

# Bucks Split With Huron, Tea Area In Home Finale



Yankton's Spencer Huber, left, shoots in on Huron's Wyatt Larsen during their 126-pound match, part of a wrestling triangular at the Summit Center on Thursday. Huber won by technical fall, but Huron won the dual.

BY NICK ROBINSON  
sports@yankton.net

The Yankton Bucks wrestling team knew they had things to work on coming into their dual on Thursday. They have been working on putting things in place in practice, and implementing them in matches. "I thought we wrestled a lot better than we did this past weekend," Yankton Bucks head coach Ryan Hage said. "We got steam-rolled this past weekend and it looked like some of the guys were maybe giving up and had their confidence shaken up. Tonight, I thought they turned the corner a bit. We saw some things translate from the practice room onto the mat, which was nice. A step in the right direction, but we still have a ways to go."

Yankton went 1-1 in their final home dual with Tea Area and Huron at the Summit Center in Yankton on Thursday evening. Yankton dropped a tough one in the opener to Huron, 57-15. "Anytime to wrestle Huron, you know what you're going to get," Hage said. "You're going to get a very physical team, especially in the upper weights where those guys are pretty good." To start off at the 106 weight class, sophomore Cody Vornhagen defeated Chip Shillingstad to earn a 14-4 decision. In the 126 weight class, sophomore Spencer Huber defeated Wyatt Larsen on a 15-5 decision. Yankton didn't win another weight class the rest of the match. However, Hage and the Yankton coaching staff was

impressed with reserve wrestler Hiram Alvarez at the 145 weight class, who had to take the place of Casey Skillingstad due to a lingering injury. "We knew Casey Skillingstad was going to be out of the line-up tonight," Hage said. "Our backup 145 pounder was injured too, the coaches and I discussed our best options there and we have been real impressed with Hiram in the practice room. He's very green and doesn't have a grasp quite yet, but what he does have, is a big heart. He will never give up on you." Alvarez ended up losing the contest 19-7 by decision. For Huron, at the 152 weight class, Nick Christensen received a pin. At 182,

BUCKS | PAGE 7A

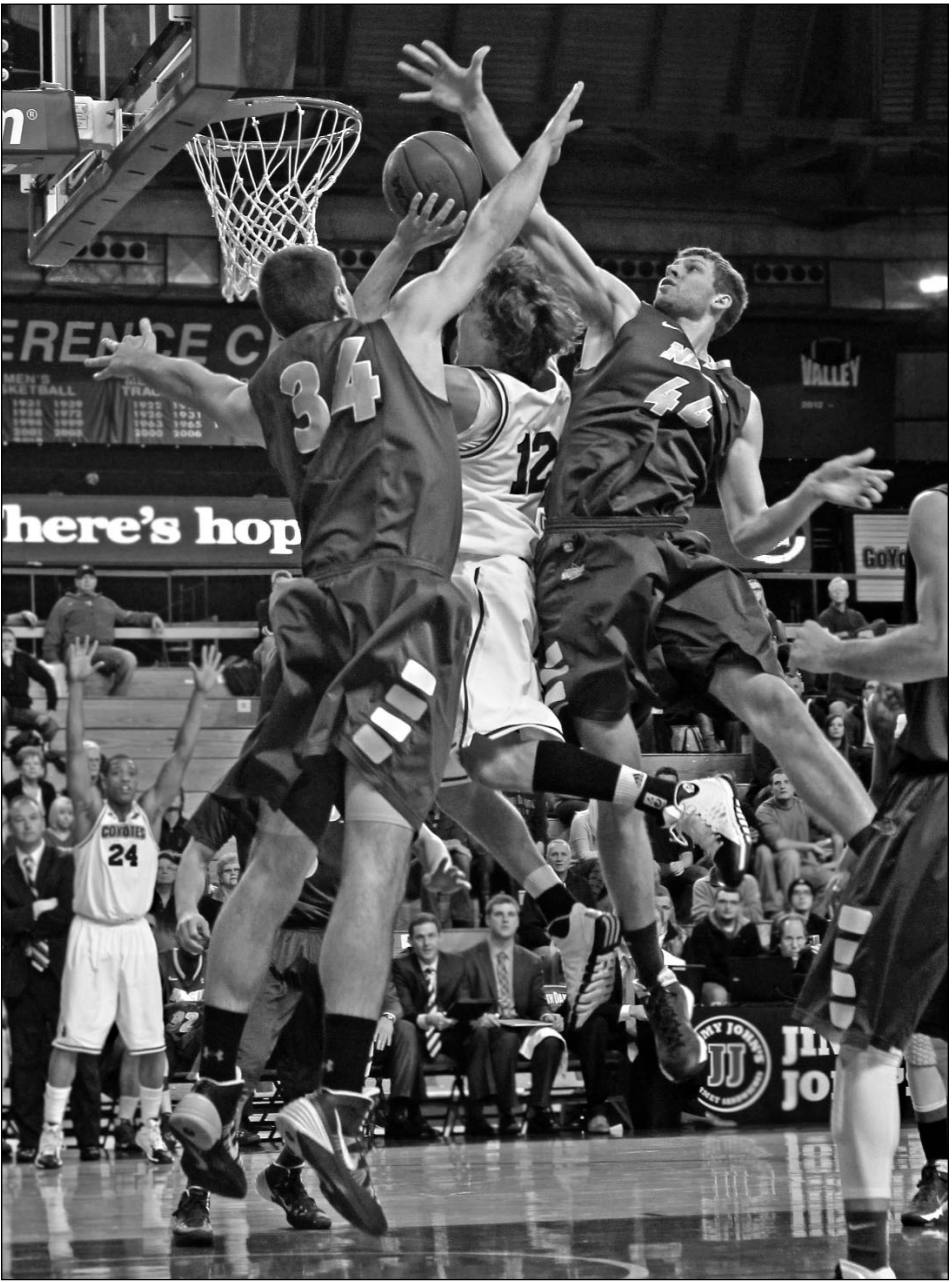
# Bison Escape USD 66-63

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — What was almost a rather big win instead became a tough loss to swallow. An experienced North Dakota State squad with a top-50 RPI overcame a spirited effort by the University of South Dakota men to pull out a 66-63 Summit League win Thursday night at the DakotaDome. Sure, there could be ways to see a close game against the preseason favorite as a sign of progress, but the Coyotes (8-12, 3-3) had their chances to win such a game. "We had every opportunity to win that game, and that's the frustrating part," said interim head coach Joey James, whose team hosts South Dakota State on Saturday. "I feel bad for these guys, because they deserve it," he added. "But at some point, we've got to start catching some breaks in these close games." It was the fifth consecutive win over the Coyotes for the Bison since USD joined the Summit League, but by far the closest margin. Having won by 26 points in Vermillion a year ago, NDSU (16-5, 5-1) was pushed to — literally — the final seconds Thursday. Taylor Braun's drive and ensuing free throw with 34.1 seconds left pushed NDSU in front 64-63. After a Coyote timeout, Trevor Gruis missed a pair of free throws that would have either tied the game or given the hosts the lead.

TrayVonn Wright hit two foul shots with 8.6 on the clock, and the Bison blocked a potential tying three-pointer — a follow-up three hit off the rim at the buzzer. And so, the Coyotes were dealt their sixth defeat this season by five points or fewer. "It's been a lot of games that I look at the stat sheet and see four points, three points, littered all over our record," said sophomore Adam Thoseby, who scored 11 points off the bench. "We just have to finish it; we have to find what it is we're missing to finish out those games." One thing the Coyotes did find was an ability to slow down the nation's best shooting team. The Bison shot 50 percent in the first half and took a 44-33 cushion into the break. They were, however, held to 27 percent in the second half — when the Coyotes got going. "They shot really low in the second half, and that was definitely part of our energy," USD's Tyler Flack said. The sophomore had nine points and 10 rebounds. USD went on a 19-8 run to tie the game at 52 midway through the second half, and the Coyotes later built a 61-56 lead with 4:08 to play — on six straight points by Brandon Bos. Despite missing those last two free throws, Gruis, USD's senior center, finished with 16 points and eight rebounds. Bos added 14 points.

COYOTES | PAGE 7A



South Dakota's Brandon Bos, 12, splits the defense of North Dakota State's Chris Kading, 34, and Jordan Aaberg during the first half of their Summit League men's basketball game on Thursday at the DakotaDome. NDSU, the preseason favorite in the league, rallied past the Coyotes 66-63.

JILANNE DOOM/FOR THE P&D

# Vermillion Girls Power Past Dell Rapids

VERMILLION — The Vermillion Tanagers beat the Dell Rapids Quarriers 57-45 in girls' basketball action Thursday. In the win for the Tanagers, Josie Huber led the team with 14 points and Haliagh Melstad scored 12 points. For Dell Rapids, Mikaela Stosserahn scored 14 points with nine rebounds and Britney Siemonsma scored 11 points with 16 rebounds. In junior varsity, the Tanagers beat the Quarriers 51-28. Next, Vermillion will play West Central and Dell Rapids will play Lennox in the Dakota XII Conference Classic Saturday.

## Viborg-Hurley 50, Centerville 37

CENTERVILLE — Viborg-Hurley beat Centerville 50-37 in Tri-Valley Conference girls' basketball action Thursday. In the win for Viborg-Hurley, Abby Hora scored 11 points with eight rebounds and five steals. For Centerville, Shannon O'Malley scored 10 points. Both teams will play in the Tri-Valley Classic on Saturday in Alcester, Viborg-Hurley against Dell Rapids St. Mary at 5:30 p.m., and Centerville against Free-

man Academy at 1 p.m.

VIBORG-HURLEY (10-3) .....9 23 35 50  
CENTERVILLE (5-10) .....11 18 28 37

## Gayville-Volin 50, Bloomfield 29

GAYVILLE — Gayville-Volin jumped out to a 25-9 halftime lead and cruised to a 50-29 victory over Bloomfield in girls' basketball action on Thursday. Rachel Haas scored 14 points and Kelia Barta had 11 points for Gayville-Volin, which led 18-7 after one quarter. Genny Clark netted 10 points and Megan Hirsch added seven rebounds in the victory. For Bloomfield, Kenna Fiedler led the way with nine points. Gayville-Volin, 7-5, faces Bon Homme in the Tri-Valley Classic on Saturday in Alcester. Bloomfield travels to Laurel, Neb., on Saturday to face Laurel-Concord-Coleridge in the opening round of the Lewis & Clark Conference Tournament.

## Bloomfield (4-12) .....7 9 19 29 GAYVILLE-VOLIN (7-5) .....18 25 35 50

## Crofton 70, Pierce 39

PIERCE, Neb. — The Crofton Warriors beat the Pierce Ladyjays 70-39 in girls' basketball action Thursday. In the win for the Warriors, Allison Arens led the team with 24 points, five rebounds and five steals. Also for Crofton, Alex Allen scored 11 points and Maria Wortmann scored eight points with eight rebounds. For Pierce, Rachelle Tucker scored 13 points. Next, Crofton will play Battle Creek and Pierce will play Wayne in the Mid-

State Conference Tournament Monday.

CROFTON (16-1) .....15 35 57 70  
PIERCE (9-7) .....13 25 30 39

## Wakefield 57, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 48

LAUREL, Neb. — Wakefield went on from a five-point lead at the half to defeat Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 57-48 on their home court in girls' basketball on Thursday night. Wakefield's Lauren Lehmkohl scored 38 points to lead the team to victory. For LCC, Cameron Eddie led the team with 25 points scored and three assists. Audra Corbit contributed 16 points and 10 rebounds. Both teams will be playing in the Lewis and Clark Conference this Saturday. Wakefield (8-11) will be playing Winnebago at Homer, and LCC will be playing Bloomfield at home.

## Big East Conf.

## Sioux Valley 78, Parker 30

FLANDREAU — Sioux Valley rolled past Parker 78-30 in the first round of the Big East Conference Tournament on Thursday. Kaylee Granum led Sioux Valley (9-2) with 19 points and four assists. Carley Peterson added 18 points in the victory. Lauren Hunstad led Parker (1-11) with eight points in the loss. Sioux Valley will advance to the sec-

GIRLS | PAGE 7A

# King Powers Eagles Past FA

IRENE — Irene-Wakonda beat Freeman Academy 70-40 in boys' basketball Thursday. In the win for Irene-Wakonda, Gabe King led the team with 26 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks. Garrett Anderson scored 11 points and grabbed six rebounds and Dan Brue scored 11 points with four assists. For Freeman Academy, Jeff Graber led the team with 15 points. Teagan Schoeder scored 13 points with 11 rebounds and Josh Stahl grabbed eight rebounds. Next, Freeman Academy will play Marty Indian Tuesday and Irene-Wakonda will play at Baltic Feb. 7. FREEMAN ACADEMY (4-5) .....8 18 23 40  
IRENE-WAKONDA (5-9) .....13 28 52 70

## Centerville 74, Viborg-Hurley 62

CENTERVILLE — Centerville won at home beating Viborg-Hurley 74-62 in boys' basketball action Thursday. In the win for Centerville, Rory O'Malley led the team with 21 points and five rebounds. Josh DeRood scored 16 points with six assists and Tyrell Martz scored

15 points. For Viborg-Hurley, Jack Huether scored 25 points with five assists. Next, Centerville will play Menno and Viborg-Hurley will play Arlington Saturday. VIBORG-HURLEY (8-3) .....13 21 45 62  
CENTERVILLE (8-6) .....17 35 54 74

## Parkston 59, Lennox 45

LENNOX — The Parkston Trojans beat the Lennox Orioles 59-45 in boys' basketball action Thursday. In the win for the Trojans, Zack Scott led the team with 13 points. Spencer Lucas scored 12 points and Jalen Hurley grabbed five rebounds. For the Orioles, Jacob Hienker scored 15 points with nine rebounds and Brody Nelson scored 10 points. Next, Lennox will play in the Schoolers Classic Saturday and Parkston will host McCook Central Monday. PARKSTON (9-4) .....19 38 49 49  
LENNOX (6-5) .....5 19 32 45


## Vermillion 68, Dell Rapids 53

VERMILLION — Vermillion continued their winning ways with a 68-53 victory over Dell Rapids on Thursday evening.

BOYS | PAGE 7A

## Men's Games

W. ILLINOIS 69, IUPUI 54: INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Garret Covington had 17 points and 9 rebounds as Western Illinois pulled away in the second half for a 69-54 win over IUPUI on Thursday. Covington hit 5 of 7 shots and all six of his free throws to lead the Leathernecks (9-12, 3-3 Summit League). Michael Ocherobia added 13 points and Mike Mikusak 10. Ja Rob McCallum led the Jaguars (5-18, 0-6) with 18 points and Khufu Najebe had 14, hitting 7 of 9 shots. IUPUI has lost six straight. Western Illinois hit 13 of 15 free throws, 8 of 9 in the second half, while the Jags went just 2 of 8 from the line. Western also had a 35-23 rebounding advantage. The Leathernecks led 23-21 at the half. Najebe's fast-break layup with 10:45 to play cut WIU's lead to 46-40 but Adam Link made a layup and Mikusak made back-to-back 3's and IUPUI never recovered. FORT WAYNE 86, OMAHA 82: FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) — Joe Reed scored 20 points as Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne topped Nebraska-Omaha 86-82 on Thursday. IPFW (17-6, 5-1 Summit) shot 52 percent, including 9 of 22 on 3-point attempts. Mo Evans had 15 points, Joe Edwards added 13 and Steve Forbes scored 11. Justin Simmons led Omaha (12-9, 2-4) with 28 points, including four 3-pointers. John Karhoff added 19 while Devin Patterson had 12. Mike Rostampour pulled down 12 rebounds for the Mavericks. After a Karhoff jumper with 4:43 left in the first, UNO held a 15-point lead at 42-27. IPFW closed the half on an 11-2 run, including 3s by Edwards and Michael Killoski, to trim the margin to six, 44-38, at the break. The game was tied at 78 with 1:44 left, but Simmons fouled Pierre Bland, who made both free throws. Evans then hit a trey and made three free throws to seal the win. NEBRASKA 60, INDIANA 55: LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Terran Petteway scored 13 of his 18 points in the second half, and Nebraska came back from a 16-point deficit to defeat Indiana 60-55 on Thursday night. The Cornhuskers (11-9, 3-5 Big Ten) won for the third time in four games and back-to-back conference games for the first time in their three years in the Big Ten. They also improved to 10-1 at Pin-nade Bank Arena.




# LANCER BASKETBALL

Tomorrow! MMC vs. Concordia on Saturday, February 1st

WOMEN'S TIP-OFF: 2 PM | MEN'S TIP-OFF: 4 PM | CIMPL ARENA

Join us as the Yankton Children's Choir will be singing the National Anthem!



MOUNT MARTY  
LANCERS

FOLLOW US & LISTEN LIVE AT  
MMCLANCERS.COM

THIS HOME GAME BROUGHT TO YOU BY

ShurCo and Smith Insurance