

Winds, Snow Send S.D. Basketball Teams To The Sidelines

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

High winds and snows on Thursday forced the postponement of several events involving area athletic teams in South Dakota.

To report a postponement or cancellation, school officials are encouraged to contact the Press & Dakotan sports department at sports@yank-

ton.net, by fax at 1-605-665-1721 or by phone at 1-605-665-7811.

— The JV basketball doubleheader between Mount Marty and Dakota Wesleyan, scheduled for Thursday in Yankton, has been postponed. No makeup date has been set.

— The basketball doubleheader between Irene-Wakonda and Center-

ville, scheduled for Thursday, will be played on Friday in Wakonda. All times will remain as originally scheduled.

— The girls' basketball game between Hanson and Parker, scheduled for Thursday, will be played on Friday.

— The girls' basketball game between Menno and Bridgewater-

Emery, scheduled for Thursday in Bridgewater, will be played Monday, Jan. 27, in Emery. The JV game will begin at 6:25 p.m., with the varsity game to be played after.

— The Vermillion at Lennox girls' basketball game, scheduled for Thursday, has been postponed. No makeup date has been set.

— The girls' basketball game be-

tween Marion and Freeman, scheduled for Thursday in Freeman, has been postponed. No makeup date has been announced.

— Gayville-Volin dismissed classes early on Thursday. Status of their basketball doubleheader with Viborg-Hurley, scheduled for Thursday in Viborg, remained uncertain at this time.

Coyote Men Bounce IUPUI

USD Powers Past Jaguars To Go To 2-0 In Summit League Play

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — Two conference games. Two defensive battles.

More importantly for the University of South Dakota men, a 2-0 start in the Summit League.

"I'll take a one point win. If they had half a point, I'd take that," said interim head coach Joey James, whose team beat IUPUI 69-57 on Thursday night in the Dakota-Dome.

"At this moment, you take what you can get."

And right now, the defense has been leading the way for the Coyotes (7-9).

Up 55-54 with 5:30 to play, the home team was able to pad its lead and force the Jaguars into missing their final four shots. Six consecutive free throws extended the cushion for USD.

"Sometimes unfortunately and sometimes fortunately, we've been in a lot a close games this year, and we've been closing out the last couple," said senior center Trevor Gruis, who scored 18 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

"It was a a good battle for us tonight, and we grinded it out."

Winners of four straight, the Coyotes were a consistent 45 percent from the field, but the big difference was holding the Jaguars (5-15, 0-3) to 29 percent after half-time.

In that way, Thursday was reminiscent of USD's win last Saturday over Denver.

"Our second half was incredibly good on that defensive end," James said. "Our

adjustment in the locker room (at halftime) was, 'If we're going to be able to win this game, they can't shoot 50 percent in the second half.'"

Not only did the Jaguars hit just 2-of-10 three-pointers after half, their top two scorers were held in check. Ian Chiles and Mitch Patton combined for 15 points on 4-of-17 shooting — they were 0-of-5 in the first half.

In short, the Coyotes forced other people to beat them, and that didn't happen.

"Defense was really important, and we knew we had to get stops to win this game," said sophomore Tyler Flack, who had nine points and seven rebounds.

The Coyotes started strong to jump out to a 32-23 lead with with 4:03 before halftime. IUPUI, though, used a 10-0 run to pull in front 33-32 at the break.

The Jaguars led as late as 11:46 remaining, at 49-47, but the Coyote tandem of Gruis and junior Brandon Bos scored 13 straight points for USD.

Bos finished with a game-high 21 points on 7-of-12 shooting, playing a big role in helping the Coyotes turn a corner.

"When we had a couple loses in a row, it hurt our mentality a little bit," Flack said. "But I think that everyone's on the same page right now with these two wins."

And naturally, winning breeds confidence, as James pointed out.

"That locker room is feeling pretty good about itself right now," he said.

Next for USD comes a



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
South Dakota's Trevor Gruis goes in for a layup during the Coyotes' matchup with IUPUI in Summit League men's basketball action on Thursday at the DakotaDome.

Jags Run Past USD Women

INDIANAPOLIS — IUPUI's DeAirra Goss broke loose for a career-high 27 points, helping the Jaguars shoot 50.8 percent from the field on the way to an 80-59 victory over South Dakota in Summit League women's basketball action on Thursday.

USD beat IUPUI three times in the 2012-13 season, including in the semifinals of the Summit League Tournament. This was the second Jaguar victory over USD in six tries.

Also for IUPUI (12-6, 2-1 Summit), Akilah Sims scored 15 points on 7-10 shooting. Mikale Rogers had 14 points and six rebounds. Nicole Rogers added 12 points, going 4-8 from three-point range. Dawn Luster had eight assists off the bench in the victory.

For USD (9-8, 0-2 Summit), Polly Harrington was the lone player in double figures, finishing with 18 points. Lisa Loeffler had nine points and seven rebounds. Margaret McCloud had nine points off the bench for the Coyotes.

USD's Kelly Stewart, playing in her first game after missing the entire 2012-13 season due to injury, scored seven points on 3-5 shooting in 13 minutes of action.

USD remains on the road, traveling to Fort Wayne on Saturday.

SOUTH DAKOTA (9-8)

Polly Harrington 6-9 6-8 18, Lisa Loeffler 4-6 0-19, Tia Hemiller 2-7 0-0 5, Raeshel Contreras 1-9 3-4 6, Nicole Seekamp 0-3 0-0 0, Madeline White 1-3 0-0 2, Kelly Stewart 3-5 0-0 7, Taylor Moore 0-1 0-0 0, Bridget Arens 0-0 1-2 1, Jaylah Jackson 1-1 0-0 2, Margaret McCloud 3-5 3-9. TOTALS: 21-49 13-18 59.

IUPUI (12-6)

Akilah Sims 7-10 1-1 15, Nevena Markovic 1-1 0-0 2, Dee-Dee Bellamy 0-1 0-0 0, Nicole Rogers 4-8 0-0 12, DeAirra Goss 11-18 3-4 27, Kelsi Byrd 0-0 0-0 0, Caillyn Tolen 0-1 0-0 0, Shanika Madsen 3-6 0-0 6, Katie Cornelio 1-5 0-0 2, Jordan Barton 0-0 0-0 0, Dawn Luster 0-1 2-2 2, Mikale Rogers 3-8 8-11 14. TOTALS: 30-59 14-18 80.

At the half: IUPUI 41, USD 31. Three-Pointers: IUPUI 6-14 (Rogers 4-8, Goss 2-3, Tolen 0-1, Cornelio 0-1, Luster 0-1), USD 4-14 (Hemiller 1-1, Loeffler 1-2, Stewart 1-2, Contreras 1-6, Harrington 0-1, Seekamp 0-1, Moore 0-1). Rebounds: USD 30 (Loeffler 7), IUPUI 29 (Rogers 6). Personal Fouls: USD 20, IUPUI 15. Fouled Out: Markovic. Assists: IUPUI 15 (Luster 8), USD 12 (Hemiller 3, Seekamp 3). Turnovers: USD 20, IUPUI 12. Blocked Shots: USD 4 (Harrington 2), IUPUI 4 (Tolen 2). Steals: IUPUI 11 (Cornelio 3, Luster 3), USD 6 (Hemiller 2, Luster 2). Attendance: 291.

Wagner Girls Down Parkston In Overtime

Basketball: Bon Homme Boys Beat Bees

WAGNER — The Wagner Red Raiders outscored rival Parkston 9-6 in overtime to claim a 51-48 victory over the Trojans in girls' basketball action on Thursday.

Wagner took advantage of a 26-11 advantage in free throws attempted, making 11 more free throw attempts than the Trojans. The Red Raiders also forced 10 more turnovers than they committed, 26-16, including two big steals from Bethany Sully in the final minute of the game.

Ali Kuca posted 19 points and seven rebounds to lead Wagner, which trailed 36-35 entering the fourth quarter. Gina Soukup posted 17 points, eight steals and five assists. Alexis Medicine Horn and Emily Brunasing each had

six rebounds in the victory.

Sadie Schoenfelder led Parkston with 12 points, seven rebounds and six steals. Sam Herrold posted 10 points and six blocked shots. Halli Heisinger grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds, helping the Trojans to a 42-29 edge in the boards.

Wagner, 3-6, faces Sioux Falls Christian at the Hanson Classic on Saturday in Mitchell. Start time is 10 a.m.

Parkston travels to Tripp to face Tripp-Delmont-Armour on Monday.

Wagner won both preliminary games, a 51-25 victory in the JV game and a 31-21 decision in the C-game

Platte-Geddes 74, Andes Central 29

PLATTE — Heidi Ringling led three Platte-Geddes players in double figures with 18 points and nine rebounds,

leading the Black Panthers to a 74-49 victory over Andes Central in girls' basketball action on Thursday.

Alexis Peterson scored 16 points and Josie DeGroot had 14 points for Platte-Geddes. Briana Erickson added six steals in the victory.

For Andes Central, Jo Maria Garcia posted 13 points and 10 rebounds to lead the way. Cybil Chytka added 11 points.

Both teams are in action today (Friday), Platte-Geddes in Armour to face Tripp-Delmont Armour and Andes Central at Scotland.

ANDERSON CENTRAL (1-7)9 19 22 29
PLATTE-GEDDES (3-6)24 39 58 74

Boys

Parkston 61, Wagner 54

WAGNER — The Parkston Trojans needed a second-half surge to rally past Wagner 61-54 in boys' basketball action on Thursday.

Trailing 36-29 at the half, Parkston outscored the Red Raiders 32-18 in the final 16 minutes.

Jalen Hurley scored 15 points and Spencer Lucas had 13 points and seven rebounds to lead Parkston. Kyle Schnabel had 11 points in the victory.

For Wagner, Noah St. Pierre scored a game-high 22 points. Trajen Holiday netted 14 points, going 4-7 from three-point range. Dylan Brunasing added nine points and eight rebounds for the Red Raiders.

Parkston, 6-2, travels to Andes Central on Monday. Wagner, 3-4, travels to O'Neill, Neb., on Tuesday.

PARKSTON14 29 44 61
WAGNER14 36 44 54

Bon Homme 70, Bloomfield 58

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — The Bon Homme Cavaliers outscored Bloomfield 43-29 in

the second half to rally to a 70-58 victory over the Bees in boys' basketball action on Thursday.

Bloomfield led 29-27 at the half.

Scott Van Winkle led Bon Homme with 24 points. Jon Barrett netted 14 points. Hunter Young scored 10 points and Scott Wieseler had nine points in the victory.

For Bloomfield, Adam Haigh led the way with 21 points, going 10-11 from the field. He also had six rebounds, as did Derek Goeden. Kane Fiedler netted 11 points. Cody Beckmann added five assists.

Bon Homme, 4-3, hosts Chamberlain on Saturday. Bloomfield, 4-7, hosts Plainview today (Friday).

BON HOMME (4-3)14 27 52 70
BLOOMFIELD (4-7)17 29 46 58

HOOPS | PAGE 7A

Huskers' Abdullah Says Finishing Degree Priority



P&D FILE PHOTO
Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah reaches for the endzone as he is taken down by South Dakota State's Jake Gentile just shy of the goal line during the opening minutes of their football game in September at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Neb. Abdullah was stopped short, but said on Thursday that he does not want to be "stopped short" of his goal of completing his college education.

Nebraska RB Will Come Back For Senior Season

BY ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The pull of the NFL couldn't overtake Nebraska running back Ameer Abdullah's desire to make his family proud and finish his college education on schedule.

Abdullah said Thursday that the NFL draft advisory committee told him he probably would be selected "very high in the first half" of this year's draft if he were to turn pro. The deadline for underclassmen to declare was Wednesday.

He declined to elaborate further on his draft projection during a news conference where he discussed why he's returning for his senior season. He had announced

his decision in a written statement last week.

"A lot of guys get to a point of complacency where they feel like they've reached their ceiling," Abdullah told reporters. "I feel like I haven't even scratched the surface. I can improve as an overall back and improve my stock."

Abdullah is coming off the most productive season by a Nebraska rusher since Ahman Green in 1997. Abdullah went over 1,000 yards for the second straight year. His 1,690 yards was the fourth-best total in program history.

But Abdullah struggled with turnovers. His five lost fumbles were tied for third-most among FBS running backs, according to STATS. He said doing a better job holding onto the ball will be

his priority next season. He also said he needs to polish up his pass protection and finishing his runs strong.

Abdullah said he made his decision on Jan. 7 and that the high number of running backs in the draft pool had no bearing.

"I wish those guys the best of luck," he said. "A lot of guys don't understand how big a jump that is, especially for a running back in the NFL. They chew you up and spit you out, and you really have to take into consideration what the next level holds for people. That's what I really did."

The Cornhuskers finished 9-4 last season, with a win over Georgia in the Gator

ABDULLAH | PAGE 7A