

Wynot Set For Trip To State Volleyball Region 6B

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Wynot's Bailey Kuchta (middle) bends down to receive a serve during a Wynot match earlier this season. Wynot begins play in the Nebraska State Volleyball Tournament Thursday.

Blue Devils Open D2 Tourney Thursday Against Brady

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WYNOT, Neb. — For the first time since 2006, the Wynot volleyball team will be represented at the state tournament.

The fact that the same group of players who led the Blue Devils to a state basketball crown last season have never qualified for volleyball shows how difficult it is, head coach Tammy Wieseler said this week.

Wynot (24-4) opens Nebraska Class D2 State Volleyball Tournament action Thursday against Brady at 2:30 p.m. at Grand Island Central Catholic.

"Qualifying for state is not an easy thing to do," Wieseler said. "You need to be playing good volleyball, and at the end of the season, you need to be injury free."

"And you need a little luck." It hasn't been luck, though, that has guided the Blue Devils to this point.

All four of Wynot's losses have come to upper-division teams, including two to C2 Homer. The squad then rebounded from a lackluster sub-district to sweep Ewing in the District D2-3 final.

Now, the Blue Devils are playing their best volleyball of the season, Wieseler said.

"We played some tough teams midway through our season, which helped us to become stronger and continue to work at our fundamentals," she said.

As are most teams at the state tournament level, Wynot boasts a balanced lineup that features 2-3 legitimate hitters and a solid defense.

Sophomore Maggie Schulte, at 6-foot tall, leads the team in kills (209) and blocks (94), while senior Bailey Kuchta is second in kills (145) and blocks (41). Junior Sam Wieseler is third in kills (124).

Senior Shelby Wieseler has

also

■ Cedar Catholic Makes Return Trip To State C2 Volleyball Tourney. **THURSDAY**

posted 652 assists at setter, while junior Erica Burbach has 53 ace serves.

Defensively, senior Kattie Savoy ranks first in digs (282), while Kuchta is

second (259) and Burbach is third (253).

"My team is very special; they all contribute in their own way," coach Wieseler said. "They use the gifts and talents they were given to support one another throughout the season."

Among the other players for Wynot are senior Haley Gowery (177 digs), junior Ashley Heine (65 kills, 163 digs) junior Shelby Hochstein (99 kills, 19 digs, 19 aces) and junior Zoey Heimes (63 digs).

Top to bottom, the Wynot roster is filled with players who had a key role in the school's Class D2 basketball crown last season.

"State is a great experience for everyone involved," Wieseler said. "It's about making memories for young athletes; memories they will take with them far beyond high school."

Wynot's first round opponent, Brady (25-4), comes in with two losses over its last six matches. Wieseler said the key to beating the Eagles and advancing to Friday's second round will be on defense.

"They have some strong outside hitters who need to be contained," she said. "So our blocking will need to be at its best."

"But as I told the team, these are all D2 schools just like we are," she added. "When it comes to state, it can be anyone's game."

No. 13 Kansas Whips Fort Hays State 101-52

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Thomas Robinson had 22 points and 12 rebounds and No. 13 Kansas swamped Fort Hays State 101-52 on Tuesday night, running coach Bill Self's exhibition record as Jayhawks' coach to 25-0.

Freshman Naadir Tharpe had 19 points while Connor Teahan had 14 and Justin Wesley 12 for the short-handed Jayhawks.

Guards Tyshawn Taylor and Elijah Johnson sat out their second exhibition game for violation of unspecified team rules. Both

projected starters are expected to play on Friday when the Jayhawks open their regular season against Towson State.

Robinson, a forceful 6-foot-10 junior, saw his first action since hyperextending his left knee on Oct. 27. Wearing a big brace on the knee, he did not seem limited in quickness or mobility and got a huge ovation from the near-capacity crowd when he was introduced. He scored 14 points and pulled down nine rebounds in the first half alone.

Arlington, S.F. Christian Earn State Tourney Berths

ARLINGTON — The Arlington Cardinals swept Chester in Region 2B Volleyball action Tuesday night 25-21, 25-10, 25-17. Arlington was led by Kelsey Kaufmann who finished the night with 13 kills, four aces, and two blocks. Samantha Boeck finished with 12 kills, three aces, and two blocks. Lanny Gross contributed nine kills and one block. Brett Heuer added 33 assists and seven defensive digs for Arlington (28-4).

Chester (20-6) was led by Jade Wolf who finished with 20 assists. Logan Miller completed eight kills and eight digs. Emily Weinand had five kills. Erin Benon helped Chester with 17 de-

fensive digs. Arlington moves on to the State Tourmanet, which starts Nov. 17.

CHESTER (20-6)	21	10	17
ARLINGTON (28-4)	25	25	25

Region 3A

ELKTON — The Sioux Falls Christian Chargers swept Elkton-Lake Benton Tuesday night in Region 3A Volleyball action 25-13, 25-20, 25-8.

The Chargers (27-4) finished the night with 35 total kills, 18 aces, and 50 digs.

Haley McCarron completed six kills, 26 set assists, two aces, and five digs for SF Christian.

Kiara Vanderpol added nine kills, two aces, and six digs. Claire Assam finished with five kills, 13 aces, and 11 digs for the Chargers.

The Elkton Lady Elks (26-5) had help from Megan Krogmann who finished with four kills and five digs. Haylee Denison finished with four kills for the Lady Elks. Keisey Kinner completed one kill and two digs. Jessica weise finished the night with eight set assists and one ace.

Sioux Falls Christian moves on to the State Volleyball Tournament, which starts on Nov. 17.

ELKTON-LAKE BENTON (26-5)	13	20	8
SF CHRISTIAN (27-4)	25	25	25

Labor

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offer will call for salary rollbacks, a 53-47 revenue split in the owners' favor and essentially a hard salary cap.

"Our proposal on the table now goes away (Wednesday)," Stern said. "Our next proposal will then go to the players, and we will see where negotiations go."

Players are willing to negotiate further on the revenue split if they get some concessions on

the salary cap system. Without them, Fisher said "we don't see a way of getting a deal done between now and end of business" Wednesday.

The league is seeking to limit the spending options of teams above the luxury tax threshold, believing that would lead to greater competitive balance. Players want all teams to be options for free agents.

When asked if there's still wiggle room on system issues, Stern said that as of 3 a.m. Sunday there was none left.

The players insisted they will not be forced into taking a bad deal by an ultimatum — though Stern refused to call it that.

"The players are saying that we understand their position, but unfortunately we're not intimidated by all that," Hunter said.

With more than 40 players ranging from All-Stars to minimum salary players behind them, Fisher and Hunter dismissed Stern's warning, had hard words for Michael Jordan and repeated that they are willing to negotiate and believe they have made more than enough economic concessions to get the salary cap system they want.

That message was not just for the owners.

They also were speaking to the players and agents who advocate disbanding the union in an attempt to take on the league

in court. Union leaders said there was very little discussion about decertification, saying they understand there would be differences of opinion with a membership of 450, but that the team representatives summoned to New York knew the best interests of their teammates.

The union called the meeting after Stern issued his ultimatum early Sunday morning following an eight-hour bargaining session with a federal mediator. Fisher said 43 players, including superstars Carmelo Anthony and Griffin, attended the meeting and that 29 of the 30 teams were represented.

Jordan provided perhaps the most memorable moment of the last lockout, chastising former

Washington owner Abe Pollin that he should sell his team if he couldn't make a profit without concessions from players. Jordan now owns the Charlotte Bobcats and is considered one of the hardliners who never wanted Stern to offer the players a 50-50 split.

"I would give him the advice that he gave to Abe Pollin," Hunter said.

After the press conference, Fisher bumped into an old acquaintance from Arkansas, former President Bill Clinton, who was at the hotel preparing to appear on an evening talk show. Clinton signed a copy of his new book, "Back to Work," for Fisher as players looked on.

Next, Fisher would like to

meet with Stern, believing there is room to compromise.

After previously saying they wouldn't go below 52.5 percent of BRI, players said Saturday they would be willing to go down to about 51 percent, with 1 percent going to a fund for retired player benefits.

They might go even further, but only with some movement on the system issues.

"We're open to discussions, open to negotiation," Fisher said. "We're open minded about potential compromises on our number, but there are things in the system that are not up for discussion that we have to have in order to be able to get this season going."

Sioux

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UND is the only school still fighting the NCAA over its ban on American Indian nicknames. The NCAA allowed some schools to keep such nicknames provided they received tribal support. In UND's case, the Spirit Lake Sioux tribe has endorsed using the nickname and logo, but The Standing Rock Sioux's tribal has council declined to support it.

The legislation passed by the Senate on Tuesday will prohibit the Grand Forks school from choosing a new nickname or logo before Jan. 1, 2015. The university could retire its present nickname before that.

"There is a deep sense of loss and sadness that really cannot be dismissed or, really, underestimated," said Rep. Stacey Dahl, R-Grand Forks, who wrote the amendment. "Let's let everything settle. Let everyone, for lack of a better term, cool off."

Grant Shaft, president of the state Board of Higher Education, said the board and UND did not object to Dahl's proposal.

Rep. Al Carlson, R-Fargo, the House majority leader, drafted a second amendment that said UND could not retire its nickname and logo until all lawsuits involving its continued use had been settled. Since August, opponents and supporters of the nickname have filed competing lawsuits in federal court. Carlson was the primary sponsor of the existing state law that requires UND's teams to be known as the Fighting Sioux. His new proposal didn't get a vote Tuesday in the legislative education committees.

Duaine Espesgard, the vice president of North Dakota's Board of Higher Education, called it "foolery" and "wrongheaded."

Espesgard, a former Republican state senator from Grand Forks, said during a hearing of the two education committees Tuesday that he probably would have voted for Carlson's earlier pro-nickname bill, which has been law since March.

"I didn't understand, at the time, all of the ramifications. But I do understand, and I think you all do today, the ramifications of this law, and today it's time to repeal the law," Espesgard said. "Let's move the University of North Dakota forward and get by this very divisive thing."



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