

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Hunting For S.D. Antelope

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

Traveling west on Interstate 90 towards Belle Fourche, both Larry Myhre and I didn't know what lay ahead of us on this antelope hunt as well as what we might find for numbers in the area we'd be hunting. We'd heard some reports indicating antelope numbers might be down as much as 50 percent or more.

We'd been talking about doing another antelope hunt in the Belle Fourche area for several years. On our last trip to the area, Larry and I both were able to tag nice antelopes, which now adorn the walls of our offices bringing back wonderful memories each time we look at them.

Our good friend Ed Goss has helped to make each trip to Belle Fourche excellent ones as Ed was well known and I doubt if there are many folks in the area that Ed doesn't know.

On this trip we'd be hunting on a 65,000-acre ranch where we'd team up with John and Chris Jackson the father and son team that operated the Jackson Dental Clinic when they weren't hunting.

Ed wanted us to stop by the clinic to meet the Jacksons, to get everything lined up for the Saturday hunt and to see the amazing mounts they had on display in their office. By the mounts displayed on the walls, it was obvious these dogs could hunt!

Our plan would be, with the help of Chris to scout the area, allowing us to look over the ranch the day prior to the opening of the South Dakota 2011 antelope season. But before Chris could head out Friday, he needed to help pick grapes at the family vineyard, the home of Belle Joli Winery and Ed thought it would be interesting for us to join the group.

The following morning Larry and I had the opportunity to meet some of Chris's family and family friends and were introduced to the finer points of grape harvesting.

After lunch Chris, his son, Larry and I made our way to the ranch to scout for the following days hunt. Chris knew the ranch well, and it didn't take him long to locate several nice bucks in the 13 to 14" range and to put together our plan for the following morning hunt.

The following morning, I was up well before my early morning wakeup call, rounding up my hunting gear, loading tapes, checking/changing batteries and packing camera gear.

After meeting up with Chris & John, we headed back to the ranch, hoping to beat the sunrise that was quickly chasing away the dark of the night, replacing it with a breath taking sunrise the upper Midwest is well known for.

As the sun made it's way in the eastern sky, we made our way onto the ranch, shortly after entering the ranch property, Chris's pulled over, took out his spotting scope and began the search where we'd seen the first



Chris Jackson of Belle Fourche is pictured with the 16.5 inch antelope he took while hunting in the 2011 South Dakota antelope season near Belle Fourche.

PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

buck the day prior. It didn't take long for Chris to locate the buck working its way across the field below the road.

Larry checked it out and decided that he wanted to try to put a sneak on the buck. With Chris in the lead, we slowly worked our way off the road and down through a swale, helping us to keep a rise in the terrain between the buck and ourselves.

Approaching the fence, Chris ranged the buck at 200 yards, which would be no problem for Larry. Resting his 243 on his Bog Pod, he took careful aim, dumping the buck where it stood. John was able to bring the pickup right up to the buck and after field dressing the buck and a few pictures; we were off to find our second antelope.

We hadn't driven far when Chris spotted a 2nd antelope, since Larry's rifle was out and ready, I chose to use it on the 200 yard shot off my Bog Pod, and as luck would have it, I put one right over it's back and before I could get on the buck for a second shot, the buck along with his doe were on the move. Chris knew the lay of the land, so we quickly relocated, but each time I'd get set up for the shot, the buck would move away, getting out over 400 yards.

John suggested I try Chris's rifle with the custom made long range scope. I was game, so he grabbed it and once again, each time I tried to steady up for the shot, the buck would move off, getting farther away with each step. When he finally stopped, Chris ranged him at 475 yards, which for me wasn't a shot I wasn't comfortable with, but Chris seemed pretty confident it was doable, reaching down, he clicked the scope to 500 yards and said, "put it right on him." I centered the crosshairs on the antelope's chest and

touched off the shot. As the round reached the buck, the tell tale thump of a hit could be heard and Chris said, "Nice shot, you got him." I'm not sure which of us was surprised more the antelope or I.

It was 9:30 p.m. and our two antelopes were tagged and in the truck, not a bad day or should I say a couple of hours.

As we headed back towards Belle Fourche, as we were about to leave the ranch property, Chris spotted an antelope, which quickly got his attention, as at a distance it looked big.

Chris grabbed his rifle, I grabbed the camera and Larry, John and I did our best to keep up with Chris as he headed out across the prairie. After covering what seemed to be a mile, he'd closed the distance on the buck, verified it was the one he was looking for and took aim. As in the past, the thump of the bullet hitting home could be heard. It didn't take long for us find out the buck now lying before us was "Big" as it measured 16 1/2". What a way to end a day.

Making our way back to the Americlann in Belle Fourche where we were staying, we couldn't be more pleased as not only had we gotten our 2011 South Dakota antelope, we'd the opportunity to spend time in the plains of South Dakota with friends hunting one of the plains fastest animals, the Pronghorn Antelope.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, hunting and fishing guide. His Outdoorsmen Adventures television series Outdoorsmen Adventures can be seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. For more information on the outdoors go to www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

TROPHY SPOTLIGHT



These young boys, (from left) Mitchell Slowey, Cole Slowey, Jaden Kral, Bryce Kral and Karson Kral, caught these Crappie and Bluegill on Nov. 5.

PHOTO: CAPTAIN NORM'S

Lancers

From Page 8

just 30.8-percent 13 minutes into the game.

At that point, Valley City State was shooting 40-percent, but the Vikings really turned up the heat after Mount Marty pulled within 17-16.

The Vikings hit on nine of 14 shots over the final 7:25 for 64-percent and burst out to a 34-22 lead at the half.

Valley City State was led by Kristin Bearstail, who came off the bench to score nine points. Katelyn Ralston scored seven early points to get the Viking offense on track.

The Lancers were led by Taylor Forsch at the half as she had seven points.

Mount Marty was plagued by turnovers - particularly the travel call, and they gave up the ball 14 times in the half.

The Lancers, sparked by Allison De Kam, pulled the Lancers to within single digits.

The sophomore from Castlewood scored on a baseline jumper to close out the Lancer first half and scored on a strong move to the rack to open the Mount Marty second half.

Taylor Forsch canned a long trey and swished a pair of free throws to pull Mount Marty within 40-37 with 11:24 remaining.

The Lancers got to within 50-48 after April Winne forced a Viking turnover with 1:02 to play and Forsch converted at the other end with a lay-up.

With 26.3 seconds remaining, Valley City pushed ahead 53-48

with two free throws from Allison Scherr and a free throw from Courtney Titus.

Forsch, on a kickout from Kylie Gross, drilled a 3-pointer with 3.8 seconds left, pulling MMC to within 53-51, but Ralston sealed the 54-51 Viking win with a free throw.

For the game, Mount Marty finished with a 35.9 shooting percentage as making the entry pass against Vikings proved difficult.

"They played a lot of denial, and we've got no feel for the denial right now," Schlingen said. "Our offense was not good tonight, but they had a lot to do with that; I will say that."

It was only the second non-conference loss for the Lancers under Schlingen, who is in his fourth year as the Lancer head coach.

Brittany Lehner led the Vikings (2-2) with 10 points as Bearstail finished with nine points.

Forsch scored 17 points to pace Mount Marty (3-2) as Berg netted 11 points. Winne had four assists and De Kam had eight rebounds and a pair of blocks.

The Lancers will host Jamestown College at 2 p.m. today. "We'll find out a lot about our team tomorrow," Schlingen said. "Jamestown has got a very good team, and if we play like that, we'll get swamped."

VALLEY CITY STATE (2-2) Katelyn Ralston 3-7 2-4 8, Courtney Titus 1-4 1-2 3, Allison Scherr 2-8 2-7, Brittany Lehner 4-11 2-2 10, Alyssa Hummel 2-6 3-4 7, Sadiqah Jihad 3-6 0-0 6, Kristin Bearstail 4-10 0-2 9, Stephanie Pedersen 0-0 0-0 0, Kelsey Hunter 2-7 0-4 4. TOTALS: 21-59 10-16 54.

MOUNT MARTY (3-2) Alysia Berg 3-10 2-2 11, April Winne 1-3 2-4 5, Taylor Forsch 5-12 4-7 17, Allison De Kam 4-6 0-0 8, Kylie Gross 1-3 6-11 8, Johanna Scheich 0-0 0-0 0, Alyssa Wheelham 0-2 0-0 0, Hannah Youngberg 0-0 2-2 2, Kaylea Karst 0-2 0-0 0, Brittany Little 0-1 0-2 0. TOTALS: 14-39 16-28 51.

At the Half: VCS 32, MMC 22; 3-Point Goals: VCS 2-10 (Ralston 0-1, Titus 0-1, Scherr 1-4, Bearstail 1-4), MMC 7-19 (Berg 1-7, Winne 1-1, Forsch 3-8, Wheelham 0-1, Karst 0-2); Rebounds: MMC 37 (De Kam 8), VCS 37 (Ralston, Lehner 8); Personal Fouls: VCS 24, MMC 13; Fouled Out: Hummel, Forsch; Assists: VCS 10, MMC 7 (Winne 4); Turnovers: MMC 26, VCS 15; Blocked Shots: MMC 7 (Gross 3), VCS 1; Steals: VCS 11 (Titus 5), MMC 3.

11AA

From Page 9

but since he got back things have been clicking pretty well."

The main beneficiary of that experienced line has been running back DaVonte Clay. The 5-9, 195-pound senior has rushed for 1,377 yards and 19 scores, averaging 125 yards a game.

John Hander stepped in at quarterback this season for the Warriors, replacing Matt Hermanson, who is having an outstanding freshman season as a defensive back for FCS Montana. Hander, also a standout for the state champion Sioux Falls East American Legion baseball team, has thrown for 1,555 yards and 14 scores, completing 59 percent of his passes.

"Hander is having a good season," Coach Hermanson noted. "Having guys like Nate Garry (30-556, 8 TD), Keyen Lage (25-436, 5 TD) and Patrick Fiala (12-150)

has helped open things up."

That trio accounts for 67 of the team's 101 receptions, but 11 other players have one ore more catches this season.

The Washington defense bounced back from their early struggles and developed into a group that recorded 95 tackles for loss, 22 sacks and 28 take-aways.

"The key of our defense has been Devon O'Farrell (85 tackles, 9 TFL, 2 sacks, 3 forced fumbles)," Hermanson said. "He's been a leader for us. Garry (64 tackles, 6 TFL, 2 sacks, 3 INT) and Lage (61 tackles, 6.5 TFL) have also done well."

Versatility of players like Austin Bensen (61 tackles, 8 TFL, 4 INT, 2 fumble recoveries) and Michael Buchman (58 tackles, 12.5 TFL, 2.5 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries) has also helped the Washington defense.

That Washington defense will be challenged by an offense that returns two starting quarterbacks from a year ago: Scott Tyler, who was injured for much of last season, and Andrew

Smith, who moved to running back to help the offense.

Tyler has thrown for 2,100 yards and 22 touchdowns, completing 68 percent of his passes. Angulo (44-848, 11 TD) and Smith (31-358, 5 TD) have been primary targets, with six different receivers having more than 10 catches on the season.

"The threat to pass has opened things up for us," Nelson said. "Smith did a good job for us last year, but he was more of a running quarterback."

The Rough Riders have 1,270 yards rushing (23 TD) as a team, with Mikal Smith (57-375, 4 TD), Justin Warne (64-324, 5 TD) and

Andrew Smith (43-273, 6 TD) getting the majority of the touches. Tyler (88-243, 4 TD) has also proved to be an effective runner at times.

"We have to keep the ball out of Tyler's hands," Hermanson said of defending Roosevelt.

"They have a lot of weapons." No matter how the game turns out, expect the game to be played at a breakneck pace, Hermanson noted.

"We have two no-huddle teams, two schools with a great tradition," he said. "It will be a fun game."

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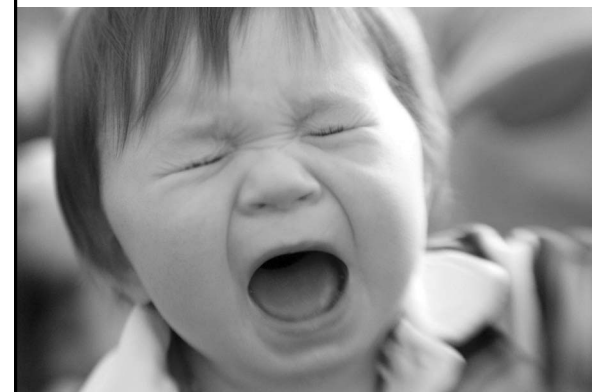
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