

Cougars Finish Fifth In State B Girls' Basketball Tourney



MIKE CARROLL/HURON PLAINSMAN

Viborg-Hurley's Kirsten Paetow dribbles past Jones County's Haley Booth during the fifth place game of the South Dakota State Class B Girls' Basketball Tournament on Saturday at the Huron Arena.

Ethan, Washington Win Titles

HURON (AP) — Angie Lee's 14 points helped Viborg-Hurley beat Jones County 50-33 Saturday in the fifth-place game at the South Dakota Class B girls basketball tournament.

The Cougars (21-5) shot 42 percent from the field and out-rebounded the Coyotes 30-23.

Lee had one of Viborg-Hurley's four 3-pointers, as did Abby Hora, who had 13 points and nine rebounds.

Madison Mathews was the only Jones County (22-4) player in double digits with 18 points. She had three of the four 3-pointers by the Coyotes, who shot 29 percent.

VIBORG-HURLEY 50, JONES COUNTY 33
Bjerkaas 2-4 1-2 6, Paetow 1-2 3-3 5, A. Lee 4-9 5-7 14, Jorgensen 2-3 1-2 5, Hora 3-8 6-8 13, Knutson 0-1 0-0 0, D. Lee 2-6 2-2 7. Totals: 14-33 18-24 50.

JONES COUNTY (22-4)
Booth 0-1 0-0 0, Buxcel 0-2 0-2 0, Glaze 1-3 1-3 3, Hespe 2-11 1-2 6, Boni 3-8 0-0 6, Mathews 6-17 3-4 18. Totals: 12-42 5-12 33.

VIBORG-HURLEY.....12 21 34 50
JONES COUNTY.....13 17 24 33
3-pointers: VH 4 (Bjerkaas 1, A. Lee 1, Hora 1, D. Lee 1), JC 4 (Mathews 3, Hespe 1). Rebounds: VH 30

(Hora 9), JC 23 (Boni 8). Assists: VH 6 (Jorgensen 3), JC 7 (Buxcel 2). Total fouls: VH 12, JC 17. Fouled out: Glaze.

1st: Ethan 31, Sully Buttes 28

HURON (AP) — Ethan's first state tournament in 34 years ended with a 31-28 win over Sully Buttes on Saturday and a South Dakota Class B girls basketball tournament title.

The undefeated Rustlers (26-0) beat Sully Buttes (25-2) for the second time this season.

Ethan did not have a player in double figures. But it shot 52 percent from the field in a game that featured more turnovers (26) than field goals (20).

Karly Gustafson was 3-for-3 from the field and line for nine points. Ellie Hohn and Darbi Gustafson had eight points each.

Chloe Lamb had 14 points and Racquel Wientjes added 11 for the Chargers, who shot 29 percent.

3rd: De Smet 51, Summit 41, OT

HURON (AP) — De Smet outscored Summit 11-1 in overtime after rallying to tie the game late and beat the Eagles 51-

41 for third place at the South Dakota Class A girls basketball tournament on Saturday.

De Smet (21-5) got 15 points from Andrea Pommer and 11 from Shannon Poppen. The Bulldogs scored 14 straight points, including the tying points with 23 seconds left in regulation. They trailed 40-35 with 48 seconds left in regulation.

Karissa Chamley had 16 points and Kalissa Pereboom added 11 for Summit (21-5).

7th: McLaughlin 58, Kimball-White Lake 49

HURON (AP) — McLaughlin outscored Kimball-White Lake 12-3 in overtime to beat the Wildcats 58-49 for seventh place on Saturday at the South Dakota Class B girls basketball tournament.

McKenna Vetter had a pair of free throws for McLaughlin (18-7) with 26 seconds left to send the game to overtime. She finished with 20 points, six rebounds and three assists. She was 7-for-9 from the line.

Tariq Brownotter had 13 points, Jayda Bad Horse 11 and Tiara Flying Horse 10.

Kelli Steffen had 17 points and Paige Munsen 12 points and 15 rebounds for Kimball-White Lake (15-8).

Class AA

1st: Washington 45, O'Gorman 42

BROOKINGS (AP) — Sioux Falls Washington rallied to beat Sioux Falls O'Gorman 45-42 Saturday in the championship game at the South Dakota Class AA girls basketball tournament.

The Warriors (15-10) made several clutch free throws down the stretch and went 14-for-23 from the line. The Knights (23-2) were just 5-for-8 from the line.

Sydney Arrington had 18 points and eight rebounds for Washington, which outscored O'Gorman 22-13 in the fourth quarter. Anna Goodhope added 14 points and 10 rebounds.

O'Gorman got 15 points from Jessica Mieras and 12 from Kate Cartwright.

Washington put together a 21-11 run to go up 23-22 late in the third. But the Knights scored seven quick points to go up 29-23 at the end of quarter.

3rd: Aberdeen Cent. 58, Harrisburg 31

BROOKINGS (AP) — Brianna Kusler had 20 points and Paiton Burckhard added 16 points and 12 rebounds as Aberdeen Central took third at the South

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Winnebago Takes First Title Since 1940

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Matthew Wingett scored 22 points to lead four Winnebago players in double figures, and the Indians won their school's first boys state basketball championship since 1940 with a 66-51 victory over Columbus Scotus in the Class C1 final Saturday.

Isaiah Medina had 16 points, David Wingett had all 15 of his in the first half and Cory Cleveland added 11 for Winnebago (26-1), which was making its first state appearance since 1994.

Scotus (22-5) got 13 points each from Dalton Taylor and Cody Mroczek and 12 from Grant Lahm.

Medina made a 3-pointer on the first possession of the game and the Indians never trailed. They led by as many as 19 points in the fourth quarter.

The Indians shot 49 percent from the field, made 8 of 15 3-pointers, 16 of 18 free throws and committed only five turnovers. Scotus shot 35 percent and was just 7 of 27 on 3s.

A: Creighton Prep 46, Omaha South 41

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nathan Schimonitz scored 13 points and Tyson Smiley had 10 points and six rebounds to lead Omaha Creighton Prep to a 46-41 victory over Omaha South in the Class A state championship boys basketball game Saturday night.

Monte McGary had 10 points and nine rebounds and Caleal Walker had 10 points and six rebounds for the Packers (23-4), and Anthony Naimie added nine points and nine rebounds.

Naimie's 3-pointer gave South a 35-32 lead early in the fourth quarter, but layups by Drew Homa and Schimonitz put the Junior Jays (27-2) up 36-35.

McGary's layup with 33 seconds left pulled the Packers to 44-41, and after Schimonitz missed a free throw, McGary missed what would have been a tying 3-pointer with 6 seconds to play.

Smiley's two free throws with one a second left secured the win for Prep.

Prep won its 12th state title and first since 2009. South was going for its first championship since 1990.

B: Elkhorn South 60, Sidney 51

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Johnny Trueblood scored 17 points, reserve Trey Kennebeck added 12 and Elkhorn South won its first boys state basketball championship with a 60-51 victory over Sidney in the Class B final Saturday.

Tyler Wintholz made 9 of 11 shots while scoring 18 points for Sidney (22-5), and Lane Harvey added 13 points.

Zane Anderson's jump shot started a 7-0 spurt that broke the game open for the Storm (21-5) in the middle of the fourth quarter.

Elkhorn South's bench outscored Sidney 30-8, turned the Red Raiders' 13 turnovers into 14 points and outscored Sidney 17-4 from the free-throw line.

The Storm was in the final for the first time after losing in the semifinals the past two years.

Sidney won its first two tournament games by a total of five points and was in the championship game for the first time since it won the title in 1981.

C2: Hastings St. Cecilia 60, Freeman 36

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Dayton Sealey scored 16 points, Brooks Asher had 13 and Zachary Kitten added 11 to lead Hastings St. Cecilia to a 60-36 victory over Freeman in the Class C2 boys state basketball championship game Saturday night.

St. Cecilia (27-1) shot 61 percent and made nine 3-pointers in the win.

Isaac Frerich had 19 points and Calan Sedlacek had 10 for Freeman (27-2).

Sealy hit back-to-back 3-pointers to put St. Cecilia up 36-16 late in the first half and the lead grew to 24 points in the middle of the third quarter.

D1: High Plains 64, Humphrey St. Francis 61

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Thomas Young scored seven of his 21 points in the fourth quarter as High Plains overcame a 10-point deficit to defeat Humphrey St. Francis 64-61 in the Class D1 boys basketball state championship game Saturday.

Cale Harless had 14 points on 6-for-7

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Cavaliers Defend 'A' Title



Huskies Fall In State 'A' Title Game

ABOVE: Elk Point-Jefferson players hold up the runner-up trophy after their loss to St. Thomas More in the championship game of the South Dakota State Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament on Saturday at the Watertown Civic Arena. It marked the highest team finish ever for EPJ in girls' basketball.

LEFT: Elk Point-Jefferson's McKenzie Mennenga pulls up for a shot over the top of a St. Thomas More defender during the championship game of the South Dakota State Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament on Saturday in Watertown.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

St. Thomas More Downs Elk Point-Jefferson In Final

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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WATERTOWN — The St. Thomas More Cavaliers did to Elk Point-Jefferson what they have done to nearly every opponent in the past two seasons.

Smother them.

The Cavaliers led 50-14 early in the fourth quarter before coasting to a 54-24 victory over Elk Point-Jefferson in the championship game of the South Dakota State Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament.

The Cavaliers finished with a record of 24-1, with their only setback for a second straight season coming at the hands of four-time Nebraska Class C2 champion Crofton. Their victories included seven over Class AA competition, including Class AA champion Sioux Falls Washington.

"It means everything for them to win back to back titles, to win one like that," said St. Thomas More head coach Brandon Kandolin. "They put all that time and effort in. They have been dedicated to the program."

Ciara Duffy scored 20 points and Alexys Swedlund scored 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead St. Thomas More, each earning all-tournament honors. Dru Gylten added nine points.

For EPJ, McKenzie Mennenga had 15 points and three steals. She and Payton Donnelly earned all-tournament honors for the Huskies, who finished at 21-4.

St. Thomas More scored two early baskets, a Swedlund three-pointer and a Shannon Duffy three-point play, in the games first 66 seconds, but had just one more field goal in the next four minutes. All the Huskies could muster during that stretch, though, was a Mennenga three-pointer and EPJ trailed 10-3.

"We missed a couple of early opportunities," said EPJ

STATE A | PAGE 8

Softball: Mount Marty Goes 1-1 On Sunday

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Mount Marty College softball team went 1-1 on Sunday to move to 5-4 on the season.

MMC beat the University of British Columbia 4-3 behind two hits each from Olivia Rodriguez and Amber Krause. Rodriguez doubled and singled, droving in one. Krause scored three runs and stole two bases.

Also for MMC, Cassidy Janicek had a hit and a RBI. Nicole Elster added a RBI in the win.

Krause picked up the pitching victory, striking out three and allowing two earned runs in the complete game effort.

Dickinson State, which received votes in the preseason poll, beat MMC 10-2 in six innings.

For MMC, Krause and Elster each had a double and a RBI. Janicek and Karlee Kozak each had a hit for the Lancers.

Krause took the loss in relief of Brooke Becker. MMC has two games left on its spring break trip before returning to Yankton. The Lancers open GPAC play at Doane on Saturday, March 21.

USD

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — South Dakota scored 16 runs in two games, beating Valparaiso 9-1 in five innings and Saint Peter's 7-2. The Coyotes return home with a record of 8-15-1, traveling to Iowa State on Saturday.

USD's Shelby Kiel hit her first career home run and drove in four runs on the day. Katie Dinning went 6-6 with two doubles, four runs scored and a RBI.

Rachel Cue picked up the win in the opener, while Madison Frain won the nightcap.

Kentucky Leads The Way With Top Spot In March Madness

BY EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

The Kentucky Wildcats ended up where everyone expected them on Selection Sunday: Seeded No. 1 on their quest to become the first undefeated team since 1976.

Oh, but there were surprises when the NCAA Tournament bracket came out, too.

Big-conference UCLA and Texas made it. Colorado State and Temple did not.

Wisconsin is a No. 1 seed for the first time in program history. But the Badgers must play in the West Region, where second-seeded Arizona is certain to draw more fans.

As for those play-in games that start Tuesday in Dayton. Well, one of the teams playing is Dayton — a No. 11 seed that will have a distinct home-court advantage Wednesday night against Boise State. Generally, that's not allowed during the tournament, but there's an exception because the committee said the Flyers were the last team in the 68-team field, and thus, had to play in the opening-round game.

"It falls within our policies and procedures," selection committee chairman Scott Barnes said. "It's obviously a home-court advantage but we didn't waver from that decision."

Fans have a few days to fill out

their brackets (Sorry, no billion-dollar prize available for a perfect one this year), then the action starts in full on Thursday, when Kentucky headlines the slate against the winner of a play-in game between No. 16 seeds Manhattan and Hampton. A '1' has never lost to a '16.'

The other No. 1 seeds were Villanova in the East and Duke in the South. Those were pretty easy picks.

And then there was the total no-brainer — placing Kentucky at the very top of the bracket. The Wildcats defeated Arkansas 78-63 on Sunday to improve to 34-0. If they win six more, they'll become the first team since then 1975-76 Indiana Hoosiers to go undefeated.

"I think I have the best team and the best players," said coach John Calipari, trying to lead the program to its ninth national title. "Does that mean we'll win? No, it doesn't."

The Wildcats are even-money picks in Las Vegas to win it all, and at least one coach, Bill Self of Kansas, thinks that might be a bargain.

"I shouldn't be talking about Vegas, but my point is, I think they're a pretty heavy favorite," said Self, whose Jayhawks are seeded No.2 in the Midwest.

Other No. 2 seeds are Gonzaga in the South and Virginia in the East.

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