

# Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE

**Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and pro sports.**



**BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK**  
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When I woke up Wednesday morning, my head was throbbing like I was coming off a night of heavy drinking. The odd thing was, I haven't had an adult beverage in about a month. Then I remembered where I was on Tuesday. After spending the afternoon in Sioux Falls Arena — a good portion of it camped in front of the University of South Dakota pep band — I spent a couple hours at the Summit Center, including some time in front of Yankton's pep band. In both places, a two-thirds capacity crowd was loudly trying to will their team on to the next step. For USD, that next step was the NCAA Tournament. For Yankton, it was the state tournament.

## Crazy Tuesday Leaves Lingering Effects

In both places, I'm happy to say, the "home" crowd went home happy. USD will be making its first-ever trip to the 'Big Dance,' and will find out its dance partner on Monday. They will make their debut on either March 23 or 24. Yankton's 'dance' starts on March 20, and the Bucks already know their dance partner, and know them well: Sioux Falls Roosevelt. The Rough Riders surged in the second half and held on for dear life to claim a two-point win over Yankton last month. (By the way, we'll have a lot more on both leading up to their tournament appearances, as you might expect. Follow @jhoeck, @cimburek and @YanktonSports on Twitter for updates.) If one full day had that effect on me, I'd shutter to think what I'd be feeling like had I completed the six-day run that my friend and

colleague Jeremy Hoeck and KVHT's John Thayer completed. They went to Lincoln, Neb., last week and covered Crofton and Wynot as those two programs added to their championship resumes. They got home early Sunday morning, just in time to take a quick nap and head to Sioux Falls for the entire Summit League Tournament. Both then turned around after Tuesday's Summit League women's final and headed to the Summit Center for the Bucks-Watertown showdown. It was so crazy that halfway into Jeremy's Wednesday night off, he tweeted that he wasn't sure what to do because he felt like he should be at a basketball game. But he — and most good sports media — would tell you that it's more fun to be busy this time of year. And trust me, we're going to stay busy for another couple of weeks. Let's begin.

## Yankton's Mors Headed To Elks Hoop Shoot National Final

**RAPID CITY** — Matthew Mors of Yankton has qualified for the national finals of the Elks 'Hoop Shoot' free throw contest with his effort in the Northwest Central regional final on March 8. Mors hit 22 of 25 free throws to win the boys' 10-11 year-old division. Mors now heads to the national finals, April 12 in Springfield, Mass.

## Yankton Men's Softball Meeting March 19

The Yankton Men's Softball League will hold its first pre-season meeting on Wednesday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at the Summit Activities Center meeting room. Among the topics of discussion will be election of officers, old business, setting a tentative start date for the season, league fees and setting the date for another pre-season meeting. Teams interested in participating in the 2014 season are asked to have a representative at the meeting. For more information, contact Craig Shelburg at 605-661-1895.

## State 'AA' Tourney Tickets Available

Season tickets for the South Dakota State Class AA Boys'

Basketball Tournament, March 20-22 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, will be available for advanced purchase at the Yankton School District Administration Office, 2410 West City Limits Road in Yankton.

Tickets will be on sale from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. each day, through Friday, March 14. Only season tickets will be available for advance sales. Sections will be assigned to the eight qualifying schools based on seeding. Adults wishing to have their young children sit with them in a reserved seat at the state tournament must purchase a reserved seat ticket. Orders must be made in person, and payment is due at the time the order is placed. Both adult reserved tickets and student season general admission tickets will be available. For questions regarding seating, contact the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Box Office at 605-394-4111.

## MVCA 'Race For Christ' April 12

Missouri Valley Christian Academy's sixth annual Race for Christ will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 12, beginning near Yankton's Riverside Park at South Douglas and Levee Street. This event is a 5K Run/Walk, 10K Run and Children's Fun Run. All proceeds from the race will go to support Missouri Valley Christian Academy, a K-8 Christian school, located in Yankton. Fees will increase after March 28. For more information, visit [www.allspportcentral.com/EventInfo.cfm?EventID=51123/](http://www.allspportcentral.com/EventInfo.cfm?EventID=51123/). You can also contact Laurel Moline at (605) 665-4470 or [office@mv-camustangs.org/](mailto:office@mv-camustangs.org/).

## Kicking It

**The Yankton Renegade U-10 boys' indoor soccer team posted a combined 10-2 record in four tournaments this winter: The DASC Winter Games in Sioux Falls (2-1), the Brookings Cubby Futsal Tournament (3-0), the DASC Presidents Cup (3-0) and the DWU Winter Classic (2-1). Team members include (front) Ethan Yasat, Ashton Christ, Will Pavlish, Jacob Kirchner (back) Zach Hebda, Robert Schaefer, Brody Mathrole and Zach Loest.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO



## As Mathieu Plays, So Go The Gophers

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — As DeAndre Mathieu performs, so go the Minnesota Golden Gophers.

That's a lot of responsibility to fall on a player with such small shoulders, but there's no one on the roster more likely to be unfazed by pressure than the speedy, elusive, fearless Mathieu. "He's 5-9, 160, but he believes he's 6-8, 230," coach Richard Pitino said. The junior point guard has emerged in his first season with the program as the truest indicator of the team's success, or failure. Such an impact is certainly normal for a player who handles the ball so often, but Mathieu was largely unknown when he transferred to the program last year.

Mathieu has struggled at times, including nine turnovers in a loss at Nebraska in January and seven more in defeat at Purdue in February. But he's also played well in big games. Over Minnesota's three best victories this season, against Ohio State, Wisconsin and Iowa, Mathieu totaled 50 points, 15 assists, 12 rebounds and only five turnovers. He shot a combined 20 for 32 from the field.

Pitino has been telling him all season how important him protecting the ball while still playing aggressively is for the Gophers, and even teammates like senior Austin Hollins have echoed the advice.

"We've got a good enough relationship where I said to

him ... 'Am I being too tough on you? Am getting to you?'" Pitino said. "And he said, 'Yes.' So I backed off a little."

That was the only time of any sign Mathieu might have cracked, with a demanding first-year coach and his first foray into the rigor of Big Ten competition. Mathieu, a native of Knoxville, Tenn., played as a freshman at Morehead State in Kentucky. Then he switched to Central Arizona, a junior college, before joining the Gophers.

"It was tough. It was just like they said it'd be. Every game was a battle," Mathieu said after the Gophers beat Penn State 81-63 on Sunday.

He noted that was Minnesota's largest margin of victory in conference play.

"And it took to the end of the season to get that. So it was exactly what they told me it would be," Mathieu said.

Minnesota (19-12, 8-10) plays Penn State on Thursday in the first round of the Big Ten tournament.

With three transfers and one incoming freshman, the holdovers from previous coach Tubby Smith's teams weren't sure what to expect from the newcomers. But Mathieu, who is averaging 11.9 points per game, second on the team to Andre Hollins, quickly made quite the impression with his waterbug-like moves to the basket, leadership of the fast break and remarkably accurate floating mid-range jump shot.

Hollins is most appreciative of Mathieu's ability to

drive to the lane, which when the offense is working well opens up more outside shots for the other guards.

"That's not a skill that a lot of people have. He also finishes well," Hollins said.

When the Gophers first started to struggle in late January, opponents were succeeding at forcing Mathieu into costly turnovers by trapping him in the backcourt well behind the 3-point line. After sputtering through some of those games, Mathieu spoke bluntly about his deficiency and has since better determined how to avoid that.

When all else fails, of course, there's always that 15-foot floater that he swishes with regularity. He learned that from one of his youth coaches, years ago.

"I was always smaller than everybody else. I really got a lot better at it. It's starting to get a little easier because I'm getting taller," he said, laughing.

Further growth is unlikely, at least in height. If Mathieu continues to develop during tournament time this week, maybe the Gophers will get to the NCAA tournament.

"If you'd told me at the beginning of the season we could maybe win a game or two, be in the NCAA tournament with returning 48 percent of our scoring, a lot of brand new guys, a lot of guys who have never played in these type of situations," Pitino said, "I'd say, 'Where do I sign up?'"

by USD, is listed in the "Next Four Out" in ESPN's bracket — behind Creighton, the last of the "First Four Out." Creighton edged the Jacks 68-63 last November.

The Jackrabbits remain in the hunt because of their top-50 RPI, though the WNIT is the most likely landing spot for SDSU.

Another post-season tournament may have aided in USD's championship run, according to head coach Amy Williams. The Coyotes qualified for and won two games in the Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI) last year after losing in the Summit League final to SDSU.

"I credit that WBI for helping us win that tournament right here," Williams said after Tuesday's win. "Any post-season experience your team can get is so valuable."

Williams referenced junior Nicole Seekamp scoring 28 points in the second half of a

first-round win at Utah State. The Coyotes then throttled Lamar by 23 points in the second round before losing at home to McNeese State in the semifinals.

"I think it just really cemented in her mind that she's a force to be reckoned with," Williams said of Seekamp.

Before the Coyotes get too wrapped up in their next opponent or where they play, they want to enjoy the title, Seekamp said.

"It's definitely exciting," she said Tuesday. "Once we find out who we play, we can refocus."

"We're going to cherish this moment for a few days, and get back on the road and hopefully get a few more wins."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## SCOREBOARD

### BOWLING

#### YANKTON BOWL

##### CLASSIC

HIGH TEAM GAME: Kruse's Pro Shop 996

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Kruse's Pro Shop 2711

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Tyler Annis 279, Mike Grass 278, Mike Kruse 278, Steve Shutt 269, Randy Svendsen 267

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Robin Holec 709, Mike Barta 708, Mike Kruse 704, Tom Grass 691, Tyler Annis 688

STANDINGS: Plath Chiropractic 24, Patriot Express 23, Barta Electric 20, Kruse's Pro Shop 18, Rotten Apples 18, Eisenbraun & Associates 9, Janssen's Garage Service 9, Smidt Construction & Crew 7, Coca-Cola 3

##### TUESDAY MIXED

HIGH TEAM GAME: TCB 464

HIGH TEAM SERIES: TCB 1355

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Ryan Weverstad 247, Kelly Merin 239-236, Jeremy Wilson 218, Sharon Merin 192, Cindy Somer 189, Ashley Zurcher 178

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Kelly Merin 688, Ryan Weverstad 595, Roman Loecker 586, Sharon Merin 514, Lonnie Remington 482, Ashley Zurcher 474

STANDINGS: Ten Pins 10-2, Split Ends 9-3, Pinheads 8.5-3.5, Hot Rollers 8-4, Gutter Mates 7-5, TCB 6-6, R&D Lockers 5-7, Country Bumpkins 4-8, Mistifs 2.5-9.5, Alley Kats 0-12

HIGHLIGHTS: Romain Loecker - errors 192; Audrey Misar 3-10; Duane Palu 3-10; Vermette Guttmiller 4-5; Cindy Somer 4-10; Hal Somer 5-10; Jeremy Wilson 4-5

### WRESTLING

#### DISTRICT 10 AAU TOURN.

##### Yankton Youth Results

FIRST: Alana Bahm, Tucker Bahm, Donovan Bain, Ashton Keller, Parker Kisch, Jaclyn Kyle, Shayce Platt, Ray Wermers

SECOND: Taten Bahm, Gerrit Dystra, Beckett Kisch, Dominic Leonard, Kyler Lillie, Paul McCollone, Joe Smith, Bode Thurman

THIRD: Devon Coke, Patrick Gurney, Ocean Hawk, Damian Janish, Collin Patrick, Parker Pooler, Ethan Purdy, Josh Rilbe, Dane Weidmeyer

FOURTH: Chase Howe, Langdon Klinkhammer, Will Pavlish, Joelton Reimnitz-Hahn, Liam Villanueva, Jackson Witte

FIFTH: Isaac Dooley, Trevor Paulsen

SIXTH: Dylan Sloan

EIGHTH: Connor Egan, Shaylor Platt

NINTH: Evan Nelson

TENTH: Ira Gregor

### BASKETBALL

#### YANKTON PARKS & REC

##### MEN'S JUST FOR FUN TOURN.

CHAMPIONSHIP: Plains All Americans def. Allata Meat 70-46

##### LEWIS & CLARK CONF. BOYS

###### ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

West Division

ALL-CONF. TEAM: Spencer Rosenberg, Wausa; Austin Conn, Wausa; Seth Wilmes, Creighton; Austin Diedrichsen, Creighton; Sam Meurel, Plainview; Adam Haigh, Bloomfield; Kane Fiedler, Bloomfield; Zach Kumm, Osmond; Nolan Nordhues, Randolph; Gerritt Walters, Randolph; Luke Andrew, Randolph

HONORABLE MENTION: Devon Munter, Wausa; Cody Beckmann, Bloomfield; Cody Koehler, Osmond; Reid Liska, Creighton

East Division

ALL-CONF. TEAM: Evan Nicholson, Wakefield; Dillon Wolfgang, Laurel-Concord-Coleteridge; Mathew Wingett, Winnebago; Chase Dahl, Homer; David Wingett, Winnebago; Aaron Carlson, Ponca; Cory Cleveland, Winnebago; Connor Brandt, Ponca; Jake Brand, Homer; Laine Galvillo, Homer

HONORABLE MENTION: Josh Dolph, Wakefield; Isaiah Medina, Winnebago; Mitch Kloz, Laurel-Concord-Coleteridge; Brandon Hamar, Ponca; Jordan Jansen, Laurel-Concord-Coleteridge

Central Division

ALL-CONF. TEAM: Jackson Sudbeck, Wynot; Kobe Smith, Walhill; Davis Wieseler, Wynot; Tanner Fischer, Hartington; Derek Jueden, Hartington; Brady

Stratman, Wynot; Austin Lange, Wynot; Travis Emmons, Emerson-Hubbard; Eric Hansen, Emerson-Hubbard; Kaycee Porter, Walhill

HONORABLE MENTION: Austin Connot, Allen; Brian Boese, Allen; Orion Lamotte, Walhill; Bryce Meis, Winside; Jayden Sheridan, Walhill; Kolby Jueden, Hartington; Riley Haug, Hartington

##### LEWIS & CLARK CONF. GIRLS

###### ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

West Division

ALL-CONF. TEAM: Rebecca Eggerling, Creighton; Paige Mittels, Creighton; Maddy Oltjenbrun, Creighton; Nicole White, Plainview; Brittany Waldow, Plainview; Michaela Stratthman, Randolph; Emily Schmoor, Randolph; Haley Schroer, Randolph; Tori Clausen, Wausa; Kenna Fiedler, Bloomfield

HONORABLE MENTION: Elle Bernel, Randolph; Malerie Hixson, Randolph; Sam Johnson, Osmond; Tara Munter, Wausa; Alicia Jensen, Plainview; Jessica Gragert, Creighton

East Division

ALL-CONF. TEAM: Brandon Tighe, Homer; Lauren Lehmkohl, Wakefield; Cameron Eddie, Laurel-Concord-Coleteridge; Marquel Harlan, Winnebago; Cassandria Stowe, Homer; Kianna Kramper, Ponca; Audra Corbit, Laurel-Concord-Coleteridge; Makaya Murphy, Homer; McKenzie Rusk, Wakefield; Alexis Markworth, Ponca

HONORABLE MENTION: Brooke Tighe, Homer; Brook McCluskey, Ponca; Ellie Arduser, Laurel-Concord-Coleteridge; Teisha Snyder, Winnebago; Jae Payer, Winnebago

Central Division

ALL-CONF. TEAM: Maggie Schulte, Wynot; Abby Drieling, Emerson-Hubbard; Payton Blanke, Emerson-Hubbard; Danielle Wessler, Wynot; Lindsey Sullivan, Allen; Jenna Heine, Wynot; Maddie Martin, Emerson-Hubbard; Cammie Stratman, Hartington; Lindsey Jones, Allen; Gabby Sullivan, Allen

HONORABLE MENTION: Brooke Cayou, Walhill; Jalise Randol, Walhill; Kylie Bell, Emerson-Hubbard; Courtney Arkfeld, Wynot; Sophie Noecker, Hartington; Shelby Hochstetner, Hartington

##### S.D. STATE AA GIRLS' TOURN.

###### March 13-15 at Brookings

First Round, March 13

S.F. Washington (20-2) vs. Harrisburg (15-8), noon

Spargh (17-5) vs. Spearfish (16-5), 1:45 p.m.

Mitchell (21-1) vs. S.F. Roosevelt (13-10), 6 p.m.

S.F. O'Gorman (16-6) vs. R.C. Stevens (14-9), 7:45 p.m.

##### S.D. STATE B GIRLS' TOURN.

###### March 13-15 at Huron

First Round, March 13

Sully Buttes (21-1) vs. Gayville-Volin (15-7), noon

Warner (21-2) vs. Lemmon (22-1), 1:45 p.m.

Hanson (21-2) vs. Lyman (15-8), 6 p.m.

Sanborn Central-Woonscott (22-1) vs. Kimball-White Lake (15-7), 7:45 p.m.

##### NEB. STATE BOYS' TOURN.

###### March 13-15 at Lincoln, Neb.

CLASS A

First Round

At Pinnacle Bank Arena

No. 1 Omaha Benson (23-3) vs. No. 8 Lincoln Northeast (12-13), 2 p.m.

No. 5 Westside (19-5) vs. No. 4 Lincoln Southeast (20-5), 3:45 p.m.

No. 2 Omaha South (20-5) vs. No. 7 Norfolk (20-5), 7 p.m.

No. 3 Omaha Central (22-4) vs. No. 6 Bellevue West (18-8), 8:45 p.m.

CLASS B

First Round

At Pinnacle Bank Arena

No. 3 York (22-2) vs. No. 6 Pius X (15-7), 9 a.m.

No. 7 Roncalli (14-11) vs. No. 2 Beatrice (20-2), 10:45 a.m.

At Devaney Sports Center

CLASS C1

First Round

At Devaney Sports Center

No. 7 Cozad (17-8) vs. No. 2 Wayne (23-4), 9 a.m.

No. 8 Wahco (20-5) vs. No. 3 Falls City (24-4), 10:45 a.m.

No. 1 Scotus (21-4) vs. No. 8 Kearney Catholic (15-11), 2 p.m.

No. 4 Neumann (19-6) vs. No. 5 Boone Central-Newman Grove (19-6), 3:45 p.m.

CLASS C2

First Round

At Lincoln Southeast

No. 1 Ainsworth (23-2) vs. No. 8 Battle Creek (12-12), 2 p.m.

No. 5 Kimball (22-3) vs. No. 4 Freeman, 3:45 p.m.

No. 2 Doniphan-Trumbull (22-4) vs. No. 7 Sulton (17-9), 7 p.m.

No. 3 Bergen (21-3) vs. No. 6 Southern Valley (21-3), 8:45 p.m.

CLASS D1

First Round

At Lincoln East

No. 2 North Platte St. Patrick's (24-1) vs. No. 7 Clearwater-Orchard (21-4), 9 a.m.

No. 6 Randolph (20-4) vs. No. 3 Elm Creek (20-3), 10:45 a.m.

No. 1 Howells-Dodge (25-2) vs. No. 8 Fullerton (11-7), 2 p.m.

No. 4 Overton (22-4) vs. No. 5 Lourdes CC (20-6), 3:45 p.m.

Winner (21-1) vs. Mount Vernon-Plankinton (18-5), 8:45 p.m.

CLASS D2

First Round

At Lincoln Southeast

No. 3 Bancroft-Rosalie (23-4) vs. No. 6 Hitchcock-County (21-3), 9 a.m.

No. 7 Leyton (18-5) vs. No. 2 Falls City Sacred Heart (23-4), 10:45 a.m.

At Lincoln East

No. 4 High Plains (25-1) vs. No. 5 Exeter-Milligan (22-3), 7 p.m.

No. 1 Spalding-Spalding Academy (22-3) vs. No. 8 Elwood (14-10), 8:45 p.m.

## AREA CALENDAR

### Thursday, March 13

BASEBALL, COLLEGE Tucson Trip (MMC vs. Jamestown, DH, 9 a.m.)

BASKETBALL, MEN'S NAIA State Tour. at Branson, Mo.

BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S NAIA Tour. at Sioux City, Iowa

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' S.D. State Class AA Tour. at Brookings; S.D. State Class A Tour. at Spearfish (Elk Point-Jefferson vs. Webster, 7 p.m., KVHT-FM); S.D. State Class B Tour. at Huron (Gayville-Volin vs. Sully Buttes, noon, KVHT-FM)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' Neb. State Tour. at Lincoln (D1 — Randolph vs. Elm Creek, 10:45 a.m.)

SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Rebel Spring Games at Winter Haven, Fla. (USD vs. Indiana State, noon; USD vs. Bucknell, 4:30 p.m.); Arizona Trip (MMC vs. Missouri Valley, 3:30 p.m.); MMC vs. Alford, 5 p.m.)

Friday, March 14

BASEBALL, COLLEGE Tucson Trip