

Falcons Edge Crofton For Class C2 Volleyball Title



Crofton's Maria Wortmann, left, and Allison Arens go up to block Freeman's Marissa Haynes during the Nebraska Class C2 Volleyball Championship match on Saturday at the Devaney Center.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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LINCOLN, Neb. — "This is what it's all about."

Crofton senior Maria Wortmann, standing in a hallway in the Devaney Sports Center after the Lady Warriors' 25-23, 22-25, 34-32, 27-25 loss to Freeman in the championship match of the Nebraska State Class C2 Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, looked past the disappointment of her team's only loss of the 2014 and saw the match for what it was.

A championship showdown between two unbeaten teams that lived up to its pre-tournament billing.

"This is what makes it fun," said the Wayne State-bound hitter. "We played our hearts out. It didn't go our way, but that's OK."

Wortmann had 26 kills and

three blocks to lead Crofton. Crofton head coach Susan Johnson admitted that she was concerned with how Wortmann would play.

"Maria was having a senior moment. She was a little sad before the match that this would be her last one," Johnson said.

Wortmann's counterpart, 6-1 University of Ohio-bound Carley Remmers, had 29 kills, 12 blocks and 12 digs.

"She's a great player. It seemed like she was two feet taller than us at times," Wortmann said of Remmers. "Give her all the credit. She's had a great senior year."

Watching the two talented middles go at it was fun to see, according to Freeman head coach Dani White.

"You watched to see when they would rotate back to the front," she said. "Carley was also hitting from the back row.

That's what I liked about her play."

Also for Freeman (33-0), Marissa Haynes had 12 kills and Riley Dorn had 47 assists and 10 digs. Alexis Holland added 10 digs.

For Crofton, Allison Arens had 14 kills and two blocks in her final volleyball match, as she will play basketball at the University of South Dakota next school year. Kelsey Sanger had seven kills and two blocks. Britany Guenther had 23 assists, Allison Tramp had 22 assists and Breanna Allen had a match-high 15 digs for the Lady Warriors, who finish at 29-1.

Neither team held more than a five-point lead over the other in any set in the match, and no team strung together a run of more than six consecutive points.

White reminded the media that she had expected a great final match.

"I told you guys this," she said. "This would be a battle of epic proportions."

Freeman jumped out to an early 10-6 in the first set and saw Crofton claw back, taking a 23-22 lead. But a block and a kill by Remmers helped the Falcons claim the opening round.

Johnson thought that her team may have come in a little intimidated after having watched Freeman blast a weak-blocking Hastings St. Cecilia team in the semifinals.

"We watched a little of their match yesterday. Hastings St. Cecilia is not a blocking team, so (Freeman) looked ferocious," she said. "It took a little time for us to realize that we could block them."

Crofton took the early lead in the second set, 5-2, and led most of the rest of the way.

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Jags Deny USD Title Share

Volleyball: Coyotes Take Third Seed Into Summit League Tournament

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — The first regular season Division I league title was tantalizingly close for the University of South Dakota volleyball team.

That goal, however, came up a little short in the end.

With a chance to earn a share of the Summit League regular season title, the Coyotes rallied from an early hole but eventually suffered a 3-2 loss to IUPUI on Sunday afternoon at the Dakota Dome.

The victory — by set scores of 25-18, 25-23, 23-25, 20-25, 15-11 — ensured the Jaguars (13-3) will share the crown with Denver, while the Coyotes (12-4) earn the No. 3 seed for next week-end's tournament.

There was understandable disappointment from the USD players and coaches afterward, but the message after the match was simple: The Coyotes put together an impressive rally and can still play for an NCAA Tournament berth.

"That's what we really have to be proud of today," senior Kendall Kritenbrink said. "Obviously we didn't come out on top, but we're still going to the conference tournament.

"Our season isn't done."

Though the loss ended USD's 17-match home winning streak in league play, it was simply that, head coach Leanne Williamson said: One loss.

"We just talked about that, our season is not over," she said. "Obviously we all wanted this, it was something we worked really hard for this year and we put ourselves in a good position, but it just didn't go our way."

Especially early.

The Jaguars combined to commit just six attack errors over the first two sets, winning both to take a commanding lead in the match — and quieting the standing-room only crowd.

"I was pretty nervous," said USD middle



South Dakota's Sydney Dimke goes up to block an attack by IUPUI's Kaitlyn Hickey during their Summit League volleyball match on Sunday at the Coyote Den in the Dakota Dome.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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Dakota State Men Hold Off Mount Marty

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG

P&D Correspondent

The Mount Marty Lancers may have played their best basketball of the young season Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena, but the end result was their sixth loss of the season as they fell to Bryant Allen and his Dakota State Trojans 78-67.

"The thing I told our guys is that I don't advocate moral victories," Mount Marty head coach Andrew Baker said. "We were better tonight — maybe the best we've been all year."

The Trojans came into the game also enduring a difficult start to the season, losing their last four games — the last three by a total of 12 points.

"That's a tough team; they've lost a lot of close games against some good teams," Baker said. "We were tough tonight too; tougher than we've been and that was good to see."

Instead of top scorers Bud Smith for Mount Marty and Allen for the Trojans, it was the unusual suspects who carried their teams through the first half.

Jake Anderson knocked down a 3-pointer and Lorenzo Davis converted a fearless drive to the rack into a 3-point play to give Mount Marty an early 8-6 lead.

Smith, the Lancers leader with 21.4 points-per-game, didn't score in the initial half.

Taylor Zirbel scored eight points and Adam Hofer knocked down a pair of treys in the half to lead the Trojans while Allen, who scores nearly 20 points a game, played just nine minutes and scored a single bucket.

The biggest lift the Lancers got in the half was from Jackson Seitzinger, who scored 11 points in the half, including a pair of 3-pointers in the final minute that pulled the Lancers to within 33-31 at the break.

Seitzinger rained in a 3-pointer to cap Mount Marty's final possession of the half as Baker was hoping to play for a final shot.

However, the former Yankton High School star shot the ball with 17 seconds remaining.

"It's one of those where he shoots and I'm thinking 'oh...'"

Baker said. "Then it goes in and I say 'great', but you know he was hot; that's the way basketball goes."

"I made a couple before that and K.J. (DeChristino) set a good screen so I was open," Seitzinger said. "I was feeling it so I just let it go."

Smith wasted no time picking up his first points, spinning and hanging near the rack to pull Mount Marty into a 33-all tie.

Seitzinger added three more hoops and Anderson swished a trey to give the Lancers a 46-39 lead.

However, Allen took over and was the half's — and the game's — difference maker.

The senior guard dug deep into his bag of tricks to create moves and finishes at the rack.

When Allen was content to just shoot, he drained three of six shots from downtown, including one on a loose ball that found its way to the guard waiting on the wing.

That make by Allen may have been the dagger for the Lancer hopes as it gave the

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Kansas Women Rally Past USD

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Chelsea Gardner's double-double of 24 points and 11 rebounds led the Kansas Jayhawks to a 68-60 win over the South Dakota women's basketball team in Allen Fieldhouse on Sunday afternoon.

The Jayhawks used a 13-5 run over the final 2:22 of the game to win their season opener. The Coyotes had the lead on several occasions in the game and held a 55-53 advantage with 3:47 left, but made just two baskets, had four turnovers and committed eight fouls down the stretch.

Overall, the Coyotes led or tied the Jayhawks for 19 minutes and 27 seconds. The game had 11 lead changes and was tied 17 times.

Nicole Seekamp was the Coyotes leading scorer with 21 points while Raeshel Contreras added 17 points. Post player Margaret McCloud recorded her seventh career double-double with 10 points and 15 rebounds.

Outside Gardner, Kansas received 15 points from Natalie Knight and 11 points from Lauren Aldridge. All of Aldridge's

points came off of free throws.

South Dakota will be back on the road this upcoming week as they head west to play Portland State on Wednesday at 9 p.m. CT. They'll also play at Washington on Thursday at 9 p.m. CT.

SOUTH DAKOTA (1-1)
Lisa Loeffler 0-2 0-0 6, Margaret McCloud 4-10 2-3 10, Tia Hemmiller 1-7 0-0 2, Raeshel Contreras 6-10 3-17, Nicole Seekamp 8-18 3-4 21, Kelly Stewart 0-5 2-2 2, Bridget Arens 1-3 0-2 2, Jaylah Jackson 0-1 0-0 0, Kate Livinghouse 0-3 0-0 0, Heidi Hoff 0-4 0-0 0. TOTALS: 20-63 16-21 60.

KANSAS (1-0)
Jada Brown 1-2 0-0 2, Chelsea Gardner 8-14 6-9 24, Asia Boyd 3-9 0-0 6, Lauren Aldridge 0-7 11-13 11, Natalie Knight 4-12 6-5 15, Bunny Williams 0-2 1-2 1, Timeka O'Neal 1-4 0-0 3, Chayla Cheadle 0-1 4-6 4, Terrell Bradley 1-5 0-0 2, Keyla Morgan 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 19-57 28-36 68.

At the half: KU 33, USD 32. Three-Pointers: USD 4-15 (Contreras 2-4, Seekamp 2-5, Stewart 0-2, Hemmiller 0-2, Hoff 0-2), KU 2-16 (O'Neal 1-3, Knight 1-7, Boyd 0-1, Cheadle 0-1, Bradley 0-1, Aldridge 0-3). Rebounds: USD 48 (McCloud 15), KU 37 (Gardner 11). Personal Fouls: USD 29, KU 21. Fouled Out: Loeffler, McCloud. Assists: USD 6 (Contreras 2, Seekamp 2), KU 6 (Aldridge 3). Turnovers: USD 19, KU 11. Blocked Shots: KU 4 (Gardner 4), USD 3 (McCloud 2). Steals: KU 9 (Knight 5), USD 5 (Seekamp 2). Attendance: 1,984.

Sioux Falls 74, MMC 68

Sioux Falls — Jace Guthmiller scored 22 points to lead Sioux Falls past Mount Marty 74-68 in women's basketball action on Saturday. The match was a counter for NCAA Division II USAF, but not for NAIA MMC.

Parkston native Marie Malloy had 17 points, eight rebounds and four assists for USD (2-0). Taylor Varsho had 11 points and eight rebounds.

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Expanded Schedule Paid Off For Yankton's Guthmiller

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Jace Guthmiller learned a valuable recruiting lesson before he even began golfing for Yankton High School.

If he wanted to realize his dream of being a golfer in the Big Ten Conference or Big 12 Conference, Guthmiller was going to have to branch out. He needed to take his game to the coaches.

It was a piece of advice he heard from the parents of a former Bucks golfer.

"He was a really good golfer in high school, but the one thing he didn't have was that national level," Guthmiller said Sunday afternoon. "There are so many kids out there golfing these days, so that's what definitely helped me."

"It's difficult to get your name out there if you're only in your own state, you have to get your name out there."

And that's exactly what Guthmiller, a senior at YHS, did, competing in a variety

of national tours, in addition to regional tours. The result was a scholarship offer from Nebraska.

After committing back in July, Guthmiller signed his National Letter of Intent over the weekend to golf for the Huskers starting next fall.

Rather than just resting on his exploits (and there were plenty) from the South Dakota high school scene, Guthmiller took his game to a number of events last summer on the American Junior Golf Association — which features some of the best prep golfers from across the nation.

"It's been stressful the last couple years when you have to perform when coaches are watching you," he said. "Every round is so important. One bad score could change their mind."

Ultimately, though, it didn't, and Guthmiller caught the attention of the Nebraska coaching staff.

"You wanted to play really well, but you knew kids around you were being re-

cruited," he said. "You just had to get your name out there."

"It's tough to compete with kids from Florida or Texas, but you just have to do your best."

When it came to the South Dakota high school ranks, Guthmiller has long been among the top finishers in Class AA.

As a senior this fall, he finished ninth at the state Class AA tournament a month ago, his fourth consecutive top-10 finish — since his eighth grade year, he went 12th, fourth, eighth, third and ninth.

Guthmiller also has experience in a number of state-wide events, such as the Dakotas Tour and through the South Dakota Golf Association, in addition to local pro-ams.

His dream, though, was to compete at a much higher level.

"It was a long journey throughout high

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Yankton senior Jace Guthmiller signed his national letter of intent to attend the University of Nebraska and play golf for the Huskers late last week. Guthmiller had earlier announced his commitment to Nebraska.

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