

Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and pro sports.



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Tough Finish To An Up-And-Down Season For The Bucks

I wasn't in Watertown on Friday night. I wasn't there to see the Yankton Bucks stumble in a semifinal game. But it wasn't necessary to be there in person to shake your head. A season that began with such high expectations (remember that No. 1 ranking?) and soon reached a 1-3 start, only to see a drastic turnaround, came to a halt in the Class 11AA semifinals — despite an impressive second-half comeback by Yankton. For the sake of this Daily Dose, I won't get into the whole AAA/AA divide thing (but it's certainly worth mentioning), but let's examine what Friday's loss means for the Bucks. In short, was the 2013 season a disappointment that Yankton (5-5) didn't reach the championship game? Probably yes, mostly because the Bucks had numerous self-inflicted mistakes that they had, for the most part, been able to avoid the last half of the season. Having followed the team more closely than I ever had this season and having interviewed a bunch of the players throughout, there was a certain mood change in the program. Sure, ridding themselves of the 'Sioux Falls stigma' in the playoffs was a certain boost, but picking up wins over Sioux Falls O'Gorman and Pierre really lifted the confidence of those kids. Suddenly there

was a sense that, 'Wow, we could actually win this thing.' But that would lead me to my next point, that has more to do with outside influence than inside the locker room: I consistently got the sense that people were looking ahead. When the Bucks were ranked No. 1 in the pre-season media poll (and no, James Cimburek and I did not slot Yankton No. 1), I remember thinking: 'Really?' Quite honestly, that's the last thing the program and its fans needed was early expectations to win a state championship. My next sense that people were looking ahead too far before the playoffs when people — no matter where I went across town — asked me if Yankton would get to host two post-season games at Crane-Youngworth, I continually pointed out that certain upsets would have to take place for that to happen, but also that, 'Gotta beat Mitchell first.' That's exactly what the Bucks did, too, and in pretty dominant fashion. It was clear before the game with the Kernels that Yankton wanted revenge for its season-opening home loss. And that was exactly the same story Yankton ran into up in Watertown. The hometown Arrows wanted their own revenge after the Bucks went up there earlier in the season and walked away with a 10-point victory. Ultimately, the loss is a bitter pill to swallow for Yankton, which comes up just short of its ultimate goal. But, as the coaches would likely tell you, you can only hope that the loss motivates the kids to work even harder over the off-season.

Spots Open For MMC Youth Basketball Camp

Mount Marty College has openings available for youth basketball teams for the Saturday, Nov. 16 tournament in Yankton. The following grade groups still have openings: third grade boys (2 teams), fourth grade boys (3), fourth grade girls (3), fifth grade boys (2), fifth grade girls (4), sixth grade boys (3) and sixth grade girls (full, but can take two more teams). All entry fees will be waived. Entries will be taken through Monday, Nov. 11. Contact Andy Bernatow at abernatow@mmc.edu to register your team.

USD's Hastings Named To Academic All-District Team

VERMILLION — South Dakota sophomore Kaitlyn Hastings has been voted to the Capital One First-Team Academic All-District VI Volleyball Team by members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). As a first-team honoree, she is now eligible to earn

Academic All-America honors next month. Hastings, a Biology major from New Berlin, Wis., was the lone Summit League volleyball player to make an Academic All-District team this year. The defensive specialist has a 4.0 cumulative GPA and has played in every set for the Coyotes this season while averaging 2.45 digs and 0.34 aces per set. To be eligible, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.3 GPA, must have participated in 50 percent of his/her team's competitions, must have sophomore status or higher and must have completed one full calendar year at his/her current institution. District VI includes Division I schools from North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Roden Out As DWU Women's Soccer Coach

MITCHELL — Dakota Wesleyan University Athletic Director Curt Hart announced Friday that the athletic department has decided to go a differ-

ent direction with its women's soccer program. Effective immediately, Dale Roden will no longer serve as the program's head coach. Roden, who recently wrapped up the 2013 season with the Tiger women, just finished his seventh season at Dakota Wesleyan. The Tigers went 4-12-2 this season and missed out on a berth in the Great Plains Athletic Conference postseason tournament. Roden started with the women's soccer program at Dakota Wesleyan in 2007 and he guided the program from a two-win team in 2007 to a NAIA National Championship qualifying team in 2009. He came to Dakota Wesleyan from Adams State College, an NCAA Division II school in Alamosa, Colo., where he was the first head women's soccer coach at the school.

In seven seasons at the helm, Roden accumulated a 56-58-12 overall record. He led DWU to its first-ever GPAC playoff appearance in 2008, and in 2009 he guided the Tigers to GPAC regular and postseason titles. In seven seasons, Roden coached one NAIA All-American, two GPAC Defensive Players-of-the-Year, 29 All-GPAC Athletes, 10 GPAC Players-of-the-Week, 13 NAIA

Scholar-Athletes, two CoSIDA Academic All-District honorees and one NSCAA Academic All-American. A search for a new head coach will begin immediately.

Huskers Advance To B1G Championship Match

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — The top-seeded Nebraska soccer team faced an early deficit for second straight match but used three second-half goals to defeat No. 4 seed Indiana by a 3-1 margin on Friday in the Big Ten Tournament Semifinals at the Illinois Soccer Stadium. NU's season-best eighth consecutive win locked up a spot in Sunday's title match against the No. 7 seed Iowa. Freshman Jaycie Johnson recorded two goals in the match for the third time in her debut season with the Huskers (17-3-1). The Huskers will be making their seventh appearance in a conference tournament championship match and first since 2002. The Scarlet and Cream are 5-1 all-time in league tournament finals. NU will try to lock up both regular-season and tour-

namet tiles for the fourth time in school history with the last coming in 2000. Friday's semifinal match was Nebraska's 280th victory on the pitch.

Minnesota Suspends Maurice Walker For 6 games

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota center Maurice Walker has been suspended for six games for a violation of university policy. The Golden Gophers made the announcement on Friday, a few hours before they opened the season against Lehigh. The Gophers did not specify which policies were broken. It's a big setback for Walker, who worked hard in the summer to drop weight and get into new coach Richard Pitino's good graces. When Pitino was hired to bring his up-tempo style to Minnesota, the 310-pound Walker figured to have a hard time fitting in. But Walker changed his diet and threw himself into grueling workouts to drop more than 60 pounds. Walker won't be eligible to rejoin the team until the second game of the Maui Invitational on Nov. 26.

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

YANKTON BOWL
SPARETIME LADIES LEAGUE
HIGH TEAM GAME: Ryan Bartra Trucking 904
HIGH TEAM SERIES: Ryan Bartra Trucking 2467
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Stacy Bartra 255, Barb Dooley 233 (errorless), Candy Olson 213, Judy Bartra 202
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Stacy Bartra 663, Barb Dooley 538, Judy Bartra 533, Candy Olson 531
STANDINGS: Truxedo 8-0, Ryan Bartra Trucking 7-1, Lewis & Clark Marina 6-2, Glass Cutters 4-4, First National SC 4-4, Huehner Seamless Gutters 4-4, First Dakota 3-5, Vogt Cleaners 2-6, R.L.R. 2-6
HIGHLIGHTS: Anne Mello 2-7, Judy Nielson 3-10

CROFTON, NEB.

MEN'S COMMERCIAL LEAGUE
HIGH TEAM GAME: Don's Auto 942
HIGH TEAM SERIES: Don's Auto 2456
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Todd Moody 233, Don Voudry 225, Des Lamer 223
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Todd Moody 660, Brian Wiebelhaus 598, Joel Folllette 589
A STANDINGS: Wiebelhaus Rec 34.5-5.5, Leader Angus 24-16, Don's Auto 23-17, Cor's Light 15-25
B STANDINGS: Bud Light 19.5-20.5, Merkel Insul 19.5-20.5, DSM Apts 13.5-26.5, Crofton Elevator 11-29
HIGHLIGHTS: Don Voudry — 62 over game avg., 65 over series avg.
WOMEN'S AMERICAN LEAGUE
HIGH TEAM GAME: Comfy feet Bizz 776
HIGH TEAM SERIES: Comfy feet Bizz 2246
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Carolyn Leader 191, Jane Dawson 176, Deb Wiebelhaus 174
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Jane Dawson 493, Carolyn Leader 484, Connie McPhillips 469
D-1 STANDINGS: Wiebelhaus PDR 141-79 (winner of first third), Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital 130.5-89.5, Comfy feet Bizz 126-94
D-2 STANDINGS: Arens Construction 115-105 (winner of first third), DSM Apts 113.5-106.5

FOOTBALL

S.D. PLAYOFFS
Class 11AAA
Semifinals, Nov. 8
S.F. Lincoln 28, S.F. O'Gorman 0
S.F. Roosevelt 65, Brandon Valley 35
Class 11AA
Semifinals, Nov. 8
Pierre 45, Harrisburg 13
Watertown 32, Yankton 14
Class 11A
Semifinals, Nov. 9
No. 4 Dell Rapids (8-2) at No. 1 Madison (10-0), 3 p.m.
No. 3 West Central (8-2) at No. 2 Hot Springs (9-1), 6:30 p.m. CT
Class 11B
Semifinals, Nov. 9
No. 5 Canton (9-1) at No. 1 Winner

Bucks

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points in the third quarter and didn't let them score, we would be back in the game," Likness said. "But (Watertown) played it smart. They kicked into the wind in the third quarter, and had the

wind in the fourth." Bratland broke away again from 27 yards out with just over four minutes left to ice the game, sending the Arrows to the DakotaDome for the first time since winning the 2001 championship. "It's going to be fun," Svendsen said after the game. "That's all I can say." Yankton graduates 12 from their post-season roster,

including four all-ESD selections: Hejna, Steven McKee, Lane Sawatzke and Tanner Termansen. "Hats off to our seniors. We had kids play their hearts out," Likness said. "It was a tough loss, but a fun year."

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

GPAC

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Nebraska Wesleyan girl. "I'm not nervous or scared or anything like that, just excited." Of course, a high finish for the Mount Marty squad depends on depth, Fischer said. "If our fifth runner has a good day, we'll be right there," he said. "It just depends on the day, how the other teams run the course. You just never know on a

given day." Beyond the GPAC meet, the Lancer women are also hoping for an at-large berth to the NAI National Championships.

"We're not a long way from nationals, but we want to do the best we've ever done in school history," Fischer said. Like the women, the Mount Marty men have a chance to better the school record of sixth place, set in 2011 — the Lancers finished seventh last fall. Senior Jordan Pater leads an experienced Lancer team

that also boasts Sam Lopez (Sr.), Mychal Bierwagen (Sr.), Josh Monson (Sr.), Gage Blaschke (So.), Christian Petrich (Fr.) and Jordan Houdek (Fr.).

Mount Marty is hoping for a fifth or sixth place finish, Fischer said. The women's 5K race begins at 10:45 a.m. today, followed by the men's 8K run at 11:30 a.m.

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

AREA CALENDAR

Saturday, November 9
BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD at St. Bonaventure (6 p.m., KVHT-FM); Johnson & Wales at MMC (7 p.m., KYNT-AM)
CROSS COUNTRY, COLLEGE Great Plains Athletic Conf. at Seaward, Neb. (MMC, 10:30 a.m.)
FOOTBALL, COLLEGE Montana at USD (1 p.m., KVHT-FM, Midco Sports Network)

FOOTBALL, PREP S.D. Semifinals: Class 11B — Parkston at St. Thomas More, 9B — Wall at Avon (3 p.m.)
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Semifinals
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Denver (7 p.m.); Great Plains Athletic Conf. Quarterfinals
Sunday, November 10

BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S USD at UC Irvine (4 p.m., KVHT-FM)
Monday, November 11
BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD at Canisius (6 p.m., KVHT-FM); MMC at Presentation (7:30 p.m., KYNT-AM)
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S MMC at Presentation (5:30 p.m., KYNT-AM)

Basketball: SDSU Women Lose Opener

PROVO, Utah — Brigham Young broke the game open with a 19-3 run late in the first half and maintained a double-digit advantage nearly the rest of the way en route to an 81-53 victory over South Dakota State in the women's basketball season opener for both teams Friday afternoon at the Marriott Center. BYU's largest lead of the day was 32 points, 73-41, after a layup by Xojian Harry with 6:34 to play. The Jackrabbits were more successful shooting from behind the arc against the much-taller BYU squad as 11 of their 17 field goals in the game were of the three-point variety. SDSU was 17-of-62 overall from the field, 27.4 percent, but was 11-of-23 from three-point range. At the line, the Jackrabbits made 8-of-12 attempts, 66.7 percent. Megan Waytashek was the lone Jackrabbit in double figures with 12 points — all on first-half three-pointers. Rachel Walters contributed nine points off the bench, going 3-for-5 from three-point range. Beeston and Eaton shared

game-high honors with 18 points to lead four Cougars in double figures. Morgan Bailey added 13 points, while Jennifer Hamson posted a double-double with 13 points and a game-high 10 rebounds. BYU held a 46-39 advantage on the boards. Freshman Clariss Ober led the Jackrabbits with five rebounds, including three on the offensive end. Turnovers also plagued SDSU on the offensive end as the Jackrabbits committed 22 turnovers, compared to 16 by BYU. Yankton native Chloe Cornemann played 16 minutes for the Jacks, pulling down two rebounds. SDSU returns to action Tuesday at Creighton. Tipoff is set for 7:05 p.m. at D.J. Sokol Arena on the Creighton University campus in Omaha, Neb. No. 17 NEBRASKA 77, UCLA 49: LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Two-time All-American Jordan Hooper scored 27 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as No. 17 Nebraska beat UCLA 77-49 on Friday. It was Hooper's 27th career double-double. Rachel Theriot recorded a career-high nine assists, and Allie Havers scored 14 points in her first career game. Last season, the Huskers ad-

vanced to the NCAA Sweet 16. Trailing 40-20 at the half, UCLA hit back-to-back 3-pointers with 13:43 left to make it 44-29, but could not get any closer. One of two returning starters from last year, Thea Lemberger, led the Bruins with 17 points on 6-of-17 shooting. UCLA was limited to 34 percent shooting and was outrebounded 44-23. The Bruins reached the second round of the NCAA tournament last season. This was the first game in the new Pinnacle Bank Arena in downtown Lincoln. The announced season-opener crowd was 9,750. **College Men**
No. 20 WISCONSIN 86, ST. JOHN'S 75: SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Josh Gasser, who missed last season with a knee injury, scored 19 points and No. 20 Wisconsin opened the season with an 86-75 victory over St. John's on Friday night. The Badgers, who had five players score in double figures, never trailed and took control with an early 11-2 run and then went 11 of 23 from 3-point range. The game was played in the 3,250-seat Sanford Pentagon. Sam Dekker had 16 points for Wisconsin, which opened away from home for the first time in eight years. D'Angelo Harrison had 27 points for the Red Storm and JaKarr Sampson added 21 points and seven rebounds. St. John's was outscored 33-6 from beyond the arc. Wisconsin led by as many as 18 points in the first half. St. John's got within 58-54 with about 8 minutes left before the Badgers hit consecutive 3-pointers in a span of 22 seconds.

Crofton

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and three digs, and Allison Tramp had two kills, four assists and four digs. For the Wolfpack, Liz Seltling had seven kills, Corin Pelster had four kills and two blocks, Jenna Parks had four kills, eight assists and nine digs, and Mallory Fangman made 10 digs. Also, Baylie Wenhoff had five assists and four digs, and Taylor Schumacher had three assists and seven digs. In set two, both teams were neck and neck through 10 points, but the Crofton Warriors gained a 13-point lead after two large scoring runs over Elgin Pope John after two time outs. "Right away we wanted to serve aggressive, take advantage of their serve receive and we wanted to swing,"

Wortmann said. An attack error by the Wolfpack ended the set with Crofton winning 25-13. "We get about that ten point area. That's why our rotations are so important. We have it balanced out so you start with the strong [players] and end with the strong [players]," coach Johnson said. In set two, Elgin Pope John was staying neck and neck with Crofton to 10-9. The Wolfpack took a time out after they made two violations and Crofton's lead by four points. The Warriors continued to pull ahead with a 14-2 scoring run with four points resulting from blocks ending the set 25-12. "The one thing we talked about was to block them, get up there and block them," coach Johnson said. "Then [Elgin Pope John] were getting blocked so it became the

tippling game." The Warriors started the third set with a 7-2 scoring run as the Wolfpack came back to score seven points after a time out as Crofton made some errors. But Crofton held a 10-point lead over the Wolfpack as they finished the game winning 25-17. "We stuck with them to about ten points and then it just seems like we hit a wall," Elgin Pope John coach Tina Thiele-Blecher said. "We just never got that momentum going, and the game of volleyball is all momentum." The Crofton Warriors advance to state in Grand Island next Thursday as EPPJ finishes its season with a 12-17 record. "You can follow Peter Chapman on Twitter at twitter.com/PEChapman. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

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