

AA Volleyball: Huron Outlasts Watertown For Third

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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All season long, Huron head coach Shelly Buddenhagen has preached balance. In Saturday's third place match with Watertown — the third meeting between the Eastern South Dakota Conference rivals this season — she tried a different approach, and the Tigers rode it to a 25-12, 20-25, 23-25, 26-24, 15-12 victory in the South Dakota State Class AA Volleyball Tournament at the Summit Center.

Instead of trying to evenly distribute the ball, Buddenhagen had Huron setter Lexi Eckmann feed whoever was swinging well.

"All season we've tried to have 'death by 1,000 paper cuts,'" she said after the match. "When we went into this match, we decided to go with who had the hot hand."

As a result, the Tigers' season leaders — senior Jacey Hupp and Samantha Zell — finished with 19 and 15 kills. Bailey Rathjen, who was also having a strong tournament, finished with 13 kills. Eckmann posted 43 assists, 16 digs and three ace serves.

Defensively for Huron (20-6), Cenzi Glanzer had 27 digs and Rathjen had 14 digs to lead the way. Karissa Schroder had five blocks, Hupp had 13 digs and Cameron Schroder had 10 digs for the Tigers.

"Give credit to Huron," said Watertown head coach Kim Rohde. "Their defense was excellent."

Macy Denzer had 16 kills and 23 digs, and Danielle Gottsleben had nine kills and four blocks to lead Watertown (20-6). McKenzie Werner finished with nine kills and 11 digs. Tatum Hemiller posted 24 digs. Sydney Dale had 30 assists and 13 digs. Danielle Duncan had 17 digs for the Arrows.

Coming into the match, both teams knew a victory would not come easily. The teams had split during the regular season, with each team earning a sweep on the other's home court.

"I knew they were a lot like us," Hupp said. "I predicted it would be five (sets)."

But Huron took control early, jumping out to a 10-4 lead and building a 19-9 edge before icing the opening set. In the second set, it was Watertown jumping out to a 10-4 lead before holding on for the win.

In set three, neither team led by more than two until the Arrows ran off four straight points to take a 19-16 edge. Watertown took that set, then threatened to take the match in the fourth set, leading 24-23 before the Tigers scored three straight to tie the match.

In the deciding set, Huron ran off three straight points to break a 10-10 tie, then held on for the victory. Hupp blasted one through the Watertown defense to end the match.

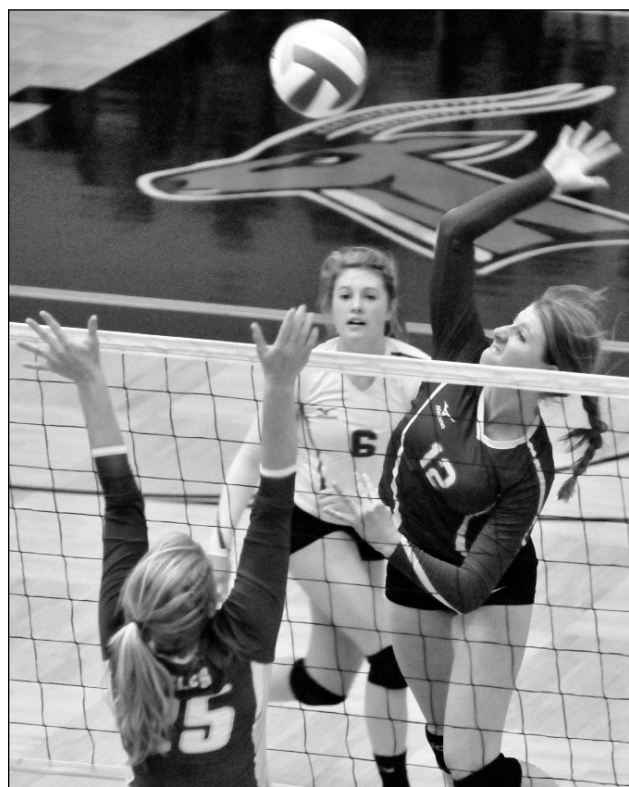
"I'd never been so happy that I wanted to cry," she said. "After that last kill, I definitely was."

Buddenhagen said that the feeling was similar for her other seniors.

"Our seniors really wanted this," she said. "They knew what they had to do to beat Watertown."

While the match was for third place, Buddenhagen hoped that the match showed fans and television viewers that saw the end of their match while waiting for the championship that the ESD also plays a high level of volleyball.

"That's what the ESD teams set out to do, showcase ESD volleyball," she said. Five of the eight teams in the tournament were from the ESD. "It turned into an epic battle between the Arrows and Tigers."



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For Rohde and the Arrows, this weekend could be a taste of things to come. Duncan and Werner are the only two seniors on a junior-dominated Watertown roster.

"We have a lot of juniors and only two seniors," she said. "We're going to come back and be aggressive again. We'll have a team with a lot of experience."

Eckmann and Hupp earned all-tournament honors for Huron. Denzer and Werner were honored for Watertown.

Fifth

The Rapid City Stevens Raiders overcame a 16-block performance by a tough Aberdeen Central defense to upend the Golden Eagles 25-19, 19-25, 28-26, 17-25, 15-6 in the consolation championship of the South Dakota State Class AA Volleyball Tournament on Saturday at the Summit Center.

Cassidy Steele had 12 kills, and Taylor Molstad had 11 kills and 16 digs to lead a balanced Stevens (27-8) attack. Sydney Daane posted 46 assists. Leslie Carsrud had 41 digs and four ace serves. Andraya Hawks finished with 18 digs. Sydney Bodenstener added 10 digs and three ace serves for the Raiders.

For Aberdeen Central (21-4), Brianna Kusler led the way with 13 kills, five blocks and 24 digs. Megan Kingsriter had 12 kills. Maddie Goetz had 30 assists and a team-best 32 digs. Kendall McDaniel had 24 digs and four ace serves. Paaton Burckhard added four of the team's 16 blocks.

The final match for

Stevens' nine seniors was a big motivator, said the Raiders' Brooke Bennett.

"We were all about leaving it on the court," said the Mount Marty College volleyball recruit. "We knew this was our last year together. It brought our fire out."

Stevens finished with 106 digs, one more than the Golden Eagles.

"Our passing game was really on," Voorhees said. "When that happens it opens up options offensively, and our setter's been doing a good job of finding the open hitter."

"We had them guessing the whole match."

Stevens opened the match on a 10-2 run and led 19-9 before Aberdeen Central crept back to within five, 20-15. But the Raiders kept the Golden Eagles at bay to take the set.

In set two, Aberdeen Central broke an 11-all tie with five straight points. After Stevens tied the set at 18, the Golden Eagles ran off four straight points and seven of eight to tie the match.

The Golden Eagles led 12-7 in the third set before Stevens surged back to tie the set at 22. From there, Stevens had one failed set point and Aberdeen Central had two before the Raiders ran off three straight points to close the set.

Aberdeen Central would not go quietly, using a 4-0 run midway through the fourth set to push to a deciding fifth stanza. In the final round, Stevens went on its longest run of the match, eight straight points, to ice the victory.

Each team had one all-tournament selection, Daane

for Stevens and Kusler for Aberdeen Central.

Seventh
The Harrisburg Tigers wanted to end their season on a "good." Pierre just made them work for it.

The Tigers battled past Pierre 25-14, 20-25, 23-25, 25-16, 15-11 in the seventh place match of the South Dakota State Class AA Volleyball Tournament on Saturday at the Summit Center.

"They didn't want to walk out of here without a 'good,'" said Harrisburg head coach Ronette Costain. One of the Tigers' habits this season was to end practice on a positive play. "We talked a lot about playing for pride."

Haley Bruggeman had 16 kills, six blocks and 23 digs to lead Harrisburg (13-12). Samantha Slaughter had nine kills and eight blocks. Karli O'Connor finished with 26 assists. Avery Thorson had 20 assists and 10 digs. Mikayla Axtell had 11 digs and McKenna Mathiesen added four of the Tigers' 22 blocks in the win.

For Pierre (8-18), Kelsey Schmitz led the way with 17 kills. Samantha Claussen had nine kills and five blocks. Kallie Stout had 26 digs and five ace serves. Jamie Hyde finished with 18 assists and three blocks. Jordyn Lemieux had 16 assists and 14 digs. Payton Gall had 14 digs and Hallie Jerome added 10 digs for the Lady Govs.

In the opening set, Harrisburg blew open a 10-9 game, outscoring the Lady Govs' 15-5 to finish the set. Pierre used a late run in set two, scoring six straight points to tie the match.

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The Lady Govs took the upper hand late in set three to take the lead in the match, but a 7-0 run by Harrisburg in set four gave the Tigers a comfortable margin on the way to forcing a fifth set.

In the deciding stanza, a 3-0 run early gave the Tigers a cushion they would not relinquish.

"We played a little better today but, to Harrisburg's credit, they played phenomenal defense," Pierre head coach Chris Swiden said. "We weren't able to push it through."

The Tigers, who made their first state tournament appearance since 2008 and their first-ever in Class AA, lose just two seniors, Bruggeman, a University of South Dakota track and field recruit, and Ashton Auch.

"This was a great experience for our two seniors, but even better for our younger players," Costain said.

The Lady Govs' first trip to state since 2008 came under a first-year head coach, who hopes that the underclassmen now have a taste of what they need to do to break into the top level of Class AA.

"We got here in my first year. We got some experience and reached our goals," he said. "But it shows we have a lot of work ahead. We have to figure out what we need to do to compete at this level."

Neither team had an all-tournament selection.

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

Closing Thoughts On The State Tournament

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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It has been a long time since I've seen so much volleyball in a short amount of time, as I did this weekend with the Class AA Tournament here in Yankton this past weekend.

There are plenty of things to take away from the tournament.

First, O'Gorman's Taryn Kloth is really good. We've seen her splinter floors all

season, but she took it to another level down the stretch of the championship match, recording seven kills in nine points — and Roosevelt scored the other two points. She finished with 62 kills for a record 6.9 kills per set.

The pre-rally scoring era record is still safe, though, as another Knight — Jayne Even, who went a Hall of Fame basketball career for North Dakota State — averaged 7.92 kills per set in 1996.

— There are a couple of big-time basketball players that more than hold their own on a volleyball court.

In my pre-tournament interview with Roosevelt coach Holly Lynch, I joked that Rough Rider senior Tagyn Larson was "a pretty good volleyball player for a basketball player." Lynch snapped back, "she's a very good volleyball player."

Larson, a University of Iowa basketball recruit, left no doubt about that, leading the tournament with 6.7 digs per set despite the fact that the next four players behind her — all liberos — spend twice as much time in the back row. Her average, coincidentally, ranks third in the rally scoring era.

Another Division I basketball commit, O'Gorman's Jessica Mieras, edged Harrisburg's Samantha Slaughter for the tournament lead in blocks at 1.2 per set. While she was a wall at the net, what impressed me about Mieras was her decision making at the net.

"To be able to hit that drop ball, roll shot or tip is a great weapon to have," said O'Gorman head coach Julie Kolbeck. "She is such a threat at the net."

O'Gorman setter Dalee Stene, also a talented basketball player, finished with a tournament-best 11.8 assists per set. She now owns three of the top-nine assist marks in the modern era, including a tournament-record 14.78 assists per set a year ago.

— Lynch has put together one amazing feeder system at Roosevelt.

Despite graduating a ton of talent, a young Rough Riders team went 11-6 down the stretch to finish 20-19 on the season. Of those six losses, three were to Iowa teams and three were to Sioux Falls O'Gorman. The Rough Riders were one of just three teams in South Dakota to take a set from the Knights this season, something Roosevelt accomplished in the District 1AA final.

This marked the fifth consecutive season that the Rough Riders played for a state title. It also marked the ninth consecutive year and



James D. CIMBUREK

Men's Basketball: South Dakota Falls To Fairfield In Overtime

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) — Tyler Nelson hit four 3-pointers and had 24 points to lead Fairfield to an 80-72 overtime win over South Dakota in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic on Sunday.

Nelson's basket with 4:34 left in regulation gave Fairfield a 68-57 lead, but the Stags went scoreless the rest of the way. Tyler Larson scored six of South Dakota's final 11 points, including a game-tying layup with 40 seconds left.

In overtime, Fairfield made 8 of 8 free throws and its defense held South Dakota to just two Brandon Bos field goals.

Mike Kirkland Jr. added 20 points, 10 coming from the free throw line, for Fairfield (2-3). Amadou Sidibe had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Marcus Gilbert chipped in with 12 points.

South Dakota (0-5) was paced by Larson with 23 points and 12 rebounds. Bos added 20 points.

FAIRFIELD 80, S. DAKOTA 72, OT

S. DAKOTA (0-5)

Burnette 4-6 0-0 8, Harris 0-2 2-2 2, Bos 8-14 3-5 20, Hunter 1-5 0-0 2, Larson 8-19 7-23, Norris 0-0 0-0 0, Thobey 0-1 0-0 0, Kasperbauer 2-5 0-0 6, Mayot 1-3 0-0 2, Davis 1-5 0-2 2, Robertson 3-3 0-0 7, Sparks 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-63 12-19 72.

FAIRFIELD (2-3)

Kirkland Jr. 5-12 10-12 20, Nelson 8-11 4-4 24, Mar. Gilbert 3-9 4-6 12, Rose 1-7 0-0 2, Sidibe 5-6 4-5 14, Segura 1-3 1-2 3, Johnston 1-5 2-5, Johnson 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 24-55 25-31 80.

Halftime—Tied 29-29. End Of Regulation—Tied 68. 3-Point Goals—S. Dakota 4-12 (Kasperbauer 2-5, Robertson 1-1, Bos 1-1, Davis 0-1, Burnette 0-1, Larson 0-3), Fairfield 7-19 (Nelson 4-7, Mar. Gilbert 2-5, Johnston 1-4, Kirkland Jr. 0-1, Rose 0-2). Fouled Out—Burnette. Rebounds—S. Dakota 40 (Larson 12), Fairfield 33 (Sidibe 12). Assists—S. Dakota 12 (Davis, Larson 3), Fairfield 16 (Kirkland Jr. 6). Total Fouls—S. Dakota 25, Fairfield 19. A—1,487.

Midland 88, Mount Marty 48

FREMONT, Neb. — Second-ranked Midland had four players score 12 points each and had five players in double figures in an 88-48 victory over Mount Marty in Great Plains

Athletic Conference men's basketball action on Saturday.

Galen Gullie, Trevor Bryant, D.J. Vaughn and Jake Hill had 12 points each for Midland (7-1, 3-0 GPAC). Alex Starkel scored 10 points and Harold Ridgeway had 10 rebounds in the win.

For MMC (1-7, 0-3 GPAC), Bud Smith led the way with 12 points.

MMC travels to Dordt on Tuesday in GPAC action. Start time is set for 8 p.m.

MOUNT MARTY (1-7)

Blake Bartscher 0-2 0-0 0, Jackson Seitzinger 1-6 0-0 2, Bud Smith 4-10 3-4 12, Patrick Ciganovic 0-4 0-0 0, Anthony Stransky 0-2 0-0 0, Lorenzo Davis 3-6 0-0 6, Seamus O'Malley 1-1 0-0 3, Jake Anderson 2-6 1-6, Jalen Hurley 1-1 0-0 2, Alex Irvine 2-4 2-3 6, Cody Willett 2-5 1-3 6, Taylor Millay 3-8 0-0 6. TOTALS: 19-55 6-11 48.

MIDLAND (7-1)

Marcus Franklin 3-6 2-2 8, Jesse Jones 2-2 0-0 4, Galen Gullie 5-10 0-0 12, Alex Starkel 4-12 2-4 10, Trevor Bryant 3-6 6-6 12, D.J. Vaughn 4-8 0-0 12, Harold Ridgeway 4-8 1-2 9, Jake Hill 6-8 0-3 12, Jalen Hussar 2-5 0-0 6, Tyler Ripberger 0-3 0-0 0, Jordan Flynn 1-3 0-0 3. TOTALS: 34-71 11-18 88.

At the half: MU 44, MMC 19. Three-Pointers: MU 9-22 (Vaughn 4-

7, Gullie 2-5, Hussar 2-5, Flynn 1-3, Ripberger 0-2), MMC 4-15 (Anderson 2-4, O'Malley 1-1, Smith 1-3, Bartscher 0-2, Seitzinger 0-1, Ciganovic 0-1, Stransky 0-2, Willett 0-1). Rebounds: MU 41 (Ridgeway 10), MMC 31 (Willett 6). Personal Fouls: MMC 16, MU 14. Fouled Out: None. Assists: MU 12 (Jones 4), MMC 10 (Willett 3). Turnovers: MMC 18, MU 2. Blocked Shots: MU 6 (Ridgeway 3), MMC 2 (Millay 2). Steals: MU 11 (four with 2), MMC 0.

Wofford 72, South Dakota 68
BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) — Karl Cochran scored 31 points, including eight 3-pointers, and had five assists Saturday, and Wofford held off a second-half surge by South Dakota to win 72-68 at the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Justin Gordon added 12 points for the Terriers (3-1).

Adam Thoseby paced South Dakota (0-4) with 18 points.

South Dakota led 17-16 after a 3-pointer by Thoseby, but Wofford

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