

AA Volleyball | Tournament Notebook

'Rowdy' AC Fans Liven Up Summit Center



Afternoon Excitement

ABOVE: The Aberdeen Central student section was out in full force for Friday's consolation semifinal match against Harrisburg at the S.D. State Class AA Volleyball Tournament at the Summit Center.

LEFT: An Aberdeen Central student gets her fellow students fired up during Friday's consolation semifinal action against Harrisburg at the S.D. State Class AA Volleyball Tournament at the Summit Center.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

While the weather outside the Summit Center was a little warmer on Friday, the Aberdeen Central student section made it look like the middle of July, sporting tank tops, swim trunks and sunglasses. A day earlier, they had everyone else putting on their shades due to their fluorescent garb.

The theme for each day is decided by the student senate, with each choice abiding by school and SDHSAA rules. Once at the tournament site, the Golden Eagle faithful are among the loudest in the gym.

"They call us the 'rowdy crew,'" said Central student Dillon Prissel. "We even have shirts that say that."

About 35 students made the trip for Thursday's first-round game, and more made it for Friday's match, even though the Golden Eagles were in the consolation bracket.

"They are coming down anyway," Prissel said.
— James D. Cimburek

Tourney Drought For Pierre

The last time the Pierre Lady Governors played at a state volleyball tournament, the six current seniors were in sixth grade.

That was 2008. "We've been to these before and I always thought, 'I want to be out there,'" junior middle hitter Macy Halverson said. "Now it's fun to be here and watch all these great teams."

Pierre, the No. 8 seed in the field this year, has lost its first two matches of the tournament and will play for seventh place today (Saturday) at noon.

The place doesn't necessarily matter at this point, it's all about experience for the Lady Govs.

"I told the girls (Thursday), 'We're here to see what good volleyball is like and what we need to do to get better,'" coach Chris Swiden said.

Rather than say, playing a state tournament in Sioux Falls, the Lady Govs are at least playing in a gym they've seen before, Halverson said.

"It's nice to be in a gym we've been in before," she said. "We're used to it; we're familiar with it."

Not only is the state tournament atmosphere new for the players, it's new for the coach, too, he said.

"For all of us, this is new," Swiden said. "I talked to a coach who said getting here for the first time is the hardest."

"For us, it's all about getting more experience."
— Jeremy Hoeck

Kloth Leads The Way

Katie Messler had seven kills and Jessica Mieras had six kills for Sioux Falls O'Gorman in its semifinal win Friday night.

But it wasn't the main story. Senior Taryn Kloth, a 6-

foot-4 Creighton recruit, recorded 21 kills — a handful from the back row.

"She's just an all-around player," O'Gorman coach Julie Kolbeck said. "You have to know where she's at all times. She is one of those players that will score points regardless of where she's at."

"I wish I could keep her for another three seasons."

The Knights were given a pretty good push by fourth-seeded Huron in the semifinals, but were able to scratch their way past the upset-minded Tigers.

"We gave it our best shot," Huron coach Shelly Buddenhagen said. "We were in the right place, we just couldn't get it (done)."

What does that say about the Knights, that they can still sweep even after being pushed like they were?

"They're good," Buddenhagen said, smiling.

"They have Kloth, and whenever they needed a point, it was going to her. And we knew it, and we just couldn't get it stopped."
— Jeremy Hoeck

'Scrappy' Watertown Arrows

The last time Watertown was in the state volleyball championship match, the two current seniors (Danielle Duncan and McKenzie Werner) were barely alive.

But the Arrows nearly broke through drought Friday thanks its tenacious play against Sioux Falls Roosevelt.

Watertown, which will play for third place today (Saturday), has a total of one player — Emily Buri — that stands at least 5-foot-9. And yet, the Arrows were able to keep pace with the Riders for a bulk of the match.

"Our defense has been our key to our success, they're athletic and scrappy group of girls," Watertown coach Kim Rohde said. "They will work their hearts out trying to get anything that's brought to them."

The Arrows had four girls with double-digit digs, with Tatum Hemiller (17), Macy Denzer (16), Lexi Gloe (15) and Duncan (12).

"Nothing is down until you hear the whistle blow," Roosevelt coach Holly Lynch said. "Watertown probably has one of the best defensive teams here at the state tournament."
— Jeremy Hoeck

Stevens' Hitter Signs With MMC

Brooke Bennett is getting an early taste of volleyball in Yankton this weekend.

The senior outside hitter for Rapid City Stevens has signed with Mount Marty College and will play volleyball for the Lancers.

It just makes sense for her, said the 5-foot-10 Bennett.

"I have family here (in Yankton), plus it's a small college and I like the religious

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Riders

From Page 7

while sophomore Kalei Wilson and Rome both had seven kills.

It was going to be a tough test regardless for Watertown, which was at a significant size disadvantage.

"It was kind of like of a battle of David and Goliath, they were the taller team and we were the smaller team," Watertown coach Kim Rohde said. "The girls came out and showed what they're capable of doing."

While Watertown is relegated to today's (Saturday) third-place match with Huron, the Riders turn their attention to the 8 p.m. championship.

In their matchups since last year's title meeting, the O'Gorman-Roosevelt series has been controlled by the Knights. O'Gorman has won the three matches this season, including the district finals — though the Riders managed to win a set.

"I just told the girls, 'Coming into the season, our record doesn't show who we are,'" Lynch said. "We go to tournaments to push ourselves for exact reasons like this."

"I told them, regardless of what happens tomorrow night, they've exceeded my expectations for this season, to be honest."

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

Class A: Top-Seeded Chargers Derail Dakota Valley Repeat Bid

BY GARRETT DORNEMAN
Public Opinion Sports Writer

WATERTOWN — Sioux Falls Christian and Dakota Valley have been the dominant forces in the recent history of Class A volleyball, capturing the last four state championships between them. High expectations surround both programs and their state semifinal tussle Friday in the Watertown Civic Arena lived up to all the hype.

With a thrilling third-set win and an otherworldly performance from Shelby Zomermaand, top-seeded Sioux Falls Christian punched a return ticket to the state title match with a 3-1 win over fifth-seeded and defending state champion Dakota Valley.

Sioux Falls Christian won 14-25, 25-21, 30-28 and 25-14.

"It was great volleyball, both teams," said Sioux Falls Christian head coach Darci Wassenaar. "It was very exciting and you saw the girls really getting after it, playing their best volleyball. It was just a lot of fun."
The Chargers (26-1) will

look to resume their dynasty and capture a fourth state title in five years when they take on sixth-seeded Miller in the final match tonight (Saturday) at 7:45 p.m.

With their repeat bid over, Dakota Valley (23-4) will seek to salvage a third-place finish when it battles second-seeded Mount Vernon-Plankinton in the third-place match tonight (Saturday) at 6 p.m. Three of the Panthers' four losses this season have come to Sioux Falls Christian.

The stirring third set epitomized the match.

Both teams came out swinging with aggressive offense countered with tough-as-nails defense and no point coming easy. The set featured five lead changes and 14 ties with neither squad leading by more than three points. The home stretch saw both teams fend off two game-points each before Sioux Falls Christian finally clinched victory when a Panther return sailed over the backline. Shelby Zomermaand commanded the

Charger offense with seven kills followed closely by Emily Voss with four. The Panthers were sparked by Elizabeth Lammers three kills.

The fourth set seemed like a continuation of the third's competitiveness early on, then Sioux Falls Christian decided to grab the match by the horns. Holding a slim 10-9 advantage, the Chargers exploded on a 12-3 scoring run that all but sealed victory.

"We expended a lot of energy in the third set and we just couldn't get going in the fourth set," said Dakota Valley head coach Rick Pruett. "We let them get on a run and then we started playing not to lose. As a team we went away from our type of game. We're an aggressive team with great setters and hitters, but we weren't taking advantage of our opportunities."

Despite their dominance late, Sioux Falls Christian had its back against the wall early.

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Sunday, November 30, 2 p.m.

Yankton High School Theatre
1801 Summit Street, Yankton, SD

Tickets on sale at the Yankton Mall by the JCPenney entrance

Tickets also available
Monday - Friday 6:30 - 8:30
Saturday & Sunday 1:00-4:30
(through Wednesday, November 26th)
Friday, November 28 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Adult Tickets \$12.00
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Congratulations

Linda's Angel Crossing Ribbon Cutting

The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce hosted an Expansion Ribbon Cutting for Linda's Angel Crossing located at 1101 Broadway Ave. Linda Stephenson, owner of the store carries ladies and children clothing and gifts. Linda's mission is to provide children, babies and ladies apparel at moderate prices, desirable styles and new selections. Linda's Angel Crossing has been in business since 2001. You can visit her Monday thru Friday 10:00-6:00 p.m. or on Saturday 10:00-5:00 p.m. For more information go to her website at www.lindasangelcrossing.com or (605)665-0080.

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