



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Mount Marty senior Amanda Dirksen, 12, skies for a swing during Thursday night's non-conference volleyball match against Grace at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

MMC Scores Home Sweep Of Grace

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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The Mount Marty Lancers are hoping Thursday night's win is the fire they need to finish out the season. Mount Marty swept the Grace University Royals at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena 25-18, 25-14, 25-12 in non-conference action.

Head coach Candice Climer said the win felt good, and was a boost of confidence the Lancers (5-16) needed after a four-game slump.

"Once we get lit we take off," she said. "Once our serve/receive is on, our offense is on."

After jumping ahead 19-14 in a tight first set, MMC went on to win 25-18 against the Royals.

The match stayed tight during the second set until the Lancers took the lead from an 8-8 score to win the set 25-14.

MMC jumped ahead early in set three with a 9-3 advantage, and kept the lead to defeat the Royals in the third set 25-12.

Senior Amanda Dirksen said the players knew they had to come out on top early in each set to avoid going to four or five sets.

"We started on top and we knew what we had to do," she said. "We couldn't get behind and get in the hole and try to come back. Starting on top was our main focus."

For the Lancers, Dirksen put up 10 kills, two blocks and one ace, while Kristen Boyle had eight kills and five blocks. Lexie Branson had seven kills and one block, and Emily Schreur recorded seven kills for the night.

The Royals' Katie Loewen had eight kills, one block and one ace, Chelsea Entz made five kills and two blocks and Jenna Stulgies recorded two kills and one block. Katie Reiss also contributed two kills and two blocks.

MMC will now prepare to face Hastings on Saturday in Great Plains Athletic Conference action. Climer said the team will focus on defense.

"We've been trying to hit on the block," she said. "We're trying to work on seeing the court, because during GPAC they'll put those big blocks on us and we have to be able to hit around it."

"Especially for this next game, it's going to be about defense. We're pretty scrappy once we get going, so sticking with that on that will be key."

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Bucks Look To Get Back On Track

BY CHRIS RILEY
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After back-to-back losses to a pair of Sioux Falls squads, the Yankton Bucks look to get back on track tonight in their final home game of the regular season, an Eastern South Dakota Conference battle against the winless Mitchell Kernels at Crane-Youngworth Field.

Following a Sept. 28 road defeat where they hung with Roosevelt throughout the contest, the Bucks suffered an ugly 52-8 loss against top-ranked Washington last week at home.

For a team looking to get back into the groove they experienced while riding a five-game winning streak to open the season, the 0-7 Kernels come to town at the opportune time for the 5-2 Bucks.

Yankton head coach Arlin Likness wants to see his team return to the opportunistic Bucks that forced 17 turnovers while only giving the ball away three times during their 5-0 start.

"We've lost the turnover battle the last two weeks," Likness said. "We need to start winning it again."

A possible ESD title is also still on the line assuming the Bucks can handle Mitchell and undefeated Brandon Valley defeats Pierre. Both the Lynx and the Bucks are 5-0 in conference play and are set to duel in Brandon in the regular season finale next Thursday.

"Our number one goal for Friday is that it's an ESD game," Likness added. "In order to win the conference we have to win this game."

The Kernels visit Yankton following a 56-0 blowout loss to Lincoln at

Howard Wood Field last Friday. Mitchell has played a pair of close games this season, but has mostly struggled, while allowing their opponents to score 37.8 points per game.

"There is no doubt that we have taken our share of thumpings," Kernels head coach Kent VanOverschelde said. "We came in with an inexperienced and youthful combination on both sides of the football."

That is good news for a Yankton offense that has put up at least 30 points on three separate occasions against ESD schools, including a high of 44 against Watertown in their home-opening shutout of the Arrows back on September 7.

Mitchell is also only scoring an aver-

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YHS GAMEDAY

**Mitchell (0-7)
at Yankton (5-2)**

7 p.m., Crane-Youngworth Field

LAST MEETING: A late touchdown to Connor Fitzsimmons helped the Bucks beat the Kernels 34-29 in Mitchell, earning Yankton a share of the ESD title.

LAST WEEK: Yankton suffered its second straight loss, 52-8 at home to Sioux Falls Washington.

Mitchell was routed 56-0 by Sioux Falls Lincoln at Howard Wood Field.

NEXT UP: Yankton travels to 7-0 Brandon Valley, while Mitchell hosts 1-6 Huron.

FOLLOW THE GAME ONLINE: The Press & Dakotan will host a live chat during the game. Find it here: <http://www.yankton.net/yhsgameday>

CHS Teams Return To State

Cross Country: Crofton Girls First, Boys' Second In D4

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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WAUSA, Neb. — The Crofton Lady Warriors put themselves in position for a run at a seventh consecutive Class D cross country title by doing what they do best.

Taking the focus off the big picture, Crofton outdistanced a solid Ainsworth program to win the girls' team title at the District D-4 Cross Country Meet on Thursday at Rolling Hills Country Club near Wausa, Neb. The top-ranked boys' team in Class D, flipped the script in the boys' race, beating out the Warriors for the crown.

Crofton senior Danielle Riesberg ran an easy race in leading the Lady Warriors to the region title. She clocked a 15:31 over the 4,000-meter course to finish nine seconds ahead of teammate Quinn Wragge. Winside's Mackenzie Gray finished third at 15:43.

"The coaches had us back off our times a little," Riesberg said of the race. "It was so nice that we just ran here last week, so I knew what my splits were supposed to be. It was definitely an advantage."

Even though Riesberg did not go out as hard as last Friday's win in the Bloomfield Invitational, she still finished eight seconds faster. Wragge also finished eight seconds faster, moving up four spots from a week ago. "Quinn really picked it up," said Crofton head coach Jayne Arens.

"Kendy Kube (6th, 15:56) and Vanessa McFarland (7th, 16:03) were right in there. Tiffany Tramp (10th, 16:24) had an off day, but she's been injured."

"One of the nice things about our team is that they all bring each other up."

Senior Abigail Braun also finished in the top 15 for Crofton, placing 11th in 16:37. Coach Arens said that the team could have put more runners in the top 15, had they been allowed to enter more than six.

"We have other girls that, if those girls could have run, they would have been in the top 15," she said. "They pushed each other along. It's a team effort, JV to varsity."

Bloomfield junior Breana Gallup finished fourth in 15:45 to earn a state berth. Laurel-Concord-Coleridge put two runners in the top 15, Sadie Petersen (9th, 16:17) and Samantha Camenzind (13th, 16:44).

Crofton finished with 16 points, well ahead of Ainsworth (51). West Holt finished a close third for the other team spot out of the district.

Ainsworth head coach Jared Hansmeyer was happy with his team's showing.

"With the Crofton girls here, our best case scenario was second," he said. "The girls have been banged up, injured and sick, so I was happy to see our girls get back to state."

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ABOVE: Crofton's Danielle Riesberg, left, pulls away from the rest of the field to win the girls' race at the District D-4 Cross Country Meet on Thursday at Rolling Hills Country Club near Wausa, Neb. The Crofton girls easily won the team title, and will go to the Nebraska State Class D Cross Country Meet (Oct. 19 in Kearney, Neb.) with a chance at a seventh consecutive state team title.

LEFT: The Crofton boys get off the start line during the District D-4 Cross Country Meet on Thursday at Rolling Hills Country Club near Wausa, Neb. Crofton finished second in the team standings to qualify for state.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton Runners Sweep Varsity Titles At BV Tri

BRANDON — In their final tuneup before the State Meet next weekend, the Yankton cross country teams swept the individual races but finished second in the team divisions Thursday at a triangular with Brandon Valley and Mitchell in Brandon.

The hometown Lynx won the girls' title 27-28, while the Brandon Valley boys won 24-37 over Yankton.

Yankton went 1-2 in the girls' race, highlighted by individual champion Savannah Woods with a time of 14:46.

Teammate Annie Kruse finished second at 14:56, but Brandon Valley put the next four runners across before Yankton's Ashtyn Haak in seventh place.

On the boys' side, Yankton's Brice Cowman won with a time of 17:18, edging out BV's Zach Van Ede with the same time. Yankton's Ryan Olson was third at 17:37, while teammate Justin Grode was 12th.

Yankton won the JV boys' race, thanks to Sam Gusso's second-place

finish (14:42). Morgan Hill of Yankton was third, followed by teammates Lincoln Megard and Kyle Bergeson.

Brandon Valley won the JV girls' division, thanks to the top six times. Yankton's Caitlen Evans finished seventh.

Yankton won the middle school girls' division and Brandon Valley was first in the middle school boys' race.

The South Dakota State Meet will be held Saturday, Oct. 20 in Huron.

Washington Holds Off Gazelles

Volleyball: Andes Central, Marion Earn Upset Victories At Home

SIoux FALLS — Sioux Falls Washington handed the Yankton Gazelles their third straight loss, 22-25, 23-25, 25-12, 18-25, in District 2AA volleyball action Thursday night in Sioux Falls.

Mikala Hora led the Gazelles (5-8) with 25 kills and 11 digs, while also recording three ace serves. Kelsey Fitzgerald recorded 18 kills, 10 digs and three blocks.

Though they dropped the opening two sets, the Gazelles were able to battle back against one of the state's premier squads.

"I thought our kids played pretty well," YHS coach Leasa Woodward said. "I felt like we controlled the tempo of the match to get started."

"We had some good leads, but just couldn't quite finish those first two sets." Yankton also got 36 set assists from Maria Binder, and five aces from Brooke Wuebben. Those aces were the key to competing with the Warriors, Woodward said.

"When you're going up against a team with a lot of fire power like Washington, you want to take them out of system," she said.

Yankton travels to Pierre on Saturday afternoon.

"We've got to be ready and play with

the same aggressive style we had tonight," Woodward said.

Washington won the junior varsity match 19-25, 25-22, 25-18. Molly King had six kills and three aces for Yankton, while Ellison Fedders had 17 set assists and Riley Smith posted 13 digs.

The Warriors also won the sophomore match, 26-24, 25-22. Kaylee Wootton had three kills and 14 digs, while Erica Westerman had four blocks.

Washington won both freshman matches 25-15, 25-21.

Andes Central 3, Wagner 2

LAKE ANDES — Class B Andes Central upset top-ranked Class A Wagner 14-25, 25-21, 25-23, 19-25, 18-16 in high school volleyball action Thursday night in Lake Andes.

Kellia Winckler led the winning Eagles (21-3) with 16 digs, 15 kills, four blocks, and two assists. Krista Winckler posted 10 kills, eight kills and two aces. Dennisha Johannson tallied up 12 kills and two aces. Sierra Sustos recorded 43 assists on the night.

For Wagner (21-3), Nicole Weber boasted 25 kills, 18 digs, and 10 aces. Jessa Doom also added 40 assists, 12 digs, eight kills, and six aces.

Next Tuesday, Andes Central hosts Bridgewater-Emerly on Tuesday and Wagner will travel to Winner.

ANDES CENTRAL (21-3)	14	25	25	19	18
WAGNER (21-3)	25	21	23	25	26

Irene-Wakonda 3, Centerville 2

CENTERVILLE — Dana Schenk and Chloe Nielsen each had double-doubles as Irene-Wakonda beat rival Centerville 25-19, 22-25, 25-18, 26-28, 15-9 on Thursday night in Centerville.

Schenk had 17 kills, six blocks and 13 digs, while Nielsen recorded 10 kills, four blocks, 25 digs and four ace serves. Bailey Hinseith added 30 set assists and 12 digs, while Caitlin Hinseith posted 22 digs.

In the loss for the Tornados (4-17), Kieran O'Malley had 14 kills and 14 digs, while Gabby Larson posted 27 set assists and 12 digs. Brittany Austin led the defense with 28 digs to go along with three ace serves.

Both teams are in action next Tuesday, with Irene-Wakonda (6-11) at home against Viborg-Hurley in Wakonda and Centerville at Dell Rapids St. Mary.

IRENE-WAKONDA (6-11)	25	22	25	26	15
CENTERVILLE (4-17)	19	25	18	28	9

Marion 3, Viborg-Hurley 1

MARION — Kylie Hughes' double-double led the Marion Lady Bears to a 3-1 victory over Viborg-Hurley in Class B volleyball action on Thursday night in Marion.

Hughes recorded 21 digs and 17 kills in the win. Katherine Luke added 25 assists and 15 digs while Josie Schmidt posted 11 kills to go along with six digs.

After winning the first game 25-14, Marion fell in game two, 20-25. The Lady Bears then charged back with 25-19 and 25-16 victories in games three and four to pull off the match victory.

For the Cougars, Katelyn Graber posted 15 digs and

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Bucks Blank Watertown To Earn Semi Berth

RAPID CITY — The Yankton Bucks advanced to the Class AA semifinals of the South Dakota State Cup boys' soccer tournament with a 2-0 victory over Watertown on Thursday in Rapid City.

Both Yankton goals came in the opening minutes. Andrew Hummel converted a Osmar Pacheco pass in the seventh minute. Six minutes later, Zach Benjamin hammered home a Hummel pass for the other Bucks' score.

Landon Breen made two saves in goal for Yankton. Derek Brenner also had a strong effort on defense.

Yankton takes on Sioux Falls Lincoln in the semifinals today (Friday) at 5:30 p.m. Central. The two teams tied in the regular season standings, and tied 1-1 when they met on the field.

Girls: Roosevelt 4, Yankton 0

RAPID CITY — Top-seeded Sioux Falls Roosevelt built on a 1-0 halftime lead and claimed a 4-0 victory over Yankton in the opening round in Class AA in the South Dakota State Cup girls' soccer tournament on Thursday in Rapid City.

Katie Greenaway stopped eight shots in goal for Yankton. Yankton plays Rapid City Central at 10 a.m. Central today (Friday) in a consolation semifinal.

Giants Complete Comeback On Reds

CINCINNATI (AP) — Buster Posey hit the third grand slam in Giants' postseason history, and San Francisco completed its startling comeback by holding off the Cincinnati Reds 6-4 Thursday in the decisive Game 5 of the NL division series.

The Giants won the final three games, all in Cincinnati, and advanced to the NL championship series. They will face either St. Louis or Washington.

Ahead 6-0, San Francisco saw the Reds rally throughout the late innings. Cincinnati scored once in the ninth before Sergio Romo struck out Scott Rolen with two runners on base to end it.

NATIONALS 2, CARDINALS 1: WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Nationals signed Jayson Werth to show them how to win. His game-ending homer Thursday night extended their surprising season.

Werth led off the bottom of the ninth inning by driving Lance Lynn's 13th pitch into the left-field stands to give the Nationals a 2-1 victory over the defending World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals and force a Game 5 in their NL division series.

As he circled the bases, Werth raised his right index finger in a "No. 1" gesture, while the announced crowd of 44,392 roared with delight.

The best-of-five series will end Friday night in Washington, with the winner advancing to face the San Francisco Giants in the NL championship series.