

USD Begins Summit League Basketball Action This Weekend

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Not only will the University of South Dakota basketball teams open Summit League play this weekend, they will both face the conference newcomer.

In that sense, the Coyote men are women are guinea pigs. Nobody else in the conference knows much about the latest addition from the Mountain time zone.

"There's a reason they come into the league right away and teams know about their past success," said USD men's interim head coach Joey James.

The USD men (5-9) host Denver on Saturday at 4 p.m. in the Dakota Dome, while the Coyote women (9-6) play at Denver on Sunday at 2 p.m. Central.

Of the two games, the men's showdown in Vermillion boasts arguably the most intriguing storyline.

Denver men's basketball program, in its third league in three years, has been a mid-major power for a number of years. Last season, the Pioneers went 22-10, claimed a share of the Western Athletic Conference regular season title and won a game in the NIT.

They were then tabbed second in the Summit League preseason poll, behind North Dakota State.

"For them to pick up a preseason number two in the polls tells you a lot about their program and what coach (Joe) Scott has done," James said.

Denver averages 65.3 points a game (seventh in the league), but ranks second in scoring defense at

64.5. Such stats lead James to compare the Pioneers to Summit League defensive stalwart Western Illinois. "They play about the same speed as Western, a very controlled pace if they can control it," James said. "We'll play our game, but if that means we can speed things up a little bit, we'll do it."

Though the Pioneers are not overly deep — seven players saw action in last Saturday's loss at Saint Joseph's, they are long.

They are led by 6-foot-6 senior post Chris Udofia, who earned pre-season first team All-Summit honors. He is averaging 12.8 points, 5.9 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 2.5 blocks per game.

Denver also has 6-5 junior guard Brett Olson (14.2 ppg, 92 percent on free throws), 6-3 junior guard Cam Griffin (7.0 rpg), as well as 6-9 soph-

omore post Dom Samac. The Coyotes, meanwhile, have won two straight games since a 6-game losing skid. USD beat Cal State Northridge and Iowa Wesleyan to kick-start a 5-game homestand.

With enough to worry about, the Coyotes — picked to finish seventh in the Summit — have also been battling the flu bug as of late.

Sophomore reserve Casey Kasperbauer missed the Iowa Wesleyan game with illness, and a handful of other players — as well as James — have been fighting the flu this week.

"The big thing now is trying to get everybody healthy," James said Wednesday.

The Summit League got its season started with two games Thursday, and through non-conference action NDSU sits first at 11-4, fol-

lowed by Fort Wayne (12-5) and Omaha (10-5).

For the Coyotes, though, they are simply enjoying being at home for their first three conference games, James said.

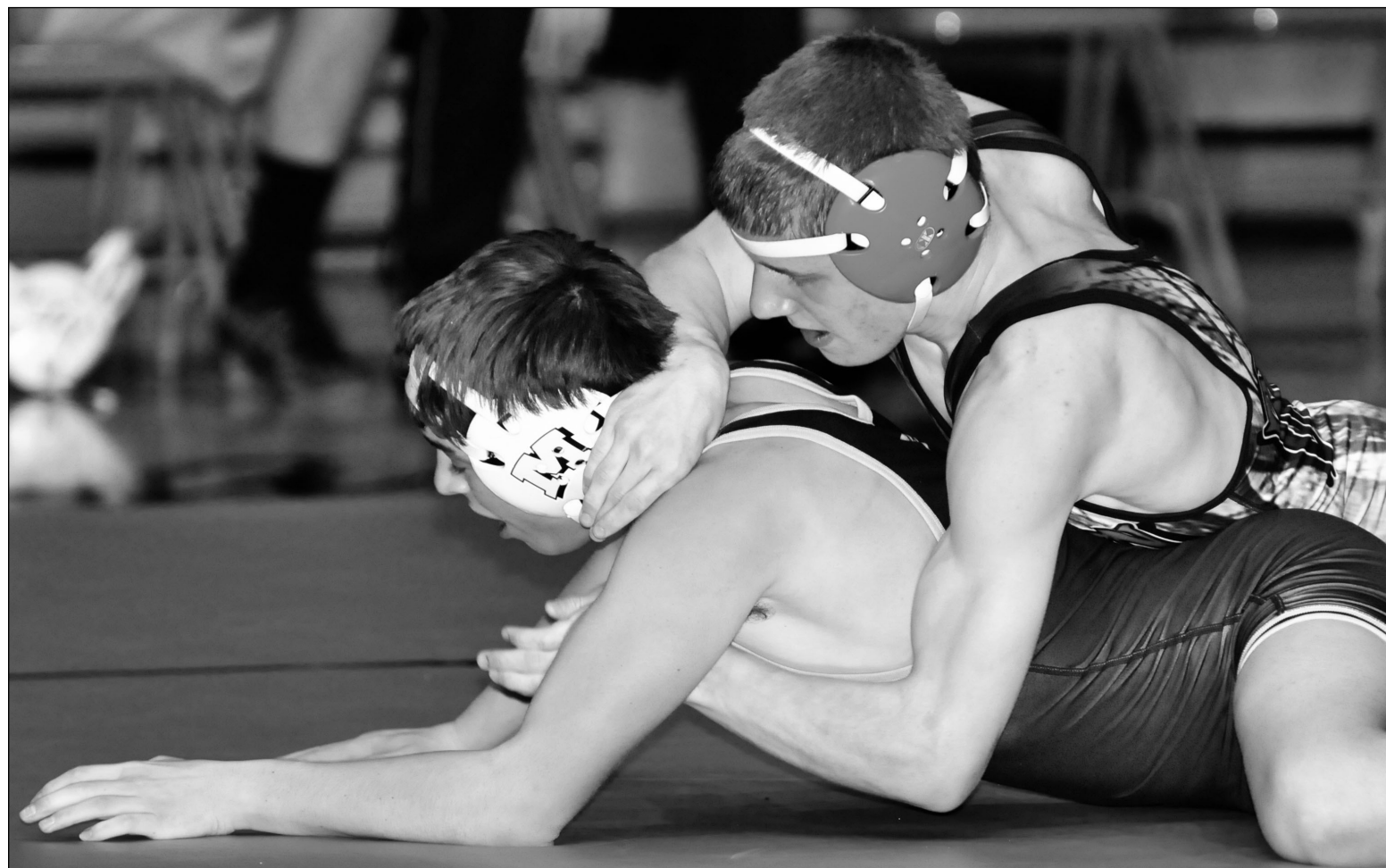
"We'll be ready to play, and I know our guys are excited to be home to open league play," he said.

Women At Denver

Winners in seven of its last eight games, the USD women's basketball team begins Summit League action against a squad that is already struggling this season.

Denver, which will host the Coyotes on Sunday, is 2-13 with four 20-plus point losses mixed in. The Pioneers have defeated Air Force

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Spencer Huber tries to turn Mitchell's Briggs Havlik during their 126-pound match, part of a wrestling triangular at the Summit Center. Huber won 9-5, but Mitchell beat Yankton 52-21 and Harrisburg 45-36. Yankton beat Harrisburg 36-33 in the other match.

Bucks 1-1 In Home Opener

BY NICK ROBINSON
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The Yankton Bucks wrestling team hosted one of their two home triangular on Friday evening. The Bucks competed against the Harrisburg Tigers and Mitchell Kernels in an Eastern South Dakota Conference triangular at the Summit Activities Center.

The Yankton Bucks went 1-1 in wrestling, but Spencer Huber went 2-0 on the day.

Mitchell took home the opening match over Yankton 52-21.

"We're young, inexperienced and we have a lot to learn," Yankton coach Ryan Hage said. "I thought we were awful flat against Mitchell, maybe intimidated by those guys, especially the higher weight classes. On the other side of things, we came back against a Harrisburg team that's more at our level, they're young as well. I thought we battled with those guys well. We have a lot

to get done, but we will get there."

The Bucks won the first four weight classes, three by forfeit. In the 126 weight class, sophomore Spencer Huber defeated Briggs Havlik by decision.

Mitchell got on a roll by winning the final 10 matches. In the 132 weight class, Trey Hohn pinned Yankton's Skylar Elle in 1:47. In 138, number two ranked Landon Neugebauer pinned Yankton's Jamee Bruegman in 58 seconds. Number nine ranked Ethan Parr defeated number four Casey Skillingstad in a tough battle. Parr picked up a victory by decision. Tanner Velhar of Mitchell pinned Jordan Lucht in 58 seconds. In the 160 weight class, Alex Herrick pinned Ryan Sternhagen in 1:49. Matt Larson of Mitchell was able to pin Cody Hanzlik in 1:05 in the 170 weight class. Preston Skinner pinned Yankton's Dylan Lynde in the 182 weight class in :51 seconds. Tyson Sprinkle defeated Yankton's Brock Folkers in

the 195 weight class by decision. Mitch Morgan pinned Yankton's Zach Hanzlik in :42 seconds in the 220 weight class.

In the heavy weight battle, Mitch Morgan and Landon Binder of Yankton both fought hard in overtime. Morgan was able to seal the deal for the Kernels by defeating Binder by decision.

"We weren't expected to beat Mitchell, we're not at their level," Hage said. "But we don't need to lose to them the way we did. We let Mitchell take it to us and wrestle their style, that just speaks to our inexperience. Those guys haven't been in those big ESD duals before, until they've done it many, many times, it'll be hard for them. I was happy how they responded in the second match. It was a close dual, that's good for those guys."

In the second match of the triangular, Mitchell came back from 24-6 down to defeat Harrisburg 45-36.

The Tigers started off by taking

advantage of the three open spots at 106, 113 and 120 for Mitchell. At 126, Briggs Havlik pinned Ryan Vander-Waal of Mitchell in :47 seconds. At the 132 pound weight class, Chayden Carpenter of Harrisburg pinned Trey Hohn in 1:13. In the 138 pound weight class, Landon Neugebauer knocked Zach Gross out of the contest to get Mitchell back on the board.

In the 145 contest, Will Kilgore of Harrisburg knocked off Ethan Parr by decision. Mitchell was able bring the contest within striking range with three victories by forfeit, to even the match at 30.

Both teams won one of the next two matches, evening the match at 36 at the 220 pound weight class. Chase Klingman gave Mitchell an advantage by pinning Kyle Hansen in 1:12. In the heavyweight match, Mitch Morgan took down Austn Har-

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Bucks Bounce Harrisburg

HARRISBURG — Yankton's Reid Sawatzke and Brady Hale combined for 21 first-quarter points, finishing with a combined 39 points for the game in a 66-41 victory over Harrisburg in Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' basketball action on Friday.

Sawatzke was 7-11 from the field, finishing with a game-high 20 points to lead Yankton. Sawatzke, who was averaging 13.4 points per game, had not scored in double figures in three straight games.

"The shots that Reid was taking the last two games were shots that we wanted him to take," said Yankton head coach Chris Haynes. "Tonight they were going in."

Hale finished with 19 points. Ryan Olson added 10 points. J.J. Hejna, who had averaged 17.5 points in his first two games back from injury, did not score by had eight rebounds.

Gunar Rang led Harrisburg with 11 points. Aiden Miller had nine points and seven rebounds.

Yankton, 4-2 and winners of three straight, host Brandon Valley today (Saturday), the start of a season-long three-game home stand.

"Brandon Valley is really good, and has two all-state caliber players in Nic Peterson and Jacob Adams," Haynes said. "They've been playing well defensively and the last couple of games, and Peterson is fully healthy."

"It will take a great effort to give ourselves a chance to win."

Yankton won the JV game

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Lancers Roll Past Dakota State 82-64

MADISON — Senior Allison De Kam matched a career high with 22 points, and Cheyenne Lambley and Kellie Winckler each set career highs with 12 points each as a short-handed Mount Marty College women's squad beat Dakota State 82-64 in women's basketball action on Friday.

Raquel Suter missed the game due to injury. Starters Kieran O'Malley and Holly Hegge had already missed games this week.

Cassidy Gebhart and Kelsey Schmidt also had 12 points each for MMC. Lambley recorded her first career double-double, notching a career-high 12 rebounds. Gebhart had seven assists. Winckler added nine rebounds in the victory.

Cassie Jacobsen led Dakota State with 18 points. Alyona Drooger had 15 points. Courtney Hamblin added 12 points and nine rebounds.

Mount Marty (8-9) will look to reach .500 as it hosts Presentation today (Saturday) at 2 p.m. MMC beat the Saints 87-61 on Nov. 11, but will be without their top three scorers from that contest: O'Malley (18), Suter (15) and Hegge (11).

At the half: MMC 43, DSU 27. Three-Pointers: MMC 6-15 (Schmidt 3-6, Wagner 3-7, Gebhart 0-1, Curtis 0-1), DSU 4-17 (Jacobsen 3-4, Drooger 1-2, Hamblin 0-1, Hansen 0-1, Swenson 0-1, Westover 0-3, Rabenberg 0-5). Rebounds: MMC 40 (Lambley 12), DSU 38 (Hamblin 9). Assists: MMC 18 (Gebhart 7), DSU 17 (Drooger 4). Turnovers: DSU 17, MMC 15. Blocked Shots: DSU 4 (Drooger 3), MMC 0. Steals: MMC 10 (three with 2), DSU 7 (Munson 3). Personal Fouls: DSU 22, MMC 18. Fouled Out: Curtis.

Boys' Basketball: Bon Homme Downs Wagner



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Wagner's Jubal Grant, right, tries to block the shot of Bon Homme's Mike Mesman during their game Friday night in Tyndall.

TYNDALL — Behind the balanced scoring attack of Jon Barrett and Scott Van Winkle, the Bon Homme Cavaliers capped off a 66-51 victory over Wagner in boys basketball action.

Barrett who had a team high 20 points and 12 rebounds, led the team in both categories. As a team the Cavaliers (3-2) shot 50 percent from the field and pulled down 37 rebounds.

Van Winkle poured in 18 points and added six assists and three steals. Scott Wieseler joined the double figure club by adding ten points of his own as well as eight rebounds and three steals.

For the Red Raiders (2-2), Derek Soukup scored a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Noah St. Pierre led the scoring with 18 points and three assists.

Moving to 3-2 on the season, Bon Homme's next opponent will be against Vermillion at home on Tuesday, while Wagner (2-2) will travel to Corisca-Stickney.

Wagner won the JV match 58-39.
WAGNER (2-2).....14 23 36 51
BON HOMME (3-2).....16 30 45 66

Vermillion 46, Parkston 33
PARKSTON — Nick Jensen scored 19 points and Tyrell Harper had a double-double to lead undefeated Vermillion past Parkston 46-33 on Friday night in Parkston.
Harper posted 15 points, 10 re-

bounds, four steals and three assists for the Tanagers (8-0).

Parkston, which led 21-20 at halftime, got 13 points and eight rebounds from Spencer Lucas. Jalen Hurley had six points and Dillan Thuringer grabbed nine rebounds.

Parkston hosts Hanson next Monday and Vermillion plays Bon Homme in Tyndall next Tuesday.
VERMILLION (8-0).....14 20 34 46
PARKSTON (5-1).....9 21 25 33

Wausa Post-Holiday

WAUSA, Neb. — Wausa took on Ewing Friday night and came out the victor 69-44 in the Wausa Post-Holiday Tournament.

For Ewing, Robert Nordby cashed in 20 points. Blake Cunningham put up 11 and Ben Ramold added 10.

Austin Conn led Wausa with 22 points. Devon Munter scored 11 points and Spencer Rosberg added 10 points and 10 rebounds. Also snatching 10 rebounds was Hunter Vanness.

Wausa hosts Niobrara-Verdigre Saturday and Ewing plays Osmond in Wausa the same day in the Wausa Post-Holiday Tournament.
EWING (4-5).....6 20 38 44
WAUSA (10-1).....13 33 52 69

Niobrara-Verdigre 74, Osmond 57

NIORBARA, Neb. — In the Wausa Post-Holiday Tournament, Niobrara-Verdigre outshot Osmond 74-57 Thursday in Wausa.

For Niobrara-Verdigre, Nick White cashed in 16 points. Trenton Guenther put up 15 points and Jacob Johnson and TJ Whipple each added 13. Whipple and Cade Kalkowski both snatched six rebounds.

Zach Kumm netted 15 points for Osmond. Brock Johnson scored 12 points and Cody Koehler added 10.

Osmond hits the road to play Neligh-Oakdale Tuesday and Niobrara-Verdigre hosts Wymont the same day.

OSMOND (2-6).....10 26 44 57
NIORBARA-VERDIGRE (6-4).....22 40 55 74

Classic Tour.

Bloomfield 58, Winside 18
HARTINGTON, Neb. — In what would become a 40-point victory for the Bloomfield Bulldogs, a team effort of scoring would land only one player in double figures.

Austin Luger, led 11 Bee's scorers with 15 points, four rebounds in the consolation game of the Classic Tournament held in Hartington, Neb.
BLOOMFIELD.....23 39 50 58
WINSIDE.....3 8 16 18

Regular Season

Crofton 59, West Holt 42

ATKINSON, Neb. — Brock Mueller scored 23 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead Crofton past West Holt 59-42 in boys' action Friday in Atkinson, Neb.

Eric Kleinschmit added 15 points and seven rebounds for the Warriors (6-5), while Tyler Koch had six points.

In the loss for West Holt (1-9), Riley Bilstein scored 20 points, and the next highest scorer was Connor Osborne with nine points.
CROFTON (6-5).....15 31 44 59
WEST HOLT (1-9).....8 13 26 42

Watertown 65, Huron 64

HURON — The Watertown Arrows beat top-ranked Huron 65-64 as Huron was unable to close the gap with a last second three in boys' basketball action Friday.

In the win for the Arrows, Jordan Terronez led the team with 17 points and six rebounds. Nate Davis was the only other Arrow to break into double digits with 16 points.

For Huron, Caleb Carr scored 17 points with nine rebounds and Lucas Morrison scored 14

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