

Lancer Women Blank Johnson & Wales



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty's Megan Roth, 13, tries to pass the ball as Johnson & Wales' Elizabeth Felix crashes in during their women's soccer match on Sunday at Easton Field.

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG
P&D Correspondent

The Mount Marty Lancers scored early and made it stick as they slipped past the Johnson and Wales University Wildcats in non-conference action Sunday afternoon at Easton Field.

Breanne Kuehler scored the game's only goal at the 11:57 mark. The sophomore from Black Hawk was assisted by Megan Roth on the game-winner.

"It was kind of lucky, but a goal's a goal," Kuehler said. "It would have been nice to get a cushion, but I'm glad it turned out to be a game-winner."

From there, the Lancers had to rely on one of their best defensive efforts of the season and the work of their junior goalkeeper, Courtney True, to prevent another over-

time period.

"Scoring early is great, but we played a little complacent after that," Mount Marty head coach Nathan Epp said. "It's like we felt like we didn't have to keep up the pressure."

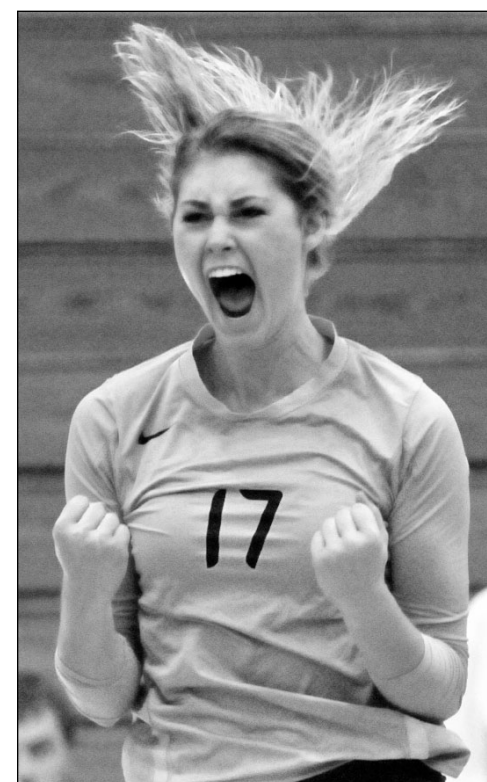
"You know, it was good, but it kind of lets out the intensity," True said of Mount Marty's early goal. "It's like we were content to sit back and play defense."

And play defense they did. The Wildcats were really unable to test True as they had eight shots in 90 minutes, with only four shots on goal.

However, the last few minutes dragged for a team involved in their eighth 1-goal match of the season.

"Every time the ball gets back

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty's Sierra Kloth shows her excitement after recording a kill during the Lancers' Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball match with Briar Cliff on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. MMC beat Briar Cliff 3-2, the Lancers' first win over the Chargers since 2006.

D-Days Disappointment

UNI Sacks 'Yotes 27-16

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — An aggressive defense served as a wet blanket to Saturday's homecoming festivities for the University of South Dakota football team.

Northern Iowa rushed and rushed, and never really stopped rushing.

The No. 21-ranked Panthers recorded seven sacks and for good measure picked off two passes to beat the Coyotes 27-16 in Missouri Valley action at the DakotaDome in front of 10,219 fans celebrating Dakota Days.

That relentless defensive pressure from Northern Iowa (3-3, 1-1) was the obvious story of the day.

"I've looked at enough tape, and I know a good front," USD head coach Joe Glenn said, "and they didn't have a week spot."

With the total yardage nearly equal (362-to-361), the biggest disparity in the game was the play of the Panthers' defensive line.

Northern Iowa never let USD quarterback Kevin Earl — making his first appearance in five games after an injury — get comfortable in the pocket. The result was seven sacks, numerous other times where he was knocked to the turf, and two interceptions.

"That's a lot of sacks," said Earl, who still passed for 260 yards and a touchdown. "It wasn't all of my o-line's fault, I could have gotten out of a few of them."

The Coyotes (2-4, 0-2) got within 20-16 early in the fourth quarter, but the Panthers responded with a touchdown and never looked back.

And never stopped coming after Earl.

"We wanted to get after them, we knew he (Earl) was a good player," UNI head coach Mark Farley said. "He's tall enough to sit in there and throw it, but we wanted to make hits down field for the guys that did catch it."

"If you get hit a few times,



THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

South Dakota's Aaron Ramsey tries to hang onto the football as Northern Iowa's Tim Kilfoy rips him down from behind during their Missouri Valley Football Conference matchup on Saturday in the DakotaDome.

Yankton's Knoff Places Second, Frank Wins Consolation Title At State Tennis

RAPID CITY — Yankton freshman Anne Knoff tied the best individual state tournament placing in school history, finishing second at flight five singles at the South Dakota State Girls' Tennis Tournament on Saturday in Rapid City.

Sioux Falls O'Gorman won its eighth consecutive state title, scoring 712 points. St. Thomas More was second at 599, with Rapid City Stevens finishing third at 464 points.

Yankton passed Milbank on the final day to finish 11th in the 20-team event.

Knoff advanced to the final with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Mitchell senior Allison Buckley before dropping a 6-0, 6-0 decision to O'Gorman senior Mira Yousef, who finished the season with a 24-0 record.

Knoff finished with a 28-3 record, falling one victory shy of tying a school record for single-season wins. It does set a Gazelle standard for victories at flight five singles, shattering the old record of 23, set by Gazelle senior Sarah Rockne in 2011.

Knoff was also the fourth

Gazelle ever to place second at the state tennis tournament, joining Uljana Shkarupina (2001), Vanessa Rockne (2008) and Lexie Klimisch (2010). All three previous runner-up finishes were at flight five.

Yankton senior Kaitlyn Frank also finished her season on a positive note, rolling past Roosevelt's Morgan Johnson 10-1 in the consolation championship at flight three singles.

Besides Frank and Rockne, the Gazelles will graduate Maddie Logue and Kim Cap. Logue stepped in at flight two singles when an injury hampered Cap, who played out the season competing at flight two doubles only.

Knoff, flight four singles player Mimi Garcia, also a freshman, and flight six singles player Anna Kokesh, a sophomore, will return for the Gazelles. Knoff and Garcia competed at flight three doubles, while Kokesh teamed with Cap at flight two doubles.

Vermillion finished 20th with six points in the tournament. The Tanagers had just one senior on the roster, flight one singles and doubles player Abby Weiss.

Denver Upends Coyotes 3-1

DENVER — Denver handed South Dakota its first Summit League setback of the season, beating the Coyotes 25-22, 25-27, 27-25, 25-16 in volleyball action on Sunday.

Moni Corrujedo had 20 kills and 13 digs, and Nola Basey had 15 kills and 20 digs to lead Denver (17-3, 6-0 Summit League). Sarah Schmidt also had 15 kills, Ruth Okoye had 12 kills and Bailey Karst had 59 assists for the Pioneers. Kate Acker recorded 16 digs and Cassidy Rooke had 14 digs in the win.

For USD, Sydney Dimke had 16 kills, Kendall Krittenbrink had 15 kills and 21 digs, and Melissa Firtko had 11 kills and eight blocks (two solo) to lead the way. Brittany Jensen finished with 10 kills, 41 assists and 13 digs. Riley Haug had 17 digs and Audrey Reeg had 12 digs for the Coyotes (12-7, 6-1 Summit).

USD looks to bounce back as it hosts Iowa State in a non-league matchup on Tuesday, the final non-conference match of the season for the Coyotes. The Coyotes return to

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Defense Powers MMC Past Chargers

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG
P&D Correspondent

Even though they have a sub-500 record, the Mount Marty Lancers had cause to celebrate on the Laddie E. Cimpl Arena floor late Saturday afternoon.

For the first time since 2006, they defeated the Briar Cliff Chargers — a 26-24, 19-25, 25-19, 12-25, 15-13 win that also notched a consecutive Great Plains Athletic Conference victory for the first time under 5th-year head coach Candice Climer.

The Lancers picked up their first win in the rugged conference Wednesday night when they defeated Morningside at the Castle.

"It's amazing," said Lancer outside hitter Sierra Kloth. "We want to be known as a working program and we know we can make a name for ourselves."

"The biggest thing is that they're seeing it; the confidence that they can play with teams in this conference," Climer said. "We've been in close matches this year and have been waiting for them to just play their game; they are just playing their game now."

The Lancer game so far this season has started with their defense, led by libero BreAnn Thege, who led the Lancers with 25 digs against the Chargers.

Saturday's 62 team digs — some off balance and many inches from the floor — kept numerous volleys alive as the Lancers took a 1-0 lead with a 26-24 opening-game win.

The Chargers bounced back to take a 10-6 lead in game-2 followed by an ace serve from Hannah Macke, but behind the serving of Laura Groseth, the Lancers embarked on a 6-0 run that signaled a different group of Lancers than Briar Cliff was used to playing.

Briar Cliff battled for a 25-19 win to even the match, but the Cimpl crowd sensed this afternoon was different.

The home team took control of game-3 behind the serving of Courtney Miller while digs from the back found their way to a front line blooming with confidence.

Mount Marty took a 6-3 lead on a let-serve ace from Miller after Bailey Kuchta, Allison Cross, and Kloth each knocked down authoritative kills.

The Chargers were off balance as the Lancer attacks continued to rain in direct trajectories to the floor in building a 24-16 lead.

Mount Marty completed the 25-19 win when Caitlyn Illg set to Kuchta for a spike that gave the home team a 2-1 win.

Briar Cliff found their balance for the fourth game, taking a quick 25-12 decision on the strength of a .571 hitting percentage, forcing a winner-take-all fifth game.

They had three minutes to regroup, but it was enough as the Lancers took a lead they use in the decisive game.

"You just have to say yes we made mistakes, but you have to keep working hard and move past them," Kloth said of the Lancers' ability to refocus in a short amount of time.

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USD Women Play Woods, McClure Finish 1-2 As Gazelles Place Second In ESD

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — As the University of South Dakota women's soccer team has put together its best Division I season, the Coyotes had yet to face anyone projected to finish in the top half of the Summit League.

They got that opportunity Sunday.

On a windy afternoon in Vermillion, the Coyotes and North Dakota State played to a 2-2 double overtime draw in conference action.

Despite the tie, USD (8-4-2, 1-0-2) did better than its preseason last-place selection against the Bison (5-6-2, 1-1-2) who were picked to finish third.

"Doing this against that team is a good result," Coyote coach Mandy Green said. "We could've won this one, and that's the most disappointing part."

All of the scoring came in the first half, and the game eventually settled into a defensive battle — which has been USD's strength this season. The Coyotes hadn't allowed a goal in four games prior to Sunday.

"We just didn't come out as

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MIKE CARROLL/HURON PLAINSMAN

Yankton's Savannah Woods, front, and Madison McClure stride to the finish first and second in the girls' race in the Eastern South Dakota Conference cross country meet on Saturday in Huron.

HURON — Yankton's Savannah Woods, Madison McClure and Lauren Graves finished 1-2-4 as the Gazelles finished second in the Eastern South Dakota Conference cross country meet, held on Saturday at Broadland Creek Golf Course, the site of this year's state meet.

Woods finished the 4,000-meter course in 15:33.70, edging McClure (15:34.14). Brookings seventh grader Ellie Abraham (15:45.61) placed third, with Graves (15:45.65) placing fourth.

Also for Yankton, Tessa Folkers (16:45.95) finished 19th, Erica Westerman (17:20.68) finished 38th, Emerson McClure (17:31.57) finished 41st and Kristen Rezac (18:23.70) finished 60th.

Brandon Valley put five runners in the top 14 and seven in the top 21 to claim team honors, 48-62 over the Gazelles. Pierre was third at 68.

Yankton finished seventh in the boys' division, with Brandon Valley beating Brookings 50-66 to complete the sweep. Aberdeen Central senior Tanner Peltier won the 5,000-meter event in 16:47.84, followed by Pierre's Jebben Keyes (16:52.95) and Brandon Valley's Jacob Hegland (16:53.62).

Yankton was led by senior Paul Fanta, who placed 16th in 17:51.93. Also for the Bucks, Andrew Peitz (18:23.69), placed 26th, Gabe Dannenbring (18:25.08) placed 28th, Brady Jaquith (18:25.15) placed 29th, Kyle Bergeson (18:26.84) placed 30th, Brody McClure (18:34.60) placed 34th, Sam Gusso (18:37.01) placed 36th, Nathan Zimmerman (18:37.55) placed 37th, Lincoln Megard (19:20.61) finished 50th and Joseph Kelly (19:22.22) finished 52nd.

Next up for Yankton is a five-team meet at Brandon on Thursday. It will be the final regular season meet of the season.

Yankton finished second in each JV division. Yankton seventh grader Lauren Eidsness claimed medalist honors in the JV girls' race, finishing the 4,000-meter event in 17:19.15. Also for the

Gazelles, Kristen Steiner (18:22.01) placed eighth and Carly Vavra (18:25.91) placed 10th.

In the JV boys' race, Yankton was led by Zachary Roesler, who finished 13th in 15:52.56 over the 4,000-meter course. Jordan Lucht placed 14th (15:53.39) and Jackson Husman finished 18th (16:03.62) for the Bucks.

Yankton hosts its annual JV Invitational on Tuesday. Start time is set for 4:15 p.m. at the HSC Course, located north of Walmart in Yankton.

College

Briar Cliff Inv.

NORTH SIOUX CITY — The Mount Marty College women finished fifth in the 12-team Briar Cliff Invitational cross country meet, held on Saturday at Adams Nature Preserve in North Sioux City.

NCAA Division I Creighton edged NCAA Division II Augustana 29-34 for the team title. Morningside was third at 108, followed by Division II Southwest Minnesota State (115) and the Lancers (132).

MMC finished ahead of fellow Great Plains Athletic Conference teams Northwestern (158), Dakota Wesleyan (268) and Briar Cliff (296), as well as NCAA Division II Wayne State (217) and Sioux Falls (261).

Creighton senior Courtney Sawle won the 5,000-meter event in 17:27.04, beating out Augustana's Cassidy Soli (17:56.62) and Mount Marty's Jordyn Hulseison (18:10.51). Former Lancer Katie Smelker was fifth in 18:25.82.

Also for Mount Marty, Mandy O'Malley (18:58.47), finished 18th, Karen Mayfield (19:05.42) placed 20th, Beth Finnegan (20:42.34) finished 54th, Tiffany Tramp (Crofton, Nebraska; 20:58.67) placed 59th, Berkeley Rietveld (21:03.74) placed 62nd, Kelsey Sutura (Tabor; 22:02.35) placed 76th, Clara Snyer (22:33.11) finished 87th, Caitlin Davis (Elk Point; 23:02.44) finished 92nd and Brittany Healy (23:15.63) finished 95th.

Former Crofton standout Elizabeth Kube, a junior at Morningside, finished 56th in 20:46.85. Former Wynot, Nebraska, standout Haley Gowery, a sophomore at Briar Cliff, finished 72nd in 21:36.95. Former Nobara-Verdigre standout Cathryn Hanzik, a freshman at Sioux Falls, placed 94th in 23:06.22.

The MMC men placed seventh with 217 points. Morningside scored 34 points to beat out Creighton (55) and Northwestern (69).

Iowa Western's Sylvester Baruns won the 8,000-meter event in 24:52.17, followed by Morningside's Alec DeVries (25:06.29) and Jay Welp (25:06.78).

Mount Marty was led by junior Gage Blashcke, who finished 34th in 26:49.63. Also for MMC, Justin Suttledge (27:04.00) placed 46th, Christian Patrick (27:44.70) placed 69th, Ryan Oye (28:26.14) placed 88th, Austin Miller (28:34.80) placed 90th, Samuel Voigt (29:36.36) placed 109th, Kyle Pardun (30:28.49) placed 121st, Jordan Houdek (30:45.63) placed 124th and James Reeves (38:17.68) placed 136th. MMC assistant coach Matt Fideler (25:08.99) finished fourth overall. Former Lancer Jordan Pater (27:20.54) finished 57th.

Crofton grad A.J. Janssen, a freshman at Morningside, finished 59th at 27:23.31.