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Sharp-Shooting Lancer Women Aim For NAIA Tourney Berth



Alex Kneeland, 2, and the Mount Marty women open the 2015-16 season on Fri-

day at Grace.

BY JEREMY HOECK

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There's plenty of motivation for the Mount Marty College women's basketball team.

The Lancers felt like they were just short of an NAIA National Tournament berth last season when they won 19 games, and now given the experience they have back, they feel like a tournament spot is a realistic goal this season.

More fuel was added to the fire when Mount Marty was picked ninth in the preseason Great Plains Athletic Conference coaches poll.

"I think it's good to play with a chip on your shoulder," said head coach Tom Schlimgen, who enters his eighth season. "It's good that you have some extra motivation.'

The Lancers, who open the 2015-16 season Friday at Grace University in Omaha, Nebraska, haven't reached the NAIA National Tournament since 2011 but saw a 6-win improvement last season.

And they're not afraid to hide their expectations for this season. "That's the main goal, always,

but for sure this year we think it's reachable," junior guard Logan Wagner said Four GPAC teams earned national tournament berths last season,

and a fifth – College of Saint Mary (Nebraska) – joins the conference The Lancers, who look to be

even deeper than last season's team, know they'll have to improve on last season's 9-11 conference record in order to reach the national tourna-

"I think everyone thinks tournament," senior forward Raquel Sutera said. "That'd be really sweet to end a career like that.'

More than any previous season, Mount Marty was especially dangerous from three-point range last season. A staple of the Schlimgen tenure in Yankton, the Lancers made a school-record 299 three-pointers and still shot 34 percent from deep.

"It's been an emphasis for us, obviously," Schlimgen said. "We like to joke that we don't shoot a lot of threes, we make a lot of threes.

The Lancers return 208 of those three-pointers made from last season, and could again threaten that

record.
"We've got a lot of good shooters, it doesn't really matter who takes them," said senior guard Alex Kneeland, who is the team's top returning scorer (16).

"It's a fun way to play when you have a fast-break and there's a three open, and you take it.'

Mount Marty will rely on Kneeland, Sutera (10.1 ppg, 7.4 rpg) and senior guard Cassidy Gebhart (4.4 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 3.3 apg), as well as Wagner, junior Kellie Winckler (3.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg) and junior Denae Veldkamp (2.7 ppg, 1.9 rpg).

From there, a group of upperclassmen will see their roles improve significantly.

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MMC WOMEN 11/14 vs. Dakota State 11/18 vs. Morningside 11/21 at Doane 11/24 at Dakota Wesleyan 12/2 vs. Briar Cliff 12/5 vs. College of St. Mary 12/6 at Dakota State 12/8 at Presentation 6 p.m. 12/14 vs. Grace 12/19 vs. Hastings 6 p.m. Kansas Wesleyan Clas 12/29 at Kansas Wesleyar 12/30 vs. McPherson 6 p.m. at Dordt vs. Midland vs. Northwestern at College of St. Mary at Morningside vs. Dakota Wesleyan 6 p.m. at Hastings vs. Doane at Northwesterr at Midland vs. Dordt 6 p.m. vs. Nebraska Weslevan GPAC Quarterfinals GPAC Semifinals GPAC Semifinals GPAC Championship NAIA Division II Tourn. March 9-15 at Sioux City, Iowa

Dominant Devils



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Wynot quarterback Jalen Wieseler, 6, avoids a tackle attempt by Lawrence-Nelson's Kevin Schroer during their Class D2 football playoff game on Wednesday in Wynot, Nebraska.

Wynot Whips Raiders 38-0

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WYNOT, Neb. - Before the season, Wynot football coach Steve Heimes told his team it would get a pizza party if it accom-

plished two goals. The Blue Devils had to return a kickoff for a touchdown and had to record a shutout.

They checked off that second task thanks to a defensive stop by reserves on the final play – with a 38-0 victory over Lawrence-Nelson in Wednesday afternoon's Class D2 second round playoff game in

For a game that had long since been decided, the Blue Devils starters on the sidelines let off a massive celebration after the second-team defense stopped a receiver at the 3-yard line on the final play.

"We've gotten a kickoff return before, but to get the shutout in the second round of the playoffs, that's awesome," senior Cody Stratman said. "We were definitely

Most of Wynot's starters came off the

field on its last offensive possession, late in the fourth quarter with the clock running. Lawrence-Nelson (8-2) was able to march the ball down the field against the reserves, but couldn't prevent the shutout.

'We've had some games that we've blown teams out and our JV guys played the entire second half. We'd always give back a few points," head coach Steve Heimes said.

"These older guys were really looking for a shutout.

And that shutout sends Wynot (9-1) to next Tuesday's quarterfinals, at Exeter-

Although the Blue Devils were able to advance with a convincing win, it wasn't exactly a dominating effort on either side. Lawrence-Nelson never really let Wynot's rushers get loose - the Blue Devils rushed for 142 yards and passed for 113 yards – but it was a pair of early touchdowns that set the tone.

Wynot put together a 12-play drive right out of the gate and scored on a Jalen

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D Wynot's Jerrett Bruening wraps up Lawrence Nelson's Colton Biltoft from behind during their Class D2 playoff football game on Wednesday in Wynot, Nebraska.

Coyotes Put Two On SL Second Team

BROOKINGS — South Dakota senior defender Kasha Meyer and junior striker Corey Strang were named to the 2015 All-Summit League second team, as announced at the Summit League banquet Wednesday. Freshman midfielder Sammie Villwock earned a spot on the league's all-freshman team. The allleague awards are nominated and selected by Summit League coaches.

Meyer, a senior defender from Lincoln, Neb., has anchored a young Coyote back line throughout the fall. Meyer has totaled 1,712 minutes this season, subbing out in only one match where the Coyotes led by four. Meyer also stepped up to become an integral part of the Coyote attack on set pieces in recent matches. In the Coyotes' final home stand against IUPUI and Western Illinois, Meyer put the game-winners into the back of the net off of corner kicks.

A junior striker from Temecula, Calif., Strang leads the team in points this fall with nine goals and four assists. Her 22 points is tied for third in the league. Strang also ranks in the top-10 in program history in several categories. After Sunday's game at Fort Wayne, she moved in to fifth in program history with five game-winning goals and ninth in caree goals with 15. Strang scored the game-winners in league games this fall against Denver and Fort Wavne.

Villwock, a freshman midfielder from Lake Villa, Ill., remains the Coyotes' secondleading scorer this fall behind Strang. She has four goals and a trio of assists on the season for 11 points. Three of Villwock's goals came in a hat trick against Green Bay, when Villwock's third goal in 92nd minute led the Coyotes to an overtime 4-3 win. Villwock also holds a .577 shot-ongoal percentage through 17

matches played. South Dakota (8-11-0, 5-3-0 Summit League) faces North Dakota State (12-5-1, 7-0-1 Summit League) in the semifinal of the Summit League Tournament. Kickoff is at 6 p.m. Thursday in Brookings.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Lauren Miller. North Dakota

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Kaily Cox, Oral Roberts
GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR: Sierra Bonham. North Dakota State

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR: Brity Monteon, North Dakota State COACH OF THE YEAR: Mark Cook, North Dakota State

Creighton Overpowers Clarkson-Leigh 52-12

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND sports@yankton.net

CREIGHTON, Neb. - The Creighton Bulldogs improve to a 10-0 record and advance into Class D1 quarter finals after a 52-12 second round victory over the Clarkson-Leigh Patriots in Creighton, Nebraska, on Wednesday in prep football

"It feels good, it feels good," Creighton coach Gene Suhr said. "I'm just glad we get to keep playing and see how far we go.

The Bulldogs started the game with a bang on a five-play, 52-yard scoring drive capped off by a 30-yard touchdown run by runningback, Brook Baller, to go up 8-0. Clarkson-Leigh followed this with a long drive of its own going 11 plays which ended in a 27-yard

touchdown run by quarterback, Kobe Paprocki, bringing

the score to 8-6 On its first play from scrimmage following Clarkson-Leigh's score, Creighton's quarterback, Ryan Neumann, ran for a 65-yard score to go up 14-6. Lane Walton added a touchdown run for the Bulldogs form a yard out after Creighton forced a turnover on downs from Clarkson-Leigh. Paprocki then ran for another score to make it 20-12, but from there on out it

was all Creighton. "Our guys were getting pinched inside, so we spread our guys out a little wider, and that shut down the outside stuff," Suhr said. "Kobe Paprocki and Bradley Bunner are both quality players and have been all vear.

Up 40-12 in the third

quarter, the Bulldogs held the Patriots to a three-and-out, then a Blake Paprocki punt was downed at the 2-yardline. Just when it looked like it was going to turn around for Clarkson-Leigh, Baller took the ball 78-yards on the ground for a touchdown fol-

lowing the punt. "I was actually cramping a little bit so I was just trying to stay on my feet and keep running," Baller said. "We have amazing blockers, especially our fullback Lane Walton, he is a super truck, and I am so thankful those guys can get me a hole and I can get in the

open field and run my heart In the fourth quarter, Neumann ran for his fourth

touchdown of the game and Creighton to a 52-12 lead. "He throws a great ball and

he's very versatile with how he runs," Baller said. "He's quick, he's agile, he's just a great guy.

After the score, with just over nine minutes remaining, the clock would run through for the remainder of the game and Creighton's starters would leave the game.

"We thought it was going to be a little bit of a challenge for us," Suhr said. "They are a very good football team, they have been all year, they've got some good football players and we rose to the challenge and played well."

Creighton will continue the road to a state title on Tuesday against High Plains Community in the quarterfinals.

Follow @michaelhammond_ on Twitter.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D Creighton's Brook Baller finds the endzone during the Bulldogs' Class D1 football playoff matchup with Clarkson-Leigh on Wednesday in Creighton, Nebraska.