Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net SIOUX FALLS — Imagine being Jill Young or Jennie Sunnarborg and being recruited to South Dakota

State, all the while not knowing your career would result in not one, not two, not three, but four NCAA

Would you have it believed it either? Yet, that's exactly what the seniors have done. Both played key roles in Tuesday's Summit League Tournament championship for the Jackrabbits, 78-77 in overtime over UMKC.

SDSU Seniors Young, Sunnarborg Leave Quite A Legacy Young hit two clutch free throws with 7.1 seconds in overtime to give SDSU the lead and Sunnarborg

scored 10 of her 12 points in the second half. The only two seniors for the Jackrabbits, they certainly leave a legacy for SDSU — which won its first

Summit League crown when they were freshmen.

"Legacy is a great word for those seniors," coach Aaron Johnston said. "Four times; that's unbeliev-

It's also a record. No team earned two, let alone four, NCAA Tournament berths in its first year of el-

Next season, the University of South Dakota will join the post-season party and will look to start its

own streak, but until then, it's obvious which program in the nation has led its league in such a way. Hanson Stops TDA For Region 6B Championship SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

S.D. BOYS' SCORES CLASS AA REGIONS Brookings 56, Yankton 48 Huron 72, Douglas 47 Pierre 52, Rapid City Stevens 36

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 64, Sioux Falls coln 60 CLASS A REGIONS

1A: Aberdeen Roncalli 65, Milbank 48

2A: Clark/Willow Lake 61, Deubrook

3A: Dell Rapids 52, Madison 46 **4A:** Dakota Valley 72, Tea Area 49

5A: Tri-Valley 55, Platte-Geddes 41 **6A:** Chamberlain 62, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 52

7A: Winner 61, Pine Ridge 52

8A: St. Thomas More 44, Red Cloud

CLASS B REGIONS Tuesday, March 6

1B: Langford 57, Rosholt 47

2B: Castlewood 71, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 58 3B: Sully Buttes 68, Herreid/Selby

4B: Viborg/Hurley 38, Canistota 29 **5B:** Wolsey-Wessington 49, Mt. Ver

6B: Hanson 47, Tripp-Delmont-Ar-**7B:** White River 88, Wall 34 **8B:** Dupree 59, Faith 55

SUMMIT LEAGUE TOURN. March 3-6 at Sioux Falls
MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP
South Dakota State 52, Western Illinois 50, OT

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP South Dakota State 78, UMKC 77, OT

borg-Hurley) for a long time. I hope they represent our region well and win

Viborg-Hurley now heads to the State Tournament which will be held March 15 — 17 at the Barnett Center in Aberdeen.

Region 5A

Region 4B

and adjusted on defense. When you

can hold a player like Dennis Deneui to

Tri-Valley outscored Platte-Geddes

huge fourth quarter, scoring nine of his 16 points in the final frame, including hitting all five of his free-throw

"Kyle really stepped up in a clutch position for us in the fourth," Grady

Erickson also grabbed eight rebounds for the Mustangs. Sophomore Brendon Boomsma added 10 points in "Any given night we are as good as

Meanwhile, a Platte-Geddes team that improved from 10-11 last season to finish 16-7 this season fell just a little bit short. The Black Panthers only managed to hit 30 percent of their

"We had our opportunities," Cutler said. "They just made more plays

Van Zee, a junior, led the Black Panthers with 10 points. Freshman Coby Johnson added nine points and a team-high 11 boards. Junior Matthew Randall added five rebound while senior Cody Wagner scored seven points in his final high school game.

two points, I mean, that is tremendous," said Jolley.
"We have known those kids (Vi-

it all at State, said Jolley.

20-5 in the final period. Mustang senior Kyle Erickson had a

points in the final quarter. Seitzinger

scored six points in the quarter, and

Vlasman muscled in a tough two-point

shot. Behind the work from those play-

But the free throw accuracy by the

Bobcats sealed a closely-played game.

Brookings found themselves in a sea of

"This was one of the best games we

white, as the white-clad Bobcat stu-

dent section ran onto the floor when

played all year, if not the best," Gross

said. "That's what you want at the end of the year. We were down by 11

fought our way back into the game. We

Engbretson thought the persever-

points after three quarters and we could have given up, but we didn't. We

anything could have happened.'

ance of his team led to the win.

the final buzzer sounded.

ers, Yankton found themselves down

by only three points with 1:30 left in

also found some room to work and

Bucks

From Page 8

the game.

anyone," Grady said. "Our goal at the beginning of the year was to make it to the state tournament and we accomplished that tonight.'

shots from the field

down the stretch."

Brookings was led in scoring by

bounds. Yankton was led by Seitzinger's 11 points, and Youngberg also scored 11 points.

Busch with 21 points, and Doherty

ended with 16 points and nine re-

It was the last game of five Yankton seniors: Seitzinger, Youngberg, Vlas-

man, Pasco, and Fitzsimmons. "Our seniors did a great job tonight. Every one of them," Gross said. "Fitzsimmons handled the ball well for us, Pasco provided and early spark, Youngberg was our late game sparkplug, Seitzinger scored well as he always does, and Vlasman handled the

paint. Yankton ends their season with a 4-18 record. Brookings will continue on to the state tournament with a 15-8

record. YANKTON (4-18) Michael Rucker 0-3 0-0 0; Connor Fitzsimmons 2-7 0-0 5; JJ Hejna 4-4 0-1 8; Jackson Seitzinger 3-10 4-4 11; Connor Vlasman 3-4 0-0 6; Jackson Pasco 2-2 1-1 5; Zach Benjamin 0-1 0-0 0; Bryan Youngberg 3-3 3-4 11; Kellen Soulek 0-2 2-4 2. TOTALS 17-36 10-14 48

BROOKINGS (15-8)
Tanner Odegaard 2-11 4-4 10; Matt Thomas 0-2 1-2 1; Landon Busch 9-15 1-3 21; Conner Doherty 4-7 6-7 16; Jordan Van-Kaleb Vig 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS 18-45 14-18 56

YANKTON... ...16 23 28 48 3, Seitzinger 1-4, Benjamin 0-1, Youngberg 2-2) Brookings 6-14 (Odegaard 2-6, Busch 2-4, Doherty 2-4), Rebounds: Yankton 20 (Wasman 6) Brookings 26 (Oberty 9). Assist: Yankton 5 Brook-ings 8 (Nagy 4). Steals: Yankton 2 Brookings 7 (Nagy 3).

Jacks

"Without that run, we certainly don't come back," Johnston said. That the Jacks did, late in regulation, setting the stage for overtime in front of the third-highest attendance for a women's championship final.

Fittingly, it was Young — one of the team's two seniors — who pushed the Jacks in front for good.

"Legacy is a great word for those seniors," Johnston said. "Four times; that's unbelievable. It's not easy to describe how difficult it is to get to the NCAA Tournament.

"That was find ways to come out on top has a lot to do with Jill and with

Junior Ashley Eide and Young each led the way with 13 points, while Sunnarborg and sophomore Tara Heiser added 12 apiece.

Asked later if she thought her career would include four Summit League titles in four years, Sunnarborg

"There definitely is a possibility," she said. "I can't say I would've thought of that, but our program has enhanced every single year.

pearance in the NCAA Tournament, with seedings and opponent to be determined.

Halftime: UMKC 36-27. End of Regulation: 67-67. Three Pointers: SDSU 12-32 (Young 3-8, Eide 2-2, Heiser 2-3, Boever 2-3, Strop 2-7, Walters 1-3, Dietel 0-1, Sunnarborg 0-5), UMKC 9-23 (Hall-Jones 4-10, Blakesley 2-3, Nezianya 1-2, UCcond 4, Thomas 1-4). Total Rebounds: UMKC 46 (Nezianya 12), SDSU 37 (Sunnarborg 9). Assists: SDSU 16 (Young 5), UMKC 14 (O'Connor 3, Eldridge 3). Turnovers: SDSU 12, UMKC 12. Personal Fouls: UMKC 16, SDSU 14. Fouled Out: None. Atten-

BY JILANNE DOOM sports@yankton.net

MITCHELL — After the final buzzer sounded in the Corn Palace and the Hanson boys' basketball team was handed their Region 6B championship trophy, head coach Josh Oltmanns tiredly walked away while his team celebrated and sat down on his bench with his head in his hands. Oltmanns had just led his team to its first region championship and state berth since 1989.

"It was very stressful, but I'm very thankful," Oltmanns said. "Thankful to my players and my assistant coach for helping us get there. It's a region championship game; you're supposed to be drained after. If not, you didn't do vour iob."

The Beavers defeated the Tripp-Delmont-Armour Nighthawks 47-38 in an exciting Class B region game on Tuesday night in Mitchell.

"It's been since '89 and they got runner up that year. This is the third time I've been in a region championship game and hadn't got there. I'm just happy for the kids; look how much fun it is for them and for the whole community," Oltmanns said, watching his team celebrate with their friends and family on the center court. "This is what it's about."

The opening quarter began with back and forth play as both teams quickly answered their opponents' advances with several buckets from behind the arch. Hanson's senior Reid Smith drained the first three of the night early in the quarter, only to be answered by TDA's senior Adam Fink with a three of his own. Then the Beavers' freshman Jordan Marquardt chipped in with a trey on the very next play. Fink and

Region 4A

pointers for 56-percent and shot 59-

percent overall as they were 30-51

We shot great; the key was to get

some inside baskets and we drew their

zone in," Kleis said. "These guys really

share the ball and are very unselfish,

From Page 8

from the field.

Marquardt would again sink back to back threes until Smith stole the ball with a minute left to play in the quarter and go coast to coast, coming up with Hanson's first two point basket of the night. TDA held the ball for the final possession but were unable to get a shot off, ending the quarter 13-9 in Hanson's favor.

Both teams began the second with difficulty shooting until almost two minutes into the quarter with a Hanson layup and another TDA three pointer by sophomore guard Austin Barlow. Fink then came up with a big block on a Hanson three point attempt but the Beavers' Trey Persson would drain a three from the top of the key on the same possession to silence the TDA crowd. Smith pushed his team's lead even further to 23-16 as he scored on a tough layup then grabbed another steal, causing the Nighthawk's head coach Burnell Glanzer to call a time out.

TDA regrouped right after the break as Fink and Marquardt scored on a pair of layups. Fink would come up with a big steal with 1:09 to play in the half and hold the ball for the last possession where he scored on a short iumper. Fink's buzzer beater cut Hanson's lead to only one as the half ended 23-22.

"We won the half but we didn't finish the half. We were up by eight or nine and we could've pulled away," Oltmanns said about his team's first half performance. "But we did win that half and we said let's go win a quarter then win another quarter, and that's what we did."

The halftime break ended and did not ice Fink as he sunk another three pointer from the corner after a pair of free throws by Smith to start the third quarter.

and when we shoot it like that, we're

'A' championship pursuit March 15.

this is the most unselfish group I've

been around," Kleis said of the Pan-

ther team. "They don't care about the

stat sheet after the game and they get

along better than any group I've seen."

Tea Area finishes their season with

Schaull led Tea Area with nine

a 15-9 mark and a District 7 Champi-

Dakota Valley (20-3) will begin their

"It's special in a lot of ways because

pretty good.'

But Hanson would not let the tied score last long as they scored four difficult baskets in a row, two by Marquardt and two by junior Matt Huber on athletic post moves. The Nighthawks' Trevor Payer finally stifled Hanson's run with a

three and TDA again held the ball for the last possession but were unable to convert, ending the third 35-31. But the final quarter totally belonged to the Beavers as they jumped out with intensity on both ends, not allowing TDA to score until three minutes left to play in the game. A series of baskets by Hanson, including a drive and reverse layup by senior Alex Kayser, pushed them to their biggest lead

As the Beavers began to stall, the Nighthawks picked up a couple steals and free throws to keep their hopes alive, but when they had to begin fouling down the stretch, Hanson sunk key free

of the night 41-31. Glanzer called

another time out for TDA, who

then scored their first bucket of

the quarter by senior Drake John-

throws to end the game 47-38. "It means a lot," Reid Smith said. "But we just had to contain Fink and that was going to win us the game. We had two or three guys on Fink, and he still dominated.' TDA's Fink led all scorers on

the night with 17 points and his teammate Reece Weber added 10. The Nighthawks finished their season 16-7. For Hanson, who advances to 18-5. Jordan Marquardt led with 16 points and Smith chipped in 12. Senior Jacob Bartscher grabbed seven rebounds. Although they do not know for sure who they will face in the

opening round, the Beavers now have the coming week to prepare for the Class B state tournament to be held March 15-17 at the Aberdeen Barnett Center. But first, they plan on cheering on their girls' basketball team who also made it to the state tournament this weekend.

"We've got Faith I think, but we're just going to take a little time off tomorrow," Smith said. 'Then we've got to go watch the girls at their state, but after, just get back to it."

SDSU

From Page 8

uation. I knew because of the crowd, they would never let the game get away from them, and they didn't."

Spurred by a 15-4 run over the end of the first half and into the second half, the Leathernecks still frustrated the favored Jacks with a patient, defensive-minded attack.

Western Illinois built a 38-28 lead with 13:18 remaining. As if waiting for that kind of adversity, SDSU took off from there.

Ceola Clark missed a jumper with 30 seconds left, and Callahan was later fouled with 15.3 left. His two foul shots tied the game at 44.

Headed to overtime, the momentum was clearly with the Jacks. 'We couldn't get anything to fall,' Wolters said. "Our defense won it for us, we just kept getting stops. We

knew eventually the shots would fall." Western Illinois (18-14), on the other hand. hadn't won a Summit League tournament game since 1999, but won two big ones this year to ad-

vance to the final.

Picked ninth in the pre-season poll, the Leathernecks instead used their defensive prowess to reach a level not many expected.

"Hopefully we'll start getting more respect. I haven't seen much respect other than us and our fans," said junior Ceola Clark, named to the All-Tournament team. "For us to play like this at the end of the season, that's what you want to play like in March."

For the Jacks, however, their month will continue in the NCAA Tournament, starting next week. With it comes the frenzy of brackets and opponents and national exposure.

"It's still sinking in," said junior Nate Wolters, named Tournament MVP despite a 5-of-22 effort in the final. "We'll probably enjoy it for a couple

days. It should be a lot of fun; we're looking forward to see who we play."

S. DAKOTA ST. 52, W. ILLINOIS 50, OT

W. ILLINOIS (18-14)
Emegano 4-12-0-0 8, Houpt 3-9 0-0 9, Parks 3-7 2-4 8, Tyler
9-14 0-2 19, Clark III 2-9 0-0 6, Packer 0-0 0-0 0, Roberts-Burnett 0-0 0-0 0, Gebru 0-0 0-0 0, McAvoy 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 21-52

S. DAKOTA ST. (27-7) Fiegen 2-6 2-4 6, Dykstra 3-4 0-0 6, Wolters 5-22 3-3 14, Carlson 1-5 0-0 3, Callahan 3-8 2-2 10, Prince 0-0 0-0 0, White 3-5 0-0 9, Heemstra 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 19-54 7-9 52.

Halfilme—W. Illinois 28-24. End of Regulation—Tied 44. 3-Point Goals—W. Illinois 6-13 (Houpt 3-6, Clark III 2-5, Tyler 1-2), S. Dakota St. 7-18 (White 3-4, Callahan 2-6, Carlson 1-3, Wolters 1-5), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—W. Illinois 32 (Parks 11), S. Dakota St. 38 (Carlson 7), Assists-W. Illinois 10 Clark III 4), S. Dakota St. 9 (Wolters 4). Total Fouls-W. Illinois

"I continued to tell them to persevere," Engbretson said. "We ended up hitting some tough shots and came movers: Yankton 15 Brookings 6. out with a win.'

joked that, no.

Up next for the Jacks: Another ap-

UMKC (22-11)
Kim Nezianya 8-16 0-1 17; Ashli Hill 1-2 0-0 2; Dayon HallJones 11-26 1-3 27; Elise O'Connor 4-10 2-2 11; Brianna Eldridge 2-3 0-0 4; Emile Blakesley 2-3 0-0 6; Mariah Scaife 0-0 / Houser 0-1 0-0 0; Kaycie Boyles 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 32-72 4-

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (24-8) Leah Dietel 3-4 3-3 9; Jennie Sunnarborg 4-13 4-5 12; Jill Young 3-9 4-4 13; Tara Heiser 5-9 0-0 12; Ashley Eide 5-9 1-2 13; Gabrielle Boever 2-6 0-0 6; Hannah Strop 2-7 0-0 6; Rachel Wal-ters 1-3 0-0 3; Mariah Clarin 1-1 0-0 2; Katie Lingle 1-3 0-2 2. TO-TALS 27-64 12-16 78.



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