

State JV Boys' Hockey Tourney Begins

Volunteers Work To Keep Event On Track

BY ROGELIO RODRIGUEZ

sports@yankton.net

Before any large event can take place there must be a lot of careful planning and organizing; the JV Hockey State Tournament held in Yankton this weekend was no exception.

Organizing and coordinating the event takes a lot of patience and dedication. With such a large number of people gathering for the love of one sport who better to organize it than one of the hockey moms?

Kelle Loecker was just the person for the job. Her son has been playing hockey for six years and this is her way of showing her support.

"I'm just a hockey mom," said Loecker.

This year, her son was unable to participate as a result of a concussion. Despite that, Loecker still made her presence known as the coordinator for the JV State Tournament. She was tasked with rallying the parents and making this tournament one to be remembered.

"The community has been awesome for us, we divided the parents into committees and everyone pulled their weight," she added.

Not only did they receive gift donations for the players but they also received many donations for use in the hospitality room and for raffle prizes. With the help of the committees they were able to get Hockey605 to broadcast the entire tournament online. On top of that, the committees were able to solicit the services of Randy Preston of the Sioux Falls Stampede to announce the games all weekend.

Saturday morning the players will be treated to a personalized walk-out conducted by local DJ Kyle Cihak who has volunteered his time and equipment for the cause.

"It's all about the players and we want them to skate



ABOVE: Aberdeen goalie Landon Danielson, 00, dives on the puck before Sioux Falls' Keaton Davis can shoot the rebound during their quarterfinal match in the South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association's JV boys' tournament on Friday at Alcoa Arena.

LOWER LEFT: An Aberdeen parent sports a fake mohawk skull cap as he cheers on the Cougars during their opening round match on Friday afternoon.

LOWER RIGHT: Yankton's Austin Barger tries to push the puck up the ice during the Bucks' opening round matchup with Huron in the South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association's JV Boys' state tournament on Friday at Alcoa Arena in Yankton.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

TOURNEY | PAGE 15



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Crofton's Allison Arens, right, tries to get around Guardian Angels Central Catholic defender Breanne Kreikemeier during their Class C2 semifinal game Friday night at the Nebraska State Girls' Basketball Tournament in Lincoln.

Crofton

From Page 11

case for Crofton in a couple years.

The Lady Warriors are a win away from securing a second undefeated season in three years. Just don't expect them to rest on those laurels.

"I don't know that our kids really pay attention to the whole win streak as much as everybody else does," Losing said. "They love the game of basketball. They love to compete."

The way Crofton practices no doubt keeps them focused, Arens said.

"There's no messing around in practices," she said. "Every practice is preparing for today and tomorrow, and hopefully state."

Junior Breanna Allen added 12 points on four 3-pointers for Crofton, while senior Quinn Wragge and sophomore Monica Arens both scored 10 points. Sophomore Kelsey Sanger chipped

in with six points.

Breanne Kreikemeier scored 12 points to lead GACC (24-4), which was the last team to beat Crofton — in the regular season last season.

And so, for a fourth consecutive year, the Lady Warriors will be playing in the championship game.

"It's pretty special," Allison Arens said. "We still have to focus on the game, we can't think about it being a championship."

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

Eagles, Pheasants To Play For 5B Title

TEA — Irene-Wakonda outscored Centerville 24-14 in the fourth quarter to rally to a 61-54 victory over the Tornados in the championship of the District 10B Boys' Basketball Tournament on Friday.

The Eagles will return to Tea on Tuesday to face Parker in the Region 5B final, with the winner of that contest going to state.

Gabe King had 18 points, seven rebounds and three blocked shots to lead a balanced Irene-Wakonda attack. Tate Gale netted 17 points and Levi Van Beek added 11 points in the victory.

For Centerville, Rory O'Malley led the way with 19 points. Christian Gruschin had 15 points and a game-high 13 rebounds.

CENTERVILLE (15-7).....13 24 40 54
IRENE-WAKONDA (15-5).....12 25 37 61

District 9B

Parker 52, Freeman 45

FREEMAN — Parker's Kelby Peters scored 16 points Friday night, making the Pheasants District 9B champions in Freeman.

Landon Leberman added another 15 points in the win, with Zack Anderson putting up 10 points and nine rebounds.

Cole Paulson scored 20 points and had 10 rebounds for the Flyers, while Brennan Schmidt also had 16 rebounds.

Parker faces Irene-Wakonda Tuesday in Tea.

PARKER (16-6).....14 25 37 52
FREEMAN (10-11).....17 27 37 45

Region 5A

McCook Central-Montrose 43, Tri-Valley 40

SALEM — McCook Central-Montrose outscored Tri-Valley 15-5 in the fourth quarter to rally to a 43-40 victory over the Mustangs in the

semifinals of the Region 5A Boys' Basketball Tournament on Friday.

Will Gottlob led a balanced MCM attack with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Isaac Anderson added nine points in the win.

For Tri-Valley, Will Steineke led the way with 12 points.

MCM faces Mount Vernon-Plankinton in the region final on Tuesday at Parkston.

TRI-VALLEY (13-9).....13 24 35 40
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONT. (16-6).....10 23 28 43

Mt. Vernon-Plank. 58, West Central 57

PLANKINTON — Tate Deinert scored 25 points Friday night to lead top-seeded Mount Vernon-Plankinton to a one-point win against the West Central Trojans in Plankinton.

Cody Renken added another 20 points in the win, with Hayden Smith putting up five assists.

West Central's Noah Vettes scored 21 points and had

eight rebounds in the effort, while Jacoby Odegaard added 10 points and four rebounds.

The MVP Titans will face McCook Central-Montrose in the region final Tuesday in Parkston.

WEST CENTRAL (12-10).....16 28 48 57
MOUNT VERNON-PLANKINTON (15-6).....8 21 46 58

Region 12B

Gregory 57, Colome 43

MITCHELL — Gavin Thomas scored 16 points and had 11 rebounds Friday night, leading the Gregory Gorillas to a district championship in Mitchell over the Colome Cowboys.

Mitchel Klundt added 13 points and seven rebounds in the win, with Jayd VanDerWerff putting up another 10 points. Sean Kafka also had five assists and four steals.

Colome's Reed Harter scored 23 points, while Holden Thieman added an-

HOOPS | PAGE 14

State Hockey Semis Set

The top four seeds advanced to the semifinals of the South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association's JV Boys' state tournament on Friday at Yankton's Alcoa Arena, as Brookings, Aberdeen, Rushmore and Sioux Center all claimed quarterfinal victories.

The semifinals will feature Brookings against Sioux Center at 3 p.m., and Rushmore against Aberdeen at 5:30 p.m. The championship is set for 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Opening ceremonies for the tournament will be held at 10:30 a.m., after the Yankton-Watertown 8 a.m. contest.

Brookings 8, Huron 1

Brookings took advantage of a 40-11 shot advantage in the first two periods to claim an 8-1 victory over the All-Stars in the quarterfinals on Friday night.

Kobe Ischen and Akren Prodoehl each had two goals and one assist, with Jordan Vlamnick also recording two goals for Brookings. Logan Lesnar had a goal and an assist. Johnny Hockett added a goal. Hunter Neuman, Hunter Lesnar and Cole Schneider had assists as eight different players recorded points for the Rangers.

Jake Axtmann scored the lone Huron goal off an assist from Jackson Hook.

Lexy Lynn stopped 15 shots in the victory. Christian Schelhaas made 42 saves for Huron.

Brookings advances to face Sioux Center in the semifinals at 3 p.m. today. Huron draws Oahe in an elimination game at 12:30 p.m.

Sioux Center 5, Oahe 4

Sioux Center scored the only two goals of the third period to rally past Oahe 5-4 in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Keaton DeJong scored twice and Dan Vrugdenhill had a goal and two assists to lead Sioux Center. Rylan Brue had a goal and an assist. Jaren Brue added the go-ahead goal with 3:25 left in the game. Jeffrey Heide Jr. had three assists, and Reese Schultz added an assist in the victory.

Oahe got a goal and an assist from Chase Bolte. Josh Albright, Kaidyn Eaton and Sara Bachand each had a goal. Zach Fendrich and Corey Clements added assists.

Zach Sassman stopped 21 shots in the win. Brody Hultman made 40 saves for Oahe.

Sioux Center draws top-seeded Brookings at 3 p.m. today (Saturday). Oahe draws Huron at 12:30 p.m. today.

Rushmore 3, Watertown 0

Rushmore's Alex Robin stopped all 17 shots he faced to preserve the Thunder's 3-0 shutout victory over Watertown in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Bailey Beauchamp, Isaiah Helsdon and Julian Molliet each scored unassisted goals for Rushmore.

Parker Young stopped 18 shots for Watertown.

Rushmore plays Aberdeen in the semifinals today (Saturday) at 5:30 p.m. Watertown plays Yankton in an elimination game at 8 a.m.

Aberdeen 4, S. Falls 2

Aberdeen scored the only two goals of the third period to claim a 4-2 victory over Sioux

HOCKEY | PAGE 12

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