team handled their business and helped boost some confidence.

In their final non-conference tune-up before next weekend's Summit League opener, the Coyotes easily took care of NCAA Division III Iowa Wesleyan 86-52 on Saturday at the DakotaDome.

Following a 6-game losing skid, the Coyotes (5-9) have now won two straight to start a 5-game homestand.

"With a lot of the losses, after a lot of them in a row, it hurts us," said sophomore Tyler Flack, who scored 16 points and grabbed six rebounds. "Our effort tonight was good, and I think we can keep it going."

Not that there was much drama to worry about. USD led the entire way and outscored the Tigers 54-14 in the paint.

In short, it was a game the Coyotes should have won handily.

"The greatest thing about these games is that guys that don't get to play as much, it gives them an opportunity to come in and hopefully get them going," interim head coach Joey James said.

Eight players scored for USD, helping the considerably-taller hosts dominate the rebounds, 43-24. Reserve Tyler Larson led with nine rebounds to go along with seven points, while senior Trevor Gruis had six boards.

The team's goal was a 20-rebound edge, according to sophomore reserve Adam Thoseby.

"Plus 19 still a pretty good effort," he said.

Behind 52 percent shooting and a plus-9 edge on the glass, the Coyotes raced out to a 47-29 lead at halftime and never looked back — leading by as many as 36 in the second half.

"One thing we keep talking



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

The Coyotes' Trevor Gruis maintains control of the ball under the hoop despite the effort of Iowa Wesleyan defenders. Gruis contributed 15 points to South Dakota's 86-52 victory Saturday.

to our guys about is, 'You've gotta be more consistent in the second half. You've gotta be able to rebound and be tough in there,'" James said.

"If we can just clean that up, I really like our team."

And so, how much does Saturday's win help?

"For our morale, it changes our team entirely," Thoseby said. "We were on a six game skid, but we're right back into it now."

The Coyotes open Summit League action next Saturday at home against newcomer Denver — projected to be a title contender.

"I think we've been ready for a lot of year," Thoseby said. "We've played a lot of good teams, and we haven't

been blown out except for the last two."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

S. DAKOTA 86, IOWA WESLEYAN 52

IOWA WESLEYAN (3-6)

Lee 0-3 0-0 0, Lennon 0-0 0-0 0, Schwengels 6-14 0-0 13, Lightner 1-4 0-0 2, Martin 1-2 0-0 3, Polite 2-4 0-0 4, Stephenson 3-6 2-3 9, Taylor 2-5 1-2 6, Hurt 3-7 0-2 6, Caudle 3-3 1-2 9, Lewis 0-2 0-0 0, Tit 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 21-51 4-9 52.

S. DAKOTA (5-9)

Flack 7-13 2-3 16, Rowson 0-2 0-0 0, Gruis 7-8 1-15, Norris 3-1 1-9, Bos 4-8 3-3 12, Thoseby 5-9 0-12, Foley 0-3 0-0 0, Pomtee 3-6 0-0 7, Robertson 3-6 1-2 8, Larson 2-7 3-5 7, Totals 34-67 11-15 86.

Halftime—5, Dakota 47-29, 3-Point Goals—Iowa Wesleyan 6-16 (Caudle 2-2, Taylor 1-2, Martin 1-2, Stephenson 1-2, Schwengels 1-4, Hurt 0-1, Lee 0-1, Lewis 0-2), S. Dakota 7-17 (Norris 2-2, Thoseby 2-3, Bos 1-3, Robertson 1-3, Foulie 1-3, Larson 0-1, Rowson 0-1, Foley 0-1), Fouled Out—Robertson, Rebounds—Iowa Wesleyan 24 (Caudle, Lightner, Stephenson 4), S. Dakota 43 (Larson 9), Assists—Iowa Wesleyan 11 (Lightner 3), S. Dakota 21 (Bos 7), Total Fouls—Iowa Wesleyan 13, S. Dakota 12-A-N/A.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

Avon 59, Irene-Wakonda 56

SATURDAY'S AREA BOYS

Dell Rapids 66, Elk Point-Jefferson 42
55
Parkston 55, Winner 36
Tripp-Delmont/Amour 51, Andes Central 42
Vermillion 42, Tri-Valley 30
Wayne 62, Ponca 42
Wynot 68, Emerson-Hubbard 46
Yankton 62, Mitchell 42
Creighton Tournament
CONSOLATION: Boyd County 52, Hartington 32
CHAMPIONSHIP: Wausa 68, Creighton 50
Knight Classic Tournament
CHAMPIONSHIP: Hartington Cedar Catholic 48, Archbishop Bergan 45
Sanford Classic

SATURDAY'S AREA GIRLS

Elk Point-Jefferson 71, Dell Rapids 42
Emerson-Hubbard 61, Wynot 49
Lennox 60, Platte-Geddes 49
Mitchell 71, Yankton 39
Ponca 51, Wayne 49
Tripp-Delmont/Amour 67, Andes Central 20
Vermillion 57, Tri-Valley 46
Winner 80, Parkston 20
Creighton Tournament (Holiday)
THIRD: Wausa 55, Hartington 52
CHAMPIONSHIP: Creighton 51, Boyd County 46

FOOTBALL

FBS BOWLS

Area Hoops: Parkston Boys Shut Down Winner

PARKSTON — Jalen Hurlley scored a game-high 17 points to lead Parkston past Winner 55-36 in boys' basketball action on Saturday.

Zach Scott scored 11 points and Spencer Lucas grabbed eight rebounds in the victory.

Nate Galbraith led Winner with eight points, six rebounds and three steals.

Parkston, 5-0, hosts Vermillion on Friday. Winner, 3-2, travels to Chamberlain on Tuesday.

WINNER (3-2).....11 15 22 36
PARKSTON (5-0).....13 22 40 55

Creighton Tourn. Championship: Wausa 68, Creighton 50

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Austin Conn and Spencer Rosberg combined for 47 points as Wausa downed Creighton 68-50 for the championship of the Creighton Holiday Tournament on Saturday.

Conn scored 26 points and Rosberg had 21 points and six rebounds for Wausa. Devon Munter netted 14 points and had four assists. Jordan Burns grabbed six rebounds in the victory.

Seth Wilmes, Justin Wilmes and Austin Diedrichsen each had 11 points for Creighton. Beau Schindler added 10 points for the Bulldogs.

Wausa, 8-1, hosts Elkhorn Valley on Tuesday. Creighton, 4-2 with both setbacks at the hands of Wausa, travels to Bloomfield on Tuesday.

WAUSA (8-1).....18 32 45 68
CREIGHTON (4-2).....10 17 32 50

Consolation: Boyd Co. 52, Hartington 32

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Boyd County started each half well, outscoring Hartington a combined 31-15 in the first and third quarters in a 52-32 victory over the Wildcats in the consolation game of the Creighton Holiday Tournament on Saturday.

Calvin Rihanek posted 13 points. Drew Stahlecker had 12 points and Dylan Reiman added 11 points for Boyd County.

For Hartington, Riley Haug led the way with eight points.

Boyd County, 4-2, hosts its annual tournament beginning on Tuesday. Hartington, 3-4, plays in the Classic Tournament, beginning on Thursday.

BOYD COUNTY (4-2).....14 23 40 52
HARTINGTON (3-4).....7 13 21 32

Sanford Classic Avon 59, Irene-Wakonda 56

SIoux FALLS — The Avon Pirates earned their first victory of the season, beating Irene-Wakonda 59-56 in the Sanford Pentagon Classic on Saturday.

Logan Mudder posted 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead Avon, which shot 48 percent from the field in the contest. Devin Tolma and Cody Namminga each had nine points. Brandon Kromchit hit five of six free throws down the

Men: MMC 68, NWU 56
LINCOLN, Neb. — The Mount Marty College men's basketball team earned its

Lancers

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At the half: MMC 29, NWU 29. Three-Pointers: MMC 8-16 (Schmidt 4-5, Suters 2-2, Wagner 2-5, Veldkamp 0-4, Dreckman 0-1) NWU 5-8 (Sanchez 2-2, Salski 1-1, Ziegenbein 1-1, Albert 1-2, Diaz 0-2). Rebounds: NWU 39 (Cook 7), MMC 36 (De Kam 9). Personal Fouls: NWU 30, MMC 18. Fouled Out: TeKoste, Cook, Sanchez. Assists: MMC 14 (Wagner 5), NWU 12 (Diaz 5). Turnovers: NWU 25, MMC 12. Blocked Shots: NWU 10 (Ashley 6), MMC 3. Steals: MMC 8 (Gebhart 2), NWU 3. Attendance: 129.

Men: MMC 68, NWU 56
LINCOLN, Neb. — The Mount Marty College men's basketball team earned its

first Great Plains Athletic Conference victory of the season, beating Nebraska Wesleyan 68-56 on Saturday.

Mount Marty took control with a 6-0 run in the first half, taking a 21-16 lead. The Lancers never trailed again, and led by as many as 16 points in the second half.

Tyler Payer hit five three-pointers on the way to a game-high 21 points for Mount Marty. Bud Smith and Nermin Krzalic each scored 14 points, with Krzalic recording six assists. Alex Irvine netted 12 points. Patrick Ciganovic grabbed nine rebounds in the victory.

Jonah Bradley led NWU (9-3, 3-3 GPAC) with 20 points. Tim Schweitzer netted 10 points.

Mount Marty, 2-13 overall and 1-7 in

AREA CALENDAR

Monday, January 6
BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Free- man vs. Irene-Wakonda at Wakonda
WRESTLING, PREP YHS/S.F. Roosevelt at Brookings (5 p.m.)

Friday, Jan. 3
Cotton: Missouri 41, Oklahoma State 31
Orange: Clemson 40, Ohio State 35
Saturday, Jan. 4
BBVA Compass: Vanderbilt 41, Houston 24
Sunday, Jan. 5
GoDaddy.com: Arkansas State (7-5) vs. Ball State (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Jan. 6
BCS National Championship: Florida State (13-0) vs. Auburn (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 4
Indianapolis 45, Kansas City 44
New Orleans 26, Philadelphia 24
Sunday, Jan. 5
San Diego 27, Cincinnati 10
San Francisco 23, Green Bay 20
DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS
Saturday, Jan. 11
New Orleans at Seattle, 3:35 p.m. (FOX)
Indianapolis at New England, 7:15 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 12
San Francisco at Carolina, 12:05 p.m. (FOX)
San Diego at Denver, 3:40 p.m. (CBS)

NFL PLAYOFFS
WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS

For Hartington, Sophie Noecker had 25 points and nine rebounds. Ryley Eickhoff had 10 assists and five steals. Shelby Hochstein added nine points and five steals for the Wildcats.

Wausa hosts Elkhorn Valley on Tuesday. Hartington plays in the Classic Tournament, beginning on Thursday.

HAUSA (2-7).....23 32 43 55
HARTINGTON (1-7).....8 19 42 52

Consolation: Wausa 55, Hartington 52

CREIGHTON, Neb. — The Wausa Vikings jumped out to a 23-8 lead after one quarter, then held on for a 55-52 victory over Hartington in the consolation game of the Creighton Holiday Tournament on Saturday.

Paige Mitteis led Creighton with 17 points. Emily Sorensen added 12 points in the victory. Amber Bendig led Boyd County with 15 points.

Creighton, 6-1, travels to Bloomfield on Tuesday. Boyd County, 6-1, hosts its annual tournament, beginning on Tuesday.

BOYD COUNTY (6-1).....11 21 31 46
CREIGHTON (6-1).....9 15 35 51

Other Games Dell Rapids 66, Elk Point-Jefferson 55

ELK POINT — Cody Nielsen went 10-10 from the field, finishing with 23 points and 11 rebounds, as Dell Rapids beat Elk Point-Jefferson 66-55 in Dakota XII Conference boys' basketball action on Saturday.

Ty Hojlund and Zane Schumacker each scored 14 points in the victory.

For EPJ, Andrew Flynn scored 19 points. Brandon Koupal hit five three-pointers to finish with 17 points off the bench. Jordan Brandon added nine rebounds for the Huskies.

Dell Rapids, 3-1, hosts Pipestone, Minn., on Tuesday. EPJ hosts Vermillion on Tuesday.

DELL RAPIDS (3-1).....11 28 47 66
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (0-4).....17 26 44 55

Vermillion 42, Tri-Valley 30

VERMILLION — Tyrrell Harper posted 16 points and 13 rebounds to lead Vermillion to a 42-30 victory over Tri-Valley in Dakota XII Conference boys' basketball action on Saturday.

Nick Jensen added 13 points for Vermillion, which outscored the Mustangs 13-2 in the fourth quarter for the victory.

Brendon Boomsma led Tri-Valley with 14 points.

Vermillion (5-0) travels to EPJ on Tuesday. Tri-Valley, 3-2, hosts West Central on Tuesday.

Girls Vermillion 57, Tri-Valley 46

VERMILLION — Josie Huber posted 30 points and 10 rebounds to lead Vermillion to a 57-46 victory over Tri-Valley in Dakota XII girls' basketball action on Saturday.

Haleigh Melstadd added 10 points and five steals in the victory.

Taylor Will had 12 points for Tri-Valley. Abbie Heiberger grabbed 14 rebounds.

Vermillion, 4-2, travels to Canton on Thursday. Tri-Valley, 6-1, hosts Platte-Geddes on Friday.

Emerson-Hubbard 61, Wynot 49

WYNOT, Neb. — Abby Drieling scored 25 points to lead Emerson-Hubbard past Wynot 61-49 in Lewis & Clark Conference girls' basketball action on Saturday.

Jenna Heine and Maggie Schulte each had 12 points to lead Wynot.

Emerson-Hubbard, 6-2, plays in the Bob Cough Tournament, beginning Thursday in Wakefield, Neb. Wynot, 6-4, plays in the Classic Tournament, beginning on Thursday.

Creighton Tourn. Champ.: Creighton 51, Boyd County 46

CREIGHTON, Neb. — The Creighton Bulldogs used a 20-10 margin in the third quarter to take control of a 51-46 victory over Boyd County

the GPAC, hosts Briar Cliff on Wednesday.

MOUNT MARTY (2-13)
Tyler Payer 8-18 0-0 21, Alex Irvine 4-4 4-6 12, Ben Hegge 0-0 0-0 0, Bud Smith 3-7 1-10 14, Nermin Krzalic 3-5 6-8 14, Lorenzo Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Patrick Ciganovic 1-2 4-7 16, Mitchell Newhouse 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 19-36 21-38 68.

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN (9-3)
Trevor Johnson 3-6 3-8 9, Tim Schweitzer 4-4 2-2 10, Jonah Bradley 7-17 4-5 20, Trey Bardsley 2-9 0-0 5, Eric Jackson 2-13 0-0 4, Casey Wiens 0-1 0-0 0, Byron Thompson 0-1 0-0 0, Andrew Mitteis 1-2 0-0 2, Travis Giesseiman 0-0 0-0 0, Trent Schellert 3-4 0-0 6. TOTALS: 22-57 9-15 56.

At the half: MMC 27, NWU 24. Three-Pointers: MMC 9-17 (Payer 10-0, Krzalic 2-3, Smith 1-2, Ciganovic 1-2), NWU 3-24 (Bradley 2-9, Bardsley 1-7, Jackson 0-8). Rebounds: MMC 34 (Ciganovic 9), NWU 26 (Johnson 5, Schellert 5). Personal Fouls: NWU 18, MMC 16. Fouled Out: Schweitzer. Assists: NWU 16 (Schellert 6), MMC 14 (Krzalic 9). Turnovers: MMC 17, NWU 8. Blocked Shots: NWU 1 (Schellert), MMC 0. Steals: NWU 6 (Bradley 2), MMC 2. Attendance: 140.

Mount Marty, 2-13 overall and 1-7 in

Coyotes

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said. "She does attack the boards. She's just got a special knack to chase the ball down."

Her teammates know that all too well.

"We call Tia the 'little post,'" McCloud said. "She even jumps over us sometimes. She's one of our best rebounders."

Hemiller was far from alone Saturday, though. Freshman reserve Bridget Arens had six rebounds to help the Coyotes to a 42-33 edge on the glass.

"Most games, if you can win the rebounding battle, you can win the game,"

Hemiller said. "Even in practice, we're fighting and battling. That's what makes us better."

Cleveland State, which made 8-of-27 three-pointers, got 26 points from Kersten Green and 12 rebounds from Imani Gordon.

With their non-conference schedule out of the way, the Coyotes now turn their attention to Summit League action, starting Sunday at newcomer Denver.

Certain areas (defense, mainly) still need addressing, Williams said, but she believes her squad is ready for the next step.

"I don't think this team has really scratched the surface of what we're capable of," Williams said. "We're giving up too many points."

"We are a pretty good offensive team on given nights,

and we have some weapons, but we have got to find a way to commit to becoming a better defensive team if we want to make any kind of a run in our conference."

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CLEVELAND STATE (5-9)

Imani Gordon 1-6 5-8 7, Haley Schmitt 0-3 0-0 0, Adesuwa Adefyeman 3-9 0-1 7, Cori Coleman 6-13 5-8 17, Kersten Green 11-15 0-0 26, Allison Mitchell 1-3 0-0 3, Khayla Livingston 2-5 2-2 7, Brooke Smith 0-2 0-0 0, Olivia Voskuhl 1-4 0-0 3. TOTALS 25-59 12-19 70.

SOUTH DAKOTA (9-6)
Lisa Loeffler 2-5 0-0 4, Polly Harrington 5-9 0-0 10, Tia Hemiller 5-11 2-4 13, Taylor Moore 0-4 0-0 0, Raeshel Contreras 5-14 3-6 15, Madeleine White 1-3 4-6 6, Bridget Arens 1-4 1-2 3, Jaylah Jackson 1-2 4-5 6, Margaret McCloud 8-11 1-4 17. TOTALS 28-63 15-27 74.

Halftime: USD 34-28. Three-Pointers: CSU 8-27 (Green 4-6, Livingston 1-2, Voskuhl 1-2, Mitchell 1-3, Adefyeman 1-5, Schmitt 0-1, Gordon 0-2, Coleman 0-0), USD 3-16 (Contreras 2-9, Hemiller 1-1, Loeffler 0-1, White 0-1, Jackson 0-1, Moore 0-3). Total Rebounds: USD 42 (Hemiller 10), CSU 33 (Gordon 12). Assists: USD 16 (Hemiller 5), CSU 11 (Coleman 3). Turnovers: CSU 14, USD 11. Personal Fouls: CSU 20, USD 17. Fouled Out: None. Attendance: 1163.

Gazelles

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the first quarter, going on two crucial runs to skip ahead of the Gazelles.

Halfway through the first, Mitchell took their first lead of the game at 11-8. The next possession, Yankton sophomore Becky Frick hit a baseline jumper to cut the lead to one.

The Gazelles did not score the rest of the quarter, as Mitchell went on a 10-0 run to end the quarter, giving the Kernels a 21-10 advantage going into the second period.

"We have to keep coaching when we get down in the first half, we have a young team, and we're always trying to work on new things.

There's a learning curve here for both players and coaches, we'll get better, but we just need to learn to compete at a higher level."

According to Mitchell coach Wes Morgan, the first quarter is when his team sets the pace for the rest of the contest.

"I thought we had a lot of energy tonight, even after playing a tough game last night," Mitchell coach Wes Morgan said. "I felt Yankton came out with great intensity and kind of weathered the storm there early. That first quarter definitely set the tone for us the rest of the game."

Gazelle freshman Lindsay Hale opened the second quarter with a corner three to cut the Kernel deficit down to 21-13.

However, just like they did all night, Mitchell capitalized on three Yankton turnovers in a row to go on an 11-0 run



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Andi Sprakel, right, tries to drive past Mitchell's Macy Miller during their Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' basketball game on Saturday at the Summit Center.

halfway through the quarter. With 4:45 remaining in the half, the Kernels led the Gazelles 32-13.

After a time-out, Frick ended the Yankton drought with a put-back, cutting the lead down to 35-15.

With two minutes remaining, Cassidy Musick hit an open three-pointer to give Mitchell a 38-17 lead.

The Kernels were able to coast to a 43-22 lead going into the second half.

Miller led the Kernels at the halfway mark with 16 points and three rebounds in the first half. Emma Schmidt contributed seven points and four rebounds, as well. The Kernels shot 80 percent from the field in the first half, and 67 from beyond the arc.

For Yankton, Hale led the Gazelles with seven points and two steals. Andi Sprakel added six points and two rebounds, while Morgan Tessier added five points and

two rebounds. The Gazelles shot 48 percent from the field and 25 percent from beyond the arc. Yankton also committed 14 turnovers in the first half.

To come out of the gate, Mitchell had the first six points, four of them by Volesky on the fast break.

Halfway through the third quarter, Mitchell led Yankton 49-22.

After a Yankton time-out and turnover, Volesky sunk a wide open three pointer to give the Kernels a 54-22 lead with 3:30 left in the quarter.

"We didn't do a very good job of defending the ball and our transition defense wasn't up to par," Pesicka said. "They got a lot of easy baskets and got to the free-throw line a lot. I really thought their transition game was a huge difference in this game."

The next Mitchell possession, Sprakel stole the ball and went the distance.

As the third quarter went

on, Yankton didn't give up, going on a 10-0 run, down 56-32.

To end the third quarter, Mitchell held onto a 56-32 lead.