

# Bucks Whip Washington To Keep Season Alive



Yankton's Ryan Olson, left, looks for an opening against Washington's Trevor Bartlett during the second half of the third place game in the District 2AA Boys' Basketball Tournament on Friday at the Summit Center.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

## Yankton Plays At Brookings On Tuesday

BY CHRIS RILEY  
[sports@yankton.net](mailto:sports@yankton.net)

Just three days after a heartbreaking loss to Lincoln on a last-second buzzer beater, the Yankton Bucks roared back on Friday night in the District 2AA elimination game to defeat Washington 60-43 at the Summit Center and keep their season alive.

Senior Kellen Soulek was a dominating presence for the Bucks in the post, putting up 13 points and grabbing nine boards in just 18 minutes of play before fouling out midway through the fourth quarter.

"Kellen had a great game inside," Yankton coach Chris Haynes said. "Watching two offensive linemen (Soulek and 6-9 Washington center Grant Lewis) going at it was fun."

Junior J.J. Hejna (17 points and 13 rebounds) and sophomore Brady Hale (11 points) also had big games offensive for the Bucks, but this night belonged to the Yankton seniors who managed to extend their season for at least one more night.

"You could tell that those guys didn't want to be done," Haynes said of his handful of seniors. "I'm proud of the way they played tonight and the way they played all year. They've

given us great leadership and great effort all season."

Senior starter Michael Rucker scored just five points, but they were all in the second half as the Bucks tried to preserve their lead. Rucker also added a game-high three assists. He said that there was no doubt about how he and his teammates would respond to Tuesday's dramatic loss.

"After losing on that half-court buzzer beater a lot of people thought we could have folded, but we kept working hard and got after it," Rucker said. "We knew Washington wasn't going to feel sorry for us and we were ready for this game."

The Warriors took an early 4-2 lead, but after tying things up with three minutes left in the first quarter the Bucks never trailed again, leading for the final 26 minutes of the contest.

Yankton took a 27-20 halftime lead and pulled away in the third quarter but saw that gap shrink back to seven early in the fourth period. Junior Landon Breen hit a three-pointer for the Bucks with 5:04 to play to extend the margin to 10 and the Bucks hit enough free throws down the stretch to put Washington away.

Haynes was most pleased by his team's effort rebounding (Yankton

held a 34-33 total advantage) and defensively.

"We really did a nice job on the boards and I think our defensive pressure and intensity bothered them as well," Haynes said.

With just two days of practice for this possible season-ending game, Haynes said he players worked hard right away on Wednesday, the day after their loss to the Patriots in Sioux Falls.

"Tuesday night was tough, no doubt about it," Haynes said. "Wednesday at school everybody had their heads up, Wednesday at practice the guys were ready to go, on Thursday guys were ready to go and you saw it tonight from the opening tip - our guys came back and they showed great character by how they played."

Washington finishes their season 4-18. Freshman Matt Farniok led the Warriors with 15 points and 11 rebounds. No other Warriors scored more than eight as Washington shot 40 percent from the field and finished 0-for-4 on three-pointers as a team.

Yankton, who lost to Washington in Sioux Falls by a final of 48-35 back on December 11, improves to 6-14 on the season and travels to Brookings on

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# Crofton, Wynot Back In Finals



The Crofton Lady Warriors' bench watches the final shot attempt hit off the rim in the closing seconds of Friday morning's Class C2 semifinal win over Homer at the Nebraska State Girls Basketball Tournament in Lincoln, Neb.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Zoey Heimes, left, of Wynot beats Lindsay Holy Family defender Kaylee Jensen for a basket during Friday afternoon's Class D2 semifinal at the Nebraska State Girls Basketball Tournament in Lincoln, Neb.

## Lady Warriors Business-Like In Semifinal Rout

BY JEREMY HOECK  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

LINCOLN, Neb. — A year ago, the semifinal celebration for the Crofton Lady Warriors consisted of players jumping around, arms in the air and hugs between teammates.

On Friday morning, however, that celebration featured only smiles.

The top-ranked and unbeaten Lady Warriors mean business this year and their demeanor after rolling past Homer 54-36 in the Class C2 semifinals at the Nebraska State Girls Basketball Tournament at Pershing Auditorium reflected that intensity.

"Last year we didn't expect anything. We thought it'd just be cool, but to win was a dream,"

said Crofton senior Bridget Arens, who scored 22 points. "This year we want to take it by the horns."

"I'm sure we'll celebrate if we win the next one."

That next one is the C2 championship game today (Saturday) at 9 a.m. against No. 2 Hastings St. Cecilia (23-4) at the Devaney Center in Lincoln.

Crofton — winners of 33 straight games — first had to contend with a Homer team it beat by 26 points in last week's district final. Friday was about the same, with the Lady Warriors taking control early and dominating the hustle plays.

The one difference in the second matchup, though, was cold shooting at the start from the Lady Warriors.

"It was a lot like (Thursday), we had to grind out some points," head coach Aaron Losing said. "It wasn't maybe the way we always score points, but we were able put them on the board nonetheless."

Crofton was 3-of-16 shooting in the first quarter and, like Thursday's first-round game, left plenty of points on the floor because of missed shots.

"Again, it was just our confidence in each other," Arens said. "We kept telling each other, 'We can do it.'"

The Lady Warriors, however, improved to 7-of-15 shooting in the second quarter and closed the half on a 10-0 run after Homer climbed to within 18-13 late in the frame.

"The shots weren't falling, but

we all work together and stay with it," said Crofton sophomore Quinn Wragge, who scored 16 points. "We've been preparing for this all year; we don't want to slip up."

Wragge, a 5-foot-11 transfer from Fillmore Central played a key role in that surge with six points in the final three minutes of the half. She consistently found her way to the basket on cuts and occasionally stepped out for 15-foot jumpers.

"She's just faster than people. I don't know what else to say," Losing said with a smile. "She gets out and runs, and when she gets a step on somebody they're not going to catch her."

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## Wynot Survives Scare To Return To Title Tilt

BY JEREMY HOECK  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

LINCOLN, Neb. — The two-time defending state champions from Wynot took a series of punches but was able to survive a rare close game.

Rare for the Lady Blue Devils, at least.

Despite not making a shot from the field in the fourth quarter, Wynot held off No. 2 Lindsay Holy Family 43-40 in the Class D2 semifinals Friday afternoon at the Nebraska State Girls Basketball Tournament inside Pershing Auditorium.

After the dust settled on a physical contest filled with fouls, was it more fun to celebrate a tight win than a lopsided one?

"Oh yeah, it's definitely a lot more fun," said Wynot senior Kelsie Higgins, who scored 11 points. "Don't get me wrong, blowouts are fun too, but it's better when you win one like this."

And so the Lady Blue Devils (24-4) march on to today's (Saturday) 11 a.m. championship game, moving one step closer to becoming the second school to win three consecutive Class D2 titles.

"It's hard to explain how fun this was. It's no fun losing," head coach Steve Wieseler said. "I'm just happy for the girls, they worked hard and deserve it."

"You know how they say, 'The team that deserves to win,' that's this team."

Even with four losses during the regular season, Wynot was not all that accustomed to close games. Among the defeats were margins of 11 and 8 points, while it's closest win was by four points.

Last year in Lincoln, for example, the Blue Devils won by margins of 24 and 20 before a 3-point overtime victory in the championship.

"It just makes it so much sweeter," said senior Sam Wieseler, also owner of 11 points. "We had to come back and hang tough; it wasn't easy."

In a game that saw eight ties, Wynot surged from a 25-25 tie late in the third quarter with consecutive three-pointers by senior Shelby Hochstein to lead 33-26 heading into the fourth.

Junior Maggie Schulte pushed the Blue Devils ahead 39-34 with a pair of free throws with 32.8 seconds left. Lindsay Holy Family's Laura McPhillips answered with a three-pointer.

Higgins hit two free throws with 16.7 seconds left, pushing Wynot ahead 41-37. Again the Bulldogs responded with a three, this one from Kaylee Jensen with one second remaining.

Sam Wieseler closed the scoring with a pair of foul shots with 0.2 seconds left, and the Blue Devils were able to celebrate from there.

"We always work on free throws; more than you'd think in practice," Higgins said of all 10 of Wynot's points in the fourth quarter coming at the charity stripe.

A day after draining 10 three-pointers in a first-round win over Giltner, the Lady Blue Devils were just 2-of-17 on threes Friday.

"We were more aggressive (Friday), and we came together more in the second half," Sam Wieseler said. "The threes weren't there, but we worked through it."

The post-game celebration was especially sweet for Wynot's eight seniors, who are looking to close their career with one more title, Higgins said.

"Most of us seniors have been waiting for this for a long time; working for a chance," she said. "We want to take it."

Now comes the matter of exacting revenge on Osmond (19-2) in today's title game at the Devaney Center. The two teams met in the Feb. 22 district final, won by Osmond 47-34.

"They've always been a rival," Higgins said. "We've played most of those girls since junior high. Plus they beat us."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)

## Viborg-Hurley Boys Claim District 8B Title

TEA — Viborg-Hurley escaped Centerville 43-40 for the championship of the District 8B Boys' Basketball Tournament on Friday at Tea Area High School.

Viborg-Hurley led 37-22 after a 14-2 edge in the third quarter, but had to survive a fourth quarter Tornado flurry to claim the crown.

Tyler Gerdes scored 13 points and Andrew Hora had 12 points and eight rebounds for the Cougars. Jack Huether added 10 points in the victory.

For Centerville, Logan Hunter led the way with 13 points. Seamus O'Malley added 10 points.

The Cougars will return to Tea on Tuesday to face Canistota in the Region 4B final. Start time is 7:30 p.m.

CENTERVILLE (16-5)	13	20	22	40
VIBORG-HURLEY (20-2)	8	23	37	43

### District 7B

**Canistota 62, Parker 37**

TEA — The Canistota Hawks used a 27-11 surge in the third quarter to pull away for a 62-37 victory over Parker in the championship of the District 7B Boys' Basketball Tournament on Friday at Tea Area High School.

The victory vaulted the second-ranked Hawks into the Region 4B final. Canistota (21-1) will return to Tea on Tuesday to face District 8B champion Viborg-Hurley in a 7:30 p.m. contest.

Alex Robertson posted 19 points, seven steals and seven assists to lead Canistota. Jason Van Winkel had 14 points and 13 rebounds in the win.

Zach O'Keefe led Parker with 13 points. Jake Anderson had eight points.

CANISTOTA (21-1)	10	25	52	62
PARKER	5	17	28	37

### District 10A

**Platte-Geddes 60, Parkston 29**

PLATTE — Platte-Geddes jumped out to a 33-16 halftime lead and coasted to a 60-29 victory over Parkston in the championship game of the District 10A Boys' Basketball Tournament on Friday in Platte.

Platte-Geddes, 15-7, will face McCook Central-Montrose in the Region 5A final on Tuesday in Hartford. Start time will be 7 p.m.

Cody Johnson scored 16 points and Tate Van Zee had 13 rebounds for Platte-Geddes. Hunter Johnston had 10 points and 13 rebounds. Richard Sternberg filled up the stat sheet with nine points, six rebounds, six steals and four assists in the victory.

Spencer Lucas had 12 points for Parkston.

PARSKTON (12-10)	10	16	21	29
PLATTE-GEDDES (15-7)	21	33	47	60

### District 12B

**South Central 60, Dakota Chr. 41**

MITCHELL — The South Central Cougars jumped out to a 26-16 halftime lead and coasted to a 60-41 victory in the championship game of the District 12B Boys' Basketball Tournament on Friday at the Corn Palace in Mitchell.

The victory sends the Cougars to the Region 6B final on Tuesday, also at the Corn Palace. South Central will face the winner of today's Hanson against Ethan matchup in the District 11B final.

Josh Tuttle scored 16 points and Garrett Bruns had 13 points to lead South Central. Dakota Votow and Sam Hazen had 10 points each, with Hazen adding six rebounds in the win.

Carter Dykstra led Dakota Christian with 12 points. Jake Spoelstra added 10 points

SOUTH CENTRAL	14	26	38	60
DAKOTA CHRISTIAN	7	16	24	41

### District 3AA

**Pierre 49, Huron 48**

PIERRE — The Pierre Governors outscored Huron 21-14 in the fourth quarter to escape with a 49-48 victory over the Tigers in the District 3AA Boys' Basketball Tournament championship game on Friday in Pierre.

Pierre (17-5), which trailed 34-28 after three, qualified for the South Dakota State Class AA Tournament, March 14-16 at Sioux Falls Arena. Huron (14-7) will have one more chance to qualify, against Sturgis at home on Tuesday.

Zach Hanson scored 19 points and had nine rebounds to lead Pierre. Lane Severyn added 15 points and nine rebounds.

For Huron, J.P. Noonan scored 11 points and Lucas Morrison had nine points to lead the way. Justin Decker had eight points and 10 rebounds. Adam Zwanziger added eight rebounds.

HURON (14-7)	12	17	34	48
PIERRE (17-5)	8	13	28	49

### Region 5B Girls

**Sanborn Central-Woonsocket 53, Mitchell Christian 47**

HURON — Sanborn Central-Woonsocket used four players in double figures to secure the co-op's first state Class B Girls' Basketball Tournament berth with a 53-47 victory over Mitchell Christian in the Region 5B final on Friday at the Huron Arena.

Shelby Selland scored 18 points and had three steals to lead a balanced SC-W attack. Marissa Weber and Myan Selland each had 11 points, with Selland also recording four assists. Rachelle Moore added 10 points in the victory.

For Mitchell Christian, Khiree Held scored 14 points and Alexa Van Laecken had 13 points to lead the way. Becca Glanzer netted 11 points and Brittany Zoss added seven rebounds for the Golden Eagles.

SC-W, 22-1, will return to the Huron Arena for the state tour-

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