

Cedar

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were forced to foul. A missed free throw by Ainsworth gave HCC a shot, but Kaiser's half-court heave at the buzzer was short.

"Offensively, I thought we'd score a little better," Steffen said. "But they're tough to defend."

Using a guard-heavy rotation, Ainsworth made eight three-pointers in the first half to take a 34-32 lead into the break. The Bulldogs drained four more 3's in the third quarter, but the game was tied 53-53 heading to the fourth.

In the end, though, the Trojans — who had finished third at state the last two years — came up just short.

"We definitely had one of the toughest conferences in C2," Kaiser said. "It helped us, but at the same time, it



The Ainsworth Bulldogs celebrate their 66-65 win over Hartington Cedar Catholic in Monday night's District C2-5 final in Battle Creek, Neb.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

kind of hurts you when you can't get more points in the standings.

"But at least we got better at the end of the year."

Cedar Catholic will graduate four seniors, including Taylor Kathol, Grant Howell, Jacob

Wiedenfeld and Jared Burbach. "I thought we played well, but just couldn't pull it out in the end when it mattered," Kaiser said.

Ainsworth, which will likely enter the state tournament as the top seed in C2,

got 25 points from Matthew McLeod and 21 points from Brady Delimont.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

Raiders

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That will be the challenge facing Gayville-Volin in Thursday's region: Beating a team similarly balanced.

Freeman (15-7), which has not faced the Raiders this season, is a team that Malloy has heard from other coaches presents significant

matchup problems.

"They've got five girls on the court who can score," he said.

The prospect of being one win away from the state tournament could be daunting to some teams, but Haas was quick to point out that the Raiders are enjoying their improbable ride.

"We have to think of them as just like any other team we've played," Haas said. "If we keep this up, I think it'll be a fun night."

But the Raiders were quick to point out that simply reaching regions is not enough.

"It's awesome that we won districts, but we're not satisfied," Barta said. "If we got to state, that'd really get things going. The whole town would love that."

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Draft

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Also among the eight former Gophers, plus a smattering of area small-college hopefuls, who worked out for NFL teams on Monday was safety Brock Vereen. He's projected as a late-round pick at best, but the brother of New England running back Shane

Vereen also gave his stock a big boost with some remarkable numbers at the combine.

His 4.47-second 40-yard dash time was the second-fastest among safeties, and his 25 repetitions on the bench press led all participants at his position. So like Hageman, he focused only on defensive back drills for the scouts, coaches and executives at the university practice field on Monday.

"You can run as fast as you can, you can bench 500

times, but if you can't carry it over to the football field it doesn't mean anything," Vereen said. "So hopefully trying to prove that it carries over for me."

Vikings general manager Rick Spielman had praise for Vereen.

"Just how smart he is and aware he is when you watch the tape on him, and then he goes to the combine and blows out the 40," Spielman said. "That really opened a lot of peoples' eyes."

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150 Years of Church Denominational History
This valuable reference describes and locates all past and present pioneer churches and their cemeteries as well as community and private burial grounds that dot Yankton County, some abandoned. Most reflect ethnic backgrounds including church denominations and customs of newcomers to Dakota Territory following the Homestead Act of 1862.

Pioneer Churches and Cemeteries of Yankton County, South Dakota; an Illustrated Historical Directory
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