

Revenge On The Minds Of The Bucks

Yankton Hosts Mitchell To Open Class 11AA Post-Season

BY JEREMY HOECK

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The Yankton Bucks have revenge on their minds.

In the season opener back on Aug. 31, Mitchell defeated Yankton 27-21 in its first win in the series since 1987. Since that point, the teams have gone in different directions, but the Bucks have never shied away from wanting that game back.

Now they have their chance tonight (Thursday) when the two teams meet for a Class 11AA first-round playoff game at Crane-Youngworth Field. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

"It comes down to us executing better than the first time," Yankton

coach Arlin Likness said. "We gave them great field position and they took advantage. We definitely can't have that many turnovers."

"The great thing about it is it's not very often you get the same twice in a season and both times at home."

In that first meeting, Yankton passed for only 63 yards, with junior quarterback Mason Strahl throwing three interceptions. Since then, the Bucks (4-4) have opened up their offense to the tune of 230 yards per game.

The Kernels (3-5), on the other hand, have won just twice since that win in Yankton — including four straight losses entering the post-season.

"We're excited for the opportunity again, because we got off to such a good start after we beat them," Mitchell coach Kent VanOverschelde said. "We've hit a brick wall here as far as trying to find a win."

"It's a brand new season, a new opportunity for us."

While Mitchell enters the playoffs coming off a loss to Huron last week, Yankton had a bye week last Thursday. Yet even with extra rest, the Bucks lost Bradey Sorenson (So.) and Sheldon Gant (So., LB) to injuries — though Likness said Sorenson could return deeper into the playoffs.

Adding the injury to Levi Davis (Jr., RB, 292 yds, 2 TD), Yankton will be without its leading rusher for the

playoffs. Jordan Lightner (Jr., FB, 119 yds, 2 TD) figures to get the bulk of the running load, along with Strahl (77 yds, 7 TD).

Yankton's biggest threat, though, has come through the air — thanks to a mid-season change to a spread offense. Strahl leads with 1,221 passing yards and five touchdowns, while senior receiver J.J. Hejna (48 rec., 943 yds, 8 TD) is one of the state's top weapons.

"That was a great move for them to adapt to a new offense, but we're prepared for their spread scheme," VanOverschelde said. "When they're trying to get the ball to their skill kids in space, we have to adjust to that."

"Even if they got back to the more



Mitchell (3-5) at Yankton (4-4)

7 p.m., Crane-Youngworth Field

SERIES SINCE 1981: Yankton holds a 35-6 edge in the playoff era, including a 6-2 edge in post-season meetings. Mitchell beat the Bucks 27-21 in the season opener for both teams. The teams last met in the post-season in 1999.

LAST WEEK: Yankton upset top-ranked Pierre 29-26 and Harrisburg lost to Sioux Falls Lincoln 23-0.

NEXT UP: The winner of this contest faces the winner of the Watertown-Douglas game on Friday, Nov. 8. Watertown would host either team. Douglas would travel to either team.

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Basketball | South Dakota Media Day

USD Women Boast 'New' Faces

Players Back From Injury Add To 2013 Summit League Tourn. Runner-Up

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — Ten. That was the total number of players available last season for the USD women's basketball team.

Not exactly a great chance to work on rotations or develop much depth.

Yet, that was the hand dealt the Coyotes because of injuries to five players who missed the entire 2012-13 season.

As this season approaches (USD opens Nov. 8 in California), the Coyotes suddenly get return Bailey Milne, Taneesha Greaves, Kelly Stewart and Taylor Moore from injury, and bring in a group of five other newcomers.

"Usually it's not a good sign when your newcomers out-number your returners," second-year head coach Amy Williams joked at Wednesday's media day gathering in Vermillion.

"One year ago our system was new to everybody. This year at least we have six returners who played key roles and can help those younger kids."

Thus begins one of the challenges for the Coyotes, coming off a 19-win season: Even with essentially two full incoming classes, the roster remains rather young — 11 of the 15 players are either in their first or second years.

Those four girls who were out last season have some adjusting ahead of them,

specifically after having spent a season on the bench watching a deep post-season run, Moore said.

"You wanted to be out there, obviously," said Moore, a 5-foot-10 sophomore guard from Milford, Neb. "It was tough to sit on the bench watching a championship game."

One thing the quartet — McKayla Knudson graduated — was able to do?

"We were able to compare recoveries, like who's ahead of who," Moore joked.

Even the team's leading scorer, junior Nicole Seekamp, knows what it's like to miss a full season. She red-shirted the 2011-12 season after arriving to USD from Australia.

"It's hard, but you have to take it in step and learn from it," said Seekamp, last year's Summit League Tournament MVP.

"You can learn a lot from sitting on the bench watching, even though it may not feel like it, you are."

Of those four returning from injury, Stewart (So., G) is still not cleared to play following an ACL injury, Williams said.

Among the five newcomers for the Coyotes are four freshmen (Madeleine White, Bridget Arens, Jaylah Jackson, Emily Smith) and a junior transfer in Raeshel Contreras.

One such newcomer that figures to see significant minutes this season is Arens, a 6-foot forward from Crofton, Neb.

"She just knows how to win, knows how to play the game at a high level," Williams said. "She's working through a few freshman mistakes, but she has a mental



University of South Dakota women's basketball coach Amy Williams talks to the media and others in attendance during the USD basketball media day, held Wednesday in Vermillion. Williams returns six regulars and gets four players back from season-ending injuries as the 2013-14 season begins.

DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

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No. 18 Dakota State Downs Lancer Men In Opener

MADISON — Dakota State, ranked 18th in the NAIA Division II preseason poll, overcame a pair of 20-point scorers from Mount Marty to beat the Lancers 71-53 in men's basketball action on Wednesday at the DSU Field House.

The game marked the season opener for both squads, and the first game for MMC under new head coach Andrew Baker.

Yusuf Vison and Cameron Krump each had 12 points for DSU, with Vison also grabbing a game-high 13 rebounds. Marcus Smith netted 11 points and Adam Hofer added 10 points and eight rebounds in the win.

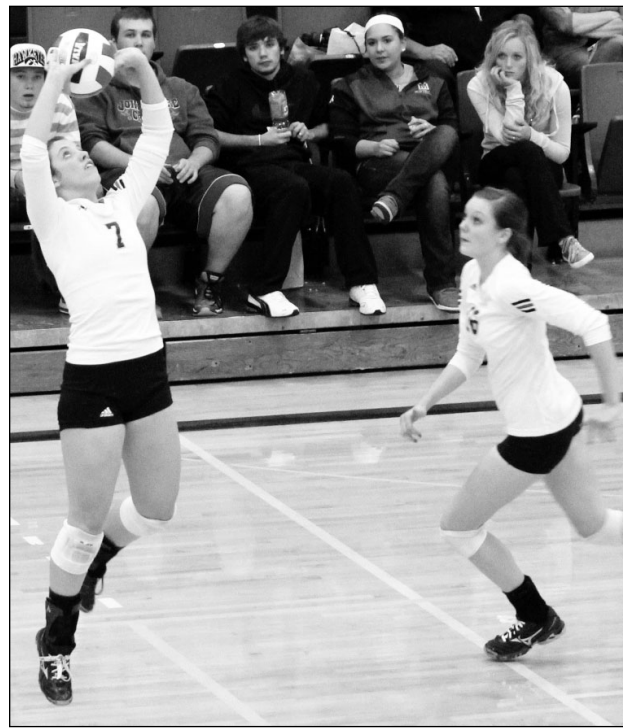
Tyler Payer and Bud Smith each had 20 points for MMC, a career high for each. Smith also had six rebounds, as did Patrick Ciganovic. Lorenzo Davis had five assists for the Lancers.

Mount Marty, 0-1, is off until Nov. 9, when the Lancers host Johnson & Wales University.

MOUNT MARTY (0-1)
Tyler Payer 8-24 0-0 20, Alex Irvine 3-4 0-0 6, Mitchell Newhouse 0-3 0-0 0, Lorgenzo Davis 0-3 0-3 0, Bud Smith 4-10 9-13 20, Grant Flicek 0-0 1-2 1, Nerman Krdzalic 0-2 0-0 0, Patrick Ciganovic 2-8 2-5 6, Ben Hegge 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 17-54 12-23 53.

NO. 18 DAKOTA STATE (1-0)
Yusuf Vison 3-7 4-4 12, Cameron Krump 4-6 4-5 12, Dylan Hale 2-11 0-1 5, Marcus Smith 4-10 0-0 11, Adam Hofer 4-9 0-2 10, Seth Cavanaugh 3-12 0-0 8, Kevin Danielsen 0-0 0-0 0, Ryan McCutcheon 2-2 0-2 4, Blake Heiser 1-3 1-3 3, Jordan Snyder 2-2 1-2 6, Taylor Zirbel 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 25-63 10-19 71.

At the half: DSU 36, MMC 30. Three-Pointers: DSU 11-31 (Smith 3-6, Vison 2-4, Hofer 2-4, Cavanaugh 2-8, Snyder 1-1, Heiser 0-1), MMC 7-25 (Payer 4-15, Smith 3-4, Ciganovic 0-3, Krdzalic 0-2, Irvine 0-1). Rebounds: DSU 54 (Vinson 13), MMC 35 (Smith 6, Ciganovic 6). Personal Fouls: DSU 22, MMC 19. Fouled Out: Hale, Irvine. Assists: DSU 19 (Hale 5), MMC 14 (Davis 5). Turnovers: DSU 24, MMC 19. Blocked Shots: DSU 5 (McCutcheon 2), MMC 1 (Krdzalic). Steals: MMC 9 (Payer, Newhouse, Davis 2), DSU 6 (Hofer 3).



Caitlyn Illg sets the ball for Lexie Branson in the Mount Marty Lancers' volleyball match against the Morningside Mustangs Wednesday night at the Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D

Volleyball: Morningside Ends MMC's Post-Season Hopes

BY PETER CHAPMAN

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The Morningside Mustangs beat the Mount Marty Lancers 26-28, 25-23, 25-22, 25-11 in Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball action on Wednesday, knocking the Lancers out of potential post-season play.

Both teams seemed to be well-matched at the start of the game but the Mustangs were able to distance themselves and come out with the win.

"I thought it was pretty evenly matched," coach Can-

dice Climer said. "We would make some errors and then they would make some errors. It was just back and forth. We had a lot of good attacking moments and we got the offense up and we did really well, but we were just making errors that we don't usually make."

In the win for the Mustangs, Maggie Vondrak led the team with 18 kills, 10 digs and two block assists. Hannah Roberg had 30 assists for the night and six digs. Kecia

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MMC Women Tie Dordt, Keep Playoff Hopes Alive

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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The Mount Marty College women's soccer team matched the most points in its Great Plains Athletic Conference history on Wednesday.

But the Lancers were hoping for more than the 0-0 tie with Dordt at Easton Field.

MMC moved to 2-13-2 overall, 1-7-1 in the GPAC with the effort. The tie was the first point for the Dordt women on the season (0-16-1, 0-8-1).

"I was happy with the defense. You cannot complain when you get a shutout by your defense," said Mount Marty head coach Nathan Epp. "But I felt like, through a lot of the game, we were too defensive-minded. For the majority of the match, we played like we had to pack it in."

That play was different than how the Lancers looked in their previous match, a 2-1

decision over Dakota Wesleyan.

"Against DWU, we possessed the ball extremely well."

Dordt outshot the Lancers 20-16 in the match, including 6-1 in the two overtime periods. But the Lancers' Courtney True made 15 saves and survived a penalty kick at the end of the first overtime to preserve the shutout.

"Our defense stepped up, so they didn't have a lot of good opportunities," True said.

Marissa Le Duc's penalty kick attempt with four seconds left in the first overtime was not close. The Defenders had two shots on goal, but no serious threats, in the final 10 minutes.

"(MMC) goalkeeping coach Nancy Saunders always says that PK's are a psychological game," True said. "If I'm up and jumping around, there's more pressure on the kicker."

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Mount Marty's Megan Roth, right, battles Dordt's Megan Reschly for possession during their Great Plains Athletic Conference women's soccer match on Wednesday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. The teams tied 0-0, moving MMC into a tie with Dakota Wesleyan for the final spot in the GPAC Tournament.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Soccer: Dordt Men Down Mount Marty 7-1

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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A couple of early sloppy goals helped open the floodgates for Dordt, as the Defenders downed Mount Marty 7-1 in Great Plains Athletic Conference men's soccer action on Wednesday at Easton Field.

Eric Grootenboer's low kick bounced up over MMC goalkeeper Adan Garcia-Marquez thanks to a torn-up area in front of the goal in the fifth minute. Nine minutes later, Brady Van Holland's shot hit the crossbar and bounced in. Van Holland would add another goal, and an

assist off a Cody Van Holland goal, to put Dordt up 4-0 just 20 minutes into the match.

"It was unfortunate," said Mount Marty head coach Nathan Epp. "One of the problems we've had this season is how we handle adversity. This was another game where we didn't handle it well."

Brady Van Holland, Derick Sackey and Colin Middel added second-half goals for Dordt. Mount Marty's Genaro Bustillos scored just before the final horn to help the Lancers avoid the shutout.

Davi Baldussi Alves had two assists

for Dordt (4-12-1, 2-7-1 GPAC). Cameron Stuive, Alex Durbin and Brian Miller added assists for the Defenders.

Despite the scoring imbalance, Dordt outshot the Lancers by just four, 21-17. The Defenders, though, had an 18-7 edge in shots on goal, something Epp said said a lot about the scoring chances MMC was getting.

"Some of our shots were forced. We were just one pass away from getting a score," he said. "Through the first half of the season, I was really happy with how well we shared the ball."

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