

## Neb. Boys State Basketball

## On To D2 Title Game? Wy-Not



Wynot players celebrate after clinching a 45-42 victory over Falls City Sacred Heart in the Class D2 semifinals at the Nebraska State Boys' Basketball Tournament on Friday at Pershing Auditorium in Lincoln, Neb. Wynot will face Spalding-Spalding Academy in the championship, today (Saturday) at 11 a.m., and the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&amp;D

## Blue Devils Defeat FSCH, Advance To Program's First Championship Tilt

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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WYNOT, Neb. — In each of the past two years, the Wynot Blue Devils saw their title hopes die on the floor at Pershing Auditorium. Having dispatched the team that ended those hopes each of the past two years, Giltner, in the opening round, the Blue Devils dispatched another hurdle on Friday.

Wynot took control with a strong third quarter, then held off a furious Falls City Sacred Heart charge to claim a 45-42 victory over the Irish in the Class D2 semifinals of the Nebraska State Boys' Basketball Tournament.

The victory sends Wynot (24-3) to the state championship game for the first time in school history. The Blue Devils will face Spalding-Spalding Academy (25-2) today (Saturday) at 11 a.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"The last two years we never got out of this place," said Wynot head coach Lee Heimes after the victory. "But we kept believing, kept wanting more, kept on working hard."

Nathan Wieseler and Austin Lange each had 10 points to lead Wynot. Brady Stratman had nine points in the victory.

For Sacred Heart, Lane Barnhill

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## Sutton Ends Cedar Catholic C2 Title Hopes



Cedar Catholic's Logan Feilmeier, left, tries to drive by Sutton's Cole Wiseman during the first quarter of their Class C2 semifinal game on Friday at Pershing Auditorium in Lincoln, Neb. Sutton won 57-42 to advance to the championship game.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&amp;D

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LINCOLN, Neb. — Hartington Cedar Catholic head coach Matt Steffen called it, "The Ravenna Syndrome."

The definition: Watch a team struggle in shooting in the previous round, then see that team go off against yours.

After going just 1-17 from three-point range in its quarterfinal victory over Crofton, top-seeded Sutton drained 10 three-pointers in a 57-42 victory over the Trojans in the Class C2 semifinals of the Nebraska State Boys' Basketball Tournament on Friday at Pershing Auditorium. Sutton (27-1) faces Southern Valley (23-3) in the championship today (Saturday) at 9 a.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Ravenna scored 54 points in the C2 opening round in 2012 before dropping 79 on the Trojans in the semifinals the next day. Ravenna went on to claim the title.

"We knew Sutton would not be the same team as they were yesterday," Steffen said. "You can't come to these games expecting teams to miss shots. Obviously they got a lot of good looks, and that was due to our inability to guard them."

Austan Rath, who had 22 of Sutton's 37 points against Crofton on Thursday, scored 23 points in the semis, including hitting four three-pointers. Reed Stone hit five three-pointers, including three in the first quarter, on the way to 17 points. Cole Wiseman hit the other, finishing with eight points.

James Kaiser scored a game-high 18 points for Cedar Catholic (21-8), which will face Freeman (24-4) in the third place game

**Semifinals,  
March 7  
Lincoln, Neb.  
CLASS C2**

Sutton 57, Hartington  
Cedar Catholic 42  
Southern Valley 58,  
Freeman 51

**CLASS D2**  
Spalding/Spalding  
Academy 68, Leyton 51  
Wynot 45, Falls City  
Sacred Heart 42

today at noon  
at Lincoln  
High.

Stone stung the Trojans early, hitting from outside for Sutton's first two baskets, then added a third triple for nine of the Mustangs' first 11 points.

Rath scored the final five

Sutton points of the quarter as Sutton led 16-10 after one quarter.

As the Mustangs did against Crofton on Thursday, their defense took over in the second period, holding Cedar Catholic to five second quarter points. Sutton scored two layups and a putback before going outside for two more scores and a 28-15 half-time advantage.

Sutton led by as many as 19 points in the third quarter, 34-15, before Cedar Catholic got on track. Kaiser scored seven straight points for the Trojans, and a pair of Logan Feilmeier baskets got the Trojans to within 11, 40-29.

"I credit our kids for doing that. We've won some games coming from behind this year, and people have asked me how you get the kids not to lose their spirit and how not to give up," Steffen said. "Our kids, I don't think that's ever a thought. I don't

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## Coyote Women Look To Make Noise At First Summit Tourn.

BY CHRIS RILEY  
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VERMILLION — As a roller coaster regular season comes to a close, the University of South Dakota women's basketball team tips off on Sunday afternoon at the Sioux Falls Arena in their inaugural Summit League Tournament appearance.

"There were plenty of ups and downs, especially in our non-conference schedule," first-year Coyotes coach Amy Williams said. "We did not always play with the consistency that we wanted, probably due to a new coach and new system and some injuries. In conference play though we settled more into being successful and we're hoping to build on that heading into this conference tournament."

USD (15-14, 10-6 Summit) placed third in the regular season standings, knocking off each league squad at least once except for top-seed SDSU. Now the Coyotes, who won three games in a row to close out their schedule, will face a North Dakota State team in the first round that they split a pair of games with this year.

The Coyotes used a big second half in Fargo back on Jan. 3 to defeat the Bison (73-52), but NDSU defeated USD 57-50 in Vermillion on Feb. 2.

"When we look back at it, they outplayed us for three of the four halves we played this year," Williams said. "That second half at their place we played well and capitalized. We're going to try to get back to the intensity of that one half of basketball."

When the teams met for a second time, the Bison packed their players in the paint and forced the Coyotes into an uncharacteristic high number of three-point attempts. USD shot only 35 percent from the field that day, including just 5-of-26 (19 percent) on threes.

Williams expects much of the same from the Bison this time around after having so much success on the DakotaDome floor just over a month ago.

"We definitely know they will keep that same philosophy," Williams added. "We feel like we learned from that and will find a way to counter. We need to play our style of basketball and not settle for more three pointers than we are used to taking."

If the Coyotes are successful on Sunday night and continue on to the second round (on Monday), Williams is hopeful given the fact that there is so much party in the Summit League, but also mindful that any team can win on any given night.

"We are encouraged that we have beaten every team in our league with the exception of SDSU," Williams said. But we also realize that we lost to the team that is currently in last place and second-to-last.

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## Parker Rebounds To Beat De Smet In 'B' Consolation

BY VANCE JANAK  
P&D Correspondent

HURON — Parker viewed Friday afternoon's consolation semifinal of the Class B state tournament as a fresh start.

Moving on from Thursday night's quarterfinal setback to De Smet, the Pheasants shot the ball much better Friday against No. 6 Wall, capitalized on transition offense opportunities and used their tough man-to-man defense to limit the Eagles' offense. The result was a 48-30 victory that guarantees Parker will have a better finish than last year's seventh-place showing at the Huron Arena.

"We have to keep fighting because we want to get that fifth-place trophy," Parker senior Tessa Weeldryer said after recording game-highs of 11 points and 13 rebounds for her second straight double-double at the state tournament.

The seventh-seeded Pheasants (16-9) face No. 4 Sanborn Central/Woonsocket (23-2) today at 1:45 p.m. in the fifth-place game. A performance like Friday's could give them the consolation cham-

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## Lancer Softball Looking To New Faces

BY CHRIS RILEY  
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Weather conditions at Riverside Field are not exactly seasonable at this moment. But no worry, for the Mount Marty College Lancers are on their way to Tucson, Ariz. for their annual spring break trip to open their 2013 campaign.

Coming off of a season where the Lancers struggled to win close games and finished 5-35 overall (3-17 GPAC), Mount Marty enters 2013 with a drastically different roster to due graduation and some turnover and a wealth of optimism.

"We have a lot of potential," the Lancers lone senior Gabi Cardenas said. "We have a young team but we have come out with big goals."

Last year, the Lancers showed promise on numerous occasions but just could not seal the deal on many would-be victories.

"We had a lot of close games," Mount Marty head coach Albert Fernandez said. "We were actually in games where we had leads - our offense was productive enough to win more games, unfortunately it was either a defensive issue or pitching."

Joining Fernandez's coaching staff this season will be Amanda Volgarino — an offensive threat

from the past two seasons who used her eligibility, and student assistant Kristin Strickland.

Cardenas, a catcher, will share the task of breaking in a completely new pitching staff this season which consists of four freshman.

"All of our pitchers are freshman so they have to step it up," Cardenas added. "It's a challenge to a point but it's also an opportunity to see them grow."

Mount Marty will play 10 games, including eight in Arizona this week, before their first conference game against Doane on March 23. Only the top eight teams in the conference qualify for the GPAC tournament and that is certainly a goal for this year's squad.

"We are anxious for this year for a number of reasons," Fernandez said. "All of our pitchers will have quite a learning curve and we are pretty young as a whole with just one senior. But from the top to bottom we are pretty solid offensively with a combination of kids returning, junior college kids and some freshman. This is probably one of the best teams we've had since I've been here."

Junior catcher Kristin Loutsch is the top returning offensive threat from a year ago, when she

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Mount Marty third baseman Michaela Bunde rifles a throw during a home softball game last year at Riverside Park. The Lancers open their 2013 season Sunday in Tucson, Ariz.

P&amp;D FILE PHOTO