

Pierre Girls Hold Off Gazelles 49-42

PIERRE — The Pierre Lady Governors held off a strong second-half surge by Yankton, beating the Gazelles 49-42 in Eastern South Dakota Conference action on Friday in Pierre.

Pierre led 27-17, but the Gazelles closed to within five in the fourth quarter.

"We did a good job of scratching and clawing, hanging in there," said Yankton head coach Doug Pesicka. "We got down 40-29, and our kids made some basketball plays."

"I thought our kids did a good job of competing in the second half."

Kaitlyn Severyn led Pierre with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Sydney Palmer had nine points.

For Yankton, Becky Frick led the way with 13 points. Andi Sprakel had nine points. Morgan Tessier finished with six rebounds.

"Those kids did a great job," Pesicka

said. "Morgan had a nice game, but her foul issues limited her role at times."

Pierre scored 16 points in the second quarter, but the double-digit lead going into the locker room started with defense.

"We played pretty good defense. It's my job to be a little critical of our defense, so there are some things that we can clean up," Pierre head coach Lisa Bahe told the Pierre Capital Journal's Wade LaRoche. "It's still our stable, but we need to do a better job with on-ball screens."

"We've seen teams hurt us with those, but our defensive effort and intensity was pretty good."

Pierre, 5-4 overall and 5-3 in the ESD, hosts unbeaten Mitchell on Thursday. Yankton, 2-7 overall and 2-5 in the ESD, hosts Watertown on Friday, Jan. 24, in a rematch of the season opener for both teams. Yankton won that game, 57-

54 on Dec. 10 in Watertown.

"They are very similar to us," Pesicka said of the Arrows, 1-6 entering today's (Saturday) game at Brookings. "They've played some good teams tough. That will be a tough one."

Yankton won the JV game 31-29. For the Gazelles, Danielle Schmidt scored seven points and Lauren Graves had six points in the victory.

The Gazelles also won the sophomore game, 23-22, behind 11 points from Ellie Fedders.

Plainview 34, Bloomfield 32
BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — The Plainview Pirates used a 13-4 edge in the second quarter to take the lead, then held on for a 34-32 victory over Bloomfield in Lewis & Clark Conference girls' basketball action on Friday.

No statistics were reported for Plainview.

For Bloomfield, Kenna Fiedler led the way with 10 points. Sarah Casteneda scored eight points and Britany Kerbel had five assists for the Queen Bees.

Plainview, 7-5, hosts West Holt on Tuesday. Bloom-



WADE LAROCHE/CAPITAL JOURNAL
Morgan Tessier tries to go around Pierre's Kaitlyn Severyn during Yankton's 49-42 loss in Pierre.

Bucks Veto Governors

Yankton Hands Defending Champion Pierre First Setback Of Season

BY JEREMY HOECK
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If not for the free throw line, Ryan Olson's stat line Friday night would have read: 0-for-0 overall for zero points.

Fortunately for the Yankton Bucks, he was able to get to the line in crunch time and help guide his team to a 58-53 victory over Pierre at the Summit Center.

Olson, a senior, was 13-of-16 at the charity stripe, including an 8-of-10 clip in the fourth quarter — when the game was still up for grabs.

"And only one of those was a shooting foul," he said, with a smile. "I don't think I've ever taken that many free throws in a game."

"But you've got to make those late."

That's what he and his teammates did.

Yankton was 14-of-17 at the line in the fourth quarter, with Brady Hale adding five free throws and Reid Sawatzke the other.

Perhaps the biggest in the quarter, though, came from Olson with 55.2 seconds left and the Bucks up 50-48.

"That's what we expect out of our senior guard," head coach Chris Haynes said. "He stepped up and knocked those down, most under pressure."

"That's something that he can do at the end of a game."

Not only did the Bucks (5-4) snap a 2-game skid, they handed the defending champion Governors (7-1) their first loss in 17 games.

In what was a tight and physical affair (with a com-

bined 46 fouls and 59 free throw attempts) all night, Yankton took the lead for good, 41-40, on a Hale three-pointer with 5:44 left.

Hale, a junior, finished with 13 points, while senior J.J. Hejna posted 10 points and 10 rebounds. Reid Sawatzke just missed double figures with nine points.

More than simply an offensive turnaround for its key players, Yankton was able to out-physical a tough Pierre squad, Haynes said.

"We stressed to our guys, 'Just come out and play hard,'" he said. "If we compete night in and night out, play hard and defend, we can live with the final result."

Pierre sophomore reserve Trey Livermont was the story early, scoring 15 points in the second quarter. He had 10 in a span of 1:02 and later hit a corner three just before the halftime buzzer.

Thanks to his efforts, the Governors led 29-28 at the break.

"Trey's really been improving as the season has gone," Pierre head coach Terry Becker said. "He's a nice spark off the bench, and he can really shoot it, like you saw."

Ultimately, though, the Governors got into foul trouble late and put the Bucks at the free throw line.

"They made a couple more plays than we did," Becker said. "They got to some loose balls that we should've gotten, and then we committed some fouls."

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SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D
Yankton's J.J. Henja goes up strong over Pierre's Cooper Walton for a key basket during the third quarter of Friday's game. The basket gave the Bucks a lead during the see-saw battle which saw Yankton upset Pierre, giving the Governors their first loss of the season.

Seven Coyotes Record Top-Fives To Open Indoor Season

LINCOLN, Neb. — Mubarik Musa placed second in the men's 5,000-meters and six other Coyotes recorded top-five finishes as South Dakota's track and field teams opened the indoor season with the first day of the Holiday Inn Invitational held at the Devaney Sports Center on Friday.

Musa set a new personal

record time of 14 minutes, 57.55 seconds, besting his previous be 5,000 mark of 15:08.57. Teammate Isaac Allen added a fifth-place finish in 15:17.55, while Isaiah Bragg of the Air Force Academy won the race with a time of 14:36.25.

Three other Coyote runners also added top-three finishes. Casey Shade was third

in the men's 1,000 in 2:28.17, Katie Wetzstein placed third in the women's 1,000 in 2:57.94 and Amber Eickhorn was third in the women's 3,000 in 10:12.78.

Two USD throwers recorded top-five finishes in the weight throw. Kayla Johnson placed fifth in the women's competition with a 52 foot, 5 1/2 inch mark,

while Denton Stephens was fifth on the men's side with a toss of 55-8 1/2.

A trio of Coyotes made it past Friday's preliminary rounds to compete in finals on Saturday. Erik Hill (8.33) and Teivaskie Lewin (8.37) will both compete in the men's 60-meter hurdles final and Brandon Kovash (6.95) will race in the 60-meter dash

final.

In unseeded events, freshman Frank Tyler won the unseeded men's high jump in his college debut with a mark of 6-7 1/2, while freshman Briquette Bowden placed second in the unseeded women's high jump with a mark of 5-3.

The meet will resume on Saturday at noon.

I-W, AC Eagles Score Close Victories



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Scotland's Anthony Walloch passes out of a double-team by Andes Central's Aaron Swanson, behind, and Darrin Hopkins during their boys' basketball game on Friday in Scotland.

WAKONDA — Gabe King threatened a triple-double to help lead Irene-Wakonda past Centerville 64-63 in a boys' basketball thriller Friday night in Wakonda.

King recorded 22 points, 10 rebounds, seven blocks and five assists, while Cody Guenther, Daniel Brue and Devin Armentrout all scored 10 points.

Irene-Wakonda led 52-49 after three quarters.

In the loss for the Tornadoes (5-4), Seamus O'Malley recorded 19 points, 11 rebounds and three steals, while Josh DeRaad posted 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Christian Gruschin also had a double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds, and Rory O'Malley chipped in with five assists.

Both teams are next at the Tri-Valley Conference Tournament in Alcester. Irene-Wakonda will play Colman-Egan and Centerville will face Ethan.

CENTERVILLE (5-4).....19 34 49 63
IRENE-WAKONDA (2-7).....16 30 52 64

Andes Central 49, Scotland 45
SCOTLAND — Andes Central held off Scotland in the final quarter of their contest Friday night to win 49-45 in Scotland.

Darrin Hopkins led Andes Central with 12 points and eight rebounds.

For Scotland, Seth Ireland tallied 14 points. Shayne Bloch put up eight points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Anthony Walloch snatched eight rebounds.

Scotland won the JV game 38-33.

Scotland plays Alcester-Hudson Saturday in the Tri-Valley Classic, and Andes Central hosts Parkston Monday.

ANDES CENTRAL (3-4).....18 26 36 49
SCOTLAND (3-4).....11 20 28 45

Lennox 44, Vermillion 42
LENNOX — Derek DeVries scored 11 points and grabbed five rebounds to help Lennox edge previously undefeated Vermillion 44-42 in boys' action Friday night.

Creighton Raabe and Jacob Hinker both added nine points for the Orioles (4-4), who led 30-29 after three quarters.

In the loss for the Tanagers (9-1), Carter Andre scored 13 points, Jayce Huska had 10 points, Tyrell Harper grabbed eight rebounds and Cooper Williams dished out six assists.

Lennox hosts West Central next Monday and Vermillion hosts Elk Point-Jefferson next Tuesday.

VERMILLION (9-1).....13 21 29 42
LENNOX (4-4).....10 25 30 44

Winnebago 67, Wynot 57
WYNOT, Neb. — Winnebago had a strong second half to top Wynot 67-57 Friday in Wynot.

Isaiah Medina led Winnebago with 17 points. David Wingett tallied 13 points. Jason Gostgod put up 10 points and Cory Cleveland added 10 to the win.

For Wynot, Jackson Sudbeck scored 16 points and Davis Wieseler tallied 12.

Tuesday, Winnebago hosts Ponca and Wynot hits the road for Allen.

WINNEBAGO (12-2) 14 27 48 67
WYNOT (11-3) 17 24 33 57

Viborg-Hurley 69, Gayville-Volin 45
VIBORG — Jack Huether cashed in 33 points to put Viborg-Hurley on top 69-45 against Gayville-Volin Friday night in a Tri-Valley Conference game in Viborg.

Lucas Jacobson snatched eight rebounds for Viborg-Hurley and Rusten Anderson had seven assists and five steals.

For Gayville-Volin Brandon Van Osdel tallied 19 points and Alec Barta added 13.

Viborg-Hurley plays Burke-South Central Saturday in the Tri-Valley Conference Tournament. Gayville-Volin plays Dell Rapids St. Mary the same day at the

YHS Wrestlers 0-2 In Brandon

BRANDON — The Yankton Bucks took a couple of tough Eastern South Dakota losses on Friday, dropping a 69-9 decision to Brandon Valley and a 67-7 decision to Aberdeen Central in a wrestling triangular on Friday in Brandon.

Against Aberdeen Central, Spencer Huber and Zach Hanzlik were the lone wrestlers to score victories, with Huber winning by major decision.

Huber drew a forfeit and Cody Hanzlik won by decision for Yankton against host Brandon Valley.

Aberdeen Central beat Brandon Valey 54-14 in the other match.

Yankton is back in action today (Saturday), traveling to the Harrisburg Invitational.

ABERDEEN CENTRAL 67, YANKTON 7: 106 — Victor Padilla AC by forfeit; 113 — Josh Moore AC dec. Bashir Abd Al Kream Y 3-0; 120 — Trevor Hieb AC by forfeit; 126 — Spencer Huber Y maj. dec. Seth Moore AC 14-0; 132 — Trevor Larson AC pin. Skylar Elle Y in 1:17; 138 — Mitchell Johnson AC pin. Jamee Bruegman Y in 2:37; 145 — Zach Russman AC pin. Casey Skillingsstad Y in 1:45; 152 — Grayson Neuharth AC pin. Jordan Lucht Y in 1:25; 160 — Braiden Nelson AC pin. Ryan Sternhagen Y in 4:3; 170 — John Frisco AC pin. Cody Hanzlik Y in 2:12; 182 — Cole Carlson AC pin. Dylan Lynde Y in 2:15; 195 — Dalton Cox AC dec. Brock Folkers Y 2-0; 220 — Zach Hanzlik Y dec. Brian Reisenauer AC 8-5; 285 — Sam Schaunaman AC pin. Landon Binder Y in 1:34.

BRANDON VALLEY 69, YANKTON 9: 106 — Payton Braun BV by forfeit; 113 — Dawson Kreniakock BV dec. Bashir Abd Al Kream 3-0; 120 — Logan Helgeson BV by forfeit; 126 — Spencer Huber Y by forfeit; 132 — Connor Rowbotham BV dec. Skylar Elle 1-0; 138 — Adam Presler BV pin. Jamee Bruegman 0:18; 145 — Connor Smith BV pin. Sam Stewart 2:13; 152 — Jack Sternburg BV pin. Jordan Lucht 4:50; 160 — Wyatt Winter BV pin. Ryan Sternhagen 1:33; 170 — Cody Hanzlik Y dec. Spencer Heidbrink 3:02; 182 — Cole Carlson AC pin. Eric Emberg BV pin. Dylan Lynde 0:32; 195 — Andrew Sorensen BV pin. Brock Folkers 0:32; 220 — Clayton Elbrigt BV pin. Zach Hanzlik 1:20; 285 — Erik Ode BV pin. Landon Binder 1:15.

ABERDEEN CENTRAL 54, BRANDON VALLEY 14: 106 — Victor Padilla AC pin. Payton Braun 2:29; 113 — Josh Moore AC dec. Dawson Kreniakock 3-1; 120 — Trevor Hieb AC by forfeit; 126 — Connor Rowbotham BV maj. dec. Seth Moore 12-2; 132 — Trevor Larson AC by forfeit; 138 — Mitchell Johnson AC dec. Adam Presler 1-0; 145 — Zach Russman AC pin. Connor Smith 2:37; 152 — Grayson Neuharth AC pin. Jack Sternburg 3:39; 160 — Wyatt Winter BV dec. Bradley Nelson 7-2; 170 — John Frisco AC pin. Spencer Heidbrink 1:25; 182 — Cole Carlson AC pin. Eric Emberg 3:09; 195 — Andrew Sorensen BV dec. Dalton Cox 5-2; 220 — Clayton Elbrigt BV maj. dec. Brian Reisenauer 12-0; 285 — Sam Schaunaman AC pin. Erik Ode 3:17.

Zimmer Takes Over As Vikings Head Coach

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The long wait to be an NFL head coach didn't cost Mike Zimmer his confidence.

After 35 years in the game as an assistant and two full decades in the league, his opportunity has finally arrived with Minnesota. Zimmer's self-assured style, the edge softened by down-to-earth Midwest roots, helped him be successful. It's one of the reasons the Vikings gave him the job.

"Sometimes you wonder. But I have a lot of confidence in myself. I feel like I was destined to do this, and for the first couple of days I've been here, that office upstairs feels really comfortable," Zimmer said at his introductory news conference Friday. "I've got a chip on my shoulder. I want to make sure that 31 other teams know that I'm here and I'm ready to coach this football team."

General manager Rick Spielman led interviews of seven candidates, with owners Zygi Wilf and Mark Wilf joining in. Zimmer was the only one invited to team headquarters for a second, more-in-depth examination. The straight talk, leadership skills and strategic expertise set Zimmer apart.

"He's going to push you as hard as he can. But every person, to a man, talked about how much they loved playing for coach Zimmer," Spielman said.

Over the last 14 seasons as an NFL defensive coordinator, six most recently with Cincinnati, Zimmer developed a reputation as a demanding, intense, rant-prone coach. The HBO behind-the-scenes show "Hard Knocks," which twice filmed Bengals training camp, helped raise his fiery profile with swearing-like-a-sailor clips from practice and games.