

# Pheasants Outlast Arlington In Class B Opener

BY DAVE VILHAUER

dvilhauer@aberdeennews.com

ABERDEEN — It turned out to be as good as advertised.

In a match that featured 28 ties, 10 lead changes and a ton of momentum swings, Parker finally subdued Arlington 23-25, 25-23, 18-25, 25-23, 15-10 in the opening round of the State B volleyball tournament Thursday afternoon. The match at Golden Eagles Arena included the two winningest coaches in state history and pitted the fourth and fifth seeds against each other.

"That was a really emotional win for us, because to be perfectly honest I'm not even sure how we did it in the end," said Parker coach Jill Christensen, who raised her state record win total to 725 career victories. "The girls just pulled together and came up with some really great plays when we needed them."

The fifth set was tied at 2,

3, 4, 5, and 6 before the Pheasants eventually gained control. Parker was able to take advantage of three missed serves down the stretch to help fuel the win.

"We just weren't able to connect there at the end to get the win," said Arlington coach Anita Boeck. "I thought we had way too many errors in the last one."

Interestingly enough, it was serving that proved pivotal in a previous five-setter between the two squads.

"A couple of years ago when we were in the state tournament and got beat by them in five sets, that's kind of what doomed us in the fifth set was a few missed serves," Christensen recalled. "And today it kind of turned around the other direction."

The momentum turned around many directions throughout the most recent slugfest. Parker bolted out to a 7-0 lead in the opening set and led 19-9 before the Cardinals exploded for a dramatic comeback victory.

Parker again led for a good share of the second set, only to have Arlington creep to within 23-22 before the Pheasants held on.

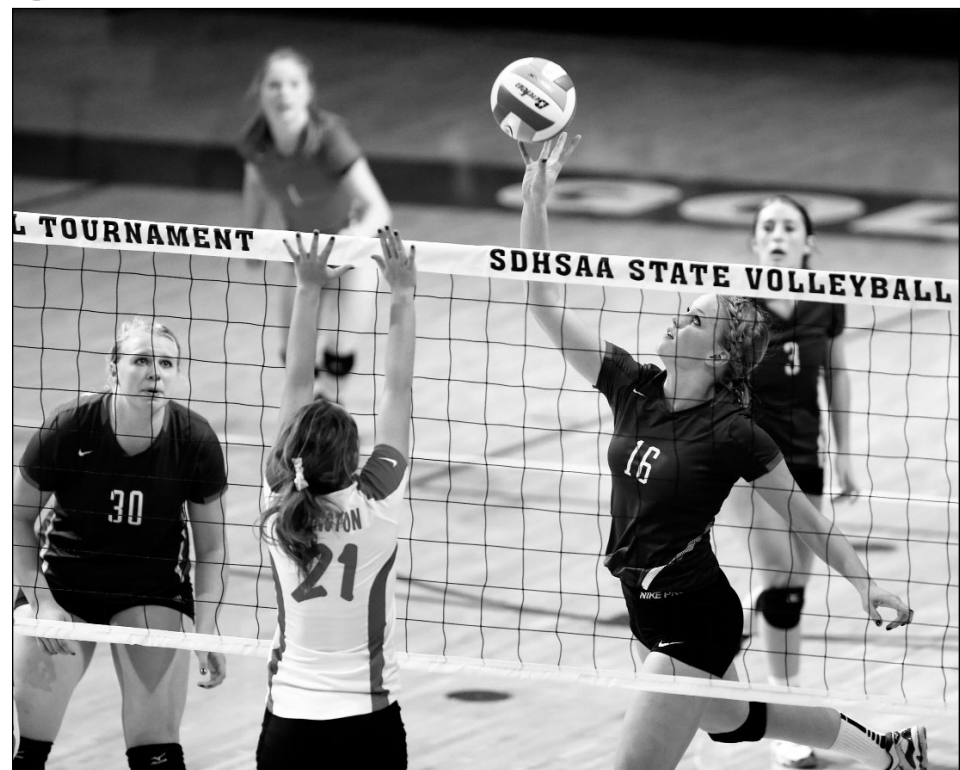
Arlington controlled the third set and put the pressure back on Parker, which responded by pulling out a tight fourth set which was tied at 19, 21 and 23.

"We have talked all year about trying to finish," Christensen said. "Obviously, we didn't finish in that first one, so that was tough to take, but they just hung in there and they never gave up and found a way to pull it out."

A big key was staying calm, according to Parker middle hitter Contessa Harold.

"We just need to keep steady," she said. "We just have to keep it cool. It was crazy."

At 6-foot-3, Harold poses a major problem for opposing defenses and the junior had three solo blocks and one as-



JOHN DAVIS/ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS

Parker's Hannah Herlyn (16) reaches for the ball as Arlington's Josie Parry (21) defends the net during Thursday's opening round of the South Dakota Class B Volleyball Tournament at the Golden Eagles Arena. Looking on for Parker are Contessa Harold (30), Lexi Olson (1) and Allison Sanner (3).

PARKER | PAGE 8A

## Panthers Down Morgan State

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa (AP) — Deon Mitchell and Paul Jesperson each scored 13 points and Northern Iowa pulled away in the second half to beat Morgan State 73-53 on Thursday night.

Seth Tuttle and Wes Washpun added 12 points apiece and Jeremy Morgan 11 in the game that was part of the Cancon Challenge.

Blake Bozeman was the only Morgan State player in double figures with 19 points. The Bears (0-3) shot just 33.9 percent while Northern Iowa was at 55.3 percent. The Panthers (3-0) made 24 of 34 free throws.

The Bears closed the first half with a 7-2 run to lead 30-29. Northern Iowa scored the first six points of the second half to go up 35-30. The Bears got within three before the Panthers continued to extend their lead. An 8-0 run by Northern Iowa left the Panthers leading 58-45 with 7:06 left. The lead would reach as many 22 points.

## Riders

From Page 5A

through from a 24-24 tie to win.

There were many times in those late-set situations when Larson was in the back row, which meant teammates had to step up at the net — senior Paige Rome (12 kills) and senior Madison Tyler (9) were especially key.

"It means that we came together," Larson said. "I trust every one of our teammates to get the job done, and it came together for us."

Aberdeen Central junior outside hitter Brianna Kusler finished with 27 kills, and was backed by Megan Kingsriter (11) and Pahton Burckhard (10).

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

# Tigers Tame Stevens 3-0



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Huron's Karissa Schroder, 24, dives to keep the ball in play during Thursday's first round match against Rapid City Stevens at the S.D. State Class AA Volleyball Tournament at the Summit Center.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

james.cimburek@yankton.net

Three matches into the season, the Huron Tigers took a 25-12, 25-15, 25-11 pounding at the hands of defending champion O'Gorman. Since then, the Tigers have been working towards another shot at the Knights.

They will have it after a 25-19, 25-18, 25-18 victory over Rapid City Stevens in the Thursday's opening round match of the South Dakota State Class AA Volleyball Tournament at the Summit Center.

Jacey Hupp had 15 kills and three ace serves, and Bailey Rathjen had 10 kills to lead the Huron offense. Lexi Eckmann posted 32 assists, four ace serves and 10 digs in the victory.

For Stevens, Cassidy Steele had seven kills and two blocks, and Taylor Molstad posted six kills to lead the net game. Sydney Daane posted 19 assists and three ace serves. Brooke Bennett, a Mount Marty College recruit, added 10 digs.

The victory sends Huron

HURON | PAGE 8A

## USD Women Win At Portland State

PORTLAND, Ore. — Margaret McCloud scored a career-high 22 points and grabbed seven rebounds to lead the South Dakota women's basketball team past Portland State 86-57 at the Peter W. Stott Center on Wednesday night.

McCloud scored 16 points in the second half and was 8-for-12 shooting on the night. Raeshel Contreras scored 14 points and Nicole Seekamp added 11 points in the win. Tia Hemiller tallied five assists and six rebounds.

The Vikings (0-2) were led by Mikaela Rivard, who scored 20 points. Emily Eason added 16 points for PSU.

The Coyotes (2-1) shot 50.8 percent (32-63) in the game, including shooting 62 percent (18-29) in the second half. USD outscored the Vikings 44-24 in the paint, 28-7 in bench points, 25-6 in points off of

## also

■ USD Played A Late Game At Washington On Thursday. Find The Story Online Here: [yankton.net](http://yankton.net)

turnovers and 15-4 in second chance points. The Coyotes led 38-25 at halftime and were up by as many as 31 in the second half. SOUTH DAKOTA (2-1) Lisa Loeffler 3-5 0-0 6, Margaret McCloud 8-12 6-7 22, Tia Hemiller 0-4 5-6 5, Raeshel Contreras 6-13 1-2 14, Nicole Seekamp 5-8 0-0 11, Kelly Stewart 3-6 2-2 9, Taylor Moore 0-0 0-0 0, Bridget Arens 3-4 1-2 8, Kate Liveringhouse 2-5 2-3 6, Heidi Hoff 2-6 0-0 5. TOTALS: 32-63 17-22 86. PORTLAND STATE (0-2) Ani Avanesian 0-4 4-4 4, Mikaela Rivard 7-17 4-7 20, Nela Aha 0-3 0-0 0, Laree Powell 5-8 0-1 10, Emily Eason 6-13 0-0 16, Lauren Hoff 1-4 1-3 3, Cara Olden 0-1 0-0 0, Cici West 1-5 2-4 4. TOTALS: 20-55 11-20 57. At the half: SD 38, PSU 57. Three-Pointers: PSU 6-20 (Eason 4-10, Rivard 2-7, Aha 0-1, Powell 0-1, Hoff 0-1), USD 5-15 (Arens 1-1, Seekamp 1-2, Hoff 1-2, Stewart 1-3, Contreras 1-5, Loeffler 0-1, Hemiller 0-1). Rebounds: SD 44 (McCloud 7), PSU 30 (Avanesian 7, West 7). Personal Fouls: PSU 19, USD 18. Fouled Out: Powell, West. Assists: USD 15 (Hemiller 5), PSU 10 (Aha 3, Powell 3). Turnovers: PSU 16, USD 10. Blocked Shots: PSU 6 (Avanesian 2), USD 1 (Stewart). Steals: USD 8 (Liveringhouse 2, Hoff 2), PSU 3. Attendance: 275.

## Coyotes

From Page 5A

play. During league play, she was third in the league in total kills (255) and total points (284.5) and was fourth in kills per set (4.11) and points per set (4.6). The Gretna, Neb., native has also been named to the Summit League all-Tournament team once in her career.

Dimke, a junior outside hitter from Ham Lake, Minn., earns her first all-league honor after recording the league's sixth-best hitting percentage (.321) and 13th most kills (172) in league play. Dimke was named to the all-freshman

team in 2012.

Firtko, a senior middle blocker from Racine, Wis., led the league in total blocks (79) and block assists (64) during the conference season. She was also second in hitting percentage (.369), blocks per set (1.25) and solo blocks (15).

On top of her all-league honors, freshman setter Jessen was also named to the league's all-freshman team. The freshman out of Mendota Heights, Minn., was second in assists per set (11.22) and total assists (707) in league play.

The Coyotes will begin play in the Summit League Tournament on Friday when they play Fort Wayne at 6 p.m. CT. A live stream of the match will be available on the league's website.

## Notebook

From Page 6A

also figured out that most teams have big outside hitters where it is dominantly big in the middle for 'A.'

Another key for Harrisburg's success in the future, is playing a rugged schedule in the regular season. The Tigers only played one team this season that wasn't in 'AA.'

"We continue to play a competitive schedule," Costain said. "We don't have any weak opponents. So, we will take some beatings in the regular season, but this season, playing tough teams has proved to help us get to a state tournament and hopefully more to come."

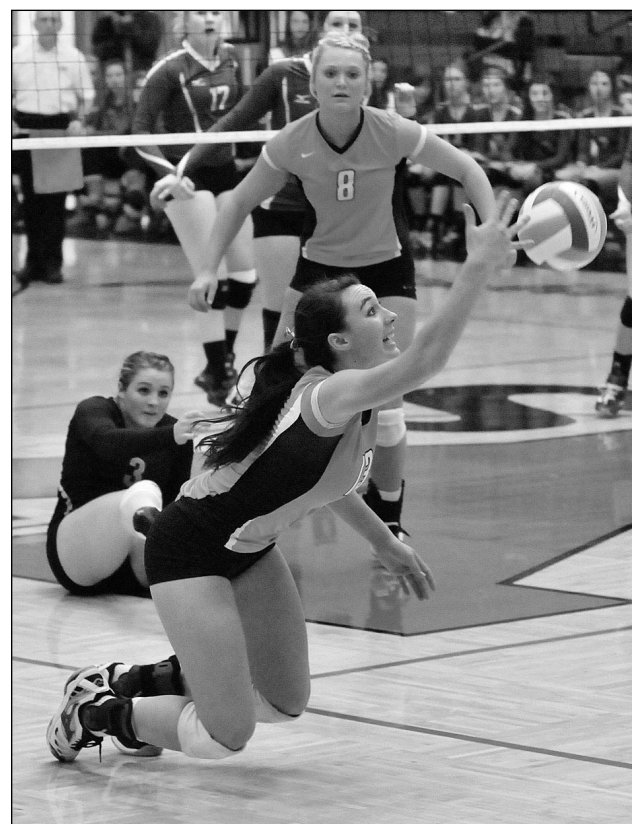
— Nick Robinson

## Sweeps The Story Early

It took until the third match for the tournament to really get interesting.

Each of the first three matches were sweeps by the higher seeds: No. 1 Sioux Falls O'Gorman, No. 4 Huron and No. 3 Watertown. And among those matches, the closest set was 25-20.

In the final action of the day, No. 2 Aberdeen Central won the opening set before



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Huron's Jacey Hupp saves the ball from going out of bounds during Thursday's first round match against Rapid City Stevens at the S.D. State Class AA Volleyball Tournament at the Summit Center. The Tigers senior is also talented in the sport of rodeo.

Sioux Falls Roosevelt got going and eventually pulled the upset.

The key for the victorious Riders, though, was not focusing on the record, head

coach Holly Lynch said later.

"I told the girls from the beginning not to look at our record, but our record doesn't reflect on how good of a team we are right now,"

she said.

— Jeremy Hoeck

## Larson Comes Up Big

For someone who admits their top sport is basketball, Tagyn Larson isn't too shabby on the volleyball floor.

Larson, the 6-foot-2 stand-out for Sioux Falls Roosevelt, recorded 30 kills in Thursday night's first round victory over Aberdeen Central.

The University of Iowa basketball recruit said later that competition drives her, no matter the sport.

"Basketball's my favorite sport, obviously, but I love playing volleyball," Larson said, smiling. "I love to compete with the girls and with the coaching staff."

How has her volleyball experience — with one state title and two runner-up finishes — helped her on the basketball court?

"Just the team bonding, and all the friendships," Larson said. "Playing so hard all season has really prepared me."

Her athletic ability certainly doesn't hurt either, Roosevelt head coach Holly Lynch said.

"Some of those balls that were so tight, only she could get those," Lynch said. "She's just so athletic, and she's a gamer."

On the other side, Ab-

erdeen Central head coach Dennis Northrup was frustrated in the way his team allowed Larson to have a big night.

"What do you think we talked about when we were scouting?" he said. "There wasn't anything else. We didn't get it done."

— Jeremy Hoeck

## Kloth, Knights Seek Another Title

Taryn Kloth and the top seeded Sioux Falls O'Gorman Knights are seeking their second straight Class AA state championship.

It is safe to say Kloth has been "Taryn" it up this season for the Knights, as she has posted 469 kills with a hitting percentage of .423 leading the Knights to a 30-5 regular season record.

"Whether she is in the front or back row, teams always have to know where she is," said O'Gorman head coach Julie Kolbeck.

The Knights have not lost to an in-state team yet this year and have only lost three sets in the state of South Dakota.

"It has been a blast playing with my fellow seniors and the underclassmen," said Kloth. "I have developed some great relationships and it is going to miss it when it is over."

Kloth, a 6-foot-4 senior outside hitter, has committed to play volleyball at Creighton University next fall.

But first, Kloth and the Knights have to some unfinished business.

"Going into the tournament we want to have fun and play as a team," said Kloth. "Our goal all along has been to finish with a championship."

— Ben Hegge

## Saddles Or Hardwood

When the state volleyball tournament ends, Huron's Jacey Hupp has a decision to make.

Does she continue her volleyball career at the collegiate level, or does she go with her other love, rodeo?

"Rodeo is a big passion of mine," she said. "But so is volleyball."

Hupp has participated in rodeo since she was eight, following her older siblings and family into the sport. She said that team roping was her favorite event, but that goat tying was probably her best event. She may have an opportunity to continue competing if she goes to South Dakota State, following siblings Trevor and Tarin — and the rest of her family — but has offers to compete collegiately in volleyball as well.

— James D. Cimburek