



Mount Marty's Cassidy Gebhart and Logan Wagner steal the ball away from Dakota Wesleyan's Amanda Hart in the second half of women's basketball Wednesday night at the Corn Palace in Mitchell. DWU won 85-79.

SEAN RYAN/MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLIC

SDHSAA 'Red-Marks' Towns For State Events

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The battle over which communities can host high school state meets and tournaments intensified Wednesday.

Staff for the South Dakota High School Activities Association released a chart showing red marks signifying deficiencies in communities.

Fifteen communities received red marks in one to as many as eight events.

The perceived deficiencies covered a wide range, from not enough motel rooms in Aberdeen and Huron, to not enough seating at the Young Center in Spearfish.

Sturgis was dinged for not enough restaurants open to feed competitors late at night.

Agitated school and business representatives spoke up at the SDHSAA board meeting Wednesday afternoon.

There were plenty of board members too who didn't seem happy.

SDHSAA executive director Wayne Carney said the red marks don't mean a community automatically is eliminated from future consideration.

The association's board will receive staff recommendations in March for the 2018 round of state events. The board works four years ahead on selecting sites.

"We don't want anybody to get blind-sided," Carney said. "The document should help you identify what those red flags are."

Carney and less so the board have been accused in recent years of trying to steer as many state events to Sioux Falls as possible.

Carney said it's always been up to the association's staff to formulate guidelines they use in reaching their preferences. He said the board hasn't voted on the guidelines.

Board member Mike Miller of Aberdeen said the board should vote.

"It really doesn't technically need board approval," Carney said.

Replied Miller, "We need to change that."

Pierre athletic director Dan Whalen asked Carney whether the red boxes on the chart were "probation or a death sentence."

"It's not a set of minimum requirements?" Whalen said.

"It's a set of guidelines," Carney responded.

Huron superintendent Terry Nebelsick is a former member of the association board and a past chairman. "I just hope there's a time to discuss certain criteria," Nebelsick said.

The current chairman, Darren Paulson of Rapid City Central High School, saw the board had a hornet's nest in its lap.

Paulson said the red-mark chart should be sent to all of the school districts today (Thursday).

The chart wasn't available on the association's web site before or during the meeting.

"Let 'em look at it. Let 'em see what they can do," Paulson said.

DWU Powers Past Lancers

Size Advantage Helps DWU Down Mount Marty 85-79

BY AARON SAUNDERS
Mitchell Daily Republic

MITCHELL — Dakota Wesleyan University women's basketball coach Jason Christensen did something he hasn't done all year Wednesday, putting three post players on the floor at once.

The fourth-year head coach made the decision at halftime and it paid off as the Tigers reeled off 47 second-half points to beat Great Plains Athletic Conference opponent Mount Marty College 85-79 at the Corn Palace in Mitchell.

"We threw three bigs on the court and went with that for most of the second half," Christensen said. "I think they struggled with our post players. We were maybe a little slow defensively, but they could only make so many threes."

Throughout the second half, Christensen rotated senior forward Kim Johnson, junior forward Katie Johnson and freshmen forwards

Kristin Sabers and Erica Herold.

"It was a highly intense game, but I think they made some big shots down the stretch with their post players inside," Mount Marty girls' basketball coach Tom Schlimgen said. "When they played three post players, we should have adjusted quicker."

Kim Johnson and Katie Johnson each scored eight second-half points, while Sabers, a Mitchell native, and Herold, a Dimock native, each scored six in the second half for DWU (12-6, 5-4 GPAC). Kim Johnson finished with 14 points, while Herold had eight.

Senior guard Celeste Beck also played a major role in the second half, scoring 12 of her 14 points after halftime.

The Tigers got off to a slow start in the opening minutes of the first half, falling behind 9-2. Wesleyan's of-

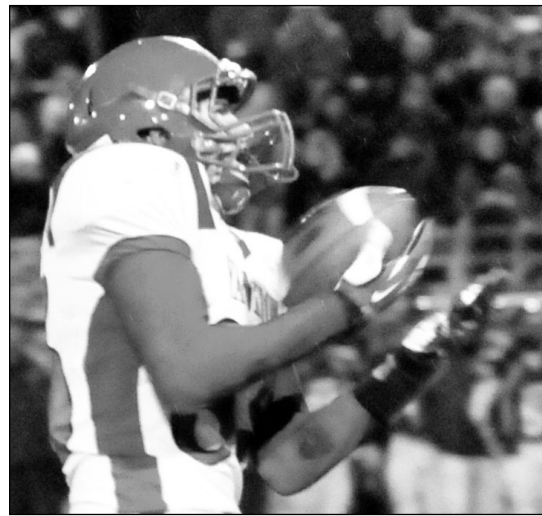


Mount Marty's Raquel Sutera is surrounded by Dakota Wesleyan's Taylor Piper, Katie Johnson and Kim Johnson in the second half of women's basketball Wednesday night at the Corn Palace in Mitchell.

SEAN RYAN/MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLIC

LANCERS | PAGE 8

J.J.'s A Jackrabbit



P&D FILE PHOTO
Yankton's J.J. Hejna gets open for a catch during the Bucks' Class 11AA playoff loss at Watertown. Hejna, who set several receiving records and led Yankton in both interceptions and tackles on defense, will attend South Dakota State University and play football for the Jackrabbits, he announced on Wednesday.

Bucks' Hejna Headed To SDSU

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

J.J. Hejna will be taking his talents to Brookings. The Yankton High School senior told the Press & Dakotan on Wednesday night that he verbally committed to the South Dakota State football program earlier in the day. Hejna said he accepted a preferred walk on offer from the Division I Jackrabbits.

"More than anything, it was just the campus and how I felt when I went to visit," Hejna said of his decision.

A Class 11AA all-state player at two positions during his career, Hejna caught 63 passes for 1,205 yards last season — both of which were more than any other YHS player had in a career. His 10 receiving touchdowns also set a single-season record.

He also led the Bucks in tackles (78) and interceptions (6) from his position in the secondary.

Hejna would be the third Yankton player to join the SDSU football program in the past year. Kellen Soulek and Troy Hunhoff both redshirted last fall with the Jacks, who made their second straight trip to the FCS playoffs — both times losing in the second round.

As far as a position in college, Hejna said that is

HEJNA | PAGE 8

Menning, Tigers Outgun Mount Marty Men

MITCHELL — Dakota Wesleyan's Kris Menning scored 15 of his game-high 24 points in the first half, and the DWU defense held Mount Marty to 20.8 percent shooting in the second half in a 76-45 victory over the Lancers in Great Plains Athletic Conference men's basketball action on Wednesday at the Corn Palace.

Jalen Voss finished with 18 points and 16 rebounds for DWU (11-8, 4-5 GPAC). Jade Miller added 14 points in the victory.

DWU held a 45-28 edge on the boards.

Chris Richardson scored 16 points to lead Mount Marty. Alex Irvine netted 10 points and eight rebounds.

MMC's two leading scorers, Tyler Payer and Bud Smith, combined for two points on 1-17 shooting in the contest.

MMC MEN | PAGE 8



Mount Marty's Bud Smith leaps after a loose ball against Dakota Wesleyan University in the first half of men's basketball Wednesday night at the Corn Palace in Mitchell.

SEAN RYAN/MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLIC

Wayne Girls Edge LCC 44-43

WAYNE, Neb. — Wayne overcame a late Laurel-Concord-Coleridge run to win 44-43 in girls' basketball action on Tuesday night.

There were no stats for Wayne (7-4) in the victory.

Cameron Eddie led LCC (7-3) with 13 points, while Ellie Arduser added 12 points in the loss.

Wayne will host Norfolk Catholic on Saturday. LCC will host Creighton on Saturday.

LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE (7-3).....5 14 25 43
WAYNE (7-4).....11 25 35 44

Boys

Gregory 58, Wagner 56

GREGORY — Gregory and Wagner battled Tuesday night in Gregory. Gregory took the win 58-56.

With the score tied and just five seconds left, Andrew Taggart was fouled and netted two free throws to win the game. In total Taggart put

HOOPS | PAGE 8

Yankton Trainer Honored



Yankton High School athletic trainer Trevor Woods, center, is presented with an award for his services by YHS athletic director Ryan Mors, left, and Angie O'Connor with Avera Sacred Heart Hospital on Tuesday night at the Summit Center.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D