

Lancer Men Open Coach Baker Era

Basketball: Young Squad Begins 2013-14 Campaign At Dakota State Tonight

BY NICK ROBINSON
sports@yankton.net

The Mount Marty College men's basketball team will have a new vibe and direction headed into this upcoming season at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

The Lancers, who went 8-21 (4-16 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference) a year ago, have fresh blood in their program. They open their season tonight (Wednesday) in Madison against Dakota State.

Former coach Jim Thorson stepped down after 30 years with the program, which opened the door for first year head coach Andrew Baker to take over the helm.

Baker, a native of Colorado, spent the past two seasons under Thorson

as an assistant at Mount Marty.

"The transition from assistant to head coach is different," Baker said. "We made a lot of changes this past offseason, half of our roster is freshmen. It has been great with the community and support from the college, just about as smooth as I could have asked for. We just need to take it from here and keep building."

Baker, only 26 years old, feels that being young has obstacles, but his players understand him and the youthful program.

"Being young has some challenges, but our guys understand who I am and what I stand for," he said. "The biggest challenge is having confidence in what we are trying to do here and staying consistent."

"If our guys have questions, some-

thing I am stuck on, it may take time for me to come up with a logical reasoning. Also, still being useful and learning new concepts of this game are challenging, so far."

Baker can already tell what will be different from a season ago.

"The biggest difference from a season ago will be that there's a desire and a want to be here, and we're going to do our best to hold onto that," he said.

However, he will use some of the tools that Thorson has taught him over the past few years.

"Things will be similar, Thorson is a good basketball mind, and he has taught me a lot."

The young Lancers have four returning players with varsity experience, headlined by junior point-guard

Saladin "Bud" Smith. Smith, and fellow junior Tyler Payer, who will be captains for the 2013-2014 campaign.

"Being captains (Smith and Payer), just speaks for themselves," Baker said. "Both of them got voted in by the team and are some of our better players. Bud played in every game a year ago, and Payer saw a lot of time down the stretch. Alex Irvine and Chris Richardson are guys with key varsity minutes from a year ago, as well. The younger guys really look up to them for leadership."

Smith leads the returning Lancers with 10 points a game from a year ago. Richardson contributed six points per contest.

LANCERS | PAGE 13

MEN'S B-BALL		
2013-14 Season Schedule		
Oct. 30	at Dakota State	7 p.m.
Nov. 9	Johnson & Wales	7 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Presentation	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Wayne State	7 p.m.
Nov. 19	York	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 23	Midland	4 p.m.
Nov. 26	Dordt	8 p.m.
Dec. 4	at Northwestern	8 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Doane	4 p.m.
Dec. 11	Morningside	8 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Concordia	4 p.m.
Dec. 17	Ogallala	6 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Hastings	4 p.m.
Dec. 30	The Masters (Phoenix)	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 31	Arizona Chr. (Phoenix)	8:30 p.m.
Jan. 4	at Neb. Wesleyan	4 p.m.
Jan. 8	Briar Cliff	8 p.m.
Jan. 11	Presentation	4 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Dak. Wesleyan	8 p.m.
Jan. 18	at Midland	4 p.m.
Jan. 22	at Dordt	8 p.m.
Jan. 25	Doane	4 p.m.
Jan. 29	Northwestern	8 p.m.
Feb. 1	Concordia	4 p.m.
Feb. 5	at Morningside	8 p.m.
Feb. 8	Hastings	4 p.m.
Feb. 12	at Briar Cliff	8 p.m.
Feb. 19	Dak. Wesleyan	8 p.m.
Feb. 22	Neb. Wesleyan	4 p.m.
GPAC Tournament		
Feb. 26/March 1/March 4		
NAIA Division II Tourn.		
March 12-18, Branson, Mo.		

Washington Downs YHS

BY VANCE JANAK
P&D Correspondent

The Yankton Gazelles now know first-hand what the top team of District 2AA looks like.

Sioux Falls Washington visited the Summit Activity Center on Tuesday night and took a 3-0 win (25-16, 25-22, 25-18) that spoiled Yankton's senior night. The Gazelles, sitting at the bottom of the district, will travel to Harrisburg on Monday to begin postseason play. Washington (16-5) gets the winner of that match the next night on its home floor.

If the Gazelles (3-17) can win their way into a rematch, the task of pulling an upset doesn't seem quite as daunting.

"That's what we (team) just talked about: they are the top team in this district and they're a good team, but that means there's a lot of teams in this district where it could go either way depending on the night," first-year Yankton coach Tiffany Beste said. "If we come out believing that we can, I honestly believe that these girls and this team can give some of those teams a run for their money because our skill level is where I want it to be. I just want these girls to walk out onto the court and know that they can win."

The Gazelles were positioned to take the second set. Yankton led from the outset and built a pair of four-point edges (11-7 and 13-9). But it didn't last.

Yankton tied it 19-all on Emily Bos' kill before the Warriors took it away.

"I just think that Washington is very used to winning and they're used to being in that position and ending up on top," Beste said. "We're used to being in that position and not winning. I think that's a mental thing. We've got to get pasted that in the next week."

Another thing Yankton must fix is falling into large deficits. The Gazelles trailed 6-0 in the first set and they were in an 11-2 hole in the third.

A positive, however, was Yankton's ability to fight back. The Gazelles closed to within 10-7 in the first on an ace serve from sophomore Becky Frick. The margin was 15-13 after senior Hailey Bockholt recorded one of her team-leading three blocks.

In the third, Yankton got

YANKTON | PAGE 13

Football | S.D. Playoffs

Big Red Revenge

Tanagers Blank Dakota Valley 8-0, Will Face Top-Seeded Madison In 11A Quarters



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Vermillion's Carter Kratz, left, breaks through the arm tackle of Dakota Valley defender Ryan Lammers during their first-round playoff game Tuesday night in North Sioux City. Vermillion did not score a touchdown, but two field goals and a safety were enough as the Tanagers blanked the Panthers 8-0. VHS, 2-7, will travel to top-seeded Madison in Monday's quarterfinal round.

BY NICK ROBINSON
sports@yankton.net

NORTH SIOUX CITY — The number four seeded Vermillion Tanagers shocked the first seeded Dakota Valley Panthers 8-0 in chilly, rainy 11A District two playoff action Tuesday evening in North Sioux City at Dakota Valley High School.

Vermillion earned their first playoff victory since 2007, and their first under new head coach Andy Homan.

"This is great," Holman said. "What an awesome opportunity to get a playoff win, especially for the guys, they worked extremely hard out there tonight."

The Tanagers (2-7) were defeated by Dakota Valley (5-4) 19-22 just three weeks prior to their playoff contest.

However, with preparation and tightening up the screws, the Tanagers were able to pull off the upset.

"I told the guys, we can play as long as we want to," Holman said. "If we want to be done now, we can. But if we want to keep playing this game, we can do the little things right."

The weather conditions played in favor of the run heavy Tanagers.

The first half was a defensive juggernaut, ending at a 0-0 tie.

The first half was headlined by two turnovers back-to-back for both teams.

With 7:43 left in the first quarter, sophomore Tanager quarterback Matt Ouellette threw it up for grabs and senior safety Chavez Madden snagged an interception.

The next drive, senior Panther quarterback Alex Fernando threw a curl route to wide-out Brody VanGinkel, but Tanager linebacker Tanager linebacker Tyler Madsen read the pass, and intercepted the ball.

TANAGERS | PAGE 10

Parkston Powers Past Wagner In Class 11B Opener

BY ROB NIELSEN
robert.nielsen@yankton.net

PARKSTON — The Parkston Trojans only needed a single play to take control of their first-round playoff game against the Wagner Red Raiders on the way to a 38-8 victory. On the first offensive snap, senior running back Mitch Heisinger carried the ball 68 yards to the endzone. Heisinger would finish the game with two touchdowns

and lead the team in rushing with 185 yards.

Trojan head coach Eric Norden said the defense and offense both stepped up in the adverse weather conditions.

"Both sides of the ball played great tonight," Norden said. "Defensively with the weather conditions the way they were, we kept things in the middle of the field — which is what we needed to do — we kept the

big plays from happening and we hustled to the ball."

The Trojan defense stood strong, only allowing 118 yards of offense

On the other side of the game was Red Raider head coach Jason Knebel.

Knebel gave credit to the Trojans.

"They're a good team," Knebel said. "They just got the momentum going. We had a few miscues that caused those bigger plays,

but I'm not going to take anything away from them. They played well tonight."

The Red Raiders only had two trips to the redzone all night. The first ended with a 4-and-out while the second, on which senior running back David Kocer scored, didn't happen until the last two minutes of the game.

He added he was proud of his team and that going forward, the team is ready to regroup.

"It hurt us, but our guys kept on playing and I can't ask for anything more," Knebel said. "We played up to the very end so you can't take anything away from the guys tonight. Our guys just got to come out and keep working, and we just got to keep building up."

Mother nature was ultimately in control of the

PARKSTON | PAGE 10

A Long Time Coming: Cubs Roll In First Home Playoff Game Since 1990

BY PETER CHAPMAN
sports@yankton.net

ALCESTER — The Alcester-Hudson Cubs ran for 349 yards and dominated the passing attack in scoring a big win in Tuesday night's Class 9A playoff opener.

The hometown Cubs jumped out to a 20-0 lead in the first quarter on the way to a 57-12 rout of Chester Area in Alcester.

"Early we came out and made some nice passes, catch combinations and we made some nice runs," Alcester-Hudson coach Brian Haak said. "We got up early and knew that they would come back and play us tough."

In the win for the for the Cubs, Erik Barnes had 11 rushes for 124 yards and made four tackles. Mitchell Johnson had six rushes for 47 yards, four receptions for 87 yards and made eight tackles. Grant Johnson had 14 rushes

for 154 yards. Jylen Dichau led defensively with six tackles.

For the Chester Area Flyers, Austin Dossett had 22 rushes for 199 yards. Josh Curtis had one reception for 10 yards and Michalob Voeltz made five tackles

The Alcester Hudson Cubs started off quickly scoring with a pass to Lyle LaFromboise in the first minute of the game. Erik Barnes caught a three-yard pass to score. Grant Johnson ended the first quarter with an 11 yard touchdown run making it 22-0.

In the second quarter, the Flyers made their first touchdown off a 95 yard run by Dossett then Kaleb Eich again for the Flyers giving them 12-points in the second quarter.

Even with the Cubs losing Erik Barnes from injury early in the second quarter they were able to stop the drive from the Flyers in the second

quarter with a 60 yard run by Grant Johnson to end the second quarter 28-12.

"Erik is a pretty big leader for us and we lost him for a little bit; it took us a while there to get our heads straight and just play football. Once we figured that out though we were fine," Haak said.

The Flyers started off the third quarter with seven drives to the Alcester-Hudson 10 yard line. Cub Barnes came back into the game and made an 81-yard run to the Flyer 11 yard line and followed with an 11-yard touchdown run.

The Cubs finished the third quarter leading Chester 50-12 as they looked to end the game by getting a 50-point lead.

Alcester-Hudson's defense held off the Chester Flyers in the fourth quarter with a



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Grant Johnson, left, of Alcester-Hudson drags a Chester Area defender into the end zone for a touchdown in Tuesday night's Class 9A first-round playoff game in Alcester.

CUBS | PAGE 10