

USD Men Upend Jackrabbits

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — It may as well have been a tournament game.

That's the way the University of South Dakota men's basketball team saw it, anyway.

A convincing 80-64 victory in Saturday night's regular season finale against rival – and first-place – South Dakota State provided the Coyotes with significant momentum heading into the Summit League tournament.

And yet, for a team that has beaten everyone in the conference, the Coyotes (16-15, 9-7) aren't exactly concerned about their No. 5 seed in the bracket.

"We don't care who we play," said Tyler Larson, one of three seniors honored before the game.

"We were picked to finish eighth, so we don't really care about seeding. We're just trying to get to the championship game."

Understandably, beating the No. 1 seed in the tournament before the tournament even begins, is a confidence boost toward that goal, according to head coach Craig Smith.

"We know we're capable of beating everybody if we play a certain way, with a chip on our shoulder and an unselfishness," he said.

There was plenty of both on Saturday in front of a tournament-like atmosphere, with 4,812 fans.

The Coyotes shot 47 percent against the league's top defense (by shooting percentage) and held the league's second-highest scoring outfit to 34 percent.

Having already secured

the No. 1 seed for the post-season tournament, the Jacks (21-9, 12-4) jumped out quickly on the Coyotes, leading 14-5 three and a half minutes in.

Things then quickly got away from the visitors.

"They played like they needed the game more than we did," head coach Scott Nagy said.

Once tied 26-26, the game quickly turned in favor of USD, which took a 44-34 lead into halftime.

There were certain moments in the second half when it looked like the Jacks might mount a rally, particularly when they cut a 15-point deficit down to 61-55 with 6:22 remaining.

Unlike that first meeting in Brookings (in which USD squandered a 20-0 start to the game), however, the Coyotes never slowed down.

Three players in particular USD keyed on shutting down, George Marshall, Deondre Parks and Reed Tellinghuisen, combined to go 6-of-30 from the field for 24 points.

"Those guys usually have pretty good numbers, and I thought we did a really good job on them," USD senior Brandon Bos said. "It was all five of us on the floor helping each other out."

Junior Tre Burnette continued his strong play of late, scoring 19 points and grabbing 13 rebounds for the Coyotes, who also got 17 points from junior Casey Kasperbauer and 12 points from Bos.

Senior Cody Larson had a double-double of 25 points and 12 rebounds for SDSU, which will open tournament

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South Dakota's Casey Kasperbauer shoots over the top of South Dakota State's George Marshall during their Summit League men's basketball game on Saturday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

State B

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"Our kids wrestled hard," said head coach Mark Stoebner. "We had a lot of bonus points, which I've never seen, and they fought through."

Last year's champion Dan Stribrak (285) and Duncan Stoebner (120) took home the first-place titles, as Alex Caba took home second. Stas Suter (113) finished third for Bon Homme-Scotland, while Kaleb Crownover (106) placed fifth. Zach Sykora finished seventh.

Beresford placed seventh overall with Dakota Dalt placing first in the 126 weight. Tristan Lutter finishing in sixth place in 220. Nick Caspersen (152) took home sixth place, while Jared Lyle (145) finished seventh for Beresford. Connor Hoy (285) came in seventh.

"All the hard work from the whole year paid off today," Dalt said. "I bumped up four weights since last year, and I didn't want to cut weight — I wanted to wrestle where I am now. It's going to be fun to go back home."

Elk Point-Jefferson, finishing in sixth place with 66 points, went home with Lukas Forsling (195) third place over. Fyle Fowler (138) also finished second.

"We came in a little underrated," Forsling said. "But it's nice being underrated, because you can only do better than expected instead of feeling the pressure."

Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes' Austin Moore (285) also came in sixth, with Ty Nammany (120) placing eighth.

Wagner's Trevor Lansing took home a second-place finish in 182, as Truman Ashes (285) also placed second. Ben Soukup (113) placed seventh. Treen Doren placed third for Andes Central, and Zach Rucktaeschel (145) went home with eighth.

Payton Jensen (285) came in second for Parker, while Chase Suter (113) took home third place for Parker.

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Hockey: Yankton Girls 0-3 At State JV; Miracle Bantams Fall In State 'B' Championship

PIERRE — Yankton fell to Sioux Falls 2-0 on Sunday on the final day of the State JV Girls' Hockey Tournament in Pierre.

Yankton finished 0-3 in the event.

Ashley Anderson and Kaija Mork scored for Sioux Falls.

Ava Krabbenhoft stopped 24 shots to preserve the shutout for Sioux Falls. Baylee Prather made 15 saves for Yankton.

WATERTOWN 8, YANKTON 4: Tiffany Hamaan scored five goals to lead Watertown past Yankton 8-4 on Saturday. Samantha Nogelmeier and Tessa Hollen each had a goal and two assists in the victory. McKenzie Kranz scored the other Laker goal.

For Yankton, Erica Westerman and Samantha Straatmeyer each had two goals, with Westerman also recording an assist. Hannah Johnson, Abby Weber and Bailey Prather added assists.

Macey Winger stopped eight shots for Watertown. Renee Cross made 31 saves for Yankton.

RUSHMORE 11, YANKTON 0: Maddy Herman scored five goals and Sarah Kelly scored three goals to lead Rushmore past Yankton 11-0 in the opening round on Friday.

Mersadez Highstrom recorded the shutout in goal for Rushmore. Renee

Cross stopped 19 shots for Yankton.

Bantam

SIoux FALLS 4, BROOKINGS 3: Brookings downed Yankton 6-3 for the championship of the South Dakota State Bantam 'B' Hockey Tournament on Sunday at the Scheels IcePlex in Sioux Falls.

Sajen Perry had two goals and an assist, and Peyton Stensgaard and Alec Nielsen each had a goal and an assist for Brookings, which went undefeated on the season. Luc Bouchard and Riley Jacobson each scored goals in the victory.

For Yankton, Jace Kapla had a goal and two assists, and Dillon Barger had a goal and an assist to lead the way. Jack Schoenfelder scored the other Yankton goal. Jaxson Erickson and Zachary Rohde had assists.

Royal Grindelund III stopped nine shots for the victory. Caleb List made 23 saves for Yankton.

SEMIFINALS — YANKTON 6, SIOUX FALLS 2: Yankton used a five-goal sec-

ond period to roll past Sioux Falls 6-2 in the semifinals of the state Bantam 'B' Hockey Tournament on Saturday.

Dillon Barger scored twice, Jack Schoenfelder had a goal and two assists, and Jace Kapla had a goal and an assist for Yankton. Isaac Klimisch and Thomas Stewart also scored goals. Nicholas Lehl and Sean Garcia added assists in the victory.

Parker Spaan had a goal and an assist for Sioux Falls. Braden Gage also scored for the Flyers.

Caleb List stopped 23 shots in the win. Ty Hanish recorded 18 saves for Sioux Falls.

FIRST ROUND — YANKTON 6, RUSHMORE 4: Yankton scored two third period goals to break a 4-4 tie and down Rushmore 6-4 in the opening round of the state Bantam 'B' Hockey Tournament on Saturday.

Jace Kapla and Jaxson Erickson each scored twice for Yankton. Isaac Klimisch had a goal and two assists. Sean Garcia had the go-ahead goal in the third period, as well as an assist. Isaac Nedved had an assist. Jack Schoenfelder, Nicholas Lehl and Dillon Barger added assists in the victory.

Lewis Hall had two goals and an assist for Rushmore. Kenneth Brown had a goal and three assists, while Eveneau Rasby had a goal and two assists for the Thunder.

Caleb List made 10 saves in goal for the win. Mitchell Burruss stopped 17 shots for Rushmore.

Coyotes

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League Player of the Year finished with 26 points and 11 rebounds, but also got some help from Sophie Reichelt (17 points).

Facing a player like that was nothing new for the Coyotes, as was the case in playing a meaningful game in front of a large crowd — Saturday's attendance was 2,609, a season high.

"It helps because we know what to expect, how crazy the crowd is," Loeffler said. "Having that experience, we'll be able to shut it out even more."

And if the Coyotes are able to do so for three games in Sioux Falls, the second part of their season goal would be accomplished — reaching the NCAA Tournament once again.

"It's not an easy thing to do," Williams said. "It's very evident the parity in our league, that's what happens in this conference. It'll be a very tough field, but we're

Jimmie Johnson Pulls Away For Another Atlanta Sprint Cup Win

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — Jimmie Johnson pulled away after the final restart with 13 laps to go Sunday, winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Johnson, a six-time Cup champion, started near the back after failing to get in a qualifying run because of inspection issues. But the No. 48 Chevrolet was the fastest car on the track at the end of the weekend, cruising across the finish line a comfortable 1.803 seconds ahead of Kevin Harvick.

It was the 71st victory of Johnson's career, and his fourth at the 1.54-mile trioval south of Atlanta. It also gives him an almost-certain spot in the season-ending Chase, going for his record-tying seventh championship.

"It's pretty much a lock," Johnson said. "That takes a ton of pressure off."

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was third, followed by Daytona 500 winner Joey Logano, who started from the pole and led 84 laps early in the race.

After a big crash on lap 305 brought out the red flag for 9 minutes to clean up the mess, Johnson found himself at the front of the pack. When the green flag waved, he got a good jump off the line, fended off Hendrick Motorsports teammate Earnhardt going down the backstretch, and was firmly in control by the time the cars came back around in front of the stands.

There was no catching him from there.

Johnson was among four former champions, along with teammate Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart and Matt Kenseth, who never got on the track during qualifying.

going to be confident heading into it."

And so, the field is set. South Dakota will face No. 8 Fort Wayne at noon next Saturday in Sioux Falls, which would mean the winner of that game would then play Monday.

"Really, to me, the only difference is that if we're fortunate enough to get a first round win, we'd get the benefit of a day off," Williams said. "That first round game isn't going to be an easy win."

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WESTERN ILLINOIS (17-12, 9-7)

Sophie Reichelt 7-10 0-2 17; Ashley Luke 8-15 10-13 26; Michelle Maher 3-9 2-3 9; Tori Niemann 4-10 0-0 9; Liz Skotowski 0-2 0-0 0; Mallory Boyle 0-0 0-0 0; Faith Lois 0-0 0-0 0; Emily Clemens 3-6 0-0 6; Michelle Farrow 2-4 0-0 6; Jerna Mueller 1-1 0-0 2. TOTALS 28-57 12-18 75.

SOUTH DAKOTA (23-6, 13-3)

Lisa Loeffler 6-7 0-0 14; Margaret McCloud 2-6 1-2 5; Tia Hemler 3-8 2-2 9; Raeshel Conteras 6-13 4-5 19; Nicole Seekamp 6-14 8-10 20; Kelly Stewart 2-6 2-2 7; Bridget Arens 2-3 0-0 4; Kate Liveringhouse 0-1-0 0; Heidi Hoff 0-2 0-2 0. TOTALS 27-60 17-23 78.
Halftime: USD 34-32, Three-Pointers: USD 7-19 (Conteras 3-6, Loeffler 2-2, Stewart 1-3, Hemler 1-4, Hoff 0-1, Seekamp 0-3), WIU 7-20 (Reichelt 3-4, Farrow 2-4, Niemann 1-4, Maher 1-6, Skotowski 0-1, Clemens 0-1). Total Rebounds: WIU 35 (Luke 11), USD 30 (Arens 7). Assists: USD 17 (Seekamp 9), WIU 9 (Clemens 8). Steals: USD 10 (Seekamp 4). Turnovers: WIU 17, USD 8. Personal Fouls: USD 16, WIU 17. Fouled out: None. Attendance: 2609.

Lancers

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Miller added a hit in the victory.

For Waldorf, Eric Mallo had two hits and Derek Breit had a three-run home run to account for most of the offense. Kendrick White and Erik Guererro added doubles.

Mogensen allowed six hits in 6 2/3 innings, retiring 10 straight at one point, for his first victory of the season. Carlson came in to get the final out. Tony Manna took the loss, giving up the first seven runs.

A five-run second that included eight straight hits for MMC opened up the floodgates in the nightcap. A Cody Ulmer RBI groundout and Nelson's home run stretched that lead to 7-0 in the fourth. After Waldorf cut into the margin with Breit's home run, Carlson's two-run ground-



Mount Marty shortstop Derrik Nelson takes the throw as Waldorf's Ben Alexander slides safely into second base during the opening game of their baseball doubleheader on Sunday at Yankton's Riverside Field at Bob Tereshinski Stadium.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

rule double in the sixth ended the scoring.

In the opener, all nine Waldorf starters had at least one hit as the Warriors pounded out 17 hits, including seven

extra-base hits. White had two doubles among his three hits, and Ben Alexander had three hits to lead Waldorf. Breit homered and doubled. Ryan Villareal also homered

among his two hits. Guererro doubled and singled, and Dillon Schultz had two hits in the win.

For MMC, Hollenback had two doubles and a single, and

Nelson and Ryan Buck each doubled and tripled to lead the way. Jared Schmidt doubled. Carlson, Derek Blumenstock and Miller each had a hit.

Reid Gilbertson picked up the win in relief, allowing one run in 1 1/3 innings of work. Josh Teichroew took the loss.

Waldorf jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first, scored three runs in the fifth after MMC tied the game in the second, then scored seven in the seventh after MMC took a 9-8 lead.

MMC, 4-1, begins play in Tucson, Arizona, on March 10. If weather permits, the Lancers may try to add games to their schedule for the weekend of March 7-8.

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