

# Gazelles Put Fitzgerald, Hora On All-ESD Squad



P&D FILE PHOTO  
Yankton senior Kelsey Fitzgerald was named to the all-Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball team by a vote of the league coaches.

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Yankton High School seniors Mikala Hora and Kelsey Fitzgerald have been selected for the Eastern South Dakota All-Conference volleyball team. An honorable mention her freshman year, this is Hora's third year as a member of the first team. Fitzgerald was an honorable mention last year and is a member of the first team this year.

To be selected for the team, players must have enough votes from opposing coaches in ESD. Each coach has 12 votes, but cannot vote for their own team members.

Yankton head coach Leasa Woodward said it was no surprise to have Hora and Fitzgerald selected.

"Looking at each player in the conference, it was a no-brainer that those two were both voted as all conference players," she said. "They were the leaders on our team and they were the two players the opposition knew they had to stop if they were going to beat us. They definitely earned a lot of respect from other coaches and players around the conference the last four years."

For Hora, being recognized is a process she worked for throughout the entire season, although she said she wasn't always thinking about it.

"You work really hard to be there," she said. "Just to be recognized by people in ESD



P&D FILE PHOTO  
Yankton senior Mikala Hora, right, was named to the all-Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball team by a vote of the league coaches.

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# Washington Wins Again

Strong Second Half Lifts Warriors To Third Title In Four Years

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VERMILLION — For a team that is not used to having its starters play much beyond half-time in most games, Washington was surprising clutch late in the second half as the Warriors outscored Brandon Valley 21-0 over the final 13 minutes to come from behind for a 35-20 victory over the Lynx in the Class 11AA title game in Vermillion on Saturday night.

The fans who packed the DakotaDome for the anticipated showdown between the pair of high-scoring unbeaten teams were not disappointed, as both teams showed why they were the class of the 11AA field all season long.

With the win, Washington (12-0) claims its third state championship in four seasons - all three with perfect records. Brandon Valley finishes 11-1 after returning to the Dome for the first time since their 1998 crown.

Aside from a 27-20 win over Pierre on September 28, where the Warriors committed six turnovers, Washington had not defeated a team by less than 24 points coming into the championship game. In most of those previous contests the Washington starters were out of the game by the end of the third quarter. Saturday, that is when the Warriors finally came alive and put the Lynx away.

"We're not used to playing the whole four quarters so to play four quarters against a very good opponent was really fun," Washington WR/DB Nate Gerry said. "(Brandon Valley) is a great team and we wanted to play against the best."

While the action was slow to start, once each team got warmed up they showcased how they combined to beat opponents by a total of 966-183 this season - with each roster featuring scoring threats from all over the field.

Following a scoreless first quarter, Washington junior Danny Marlette capped off an 80-yard drive with a touchdown run from the Lynx nine yard-line early in the second period to give the Warriors an early lead.

The Lynx answered right back with an 11-play, 91-yard drive that ended with a 27-yard strike from



## S. DAKOTA FOOTBALL FINALS CONCLUDE

ABOVE: Washington's Danny Marlette reaches the football out through a sea of players to score the game's first touchdown in the Class 11AA championship game on Saturday at the DakotaDome. Washington won its third title in four years with a 35-20 decision.

LEFT: Brandon Valley quarterback Chase Marso stands in the pocket and fires the ball downfield as he is pressured by Washington's Sam Cooke, 24. Marso was 34-63 passing for 454 yards and two touchdowns, earning MVP and Outstanding Back honors.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

# Seekamp Powers South Dakota To First Victory Of Season

DES MOINES, Iowa — Nicole Seekamp led four players in double figures as the University of South Dakota women's basketball team gave coach Amy Williams her first win, 74-69, Sunday afternoon against Drake in Des Moines, Iowa.

In a rematch of last season's WNIT opener, the Coyotes (1-1) held off a late Bulls' rally. Drake got within 69-63 with 2:24 left in the game, but USD knocked down five free throws the rest of the way to hold on.

Seekamp scored 18 points and pulled down five rebounds, while Alexis Yackley (12), Tempestt Wilson (11) and Polly Harrington (10) rounded out the double-figure scoring.

Harrington and Margaret McCloud led South Dakota in rebounding with eight apiece. McCloud also added eight points in 14 minutes of play. Overall, USD held an edge in rebounds, 49-44.

The Coyotes used a 7-2 run to close the first half to lead 41-37 at intermission. USD scored six straight points out of the break to lead 47-37, and later led 57-41 on a Heidi Hoff

three-pointer for its biggest margin.

South Dakota makes another trip to Iowa on Thursday for a noon game at Northern Iowa (0-1), last year's WBI runner-up. USD's home opener is Nov. 20 against Creighton.

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE 65, WASHINGTON ST. 56, OT:** MINNEAPOLIS — Sophomore forward Mariah Clarin scored 14 of her career-high 16 points after halftime, leading South Dakota State to a 65-56 overtime victory over Washington State in the consolation game of the Best Buy Classic Sunday at Williams Arena.

The Jackrabbits evened their record at 1-1, while Washington State, playing its second overtime game in as many days, dropped to 0-2.

SDSU trailed by as many as eight points early in the first five minutes of the second half before rallying to take the lead at 45-43 on a three-pointer by freshman Chloe Cornemann with 8 minutes, 19 seconds to play in regulation. The Jackrabbits extended the lead to 50-44 on a three-pointer by all-tournament selection Megan Waytashek with 5:51 to play, but SDSU would be held scoreless the remainder of regulation.

The Cougars knotted the game at 50-all on a basket by Hana Potter with 1:07 to play in regulation and had a chance to win the game just before the buzzer, but Lia Galdeira's floater rimmed off to send the game into overtime.

The extra session was all Jackrabbits, who went 5-for-7 from the field in the final five minutes. Clarin opened the scoring with a traditional three-point play and added a pair of free throws before the SDSU lead grew to as many as 12 points in the final minute. Ashley Eide added a pair of key baskets in the stretch run en route to 12 points and five assists.

Waytashek finished with 13 points, while Katie Lingle came off the bench to score 12. Leah Dietel pulled down a team-high nine rebounds to pace SDSU's 51-50 advantage on the boards.

SDSU opens the home season Wednesday night, hosting Creighton (Neb.). Tipoff is slated for 7 p.m. at Frost Arena.

**AUGUSTANA 95, MOUNT MARTY 56:** SIOUX FALLS — Augustana College shot 50.7 percent from the field and used five players in double figures to beat Mount Marty 95-56 in women's basketball action on Saturday.

The game was the season opener for Augustana. It was a non-counter for MMC.

Alex Feeney and Riley Nordgaard each had 15 points each, and Lydia Nelson had 14 points to lead Augustana. Cami Koehn scored 12 points and Emily Schulte added 10 points in the win.

For MMC, Alexa Berg and Taylor Forsch each had 11 points. Allison DeKam added nine points.

MMC hosts Grace in a women's and men's non-conference doubleheader on Tuesday. Start time is 6 p.m. for the women's game.

**Men**

**MOUNT MARTY 65, CLARKE 52:** The Mount Marty College defense held Clarke to 34 percent shooting in a 65-52 victory on Saturday.

Joe Hieb scored a game-high 22 points to lead Mount Marty. Salidin Smith shot 6-8 from the field and 5-5 from the line for 18 points off the bench, adding seven rebounds. Scott Odekirk netted 12 points on 5-6 shooting. Austin Harms had a team-high eight rebounds, and Hieb and Chris Richardson had four assists each in the victory.

Kris Brooks and Franz Winkler had nine points each for Clarke.

MMC, 2-2, hosts Grace in a men's and women's double-header on Tuesday. Start time is 8 p.m. for the men's game.

**ASHFORD 76, MOUNT MARTY 61:** CLINTON, Iowa — Ashford used a 54-22 edge in starter scoring to claim a 76-61 victory over Mount Marty in men's basketball action on Friday.

DeAndre Lowery scored 22 points and had seven assists to lead Ashford. Damon Overton scored 19 points, Joe Lightfoot III had 16 points and Austin Uhrig grabbed 10 rebounds in the win.

For MMC, Austin Harms, Jose Pena-Benjamin and Jeff Larsen each had 10 points. T.J. Johnson finished with nine points. Scott Sellers added four points.

# Cedar Catholic Girls Celebrate Class C-2 Title

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GRAND ISLAND, Neb. — Before Saturday, the last time Hartington Cedar Catholic won a state championship was in 1989 against Burwell as a C1 school. This year they faced Lutheran High Northeast, C2 state champions the last two years in a row, in a battle for the state title.

Cedar Catholic was able to claim the state championship title against Lutheran High Northeast in four sets, 25-15, 14-25, 25-14, 25-22, in spite of losing twice against them earlier in the season.

Head coach Adam Kuntz said he expected some resistance from Lutheran High because they have performed so well the last few years, but his team did exactly what they set out to do.

"(Lutheran High) knew how to react; they knew how to stay composed. They had a game plan — they always do," he said. "I expected a little resistance, and a little push there at the end made it a little more fun. Our team did exactly what a state champion should do. They never quit."

Senior Emily Schrempp said her and her teammates wanted to win in three sets, especially since they only played five sets once throughout the season.

"The first set we definitely came out and put it to them because we knew we wanted to start out strong," she said. "That second set we fell off a little bit, and in the third set we knew we had to get it back and get rolling to have that four set sweep instead of going for five sets."

"The only five set game we've gone through this season was against Norfolk Catholic, so we really didn't want to go for that fifth set. If we would have gone for five we might have slowed down a little bit and slipped, but I think we would have powered through and still won the game."

Kuntz said Lutheran High was more efficient during the second set, but Cedar Catholic was able to regain control to power through and win the match.

"I told the girls we couldn't give away four or five runs at a time," he said. "Each girl had to go out there and get about two serves and we needed to get the ball on our side. Lutheran High did a great job, but our kids responded exactly how I wanted them to. They didn't get rattled too much and they really took control of the rest of the match."

For the night, Karly Noecker recorded 10 kills, one assist and one block. Schrempp made 46 assists, two kills and one block, Siera Becker had 11 kills and three blocks and Katelyn Dicks contributed 11 kills, three blocks and one assist. Lexi Steffen added 11 kills and seven blocks and Bailey Steffen put up six kills, two blocks and one assist.

For Lutheran High, Morgan Sunderman had 14 kills and six blocks, while Morgan Uhrig made 11 kills and one block. Megan Gebhardt put up 26 assists, four kills, three blocks and two aces and Kelsey Sunderman recorded four kills and one ace. Mandi Uecker also contributed seven assists, three kills and one block.

Looking back on the season, Kuntz said it was great to see his team reward their hard work