



P&D FILE PHOTO

Abby Hora of Viborg-Hurley pulls up for a jumper over a Spirit Lake (Iowa) defender during their game at the Sanford Pentagon Girls' Basketball Classic in Sioux Falls. The junior has filled up the state sheet for the Cougars, who are 9-4 on the season.

Court Time Helping Hora Stand Out

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VIBORG — Between team camps, AAU action in the summer and the actual high school season, Abby Hora has already played a lot of basketball.

Certainly a lot for someone who turned 17 years old only three weeks ago.

The Viborg-Hurley junior, though, doesn't mind.

"Yeah, but it's flown by," Hora said by phone Wednesday afternoon. "I don't necessarily like that part of it."

"But it's definitely an advantage, because I have that experience in those intense situations."

Hora, a 5-foot-9 point guard, might just be one of those so-called 'gym rats,' but her production has the Cougars at 9-4 heading into tonight's (Thursday) home game against District 10B rival Centerville in Hurley.

"It's hard to get her out of the gym," head coach Bill Hansen said.

In addition to her 4.0 academic standing, Hora averages 23.5 points, 7.6 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 3.6 steals per game on the court.

Hora eclipsed 1,000 career points last season and hasn't slowed down as a junior. She had a season-high 31 points in a loss to Irene-Wakonda early in the season and has yet to be held under 17.

It's more than points, though, that may tell her true impact.

"Especially being a point guard, you have to organize, and people look to you to call out plays," Hora said.

"I can tell sometimes on the court, they look to me to, 'OK Abby, let's get something going.'" Her biggest progression this season?

Strength, according to her coach.

"She put so much time in during the summer in the weight room," Hansen said. "When she has to play all the best defenders or all the gimmicky defenses people throw at her, she can handle it."

And that usually means handling herself against players a couple inches taller.

"If we have to run a zone, she tends to have to guard the four or the kids down low," Hansen said. "That's just the nature of her ability."

But when the Cougars get the ball back and turn to their point guard, she in turn typically isn't looking to the bench for a signal — no, there aren't any set plays for Hora.

"She has the ability to create on her own," Hansen said.

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Police Probe Alleged Harassment Of Pine Ridge Kids At Game

RAPID CITY (AP) — Police are looking into reports that some children from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation were subjected to racial slurs and sprayed with beer while attending a Rapid City Rush hockey game last weekend.

Rapid City Police Lt. Mark Eisenbraun said his department opened an investigation Tuesday after concerned parents called with more information. Chaperones for the students from the American Horse K-8 school in Allen said the harassment occurred during Saturday's game at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.

The Civic Center has not been able to identify the men responsible for the alleged

harassment, but it said they were guests of a suite rented by Rapid City distributor Eagle Sales.

Eagle Sales president Tom Helland told the Rapid City Journal the incident was "incredibly horrible." He said one of his employees was in the suite Saturday but wasn't aware of the incident.

"I feel terrible about it," Helland said. "Unfortunately, we can't change what happened. From what I gathered, it was one individual who did most of the inappropriate behavior."

There were 65 students and chaperones in total from the American Horse school. Autumn Tallman, one of the students at the

game, told KOTA-TV the students were mad they had to leave the game early but more upset by the comments made by the men.

"When we stood up, one of the guys said, 'Gee, the whole tribe,'" she said.

The Civic Center has said it would bar those responsible from future events, if it manages to identify them.

"I've been in this business for 25 years and this is beyond some of the other issues and things I've run into because this crosses a lot of lines," said Craig Balzer, executive director at the Civic Center. "First of all, it is very racially charged. I've seen enough reports on the statements that have been made to see clearly that was the case."

'Yotes Roll Past Denver



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota's Lisa Loeffler pulls up for a shot during the first half of the Coyotes' Summit League women's basketball matchup with Denver on Wednesday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

Second-Half Surge Pushes USD To 82-56 Home Victory

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — After four days of having to stew over a 25-point road loss, the University of South Dakota women's basketball team needed an extra 17 minutes to recover.

But once it did, a close game turned into a rout.

Spurred by a 25-6 surge between the halves, the first-place Coyotes beat Denver 82-56 in Summit League action Wednesday night at the DakotaDome.

Winning for the ninth straight time at home, the Coyotes (16-5, 6-2) rebounded from a rough outing at IUPUI last weekend and also won a rematch of last year's league tournament title game.

More to the current issue, USD nearly doubled its offensive output from a 68-43 loss in Indianapolis in the process.

Down 35-31 with 4:28 left in the first half the Coyotes reeled off a 25-6 run to build a comfortable lead after halftime. From that point on, the Pioneers (7-15, 4-4) never mounted a threat.

Senior Lisa Loeffler had her best offensive game of the season for USD, scoring a season-high 13 points to go along with eight rebounds. Junior Tia Hemiller added 13 points, four rebounds and four assists, while senior Raeshel Contreras had 12 points.

Denver got 14 points from Paige Bradley, while three other players reached double figures.

There were 12 lead changes and nine ties in a back-and-forth first half.

The Coyotes had a 9-point swing to turn a deficit into a 42-37 halftime lead, despite shooting 39 percent.

Within 3 minutes and 12 seconds after halftime, the USD lead reached double digits and never got closer than 13.

With one piece of revenge in the books, the Coyotes will look for a second on Saturday.

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Northwestern Women Rally Past MMC

ORANGE CITY, Iowa — Paige O'Neal scored 36 points — 24 in the second half — and had eight rebounds to lead Northwestern to an 82-73 come-from-behind victory over Mount Marty in Great Plains Athletic Conference women's basketball action on Wednesday in Orange City, Iowa.

Karen Ettleman scored 12 points and Ariane Gesell had 11 points for Northwestern (13-8, 7-6 GPAC), which trailed by as many as 13 points in the first half and by six at halftime, 38-32.

O'Neal was 13-13 from the line, helping the Raiders to a 23-27 effort

online

Due to press deadline the men's game story is available online at yankton.net

Winne, Holly Hegge and Logan Wagner each had 11 points. Mount Marty College will host top-ranked and unbeaten Morning-side on Feb. 4.

from the charity stripe. MMC was just 12-22.

Alex Kneeland led five Lancers (16-8, 7-8 GPAC) with 20 points. Cassidy Gebhart netted a season-high 13 points and had five assists. April

MOUNT MARTY (16-8)

Alex Kneeland 6-16 1-3 20, Cassidy Gebhart 6-7 0-2 13, April Winne 3-11 4-6 11, Holly Hegge 3-8 5-6 11, Raquel Suters 1-6 2-4 5, Logan Wagner 4-9 0-0 11, Kieran O'Malley 1-2 0-0 2, Erica Dreckman 0-1 0-0 0, Denaie Veldkamp 0-0 0-0 0, Cheyenne Lambly 0-0 0-0 0, Kellie Winckler 0-1 0-1 0. TOTALS: 26-59 12-22 73.

NORTHWESTERN (13-8)

Paige O'Neal 11-18 13-36, Karen Ettleman 6-11 0-0 12, Renee Mansman 2-3 2-2 6, Morgan VanDerSloot 1-5 2-2 5, Ariane Gesell 5-7 1-3 11, Whitney Vander Maten 0-3 2-2 2, Katie Kuiper 2-8 1-2 6, Paige Danner 0-3 0-1 0, Claudia Larsen 1-2 2-4. TOTALS: 28-80 23-27 82.

At the half: MMC 38, NWC 32. Three-Pointers: MMC 9-30 (Kneeland 3-7, Wagner 3-8, Gebhart 1-1, Winne 1-7, Suters 1-6, O'Malley 0-1), NWC 3-16 (O'Neal 1-1, VanDerSloot 1-5, Kuiper 1-5, Ettleman 0-1, Vander Maten 0-2, Danner 0-2). Rebounds: NWC 44 (O'Neal 8), MMC 28 (Winckler 6). Personal Fouls: MMC 25, NWC 23. Fouled Out: Gebhart, Winne, Vander Maten. Assists: NWC 17 (Mansman 5), MMC 8 (Gebhart 5). Turnovers: NWC 20, MMC 16. Blocked Shots: NWC 2 (Larsen 2), MMC 1 (Kneeland). Steals: MMC 8 (Hegge 3, Suters 3), NWC 7 (O'Neal 2, Vander Maten 2). Attendance: 1,400.

O'Malleys Lead Centerville To Sweep Of IW

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to incorrect information supplied to the Press & Dakotan, the outcome of the Irene-Wakonda at Centerville boys' game was incorrect in Wednesday's edition.

CENTERVILLE — The Centerville Tornados outlasted Irene-Wakonda 76-71 in overtime in Tri-Valley Conference boys' basketball action.

Rory O'Malley had an outstanding performance for the Tornados, scoring a game-high 43 points, including a three-pointer with 7.4 seconds remaining in regulation to send the game to overtime. Christian Grushian added a double-double with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Gabe King scored 31 points and totaled 12 rebounds for the Eagles. Levi Van Beek added 12 points, and Trey King had 16 point in the effort.

Centerville have a road game

Parkston 63, Platte-Geddes 58, OT

PLATTE — Parkston outscored Platte-Geddes 14-9 in overtime to claim a 63-58 victory over the Black Panthers in boys' basketball action on Tuesday.

Dillon Thuringer led Parkston with 23 points and seven rebounds. Wes Genant added 15 points in the win.

For Platte-Geddes, Cody Johnson had 25 points and eight rebounds to lead the way. Carter Dykstra finished with 21 points and nine rebounds. Brady Peterson added 12 rebounds.

Parkston, 8-3, hosts Lennox

on Thursday. Platte-Geddes, 7-4, hosts Colome on Friday.

PARKSTON (8-3).....13 27 41 49 63
 PLATTE-GEDDES (7-4).....9 19 36 49 58

Girls

Centerville 64, Irene-Wakonda 32

CENTERVILLE — Shannon O'Malley scored a game-high 31 points and had six assists to lead Centerville to a 64-32 victory over Irene-Wakonda in Tri-Valley Conference girls' basketball action on Tuesday.

Kristina Laska had 10 points and 10 rebounds. Valerie Sunderland had nine points, 10 rebounds and four steals in victory.

For Irene-Wakonda, Erin Hansen scored 10 points and Andrea Sokolowski had seven rebounds.

Centerville, 10-2 overall and

3-0 in the TVC, travels to Hurley to face Viborg-Hurley today (Thursday). Irene-Wakonda, 8-3 and 2-1, travels to Freeman Academy today.

IRENE-WAKONDA (8-3).....0 11 23 32
 CENTERVILLE (10-2).....19 34 52 64

Parker 60, Howard 53

PARKER — Lauren Hunstad scored 21 points to lead Parker past Howard 60-53 in Big East Conference girls' basketball action on Tuesday.

Rylie Christensen finished with 17 points and seven rebounds for Parker, which outscored the Tigers 21-8 in the fourth quarter. Lexi Olson also had seven rebounds in the win.

For Howard, Bailey Rudebusch led the way with 15 points. Taylor Noid netted 13 points and Kelsey Dawson had 10 points for the Tigers.

HOWARD (1-11).....13 33 45 53
 PARKER (6-6).....17 27 39 60

LANCER BASKETBALL

MMC Lancer Men vs. Oglala Lakota College on Friday, January 30th

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