

High School Basketball | S.D. Boys District 2AA

Bucks Dominate Lynx

Yankton To Host 2AA Final Friday Against Lincoln

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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BRANDON — After losses by three and eight points in the first two meetings with Brandon Valley, the Yankton Bucks weren't about to leave anything to chance the third time around.

Yankton never trailed and never let off the gas in a 54-37 rout of the Lynx in the semifinals of the District 2AA Boys' Basketball Tournament on Tuesday in Brandon.

The victory sets the Bucks (13-8) up in the district final, Friday at home against Sioux Falls Lincoln (10-12). Brandon Valley (12-9) travels to Sioux Falls Washington (11-10) for an elimination game on Friday.

"Our intensity and energy are good from the start," said Yankton head coach Chris Haynes. "We were able to get the ball inside early, made our first couple shots, and were able to relax."

J.J. Hejna had game-highs of 20 points, 11 rebounds and five assists to lead Yankton.

"J.J. had a great night," Haynes said. "He's a great athlete who's capable of having those type of games."

"We were able to score inside, which opened up the perimeter as well."

Brady Hale was the primary beneficiary on the outside, draining three three-pointers on the way to 15 points. Also for Yankton, Ryan Olson had seven rebounds and four assists, and Lane Sawatzke had three steals.

For Brandon Valley, Devan West led the offense with 12 points. Nic Peterson, who scored 11 and 17 points in the first two meetings, was held to three points on 1-8 shooting.

"The keys were Ryan and Brady taking Peterson and (Austin) Trevino (six points) out of the game for them,"



Yankton's Ryan Olson, 4, passes out of traffic during the Bucks' District 2AA matchup with Brandon Valley on Tuesday in Brandon. Yankton defeated Brandon Valley 54-37, and the Bucks will host Sioux Falls Lincoln in Friday night's district final at 7 p.m.

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Wynot Boys Fall In District D2-3 Final To S-SA

BY NICK ROBINSON
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NORFOLK, Neb. — The sequel to the Nebraska District D2 boys' basketball championship lived up to the expectations from a season ago.

After Wynot defeated Spalding-Spalding Academy in double-overtime a year ago, the Knights from SSA were able to seek revenge.

The Knights were able to defeat the Blue Devils 62-54 in Tuesday night's District D2-3 final at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Neb.

Spalding-Spalding Academy coach Joe Imus was impressed with how his team battled, and wouldn't quite call this game 'revenge', but pretty close to it.

"Our guys battled all game long," he said. "Their effort was phenomenal, but I wouldn't say this game was revenge, because we lost seven seniors from a year ago. If anything, this win was for last years' seniors, they helped out a lot shape this program."

In a very competitive first quarter that saw both teams pressing from end line to end line, Spalding-Spalding Academy (24-3) took an early 7-4 lead over Wynot.

"We try to set the tone every game we play," Imus said. "We were feeding off of our crowd and to be honest, I don't know if there is anyone in Spalding right now. This was such a good environment to play in."

With a little over two min-

utes to go in the first quarter, Jalen Wieseler cashed a three pointer to cut the Knights lead down to 11-9.

Spalding-Spalding Academy was able to hold onto a 15-9 lead heading into the second quarter.

The Blue Devils (22-5) ended an 9-0 run on two free-throws from Jackson Sudbeck. "We played very hard tonight," Wynot coach Kyle Heimes said. "Turnovers were what killed us tonight."

With 5:52 left, Broc McKay answered right back for the Knights, as he sunk a corner three-pointer, causing a Wynot time-out at 22-11.

After another crucial time-

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Randolph Upsets Defending Champs In D1-2

BY VANCE JANAK
P&D Correspondent

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Randolph Cardinals finally overcame the state's top-ranked team in a district final.

After losing to the eventual Class D1 state champion in a district final each of the past two seasons, the Cardinals upset defending champs Howells-Dodge 62-60 in an overtime thriller of the D1-2 district final Tuesday night at the Norfolk Catholic High School Activities Center.

"The last two years, we had to play the No. 1 team in the state," Randolph senior

guard Nolan Nordhues said. "This time, the third time, it's a feeling of relief that we finally get to go back down there (Lincoln)."

The Cardinals punched their tickets to state for the first time since Nordhues and fellow seniors Garrett Watters, Luke Andrew and Richard Medina were freshmen (2011). Randolph (20-4) won its fifth straight game by playing a match-up zone defense that kept Howells-Dodge (25-2) from getting the ball inside while the Cardinals built an eight-point first-half advantage. Once the Jaguars started making shots from the perime-

ter in the second half, Randolph always found a way to respond to regain control.

"Mr. (Jim) Hixson our assistant coach always tells us to go in with no fear," Watters said after he and Nordhues combined to score 42 points. "They'd (Howells-Dodge) get up by one or two but then we'd come down with no fear and we just had to answer. We had an all-around good team effort."

It was hot shooting by Howells-Dodge that kept the Cardinals from cruising to victory in the fourth quarter.

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Hoops: Cougars, Tornados Advance To 10B Finals

ALCESTER — In the District 10B boys' basketball semifinals, Viborg-Hurley battled Irene-Wakonda for a spot in the championship. After a nail biting game, Viborg-Hurley emerged the winner with the score 53-49.

Dylan Kludt scored a game high 20 points for Viborg-Hurley. Jack Huether netted 12 points and grabbed five rebounds, and Rusten Andersen snatched eight rebounds.

For Irene-Wakonda, Gabe King put up 19 points, had five rebounds, three assists, and four blocked shots. Kevin Hinseth tallied 12 points and three assists.

Viborg-Hurley plays in the District 10B championship Friday in Tea against either Centerville or Alcester-Hudson, and Irene-Wakonda ended its season with a record of 9-12.

IRENE-WAKONDA (9-12).....7 20 32 49
VIBORG-HURLEY (16-9).....7 18 32 53

Centerville 76, Alcester-Hudson 50
ALCESTER — Centerville out shot Alcester-Hudson Tuesday night in Alcester 76-50 to move on to the District 10B

championship.

Seamus O'Malley scored a monstrous 32 points for Centerville, 21 of those points were scored in the third quarter alone. He also snatched 10 rebounds. Christian Groschin cashed in 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Rory O'Malley netted eight points, and Josh DeRaad added seven points to the win.

For Alcester-Hudson, Gavin Doering tallied 19 points, and Grant Johnson totaled 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Centerville will play Viborg-Hurley in the District 10B championship in Tea Friday, and Alcester-Hudson finished its season with a record of 10-11.

CENTERVILLE (15-6).....17 35 62 76
ALCESTER-HUDSON (10-11).....11 28 43 50

District 9B
Parker 61, Freeman Academy 35

FREEMAN — Jake Anderson scored 18 points to lead Parker past Freeman Academy 61-35 in the District 9B semifinals on Tuesday in Freeman.

Zach O'Keefe added 16 points for the Pheasants (17-4), while Reid Joffer and Michal Olson both grabbed nine rebounds.

For the Bobcats (7-14), Teagan Schroeder had nine points and 14 rebounds, while Josh Stahl had eight points and Jeff Graber scored seven points.

Parker will play Freeman in Friday night's district final at Freeman Public High School.
FREEMAN ACADEMY (7-14).....5 14 22 35
PARKER (17-4).....16 31 45 61

Freeman 64, Menno 46

FREEMAN — Cole Paulson scored a game-high 23 points to propel the Freeman Flyers past Menno 64-46 in Tuesday's District 9B semifinals in Freeman.

Brennan Schmidt added 19 points and eight rebounds for Freeman (9-12), which led 33-18 at halftime.

For the Wolves (10-12), Dylan Lehr scored 11 points, and Andrew Schaeffer posted 10 points and eight rebounds.
MENNO (10-12).....12 18 30 46
FREEMAN (9-12).....17 33 50 64

District 11B
Platte-Geddes 55, Dakota Christian 24

PLATTE — In the District 11B semifinals, Platte-Geddes out shot Dakota Christian 55-24 in Platte Tuesday night.

Colby Johnson led Platte-Geddes with a game high 22 points and eight rebounds. Carter Dykstra tallied 11 points, and Brady Peterson snatched seven rebounds.

For Dakota Christian, Owen Medicine tallied eight points, and Zach De Lange picked up seven rebounds.

Platte-Geddes plays Corsica-Stickney in the District 11B finals Friday in Mitchell, and Dakota Christian ended its season with a record of 4-18.
DAKOTA CHRISTIAN (4-18).....6 12 16 24
PLATTE-GEDDES (15-6).....19 35 46 55

Region 5A
Mount Vernon-Plank. 66, Wagner 62

MOUNT VERNON — Deric Denning and Tate Deinert combined for 42 points and 10 assists as Mount Vernon-Plankton edged Wagner 66-62 in Tuesday's Region 5A opener in Mount Vernon.

Denning scored 22 points, with 14 coming at the foul line, and dished out three assists, while Deinert had 20 points and seven assists.

MVP went 21-of-31 at the free throw line. The Titans (10-11) advance to face top-seeded Parkston on Friday night in Parkston.

For Wagner (10-11), Derek Soukup posted 18 points and 12 rebounds, while Noah St. Pierre and Trajan Holiday both scored 13 points.
WAGNER (10-11).....12 30 45 62
MOUNT VERNON-PLANK (10-11).....19 36 46 66

West Central 62, Bom Homme 58

TYNDAL — West Central upset Bon Homme in the first round of the Region 5A tournament 62-58 in Tyndall Tuesday.

Brayden Swartwout led West Central with a game high 20 points. Ryan Johnson totaled 12 points, and Cameron Stone added 11 points to the win.

For Bon Homme, Mike Mesman tallied 17 points and eight rebounds. Scott Van Winkle netted 12 points and snatched 14 rebounds. Scott Wiesler added 11 points, and Hunter Young put up 10 points.

West Central will travel to Tri-Valley Friday, and Bom Homme ended its season with a record of 12-9.
WEST CENTRAL (5-16).....17 3 49 62
BON HOMME (12-9).....13 23 41 58

Tri-Valley 54, McCook Central-Montrose 42

TYNDALL — Tri-Valley knocked out McCook Central-Montrose in the first round of the Region 5A tournament 54-42 in Tyndall Tuesday night.

Brenden Boomsma racked up 20 points for Tri-Valley, and Will Steineke added 10 to the win.

For McCook Central-Montrose, Levi Sabers cashed in 14 points, and Cole Cheeseman tallied 12. Tri-Valley hosts West Central Friday, and McCook Central-Montrose ended its season with a record of 11-10.
TRI-VALLEY (10-11).....18 29 37 54
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (11-10) 23 30 42

District 12B
Marty Indian 56, Burke-S. Central 47

MARTY — Colt Sakedo had 16 points to guide Marty Indian past Burke-South Central 56-47 in Tuesday's District 12B semifinals in Marty.

Clinton Neiss added 13 points for the Braves, who led 27-16 at halftime and committed just three turnovers.

For B-S-C, Zach Stern had 14 points, Sam Hazen posted 11 points and 12 rebounds, and Dell Drey scored 12 points.

Marty Indian will play Gregory for the district crown on Friday night at the Corn Palace in Mitchell.
BURKE-SOUTH CENTRAL.....5 16 28 47
MARTY INDIAN.....12 27 37 56

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EPJ Girls Roll Past Lennox In Region 4A

BY PETER CHAPMAN
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LENNOX — The Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies hold an 11 game win streak as they captured the Region 4A championship title in their march to the State Tournament Tuesday.

"The Huskies' pressure defense and up-tempo game shut down the Lennox Orioles gaining a 27-point lead to win 65-38.

"Our pressure defense has been a big thing for us all year," EPJ coach Gary Nebelsick said. "We like to play up tempo, they wanted to slow down a little bit, so early we got some good quick steals and that was a big key."

Keely Bertram pushed the tempo, off of the tip, leading the Huskies on a 9-2 run over the Orioles with Brittany Hanson creating turnovers with five steals and four rebounds for the game. The teams steal lead to many scoring opportunities that the Huskies were able to capitalize on.

"That's kind of our goal is to score in the sixties, and not just by running and gunning but by getting some good looks and by getting some easy baskets on our steals," Nebelsick said.

The Orioles struggled to score in the first quarter as they fell to an 11-point deficit. Tara Kuper scored four points and Katelyn Hinker managed to get a basket in the Orioles 6-point first quarter total. Hinker was the lead scorer for the Orioles, scoring eight points for the night.

At the half the Huskies led the Orioles 28-13 shooting 47-percent from the paint in contrast to the Orioles 33-percent. Bertram and McKenzie Mennenga scored 17-points respectively for the Huskies in the first half.

"We felt confident," Bertram said. "We knew that we just had to go out there and play our defense the way we normally play."

Bertram led the Huskies with 22 points, seven assists and six rebounds. Mennenga scored 21 points for the