

MMC Softball Goes 1-1 On Opening Day

TUCSON, Arizona — The Mount Marty College softball team went 1-1 on the opening day of its 2015 season, dropping an 8-0 decision to Presentation before beating Purdue-North Central 8-5 in their final game of the day.

Against Purdue-North Central, Jessica Wirth tripled and singled, driving in two, and Olivia Rodriguez doubled and singled to lead MMC. Cassidy

Janicek and Nicole Elster each had two hits, with Elster driving in one. Amber Krause doubled, and Karlee Kozak added a hit in the victory.

Brooke Becker went the distance for the victory, allowing one earned run on five hits while striking out four.

Against Presentation, the Saints' Kayla Reynolds tossed a five-inning no-hitter, striking out six.

Brenda Botzenhart had two hits for Presentatoin. Kayla Reynolds and Karyssa Marbet each drove in two runs.

Amber Krause took the loss, allowing nine hits.

MMC has nine games remaining in Tucson before returning home to face Doane on March 21.

King Scores 20 As Minnesota Beats Rutgers

CHICAGO (AP) — Joey King hit six 3-pointers and scored 20 to lead Minnesota to an 80-68 victory over Rutgers in the first round of the Big Ten tournament on Wednesday.

The 11th-seeded Golden Gophers (18-14) broke open a tight game on a 22-8 spurt midway through in the second half. King and Charles Buggs highlighted the blitz with three 3-pointers in a span of 53 seconds.

After King extended the lead to 43-38 at the seven-minute mark, Buggs buried another 3-pointer 18 seconds later. Rutgers' Junior Etou followed with a pair free throws, then King hit a 3-pointer to give his team a 49-40 advantage.

Carlos Morris scored 16 points for the Golden Gophers, while Nate Mason added 15 more. DeAndre Mathieu contributed a game-high eight assists.

Minnesota (18-14) shot 52 percent in the field and scored 42 points in the paint. The

Golden Gophers will meet Ohio State on Thursday night.

Kadeem Jack led Rutgers (10-22) with 18 points. Bishop Daniels and Myles Mack scored 15 points apiece, but the 14th-seeded Scarlet Knights closed their first season in the Big Ten with 15 consecutive losses — 10 by 10-or-more points.

The Scarlet Knights converted just 35 percent of their field-goal tries in the first half, but they scored 13 points off eight turnovers to stay in the game.

Rutgers twice led by as many as five points in the first half, the last time at 19-14 on D.J. Foreman's tip-in at the 11:57 mark.

Turnover-prone Minnesota responded with a 12-4 run to take a 26-21 advantage. Morris had six points in the spurt.

Rutgers pulled even at 26-all on Mack's 3-pointer with 2:12 left in the half. But King answered with a 3-pointer and Minnesota took a 30-27 lead into the break.

TIP-INS

Minnesota: Head coach Richard Pitino's father Rick was among those in the rather sparse crowd. The Louisville head coach watched from a seat behind the bench. ... The Gophers had faced every opponent in their tournament bracket once each in the regular season. They posted a 2-4 record on those games. ... G Andre Hollins was scoreless and remained 25 points behind Randy Breuer for third place on the team's career list.

Rutgers: The Scarlet Knights lost for the fourth time in as many tries against the Gophers in their history. Minnesota scored an 89-80 victory at home in the regular season. ... Three starters are expected to return next season: sophomore Junior Etou, junior Bishop Daniels and junior C Greg Lewis.

UP NEXT

Minnesota: Faces No. 6 seed Ohio State on Thursday. Rutgers: Season over.

Youth Sports Standouts



ABOVE: The Heat won their eighth grade division in a tournament at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls last month, beating teams from Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Sturgis in the event. Team members include (left) Rex Ryken, Ethan Wishon, Nick Kurtenbach, Jack Raab, Owen Feser, Miles Carda, Michael Frick and Cole Sawatzke. The Heat are coached by Brian Carda and Jim Sawatzke.



LEFT: The Yankton Storm U-18 Team I earned first place in its division at the March Meltdown Volleyball Tournament at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls on Sunday. Team members include (front) Emily Feilmeier, Hannah Bockholt, Kaylee Wooten, Allison Targonski, (back) coach Caitlyn Ilg, Danielle Salvatori, Joselyn Salvatori, Josie Saylor and Sophie Drotzmann.

Bees

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anybody else can step up. In the district finals, Connor Wilson had 17 points. Others have stepped up as well."

Wilson (6.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 56 assists, 41 steals) and Aaron Millikan (6.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 52 assists) have also had solid numbers. Devin Gieselman (4.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 21 blocked shots), Nathan Hingst (3.4 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 35 assists, 34 steals) and Eric Abbenhaus (3.2 ppg, 36 assists, 26 steals) have also been contributors.

The Bees draw another tough-defending opponent in Heartland (21-3), who has allowed just under 40 points per game this season. Cole Nickels (13.1 ppg, 4.3 rpg) and Keshawn Camacho (10.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg) have been the leaders offensively.

"Heartland is a big physical team. They're talented and they have some size," Eisenhauer said. "Hopefully we can play good team defense and help out on their big kids."

Bloomfield will also have to weather the Huskies' pressure, Eisenhauer noted.

"They full-court press and play man-to-man," he said. "We need to find the open man, take it to the hole and get to the line."

Above all, Eisenhauer is hoping to see the Bees play like they belong in the tournament.

"I'm hoping we got out and play our game," he said. "Don't play scared."

Bloomfield and Heartland



P&D FILE PHOTO

Cody Beckmann, shooting, leads the Bees offensively, scoring 14.2 points per game.

play the 2 p.m. quarterfinal at Lincoln Southeast, followed by Amherst (23-3) and High Plains (23-2) at 3:45 p.m. The opening session begins with top-seeded Bruning-Davenport-Shickley (24-3) against Sutherland (11-13) at 9 a.m., followed by Clearwater-Orchard (24-1) against Humphrey St. Francis (21-4) at 10:45 a.m.

Semifinals will be held Fri-

day morning at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The D1 championship is set for 9 a.m. Saturday at Pinnacle Bank Arena, with the third place game at 11 a.m. at Lincoln Southeast.

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Cougars

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"The difference this year is that we're a lot more committed to defense, to man-to-man principles," said Cougars head coach Bill Hansen. "It seems like this year we're doing a better job of playing our roles."

Junior Abby Hora has been a primary weapon for Viborg-Hurley, averaging 24 points, 7.6 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 3.1 steals per game. Senior Angie Lee (12.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 2.4 spg) has also been a top weapon, but not the only one.

"When teams have run box-and-one on Abby, Angie has stepped up," Hansen said. "Duana (Lee) has done her part. Inside, Hannah has been strong. We've even had games where Kirsten Paetow has been huge at the line."

Duana Lee (4.8 ppg), a junior, has been a sharp-shooting specialist, matching Angie Lee with 26 three-pointers on the season. Jorgensen (7.5 ppg, 5.0 rpg) and Paetow (5.8 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.0 spg, 1.9 apg), a sophomore, have also been effective weapons.

The Cougars face a tough task in the opening round, an Ethan Rustlers squad that is the only girls' squad in the state that enters the state

tournament undefeated (23-0).

"They're a good ball club, but we're looking forward to the challenge," Hansen said. "Ethan plays some things differently than other teams we've played. It will be interesting to see how our girls react."

The challenges that Ethan presents — including the trapping 1-3-1 defense the Rustlers run — will be prepared for as much as possible, Angie Lee said.

"We have to watch film so we know what to expect," she said. "Everyone's paying attention. There's no time to mess around."

Still, the team is enthused about the opportunity, the first for the Viborg-Hurley girls as a co-op. Viborg had not made state since 2010, and Hurley's only state tournament appearance in girls' basketball was the 1992 title team.

"We're really excited," Angie Lee said. "There are a lot of people going crazy." For the Cougars to give themselves a chance at state, though, they will have the leave the craziness to their fans.

"We need to play good defense and not turn the ball over," Hansen said. "We have to be able to handle their pressure. If we are patient and take good shots, we'll be OK."

Viborg-Hurley and Ethan

face off in the 6 p.m. game today. McLaughlin (17-5), in the tournament for the first time since 1984, takes on Summit (20-3) in the late game, a 7:45 p.m. start. Play begins at noon with Sully Buttes (22-1) against Kimball-White Lake (15-8), followed by Jones County (21-2), returning to state for the first time in 20 years, and DeSmet (19-4) at 1:45 p.m.

The tournament runs through Saturday at the Huron Arena.

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NASCAR Reinstates Busch; Grants Him Waiver For Chase

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Kurt Busch was cleared Wednesday to get back in his race car and attempt to rebuild a career that was halted two days before the Daytona 500 when NASCAR suspended him for allegedly assaulting his ex-girlfriend.

"It's been torture sitting out of the car," Busch said in a conference call. He called the allegations against him "a complete fabrication."

"I never did anything of the things I was accused of," he added. "I never wavered in this whole process because of the confidence in the truth."

Busch missed the season's first three races during the suspension, the third of his career. In reinstating the 2004 champion, NASCAR

ruled he will be eligible for the title-deciding Chase should he qualify. He will return to competition this weekend at Phoenix International Raceway in the No. 41 Chevrolet for Stewart-Haas Racing.

He said he will replace his longtime nickname "The Outlaw" with his signature above the door of his car.

Busch remains on indefinite probation.

"We have made it very clear to Kurt Busch our expectations for him moving forward, which includes participation in a treatment program and full compliance with all judicial requirements as a result of his off-track behavior," NASCAR executive vice president Steve O'Donnell said.

Busch was suspended Feb. 20 when a Delaware judge ruled he likely assaulted ex-girlfriend Patricia Driscoll in his motorhome in September at Dover International Speedway. He lost two rounds of appeals on the eve of the season-opening Daytona 500.

Last week, the Delaware attorney general declined to charge Busch for the incident with Driscoll — a move O'Donnell said "removed a significant impediment" to reinstatement.

Busch said he had been led to believe that criminal charges would be the determining factor in NASCAR taking action, and was surprised when he was suspended before the attorney general made its decision.

Huskies

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"They are a good transition team. They try to get a lot of steals," Nebelsick said. "We have to take away their transition baskets."

The Huskies and Lady Crusaders face off in the final game of the opening round, a 7:45 p.m. start at the Watertown Civic Arena. The other evening game features Mount Vernon-Plankinton (20-2) against Dell Rapids (13-9) at 6 p.m. Play begins at noon with defending champion St. Thomas More (21-1) against

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte (14-8) at noon, followed by Webster Area (17-4) against Clark-Willow Lake (16-6) at 1:45 p.m.

The tournament runs through Saturday.

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Trojans

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Derek Boyd (10.1 ppg, 5.4 rpg) join guard Brooks Asher (16 ppg, 5.1 assists) as their top scorers.

For the Trojans to extend their stay in Lincoln, they will need to keep up the offensive pressure. While Cedar Catholic averaged just 57.4 points per game this season,

they have averaged 66.8 points per game in their current five-game win streak.

"We have to shoot well," Coach Steffen said. "And we've been doing that extremely well."

The Cedar Catholic-St. Cecilia matchup is the 7 p.m. at Lincoln Northeast, and will be followed by Battle Creek (21-5) — the last team to beat Cedar — and Bridgeport (23-4) at 8:45 p.m. Class C2 play begins at 2 p.m. with second-seeded Freeman (25-2) against Aquinas Catholic (15-

10), followed by Archbishop Bergan (18-6) against Southern Valley (22-4) at 3:45 p.m.

Class C2 semifinals will take place Friday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The championship will be 8:30 p.m. on Saturday at Pinnacle Bank Arena, with the third place game at 1 p.m. at Lincoln Southeast.

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