Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D **Sports Staff on** local and national high school, college and pro sports.



BY NICK ROBINSON

sports@yankton.net

Wow, what a fast two and a half years it has been here at the Yankton Press and Dakotan. It's crazy to look back at how many events I've covered and how much I have grown as a person and a writer. And I'd be a liar if I told you I wouldn't miss it, the people I work with, the athletes and coaches I have gotten to know over the years I really couldn't believe at first that I was getting paid to go to an event and write about it. One thing any journalist will tell you is that it's not about the money. This is something I truly have found a love for and hopefully could

One thing I have learned from all of this is that it's a process. Just like in sports, nothing is given and you have

to find something each time to get better at, or you will be left in the dust.

This fall, I was content with my writing and it came back to bite me while covering the Yankton Bucks football team on their magical run to the Dakota Dome. I was pulled from covering the team a few weeks in and I was ready to give up and call it quits. But it hit me, if I quit at a local paper in South Dakota, what would my fate be chasing my dream of working for a professional sports team? I bit my tongue and got back to the basics. Boy, was it one of

the better decisions I have ever made. I got back on the beat and treated each time like it was the state championship, so if that came (which it did). I would be ready. All my life I have taken the easy way out, but not this time.

That made me realize that if you want something bad enough, you'll grind it out and find a way to get it.

I cannot go any further without thanking my bosses James Cimburek and Jeremy Hoeck. There have been times when we have wanted to give up on each other, but the bond I have with these guys is like nothing else. I have learned so much from them and cannot thank them enough for guiding me to the point I am at now. I also would like to thank former staffers Chris Riley and Emily Niebrugge for helping me out and current journalist Randy Dock-

Next, to the person who got me into writing, Mrs. Teri Mandel at the Yankton High School. She saw something in me that other teachers didn't and in all honesty, if it wasn't for her, I do not know where I would be in life. Words cant describe how thankful I am for her and what she has done for me.

Lastly my family, who supported me and helped me when times were tough. I couldn't have done anything without them. It's always nice to get a phone call from family about an article I wrote.

You hear it a lot, but this isn't a goodbye, it's a see you later. I loved covering Yankton and area teams, but it's time to spread my wings and fly. Once 2015 starts, I will be going to school in Minneapolis to pursue a degree in sports marketing and public relations. I can't wait for what the future brings

SCOREBOARD

WRESTLING

FRIDAY'S S.D. SCORES Rapid City Central 56, Douglas/New

The Clash (Rochester, Minn.) Pool B Bracket
FIRST ROUND: St. Peter's Prep
(N.J.) 44, Parkston 21
CONS. SEMIS: Parkston 43, Vacav-

FIFTH PLACE: Grand Island (Neb.)

BASKETBALL

FRIDAY'S S.D. BOYS Aberdeen Central 88, Mitchell 80 Alcester-Hudson 64, Avon 46 Herreid/Selby Area 75, Edmunds

Central 28 Irene-Wakonda 69, Beresford 58 Lemmon 46, Belle Fourche 39 Menno 46, Freeman Academy 16 Mobridge-Pollock 61, Sully Buttes 54 Redfield/Doland 54 Wessington

Sisseton 57, Deuel 44

Dakota Holiday Tournament
Britton-Hecla 56, Edgeley-Kulm-Montpelier, N.D. 42

Ellendale, N.D. 63, Leola/Frederick

Sanford Classic Sioux Falls Lincoln 64, St. Paul Central, Minn, 25 Sioux Falls O'Gorman 63, St. Paul Highland Park, Minn. 33

Sioux Falls Washington 59, Prior

St Thomas More 42 Sioux Valley 37 West Lyon, Inwood, Iowa 60, Viborg-Western Christian, Hull, Iowa 54,

FRIDAY'S S.D. GIRLS

Avon 43, Alcester-Hudson 41 Beresford 64, Irene-Wakonda 56 Chester 51, Garretson 36 Douglas 57, Custer 43 Freeman Academy 41, Menno 39 Herreid/Selby Area 66, Edmunds

Highmore-Harrold 62, Ipswich 46 Madison 58, Deubrook 50 Mitchell 43, Aberdeen Central 38 Redfield/Doland 51, Wessington

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 61, Harrisburg Sturgis 55, Spearfish 47 Vermillion 53, Tea Area 40

White River 60, Lyman 43

Dakota Holiday Tournament

Edgeley-Kulm-Montpelier, N.D. 56. Ellendale, N.D. 42, Leola/Frederick

FRIDAY'S NEB. BOYS Axtell 59 Harvard 39 Dochlar 50 Lawiston 35

Elkhorn Mount Michael 60, Ashlandeenwood 45 Giltner 73, Palmer 34 Grand Island Central Catholic 38. Grand Island Northwest 25

Logan View 42, Douglas County McCool Junction 37, Lawrence-Nelson 30 Omaha North 52, Papillion-LaVista

Wilcox-Hildreth 72, Northern Valley, Kan. 42 Bennington Tournament Adams Central 69, Broken Bow 33 Bennington 73, Boone Central/New-

man Grove 64 Brady Tournament Anselmo-Merna 61, Eustis-Farnam

Brady 53, Wauneta-Palisade 29 Cabela's Angler's Shootout Chase County 53, Wheatland, Wyo. 42 Gering 62, Hershey 22
Creighton Tournament (Holiday)
Hartington-Newcastle 62, Wausa 23
Emerson-Hubbard Tip-Off Tournament

Lvons-Decatur Northeast 56, Omaha Harrison Tournament Crawford 48, Banner County 37 Sioux County 67, Morrill 45 Lutheran Invitational Tournament

Lincoln Lutheran 68, Heartland 60 Malcolm Tournament Centennial 50, Malcolm 22 Exeter/Milligan 54, Tekamah-Her-

Paxton Tournamen Paxton 70, Maywood 21
Pleasanton Tournament Pleasanton 52 Aranahoe 41

FRIDAY'S NEB. GIRLS

Axtell 63, Harvard 41 Blue Hill 68, Southern Valley 30 Crofton 84, O'Neill 14 Deshler 54, Lewiston 35 Gibbon 60, Elwood 32 Guardian Angels 65, Wahoo 35 Lawrence-Nelson 47, McCool Junc-

Omaha Westside 47, Bellevue East Papillion-LaVista South 48, Omaha

Plattsmouth 55, Omaha Gross 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Twin River 43, Battle Creek 37 West Point-Beemer 62, Fort Calhoun Wilcox-Hildreth 49, Northern Valley,

Number-Pilger 52, Madison 35

Bennington Tournament

Adams Central 52, Bennington 40

Boone Central/Newman Grove 42,

Brady Tournament Wauneta-Palisade 52, Brady 37

Cabela's Angler's Shootout
Central City 50, Laramie, Wyo. 29
Hershey 52, Gering 41 Sidney 47, Gothenburg 16 Wheatland, Wyo. 38, Chase County

Creighton Tournament (Holiday) Creighton 35, Boyd County 34 Hartington-Newcastle 47, Wausa 36 Emerson-Hubbard Tip-Off Tournament Emerson-Hubbard 66, Scribner-Sny-Omaha Nation 46, Lyons-Decatur

Northeast 41 Harrison Tournament Crawford 61. Banner County 15 Morrill 44, Sioux County 17

Lutheran Invitational Tourname Omaha Concordia 63, Heartland MILITARY: Virginia Tech 33, Cincin-

Lutheran 33 Malcolm Tournament Malcolm 57, Centennial 17 Tekamah-Herman 38, Exete Paxton Tournament

Paxton 40, Maywood 27 Perkins County Tournament
Wallace 52, Perkins County 29 Riverside Tournamen

Championship Elgin Public/Pope John 41, Riverside

FOOTBALL NCAA FCS PLAYOFFS CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, Jan. 10
At FC Dallas Stadium, Frisco, Texas
North Dakota State (14-1) vs. Illinois State (13-1), noon FBS PLAYOFFS Semifinals, Jan. 1

At Pasadena, Calif. Oregon 59, Florida State 20 At New Orleans Ohio State 42, Alabama 35 Championship, Jan. 12 At Arlington, Texas Ohio State (13-1) vs. Oregon (13-1),

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES Saturday, Dec. 20 NEW ORLEANS: Louisianayette 16, Nevada 3 **NEW MEXICO:** Utah State 21,

LAS VEGAS: Utah 45. Colorado FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO: Air ce 38, Western Michigan 24 **CAMELIA:** Bowling Green 33, South

onday, Dec. 22 MIAMI BEACH: Memphis 55, BYU 3, 2OT BOCA RATON: Marshall 52, North-

POINSETTIA: Navy 17, San Diego Wednesday, Dec. 24 BAHAMAS: Western Kentucky 49 28 utral Michigan 48 **HAWAII:** Rice 30, Fresno State 6

lay, Dec. 26 HEART OF DALLAS: Louisiana QUICK LANE: Rutgers 40, North ST. PETERSBURG: N.C. State 34, Saturday, Dec. 27

SUN: Arizona State 36, Duke 31 INDEPENDENCE: South Carolina

PINSTRIPE: Penn State 31, Boston (NBC) Sunday, Jan. 4 HOLIDAY: Southern Cal 45, Ne-(CBS) Monday, Dec. 29 LIBERTY: Texas A&M 45, West Vir-

RUSSELL ATHLETIC: Clemson 40,

at New England, 3:35 p.m. (NBC) TEXAS: Arkansas 31. Texas 7 Arizona, Detroit or Carolina at Seattle. 7:15 p.m. (FOX) MUSIC CITY: Notre Dame 31, LSU Bay, 12:05 p.m. (FOX)

BELK: Georgia 37, Louisville 14 **FOSTERS FARM:** Stanford 45, Indianapolis, Cincinnati or Pittsburgh yland 21 dnesday, Dec. 31 PEACH: TCU 42, Mississippi 3 at Denver, 3:40 p.m. (CBS) 2014 ALL-PRO TEAM FIESTA: Boise State 38, Arizona 30

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press 2014 NFL All-Pro team selected by ORANGE: Georgia Tech 49, Mississippi State 34
Thursday, Jan. 1
OUTBACK: Wisconsin 34, Auburn a national panel of 50 media members: OFFENSE COTTON: Michigan State 42, Baylor

Green Bay.
Running Backs—DeMarco Murray, Dallas; Le'Veon Bell, Pittsburgh. Fullback—John Kuhn, Green Bay. Tight End—Rob Gronkowski, New CITRUS: Missouri 33, Minnesota 17

Saturday, January 3
BASKETBALL, MEN'S Nebrask BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Nebraska Wesleyan

AREA CALENDAR

MMC (2 p.m., KYNT-AM)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' YHS at Mitchell (6 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM); Creighton Holiday Tourn (Third — 4:15 p.m.; Championship — 7:45 p.m.) Knight Holiday Classic at Fremont (Hartington Cedar Catholic); Bon Homme at Freeman; Centerville at Scotland; Elk Point-Jefferson at Dell Rapids; Laurel-Concord-Coleridge at Bloomfield; Parkston at Winner; Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Andes Central; Vermillion at Tri-Valley (5:30 p.m., KVTK-AM); Wynot at Ponca BASKETBALL, BOYS' JV YHS at Mitchell (1:30

Robinson Bids Farewell To Readers

BASKETBALL, BOYS' SOPH YHS at Mitchell

ARMED FORCES: Houston 35,

TAX SLAYER: Tennessee 45, Iowa

ALAMO: UCLA 40, Kansas State 35 CACTUS: Oklahoma State (6-6) vs. ashington (8-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 3 BIRMINGHAM: Florida (6-5) vs.

East Carolina (8-4), noon (ESPN2)
GODADDY: Toledo (8-4) v
Arkansas State (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS

Arizona at Carolina, 3:35 p.m.

Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 7:15 p.m.

Cincinnati at Indianapolis, 12:05

Detroit at Dallas, 3:40 p.m. (FOX)

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 10

Baltimore, Indianapolis or Cincinnati

NFL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 3

(ESPN)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' 9TH YHS at Mitchell

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' YHS at Mitchell (4:30 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM); Creighton Holiday Tourn. (Third — 2:30 p.m.; Championship — 6 p.m.); Elk Point-Jefferson at Dell Rapids; Laurel-Concord-Coeridge at Bloomfield: Parkston at Winner: Platte-Ged-

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' C YHS at Mitchell (3

HOCKEY, BOYS' Sioux Falls II at Yankton (7 HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Sioux Falls at Yankton (5

Inv. at Salem (Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Bon Homme-Scotland, Dakota Valley, Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes, Marion-Freeman, Parker, 9 a.m.); Newman Grove Inv. (Ponca, 9 a.m.); Rumble on the Red at Fargo (Beresford, Elk Point-Jefferson); The Clash at Rochester, Minn. (Parkston)

Sunday, January 4

BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD at Den BASKETBALL, GIRLS' JV YHS at Mitchell (1:30

Tackles—Gerald McCoy, Tampa

Outside Linebackers—Von Miller

Monday, January 5
BASKETBALL, BOYS' Allen at Lawton-Bronson; es Central at Platte-Geddes; Santee at Freeman

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Bon Homme at Parker;

WRESTLING, PREP Brookings/S.F. Roosevelt at

WRESTLING, PREP McCook Central-Montrose

Denver; Connor Barwin, Philadelphia. Inside Linebackers—C.J. Mosley, Baltimore; DeAndre Levy, Detroit, and Lawrence Timmons, Pittsburgh. Cornerbacks-Chris Harris Jr., Denver; Brent Grimes. Miami

Safeties—Kam Chancellor, Seattle; Glover Quin, Detroit. Punter—Johnny Hekker, St. Louis.

DEFENSE Ends—J.J. Watt, Houston; Mario **TRANSACTIONS**

Cox, Philadelphia.

Bay; J.J. Watt, Houston.

Williams, Buffalo.
Tackles—Marcell Dareus, Buffalo; Ndamukong Suh, Detroit. American League
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Named Outside Linebackers-Justin Houston, Kansas City; Elvis Dumervil, Balti-Dane Johnson bullpen coach, Eric Owens assistant hitting coach, Sal Fasano minor league pitching coordina-

Inside Linebacker—Luke Kuechly, Carolina; Bobby Wagner, Seattle. Cornerbacks—Richard Sherman, Seattle: Darrelle Revis, New England.

Safeties-Earl Thomas, Seattle; Eric

Wide Receivers—Antonio Brown, Pittsburgh; Dez Bryant, Dallas.

Tackles—Joe Thomas, Cleveland; Tyron Smith, Dallas.

Guards-Marshal Yanda, Baltimore:

Center-Maurkice Pouncey, Pitts-

burgh. Placekicker—Adam Vinatieri, Indi-

anapolis.
Kick Returner—Adam Jones, Cincin-

Weddle, San Diego.
Punter—Pat McAfee, Indianapolis. SECOND TEAM OFFENSE Quarterback—Tony Romo, Dallas. Running Backs—Marshawn Lynch,

Fullback—Anthony Kansas City Tight End—None.
Wide Receivers-

Wide Receivers—Jordy Nelson, Green Bay; Demaryius Thomas, Denver. Tackles-Jason Peters, Philadel phia: Andrew Whitworth, Cincinnati, Guards-Josh Sitton, Green Bay; Kyle Long, St. Louis.

Center—Travis Frederick, Dallas.

New England. Kick Returner-Darren Sproles

Ends—Calais Campbell, Arizona; Cameron Wake, Miami, and Fletcher

Placekicker-Stephen Gostkowski.

DEFENSE

ARIZONA COYOTÉS — Assigned F er Gaudet to Portland (AHL). called F Teuvo Teravainen from Rockford

a one-year contract

tor, Darold Knowles rehabilitation pitch

ing coach and Rick Langford senior

pitching advisor. Promoted Heather Con-

nolly to manager, major league administration and Joe Sheehan to manager,

National Football League
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Pro-

noted Eliot Wolf to director of player per-

Arena Football League

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

SPOKANE SHOCK - Re-signed

nsive backs coach William Mulder to

baseball research and development. FOOTBALL

EDMONTON OILERS — Traded LW David Perron to Pittsburgh for C Rob Klinkhammer and a 2015 first-round draft

FLORIDA PANTHERS — Recalled D

Shane O'Brien from San Antonio (AHL). NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned F Stefan Matteau and F Joe Whitney to Albany (AHL). Placed F Mike Sislo on

American Hockey League BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS Terminated the contract of G Philippe

waivers. Activated F Patrik Elias, F Mar-

CHARLOTTE CHECKERS — Released CA.J. Jenks from his professional tryout contract. Reassigned G Daniel Altshuller to Florida (ECHL).

HERSHEY BEARS - Announced G MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS signed D Garrett Noonan to Cincinnati

ECHL ELMIRA JACKALS — Announced F Taylor Stefishen was returned by Texas (AHL) and G Travis Fullerton was re-

turned by Rochester (AHL).

GWINNETT GLADIATORS — Announced G Louis Domingue was assigned to the team from Portland (AHL).

COLLEGE BUTLER — Removed the interim tag from men's basketball coach Chris Holt-

ELIZABETHTOWN — Announced the retirement of director of athletics Nancy Latimore announced at the conclusion of the 2014-15 academic year.

MINNESOTA — Announced TE Maxx Williams will enter the NFL draft. PORTLAND STATE — Named Mark

Rountree athletic director.
VIRGINIA TECH — Suspended junior F Joey van Zegeren indefinitely from

the men's basketball team.
WINSTON-SALEM STATE Announced the resignation of football coach Steed Lobotzke to become the offensive

Bison Outgun Oral Roberts In Summit Opener

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Lawrence Alexander scored a career-high 31 points, including 6 of 10 3-pointers, and North Dakota State beat Oral Roberts 72-66 with a late surge on Friday in a Summit League opener. Tied at halftime, Lawrence

scored the go-ahead free throw, 67-66, with 42 seconds left to spark an 8-0 run and the Bison (9-5, 1-0) pulled Dexter Werner scored 13

and the Bison shot 11 of 22 from distance. The Bison led 21-6 after free throws by Alexander, but Oral Roberts rallied 21-3 to lead 34-29. The Bison used a 5-0 run to tie it at 34 at half-

Oral Roberts led 41-36 on

Within moments after win-

ning the Rose Bowl for a spot

in the national championship,

when they faced Auburn for

the national title to cap the

"We've still got to finish

this. We're one step closer to

achieving everything we ever

backer Derrick Malone Jr. said.

Oregon has never won a

national championship. The

Just a decade ago, the

Ducks finished the season 5-6

but they'd flirted with national

titles dating back to 1942.

prominence in 2001 when

esta Bowl.

quarterback Joey Harrington

helped lead Oregon to the Fi-

Eugene in 2007 and reworked

tive high-flying spread. Since

then, the speedy Ducks have

been consistently ranked.

Oregon's offense into a distinc-

Then Chip Kelly arrived in

Buckeyes have seven national

worked for, everything we

ever wanted," senior line-

2010 season and came up

BY ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

a 3-pointer by Obi Emegano early in the second half, but Alexander hit back-to-back 3s and the Bison led 42-41. The lead traded hands nine more times before Alexander's goahead free throw.

Emegano scored 25 for Oral Roberts (6-8, 0-1), Henderson had 17 and Korey Bill-

W. Illinois 73, Fort Wayne 67

MACOMB, III. (AP) — Jabari Sandifer scored a career-high 22 points to lead four into double figures as Western Illinois defeated preseason conference favorite Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne 73-67 in the Summit League opener for both schools Fri-

Kelly was promoted from

offensive coordinator to head

coach before the 2009 season

went 12-1 and first played for

the title. Oregon fell to Auburn

and the next year the Ducks

31, OT

Friday, Jan. 2

41

Sandifer hit just 4 of 11 field goals, but sank 12 of 16 foul shots — including 7 of 10 at the line in the final 1:25 to hold off Fort Wayne. Garret Covington added 17 points, going 11 of 12 on free throws, Mohamed Conde notched a second straight double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds and Mike Miklusak

scored 11 points. The Leathernecks (6-6, 1-0) trailed by a point at halftime, but shot away with runs of 14-4 and 12-2 to lead by as

many as 16 after. The Mastodons (7-7, 0-1), whittled the lead to six, 51-45, inside five minutes, led by 20 from Joe Reed, and 12 by Isa-

Unsung Heroes Often Emerge In NFL Playoffs mine which team advances.

BY ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

While quarterbacks and other big-name, high-priced players get most of the attention, unlikely heroes often emerge to help their teams win in the NFL playoffs.

Three of the past four Super Bowl winners played in the wild-card round and each team got help from a surprise performer during its championship run.

Packers rookie James Starks had 123 yards rushing in Green Bay's 21-16 win over Philadelphia on Jan. 9, 2011 after running for just 101 yards the entire season. Giants No. 3 receiver

Mario Manningham caught touchdown passes in each of New York's first three playoffs wins in January 2012, nearly equaling his total of four TDs in the regular sea-

Ravens cornerback Corev Graham matched his season total with two interceptions in one game against Peyton Manning, including a pick in overtime to set up the winning field goal in Baltimore's 38-35 win at Denver on Jan. 12, 2013.

One of the top defensive performances came from unknown safety Vernon Perry in a playoff win. Perry intercepted four of Dan Fouts' passes and blocked a field goal in Houston's 17-14 victory over San Diego on Dec. 29, 1979.

Here are potential unsung heroes for each team this wild-card weekend:

CARDINALS: Outside linebacker Alex Okafor led the Cardinals with eight sacks and could be the key to pressuring Cam Newton and limiting his scrambling. Mobile quarterbacks Russell Wilson and Colin Kaepernick hurt the Cardinals recently, so they have to keep Newton in check.

PANTHERS: WR Philly Brown has turned into Carolina's deep threat and has been used on running plays late in the season. While Kelvin Benjamin will likely go against Patrick Peterson, Brown's speed and playmaking skills could make the dif-

RAVENS: Cornerback Lardarius Webb has a difficult assignment covering Steelers All-Pro Antonio Brown in a matchup that could deterBrown had an excellent season, but Webb isn't backing down. STEELERS: RB Josh Harris

had nine carries this season,

but the rookie is being asked to

replace the injured Le'Veon Bell. Fellow rookie Dri Archer along with newly acquired Ben Tate also are in the mix, but Harris will keep getting the ball if he's productive. BENGALS: TE Jermaine Gresham averaged a career-low 7.4 yards per catch on 62 receptions while Pro Bowl re-

ceiver A.J. Green and Mohamed Sanu make the big plays for Cincinnati's offense. Andy Dalton likes dumping the ball off, so Gresham could be quite active. COLTS: LB Jonathan Newsome set a franchise rookie record with 6 1/2 sacks, including two last week that built his case for more playing time. The Colts had trou-

ble pressuring quarterbacks, so they'll need Newsome to disrupt Dalton's LIONS: S James Ihedigbo had a career-best four interceptions in his first season with the Lions. He is coming off being benched in the second half in last week's loss at Green Bay, so he'll have even more motivation to make plays. Ihedigbo also knows what it takes to win

in the playoffs. He played for the Ravens two years ago. COWBOYS: WR Cole Beasley is easily overlooked on an offense that includes Dez Bryant, DeMarco Murray and Jason Witten. But Beasley has a knack for making a tough catch and slipping through the

22-19 on Wes Bynum's 19-yard the T-shirts were up on Orefield goal as time expired. cause it just motivates our gon's website. guys," offensive coordinator "Won Not Done," the shirts Afterward Kelly vowed, "We'll be back." Scott Frost said. The sentiment — also on

Kelly's successor, Mark Heltees made for opponent Ohio frich, made good on the prom-State — was perfect for the ise: Here the second-seeded Ducks, who are a win away Ducks are, following a 59-20 from proving once and for all victory over Florida State in the Rose Bowl. Ohio State dethat they belong among the nation's elite. It's a position feated Alabama 42-35 in the they've been in once before, Sugar Bowl in New Orleans

later Thursday night. The loss in college football's first-ever playoffs snapped a 29-game winning streak by the third-seeded Seminoles, and Oregon emphasized its dominance by piling up the most points ever scored in a Rose Bowl game. It was quarterback Jameis Winston's first — and maybe only, if he decides to go to the NFL

college loss. "They were undefeated the last two years, and I mean just that in itself says a lot about what they've been able to do. Coming in, we didn't focus on that," quarterback Marcus Mariota said. "We just wanted to focus on ourselves and really just trying to execute to

the best of our abilities.'

perception of the Ducks -

But in the midst of the

step in changing the national

game, Oregon also took a huge

Oregon Looks To Add To Statement Season shoving aside the image of a gimmicky team with a multitude of uniforms that could never stand up to the defending national champion. "I hope they keep saying

they (the Ducks) are soft, be-Mariota is the personification of Oregon's ascent, be-

coming the first Duck to win the Heisman Trophy. He has an ongoing conference record with 40 touchdown passes this season. He's also passed for a touchdown in each of his 40 games of his college career — the longest

streak in FBS history. The junior from Hawaii, who opted at the end of last season to stay at Oregon, has 56 total touchdowns this season. Along with his 40 via pass, he's also run for 15 scores and caught a TD pass. He's the first FBS-level player

to pass for 40 and run for 15.

on himself, Mariota was grate-

ful for the opportunity to add

Never one to put the focus

to the team's legacy with a shot at the title. "All the hard work, all the stuff that we put into it during the offseason and for it to kind of pay off and allow us to be a part of this game, it's a great feeling," he said. "We're very fortunate to be a part of it, and we're excited to get going and get prepared for it.

From Page 7

points for Menno Andrew Schaeffer added nine points and nine rebounds to the

For Freeman Academy, Jeffrey Grabber netted nine points. Menno hosts Irene-Wakonda Tuesday, and Free-

man Academy host Santee Monday.

Creighton Tourn.

CREIGHTON, Neb. - Hart-

ington-Newcastle slayed Wausa 62-23 in the Creighton Holiday Tournament.

Hartington-New. 62,

Wausa 23

No stats were given for

Hartington-Newcaslte.

For Wausa Ryan Kumm and Austin Gillian each totaled seven points, and Kyle Kleinschmit added six points and seven rebounds.

Both teams will play in the tournament tomorrow. HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE (5-3)11 26 37 62 WAUSA (2-6)4 13 15 23

Other Games

SIOUX FALLS — Scoring 19 oints Friday night, Deng Ğeu led the Sioux Falls Washington Warriors to a win against

in the win, with Carter Keller adding 12 points. Ty Smith recorded 10 points and three Kevin McKiernan had a

bounds.

Sioux Falls hosts St. Paul Central today (Saturday) at the Pentagon.

defense for a key first down.

Redfield 54, **Wessington Springs 46**

PRIOR LAKE (3-5)......13 30 44 56 SIOUX FALLS WASHINGTON (6-1)......10 24 42 59

ton Springs 54-46 Friday in Wessington-Springs. Ephram Masat put up 26 points and grabbed seven rebounds for Redfield. Carter

eight rebounds. For Wessington Springs, Nicolas Paulson netted 28 points, and Blythe Anderson added nine points and nine

Valley Christian Saturday, and Wessington Springs hosts

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Washington 59, **Prior Lake 56**

Prior Lake, Minnesota. Geu also had 13 rebounds

total of 15 points for Prior Lake, while Austin Heidecker and Jack Kortes each scored 11 points and had five re-

WESSINGTON SPRINGS — Redfield took down Wessing-

Klapperich added nine points and Jake Baloun snatched

rebounds. Redfield travels to James

Colome the same day.

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