

USD men's basketball bounces back with big road win; Hosts NDSU on Wednesday night

DENVER—South Dakota used a 22-2 run in the second half to flip the script on Denver and held on late for a 74-69 victory Sunday at Magness Arena. Both teams are 1-1 in the Summit League standings.

South Dakota (7-9) trailed 44-33 with 16 minutes to go, but scored 22 of the game's next 24 points to take a 55-46 advantage less than six minutes later. Tyler Larson and Casey Kasperbauer scored 10 points each during the rally. Larson led South Dakota with 22 points. Kasperbauer made 4 of 5 three-pointers and finished with 15 points – all in the second half.

Kasperbauer's fourth triple gave USD a 67-55 lead with 3:35 to go. Denver closed within a point following two free throws from Brett Olson with five seconds left. Larson answered with two free throws with 4.2 seconds left to make it 72-69. The Coyotes threw away the ensuing inbounds pass and D.J. Davis' bucket at the buzzer sealed the win.

Olson led all scorers with 24 points. He had 12 in the first half and scored seven in the final 90 seconds to make it close at the end. Jalen Love and Marcus Byrd added 13 points for the Coyotes (7-8), who are picked to finish second in the Summit League's preseason poll.

Coyote big man James Hunter helped USD jump out to a 10-2 lead and scored eight of his 12 points in the first half. South Dakota shot 41 percent from the field (23 of 55), made 7 of 13 treys and 21 of 27 free throws.

Denver shot 53 percent from the field (23 of 43), but had nine second-half buckets. The Coyotes were held to three offensive rebounds all game and were outscored on second-chance points 18-2.

Kasperbauer picked up three fouls early and played four minutes of the first half. His first shot of the game was a three-pointer with 13:33 to go that brought South Dakota within three, 46-43. Larson stole a pass and scored and Kasperbauer hit his second trey to give USD the lead for good, 48-46, at the 12:21 mark.

Larson hit a 3 and Denver coach Joe Scott picked up a technical foul at the 11-minute mark. Kasperbauer made 1 of 2 technicals and buried another three-pointer on the possession that followed to make it 55-46. The Coyotes'

largest lead was 61-48 with eight minutes to go.

South Dakota missed three free throws in the final 37 seconds to give Denver hope. The Coyotes had the ball trailing by three points with 14 seconds left, and the Coyotes intentionally fouled Olson with five seconds left.

South Dakota has won four of its last five overall. The Coyotes next take on Fort Wayne Saturday at 6 p.m. (CST) in Fort Wayne, Ind. Fort Wayne (7-7, 0-1 Summit heading into tonight's home game against IUPUI) is the preseason favorite to win the Summit League.

- *Courtesy of USD News*

A Look Back at Omaha, Summit League Opener

Omaha flipped the script Friday night and the University of South Dakota Coyotes ended up in the role of supporting actors in a Summit League men's basketball season opener at the DakotaDome.

With things going well, a nice lead in hand, and the defense doing its due diligence, the Coyotes held a consistent double-digit lead during the tail end of the first half and the opening scenes after halftime.

Then the adventure turned into a horror show as Omaha erupted for 57 second half points and clamped down on the USD shooters late to pull away for a stunning 86-77 win.

USD (6-9, 0-1) saw its second three-game winning streak snapped and dropped a pivotal conference home game with five of their next six Summit contests set for the road.

The Coyotes play at Denver Sunday with play set for a 2 p.m. tip.

"That was interesting," USD head coach Craig Smith said. "We thought at halftime we controlled the pace and tempo and really got it going late in the second half to make a good run. It felt like we should have been up 18 or 20 at half. In the second half we had really good looks we missed and we settled for jumpers as well. We settled in."

"I made some mistakes. We should have played more 2-2-1, 2-3 zone to slow them down because they felt like a wave going downhill. We looked comfortable when we were up 12 and that's not what you want. We were happy

exchanging baskets instead of putting the screws to somebody. Let's finish them off...we didn't do that tonight."

The Coyotes were led by the 17-point efforts of Brandon Bos and Tyler Larson and 11 points from Casey Kasperbauer.

Omaha (7-6, 1-0) wrapped the game with 47 points over the last 15 minutes and finished the second half at a 61 percent shooting clip.

CJ Carter led the victorious Mavericks with 24 points.

"They hit some tough shots for sure but we can't give up 57 points in a half, that's on us," Bos said. "I give them credit for some of the shots they made, but we can't let teams go on runs like that and expect to win games."

"I thought we did a good job in the first half holding them to 29 points. But giving up 57 points on our home court..."

Down a dozen at halftime the Mavericks came out trying to push the pace as their athleticism is want to do.

The problem was they were unable to finish consistently enough or at junctures where easy shots should have been made and the deficit didn't see a dip for the first five minutes of the second half.

Combine that with the Coyotes not being bashful about running with the Mavs and the Coyotes led 49-39 at the first television timeout.

"We always want to be on the attack and that was something we were definitely doing at the start of the second half," Bos said. "We starting taking tough shots and rushing threes inside of trying to go inside. We weren't able to get the ball moving and get flowing. We got stagnant and they worked in their favor."

"Their confidence rose with that." Omaha did get things tighter around the collar with a 10-6 run that pulled them within six just north of the 11-minute mark.

Then a CJ Carter trey pulled the Mavericks to within 55-52 moments later.

The Mavs held a five-point cushion but the Coyotes would not relent and a Tyler Larson offensive putback, hoop, and harm at 4:40 to play to take the lead back at 71-70.

But that was where the hope would end.

- *Alan Dale, The Plain Talk*



Vermillion Tanager gymnast Cheyenne Mallory performs last week on her home floor during the Winter Wonderland Invitational. The Tanagers finished in sixth place out of 11 teams that competed right before the New Year.

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MEET

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On the uneven parallel bars, the Tanagers had a team score of 27.2.

The uneven event was won by Emily Duffek from Wagner-Bon Homme with a winning score of 8.95.

The best finish for the Tanagers was Williams as

she placed in a tie for 7th with a 7.65.

The Tanagers had the opportunity to finish the meet on their strongest event – the floor exercise.

"The girls closed the meet with a spectacular set of floor performances," offered Fitzsimmons. "The girls just lit up the floor."

Williams' first place on floor was followed up by Mallory's 8.95 which put

her into a tie for the fourth place.

Taggart's 8.3 was good enough to put her into a tie for 12th place in the floor exercise event.

"The enthusiasm in the gym is high and hopeful as we move into the second half of the season," said Fitzsimmons.

HOOPS

From Page 11A

Friday night as they played host to a home doubleheader against Parkston. Read details on the game immediately following

the contest at www.plaintalk.net.

The doubleheader will include the first boys' home game of the season. Tip-off for the girls is set for 6:30 p.m. with the Tanager boys set to hit the court 20 minutes following the conclusion of that game.

- *The Plain Talk*

BYES

From Page 11A

Kahlen Morris from Sioux Falls Roosevelt where he was defeated in a major decision.

Carter Kratz at 145 was another Tanager wrestler that worked his way back through the consolation round to a fifth place finish. Kratz defeated Jacob Ziegler of Lennox in the first round by a fall at 2:42 in the match.

Kratz then went on to win three more times in the wrestle back round.

His fifth place match was a tough decision over Sturgis wrestler Winston Brown. Hage held on to beat Brown 10-7 for fifth place.

The next invitational action for the Tanagers will be Jan. 10 when they travel

to Brandon Valley for 9:00 a.m. start time.

The Tanagers two team wins and one loss at the Dakota XII Triangular held Monday at the Dakota Valley High School.

The Tanagers had wins over Dakota Valley (54-28) and Sioux Falls Lincoln (45-260), but fell to Elk Point-Jefferson (46-23).

The Tanagers were unfortunate that the weight class line ups for the Elk Point-Jefferson match didn't

match up better in the four weights as the Tanagers had to forfeit four weight classes.

Individual results for the Dakota XII triangular include: 106 Riley Beach (1-2), 113 Jacob Husby (3-0), 120 Trey Hage (3-0), 126 Kyle Seibel (3-0), 138 Noah Walker (1-2), 145 Carter Kratz (2-1), 152 Josh Westhuase (0-3), 160 Regan Bye (3-0), 170 Brett Bye (3-0), 182 Brandon Hertz (2-1), 195/220 Noah Westergaard (1-1).

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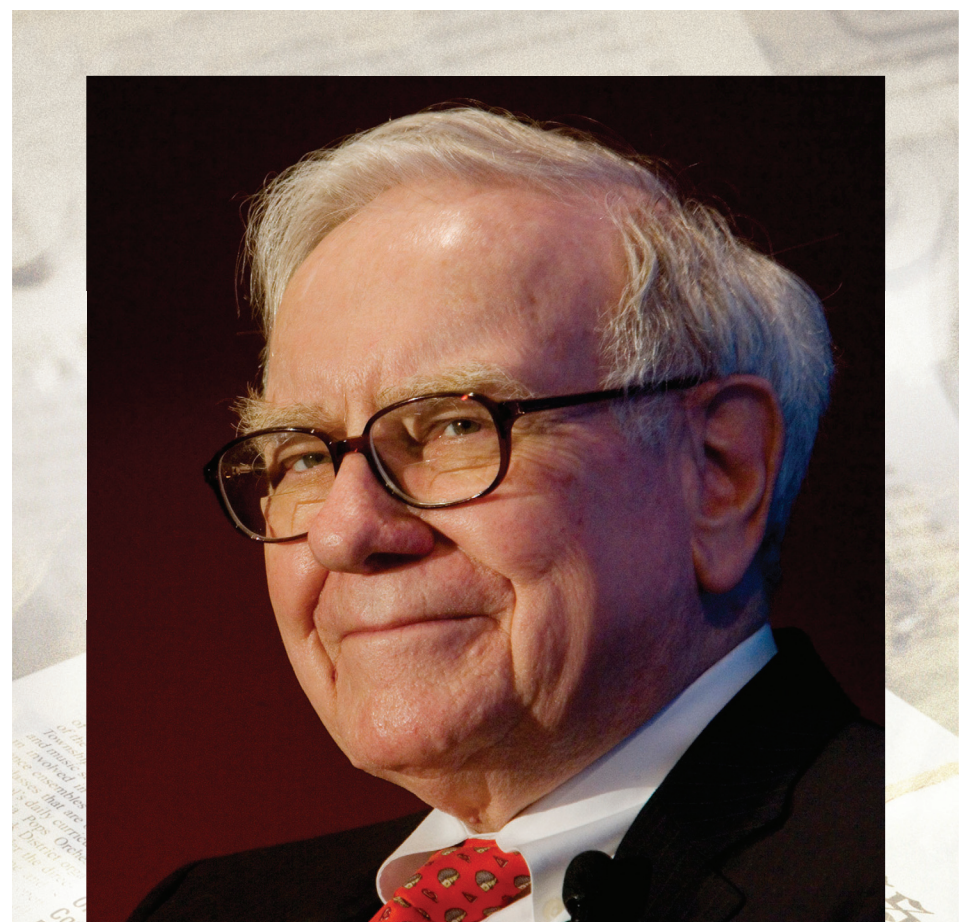
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