



Yankton's Brady Hale, 16, kicks a PAT during a game in the 2014 season. Hale, who set nearly every kicking record for the Bucks and was a top receiver for the Class 11AA champions, announced Monday that he will attend South Dakota State University and play football for the Jackrabbits.

P&D FILE PHOTO

Hale To The Jacks

YHS Standout Commits To SDSU Football

BY JEREMY HOECK
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In all the positions Brady Hale played on the football field for Yankton High School, he became a top offensive weapon at wide receiver and kicker.

Of the two, it's his kicking prowess that has led the senior to the Division I FCS level.

Hale, an all-state wide receiver and record-breaking kicker for the state champion Bucks, said Monday night he verbally committed to play football at South Dakota State.

"I connected really well with the players. And they have a good Christian environment," he told the Press & Dakotan on Monday night.

"I felt at home there, and just fell in love."

The 6-foot-4, 195-pound Hale set YHS program records in most points in a season, most field goals (10) and tied for the longest field goal (53). Of those 10 field goals he hit for the undefeated Bucks, five were from

at least 40 yards.

He was also a top offensive weapon for record-setting quarterback Mason Strahl. Hale caught 40 passes for 490 yards and five touchdowns.

But it's his kicking and punting exploits that eventually earned him a scholarship from SDSU — the University of South Dakota also made an offer.

"They (SDSU) talked about receiver a little bit, but it's probably just kicking," he said. "That's definitely my passion."

Hale made his decision after spending the weekend in Brookings on an official visit.

There, he and the other recruits got to walk through the Dykhouse Student-Athlete Center as well as around Coughlin-Alumni Stadium, which is undergoing an overhaul and will be completed in time for the 2016 season.

"Some of the facilities are second to none," Hale said. "That was definitely a bonus, but it wasn't the only factor."

Hale will join former Yankton standouts Kellen Soulek and Lane Sawatzke on the football roster for the Jackrabbits, who have made three consecutive trips to the FCS playoffs — reaching the second round each time.

In the middle of his senior season on the Yankton boys' basketball team, Hale was, however, especially relieved to get his college decision out of the way.

"It's big," he said. "I feel like a weight's been lifted on my chest."

"Now I can focus on finishing out high school strong, and enjoying it with my teammates."

Hale will sign his National Letter of Intent on National Signing Day, which is Feb. 4. Commitments are not binding until athletes sign their letter.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

Freeman Girls Upend Cougars

FREEMAN — Erika Sage scored 23 points as the Freeman girls' basketball team won its ninth consecutive game, 57-50 over Viborg-Hurley at home Monday night.

Cailey Roth added 11 points and Taylor Hermsen scored nine points for the Flyers (9-1), who led 26-19 at halftime.

Abby Hora scored 27 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the visiting Cougars (7-4), while Angie Lee scored eight points.

Both teams return to action Friday, with Freeman at home against Menno and Viborg-Hurley at home in Hurley against Baltic.

VIBORG-HURLEY (7-4)	10	19	32	50
FREEMAN (9-1)	14	26	44	57

Mt. Vernon-Plankinton 65, Kimball-White Lake 41

MOUNT VERNON — Mount Vernon-Plankinton jumped out to a 24-5 lead after one quarter and coasted to a 65-41 victory over Kimball-White Lake in girls' basketball action on Monday.

Makaela Karst led MVP with 13 points and seven rebounds. Payleen O'Day netted 10 points. Kelli Steffen scored 12 points and Nikki Reuland had nine points for KWL. Paige Munsen grabbed nine rebounds and Brooklyn Donald had eight boards for the WildKats.

MVP, 9-2, is off until a Jan. 27 home game against Wagner in Plankinton. KWL, 7-4, hosts Bridgewater-Emery today (Tuesday) in Kimball. KIMBALL-WHITE LAKE (7-4).....5 22 26 41 MOUNT VERNON-PLANKINTON (9-2).....24 37 54 65

Hanson 71, Howard 44

ALEXANDRIA — The Hanson Beaverettes outscored Howard 45-24 in the second half to pull away to a 71-44 victory over the Tigers in girls' basketball action on Monday.

Sarah Kayser led Hanson with 23 points and eight rebounds. Katlyn Schroeder had 12 points. Hannah Marquardt had nine assists and Hailey Doyle had five assists in the win.

For Howard, Bailey Rudebusch led the way with 19 points and nine rebounds. Macy Erickson added 10 points.

Hanson, 10-3, hosts Canistota on Friday. Howard is off until a Jan. 27 game at Parker.

HANSON (10-3)	8	20	32	44
HOWARD (10-3)	12	26	54	71

Boys

Parkston 81, Andes Central 30

PARKSTON — The Parkston Trojans got a double-double from Dillan Thuringer and put three other players in double figures in an 81-30 victory over Andes Central in boys' basketball action on Monday.

Thuringer led Parkston with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Ty Kinneberg netted 12 points and had five assists. Wes Genant had 11 points and seven rebounds. Brayden Leischner added 10 points in the win.

J.B. Brugulier led Andes Central with 10 points. Jason Drapeux had eight points and four assists.

Parkston, 6-2, faces Bon Homme on Thursday. Andes Central travels to Colome today (Tuesday).

ANDES CENTRAL (1-6)	3	22	30
PARKSTON (6-2)	21	44	81

Lawton-Bronson 64, Allen 17

LAWTON, Iowa — Lawton-Bronson cruised to a 64-17 victory over Allen in boys' basketball action on Monday.

No statistics were reported for Lawton-Bronson.

For Allen, Coleman Kneiff led the way with nine points.

ALLEN (1-12)	5	9	13	17
LAWTON-BRONSON	19	38	58	64

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Bobcats Down Yankton 62-18

Huber Rallies To Improve To 25-0 For Bucks

BY JEREMY HOECK
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For the second time in a week, Spencer Huber found himself down 5-0 in a match.

And once again, the Yankton High School junior found a way to keep his perfect record intact.

In one of two matches featuring ranked wrestlers, Huber recorded a third-period pin to highlight the home team's action at Monday night's Eastern South Dakota Conference dual against Brookings at the Summit Center.

Huber, who earlier this season reached 100 career wins, moved to 25-0 on the season with a pin over ninth-ranked Kayde Bartels in their 132-pound showdown.

"It definitely gets me some experience," Huber said after the dual, won by Brookings 62-18.

"Later in the season, those are what I'll see; those guys at the top of the food chain."

In their match, Bartels jumped out to a 5-0 lead after two rounds, but Huber flipped him over to get the pin 21 seconds into the third round.

Huber had a similar battle last weekend at the Harrisburg Invitational, ultimately winning the 126-pound title.

"He needs those types of matches," Yankton head coach Ryan Hage said.

The Yankton school record for pins in a season is 26, and Monday night's was Huber's 18th this season. It might not have happened, though, Hage said.

"We could've kept him out, but we knew that it'd be a tough match for him," the coach said. "And give that kid (Bartels) credit, he put Spencer in some dangerous situations."

Of the 14 weight classes in the hour-long dual, nine were contested, including three open wins for the Bobcats and two for the Bucks.

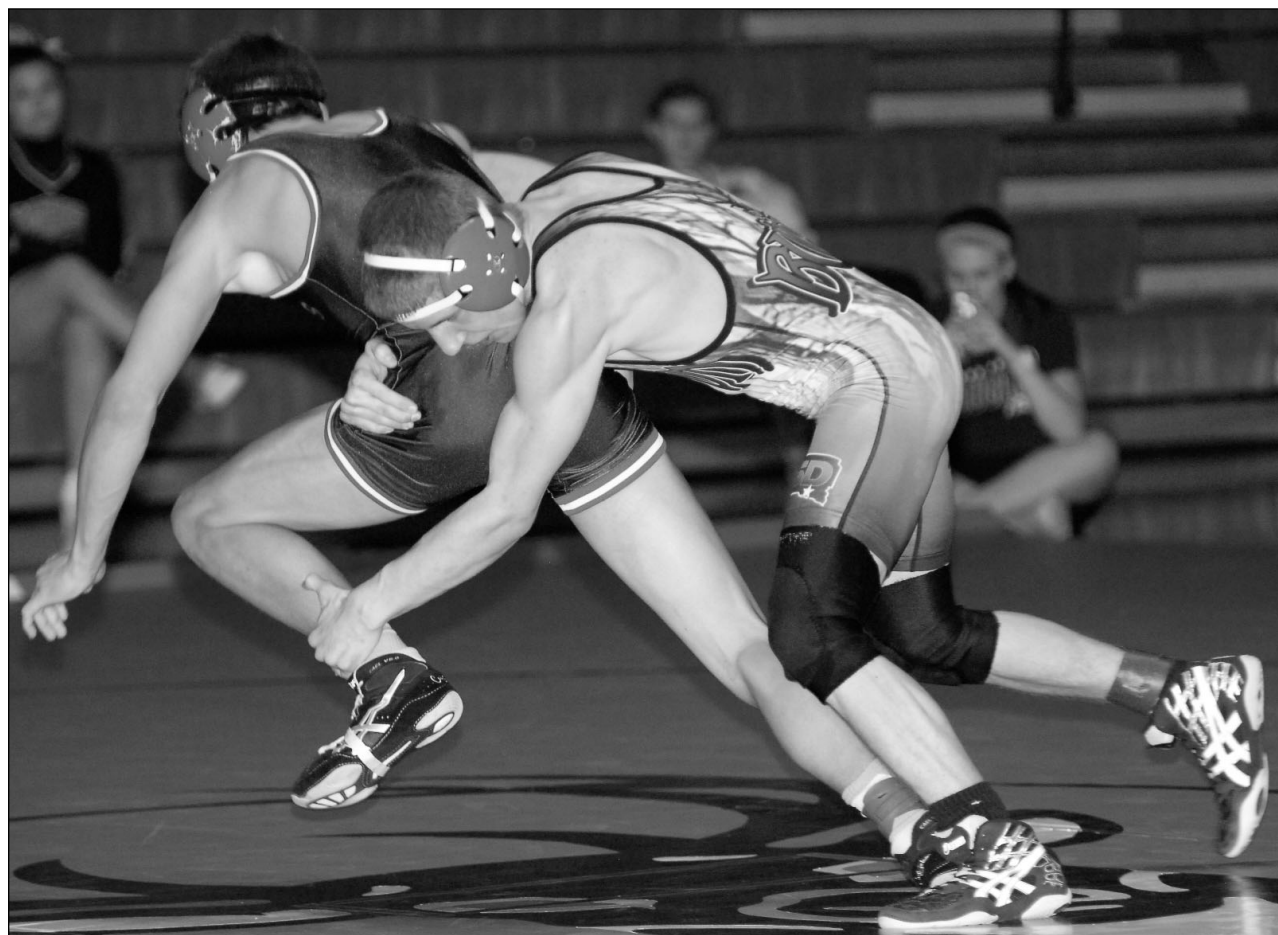
The only other match featuring ranked wrestlers was at 113 pounds, where second-ranked Josh Puppe of Brookings blanked Cody Vornhagen 12-0.

Injury and illness to three regular varsity wrestlers forced Yankton to shift some JV faces onto the showcase mat.

"Any time you start talking about that, it can be a little tough," Hage said.

"We were out-matched in

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Yankton's Spencer Huber tries to keep Brookings Kayde Bartels on the mat during their 132-pound match in their Eastern South Dakota Conference wrestling dual on Monday at the Summit Center.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Basketball: Lancer Women Find Their Spark

MMC Takes 7-1 Run Into Final Month Of Season

BY JEREMY HOECK
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At one point in mid-December, the Mount Marty College women's basketball team was searching for a spark.

Something — anything — to dig out of a 2-6 start to the Great Plains Athletic Conference season.

"We told the girls, 'I know what your aspirations are, and ours are probably even higher,'" said head coach Tom Schlimgen, who has a record of 124-82 in seven seasons at MMC.

"And that's still not out of the picture." Why? Put simply: Mount Marty has turned the corner.

Following a win Sunday afternoon, the Lancers (14-7, 5-7) have now won seven of their last eight games — three of those wins coming in Great Plains Athletic Conference action. And their lone loss in that stretch was on a buzzer-beater at Briar Cliff.

The GPAC has four teams ranked in the top 25, but of those seven outside the rankings, Mount Marty is perhaps playing the best ball of late.

"Our kids are having fun, and that's a big part of it," Schlimgen said.

While quick to point out that there are still eight league games remaining, the Lancer coaches and players would also tell you the middle of the GPAC standings are quite muddled.

"If you look at the GPAC, you've got the top two, and then in the middle it's anyone's game," senior post Cheyenne Lambley said.

Undefeated Morningside, the nation's

No. 1 team, leads the conference at 11-0, while Concordia (12-1), Briar Cliff (7-4) and Hastings (7-4) are also ranked in the top 25.

Doane also sits at 7-4, while Northwestern, Dakota Wesleyan and Mount Marty all have five wins. Last season, the GPAC sent four teams to the NAIA National Tournament, and that's likely the same number to make it this season.

First things first, the Lancers — who last played in the national tournament in 2011 — just want to keep their momentum rolling.

"We're flowing together out there really well, and it's not just one person," senior guard April Winne said. "And it's not just on one side of the ball."

While ranking sixth in the league in scoring defense per game (68.7), Mount Marty is the GPAC's third-best offensive unit (77.6). And that's thanks to the nation's third-best three-point shooting team, with an average of 10 three-pointers made per game.

Not bad for a team picked ninth in the pre-season poll.

"At times we play with a little bit of a chip on our shoulder," Lambley said. "We know not many people probably expect us to make a run."

The run they're already on, though, has the Lancers in a position to be at least thinking big picture.

"We've got a good team, and we know that," Lambley said. "We just want to make a statement at the end of the season."

That stretch begins Wednesday night at

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Mount Marty's Alex Kneeland, 2, kicks the ball out to teammate April Winne during their Great Plains Athletic Conference women's basketball game at home earlier this season. MMC has won seven of eight entering Wednesday's home matchup with Dordt.

P&D FILE PHOTO

LANCER BASKETBALL

MMC Lancers vs. Dordt College on Wednesday, January 21st

WOMEN'S TIP-OFF - 6:00 PM | MEN'S TIP-OFF - 8:00 PM | CIMPL ARENA



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