

TVC Classic: Cubs Clip Cougars 57-51

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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The Alcester-Hudson Cubs saw what they've been looking for Saturday night to push themselves to victory — an offensive effort.

The Cubs defeated the Burke-South Central Cougars at the Laddie E. Cimpl Arena 57-51, moving to a 5-6 record and dropping the Cougars to 4-4.

"A lot of times lately at halftime it's been the same thing. We're always focused on the defense," said Alcester-Hudson's head coach Kevin Kunz. "Offensively in this game we hit a lot of our shots. We shoot a lot of threes, so we just wanted to keep doing what we've been doing."

Those three-point shots set the Cubs, who ended the first period ahead 21-20 but behind the Cougars 30-29 at the half, up for the win in the third quarter. Alcester-Hudson's Zachary Ronning went on a nine-point run to advance the

also

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ing, and we were hot today."

The Cubs continued their offensive effort into the fourth quarter, coming away from a 47-47 tie on a 10-4 run to end the game 57-51 — and not without a group effort.

"We're really close-knit and we all know each other's strengths and weaknesses," Ronning said. "That gave us a big advantage and helps us a lot."

Ronning scored a total of 18 points in the game, followed by teammate Gavin

Cubs 40-38 with 3:26 remaining in the quarter.

"We were really confident for this game, and we were able to execute our offense well," Ronning said following the game. "We've been focusing on our defense and rebound-

ing with 14 points and eight rebounds. Samuel Jensen also had 12 points and six rebounds.

"It was a collective team effort," Kunz said. "All seven players contributed their part."

Burke-South Central's Dell Drey scored 20 points and had six rebounds for the Cougars, with Ethan Fernau and Zach Sebem each adding 10 points. Sebem also had three assists.

"It was back and forth the whole time, and (Burke-South Central) played really hard and executed too, so when everybody else jumped on with (Ronning) that was the energy we needed to get over the hump," Kunz said.

The Cubs host Akron-Westfield Tuesday, while Burke-South Central faces Kimball-White Lake in Bonesteel.

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/ENiebrugge. Discuss this story at yankton.net



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Alcester-Hudson's Samuel Jensen splits the Burke-South Central defense for a layup attempt during their matchup in the Tri-Valley Conference boys' basketball Classic on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Alcester-Hudson won 57-51 in the final game of the six-game event. The TVC will hold its girls' Classic at Cimpl on Jan. 31.

Contreras Powers USD Past Jacks

BY ALAN DALE
The Plain Talk

VERMILLION — Two champs, two rivals, two teams with a lot to prove to the other stepped onto the DakotaDome floor Saturday for a matinee of seismic proportions.

The University of South Dakota women's basketball team, the defending Summit League representative at last year's NCAA Tournament played host to South Dakota State, the defending league champions in the first of at least two games this season.

If the sequel is better than the original these two teams will wage a battle bloodier than "The Godfather 2" after the two teams went at each other for 40 minutes.

In the end it was USD that was left standing behind a stellar, wire-to-wire performance by Raeshel Contreras and the big play heroics of Tia Hemiller down the stretch to help the Coyotes (14-4, 4-1) to an 82-78 win and a place atop the Summit standings.

One classic down, plenty more to go, as USD won the 75th meeting between two rivals and a pair of the Midwest's best mid-major teams. "This is a fun win for our team and most importantly we were able to take care of our home court," USD head coach Amy Williams said. "It's been a goal all year and it's become more evident as we watch this league start to unfold a little bit here in the early stages and how critical it's going to be to take care of business on your home court."

"I am really proud of how our team fought and handled adversity throughout the game from tip off to the buzzer. They were able to overcome some shooting

woes and come out on top." Contreras finished with a season-high 32 points, while Nicole Seekamp added 12 points and Heidi Hoff added 11 points for the Coyotes.

"It feels good," Contreras said. "I just take my shots when they are there and try to do what I can. If I can make a play for someone else I will try and do that. If I can score I will try to do that. I am always ready."

SDSU (12-7, 3-3), which played without leading scorer Megan Waytashek who was out due to illness, leads the series 53-22.

"Obviously she's a big player on our team, but a lot of players stepped up," SDSU sophomore Mariah Clarin said. "Macy (Miller) stepped up, Chynna (Stevens) stepped up and Chloe (Cormemann) stepped up. We had a lot of people that were doing really good filling that leadership position."

The freshman Miller from Mitchell had a career-high 25 points while Stevens and Clarin added 13 points apiece.

Williams hoped the best for Waytashek's quick recovery and said she would like to beat SDSU when they are "fully loaded."

Trying to add a regular season crown to last year's Summit Tournament crown and NCAA bid would mean plenty for USD, but in the end, a win is a win, no matter who it comes against.

Even their biggest rival.

"We are going to play them again and it's just going to be a battle," Seekamp said. "No matter if they are having a bad game or we are having a bad game, it's always going to be a close one with State. We have to treat every game



THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
South Dakota's Raeshel Contreras drives to the basket during the Coyotes' Summit League women's basketball matchup with South Dakota State on Saturday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Contreras scored a career-high 32 points in leading the Coyotes to an 82-78 victory.

SDSU Men Recover To Topple USD

BY JEREMY HOECK
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BROOKINGS — Talk about a recovery.

Not even a 20-0 hole to start a high-energy, rivalry game was detrimental to the South Dakota State men's basketball team. It may have actually been the wakeup call the Jackrabbits sought.

"Twenty-oh, you don't come back from that very often," freshman Reed Tellinghuisen said after Saturday afternoon's 71-57 victory over the University of South Dakota at Frost Arena.

Picking up their fourth straight Summit League win, the Jackrabbits (13-7, 4-2) used a 28-2 run to flip around a wild first half that saw the momentum shift dramatically in front of 5,354 fans.

"I told the players, in all the games that I've coached, I've never started off 20 to nothing, much less win the basketball game," SDSU head coach Scott Nagy said.

Yet, that's exactly what the Jackrabbits did.

In what was a 2-point game with 7 minutes and 45 seconds remaining, the home team limited the visitors in red to three baskets the rest of the way — closing on a 22-10 run.

Two days after scoring their first Division I win against North Dakota State, the Coyotes (9-10, 3-2) couldn't close the deal at Frost

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Mount Marty Women Hold Off Midland 82-71



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Mount Marty's Cheyenne Lambley goes up for a shot in the lane during the first half of the Lancers' 82-71 victory over Midland on Sunday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. MMC, 14-7 and 5-7 in the GPAC, hosts Dordt on Wednesday.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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April Winne, Cheyenne Lambley and Holly Hegge wanted to make sure their team kept its improved play rolling.

And the three of four seniors for the Mount Marty College women's basketball team did exactly that.

The three combined for 43 points as the Lancers used one of the best halves in recent memory to beat Midland 82-71 in Sunday afternoon's Great Plains Athletic Conference matchup at Cimpl Arena.

"We just keep improving, and I think it showed right away," said Winne, who scored 23 points — 17 in the first half. "When we play together like that, good things happen."

Winning for the seventh time in eight games, the Lancers (14-7, 5-7) shot 61 percent in the first half to build a 53-32 lead.

Although MMC made only one basket in the game's final 6 minutes and 47 seconds, the story was the first 20 minutes.

"We were really good," head coach Tom Schlimgen said. "We got penetration, hit some threes, moved the ball really well and didn't dribble a lot."

In short, most of what's been working since mid-December — the lone defeat in that 8-game stretch was a loss at the buzzer.

"We just wanted to carry that momentum over from the win Wednesday," said Lambley, who had 11 points and eight rebounds off the bench.

The combination of a swarming defense and hot shooting helped the Lancers jump out to a 20-5 lead in the game's first seven minutes.

But in the second half, Midland (7-13, 2-9) made a push.

The Warriors used an 11-0 spurt midway through the second half to

make things interesting but couldn't get within single digits until there were 79 seconds left.

"We knew they wouldn't give up," Lambley said. "There were moments when we knew we needed a stop."

Hegge added nine points and six rebounds in the win, while sophomore Logan Wagner had 10 points, and junior Raquel Sutera added nine points and five rebounds.

Mount Marty had a 39-33 rebounding edge against a Midland team that boasted two athletic posts: Taylor Shepard (15 points, 7 rebounds) and Jaylan Spencer (14 points, 7 rebounds).

"Rebounding was a huge key against a big team like that," Schlimgen said.

To that end, seniors Lambley and Hegge were productive on both ends.

"When they're at the four (position), they're rarely bigger than their opponent, but you have to measure, too," Schlimgen said. "It's about heart and passion."

Mount Marty hosts Dordt College on Wednesday. The Lancers won the first meeting by one point back in November.

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MIDLAND (7-13, 2-9 GPAC)
Jamillah Johnson 3-15 6-6 14; Sammi Licari 3-7 4-7 10; Joelle Andersen 3-6 3-4 10; Dani Andersen 1-4 0-0 2; Taylor Shepard 7-12 1-7 15; Megan Kucks 0-1 0-0 0; Rachel Stara 1-2 0-0 3; Joelle Overkamp 1-1 0-0 3; Jaylan Spencer 5-11 2-2 14. TOTALS 25-59 16-26 71.
MOUNT MARTY (14-7, 5-7 GPAC)
Alex Kneeland 2-9 2-4 6; Cassidy Gebhart 2-4 3-4 8; April Winne 6-7 8-10 23; Holly Hegge 2-4 4-5 9; Raquel Sutera 4-8 0-1 9; Logan Wagner 4-8 0-0 10; Kieran O'Malley 0-1 2-2 2; Denae Veldkamp 0-2 0-0 0; Cheyenne Lambley 4-7 3-3 11; Kelle Winckler 1-1 2-4 4. TOTALS 25-51 24-33 82.
Halftime: MMC 53-32. Three-Pointers: MMC 8-22 (Winne 3-4, Wagner 2-5, Gebhart 1-1, Hegge 1-2, Sutera 1-5, O'Malley 0-1, Kneeland 0-2, Veldkamp 0-2), MID 5-17 (Johnson 2-8, J. Andersen 1-1, Overkamp 1-1, Stara 1-2, Licari 0-1, Kucks 0-1, Spencer 0-1, D. Andersen 0-2). Total Rebounds: MMC 39 (Lambley 8), MID 33 (Shepard 7, Spencer 7). Assists: MID 15 (3 with 3), MMC 12 (Gebhart 3). Turnovers: MID 17, MMC 20. Personal Fouls: MID 24, MMC 18. Fouled Out: Johnson, Licari. Attendance: 428.

No. 9 Warriors Power Past MMC

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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A physical and aggressive Midland defense was too much for the Mount Marty men to overcome Sunday afternoon in Great Plains Athletic Conference action.

The Lancers fell to ninth-ranked Midland 83-57 at the Laddie E. Cimpl Arena — a tough but understandable loss.

"We'll always compete — that's our culture," said Lancer head coach Andrew Baker. "We want to be tough and physical, and that's Midland's culture, too. When they've got some bigger, stronger and older guys, we lost that battle a little bit. We're not satisfied with that, but you can understand why we struggled at times."

Midland began a strong offensive game early on, jumping ahead 28-9. Their lead continued to grow, ending the first half 51-31.

Alex Starkel recorded 14 points and four rebounds for the Warriors at the half, followed by Marcus Franklin and DJ Vaughn, each with nine points.

Mount Marty's Bud Smith scored 11 points in the first half, with Alex Irvine adding six points.

The Lancers did come out stronger offensively for the second half, making 37.5 percent of their field goals, against Midland's 35.3 percent.

"At halftime we talked about moving the ball, getting good looks and not taking the first good look," said senior guard Smith following the game. "We talked about working on defense and getting a little energy so we could attack more."

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