Foul trouble proves fatal for women's basketball

BY SONJA DEAN
Miami State Warn

The Augustana women's basketball team was in North Dakota for NCC action last weekend when they took on Grand Forks and Fargo to take on UND and NDSU.

UND is the reigning NCAA II National champion in women's basketball and this year is undefeated in NCC play. Earlier this season when Augustana hosted UND, the Vikings were close to a major upset in a 58-59 loss at the Elmen Center.

On Friday night the Vikings faced the Fighting Sioux in their home turf, the Hyslop Sports Center.

In the first half Augie fell behind early and was in foul trouble throughout the game. At halftime the team was down 49-34.

In the second half Augustana outscored UND 42-35. But foul damage had already been done, and the Vikings fell short 84-61. Sophomore post Kari Stratton had completed her first double-double of the season by picking up 11 rebounds along with her three steals and one assist. She ended the evening going 3-3 from the field with one three-pointer.

"I was a little disappointed with her [Meyer's] play in the previous week," head coach Dave Knaul said. "It was much improved during the North Dakota trip."

The post players for Augustana were in foul trouble for the majority of the game. Senior center Sarah Yager contributed 12 points and four rebounds in 24 minutes of play. Sophomore post Kari Stratton put in 11 points and four rebounds. Both Yager and Stratton fouled out.

Augustana committed 22 fouls compared to UND's 13.

On Saturday night the Vikings took on the Bison from NDSU. When the same two teams met at the Elmen Center in January, the Vikings upset the nationally ranked Bison by 49=34.

"Fouls really plagued us in both games," Knaul said. The Vikings have had their share of confinement this season. They upset nationally ranked UNC two weeks ago at the Elmen Center and also upset NDSU at the Elmen. One low point was two losses to state rival SDSU.

"The SDSU is very disapproving of me, as well as the players, because there is a rivalry, and we have not played well against them in the past," Knaul said. "The North Dakota weekend here [when UND and NDSU were at the Elmen Center] was a kind of high point for us," Knaul said.

This weekend the women are taking on Morningdale on Friday night and USD on Saturday night. Recent LSDU has been under transition as the entire women's basketball staff was hired late in January. Former USD women's coach and current USD assistant coach Ron Tibbetts has once again taken over head coaching duties for the Coyote women. Both games start at 6 p.m. in the Elmen Center.

Despite porous shooting by the Bison, 22-51 from the field and 1-10 from behind the three-point line, the Vikings could not pull off a win in Fargo. The Vikings led at half-time by four, but once again foul trouble plagued the Vikings. NDSU went to the free throw line 27 times compared to 13 for Augustana.

Starters Yager and Stratton received minimal playing time due to foul trouble. Yager played 24 minutes and Stratton played 16 minutes and fouled out. Despite the low amount of playing time, Yager put in 13 points after going 6 of 9 from the field and had five rebounds. Freshman Nicole Tendler led the Vikings with 18 points and also pulled down 10 rebounds.

The Vikings fell short by a 61-57 score. This loss moves their NCC record to 7-7 and 14-9 overall.

"Fools really plagued us in both games," Knaul said. The first rabbit of the night was thrown onto the court and one was thrown at the Augie's, Augustana senior Brian Bock makes a strong move to the basket against SDSU at the Elmen Center.

The game was won by SDSU 84-61. The second rabbit was thrown to the court floor, along with numerous carrots and insults by some Augie fans. As a result, technical fouls were called on both the Augie's men's and women's teams.

"Rules say it's wrong"

The NCAA rule put into effect as part of one was thrown at the Augie's, Augustana senior Brian Bock makes a strong move to the basket women's game. An SDSU played NSU's Ryan Walters, who was nationally ranked No. 1 at the time.

"Fouls really plagued us in both games," Knaul said. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) rule was enacted in 1933, when the NCAA and the women's track and field event was added to the NCAA. The rule was put into effect to prevent the practice of throwing rabbits onto the track to liven up a race.

According to the rule, if a rabbit is thrown by a spectator, it is a class I foul, and the race is disallowed. In 1960, the rule was amended to make it a class I foul to throw a rabbit onto the track.

Rabbit dispute continued on page 7

Track faces tough competition at Husker Invite

BY AINA THUNE
Miami State Warn

The Augustana track and field team competed this week at the Nebraska meet in the UNL's Sports Center. •

BY JENNIFER HAYES
Miami State Warn

A rivalry for more than 50 years between two warring basketball teams has stewed up trouble for some Augustana fans.

The traditional dead jackrabbit toss onto the court was thrown during this year at both the men's and women's games against SDSU on Saturday, Jan 31. Instead of the traditional toss, four rabbits were thrown to the court floor, along with numerous carrots and insults by some Augie fans. As a result, technical fouls were called on both the Augie's men's and women's teams.

Rabbit dispute continued on page 7

Controversial dead rabbits liven crowd, add to Augie's loss

The Augustana women's coach and current leader. "I got myself boxed in, but I knew I had good speed," Johnson said. "I talked to some of the other runners in the race, and they thought it was unusually warm. I think that might have affected some of why I didn't run as well as I wanted to."

Other runners in the very competitive Huskers Invitational meet were: Debbie Volk, who won in 17:23.84. Unfortunately, Johnon had hoped to break 17 minutes. Johnson struggled with the heat in the building.

"I don't know what the temperature was in there, but it felt really warm," Johnson said. "I talked to some of the other runners in the race, and they thought it was unusually warm. I think that might have affected some of why I didn't run as well as I wanted to."

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