



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

The Yankton bench and fans react after Yankton's Brady Hale, 34, hit a half-court three-pointer to end the first quarter of the Bucks' boys' basketball matchup with O'Gorman on Tuesday at the Summit Center. Yankton beat the third-ranked Knights 48-46.

Bucks Upend No. 3 Knights 48-46



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Yankton's Evan Greeneway shoots over the top of O'Gorman's Ben Lauer during their boys' basketball game on Tuesday at the Summit Center.

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG
P&D Correspondent

The Yankton Bucks overcame an efficient and effective first half from visiting Sioux Falls O'Gorman and beat the 3rd-ranked Knights 48-46 Tuesday night at the Summit Center.

Yankton made just enough free throws in a clean game and Tanner Frick swished a critical 3-pointer to help the Bucks improve to 7-3.

"It feels really good," Yankton forward Brady Hale said of the win. "Coach Haynes lit a fire for us in the second half and we came together; it was a great team win."

"I thought the guys did a better job of getting after it in the second half," Yankton head coach Chris Haynes said. "We started out with a couple of steals and a couple of baskets and turned an 8-point game into a couple-of-positions game."

"It was a well-played game," Haynes added. "Sioux Falls O'Gorman is a really good team and, at the end of the year, they will be up there competing for a state championship."

The game was close as advertised from the onset to the final bell, but the first quarter ended with a social media highlight.

The Bucks' Bradey Sorenson rebounded a Knight miss and put the ball in Hale's hands. After a dribble, the Yankton senior launched and dropped in a 3-quarter-court shot to close out the first quarter, giving the Bucks a 10-9 lead.

"I caught it from the post, looked at the clock and saw a second, let it go and hoped and prayed," Hale said of the shot. "It's one of those once-in-a-lifetime shots."

However, the Knights took a 27-19 halftime lead.

The Knights made 54.2 percent of their shots while the Bucks were eight of 24 from the field. Hale had seven points at the break while Austin Johnson swished a pair of 3-pointers as the Bucks were three of six from downtown.

O'Gorman guard Braxton Elliot led the Knights with nine points but bench-player Davis Cowan was a perfect 4-4 and had eight points. 6-6 center Ben Lauer's shots were also of the high-percentage variety as he was 3-4 with six points. The Knights' offensively-efficient half included just one turnover.

Yankton worked quickly to close the deficit in the third quarter.

The Bucks' 3rd-frame contribu-

tions included a spot-up 3-pointer from Sorenson and a lay-up from Matthew Fitzgerald as the quarter's seconds ticked away to pull Yankton to within 34-33.

Neither team visited the free-throw line until Yankton's Keenan LaCroix drew a shooting foul with 4:16 to play in the 3rd quarter.

From there, Yankton made nine of 16 from the charity stripe while O'Gorman made a single free throw on their only trip of the night.

The Bucks tied the game at 36-36 and took a 39-36 lead on back-to-back 3-point plays from Austin Johnson and Evan Greeneway with 6:29 and 5:31 to play.

Frick's only 3-point make of the night came with 46 seconds remaining, giving Yankton a 45-40 lead.

Hale made a free throw with nine seconds left to put the game out of reach for the Knights at 48-44.

"It was a very physical game but it was a clean game," Haynes said of the lack of free throws. "It was nice for our guys to step up and make the ones they had to."

Hale led the Bucks with 12 points while guards Johnson and Frick each scored 10. Greeneway worked for 12 rebounds and Fitzgerald had three steals.

Elliot and Cowan each had 14 points to lead O'Gorman as Lauer finished with 10 points.

Yankton (7-3) hosts Watertown Friday night while O'Gorman travels west to take on Rapid City Central Friday.

O'Gorman won the JV game 56-39.

Jared Rafferty led Yankton with 12 points as Sorenson netted nine counters.

The visitors also won in sophomore action 53-43.

Justin Leander was the top Yankton scorer with 11 points.

Jordan Payer added seven points. The Yankton freshmen 'A' team fell 50-43.

Cameron Krejci led Yankton with 10 points.

O'Gorman won the freshmen 'B' matchup 54-37.

Josh Galvan-Hofer paced the Bucks with 16 points as Cole Brummer and Cooper Kuchta each netted seven points.

O'GORMAN (7-4)
Braxton Elliot 6-12 1-2 14, Antonio Casiello 1-2 0-0 2, Jacob Fieck 0-3 0-0 0, Jack Peery 3-7 0-0 6, JP Costello 0-1 0-0 0, Luke Fritsch 0-1 0-0 0, Logan Harmelink 0-0 0-0 0, Davis Cowan 7-11 0-0 14, Matt Cartwright 0-1 0-0 0, Ben Lauer 5-8 0-0 10. TOTALS: 22-44 1-2 46

BUCKS (7-3)
Matthew Fitzgerald 2-5 0-0 4, Brady Hale 4-10, 3-4 12, Evan Greeneway 2-3, 1-3, Austin Johnson 3-6 2-3 10, Tanner Frick 4-11 1-2 10, Luke Rockne 0-0 0-0 0, Keenan LaCroix 0-4 2-4 2, Bradey Sorenson 2-4 0-0 5, Sam Bisgard 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 17-43 9-16 48.

SF O'GORMAN.....9 27 34 46

BUCKS.....10 19 33 48

3-Point Goals: YHS 5-10 (Hale 1-2, Johnson 2-4, Frick 1-3, Sorenson 1-1), SFO 1-4 (Elliot 1-3, Cowan 0-1); Rebounds: YHS 32 (Greenway 12), SFO 19; Personal Fouls: SFO 12, YHS 8; Fouled Out: None; Assists: YHS 1, SFO 1; Turnovers: YHS 12, SFO 8; Blocked Shots: YHS 2, SFO 0; Steals: SFO 9, YHS 4 (Fitzgerald 3).

Top-Ranked O'Gorman Girls Stop Gazelles

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Even though it was facing the top team in the state, the Yankton girls' basketball team wasn't entirely pleased with its outcome.

And it had little to do with the score.

"We had done a really good job the last three weeks of improving, but I feel like we took a step back tonight," said Yankton coach Trey Krier, whose Gazelles suffered a 61-20 loss to top-ranked Sioux Falls O'Gorman on Tuesday night at the Summit Center.

Using a 15-2 run to start the game, the Knights (10-0) forced 34 turnovers and recorded 23 assists on 24 baskets.

"Coming in, we had nothing to lose," said Yankton junior Becky Frick who scored six points and grabbed four rebounds.

"We just wanted to get off to a good start. But that didn't happen."

The combination of O'Gorman's three long, athletic posts — all at least 6-foot — and an experienced point guard (Dalee Stene) were just too much for Yankton (2-8).

Jessica Mieras, a 6-3 South Dakota State recruit, had game highs in points (20) and rebounds (8), all while making more baskets (10) than Yankton (9).

Fellow posts Kate Cartwright and Katie Messler both added six points and five rebounds, while Stene had 11 points and six assists.

It wasn't rebounding — O'Gorman had a 27-19 edge — that ultimately doomed the Gazelles, though, Frick said.

"That's a big team, but I didn't think it was something we couldn't handle," she said.

"We just had too many turnovers and they took advantage."

Despite shooting 35 percent from the field and committing 13 turnovers, the Knights had a commanding

25-10 lead at halftime.

O'Gorman then made 16-of-24 shots — 67 percent — after halftime to balloon the lead.

Yankton was 9-of-30 shooting, with sophomore Madison Tessier scoring four points, junior Brianna Benjamin adding three and three others contributing two points.

"At this point, we have to play to get better," Frick said. "What's a key in doing that?"

"The important part isn't about tonight, it's about tomorrow," Krier said. "And whether we can respond to it and take two steps forward."

Up next for the Gazelles is a Friday night home game with Watertown. From there, Yankton travels to Aberdeen Central on Saturday.

"We've got a lot of games coming up that we can compete," Krier said. "We probably needed one like this to

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Becky Frick gets past O'Gorman's Emily Kolsrud during their girls' basketball game on Tuesday at the Summit Center. Top-ranked O'Gorman beat the Gazelles 61-20.

Herrity Lifts Elk Point-Jefferson Boys Past Vermillion

ELK POINT — Jacob Herrity drained a three-pointer with two seconds left to give Elk Point-Jefferson a dramatic 62-60 victory over Vermillion in boys' basketball action Tuesday night.

Michael Murphy scored 15 points for the hometown Huskies (4-5), while Brandon Koupal added 14 points and Aaron Koupal scored 12 points. Both teams shot over 50 percent, with the Huskies making 16-of-25 (64 percent) after halftime.

In the loss for the Tanageres (4-6), Jeremiah Johnson scored 15 points, Paul Schwasinger

had 13 points and Jacob Manger added nine points.

Vermillion hosts Sioux Falls Christian on Thursday and EPJ visits Dell Rapids on Saturday.

Vermillion (4-6).....13 31 45 60
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (4-5).....14 27 44 62

Centerville 69, Freeman 54
CENTERVILLE — The Centerville Tornados defeated the Freeman Flyers 69-54 on Tuesday night in Centerville.

Christian Gruschin led the way with 25 points, 12 rebounds, and 4 steals. Rory O'Malley added 23 points and six rebounds for the Tornados.

For the Flyers, Brennan

Schmidt had 22 points and six rebounds, and Cole Paulson recorded 11 points and nine rebounds.

Both teams will be playing on the road Thursday with Centerville taking on Scotland and Freeman facing Menno.

Bon Homme 77, Tripp-Delmont-Armour 41
TYNDALL — Bon Homme defeated Tripp-Delmont-Armour 77-41 on Tuesday night in Tyndall.

Chase Kortan scored 18 points to lead Bon Homme,

and Hunter Young added 16 points in the victory.

For Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Tanner Carda scored a game-high 19 points, while Gunnar Dally added seven points.

Bon Homme will play at Parkston on Thursday, and Tripp-Delmont-Armour will have a road game Thursday against Mitchell Christian.

Hartington-Newcastle 60, Laurel-Concord-Col. 44
LAUREL, Neb. — The hometown Hartington-Newcastle Wildcats used a strong second

half to beat Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 60-44 on Tuesday night in Hartington.

No stats were provided for the Wildcats (10-3), who outscored the Bears 42-27 after halftime.

For LCC (5-9), Dillan Wolfgram scored 19 points and Jordan Jansen added 10 points. Brant Eddie grabbed eight rebounds and Jayden Reifenrath had seven rebounds and four blocks.

LCC hosts Battle Creek on Thursday and Hartington-New-

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N-V Girls Edge North Central In Overtime

NIORRARA, Neb. — Niobrara-Verdigre edged out North Central 56-54 in overtime Tuesday night in Niobrara.

Emily Knust netted 13 points and grabbed 19 rebounds for Niobrara-Verdigre (6-9). Ashley Guether totaled 13 points and had 10 rebounds, and Brittany Eisenhauer added 11 points to the win.

No stats were given for North Central (4-7).

Niobrara-Verdigre travels to Creighton Saturday, and North Central hits the road for Stuart Thursday.

NORTH CENTRAL (4-7).....5 18 35 46 54
NIORRARA-VERDIGRE (6-9).....6 18 30 46 56

Irene-Wakonda 38, Scotland 37

IRENE — Irene-Wakonda edged out Scotland 38-37 Tuesday night in Irene.

Amy Morman put up 12 points for the Eagles (8-2). Caitlin Hinseth added 10 points, and Andrea Sokolowski grabbed nine rebounds.

For Scotland (4-6), Carley Skorepa cashed 26 points and snatched 10 rebounds.

Irene-Wakonda hits the road for Centerville next Tuesday, and Scotland travels to PlatteGeddes on Friday.

SCOTLAND (4-6).....11 17 29 37
IRENE-WAKONDA (8-2).....11 13 28 38

Gayville-Volin 53, Parker 41

GAYVILLE — Genny Clark scored 25 points to help Gayville-Volin improve to 9-1 with a 53-41 victory over the Parker Pheasants on Tuesday night.

Kelia Barta also scored 18 points for Gayville-Volin, and Megan Hirsch added 11 rebounds.

For Parker, Lauren Hunstad scored a team-high 13 points. Parker will play host to

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