



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

Yankton's Becky Frick gets a break away layup during the Gazelles' Saturday matchup against the Golden Eagles of Aberdeen Central.

## Golden Eagles Hold Off Yankton 37-35

BY NICK ROBINSON  
sports@yankton.net

Aberdeen Central had a strong start and held on for a 37-35 victory over Yankton in Eastern South Dakota Conference basketball action on Saturday at the Summit Center.

The setback dropped the Gazelles to 2-8 on the season.

"It seems like we keep taking positive steps forward," Yankton head coach Doug Pesicka said. "We need to continue to keep taking steps forward, instead of taking steps backwards. However, there's a lot of positives here. We just have to find a way to win."

The Gazelles started the game off cold, only recording one point in the first quarter. Pesicka feels his team needs to pick up the intensity on offense early on to set the tempo.

"I thought really throughout we looked and played a little fatigued," he said. "We had a tough one, a very physical game. I thought at times we showed some fatigue. We came out slow, Aberdeen's zone is very quick and active. It's difficult to get an open look."

Aberdeen Central (4-8) led Yankton 8-1 through a sloppy first period.

With 7:42 left in the second quarter, senior Morgan Tessier recorded the first field goal for Yankton, cutting the lead down to 8-3. A late second quarter surge, capped by a Becky Frick jumper and the ensuing possession a steal and coast-to-coast lay-up by Whitlee Larson gave Yankton hope going into the second half.

The Golden Eagles, led by Brianna Kusler took a 20-13 lead over the Gazelles at intermission. Kusler led Aberdeen Central with 13 points and eight rebounds in the first half. The Golden Eagles shot 50 percent from the field.

Yankton was led by Andi Sprakel at the half with five points, while Larson added two points and six steals in the first half. The Gazelles shot 30 percent from the field.

Coach Pesicka believed his team needed a spark going into the second half to keep themselves in the game. The Gazelles got just that from Sprakel, who recorded seven points in one minute. She was fouled and sunk a three-pointer, along with an and-one lay-up.

Yankton knotted the game up at 20 a piece with five minutes remaining in the third period. Both squads battled from that point on, going back and forth.

To end the third quarter, Yankton went cold as Aberdeen Central went on a 6-0 run, giving themselves a 30-24 lead with a period remaining in the game.

Yankton was in the bonus the whole fourth quarter, which was crucial for a potential comeback.

With three minutes remaining, Sprakel went coast-to-coast to tie the game at 33 a piece.

Down two points with a minute left, freshman Kami Cornemann sunk two crucial free throws to force a tie.

Aberdeen Central took the ball down until the shot-clock ran out, as Leah Beringer hit two free throws.

"The way we ran the last play, we had a

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# USD Women End Summit League Skid

## Coyotes Rout Omaha 75-51 For First Conference Victory Of Season

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — If they could, the University of South Dakota women would love to bottle up their first half performance from Saturday.

And at the same time, spread some of that into the second half. Spurred by a 26-point halftime lead, the Coyotes rolled past Omaha 75-51 on Saturday afternoon at the DakotaDome.

In winning their first conference game, the Coyotes (10-10, 1-4) overcame 23 turnovers and sliced their league scoring defense by 36 points.

"It shows that we can play good defense if we work hard and try," said junior post Lisa Loeffler, who had 17 points (all in the first half) and 10 rebounds.

"If we get down in a stance and do what we're supposed to, we can be a very good defensive team."

Particularly in the first half. Just how dominant was the first 20 minutes for USD?

The Coyotes, at one point, went on a 22-4 run and later closed the

half on a 12-0 spurt to lead 42-16 at the break.

"It just shows what our team is capable of," said senior Polly Harrington, who had 13 points and six rebounds.

"We're just going to try to keep pushing forward so we can play at that level every game."

Statistically, the second half — 43 percent for USD, 38 percent for Omaha — wasn't much different than the first, but 15 turnovers by the hosts prevented an even more lop-sided finish.

And yes, that was a major concern for the Coyotes, who were outscored by two points after halftime.

"We have to find a way to put 40 minutes together; play for two full halves," head coach Amy Williams said. "That's how we're going to get better moving forward."

Junior Raeshel Contreras added 10 points in the win for USD, while sophomore point guard Tia Hemiller had six points, 10 rebounds and five assists.

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DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

A drive for the basket by South Dakota's Kelly Stewart (15) was cut short when she was fouled by Omaha's Taijhe Kelly during their Summit League women's basketball game on Saturday at the DakotaDome. USD won 75-51 for the Coyotes' first league victory of the season.

# Doane Battles Past MMC



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

Mount Marty College Junior Holly Hegge goes up strong for a layup during the first half of the MMC-Doane College basketball game Saturday at Cimpr Arena.

## Tiger Women Shut Down Lancer Long Range Attack In Second Half

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
james.cimburek@yankton.net

The Doane Tigers shut down the Mount Marty College outside onslaught, keeping the Lancers scoreless from long range in the second half of a 71-61 victory over the Lancers in Great Plains Athletic Conference women's basketball action on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpr Arena.

Hannah Barnard scored a game-high 23 points to lead Doane (10-11, 4-9 GPAC). Hannah Dostal finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds. Heather Bromann scored 10 points, Shelbi Bittinger had 16 rebounds and Cali Bellar added six assists in the victory.

"They've got great kids that are hard to guard," Mount Marty head coach Tom Schillingen said of the Tigers. "Give them credit. They're a good ball club."

For Mount Marty, Raquel Sutura scored 18 points to lead the way. Denae Veldkamp finished with 15 points. Allison De Kam had eight points, eight rebounds and five blocked shots. Holly Hegge scored eight points and Cassidy Gebhart had nine assists in the effort.

The Lancers scored seven straight points early to take an early lead, but that enthusiasm was tempered by yet another injury for Mount Marty. Starting guard Kelsey Schmidt, who hit a three-pointer during that 7-0 run, had to be helped off the court and would not return the rest of the game.

Without Schmidt and with a couple of Lancers in foul trouble, Mount Marty was still able to build a seven-point halftime lead. Sutura drained four three-pointers in a three-minute span as the Lancers built a 30-23 advantage. After Doane scored eight straight to regain the lead, Veldkamp scored the Lancers' final 10 points of the half to send MMC to the locker room with a 40-33 edge.

Veldkamp said that Gebhart's penetration — the sophomore guard had eight of her nine assists in the first half — gave her open looks for the three three-pointers she hit late in the half.

"They were playing tough defense," the freshman guard said. "But if we did a drive, the kick was open."

A pair of Barnard threes got Doane going in the second half, and Bellar's three-pointer gave the Tigers a 46-43 edge. MMC battled back to lead 51-50 on a Kellie Winckler layup, but two more Tiger threes helped Doane surge out to a 62-53 advantage.

Mount Marty fought back to within

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SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

Alex Irvine takes the ball to the hoop during Mount Marty College's loss to Doane College Saturday at Cimpr Arena.

# Reed, Tigers Top MMC

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
james.cimburek@yankton.net

Doane's Nick Reed made sure the Mount Marty College men couldn't recover from another bad start, scoring all 20 of the Tigers' points in a 14-minute stretch as Doane held off Mount Marty 78-65 in Great Plains Athletic Conference action on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpr.

Reed finished with 34 points, nine rebounds and six assists as he kept the Tigers from collapsing down the stretch as Mount Marty made a late run.

"He's really good, a tough matchup," said Mount Marty head coach Andrew Baker of the 6-4 senior Reed after the game. "If you put a small quick guy on him, he posts up. If you put a big guy on him, he takes him outside and drives by him. Last time we played them we double-teamed him, and he hit the open guy and they made everything."

"Some nights you just have to say that kid is better."

Domonique Smith and Zach Hunt each had 11 points for the Tigers (10-12, 3-10 GPAC). Smith came in averaging 19 points per contest.

Chris Richardson led MMC with 18 points, four assists and five steals. Bud Smith posted 16 points. Alex Irvine finished with 13 points.

Mount Marty dug itself a hole early, as Doane scored the game's first eight points and jumped out to a 17-4 lead. The Lancers shot just 7-25 from the field in the first half, but kept themselves in contention with a 14-16 effort from the free throw line.

"I thought we did a good job in the first half," Baker said. "They shot 50 percent from 3, 50 percent overall and we missed eight layups."

"It's a credit to them that they were good in the first half, but we could have had the lead."

The Tigers built up their lead to 17 points to start the second half, but it was MMC's lack of execution that had Baker frustrated.

"I drew something up, and we didn't run it three times in a row," he said. Baker put in a fresh five rather than burn another time out. "After that, we started to run it and started scoring layups."

Irvine was a beneficiary of the

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# Bucks Hold Off Aberdeen

ABERDEEN — The Yankton Bucks outscored Aberdeen Central 20-9 in the second quarter, then survived a fourth quarter surge to beat the Golden Eagles 54-49 in Eastern South Dakota Conference action on Saturday.

Brady Hale scored a game-high 18 points to lead Yankton. J.J. Hejna netted 15 points and seven rebounds. Ryan Olson added 10 points and five assists for the Bucks.

For Aberdeen Central, Jacob Goehring scored 14 points and Anthony Bachmeier had 13 points to lead the way. Goehring and Tyler Block each had seven rebounds.

The Golden Eagles jumped out to an early 7-0 lead and led 9-7 after one quarter. Goehring had all nine of Aberdeen Central's points in the first quarter. "Give Aberdeen credit. Coach Norberg had his

guys ready to go and they came out and got after us right away," Yankton head coach Chris Haynes told the Aberdeen American News. "We turned the ball over and didn't defend them, and before we knew it we were down 7-0. In the ESD, you can't do that very often and get away with it."

Yankton, 7-4 and winners of three straight, hosts Mitchell on Friday. The Bucks downed the Kernels (1-12) 62-42 on Jan. 4.

Aberdeen Central, now 2-10 overall, remains at home to face Brookings on Thursday in another ESD contest.

Scores were not made available on the sub-varsity games.

In the JV game, Bradley Sorenson led Yankton with 19 points. Tanner Frick had 11 points and Blake Savoy added nine points for the

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