

2015 NCAA women's basketball tournament



Lancers Finish Spring Break Trip With 4-6 Record

TUCSON, Ariz. — Mount Marty College finished its Spring Break road trip with a 4-6 record after splitting two games on Monday.

MMC, now 11-9 on the season, returns home to host Winnipeg on Saturday and Sunday.

MOUNT MARTY 14, VALLEY CITY STATE 4: Zac Hollenback had three hits, including a double and two RBI, and Cody Ulmer had a home run, a triple and four RBI to lead Mount Marty to a 14-4 rout of Valley City State on Monday afternoon.

Colin Peterson doubled and singled, and Nick Sehr had two hits for MMC. Bryton Carlson tripled, Derek Blumenstock doubled and Alex Mueller, Hunter Hallock, Riley Stack and Jared Nelson had

hits in the victory.

Anthony Necochea had three hits, including a double, for Valley City State.

A.J. Griffith struck out six batters over six innings for the win. Mike Gershman took the loss.

LUTHER 13, MOUNT MARTY 7: Luther College overcame a four-hit effort by Mount Marty's Zac Hollenback in a 13-7 victory on Monday afternoon.

Alex Weber had three hits for Luther, which pounded out 14 hits in the victory.

Hollenback had a double and three singles, driving in two runs, for MMC. Hunter Hallock had three hits and two RBI. Cody Ulmer had a double and two RBI. Bryton Carlson had a double, and Alex Mueller, Derek Blumenstock, Nik Davis and Riley Stack added hits for the Lancers.

Mitch Adams picked up the win. Brandon Nickolite took the loss.

Sunday

DICKINSON STATE 12-9, MOUNT MARTY 10-5: Dickinson State out-slugged Mount Marty for a doubleheader sweep of the Lancers on Sunday.

In the opener, a 12-10 Dickinson State win, Collin Peterson went 3-3 with a home run and four RBI to lead MMC. Bryton Carlson went 3-5 with a double and two RBI. Derek Blumenstock went 3-4 with a double and four runs scored. Zac Hollenback doubled and singled, Cody Ulmer had two hits, Hunter Hallock tripled and Alex Mueller added a hit for the Lancers.

Michael Sadler took the loss.

In the nightcap, Carlson had two hits and Julian Cutolo had a hit and two RBI for MMC. Hallock had a hit and a RBI. Derik Nelson drove in a run and Mueller added a hit for the Lancers.

Brody Ries took the loss.

MMC Softball Ends Arizona Trip 6-5

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Mount Marty College softball team finished its spring break trip with a 6-5 record after going 1-1 in action on Monday.

The Lancers scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh to beat Mayville State 7-6 in the day's first game, then dropped a 6-1 decision to Valley City State.

In the victory over Mayville State, Amber Krause doubled and singled, driving in one run, to lead MMC. Olivia Rodriguez had two hits and two runs scored. Nicole Elster had a hit and two RBI. Cassidy Janicek and Karlee Kozak added hits in the victory.



Krause

Krause picked up the win in relief of Brooke Becker, who struck out seven in six innings of work.

Against Valley City State, Jenn Mitera had two hits and Elster had a hit and a RBI to lead MMC. Jessica Wirth, Marissa Cantrell and Kozak added hits.

Krause took the loss despite striking out nine.

MMC begins Great Plains Athletic Conference play at Doane on Saturday.

Coyotes

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otes met in each of the previous four seasons, including a 15-point win by Creighton in Omaha last season.

The Coyotes (25-7), who won the Summit League regular season title and earned the automatic bid to the WNIT, advanced to the conference championship game for a third consecutive year but lost to SDSU last week.

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

DWU Advances To NAIA Men's Title Game

POINT LOOKOUT, Mo. — Trae Bergh hit nine three-pointers, finishing with 29 points, to lead Dakota Wesleyan to an 80-51 victory over Davenport (Michigan) in the semifinals of the NAIA Division II Men's Basketball Tournament on Monday.

DWU (32-4) will face Cornerstone (Michigan) in the championship today (Tuesday) at 6 p.m.

Bergh went 9-15 from three, 10-19 overall, for the Tigers, who will play for a national championship in men's basketball for the first time. Jalen Voss scored 22 points, Kris Menning had 14 points

and five assists, and Luke Bamberg had 10 rebounds and five assists in the victory.

Dominez Burnett led Davenport with 32 points and 11 rebounds.

Women

Morningside 66, Hastings 63

SIoux CITY, Iowa — Morningside rallied from a one-point halftime deficit to beat Hastings 66-63 in the semifinals of the NAIA Division II Women's Basketball Tournament on Monday in Sioux City, Iowa.

Morningside, 36-1, will face Great Plains Athletic Conference rival Concordia in the championship game today (Tuesday) at 7 p.m. It will be the fourth meeting between the teams, with Morn-

ingside winning two of the first three. The Bulldogs beat the Mustangs in the GPAC Tournament championship.

This marks the third time in the 15-year league history that two GPAC teams played for the title (2003, 2009). It was also the second time that four GPAC teams made up the "Fab Four," adding to 2003.

Jessica Tietz had 16 points and nine rebounds to lead Morningside. Taylor Bahensky had 14 points and Lexi Ackerman had 11 points in the victory.

Jamie Van Kirk scored 27 points to lead Hastings, which finished at 25-9. Halley Samuelson added 10 points.

Concordia 72, Briar Cliff 62

SIoux CITY, Iowa — Concordia Uni-

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three and 84.1 percent from the line.

"When Becky went out, we spent a couple of games figuring out what to do next. Then Lindsey stepped up," Krier said. "The last few games, she was a more aggressive, more confident athlete. She can find different ways to score."

Hale was the first Gazelles in more than two decades to score 30 points in a game when she dropped 30 as Yankton rallied from a 17-point deficit to nearly beat Pierre on Feb. 21 in the regular season finale.

"We are excited about the

face that she has two more years to see how good she can become," Krier said.

The Gazelles went 8-15 on the season and graduate two seniors, Andi Sprakel (5.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg) and Sarah Rockne (1.9 ppg, 2.6 rpg). Rockne was lost for the season nine games in.

"We had the team vote on the most improved player, and 11 different names were brought up. That in itself says how far this team came this year," Krier said. "The team we put on the floor against Lincoln and Washington in districts was a different team physically, mentally and cohesively."

"We were actually playing basketball instead of just being on the floor."

Pierre, Aberdeen Central and Harrisburg each had two players selected to the first

team. Pierre's Sydney Palmer and Nikky Farnsworth, Aberdeen Central's Brianna Kusler and Payton Burckhard and Harrisburg's Danni Honner and Sam Slaughter were selected, as were Mitchell's Taylor Volesky, Huron's Sarah Carr, Brookings' Sara Tvedt and Brandon Valley's Carley Kueter.

Honorable mention selections included Aberdeen Central's Mia Bergan and Renae Brag, Brookings' Sydney Berreth and Lauren Coughlin, Watertown's Elli Stevenson and Macy Denzer, Brandon Valley's Taylor Thorson, Pierre's Hallie Jerome, and Yankton's Frick and Hale.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

NASCAR

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win against Denny Hamlin in 2013 when their accident left Hamlin with a broken back — and Team Penske is thought to have the best setups for grip in the garage.

—BRAD KESELOWSKI: The 2012 NASCAR champion was neck and neck with Harvick last year, and might have given Harvick a run for the title had he qualified for the championship round. His team has not shown the same muscle yet this season as Penske teammate Logano, but the No. 2 does not appear to be that far off.

Add in Keselowski's relentless drive, and it's hard to believe he won't push the entire Penske organization to close the gap on Harvick.

—JEFF GORDON: The

four-time NASCAR champion is coming off one of his finest seasons in several years, and many believe he would have won the championship if he had not been eliminated from contention with Harvick's win at Phoenix last November.

Set to retire at the end of the season, he's made it clear he wants to go out on top. Although his results haven't come yet through the first month of the season, he can't be counted out. Plus, his Hendrick Motorsports team uses the same chassis and engine package that Harvick gets at SHR.

—JIMMIE JOHNSON: Never count out the six-time champion or his crew chief Chad Knaus, who many believe are the model for Harvick and Childers.

Johnson is regarded as the most balanced, all-around driver in the field; like Gordon has the same chassis and engine package as Harvick; and already has a win this

season. That victory at Atlanta gives Knaus breathing room and time to make a plan for the Chase. The No. 48 team can take risks and have some fun the next few months, then turn attention to preparing for the final 10.

—KYLE BUSCH: Obviously, Busch won't stop Harvick this year. He's sidelined with a broken right leg and broken left foot suffered in a Feb. 21 crash at Daytona.

But, if were in the car, he'd be one of the guys to eventually challenge Harvick. Regarded as one of the fastest drivers in the field, Busch is also one of the only drivers who has consistently beaten Harvick in Xfinity Series competition over the years.

NASCAR's 2015 rules have given the Cup cars an engine and aero package that is more similar to the Xfinity Series, which would give Busch a comfortable feel that could play to his advantage.