SPORTS DEPT .: sports@yankton.net



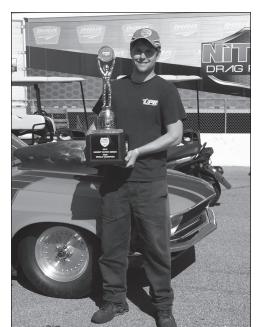


PHOTO COURTESY CINDY SYROVATKA Cory Heckenlaible of Utica poses with his trophy and his car after winning the IHRA Summit Super Series on Oct. 11 in Memphis.

Utica Man Celebrates Drag Racing Title

BY ROGELIO RODRIGUEZ sports@yankton.net

On Oct. 11 Cory Heckenlaible, of Utica, clinched the 2015 World Championship of Mod drag racing at the International Hot Rod Association's Summit Super Series held in Memphis,

At a relatively young age, Heckenlaible has managed a feat that many racers lay down and dream about at night. Despite only being 24 years old, Heckenlaible's eight years in drag racing have proved successful with his acquiring of an Ironman (the trophy).

Believe it or not, Heckenlaible was not always the passionate drag racer that he is today. There was a time when he needed to be forced to attend races.

"I was eight when my uncle started dragging me to track because he didn't want to go alone," said Heckenlaible

At the age of 16, Heckenlaible was part of the action himself. Armed with a 1980 Ford Mustang given to him by his uncle, Heckenlaible was ready to take on the world.

"I had that Mustang until I bought my own four years ago," said Heckenlaible.

Thunder Valley in Marion served as the home track for the aspiring race car driver. At this track there are a total of nine divisions to race in. To get into the Summit Super Series, one must win one of the nine divisions or be a runner up in six of the nine.

Heckenlaible was in neither of these positions. The young racer was voted to attend the event as a wild card with a record of 22 wins and three losses.

"I got there and people were looking at me like I didn't belong," said Heckenlaible. He and his blue 1970 Ford Mustang arrived

in Memphis on Wednesday night. Thursday was spent tuning the car and preparing for Friday's runs, which would decide who each driver raced on Saturday.

"I arrived and was really nervous, but the car was running great," said Heckenlaible.

Friday came and things did not look good for Heckenlaible. After the first run he was dead last in the standings.

"I did a humungous wheelie on the take off and that cost me big time," said Heckenlaible.

Despite the unfortunate mishap, Heckenlaible was able to keep his composure and win the race that mattered. He clinched his Ironman with a reaction time that was 0.004 seconds faster than his opponent, Dean Smith of Warren, MB, Canada.

"It was a crazy close race, a matter of inches," said Heckenlaible.

From being dragged to the races as a child, to winning the biggest event in his line of work as a young man, Cory Heckenlaible has managed to make a name for himself in the drag

"Going in my biggest fear was losing in the first round, by Sunday I was having my best reaction times," said Heckenlaible.

South Dakota may not be the first place people think of when thinking of great sportsmen, but a look at what Cory Heckenlaible has accomplished would say otherwise.

Follow @RogelioUlisesR on Twitter

Men's Basketball Preview | Mount Marty College

Lancers Looking For Progress This Season

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Cody Willett knows what it's

like to help build a program. During his freshman year at Canton High School, his basketball team won eight games. By the time he was a senior, the team won 18 games and came up just short of a

state tournament spot. He is now in a similar situation at Mount Marty College.

The Lancers, who open their season Wednesday at Dakota State, are searching for any signs of progress after winning two games zero in the Great Plains Athletic Conference - last season.

'It's definitely building," said Willett, a 6-foot-3 guard who averaged 6 points and 4.6 rebounds last season as a freshman.

"I think everyone understands that it's a process; it's not an instant thing. That helps to know

The only team the Lancers beat last season was Oglala Lakota Colcertainly a handful of close losses, there was also the realization that the program would need small steps in 2015-16 to move forward.

"Patience was definitely learned by myself and my staff," head coach Andrew Baker said. "It's been a real pleasure to work with this group of guys.'

That group has a bit of a new look this season.

Baker, who brought in former Sioux Falls Lincoln head coach Robin Burgard as an assistant, signed a freshman class of nine players and also brought in a transfer point guard (Drew Matsu-

Following graduation and departure losses, the Lancers return 43 percent of their scoring from last season - gone are the top four scorers to an offense that averaged 65 points a game.

"I'd definitely say there's a different feel," Willett said.

In what way? 'We've got a lot of new faces in the program, we switched a lot of

things up, and even people from last year are carrying different roles," he said. "It'll be exciting once we start playing, to see how that affects how we do.

The fact that its top returning scorer was someone who played in 13 games means Mount Marty will be relying on a combination of new faces and increased production from returners.

"We won't be as freshmen heavy this year, and that's part of building this," Baker said. "And then in another year we'll be even older."

The Lancers have a group of four seniors (Alex Irvine, K.J. DeCristino, Taylor Millay, Anthony Stransky) and three juniors (Patrick Ciganovic, Zach Telles, Matsushima) that will be counted on for leadership roles.

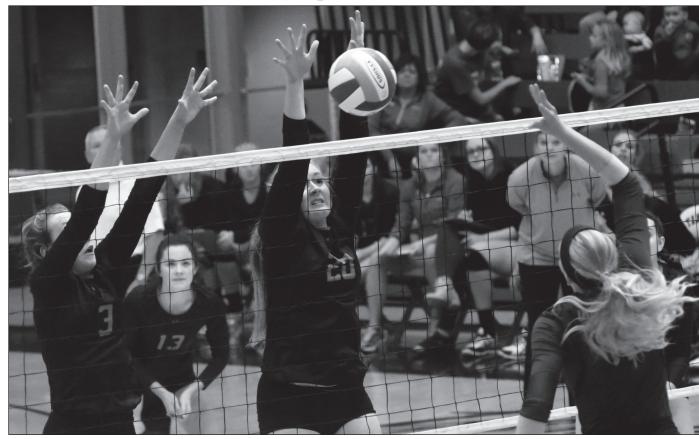
The roster, though, is heavy on four sophomores (Deric Denning, Ben Hegge, Jalen Hurley, Willett)

and nine freshmen. "The fact that we have a basi-

LANCERS | PAGE 8

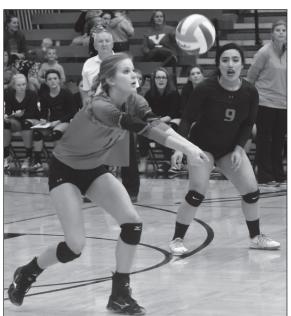
LANCER MBB at Dakota State vs. Mayville State vs. Waldorf at Doane at Dakota Wesleya vs. Briar Cliff 8 p.m. vs. Oglala Lakota at Concordia at Wayne State (exh) /19 vs. Hastings 12/29-30 - KWU Classic, Salina, vs. Kansas Wesleyan vs. Friends at Neb. Wesleyan at Dordt 1/2 1/6 1/9 1/13 1/16 1/20 1/23 1/27 1/30 2/3 2/10 2/13 2/17 2/20 2/24 2/27 vs. Midland 4 p.m vs. Northwestern at Grace at Morningside 8 p.m. 4 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m. vs. Concordia vs. Dakota Wes 8 p.m. 4 p.m. 8 p.m. 4 p.m. 4 p.m. 8 p.m. at Hastings at Briar Cliff vs. Doane at Northwestern at Midland 4 p.m. vs. Dordt at Nebraska Wesleyan GPAC Quarters GPAC Semifinals GPAC Tourney Championship 3/9 to 3/16 - NAIA Tourn., Branson Mo

Senior Night Sweetness



Yankton's Cameryn Specht, 3, and Sophie Drotzmann, 20, go up for the block of Sioux Falls Washington's Mearah Miedema during their prep volleyball match on Monday at the Summit Center, Yankton ended a seven-match losing streak with a 22-25, 25-22, 27-25. 19-25, 15-10 victory. The Gazelles end the regular season at Huron today (Tuesday).

Gazelles Take Home Finale



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton libero Danielle Salvatori passes the ball during the Gazelles' home volleyball match with Sioux Falls Washington on Monday at the Summit Center.

The last regular season home game for the eight senior members of the Yankton Gazelles resulted in a victory "It was great for the seniors and the

rest of the girls to get a much needed win," said Gazelle head coach Tiffany Beste. "The building was filled with energy, and it was a fun game to be a

The Gazelles (4-15) defeated the Sioux Falls Washington Warriors (15-16) 22-25, 25-22, 27-25, 19-25, 15-10 on Monday night at the Summit Activity Center.

Prior to Monday night's game, the Gazelle seniors were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the program over their four years.

Everyone had a great attitude tonight, and the high energy kept everyone excited," said Yankton senior Ellie Fedders. "We played as a team and did a lot of little things right.'

In the match's opening set, Yankton found themselves with a 20-16 lead late in the set. The Warriors then rallied off five straight points to take the lead, and eventually win the set 25-22.

However, Yankton responded with victories in sets two and three to take a 2-1 lead in the match.

"I thought our attacking and blocking was solid all match long," said Beste. "Our girls were making plays and feeding off each other."

Sioux Falls Washington fired back to tie the match with a 25-19 win in the fourth set, but the Gazelles would hang on to defeat Washington 15-10 to win Becky Frick led the way for Yankton,

totaling 14 kills and six assisted blocks. Sophie Drotzmann added 13 kills, while Cameryn Specht finished the match with 20 assists and five kills.

"Getting a win on senior night was special," said Ellie Fedders. "We have played together for a long time, and the last four years have been great.'

Gazelle seniors include Sydney Ingalls, Julie Soto, Danielle Salvatori, Ellie Fedders, Becky Frick, Hannah Bockholt, Sophie Drotzmann, and Amy Doering This is a special group," said Tiffany

GAZELLES | PAGE 8

Top-Seeded Emerson-Hubbard Advances To L

son-Hubbard advanced to the finals of the Lewis and Clark Conference Tournament with a 25-20, 25-23, 25-15 win over Hartington-Newcastle on Monday night. Hartington-Newcastle was

led by Camie Stratman with nine kills and Ryley Eickoff added eight more. Abby Lamers provided 19

assists and Sophie Noecker had 23 digs.

There are no stats available for Emerson-Hubbard.

Hartington-Newcastle will play in the consolation game today (Tuesday) in Laurel and Emerson-Hubbard will play the Championship.
HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE (17-10)......20 23 15
EMERSON-HUBBARD (26-2).......25 25 25

QUARTERFINALS WYNOT 3, CREIGHTON 0: WYNOT, Neb. Cortney Arkfeld had 13 kills, three blocks and 18 digs, and Danielle Wieseler had 26 assists and 14 digs as Wynot swept Creighton 25-10, 25-10,

25-17 in the quarterfinals on Saturday. Sonya Hochstein, Carissa Kuchta and Skylar Arkfeld each had five kills, with Arkfeld recording

17 digs and Kuchta 16 digs. For Creighton, Maycey Forker had four kills and four assisted blocks, and Chelsea Boelter had six blocks (one solo) to lead the way. Ashtyn Fritz had four assisted blocks, Makayla Brockhaus had 15 digs and Kirsten Adams had three assisted blocks for the Bulldo

HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE 3, RAN-DOLPH 0: Hartington-Newcastle pulled off the mild upset, beating fourth-seeded Randolph 25-9, 25-17, 25-17 in the quarterfinals on Saturday. Camie Stratman had nine kills, four ace serves and 20 digs to lead Hartington-Newcastle Ryley Eickhoff had eight kills. Belle Harms had five solo blocks. Sophie Noecker had 17 digs,

Abby Lammers had 10 assists and 10 digs, and

CONSOLATION

LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE 2, WIN-

SIDE 1: EMERSON, Neb. – Kaci Groene had 11 kills and two ace serves, Katie Leapley had nine kills and Bryn Schutte had eight kills and 17 digs as LCC downed Winside 25-22, 17-25, 25-23 in consolation play on Saturday.

Katelyn Cook had 25 assists and 12 digs, and Lerza Mayon had 11 digs, in the victory. and Lorna Maxon had 11 digs in the victory.
FIRST ROUND
WYNOT 2, WALTHILL 1: WYNOT, Neb.

Cortney Lindher had five kills, and four different Wynot players had three kills each as Wynot downed Walthill 25-4, 25-8 in the opening round

on Saturday.

Danielle Wieseler had 20 assists and 11 digs, and Olivia Wieseler had 10 digs for Wynot. Holly Lauer added two ace serves in the victory. CREIGHTON 2, BLOOMFIELD 0: WYNOT, Neb. - Maycey Forker had five kills and 10 digs, and Jeanette Kruger had four kills and

seven blocks (two solo) as Creighton downed Bloomfield 25-13, 25-23 in the opening round on Saturday. Sydney Walton had four kills, Tessa Vogt had nine assists and Makayla Brockhaus had nine

digs for Creighton.

HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE 2, WIN-NEBAGO 0: Hartington-Newcastle made quick work of Winnebago, claiming a 25-9, 25-10 victory in the opening round. The victorious Wildcats had 17 ace serves in the match. For Hartington-Newcastle, Camie Stratmar had 10 ace serves and six kills, and Courtney

Pick had six assists to lead the way. Sophie EMERSON-HUBBARD 2, LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE 0: Emerson, Neb. Top-seeded Emerson-Hubbard downed

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 25-13, 25-14 in the first round on Saturday. For LCC, Kaci Groene had four kills and Katelyn Cook had eight assists to lead the way. Bryn Schutte had eight digs.
PLAY-IN

LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE 2, OSMOND 1: Emerson, Neb. – Laurel-Concord-Coleridge battled to keep Osmond winless, recording a 25-22, 25-27, 25-23 victory over the Tigers in the play-in match on Saturday. Bryn Schutte, Katie Leapley and Kaci Groene each had five kills, and Katelyn Cook 14 assists and 14 digs to lead LCC. Groene also

had four blocks, three ace serves and 10 digs

Schutte had 16 digs, Mady Holloway had 15 digs and Ashley Wolfgram had three ace serves

Mid-State Conf. Cedar Catholic 3.

Boone Central 0 NORFOLK, Neb. - The Hartington Cedar Catholic Trojans defeated the Boone Central Cardinals 25-15, 25-11, 27-25 in volleyball action at the

Mid-State Conference Tournament in

Norfolk, Nebraska on Monday. For the Trojans, Taylor Lammers had nine kills, and five blocks. Maddie Wieseler had eight kills, five blocks, and five aces. Emily Feilmeier led with 29 assists, while Abby Steffen led with 18 digs.

No stats were reported for Boone Central.

Hartington Cedar Catholic will play Crofton in the next round of the Mid-State tournament in Pierce today (Tuesday) HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC (18-8)25 25 27 BOONE CENTRAL (13-12)...

Pierce 3, Wayne 0 PIERCE, Neb. – The Pierce Blue Jays defeated the Wayne Bluedevils 25-17, 25-9, 25-13 high school volleyball action on first day of the Mid-State Conference Tournament in Pierce. Nebraska on Monday.

For the Blue Jays, Shelby Bretschneider was tops in kills with eight. Jaci Brahmer contributed three aces and five total blocks to the victory. Leading in assists were Emily Simmons with 13 and Ellie Moeller with 10. Casey Sutherland had a team-high 10 digs. No stats were reported for Wayne.

Other Matches Scotland 3, Menno 1

SCOTLAND - Scotland and Menno ended their regular season on Monday night with Scotland taking the game in four sets with scores of 25-9, 25-20, 13-25, 17-25.

13 kills from Elyssa Walloch and Kayla Rokusek were enough to assure the win for the Highlanders. Taylor Bietsz provided the home side with 24 assists and Alexis DeBoer ended with 12 digs.

Tara Spencer led Menno with 10 kills and added 17 digs. Courtnee Edelman led with 20 digs and Marissa Buechler provided 15 assists.

Menno's JV squad defeated Scotland 25-10, 25-14. Both teams will return to action on

Nov. 3 in the district tournament held in Menno SCOTLAND (9-18).

Gayville-Volin 3, Avon 1 AVON – Gavville-Volin came from behind after losing set one to defeat Avon 19-25, 26-24, 25-21, 26-24 on

Monday night. Genevieve Clark led the visitors with 12 kills and 27 digs on Monday night. Traia Hubbard and Megan Hirsch both added 11 kills while Grace Dangel provided 30 assists.

Kacie Mudder and Hannah VanGerpen led Avon's offense with six kills apiece. Hanna Powers provided 20 assists and led the team with 17 digs Both teams will play in the district tournament, Avon on Nov. 2 and

..25 25 25 Gayville-Volin on Nov. 3 at home. Avon's JV squad beat Gayville-Volin 25-25, 25-12, 15-6,

> Canistota 3, Freeman 1 FREEMAN – The Canistota Hawks

defeated the Freeman Flyers 25-5, 25-22, 18-25, 25-19 in high school volleyball action in Freeman on Monday. For the Hawks, Kalli Ortman led all players in kills with 20. Kassidy Engbrecht led all players with 32 assists. and Macy Robertson led the team with

six digs. For the Flyers, Lacey Wipf led all players in digs with 21 and aces with six, while adding seven assists. Josie Furhman led the team with eight assists and recorded 18 digs. Karlie Maske led the Flyers with 13 kills.

Canistota has finished regular season play and will play its next game in the district tournament, while Freeman will host Alcester-Hudson on Thursday for its final regular season game. Freeman won the JV match 25-9,

CANISTOTA (6-19) FREEMAN (0-18)

Wagner 3,

Burke-South Central 0

BONESTEEL – Wagner ended their regular season with a win on the road over Burke-South Central on Monday night. The game ended 25-13, 25-8,

Emily Brunsing led the visiting offense with 10 kills and Jensen Holzbauer added eight. Krista Dvorak provided 18 assists and Ali Kuca had

Burke-South Central. Santana Matucha and Madison Wischman both had five digs. Alison Sebern ended with 10 blocks on the night.

Burke-South Central's JV squad defeated Wagner's 25-18 and 25-22. The "C" teams were also in action with Wagner taking that game 25-11 and Burke-South Central will end their

season on Thursday when they host Lyman. Wagner will play the first round of districts on Nov. 3. WAGNER (26-5)......25 25 25 BURKE-SOUTH CENTRAL (10-13)........13 8 17

Andes Central/Dakota

Christian 3, Gregory 0 GREGORY – Ándes Central/Dakota Christian defeated Gregory 25-18, 25-19, 25-14 for its 13th victory of the season in volleyball on Monday in

For AC/DC, Kennedy Muckey led with a game-high 17 kills. Maddie Gray led all players in digs with 11 and aces with seven. Lydia Hansum had a gamehigh 31 assists while adding eight digs.

For Gregory, Alexa Hannahs led the team with nine assists and three aces. Maddy Ecklund led in digs with 10. AC/DC's next game will be in its district tournament, Gregory will host

Wessington Springs in its final game of Parker 3, Howard 0

PARKER - Parker's Lady Pheasants ended their regular season in style with

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 8