

# Montana Holds Off South Dakota State

BY NATHAN GIESE

Jackrabbit Sports Service

MISSOULA, Mont. – Montana's Grizzlies survived a second-half charge by South Dakota State on Saturday to win a 24-17 first-round FCS playoff game and end a football season for the Jackrabbits that they had hoped would take them deeper into the postseason.

From SDSU's perspective, the second quarter was the culprit. The Jacks allowed 17 points in those 15 minutes to dig a 24-0 halftime hole they could not fill.

They gave it a pretty good try though, and toward the end of the game had the Montana faithful, including the Grizzlies coach, a bit on edge.

"Psychologically it's tough when you're up 24-nothing," Grizzlies first-year coach Bob Stitt said. "You come out and you're flat. Bottom line, you just got to win."

For SDSU coach John Stiegelmeier, who saw his team lose a chance to secure a top-8 seed and first-round home playoff game in a double-overtime loss to Western Illinois last week, the Grizzlies' first-half momentum grab was a killer.

"We got caught up, got caught on our heels and we just did not do our job," said Stiegelmeier, who has coached his team into the playoffs for four straight years. "And that's the last thing you want to do against a good football team."

The Jacks – whose record dropped to 8-4 with the loss – used

the second half to try to remedy the situation. SDSU's defense forced five straight three-and-outs, giving the offense a chance.

Despite looking rattled at times, freshman quarterback Taryn Christian, who started in place of the injured Zach Lujan, tapped All-American wide receiver Jake Wieneke to help jump-start the comeback.

A 34-yard Jay Carlson field goal five minutes into the third quarter finally put the Jacks on the scoreboard.

On the next drive, Christian heaved a 36-yard pass toward the end zone and into the hands of Wieneke to put the ball at the 1-yard line. Christian would later finish the drive by running it in for the score. "I know there's nobody in the

locker room hurting more than Jake, because he thought he could've made some more plays," Stiegelmeier said of Wieneke's performance. "That's the kind of guy he is."

As it was, the 6-foot-3 sophomore from Maple Grove, Minn., caught six passes for 128 yards. He posted his eighth 100-yard game of the season and 15th of his career.

Down 24-10, the Jacks mounted another drive.

Christian (18-for-43 passing for 230 yards, 54 yards rushing), facing a fourth-down-and-19, found sophomore tight end Dallas Goedert for a 30-yard touchdown pass to put the Jacks one score away from tying the game with 4:44 left in regulation.

But the offense never got

another chance, much to the delight of most of the 14,575 fans in attendance at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Instead the Grizzlies (8-4) ate up the clock by feeding the ball to running back Jon Nguyen and mixing in a few key passes to finish the Jacks and advance to the next round.

"I'm so proud of our team," Stiegelmeier said despite the loss. "I told them all in the locker room I've never been more proud of a team for so many reasons. Start of the year, I don't know how many people gave us a chance to do what we did, what they did."

So SDSU's season ends and the Jackrabbits will look next year to

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## Season Preview | Yankton Gymnastics

# Gazelles Look To Raise Bar

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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With everyone back from a ninth place finish a season ago and a number of other gymnasts pushing them, the Yankton Gazelles gymnastics team has raised the bar. How far up that bar goes remains to be seen, but coach Luke Youmans is confident that it's pretty high.

"We've been a team the last five years, that we've been happy just to make it to the state meet, be one of those top eight teams," Youmans said. "We're planning on being one of the teams that's going to be a top-tier program."

The Gazelles finished ninth at state a year ago. They also had five compete individually, led by eighth grader Jaiden Boomsma's pair of top-20 finishes, fifth in the vault and 11th on the balance beam. Junior Haleigh Diede was an all-around competitor at state. Juniors Kaitlin Guthmiller, Morgan Mason and Cameryn Specht also competed in individual events at last year's state meet.

Yankton did not have a senior or junior on last year's squad, and does not have a senior this year.

"We've had a couple of years where we had some really young girls, and it was going to take a little bit of time to transition them into really good gymnasts, and we're there. We saw last year that it was the transition year of taking some really young kids and starting to turn them into some really good athletes," Youmans said.

"We're out of the transition this year. This is the year that the expectations are there."

The Gazelles are excited about the expectations as well.

"We are a lot better this year because all the hard work we've put in," said junior Sophie Bisgard.

Yankton also returns juniors Cassie Echols and Shanna Hill, and sophomores Lauren Vik, Madison Stahly and Storm Yaggie. One thing that has helped the Gazelles is their athletic diversity, according to Youmans.

"The great thing about this junior group of girls is that they're not just gymnasts. They're all girls

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## Gazelles Open Season Today

Kaitlin Guthmiller (above), Sophie Bisgard (left) and Haleigh Diede (below) are three of the seven juniors returning for Yankton, which begins its 2015-16 gymnastics season tonight (Monday) with a triangular against Mitchell and Parkston-Ethan-Hanson. The event is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Summit Center.

P&D FILE PHOTOS



# Coyote Women Win Florida Atlantic Tournament

BOCA RATON, Fla. – Caitlin Duffy had 20 points to lead South Dakota past Florida Atlantic 76-53 for the championship of the Florida Atlantic women's basketball Tournament on Saturday.

Kelly Stewart posted 14 points, 10 rebounds and four assists for USD (3-3). Tia Hemiller posted a double-double, finishing with 10 points and 12 rebounds. Margaret McCloud added 10 points and eight rebounds in the victory.

Ali Gorrell led FAU (4-1) with 12 points. Morgan Robinson and Malia Kency each had 10 points.

Both Hemiller and Duffy were named to the all-tournament team.

A native of Watertown, Hemiller's line for the tournament read 10.5 points, 8 rebounds, 4.5 assists, and 1.5 steals per game. She was 4-for-5 from the field and dished out seven assists Friday when facing Appalachian State. Hemiller then posted a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds against Florida State Saturday.

A shooting guard from

Rapid City, Duffy led the Coyotes in scoring with an average 15.5 ppg. She was 3-for-4 beyond the 3-point line against Appalachian State with a total 11 points. When the Florida Atlantic Owls defended her outside the arc in the championship game Saturday, Duffy drove to the rim for a game-high 20 points. She also grabbed three rebounds, dished out a pair of assists, and had a steal during the tournament.

USD hosts Drake on

Thursday. SOUTH DAKOTA (3-3) Margaret McCloud 3-7 4-4 10, Tia Hemiller 4-8 0-0 10, Jaycee Bradley 0-1 0-0 0, Caitlin Duffy 8-13 2-4 20, Nicole Seekamp 2-10 2-7 7, Jasmine Trimball 1-2 0-2, Allison Arens 0-2 1-2 1, Kelly Stewart 5-10 3-5 14, Bridget Arens 3-8 0-0 6, Madeline Homoly 0-0 1-2 1, Kate Liveringhouse 1-3 1-2 3, Heidi Hoff 0-1 2-4 2, Abigail Fogg 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 27-65 16-25 76. FAU (4-1)

Kat Wright 1-5 0-0 3, Ra'Kyra Gabriel 1-2 0-2 2, Morgan Robinson 3-13 3-6 10, Ali Cornell 5-12 0-3 20, Nikita Zyranova 2-5 2-3 7, Danneal Ford 2-6 0-0 5, Raven Doyle 0-5 0-0 0, Sasha Cedenro 1-6 0-0 2, Hallee Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Malia Kency 3-4 1-3 10, Melinda Myers 1-6 0-0 2. TOTALS: 19-64 6-17 53. SOUTH DAKOTA..... 13 33 61 76 FLORIDA ATLANTIC..... 7 15 40 53 Three-Pointers — FAU 9-27 (Kency 3-4, Gorrell 2-6, Wright 1-4, Robinson 1-5, Zyranova 1-1, Ford 1-2, Doyle 0-1, Cedenro 0-3, Myers 0-1), USD 6-19 (Hemiller 2-4, Duffy 2-5, Seekamp 1-4, Stewart 1-3, Bradley 0-1, Trimball 0-1, Hoff 0-1). Rebounds — USD 61 (Hemiller 12), FAU 31 (Myers 8). Personal Fouls — FAU 24, USD 14. Fouled Out — None; Assists — USD 13 (Seekamp 4, Stewart 4), FAU 11 (four with 2), Turnovers — USD 17, FAU 14. Blocked Shots — FAU 2, USD 1. Steals — USD 7 (McCloud 2, B. Arens 2), FAU 4 (Kency 2). Attendance — 441.

## South Dakota St. 71, Old Dominion 39

ST. THOMAS, Virginia Islands—The South Dakota State women's basketball team set the 3-point school record Saturday in its 71-39 win over Old Dominion in the Paradise Jam at the University of the Virgin Islands Sports and Fitness Center.

The Jackrabbits (4-2) sank a school record 17 3-pointers. The 3-point mark betters the previous record of 16 set three times, the last vs. TCU March 22, 2009, to tie the then-NCAA Tournament record.

Junior Kerri Young set two personal marks, scoring a career- and game-high 24 points. The guard also sank a career-best 7 3-pointers on 10 attempts. Sophomore Macy Miller tallied 19 points and was 5 of 6 from beyond the arc. Both Young and Miller earned all-tournament honors.

Destinee Young and Annika Holopainen each scored 10 points to lead Old Dominion (1-6).

## Sunday

### Michigan 61,

### Oral Roberts 44

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Siera Thompson and Hallie Thome combined for 30 points as Michigan downed Oral Roberts 61-44 in women's basketball action on Sunday.

Thompson scored 16 points, Thome had 14 points and eight rebounds, and Jillian Dunston had a game-high nine rebounds for Michigan (6-0).

For ORU (2-4), Faith Ihim led the way with 10 points. Jordan Doyle added nine points.

## Other Saturday

### Neb.-Kearney 76,

### Wayne St. 59

KEARNEY, Neb. — Laramey Becker and Kennedy Sander each scored 18 points to lead Nebraska-Kearney past Wayne State in women's basketball action on Saturday.

Kelsey Fitzgerald (Yankton) had eight points, eight rebounds, three assists and

three steals in the victory.

Maggie Schulte (Wynot, Nebraska) led Wayne State with 21 points and nine rebounds.

### Sioux Falls 63,

### Embry-Riddle 51

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Taylor Varsho scored 16 points to lead Sioux Falls past Embry-Riddle 63-51, remaining unbeaten on the season.

Alison Klostergaard (Beresford) had 10 points, nine rebounds and four assists for USF (7-0). Marie Malloy added four assists in the victory.

Sabrina Whiting led Embry-Riddle with 20 points.

### Dak. Wesleyan 126,

### Oglala Lakota 35

HASTINGS, Neb. — Dakota Wesleyan scored a school-record 126 points in a 126-35 victory over Oglala Lakota College at the Hastings College Classic on Saturday.

Kristin Sabers went

## Other Sunday

### Iowa 84, No. 20

### Wichita State 62

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Jarrod Uthoff scored 22 points, Adam Woodbury had 15 and Iowa beat No. 20 Wichita State 84-62 in the seventh place game at the AdvoCare Invitational on Sunday.

Mike Gesell added 14 points for Iowa (4-2).

Wichita State (2-4) got 14 from Eric Hamilton. Ron Baker, who entered averaging 20.2 points, was held to eight.

Both teams lost their first two games at the invitational.

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