

# Climer Stepping Down As Mount Marty Volleyball Coach

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
james.cimburek@yankton.net

For Candice Climer, walking away from the Mount Marty College volleyball program she helped build was "one of the hardest decisions" she has ever made. But, when she looks at her young family, it was not so hard.

Climer has stepped down as head of the Lancer volleyball program. She will help coach them through the spring, unless her replacement is found before then.

"It's the right thing to do for my family," Climer said in a phone inter-



Climer

Athletic Conference Tournament berth in 2014. In her tenure at the helm of the Lancers, MMC went 41-115.

"I'm leaving with the girls I started with," Climer said. She was hired in July of 2010, which did not

view on Monday. "It's hard, yet it's OK."

Climer, a 2005 Mount Marty graduate, coached the Lancers the past five seasons, including a 12-21 record and a Great Plains

permit her the chance to recruit for her first season. "But we have three sophomores who were standouts in GPAC play and such a solid group of girls coming back."

Under Climer, the Lancers improved in GPAC play the past two seasons, going 4-12 in league play this season and 2-14 in the GPAC in 2013. The four GPAC wins this season was the most for MMC since 2006.

"She has done a nice job, getting the numbers up and competing," Iverson said. "She felt it was going in the right direction."

MMC graduates six players from

its 2014 squad, but returns second-team all-GPAC libero BreAnne Thege and honorable mention all-conference selections Allison Cross and Sierra Kloth, as well as 11 other players who earned varsity experience this past season.

"I explained it to the girls. They were shocked, but they were understanding," Climer said. "They need someone that can give them a full 100 percent right now."

Climer will remain on campus, having accepted a full-time faculty position. She finished her doctorate in December.

MMC has begun advertising the

position. While Iverson would like to fill the position quickly, he does not want to do that at the expense of finding the right fit.

"It's important to fill it as quickly as possible, but it's more important to get the right person," he said. "We are confident that we can find someone who can come in and continue to build the program."

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## Hoops: Cubs Clip Scotland

SCOTLAND — Zachary Ronning scored a game-high 27 points to lead Alcester-Hudson to a 53-40 victory over Scotland in boys' basketball action on Monday.

Grant Johnson added 13 points for the victorious Cubs, who used a 17-6 edge in the second quarter to pull away.

Shaye Bloch scored 18 points to lead Scotland. Tanner Skorepa had 12 points and nine rebounds.

Alcester-Hudson travels to Tri-Valley Conference rival Viborg-Hurley today (Tuesday) in Viborg. Scotland hosts Wagner on Friday.

ALCESTER-HUDSON (6-8).....16 33 45 53  
SCOTLAND (8-4).....15 21 32 40

## Marty Indian 74, Avon 54

AVON — Marty Indian outscored Avon 46-30 in the second half to surge to a 74-54 victory over the Pirates in boys' basketball action on Monday.

Riley Hare netted 22 points and Madison Dion had 12 points to lead Marty Indian. Leon Jumping Elk added 10 points and 13 rebounds in the win.

For Avon, Logan Mudder scored a game-high 23 points and snagged 10 rebounds. Devin Tolsma added 17 points, eight rebounds and four steals.

Marty Indian travels to Colome today (Tuesday). Avon concludes a four-game home stand with Gregory on Thursday.

MARTY INDIAN (3-5).....17 28 49 74  
AVON (2-9).....10 24 40 54

## Wessington Springs 45, Andes Central 40

WESSINGTON SPRINGS — Wessington Springs held off a second half surge to beat Andes Central 45-40 in boys' basketball action on Monday.

The Spartans led 29-16 at the half, but Andes Central outscored the hosts 16-4 in the third quarter to close to within one, 33-32. Wessington Springs used a 12-8 edge in the fourth quarter to ice the win.

Blytle Henderson scored 11 points to lead Wessington Springs.

For Andes Central, Jason Drapeaux scored a game-high 14 points. Tyrone Flying Hawk pulled down 12 rebounds. J.B. Brugier added nine points and 11 rebounds for the Eagles.

Wessington Springs is off until a Feb. 2 matchup against Howard. Andes Central faces Bon Homme on Thursday.

ANDES CENTRAL (1-9).....7 16 32 40  
WESSINGTON SPRINGS (2-9).....13 29 33 45

## Gregory 67, Dakota Christian 37

GREGORY — The Gregory Gorillas outscored Dakota Christian 16-3 in the first quarter and continued to pull away, claiming a 67-37 victory over the Cadets in boys' basketball action on Monday.

Sean Kafka scored 13 points and Gavin Thomas had 10 points and eight rebounds in the victory.

For Dakota Christian, Owen Medicine and Michael Maas each had nine points. Micah DeWaard added eight rebounds.

Gregory, 7-4, travels to Avon on Thursday. Dakota Christian travels to face Burke-South Central today (Tuesday).

DAKOTA CHRISTIAN (1-10).....3 12 21 37  
GREGORY (7-4).....16 28 42 67

## Saturday

### Lawton-Bronson 70, Dakota Valley 68

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Lawton-Bronson held off a fourth quarter surge by Dakota Valley to edge the Panthers 70-68 in boys' basketball action on Saturday.

No statistics were reported for Lawton-Bronson. John Prochello scored 20 points and Tyler Johnson had 19 points, six assists and four steals to lead Dakota Valley. Robert Rosenquist added 13 points.

Dakota Valley travels to Homer, Nebraska, today (Tuesday).

LAWTON-BRONSON.....18 28 50 70  
DAKOTA VALLEY (4-7).....17 33 41 68

# Lambley Shines As Reserve For MMC Women



Mount Marty's Cheyenne Lambley goes up for a shot in the lane during the first half of the Lancers' victory over Midland earlier this month. Lambley has provided a spark off the bench for MMC, averaging 5.8 points and 4.2 rebounds per game.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
james.cimburek@yankton.net

When Mount Marty College women's basketball coach Tom Schlingen recruited Cheyenne Lambley, he thought he could move the quick, undersized post player outside.

It didn't take long to figure out that she wasn't going anywhere, not because she wasn't willing to change but because she proved herself too valuable on the inside.

"Our first thought was moving her outside, but she didn't have the best looking shot then. She has improved her shot a lot," Schlingen said. "It became obvious that she was a tough kid, and she was used to being against big kids. Her intensity is so good, and her instincts are so good."

"We gave up on the perimeter thing pretty early."

Schlingen wasn't sure if Lambley — who is generally listed at 5-foot-9 — could handle the rough-and-tumble inside play of the GPAC until he watched her tangle with some Division II opponents early in her career.

"We'd scrimmage Sioux Falls and Augie. She'd go up against kids six, seven inches taller than her and frustrate them," he said. "We just loved the way she played."

Four years later, Lambley is a key reserve for a Lancer team that is climbing up the Great Plains Athletic Conference standings, something she attributes to her willingness to do what is needed.

"Coming in I knew I'd be a JV player, but I knew I had the work ethic to make my way up the ladder," she said. "Nothing is ever given to you. Over the years I've progressed and kept working at it, and it's paid off."

Lambley is averaging 5.9 points and 4.2 rebounds on the season, ranking sixth on the team in scoring and fourth on the team in rebounding. Taking those stats over 40 minutes, she ranks in the top 20 in the GPAC in rebounding with everyone ahead of her also being taller.

"Rebounding is about effort. It's about getting in position, staying low and going after it," she said. "If you want it, go get it."

The Burke native played just four varsity games as a freshman and nine as a sophomore. Last season she broke

through, averaging 5.3 points and 4.8 rebounds per game for a team that was burdened by a number of injuries. Lambley started six games a year ago, many while fellow senior Holly Hegge was out with a broken hand, and has started just three games this year.

"My role was never to be a starter," she said. "It was to get in the right position at the right time."

Lambley's role this year has been primarily to spell Hegge, who starts at power forward for the Lancers. While Lambley typically gives up several inches to whoever she is guarding, she does not back down from the challenge.

"Throughout my career I've always gone against bigger players," she said. "Like they say, 'It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog.' I go up, work hard and it doesn't matter if she's (the person she is guarding) four inches taller than me."

She also doesn't mind seeing some of those taller players get annoyed when she beats them to the board.

"Watching others get frustrated is fun," she said. "It gives you the sense that your hard work is going to pay off."

For Schlingen, Lambley is the perfect example of what he would love to see every recruit do: work hard and exceed expectations.

"Cheyenne is a classic example of someone who came through the JV program and is now reaping the rewards of her hard work," he said. "You can measure a kid's height, but you can't measure her heart. She has heart and is a great competitor."

Lambley and her Lancer teammates have been surging of late, winning nine of their last 10 games, including a big win over third place Doane on Saturday. Northwestern, which is tied with MMC for sixth in the conference, hosts the Lancers on Wednesday.

"Approaching the finish we have a lot of momentum. Our passion, our work on defense are beginning to show through," she said. "One of our preseason goals was to get to nationals, and I believe that we will do that."

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## Koepsell Leads MCM Past Flyers

MONTROSE — Morgan Koepsell posted 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead McCook Central-Montrose to a 53-43 victory over Freeman in girls' basketball action on Monday.

Brianna Painter netted 11 points and four assists for MCM. Rachael Laetsch had nine points and eight assists. Koepsell also swatted three shots in the victory.

For Freeman, Taylor Hermesen led the way with 11 points and nine rebounds. Erika Sage had nine points.

MCM, 11-1, faces Baltic in the opening round of the Big East Conference Tournament on Thursday in Baltic. Freeman, 10-2, travels to St. Francis Indian on Saturday.

FREEMAN (10-2).....10 28 38 43  
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONT. (11-1).....9 25 40 53

## Hanson 50, SC-W 35

ALEXANDRIA — A trio of Hanson players combined for 43 points as the Beaverettes upended Sanborn Central-Woonsocket 50-35 in girls' basketball action on Monday.

Katlyn Schroeder had 20 points and 14 rebounds, and Hannah Marquardt netted 12 points for Hanson. Hailey

Doyle posted 11 points and six assists. Sarah Kayser added 12 rebounds in the victory.

For SC-W, Myah Selland led the way with 20 points, 12 rebounds and five assists.

Hanson, 12-3, travels to White Lake to face Kimball-White Lake on Thursday. SC-W, 7-4, travels to Wessington Springs on Thursday.

Hanson won the JV game 51-20.

SANBORN CENTRAL-WOON. (7-4).....8 16 22 35  
HANSON (12-3).....10 23 36 50

## Chester 46, Colman-Egan 34

COLMAN — Chester jumped out to a 24-11 halftime lead and held on for a 46-34 victory over Colman-Egan in girls' basketball action on Monday.

Jenna Reiff led Chester with 13 points and seven rebounds. Sara Heyn added 12 points in the win.

For Colman-Egan, Kyria Westover netted 13 points. Burgin Groos added 10 rebounds and three steals.

CHESTER (8-4).....15 24 36 46  
COLMAN-EGAN (4-10).....5 11 25 34

## NASCAR To Leave Championship Format Unchanged

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — NASCAR won't change its new championship format, which chairman Brian France said Monday is "overwhelmingly popular" with fans.

The Chase was revamped last year into an elimination-style system that created a winner-take-all final race among four drivers. Kevin Harvick won the season finale at Homestead in November to claim his first Sprint Cup title.

France called it "perhaps the best Chase ever" and said the excitement will carry into this season.

"It's overwhelmingly popular with our most important stakeholder, the fans," France of the Chase during the kickoff to the annual NASCAR media tour. "They (fans) like the fact that it tightened up competition. They liked the drama down the stretch. They like the emphasis on winning. And one of the things they told us that they really liked is the idea that we weren't going to change anything. And they strongly suggested that we didn't. And we're not going to."

NASCAR launched the Chase in 2004 and tweaked it several times in the first 10 years. But it got a dramatic

overhaul before the 2014 season, when the field was expanded to 16 drivers with four eliminated after every third Chase race. The final four drivers then went to Homestead even in the standings, with the highest finisher guaranteed the championship. The system worked in creating an eventful finale in which all four contenders raced for the win.

France said he believed the simple formula that did not require following points — drivers made the Chase by winning a race, and advanced through the rounds with wins — was embraced by fans.

"One of the magical parts of this Chase, and we want to make sure we keep it this way, is the simplicity of it. Win and you're in," said France.

One change coming into 2015 will be that NASCAR will no longer permit teams to alter their car's side skirts during a race, a widespread practice last season. Many crew chiefs believed the flaring of the skirts violated the rules, but because NASCAR was not acting on it, they were forced to manipulate the sheet metal to keep up with other teams.

Steve O'Donnell, executive vice president and chief racing

development officer, said cars will be brought back in if NASCAR sees the skirts have been manipulated during a pit stop. Policing the flared skirts will be done "by any means possible," O'Donnell said.

Other topics covered Monday by France: — Sprint is not likely to be replaced as title sponsor before its deal expires at the end of next season. Sprint said last month it will not renew its contract with NASCAR, but will honor the remainder of its deal. The last time NASCAR needed a new sponsor, when R.J. Reynolds said in 2003 it wanted out of its deal that expired at the end of 2007, the sanctioning body nabbed Nextel to take over in 2004.

"I don't anticipate anybody being in a position to leave early, but we'll get out into the marketplace and see," France said.

— NASCAR would like to have the 2016 rules decided and delivered to teams earlier than ever, and is eyeing the All-Star Race in May as a possible deadline. Teams received the 2015 rules last September, and the 2014 rules were not set until last January.