



The Wynot Blue Devils celebrate after beating Spalding-Spalding Academy 57-56 in two overtimes for the Nebraska Class D2 championship game on Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln, Neb. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Wynot's Nathan Wieseler, left, dunks on Spalding-Spalding Academy's Cain Haschke during the first quarter of the Class D2 championship game on Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln, Neb.

The Devils Do It

Wynot Boys Beat Spalding-Spalding Academy In 2OT For D2 Title

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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LINCOLN, Neb. — After games that went three and four overtimes during the regular season, what's a little double-overtime game for a state championship?

The Wynot Blue Devils proved just that, keeping their cool despite 32 turnovers and foul trouble for their top senior on the way to a 57-56 victory over Spalding-Spalding Academy on Saturday in the Class D2 championship at the Nebraska State Boys' Basketball Tournament.

The title is the first for a Blue Devils program that had fallen in the semifinals each of the past two seasons.

"It feels great," said Nathan Wieseler, one of two seniors on the Blue Devils squad. "We finally got it done. Third year in a row's the charm."

Wynot took control in the second overtime, scoring the first five points of the period. Eric Berger's three-pointer pulled S-SA to within one with five seconds to play, but the Knights could not stop the clock and Wynot did not in-bounds the ball, letting time expire.

"We talked about it a bit during the final time out. If the clock's under five seconds, don't throw it in bounds," said Wynot head coach Lee Heimes. "You have to understand the moment, and they did."

Jackson Sudbeck scored 24 points, including hitting three three-pointers in the fourth quarter as Wynot rallied from a seven-point deficit with Nathan Wieseler on the bench with four fouls. The junior, who went 6-9 from three-point in the final, said that buckets were just a part of

the Blue Devils' regular offense.

"We were just playing basketball," he said. "Just like we have since third grade."

Wynot had turned a 35-28 deficit in to a 45-37 lead, thanks to 11 points from Sudbeck. The Knights, though, stormed back. Michael Glaser hit four of his seven points in the closing minutes to close the gap to three, then Kyle Bloom drained his lone three-pointer of the game ahead of the buzzer, sending the game to overtime.

"Kyle is a clutch shooter," SSA head coach Joe Imus said of Bloom, who went 1-9 from three-point range. "He had missed a few earlier, but he told me on the bench, 'I got this.'"

But the Blue Devils had been in similar situations before. Wynot beat Randolph in three overtimes just before Christmas, then lost to Bancroft-Rosalie in four overtimes in the Lewis & Clark Conference Tournament semifinals.

"We'd been in that position before," Sudbeck said. "I think that experience helped us out." A basket by Nathan Wieseler, who finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Sudbeck's sixth three-pointer accounted for Wynot's five points in the first overtime. Joseph and Michael Glaser scored for S-SA in the period.

Wynot had just one field goal in the second overtime, a Cody Stratman runner for his only basket of the game, but the Blue Devils went 3-6 from the line early in the period to take the five-point advantage. After Cain Haschke's basket underneath pulled the Knights within three, Sudbeck made the second of two free throws with 13.1 seconds left.

Berger's three-pointer rattled around on the rim before dropping through the cylinder,

killing just enough time to allow Wynot to hold the ball out of bounds as time expired.

"This is awesome. I can't be more proud of our kids," Heimes said of the victory. "If you believe in each other, you can get a lot of things done."

The loss ends an exciting run for Spalding-Spalding Academy, which finished with a 25-3 record and the co-op's first state tournament appearance.

"This season's been amazing," Imus said. "This is nine more wins than we've ever had before. Hopefully our younger kids will take notice."

Bloom finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Berger had 11 points for SSA. Joseph Glaser added 10 points.

Nathan Wieseler and John DeBlauw are the lone seniors on the Blue Devils. Wynot went 73-10 in their final three seasons, each of which ended in the state tournament.

"We just had to believe in each other and work together," Wieseler said of the run.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904

WYNOT (25-3)
Nathan Wieseler 5-9 2-4 12, Davis Wieseler 2-6 1-2 5, Jackson Sudbeck 7-12 4-6 24, Brady Stratman 2-3 1-4 6, John DeBlauw 0-0 0-0 0, Cody Stratman 1-4 2-4 4, Tristan Wieseler 0-0 0-0 0, Trevor Gartner 0-0 1-2 1, Kyle Boeckman 1-1 0-1 2, Austin Lange 1-5 1-2 3, Kyle Eskola 0-0 0-0 0, TOTALS: 19-40 12-25 57.
SPALDING-SPALDING ACADEMY (25-3)
Michael Glaser 3-11 0-7 7, Kyle Bloom 4-15 2-2 11, Joseph Glaser 5-10 0-0 10, Cain Haschke 3-6 0-0 6, Eric Berger 3-7 3-4 11, Bronc McKay 2-4 2-4 6, Tanner Hudson 2-3 1-2 5, Frank Hartley 0-0 0-0 0, TOTALS: 22-56 8-12 56.
WYNOT 43 19 30 46 51 57
SPALDING-SPALDING ACADEMY 45 26 35 46 51 56
Three-Pointers: Wynot 7-12 (Sudbeck 6-9, B. Stratman 1-1, C. Stratman 0-1, D. Wieseler 0-1), SSA 4-16 (Berger 2-3, M. Glaser 1-4, Bloom 1-9). Rebounds: Wynot 38 (N. Wieseler 10), SSA 27 (Bloom 10). Assists: Wynot 9 (Sudbeck 3, B. Stratman 3), SSA 7 (M. Glaser 4). Personal Fouls: SSA 18, Wynot 17. Fouled Out: J. Glaser.

Top-Seeded SDSU Men Take Summit League Opener

BY JEREMY HOECK
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SIoux FALLS — A year ago, they were chasing. And now, Jackrabbits of South Dakota State are the ones being chased.

They found that out for sure in Saturday night's Summit League men's quarterfinal game against IUPUI, the No. 8 team in the tournament field.

Keyed by a 10-0 run in the second half, the Jacks broke open a surprising close game to cruise past the Jaguars 66-47 in front of a sold-out Sioux Falls Arena crowd.

"We can definitely feel the difference being the hunted versus hunting, we're going to get everyone's best shot," said senior forward Tony Fiegen, who had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the defending champion Jacks (23-9).

"Being the number one seed, we have maybe a little added pressure, but we have plenty of experience," he added. "We can't make any excuses."

If there was a reason for SDSU's sluggish start, the underdog Jaguars (6-26) sure played a starring role.

IUPUI, in the face of a far-from-neutral crowd, survived a 15-0 run by the Jacks midway through the slow-paced first half to climb within 31-27 by halftime.

"We talked about this before for the game, that it could be a possible that IUPUI would completely alter the way they play and try to slow the game down," said SDSU coach Scott Nagy, whose program reaches the semifinals for the third straight year tonight (Monday) at 6 p.m.

"It sucked the life out of us in the first half. We didn't play with much pace."

That quickly changed.

When junior center Mitchell Patton — whose 16 points was keying the Jaguars — was sent to the bench after picking up his fourth foul midway through the second half, the Jacks capitalized.

SDSU scored 10 straight points



DAVE EGGEN/INERTIA

Nate Wolters from South Dakota State University shoots over Jordan Shanklin from IUPUI in the first half of their game at the 2013 Summit League Basketball Championships on Saturday evening.

to turn a 4-point lead into a 53-39 cushion at the 8:38 mark.

What was the key to those two distinctive runs?

"We try to play well the whole game, but sometimes it doesn't work out like that," senior guard Nate Wolter said, smiling. "Definitely feeding off the crowd and getting those big runs, those are usually the difference in the game."

The other difference in this game was SDSU's 30-12 edge in the paint, sparked by Fiegen and junior Jordan Dykstra (15 points, six rebounds).

There were times, though, when the Jackrabbits were the ones being dominated, and as Nagy said, not that long ago.

Asked about the evolution of his program, the veteran coach remi-

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Coyotes Roll Past NDSU Cedar Places Third In C2

BY CHRIS RILEY
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SIoux FALLS — University of South Dakota senior Sam Mehr and the rest of the Coyotes picked an opportune time to play arguably their best half of the 2012-13 season, outscoring North Dakota State by 25 points over the final 15 minutes of Sunday's first-round Summit League matchup.

Mehr, a bench player for her entire college career, scored a season-high 14 points — including a 4-for-6 effort from three-point range — to help USD overcome a sluggish start and knock off the Bison by a final of 73-53 at the Sioux Falls Arena.

"We are so excited to be a part of this tournament for the first time and to step up and get a win like that with lots of people contributing was a great team win," USD head coach Amy Williams said.

The Coyotes looked tentative in the first 25 minutes of action in their first Summit League Tourney appearance. Despite holding a 28-26 halftime lead, USD was uncharacteristically out-rebounded (26-22) in the first 20 minutes while the Bison got 13 first-half points from senior standout Katie Birkel.

The lackluster Coyote play continued early in the second half, with NDSU using a 9-2 run to take a 35-30 lead with 16:43 to play and causing

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Western Illinois Sinks South Dakota Again

BY JEREMY HOECK
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SIoux FALLS — On what was a neutral site, the South Dakota and Western Illinois men's basketball teams played yet another close game.

This time, though, the difference was one point instead of two, and was played in the Summit League Tournament — where USD made its first-ever appearance.

The margin was ultimately no



DICK CARLSON/INERTIA

Margaret McCloud of the University of South Dakota shoots over Katie Birkel of North Dakota State during their quarterfinal game at the 2013 Summit League Basketball Championships at the Sioux Falls Arena.

consolation for the Coyotes.

"This one hurts probably the most of out of the three, since it was a do or die for us," said junior center Trevor Gruis, who finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds in a 54-53 loss to the second-seeded Leathernecks in Saturday night's quarterfinal showdown at the Sioux Falls Arena.

"I thought we played hard as a team. Obviously we could've played better; no game's perfect."

In what was the finale for an up

and down season, the loss was yet another close one for USD (10-20), who suffered its eighth loss by five points or fewer.

Three of those came against the Leathernecks (22-7) — by a combined five points.

"It was one of those games with them — we've had a bunch of them — that a matter of that shot at the key time and getting that stop, and

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Cedar Places Third In C2

LINCOLN, Neb. — James Kaiser hit four three-pointers on the way to a game-high 25 points as Hartington Cedar Catholic downed Freeman 55-49 in the Class C2 third place game at the Nebraska State Boys' Basketball Tournament on Saturday at Lincoln High.

Logan Feilmeier added 10 points for Cedar Catholic, which finished with a 22-8 record. Grant Howell added eight points.

"Logan came out and led us in the first and second quarters," said Cedar Catholic head coach Matt Steffen. "He had three offensive rebounds and putbacks in that first half."

For Freeman, which finished at 24-5, Cole Schuster led the way with 16 points. Derek Veerhusen added 13 points.

Cedar Catholic jumped out to a 19-12 lead after one quarter and, after Freeman closed the gap in the second quarter, kept the Falcons at bay the rest of the way.

"We told our kids that, if they were flat today, people could say that all we did down here was beat one team," Steffen said. "We proved some things to people. We didn't achieve our goals, but the kids played great."

Cedar Catholic will graduate four players from its tournament team, starters Feilmeier and Trent Jansen, and reserves Frank Herbolshimer and Patrick Wieseler.

"Logan will be tough to replace because of his height and athleticism. Trent has played well," Steffen said. "Pat is a great role player, and Frank is a strong defender."

Kaiser, a sophomore this season, will return along with two other starters and several players who played at state for the Trojans.

"If they continue to improve, we'll have other kids to step in next year," Steffen said. "We could be pretty good next year, too."

FREEMAN (24-5)
Calan Sedlak 0 2-2 2, Derek Veerhusen 3 5-7 13, Dylan Mackichan 0-0 0 0, Cole Schuster 7 0-3 16, Corey Haines 2 1-2 7, Cullen Bloom 1 0-0 3, Isaac Frenich 3 2-2 6, TOTALS: 16 10-16 49.

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