

S.D. State Girls Basketball

EPJ One Win From Class A Title

Huskies Survive MVP In OT, Will Play For Crown Tonight Vs. STM

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WATERTOWN — Elk Point-Jefferson neutralized two of Mount Vernon-Plankinton's big three, then survived a surge late in regulation to claim a 46-40 overtime victory over the Titans in the semifinals of the South Dakota State Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament on Friday at the Watertown Civic Arena.

The victory sends EPJ (21-3) into the championship against defending champion St. Thomas More (23-1) today (Saturday) at 8 p.m. MVP (21-3) will face Webster (18-5) in the third place game at 6 p.m.

McKenzie Mennenga scored 24 points and Payton Donnelly had 12 points to lead EPJ. Morgan Flynn grabbed nine rebounds in the victory.

For MVP, Makaela Karst scored 21 points on 5-7 shooting from three-point range. Erin Denning added nine points — all from long range.

Megan Bultsma, the Titans' leading scorer at 16 points per game, and third-leading scorer Payleen O'Day (9 ppg) each had five points in the contest, in large part due to a defense devised by the Huskies coaching staff prior to the game.

"That was a lot of work last night and this morning," said EPJ head coach Gary Nebelsick, crediting assist coaches Adam Timmins and Travis Aslesen with much of the work. "We wanted to take three kids away, and if the other kids beat us, they beat us."

EPJ scored the game's first seven points before the Titans got hot from outside. Two three-pointers from Karst and another from Den-



Elk Point-Jefferson players huddle on the floor in front of their student section prior to their semifinal with Mount Vernon-Plankinton in the South Dakota State Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament on Friday at the Watertown Civic Arena.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D



Huskies On The Big Stage

LEFT: Elk Point-Jefferson's Payton Donnelly calls out play number one during the Huskies' matchup with Mount Vernon-Plankinton in the semifinals of the South Dakota State Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament on Friday at the Watertown Civic Arena.

RIGHT: Elk Point-Jefferson's McKenzie Mennenga looks for an opening against the defense of Mount Vernon-Plankinton's Makaela Karst during their semifinal Friday.

PHOTOS BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D



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MMC Softball Goes 1-2 In Spring Break Action Friday

TUCSON, Ariz. — Amber Krause combined for six hits as the Mount Marty College softball team went 1-2 in action Friday on a spring break trip to Arizona.

In the first game, St. Francis (Illinois) beat Mount Marty 6-5. The Lancers then beat Viterbo (Iowa) 10-2 in the second game, and Valley City State (N.D.) captured a 7-4 win in the final game of the day.

Mount Marty, now 4-3 on the season, is off today (Saturday) but will return to action in Tucson on Sunday.

ST. FRANCIS 6, MMC 5: Karlee Kozak was 3-3 for the Lancers, but Caitlyn Balandis of St. Francis homered and drove in four runs.

Jessica Wirth, Amber Krause, Cassidy Janicek and Nicole Elster all added one hit.

Krause took the loss in the pitching circle, with three strikeouts and two walks in five innings.

MMC 10, VITERBO 2: Wirth and Krause each had three hits including a home run as the Lancers pounded out 14 hits in a commanding victory.

Elster and Lauren Orwig both added three hits for MMC, while Olivia Rodriguez and Erin Boyle also had a hit.

Brooke Becker improved to 3-0 with a four-hit, two-strikeout performance in the pitching circle.

VALLEY CITY STATE 7, MMC 4: Valley City State, from North Dakota, jumped out to a 7-0 lead and held on for the win.

Krause and Jenn Mitera both had two hits for the Lancers, while Rodriguez, Janicek, Kelsey Mitera, Orwig and Kozak all added one hit.

Katie Groteluschen took the loss in the pitching circle after surrendering six runs — all earned — in 2 1/3 innings. She was relieved by Becker and later Krause came in.

State: O'Gorman, Washington To Meet For Class AA Crown

BROOKINGS (AP) — Kate Cartwright scored 17 points and Dalee Stene added 10 as Sioux Falls O'Gorman beat Aberdeen Central 49-42 Friday in the South Dakota Class AA girls basketball semifinals.

Cartwright was 4-for-10 from the 3-point line for the top-seeded Knights (23-1). As a team, O'Gorman shot just 33 percent from the field, but they scored 20 points off 18 Golden Eagles turnovers.

Paiton Burckhard led the way for the Eagles (18-7). She made 7 of 11 shots from the field and went 9-for-13 from the line for 23 points. She also grabbed 12 of Aberdeen Central's 30 rebounds.

SF WASHINGTON 50, HARRISBURG 35: BROOKINGS (AP) — Sydney Arrington had 17 points and eight rebounds as Sioux Falls Washington beat Harrisburg 50-35 Friday in the South Dakota Class AA girls basketball semifinals.

The Warriors (14-19) will play Sioux Falls O'Gorman in Saturday's title game. They outscored Harrisburg 31-18 in the second half.

Madison Aasen added 10 points for Washington. Sam Slaughter paced Harrisburg (13-11) with 11 points and added seven

boards. Haley Bruggerman had 10 rebounds.

Harrisburg was 2-for-22 on 3-point shots.

RC STEVENS 58, HURON 42: BROOKINGS (AP) — Rapid City Stevens raced out to a 15-point lead after one quarter and coasted to a 58-42 win over Huron Friday in the consolation round of the South Dakota Class AA girls basketball tournament.

The first quarter made the difference for the Raiders (17-7), who got a team-high 19 points from Taylor Molstad. She was 3-for-6 on 3-point attempts.

Marissa Hirchert also had three 3-pointers and 11 points to go with 11 rebounds.

Huron (7-18) had only one player in double figures in Sarah Carr, who had 27 points and 12 rebounds. She made 10 of 12 free throws and eight of 13 shots from the field.

SF LINCOLN 70, PIERRE 66: BROOKINGS (AP) — Ellie Brecht drained eight 3-pointers and scored 31 points as Sioux Falls Lincoln rallied to beat Pierre TF Riggs 70-66 Friday in the consolation round at the South Dakota Class AA girls basketball tournament.

Brecht was 8-for-9 from 3-point range and 11-for-15 overall. Her sister, Anna, added 19 points.

The Patriots (17-8) trailed 49-43 heading into the fourth quarter. It was tied for the last time at 58-58 with three minutes left.

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Viborg-Hurley To Play For Fifth

HURON PLAINSMAN STAFF



MIKE CARROLL/HURON PLAINSMAN
Viborg-Hurley's Angie Lee, right, tries to dribble around McLaughlin defender Tariq Brown during their Class B consolation semifinal game Friday afternoon at the South Dakota State Girls' Basketball Tournament in Huron. Viborg-Hurley claimed a 68-54 win.

HURON — The Viborg-Hurley Cougars defeated McLaughlin 68-54 to advance to the State Class B girls' basketball consolation game today at 1:45 p.m.

They will play Todd County, who defeated Kimball-White Lake Friday in the consolation semis (see above).

Viborg pulled away in the second quarter, outscoring McLaughlin 24-15 and taking a 39-28 halftime advantage.

It all started with a three-pointer by Abby Hora that ended the first quarter and gave the Cougars a 15-13 lead they would never relinquish. By midway through the second period the Cougar lead was 16 as they went on a 20-6 run.

Hora and Angie Lee fueled the run as Hora had 11 points while Lee had five.

Including the three-pointer to take the lead, Hora hit four three-pointers in a four-minute span she finished with five in the game and led all scorers with 29 points and 13 rebounds. She also had

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After Coaching Eli, Langsdorf Must Be Patient With Huskers

BY ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — It usually happens when the quarterback messes up or someone runs the wrong way. Danny Langsdorf has to take a breath and remind himself where he's at and what he's trying to accomplish.

He is the new offensive coordinator at Nebraska, and he's in the first week of installing a pro-style offense that's totally new to players he's only starting to get to know.

"Kind of like coaching a bunch of freshmen," he said.

A year ago at this time Langsdorf was getting ready to work with Eli Manning as the New York Giants' quarterbacks coach.

"You're with a guy who has won a couple Super Bowls, and then you're throwing a whole new system at guys who aren't necessarily seasoned veterans, 10-year NFL veterans," Langsdorf said. "So there is a little bit I have to pull back on. These guys are doing

a nice job. They're well intentioned. They're all trying to learn quickly and get comfortable, but there is a bit of a difference, especially early on, that I've got to keep in mind."

Langsdorf was with the Giants only one year, but the work he did with Manning was notable. Langsdorf tweaked Manning's footwork and helped him sharpen his decision-making. Manning completed a career-best 63.1 percent of his passes and his 4,410 yards passing were second-most in his 11 NFL seasons. He also passed for 12 more touchdowns than in 2013, threw 13 fewer interceptions and took 11 fewer sacks.

Giants coach Tom Coughlin tried to convince Langsdorf to stay, but the 42-year-old said he couldn't pass up the opportunity to rejoin Mike Riley at a tradition-rich program like Nebraska after having spent 11 years with him over two stints at Oregon State.

Riley said while he's glad to have Langsdorf back, he's also glad Langsdorf had that year with the Giants.

"Exposure to other things is always good for guys, and he's bright, and he just brings more to it now that he's been away," Riley said. "We work very easily together. A lot of trust there from a long time ago makes it pretty simple."

Langsdorf, who also had been an NFL assistant with New Orleans from 2002-04, said working with Manning gave him some new perspectives on offense.

"Sometimes when you're together (on a coaching staff) a long time you do the same things and you don't re-search as many new ideas," Langsdorf said. "So I think having that year, seeing some different defenses, seeing different plays run a different way, was very good for me in my growth."

Nebraska's offense won't necessarily look just like the one Riley and Langsdorf ran at Oregon State. Less than a week into spring practice it's become apparent that the Huskers are better suited to initiating a lot of their running game out of the shot-

gun formation as opposed to having the quarterback go under center. Also, the quarterback run game will be more of a threat.

As for the passing game, Riley and Langsdorf had a penchant for throwing downfield at Oregon State, where Sean Mannion set the Pac-12 career passing record last year. Tommy Armstrong Jr., the Huskers' starter last year, showed a strong but inconsistent arm last year.

"If we've thrown deep balls real well in our past with an NFL quarterback and then all of a sudden we take some guys that can't throw down the field very well," Langsdorf said, "then that doesn't make much sense."

Langsdorf has until the Sept. 5 opener against BYU to figure out what his players can and can't do and how to tailor his system to their abilities.

"We've thrown a lot at them," he said, "but they're getting more comfortable."