

State Record Holder Christensen Headed To USD

R.C. Central Standout Owns S.D. All-Time Mark In Girls' Triple Jump

BY JEREMY HOECK
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RAPID CITY — The University of South Dakota women's track program picked up a commitment from one of the state's best jumpers, Collette Christensen.

Christensen, a senior at Rapid City Central, owns 12 high school state championships between track and gymnastics. She is also the state record holder in the triple jump, at 40-feet-4.5.

Ultimately, Christensen chose to

pursue a collegiate career in track, according to Central track coach Dave Dolan.

"Ever since she was a freshman, it was something she toyed with. Would she try for both sports somewhere?" Dolan told the Press & Dakotan. "She just decided she wanted to compete at the Division I level."

Christensen will join a USD women's track program that has found national success in its short time at the D-I level. The Coyotes sent five athletes to last year's

NCAA Outdoor Championships, resulting in Bethany (Buell) Firsick winning a national pole vault title.

USD women's head coach Lucky Huber, who cannot comment on recruits, said recently that he believes jumps could be one of the next big events to find national success for the Coyotes.

The program's performances played into Christensen's decision, Dolan said.

"The coaches and the success they've had there, that had something to do with it," said Dolan, a

USD graduate. "She wants to be part of that."

At the state high school track meet last year in Sioux Falls, Christensen won the high jump at 5-7 and was third in the triple jump at 36-10.25.

Christensen, who plans to pursue a degree in a science-related field, should benefit from not having to tax her body with two sports, Dolan said.

"One thing I always tell our kids is, 'Go somewhere where you can have success,'" he said. "And I think

she can."

Having one of the state's top track standouts choose to remain in South Dakota is a positive thing, Dolan said.

"It seems like our best athletes either go to North Dakota for football or Nebraska or somewhere else," he said. "It's nice to see them stay in the state, to put South Dakota on the map."

Commitments are not binding until athletes sign their National Letter of Intent on national signing day, which for track falls on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Tigers Topple Gazelles

BY JEREMY HOECK
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A tough stretch in its schedule continued Thursday night for the Yankton Gazelles basketball team.

This time the opponent was defending Class A champion Harrisburg.

New to the Class AA and Eastern South Dakota Conference ranks this season, the fourth-ranked Tigers (5-1) never trailed and led by double digits the entire second half in a 49-32 victory at the Summit Center.

About the only things that went right for the Gazelles (2-5) were a 10-of-10 effort at the free throw line in the fourth quarter and 26 turnovers by Harrisburg.

In the end, Yankton — which has now lost five straight — wasn't entirely disappointed with the performance, according to senior Morgan Tessier.

"Even though we lost, I honestly think we improved a lot," said Tessier, who finished with 12 points and seven rebounds. "We did some nice things, even though the turnovers still hurt us."

The teams combined for 56 turnovers (Yankton had 30), and the Gazelles couldn't overcome a 32 percent shooting effort.

"Early in the game, we had some makeable shots that we didn't hit," head coach Doug Pesicka said. "If you make those, the complexion of the game is a little different, and who knows what happens."

Still, despite all the miscues, the Gazelles took some strides, the coach said.

"The turnovers stick out

at you, but there were a number of positives that will show up on film for us," Pesicka said. "I was proud of how our kids played, but we maybe got a little banged up down low."

And that was the goal for Harrisburg.

The Tigers out-rebounded Yankton 32-24 and scored 22 points in the paint.

"That's what we wanted to do, establish ourselves inside," said first-year Harrisburg coach Nick Mayer, who previously coached in Vermillion.

"Yankton has always had that tough zone, so our girls had to find some openings."

Thanks in part to seven Yankton turnovers, the visiting Tigers jumped in front early and took a 13-4 lead after the first quarter. Harrisburg's lead reached 21-11 by halftime, with neither team shooting over 30 percent.

Down by as many as 21 points in the second half, the Gazelles kept fighting, Tessier said.

"We played with a lot more poise than our past games," she said. "We just need to keep attacking the hoop."

Sophomore Becky Frick added six points in the loss, while senior Whitlee Larson had five points and five rebounds. Sophie Drotzmann chipped in with four points and three rebounds.

Harrisburg senior Hailey Halling finished with 14 points and seven rebounds, while senior Morgan Beaner had eight points and six rebounds.

An oddity in its schedule

GAZELLES | PAGE 8A



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Lindsey Hale, 14, shoots a runner in the lane during the Gazelles' Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' basketball matchup with Harrisburg on Thursday at the Summit Center.

BH-S, Parkston Earn Home Wins

PARKSTON — Top-ranked Parkston took advantage of five pins and four Wagner forfeits to beat the Red Raiders 62-9 in prep wrestling action on Thursday.

Logan Mahoney (113), Kyler Holzbauer (120), Jake Weber (138), Andrew Semmler (195) and Austin Bertram (285) each won by pin for Parkston. Blake Bietz (132) won by technical fall for the victorious Trojans.

Parkston travels to Inwood, Iowa, on Tuesday for a quadrangular hosted by West Lyon High School. Wagner travels to Miller for a tournament on Saturday.

106 — Benjamin Soukup W dec. Rocky Berg P 4-0; 113 — Logan Mahoney P pin. Collin Friel W 0-42; 120 — Kyler Holzbauer P pin. Dawson Patrick W 1-30; 126 — Dawson Semmler P by forfeit; 132 — Blake Bietz P tech. fall Logan Kafka W 4-57; 18-3; 138 — Jake Weber P pin. Evan Heth W 1-11; 145 — Nick Dion W dec. Chase Stoenner P 10-6; 152 — Weslee Dvorak P by forfeit; 160 — Brady Soulek W dec. Dillon Stadman P 8-1; 170 — Chandler Baumgart P by forfeit; 182 — Mitch Heisinger P dec. David Koser W 2-1; 195 — Andrew Semmler P pin. Andrew Soukup W 1-48; 220 — Brady Rieff P by forfeit; 285 — Austin Bertram P pin. Truman Ashes W 0-41.

Bon Homme-Scot. 45, Elk Point-Jefferson 24

SCOTLAND — Bon Homme-Scotland continued their success this season with a 45-24 victory over Elk Point-Jefferson on Thursday evening.

Picking up victories for Bon Homme-Scotland were Duncan Stoenner (113), Blake Konstanz (120), Alex Caba (126), Sam Caba (132), Moises Loazano (138), Austin Kaul (145), Josh Vaith (152), Krey Kepplinger (220) and Dan Stribral (285).

Victors for Elk Point-Jefferson were Dylan Colt (106), Justin Broeckemeier (160), Alex McLary (170), Andrew Flannery (182) and C.J. Geary (195).

106 — Dylan Colt EPJ def. Sam Sulera 5-3; 113 — Duncan Stoenner BHS pin. Ethan Marx 1-10; 120 — Blake Konstanz PHS pin. Matt Ambrose 1-37; 126 — Alex Caba BHS pin. Alex Norby 5-08; 132 — Sam Donelan EPJ def. Sam Caba 6-18; 138 — Moises Lozano BHS pin. Adam Sundleaf 1-13; 145 — Austin Kaul BHS def. Jared Hueser 27-6; 152 — Josh Vaith BHS pin. Cody Davis 3-21; 160 — Justin Broeckemeier EPJ def. Lucas Crownover 33-8; 170 — Alex McLary EPJ pin. Tanner Iwan 28; 182 — Andrew Flannery EPJ def. Jesse Lozano 33-18; 195 — Alan Hostaja EPJ pin. C.J. Geary 1-52; 220 — Krey Kepplinger BHS pin. Andrew Teply 3-40; 285 — Dan Stribral BHS pin. Lukas Forsling 3-43

Madison 70, Lincoln 6

MADISON — The Madison Bulldogs won all but one match on the way to a 70-6 rout of Sioux Falls Lincoln in prep wrestling action on Thursday.

Nolan Johnson (106), Bailey Mennis (126), Kaiden Dorris (138), Jackson Jones (152), Tyler Heeren (160) and Braxton Steffen (220) each won by pin for Madison, which was the beneficiary of three Lincoln forfeits.

Skyler Castelleja accounted for all of Lincoln's points with his pin at 132 pounds.

Madison hosts Dell Rapids and Vermillion in a Dakota XII Conference triangular on Tuesday. Lincoln travels to Hawarden, Iowa, for the West Sioux Invitational on Saturday.

106 — Nolan Johnson M pin. Stephan St. Pierre 5-20; 113 — Derek Bierschbach M maj. dec. Brandon Bedell 16-2; 120 — Noah Guse M by forfeit; 126 — Bailey Mennis M pin. Omari Boas 1-21; 132 — Skyler Castelleja L pin. Jarred Hodges 1-20; 138 — Kaiden Dorris M pin. Austin Hemmings 4-09; 145 — Tyler Guthmiller M maj. dec. Luke Jamison 14-3; 152 — Jackson Jones M pin. Malik Paulson 1-29; 160 — Tyler Heeren M pin. Niro Jalandro 2-28; 170 — Nate Guthmiller M by forfeit; 182 — Cory Welbon M maj. dec. Josh Westley 10-2; 195 — Tyler Curry M by forfeit; 220 — Braxton Steffen M pin. Ali Bakran 1-29; 285 — Blake Gusso M maj. dec. Brandon Sylva 1-2-4

Mount Marty JV Women Down BC

Mount Marty College used big games from Brittini Bormann and Kellie Winckler to upend Briar Cliff 56-53 in JV women's basketball action on Thursday.

Bormann scored a team-high 19 points for MMC. Winckler had 16 points, 17 rebounds and five steals in the victory.

MMC travels to Dakota State today (Friday) as part of a doubleheader with the varsity squad.

Women

S.D. STATE 63, IUPUI 57: BROOKINGS — South Dakota State jumped out to a 32-23 half-time lead and held on for a 63-57 victory over IUPUI in the Summit League opener for both squads.

Tara Heiser was the lone player in double figures for SDSU (10-7, 1-0 Summit), finishing with 17 points off the bench. Megan Wayateshek and Gabby Boever each had nine points. Hannah Strop finished with eight rebounds in the victory.

For IUPUI (10-6, 0-1), DeAlira Goss led the way with 21 points, including 11-12 from the line.

Bridgewater-Emery Girls Escape Freeman

FREEMAN — Despite an early first-quarter deficit, Bridgewater-Emery was able to sneak past Freeman 49-48 in girls' basketball action on Thursday evening.

Kadra Kayser and Tiana Kayser led Bridgewater-Emery (3-5) with 15 points apiece.

Nicole Saarie led Freeman (5-2) with 14 points. Erika Saage added 11 points.

Bridgewater-Emery will travel to Colman-Egan on Tuesday. Freeman will travel to Irene-Wakonda on Saturday in a double-header.

BRIDGEWATER-EMERY (3-5).....6 25 35 49
FREEMAN (5-2).....13 24 34 48

Classic Tourn.

Wynot 66, Bloomfield 19

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Wynot beat Bloomfield 66-19 in the girls' basketball Classic Tourney Thursday.

In the win for Wynot, Maggie Schulte and Jenna Heine led the team with 18 points respectively. Kristi Bruening grabbed five rebounds and Courtney Arkfeld made five rebounds.

For Bloomfield, Kenna Fiedler had seven points.

WYNOT (9-2).....23 41 57 66
BLOOMFIELD (4-5).....4 10 19 19

Regular Season

Avon 51, Scotland 35

AVON — The Avon Pirates beat the Scotland Highlanders 51-35 in regular season girls' basketball action Thursday.

In the win for the Pirates (7-0), Chesney Nagel led the team with 18 points and three steals. Arianna Oorlog scored 12 points and Cheylee Nagel scored 10 points.

Also for the Pirates, Heidi Cap

grabbed eight rebounds with three assists and Amanda Reiff had three assists.

For the Lady Highlanders (2-5), Amber Alvey scored 11 points with three assists and Hanna Mogck grabbed five rebounds.

Next, Avon will host Hanson Saturday and Scotland will host Centerville Monday.

SCOTLAND (2-5).....5 11 23 35
AVON (7-0).....11 20 36 51

Elk Point-Jefferson 73, West Central 61

ELK POINT — Elk Point-Jefferson rolled past West Central 73-61 in overtime on Thursday evening.

McKenzie Mennenga led EPJ (6-1) with 26 points and seven rebounds, while Kelsey Bertram added 21 points.

Madison Kuehl led WC (5-2) with 23 points and six rebounds. McKenzie Stone added 21 points in the loss.

EPJ will host Viborg-Hurley today (Friday), while West Central next plays Madison.

ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (6-1).....8 29 39 56
WEST CENTRAL (5-2).....18 28 43 56 61

Crofton 67, Battle Creek 25

CROFTON, Neb. — Crofton earned its 10th win of the season with a 67-25 rout of Battle Creek on Thursday evening. Allison Arens led Crofton (10-1) with 16 points, six steals, four rebounds and four assists. Kelsey Sanger added nine points and four rebounds, while Katie Peterson also contributed nine points.

Amanda Schmidt was the only Battle Creek (4-5) player in double figures with 13 points.

Crofton travels to West Holt today. Battle Creek will host West Point/Beemer on Tuesday.

CROFTON (9-1).....22 52 61 67
BATTLE CREEK (4-5).....4 11 14 25

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Vermillion Boys Remain Unbeaten

VERMILLION — Vermillion kept its winning ways going with a 60-53 victory over West Central on Thursday.

Tyrell Harper led Vermillion (7-0) with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Nick Jensen added 16 points in the victory.

Bradyon Swartwout led West Central (0-7) with 13 points, while Noah Matzen added 12 points.

Vermillion will host Parkston today (Friday), while West Central hosts Madison on Monday.

VERMILLION (7-0).....20 38 50 60
WEST CENTRAL (0-7).....18 31 40 53

Classic Tourn.

Wynot 51, Bloomfield 41

WYNOT, Neb. — Wynot defeated Bloomfield 51-41 on Thursday night in the semifinals of the Hartington Classic Tournament in Wynot, Neb.

Austin Lange led Wynot (9-2) with 13 points. Jackson Sudbeck and Davis Weiesler each added 12 points in the victory.

Kane Fiedler and Quinn O'Brien each led Bloomfield (3-8) with 10 points.

Wynot will play in the championship in Hartington tonight (Friday), while Bloomfield hosts Winside for the consolation crown.

WYNOT (9-2).....13 28 36 51
BLOOMFIELD (3-8).....9 21 29 41

Big East Conf.

Parker 95, Howard 20

PARKER — The Parker Pheasants beat the Howard Tigers 95-20 in the first

Big East Conference Tournament Thursday.

In the win for the Pheasants, Jake Anderson led the team with 30 points. Zach O'Keefe scored 14 points with five assists and Michael Olson scored 14 points.

Also for the Pheasants, Ryan John grabbed nine rebounds.

For Howard, David Clarey scored eight points and David Weilder grabbed six rebounds.

Next, Howard will continue in Big Easty Conference action Friday.

HOWARD (0-4).....2 11 17 20
PARKER (3-3).....27 50 71 95

McCook Cent.-Mont. 48, Chester Area 41

PARKER — McCook Central-Montrose defeated Chester 48-41 on Thursday evening in the Big East Conference Tournament.

Will Gottlob led MCM (5-1) with 21 points and 18 rebounds. Cole Cheeseman added 18 points in the victory.

Cole Acheson led Chester Area (3-4) with 13 points. Jesse Kreutzfeldt added 12 points in the loss.

Both teams will continue play in the Big East Conference Tournament today (Friday).

MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (5-1)/13 29 39 48
CHESTER AREA (3-4).....7 18 27 41

Regular Season

Crofton 80, Battle Creek 64

BATTLE CREEK, Neb. — The Crofton Warriors gained a 20-point lead over the Battle Creek Braves to win 80-64 in boys' basketball Thursday.

In the win for the Warriors (6-5), Eric Kleinschmit led the team with 20 points

and three assists.

Also in the win, Brock Mueller scored 19 points and Evan Woodkman scored 18 points with 11 rebounds.

For the Braves, Zach Bellar scored 25 points and Kobe Lade scored 12 points.

Next, Crofton will play at West Holt today (Friday) and Battle Creek will play at West Point-Beemer on Monday.

CROFTON (6-5).....26 42 57 80
BATTLE CREEK (3-6).....12 22 42 64

Cedar Catholic 71, Laurel-Concord-Col. 45

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Cedar Catholic rolled past Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 71-45 on Thursday evening.

No stats were reported for the winning Trojans (8-3).

For LCC (2-7), Dillan Wolfgram scored 13 points and seven rebounds, while Brad Steffen added 11 points.

Cedar Catholic will travel to Pierce next Friday, while Laurel-Concord-Coleridge will travel to Winnebago today (Friday).

CEDAR CATHOLIC (8-3).....19 37 56 71
LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE (2-7)/11 19 34 45

Centerville 73, Marion 43

CENTERVILLE — Centerville rolled past Marion behind 20 points and 10 rebounds from Seamus O'Malley on Thursday night.

Christian Gruschin helped Centerville (5-2) with 13 points and seven assists. Tyrell Martz added 11 points in the victory.

Jacob Wuertz led Marion (1-3) with 15 points and five rebounds, while Nick Gortmaker added 14 points in the loss.

Centerville will host Beresford tonight

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LANCER BASKETBALL

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