

USD Women Prepare For Northern Colorado



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
South Dakota guard Tia Hemiller calls out a play during the Coyotes' opening round game in the WNIT on Thursday at the DakotaDome. USD travels to Northern Colorado for the second round on Sunday.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Amy Williams is familiar with what her team will face this weekend.

A squad with a new leader that's playing hot down the stretch into a post-season tournament.

That's the situation facing Williams and her University of South Dakota women's basketball team, as it leaves today (Saturday) for a Sunday game at Northern Colorado in the second round of the WNIT.

Much like Williams experienced during her first season at USD in 2012-13 when the Coyotes won seven of their final nine games, Northern

Colorado enters Sunday's matchup having won 11 of its last 12 games.

"When you have a new coaching staff and a lot of upperclassmen, it's prime for them to be able to make a run down the stretch," Williams said Friday.

"It takes a little bit of time for a team to grasp the change, and she has them peaking right now."

The Coyotes (26-7), conversely, are hoping they can peak in the WNIT Tournament, after losing in the Summit League championship game a week ago. South Dakota was able to refocus and beat Creighton in Thursday night's first round game at the DakotaDome.

Northern Colorado (21-12), meanwhile, in the same position Williams was three seasons ago: Gelling late.

"That first year I came to USD, we had some really good seniors who embraced me," Williams said. "They wrapped their arms around our staff and our system."

It was just going to take some time for things to click. Which it did, as the Coyotes got all the way to the Summit League title game, falling three points short in Williams' debut campaign.

"Several times we had conversations that were like, 'Just be patient, we're getting there,'" Williams said. "Then

Jackrabbits Ousted By Oregon State

BY NICK DASCHSEL
Associated Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP) — One minute into the second half, South Dakota State was inching toward the brink of a historic NCAA women's basketball tournament upset Friday.

The Jackrabbits were threatening to become the first No. 14 seed to win an NCAA women's tourney game, as they had increased their halftime lead to four points with their second possession of the second half.

But the Summit League tournament champions couldn't sustain the momentum, as Sydney Wiese scored 23 points and Ruth Hamblin had 10 of her 17 during a key second-half run to lead the third-seeded Oregon State past South Dakota State 74-62 in the opening round of the Spokane Regional.

Macy Miller and Megan Waytashek scored 14 points each for the Jackrabbits (24-9).

Oregon State erased a 36-32 deficit by scoring 12 consecutive points, 10 coming on layups by Hamblin.

"They had that stretch in the second half, and we kind of got a little out of rhythm because of that. We needed to be better in the second half. Oregon State (27-4) at a high level, and we weren't able to match that," South Dakota State coach Aaron Johnston said.

South Dakota State had trouble containing the Beavers' 6-foot-6 Hamblin, the Pacific-12's defensive player of the year. Hamblin hit 8 of 11 shots, grabbed seven rebounds and four blocked shots.

"She's a really good player. She's 6-6, and any team is going to have trouble adjusting to that," Jackrabbits forward Mariah Clarin said.

Johnston said it was variety of issues that caused South Dakota State's second-half downfall.

"Our start to the second half probably wasn't good enough," Johnston said. "They made some shots in the second half. It was a bunch of little things. I wouldn't say it was something major we didn't do well."

Though Hamblin led the second-half comeback with her offense, it was Oregon State's defense that changed the game's momentum.

"They had four turnovers in the first half, in probably 35 possessions. That means we're not enforcing our will," OSU coach Scott Rueck said. "We got two turnovers right away to set the tone, and that turned into transition points. Once we got into rhythm, everybody got a little more aggressive and it feels right."

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Depth has always been a goal for the Mount Marty College women's basketball program.



Schlimgen

Scoring options. Offensive balance. Bench production.

Over the past week, however, the Lancers have racked up a number of awards — three, to be exact — honoring their work away from the court: In the classroom.

Senior Holly Hegge was recently named the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Dr. LeRoy Walker Champions of Character award winner, while junior Raquel Sutera was named the league's 2014 Emil S. Liston Award winner. Both accomplishments were announced Friday.

"It shows that all the work you do away from the court is being recognized," said Hegge, a business administration major from Crofton, Nebraska.

A perfect example of an athlete's dedication to academics, Hegge said, could be on those long bus rides back to Yankton after a tough loss: The lights are on and players



Mount Marty College's Raquel Sutera (left photo, 30) and Holly Hegge (right photo, 22) both recently earned major awards from the Great Plains Athletic Conference. Hegge was named the league's Dr. LeRoy Walker Champions of Character award winner, while Sutera was named the league's Emil S. Liston award winner.



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Top Seeds Prevail On Day Two Of NCAA Tourney

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There were no big upsets in the first half of Friday's action in the NCAA Tournament. There will be, however, some good matchups in the round of 32, including one the state of Kansas has been anticipating for almost 20 years.

The Atlantic Coast Conference ran its perfect start to 6-0, and the Big East and Pac-12 are 4 for 4 so far. Big Ten teams are 5-1, while the Big 12 is 3-4.

South Region

Duke 85, Robert Morris 56
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Quinn Cook scored 22 points to help No. 1 seed Duke get off to a torrid start.

Freshman Jahlii Okafor added 21 as the Blue Devils (30-4) wasted little time getting their offense revving, hitting their first seven shots and 12 of 15 to quickly build a big lead.

Rodney Pryor scored 23 points on 10-for-19 shooting for Robert Morris (20-15).

Iowa 83, Davidson 52
SEATTLE (AP) — Aaron White scored 13 straight points as part of Iowa's 18-3 run early in the second half, and the seventh-seeded Hawkeyes rolled into the round of 32.

East Region

Michigan St. 70, Georgia 63
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Denzel Valentine scored 16 points and went 6 for 6 at the free-throw line in the final 30 seconds, helping Michigan State hold on for the win.

Travis Trice scored 15 points for the seventh-seeded Spartans (24-11), who answered a push from the Bulldogs with a poised run to take back control.

They weren't so steady coming down the stretch, flirting with blowing a 10-point lead in the final 1:16. Valentine's free throws were critical as Georgia (21-12) rallied to make it a one-possession game.

Michigan State advanced to face second-seeded Virginia in Sunday's round of 32.

Charles Mann scored 19 points for the 10th-seeded Bulldogs, who were playing in the NCAs for the first time since 2011 and only the second time since 2008.

Virginia 79, Belmont 67
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Malcolm Brogdon scored 22 points and Justin Anderson re-emerged as a scoring threat for second-seeded Virginia.

Anderson had 15 points on 4-of-6 shooting and Anthony Gill added 16 points for the Cavaliers (30-3).

Anderson, playing with his broken left pinky taped to his ring finger, scored for the first time since Feb. 7 against Louisville. He was shut out in two ACC Tournament games.

Like last year when Virginia avoided a historic upset and held on to beat 16th-seeded Coastal Carolina, the Cavaliers needed a late second-half push to advance.

Belmont (22-11) had clawed within two behind 25 points from Craig Bradshaw, but the Cavaliers outscored the Bruins 17-7 over the final 4:37 of the game.

Northern Iowa 71, Wyoming 54
SEATTLE (AP) — Paul Jaspersen led five Northern Iowa

players in double figures with 16 points, and Sean Tuttle scored 14 for the fifth-seeded Panthers.

Northern Iowa (31-3) built a 21-point lead after scoring 11 of the first 12 points to start the second half. That lead was whittled to seven points twice but the Cowboys could get no closer. Wes Washpun scored eight of his 10 points in the final 9 minutes to help the Panthers advance to face fourth-seeded Louisville on Sunday.

Larry Nance Jr. led Wyoming (25-10) with 16 points. He had one point and one shot in the first half.

Northern Iowa won for the 20th time in the past 21 games.

Louis. 57, Cal-Irvine 55
SEATTLE (AP) — Freshman Quentin Snider hit the winning free throws and Terry Rozier made the saving steal for fourth-seeded Louisville.

With the game tied, Snider snagged a rebound in the corner off a long miss by Luke Nelson and drew a foul when Will Davis II crashed into him.

Snider made the free throws with 8.9 seconds left and the 13th-seeded Antelaters (21-13) never got a final shot, thanks to Rozier's pick of Alex Young as he was moving up the court.

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Duke Survives Scare, Miami Pulls Off Upset

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Duke advanced after getting a scare from Albany. A couple other underdogs almost pulled off upsets, but only No. 11 Miami, No. 11 Gonzaga and No. 10 Arkansas were double-digit seeds to win.

And unlike in the men's bracket, 14 and 15 seeds are still winless in the women's tournament. That's 0-172 and counting since 1994.

Top seeds Notre Dame and South Carolina won their openers easily.

Spokane Regional

Duke 54, Albany 52
Rebecca Greenwell hit a 3-pointer with 14.9 seconds left to lift Duke past Albany.

Greenwell finished with 20 points for the fourth-seeded Blue Devils (22-10). They overcame a season-worst 27 turnovers, and have won their NCAA Tournament opener in each of their 22 appearances.

Imani Tate had 17 points and Shereesha Richards added 12 for the Great Danes (24-9), who were denied their first NCAA Tournament victory.

Mississippi State 57, Tulane 47
Breanna Richardson scored 15 points and Mississippi State beat Tulane.

Morgan William added 14 points for the fifth-seeded Bulldogs (27-6). They shot 48 percent in the second half and advanced to a second-round matchup with host Duke, the fourth seed, on Sunday.

Gonzaga 82, George Washington 69
CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP) — Keani Albanez and Sunny Greinacher each scored 19 points to help No. 11 Gonzaga upset sixth-seeded George Washington.

Elie Tinkie added 11 points for the Bulldogs (25-7), who had a vocal cheering section at Gill Coliseum.

Jonquel Jones had 11 points and 14 rebounds, despite being limited to 23 minutes by foul trouble, and Kelli Prange came off the bench to score 13 for the Colonials (29-4).

Oklahoma City Regional

Notre Dame 77, Montana 43
SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Jewell Loyd scored 18 points and top-seed Notre Dame used its size and speed to overwhelm 16th-seeded Montana.

DePaul 79, Minnesota 72
SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Megan Podkova scored 23 points and No. 9 seed DePaul used a 22-4 second half run to come from behind and beat eighth-seeded Minnesota.

That burst took the Blue Demons from a 15-point deficit to a 56-53 lead with 9:23 left after Ashton Miller's line-drive 3-pointer from the left wing.

Chanise Jenkins added 16 points for DePaul.

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Lancers Blank Winnipeg

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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The Mount Marty Lancer pitchers showed up strong Friday night to lead their baseball team to two shut-outs, 3-0 and 4-0 against University of Winnipeg at Riverside Field Bob Tereshinski Stadium.

"We're feeling good," head coach Andy Bernatow said following the game. "Tomorrow we need to clean some things up and be more offensive, but I liked our pitching tonight."

Back-to-back homeruns in the fourth inning from Derek Blumenstock and Collin Peterson put the Lancers, now 15-7, ahead 2-0 after three scoreless innings.

MMC's Bryton Carlson batted in Zach Holleback in the fifth inning, while pitcher Alex Mogensen held on to keep the Wesmen from scoring the entire game. The Lancers closed out the first game 3-0.

"We had a really good day pitching," said pitcher Alex Mogensen. "We liked our defense tonight. We struggled at first, but it was good to see us come out of that, especially coming off of a game in Arizona where we had nine errors."

The Lancers came out strong early in the second game, with Carlson and Blumenstock each scoring in from third on catching errors. Carlson scored again in the third inning on a sacrifice fly from Blumenstock.

Nick Sehr batted in Justin Miller in the fourth, while Ryan Buck scored in the fifth on an RBI double in the fifth. The Lancers closed out the second game 4-0.

"The first game was a wake-up call," said pitcher Dustin Haffeman. "We were more intuitive in the second game and came out stronger, which feels great to win as a pitcher."

One week away from conference play, Bernatow said the team will now focus on mental preparation from here on out, especially to prepare for the first two tough games against Doane and Concordia.

"With success comes failure, and mistakes are going to happen, but we need to get better at mentally preparing," Bernatow said. "We have to start getting better offensively and hitting the gas pedal on some of those plays."

While the players sometimes get in their own heads, Mogensen said, the athletes are prepared to hone in on that preparation in practice.

The Lancers host University of Winnipeg again today (Saturday).

"We're playing the same team, so we'll look to come out and get a couple more victories as a team," Haffeman said.

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/ENiebrugge. Discuss this story at yankton.net



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty pitcher Alex Mogensen sends the ball home during the opening game of the Lancers' non-conference baseball doubleheader with Winnipeg on Friday at Riverside field at Bob Tereshinski Stadium.