

# SDSU Men To Face Michigan In NCAA Opener

Men's Basketball: Iverson, CSU To Open Against Missouri On Thursday

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Summit League player of the year Nate Wolters says he's looking forward to facing his Big Ten counterpart Thursday to open the NCAA tournament.

Wolters will be defending Trey Burke when 12th seed South Dakota State (25-9) faces fifth-seed Michigan (26-7) in Auburn Hills, Mich., on Thursday, said Jackrabbits head coach Scott Nagy.

Wolters, speaking Sunday during a Selection Sunday watching party at Cubby's Sports Bar & Grill in Brookings, said he's ready for the challenge.

"He's a good player," Wolters said of Burke. "I've watched them a couple times. They're really talented and have good guards. They're a good overall team."

Burke, the Big Ten player of the year averaging 19.2 points per game, said he hears great things about Wolters.

"I've seen just a couple of games, but I hear great things about him," Burke said. "But I know very little right now, other than I have a lot of respect for the program. I know they were the Jackrabbits right away — right?"

Wolters, who is averaging 22.7 points per game, said he expects a more open contest with Michigan than in the defensive Summit League final in which SDSU topped North Dakota State 73-67.

"I think they like to get up and down a little bit, so it should be faster pace," Wolters said. "It should be a lot of fun."

The Jackrabbits in the Summit League tournament enjoyed a crowd advantage, packing the arena with fans making the 50 minute trip to support their team.

Jackrabbits forward Tony Fiegen said it will be an opposite experience playing Michigan in Auburn Hills.

"It's kind of a taste of our own medicine,

really," he said.

But Fiegen said the Jackrabbits have played in loud environments all year, and they have to use their experience to have great communication and keep their composure.

"Without communication, your defense doesn't stand a chance," he said. "So that's going to be real important."

Fiegen says he doesn't know a whole lot about Michigan, other than they have a good couple of guards and they're pretty big in the front court.

"We're really going to have to lock in on defense. That's kind of our hallmark. We try to build our entire team around defense."

Coach Nagy said Michigan is one of the top 25 teams in the country shooting the ball from three.

"So they're going to be able to spread our defense out," Nagy said. "But I think we're in the Top 25 too, so we should be able to

spread their defense out."

## South Dakota State

Brookings, 25-9.  
Nickname: Jackrabbits. Coach: Scott Nagy.  
Conference: Summit League. Bid: Summit champion.  
Region: South. Seed: No. 13.  
Tournament Record: 0-1, 1 year. Last appearance: 2012.

Scoring: Team (73.9); Nate Wolters 22.7; Jordan Dykstra 12.5; Tony Fiegen 10.0; Chad White 10.0.  
Rebounds: Team (34.7); Jordan Dykstra 7.9; Nate Wolters 5.6; Tony Fiegen 5.5; Chad White 4.0.  
Assists/Turnovers: Team (14.5/10.4); Nate Wolters 5.8/2.3; Brayden Carlson 2.4/1.1.

3-pointers: Team (.394); Chad White 7.5; Nate Wolters 6.4; Jordan Dykstra 5.5; Brayden Carlson 4.8.  
Last Ten: 7-3.

The Skinny: Jackrabbits have made it two straight NCAA tournaments after getting in for the first time a year ago. Summit League player of the year Nate Wolters was fourth nationally with 22.7 points per game.

NCAA | PAGE 8

# Rucker, Hejna Earn HM All-ESD Nods

BY NICK ROBINSON  
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The Yankton Bucks had a pair of honorable mention selections to the all-Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' basketball team, announced today (Monday).

Senior guard Michael Rucker and junior forward JJ Hejna each received Honorable Mention for their efforts this past season. Rucker and Hejna helped chaperon the Bucks to regional play in the post-season and a 6-15 record this past season.

"It's such an honor because everyone on the team is very good and well deserving," Rucker said.

Rucker averaged nine points per game and snagged four rebounds per game for Yankton.

When asked about his best advantage to the team, he was optimistic about his attitude towards a struggling squad.

"I'd say my best asset was leading everyone and helping everyone stay on the same page," Rucker said. "I just tried to instill positive thoughts all year."

"Well first off, he has good leadership qualities, which helped throughout the entire year," Yankton head coach Chris Haynes said. "The biggest thing, on the court, was his ability to shoot the basketball was good for us. Offensively, he opened up the inside and got easy looks for our big guys. When Michael did well scoring and shooting we had our best games."

Rucker had his best game of the year against then number-two ranked Sioux Falls Lincoln Patriots. The Bucks defeated the Patriots 56-53 behind 16 points from Rucker. He produced nine of his 16 in the final minutes, to seal-the-deal on the Patriots.

"We're going to miss Michael," Haynes said. "He's such a good kid, and represents our program how we want our kids to act on and off the floor."

Rucker was a two-year varsity player, earning to start for the Bucks in the second half of his junior season.

"I'm going to miss playing with my friends and the coaches," he said. "I wish we could have had the chance to play in the state tournament."

Hejna was the leading scorer for the Bucks this season, boasting 10 points and eight rebounds per game.

"JJ was overall best player," Haynes said. "He led us in scoring and rebounding, and was a tough matchup. While playing the four, he was a little bigger than the opponents and while playing the five he used his quickness to his advantage."

Hejna had his best performance against the Huron Tigers early in the season. The Bucks defeated the Tigers 46-43, behind Hejna's 18 points and 11 rebounds.

"He was going up against one of the best players in the state, Justin Decker (a USD verbal commit)," Haynes said. "That game helped him realize that he can play with anyone in the state."

Haynes will expect Hejna to not only step-up his game on the court, but show his three year veteran varsity experience as a leader next season.

"Hopefully he works hard this offseason," Haynes said. "We will expect him to be a leader, get bigger and stronger to help his play. Hopefully he can become more of a vocal leader on and off the floor as a senior."

You can follow Nick Robinson on Twitter at [twitter.com/theFRAN-CHISE\\_9](https://twitter.com/theFRAN-CHISE_9).

# Third Time Not A Charm

Viborg-Hurley Falls In Final In Third Straight Season As White River Repeats

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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ABERDEEN — If the third time is a charm, it wasn't for the Viborg-Hurley Cougars.

The Viborg-Hurley boys' basketball program ended its season with a loss in the state championship game for a third consecutive season, dropping a 63-51 decision to White River in the S.D. Class B championship on Saturday at the Barnett Center.

The title was the fourth in six seasons for the Tigers, who have made a S.D. record six straight title game appearances.

"I'm happy for our seniors," said White River head coach Eldon Marshall. "I'm glad for them to finish out like this."

Joe Cameron scored a game-high 18 points, Wyatt Krogman scored 16 points and Nic Wain had 10 points for White River, with all three earning all-tournament honors. Krogman also had six assists and Tavis Burbank had 10 points for White River, which finished with a 25-1 record.

Tyler Gerdes scored 15 points and Trevor Jacobsen had 14 points for Viborg-Hurley, which finished at 23-3. Jacobsen and Hora, who had eight rebounds, were also named to the all-tournament team.

Jacobsen finished drives to the basket on consecutive possession to get the Cougars on the board, and a Hora score in the post left Viborg-Hurley up 6-2.

Then a White River team that's known for scoring nearly 90 points per game unleashed its defense. Viborg-Hurley scored just three field goals over the next 12 minutes as the Tigers went from down four to up 18, 35-17.

"We got off to a good start, then they stepped it up," said Viborg-Hurley head coach Galen Schoenefeld. "They moved the ball really well on offense, and their defense started to take things away."

The Cougars made one final push, using a 14-4 run starting just before halftime to close the gap to eight, 39-31.

"We were down at least 10 points in every game in the tournament," Hora said. "We never give up until the final buzzer."

But White River had an answer, as Wain and Cameron each hit three-pointers and Krogman added three points to take the Tigers up by 17, 50-33.

"We kept doing what we'd been doing," Marshall said. "We were able to rely on our defense."

Viborg-Hurley got no closer than 12 points the rest of the way.

The Cougars will graduate 10 players from this year's squad. The



Viborg-Hurley made it to a state boys' basketball championship game for a third straight season, but ran in to White River for a second straight year. The Tigers beat Viborg-Hurley 63-51 to earn their second consecutive title and fourth title in six years.

ABOVE: White River's Nic Wain, left, and Viborg-Hurley's Jack Huether go after a loose ball during the first quarter of the championship game of the S.D. State Class B Boys' Basketball Tournament on Saturday at the Barnett Center in Aberdeen.

LEFT: Viborg-Hurley's Andrew Hora, 30, goes up for a shot between White River's Joe Cameron, 11, and Matthew Gillen during the S.D. State Class B Boys' Basketball Tournament championship game on Saturday at the Barnett Center in Aberdeen.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

STATE B | PAGE 8

# Boys' Basketball: Pierre Wins 'AA,' Madison Wins 'A'

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Lane Severyn helped power Pierre T.F. Riggs to a 50-39 victory Saturday over Brandon Valley in the championship game of the South Dakota boys Class AA basketball tournament.

Severyn sank five 3-pointers and finished with 24 points and nine rebounds to lead the Tigers (20-5) to a state title. Zach Hanson posted a double, scoring 11 points and grabbing 13 rebounds.

Riggs, trailing 36-32 heading into the fourth quarter, outscored the Lynx 18-3 in the final eight minutes.

Chase Marso led Brandon Valley (18-7) with 17 points and Jacob Adams added 13 points.

It was the fourth state title in school history for Riggs, which also won titles in 1983, 2001 and 2006.

THIRD — ROOSEVELT 52, LINCOLN 41; SIoux FALLS (AP) — Brandon Boggs scored 14 points to lead Sioux Falls Roosevelt to a 52-41 victory over Sioux Falls Lincoln in the third-place game of the South Dakota boys Class AA basketball tournament.

Chris Phillips added nine points and Nate Cole eight as

Roosevelt (23-2) built a 33-16 halftime lead and went on to post a victory over the Patriots on Saturday.

Nermin Krizalick and Adam Jaros each had nine points to pace Lincoln (13-13).

Roosevelt shot 37 percent from the field and Lincoln shot 35 percent.

FIFTH — BROOKINGS 61, HURON 54; SIoux FALLS (AP) — Brookings made the most of the free-throw line Saturday, shooting 85 percent to beat Huron 61-54 in the fifth-place game at the South Dakota boys Class AA basketball tournament.

The Bobcats (19-7) were 17-for-20 from the line. Tyler Nagy made all six of his shots and added two 3-pointers on his way to a game-high 22 points. Braxton Carlson was 5-for-6 from the line and finished with 16 points. Zach Page had 14 points.

Brookings shot 48 percent and Huron 47 percent. The Tigers (17-9) made 16 free throws but missed 11.

Huron's Adam Zwanziger had 14 points and eight rebounds and Justin Decker had 11 points.

SEVENTH — R.C. STEVENS 56, R.C. CENTRAL 50; SIoux FALLS (AP) — Steven Schaeffer had a game-high 23 points to lead Rapid City Stevens to a 56-50 win over Rapid City Central in the seventh-place game at the South Dakota boys Class AA basketball tournament on Saturday.

Schaeffer was 7-for-11 from the field with a three-pointer and made 8 of 13 free throws for the Raiders (11-15). Joining him in double figures was Brett Bennett with 12 points.

Sam McCloud pulled down 11 rebounds.

Nathan Miller had 13 points and seven rebounds for the Cobblers (10-14). Jesse Riddle had three three-pointers and 11 points and John Fierro added 10.

## Class A

CHAMPIONSHIP — MADISON 54, TEA AREA 49; RAPID CITY (AP) — Madison defeated Tea Area 54-49 Saturday in the championship game of the South Dakota boys Class A basketball tournament.

The Bulldogs went on a 16-2 run in the third quarter, erasing a 30-22 halftime deficit. Mason Sullivan led three players in double figures with 11 points for Madison (24-2). Jacob Giles and Tyler Wiebe each finished with 10 points.

Connor Schaul led Tea Area (22-4) with 11 points and Riley Knutson had 11 points and seven rebounds.

It was the fifth state title for Madison and their first since back-to-back championships in 2009-10.

THIRD — PLATTE-GEDDES 47, MOBRIDGE-POLLOCK 34; RAPID CITY (AP) — Platte-Geddes posted a 47-34 victory over Moberge-Pollock on Saturday in the third-place game of the South Dakota boys Class A basketball tournament.

Coby Johnson led the way for the Black Panthers (18-8) with a game-high 23 points. Hunter Johnson added 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Platte-Geddes outscored Moberge-Pollock 12-4 in the third quarter to take a 34-22 lead.

Zach Dockter led the Tigers (19-7) with 12 points and Mitchell Heumiller finished with nine.

FIFTH — CLARK-WILLOW LAKE 58, ABERDEEN RONCALLI 56; RAPID CITY (AP) — Skyler Flatten scored 21 points to help Clark-Willow Lake post a 58-56 victory Saturday over Aberdeen Roncalli in the fifth-place game of the South Dakota boys Class A basketball tournament.

Flatten hit three of the Cyclones' four three-pointers and grabbed six rebounds. Torrey Kolden added 15 points and Tyson Jenkins 12 for Clark-Willow Lake (23-1).

Kory Schwan led three players in double figures for Roncalli (17-6) with 16. Dominic King finished with 12 and Kendal Deutsch finished with 11 for the Cavaliers.

SEVENTH — SPEARFISH 63, PINE RIDGE 53; RAPID CITY (AP) — Spearfish took charge in the second half to beat Pine Ridge 63-53 Saturday in the seventh-place game at the South Dakota boys Class B basketball tournament.

The Spartans (19-7) trailed 30-29 at the half but went on to stay in the third quarter. They shot 40 percent from the field and outscored the Thorpes 22-5 from the free throw line. The Spartans shot 35 free throws, while Pine Ridge (14-11) attempted 12.

Dillon Orth had 19 points on 6-for-13 shooting and a 6-for-10 effort from the line. Blaine Bacon had 11 points and Zack Olson had 10.

HOOPS | PAGE 8

# USD Tennis Team Tops Bradley 4-3

AMES, Iowa — South Dakota used momentum earned while sweeping three doubles matches to hold off Bradley, 4-3, in a Saturday evening match at Ames Racquet and Tennis Center. It is the third win in a row for the Coyotes (10-7) who earned their 10th win of the season.

South Dakota's Michelle Elkin and Yamine Reddy earned wins at No. 2 and No. 6 singles, respectively, for the final two points of the match. Both won in straight sets. Elkin defeated Sarah Rodefeld, 6-4, 7-5, while Reddy downed Jessie Bertino, 6-2, 6-1.

Hafa Laraibi, the Coyotes' No. 3, beat Cassia Wojtalik, 6-2, 6-2, in singles play and teamed with Elkin to earn an 8-2 win at No. 2 doubles. South Dakota won the other two doubles matches by scores of 8-4 and 8-6.

South Dakota returns to the courts Saturday for duals with Valparaiso and Green Bay.