

2019 West Region Tournament Notes

Nov. 14-16, Jamestown Jerry Meyer Arena



Serve's Up: The West Region Volleyball Tournament gets started on Thursday, Nov. 14 in Jamestown with four quarterfinals (#1 Century vs. #Minot, 1 p.m.; #4 Mandan vs. #5 St. Marys, 3 p.m.; #2 Jamestown vs. #7 Dickinson, 5 p.m.; #3 Bismarck High vs. #6 Legacy, 7 p.m.) The tournament continues on Friday, Nov. 15 with two loser-out matches at 1 and 3 p.m.; and semifinals at 5 and 7 p.m. The Tournament concludes on Saturday, Nov. 16 with two state qualifiers, 12 noon and 2 p.m. followed by the championship at 4 p.m.

Back in the Buffalo City: Jamestown is hosting the tournament for the first time since 2013 and just the third time overall. Bismarck St. Mary's won its first, and to date, only region tournament crown in 2013, topping host Jamestown in five sets.

The favorites: Well, it has to begin with top seeded Century. The Patriots have won the last five region tournaments and seven of the past eight. They lost just one conference match. Will this be the year Jamestown breaks through? The host Blue Jays have finished runner-up five times (four times to Century). The team lost to just Century and Bismarck High in WDA play. No. 3 Bismarck High is also in the mix. The Demons were the only team to defeat Century in WDA play and split two matches with the Blue Jays. BHS last won the title in 2010.

Lucky No. 5: The past two tournaments have been good for the No. 5 seed. In 2017, Bismarck High qualified for the state tournament as the fifth seed and Jamestown duplicated the feat last season. This season's No. 5 seed is St. Mary's.

Teams on a roll: Three teams enter this week's tournament on significant win streaks. Century has won its last 17 WDA matches. Jamestown is on a nine-match win streak. Legacy, the No. 6 seed, has won its last six matches. The Sabers will be seeking its first state tournament berth since 2016.

Going the distance: Ten WDA matches this season went five sets. Bismarck High (3 times), Century (2), Dickinson (3), Jamestown (3), Legacy (2), Mandan (4) and St. Mary's (3) all played in at least one five set match. Will some five-setters be in store this week?

On the tube: BEK Sports will be televising the two state qualifiers and championship match on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Final volleys: Bismarck High will be bidding for its 13th consecutive state tournament berth which is the longest active streak among WDA teams...Dickinson is back in the quarterfinal round after a one-year absence...Six teams finished regular season play with winning records...The

West Region Volleyball Tournament

Jamestown Jerry Meyer Arena

Thursday, Nov. 14

Quarterfinals

- (1) Bismarck Century vs. (8) Minot, 1 p.m.
(4) Mandan vs. (5) Bismarck St. Mary's, 3 p.m.
(2) Jamestown vs. (7) Dickinson, 5 p.m.
(3) Bismarck High vs. (6) Bismarck Legacy, 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 15

Loser-out

- Century/Minot loser vs. Mandan/St. Mary's loser, 1 p.m.
Jamestown/Dickinson loser vs. Bismarck High/Legacy loser, 3 p.m.

Semifinals

- Century/Minot winner vs. Mandan/St. Mary's winner, 5 p.m.
Jamestown/Dickinson winner vs. Bismarck High/Legacy winner, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 16

State qualifiers

- TBA vs. TBA, 12 noon
TBA vs. TBA, 2 p.m.

Championship

- TBA vs. TBA, 4 p.m.

2019 WDA Standings

Team	Record	Overall
Century	17-1	23-2
Jamestown	16-2	20-5
Bismarck	15-3	19-6
Mandan	13-5	18-7
St. Mary's	10-8	15-10
Legacy^	8-10	13-13
Dickinson	8-10	17-16
Minot^	5-10	9-17
Watford City	5-10	9-23
Williston	2-16	5-27
TMCHS	0-18	0-21

^Held tie-break

last time neither Century or Jamestown was in the regional final was 2010 (BHS vs. Dickinson)...Minot's last quarterfinal win came in 2007 (won the regional that year)...The Class A Tournament is in Fargo (Nov. 21-23)

Team Notes

#1 Bismarck Century: The Patriots (23-2 Overall; 17-1 WDA; Coach: Jamie Zastoupil, 9th year) suffered a big blow before the season when stand-out middle hitter Lauren Ware suffered an injury in the offseason that forced her to miss her senior season. Ware, a NCAA Division One talent, is regarded as one of the top athletes ever to come out of the school. Despite the setback, the four-time defending Class A champions find themselves in a familiar spot: A serious contender for another state title. After dropping a five-set match to rival Bismarck High in the conference opener, the squad has rattled off 17-straight matches en route to the conference regular season title for a sixth-straight year. So how does a team lose the best returning player in the state and continue its dominance? Well, the Patriots were never a one-

player team. They had plenty of players who made an impact. Four players average five or more kills a match led by Julia Fitterer (10.1 per match) and Hattie Fitterer (8.6). Hailey Fletcher averages nearly two blocks a match (1.8). The squad features a couple of capable setters in Kaia Lill (19.7 per match) and Delani Clarke (12.9). Defensively, the team has been strong in the back row with four players averaging 10 or more digs. Chloe Markovic leads the way with 20.3 digs. Serving is another source of strength. Jill Dollinger leads the club, averaging just under two aces a match. Century enters the West Region Tournament as one of the favorites, but there are teams who are poised to challenge for the region tournament crown.

Stat Leaders: Kills: Julia Fitterer, 10.1; Hattie Fitterer, 8.6; Blocks: Hailey Fletcher, 1.8; Ella Fridley, 1.1; Assists: Kaia Lill, 19.7; Delani Clarke, 12.9; Digs: Chloe Markovic, 20.3; J. Fitterer, 15.3; Aces: Jill Dollinger, 1.7; Lill, 1.5

#2 Jamestown: The Blue Jays (20-5 Overall; 16-2 WDA; Coach: Sara Hegerle, 9th year) have established themselves among the elite programs in the WDA. The squad has finished in the top four in each of the last five seasons and have a state title to their name (2013). Expectations were again high for Jamestown entering the season with a good nucleus of returning players from a state tournament team. And so far, the squad has lived up to the billing. It was just one of two WDA teams to win 20 matches and dropped just two conference matches. One of those was to Century, a match Jamestown was firmly in control before the Patriots rallied. Jamestown is hopeful to get another shot at the Patriots as the two programs have formed a spirited rivalry in recent seasons. The series has included a pair of showdowns in the title match. As mentioned, the Blue Jays have several talented players. Among them is Grace Hegerle who leads the squad with 11.7 kills per match. Ella Roaldson averaged 11.4 kills. Roaldson's presence at the net is also evident in her defense. She averages 1.7 blocks per match. Setter Kameron Selvig has turned in another solid season. She is averaging just under 30 a match. Rachel Schiele is among the conference leaders in digs. She averages 15.5. Six Blue Jays average one ace per match led by Hegerle (2.0). With the Blue Jays hosting this week's region tournament, excitement is high. There are certainly other teams that will be in the title mix conversation, but the 'Jays are peaking at the right time.

Stat Leaders: Kills: Grace Hegerle, 11.7; Ella Roaldson, 11.4; Blocks: E. Roaldson, 1.7; Kameron Selvig, 1.0; Assists: K. Selvig, 29.5; Digs: Rachel Schiele, 15.5; G. Hegerle, 11.1; Services Aces: G. Hegerle, 2.0; K. Selvig, 1.4

#3 Bismarck High: The Demons program (19-6 Overall; 15-3 WDA; Coach: Brianna Kline/Melissa Anderson, 1st year) entered the season having to adjust to a new coaching staff and pre-

pare for a season with no regular home gym to play in. Three months later, and the team enters postseason play with a 19-6 record and as one of the favorites to win the West Region Tournament.

Yes, it's safe to say first-year coaches Brianna Kline and Melissa Anderson have the program playing at a high level. In fact, the team was just one of two to get at least one victory over every conference team. And what about all those home away from home matches due to its gym getting renovated? BHS went unbeaten when it was the designated home team. Several were played in either Bismarck Legacy or Bismarck Century's gyms. The Demons have several key returners from last season's state tournament team. That experience enabled them to get off to a good start, winning eight of their first 10 WDA matches.

The squad is particularly strong at the net. Macy Wetsch leads the team with 12.8 kills per match and Kenzie Moser average just under 10. Callie Stonecipher showed her presence at the net as well, averaging just over a block a match. Setters Mia Hinsz (19.7) and Bre Madler (17.1) average around 20 assists per match. Three players were in double figures in digs M. Wetsch (15.3); Mallory Henriksen (14.9); Kenzie Moser (12.2). M. Wetsch leads the WDA in aces. She averages three a match. BHS has to be considered one of the favorites to win this week's West Region Tournament. It has victories over both the top two seeds. The team has reached the state tournament in each of the past 12 seasons.

Stat Leaders: Kills: Macy Wetsch, 12.8; Kenzie Moser, 9.7; Blocks: Callie Stonecipher, 1.3; Olivia Dickerson, 1.1; Assists: Mia Hinsz, 19.0; Bre Madler, 17.1; Digs: M. Wetsch, 15.3; Mallory Henriksen, 14.9; Service Aces: M. Hinsz, 1.7; B. Madler, 1.7

#4 Mandan: The Braves (18-7 Overall; 13-5 WDA; Coach: Anna Folk, 8th year) have established themselves as one of the top programs in the conference. The squad has finished in the top four in the WDA standings in each of the past four years and advanced to the Class A title a season ago; the program's first appearance since 2004. Despite losing two all-state players to graduation, the team had some talent returning. Lakyn Darras is among the league leaders in kills (13.5) per match. She also is a top 10 leader in blocks (1.7). Sydney Gustavasson leads the conference in sets (33.0). Piper Harris is second in digs (23.2). The signature win on the season came early when it knocked off visiting Bismarck High in five sets. The team overcame a 14-9 deficit in the fifth to rally for the victory. Five set matches were a common occurrence for the Braves which played in four of them; winning three. The team dropped the opening set in half of its WDA matches. However, the squad showed its ability to finish strong, illustrated by a 7-1 mark in the fourth set and 3-1 in the fifth

set. Returning to the regional championship would be a lofty goal which likely would need to upend five-time defending champion Century in the semifinals. Mandan has reached the state tournament three straight years and a fourth trip is certainly within its grasp.

Stat Leaders: Kills: Lakyn Darras, 13.5; Taylor Leingang, 8.2; Blocks: L. Darras, 1.7; T. Leingang, 0.5; Assists: Sydney Gustavson, 33.0; Digs: Piper Harris, 23.2; L. Darras, 10.7; Service Aces: Taylor Fix, 0.9

#5 Bismarck St. Mary's: Expectations are high this season for the senior-laden Saints (15-10 Overall; 10-8 WDA; Coach: Kyle Keuther, 5th year), bidding to return to the state tournament for the first time since 2015. The team return a veteran group which won 19 matches a season ago. SM put together a pair of nice win streaks in the regular season, including a season-high five in September. What the team has been lacking, however, is a signature win. The team dropped all eight of its matches to teams ahead of it in the standings.

If it's going to end that state tournament drought, the Saints will need to change that. It could start right away with a showdown with No. 4 Mandan in the quarterfinals. One of the two matches went five sets. In both matches, SM won the opening set. SM has made a habit of starting matches well. In 18 WDA contests, it won the opening set 12 times. The second set, however, has been a struggle. The team is just 7-11 in that set.

St. Mary's boasts a solid front row attack that features Hallie Schweitzer and Elizabeth Peyerl. Schweitzer averages 9.2 kills while Peyerl had 8.0. Schweitzer was also second in the WDA in blocks, averaging 3.2 per match. Avry Greff has come on and filled the main setting duties (18.8) in the second half of the season. Avery Wanner led the team in the first half. Abbi Kopp has been the conference's top back row player in regard to digs. She averages 24.9 and had a school-record 50 in a victory over Legacy. **Stat Leaders:** Kills: Hallie Schweitzer, 9.2; Elizabeth Peyerl, 8.0; Blocks: H. Schweitzer, 3.2; Maria Mann, 1.7; Assists: Avry Greff, 18.8; Avery Wanner, 14.1; Digs: Abbi Kopp, 24.9; Service Aces: E. Peyerl, 1.1

#6 Bismarck Legacy: After four straight seasons finishing in the top three in the WDA regular season standings, the Sabers (13-13 Overall; 8-10 WDA; Coach: Jennifer Astle, 7th year), slipped to sixth. The team struggled to match up with the perennial powers Century, Jamestown and Mandan. It dropped all six matches to the trio and only won three sets. The squad needed a region play-in victory over TMCHS Belcourt to advance to the quarterfinals. It was the latest in a six-match winning streak for Legacy, however. The team has picked the best time to play its best volleyball and will need to raise its play yet another notch if it plans to earn that elusive state tournament berth. The squad will have to pick up win or two over a team it has yet to defeat this season. After reaching the Class A Tournament in its first two var-

WDA Stat Leaders

Kills		
Player	Avg./M	Avg./S
A. Sagaser, LEG	14.1	3.9
L. Darras, MAN	13.5	3.6
P. Selle, DCK	12.4	3.6
M. Wetsch, BHS	12.8	3.5
G. Hegerle, JAM	11.7	3.3
Blocks		
Player	Avg./M	Avg./S
A. Rodakowski, DCK	3.2	0.9
H. Schweitzer, STM	3.2	0.8
A. Holen, WAT	2.6	0.8
H. Fletcher, CEN	1.8	0.5
E. Roaldson, JAM	1.7	0.4
Assists		
Player	Avg./M	Avg./S
S. Gustavsson, MAN	33.0	9.0
C. Beasley, LEG	31.3	8.6
K. Selvig, JAM	29.5	8.2
P. Balliet, DCK	25.5	7.4
K. Lill, CEN	19.7	6.0
Digs		
Player	Avg./M	Avg./S
A. Kopp, STM	24.9	6.8
P. Harris, MAN	23.2	6.3
C. Markovic, CEN	30.4	6.3
M. Van Vleet, LEG	19.5	5.4
J. Fitterer, CEN	15.3	4.6
Service Aces		
Player	Avg./M	Avg./S
M. Wetsch, BHS	3.0	0.8
G. Hegerle, JAM	3.0	0.6
C. Beasley, LEG	1.8	0.5
J. Dollinger, CEN	1.7	0.5
K. Lill, CEN	1.5	0.5

Avg./M (Average per match)
Avg./S (Average per set)
WDA regular season matches (18) only

sity seasons (2015-2016), the Sabers have missed out the past two. Legacy graduated several starters who were part of the program's recent string of winning seasons. However, new leaders emerged. Among them was Ashton Sagaser, who led the WDA in kills per match (14.1). Bella Ternes averages 1.4 blocks. Cam Beasley is among the conference leaders in assists (31.3). Three Sabers average double digits in digs led by Macee Van Vleet (19.5). Beasley averages just shy of two aces.

Stat Leaders: Kills: Ashton Sagaser, 14.1; Mac Boone, 8.0; Blocks: Bella Ternes, 1.4; 0.69; Assists: Cam Beasley, 31.3; Digs: Macee Van Vleet, 19.5; C. Beasley, 11.4; M. Boone, 10.5; Service Aces: C. Beasley, 1.8

#7 Dickinson: After a year's absence, the Midgets (17-16 Overall; 8-10 WDA; Jay Schobinger, 37th year) are back in the quarterfinal round of the West Region Tournament. The Midgets defeated rival Williston in a play-in match to extend its season and avenge a loss to the Coyotes in the play-in round a year ago. Despite its seventh place finish in the WDA, Dickinson showed signs of a team that could challenge some of the conference's top-half teams. It lost a five-setter to No. 4 Mandan. A match the Midgets led 2-1. It also dropped a five-set affair to St. Mary's. Dickinson also led 2-1. Unfortunately, it had to settle for a pair of close calls. One of the highlights of the season came at the end of September when it posted a 5-2 mark at its home tournament which included a quality win over Billings, MT Senior High. The last time Dickinson qualified for the state tournament was 2012 and it will take its best volleyball to accomplish that. The squad is led by a talented group of seniors. Peyton Selle is among the WDA leaders in kills per match (12.4).

West Region Volleyball Tournament Results

Year	Championship Match	Tourney Site
1982-83	Bismarck High 2, Century 1	Bismarck
1983-84	Bismarck High 2, Minot 0	Bismarck
1984-85	Minot 2, Bismarck High 1	Bismarck
1985-86	Bismarck High 2, Williston 0	Minot
1986-87	Bismarck High 2, Williston 0	Dickinson
1987-88	Bismarck High 3, Century 2	Dickinson
1988-89	Bismarck High 3, Century 1	Dickinson
1989-90	Bismarck High 3, Century 0	Bottineau
1990-91	Bismarck High 3, Minot 0	Bismarck
1991-92	Bismarck High 3, Minot 2	Minot
1992-93	Minot 3, Century 1	Minot
1993-94	Century 3, Bismarck High 2	Williston
1994-95	Williston 3, Century 2	Minot
1995-96	Minot 3, Williston 1	Bismarck
1996-97	Minot 3, Mandan 0	Dickinson
1997-98	Mandan 3, Century 1	Bismarck
1998-99	Mandan 3, Minot 2	Williston
1999-00	Minot 3, Williston 1	Bismarck
2000-01	Williston 3, Bismarck High 0	Minot
2001-02	Mandan 3, Williston 0	Bismarck
2002*	Williston 3, Dickinson 0	Dickinson
2003	Century 3, Williston 1	Mandan
2004	Williston 3, Mandan 0	Williston
2005	Dickinson 3, Century 0	Bismarck
2006	Williston 3, Century 1	Minot
2007	Minot 3, Bismarck High 1	Mandan
2008	Century 3, Bismarck High 1	Jamestown
2009	Century 3, Bismarck High 1	Dickinson
2010	Bismarck High 3, Dickinson 1	Bismarck
2011	Century 3, Bismarck High 0	Minot
2012	Century 3, Jamestown 0	Mandan
2013	St. Mary's 3, Jamestown 2	Jamestown
2014	Century 3, Jamestown 2	Dickinson
2015	Century 3, Bismarck High 0	Bismarck
2016	Century 3, Jamestown 1	Minot
2017	Century 3, Jamestown 1	Mandan
2018	Century 3, Mandan 0	Williston
2019	TBA	Jamestown

Titles By Schools: Century (11); Bismarck High (10); Minot High (5); Williston (4); Mandan (3); Dickinson (1); St. Mary's (1)

*Volleyball moved to the Fall

Audrey Rodakowski led the WDA in blocks (3.2) this regular season. Paige Balliet averages 25.5 assists. Two were in double figures in digs led by Kendryn Bullinger (14.1). P. Selle had 11.1. Selle also averages just over one ace per match.

Stat Leaders: Kills: Peyton Selle, 12.4; Blocks: Audrey Rodakowski, 3.2; Taylor Nelson, 1.5; Assists: Paige Balliet, 25.5; Digs: Kendryn Bullinger, 14.1; P. Selle, 11.1; Service Aces: P. Selle, 1.2

#8 Minot: The Majettes (9-17 Overall; 5-12 WDA; Coach: Sherry Carlson, 3rd year) opened the season with a respectable showing at the Bismarck Invite, winning four of seven three-set matches against EDC competition. However, wins were hard to come by in conference play and it had to endure a rough stretch in October where it dropped seven straight matches. However, the Majettes are playing their best volleyball right now. The team has three victories in its last five matches. And its losses over the stretch included a competitive contest at Jamestown in which Minot scored 23, 22 and 21 points, respectively. In the loss to Legacy, it took a set and lost the decisive set, 23-25. Minot has had its share of postseason success at the West Region Tournament. Ten times its been to the title

match, winning five of them. However, it's been several years since the program has been among the conference's elite. The Majettes have not qualified for the Class A tournament since 2011 and a trip this season would be a tall order.

Minot needed a region play-in victory over Watford City to reach the quarterfinal round, and with it, a date with five-time region and four-time Class A champion Century in the quarterfinals.

Getting off a to good start has been a struggle. Just six times has Minot won the opening set in regular season WDA matches. It won five of them. If the team wants to reach the third day of this week's regional, sharp play from the onset will be necessary.

The leader in the front row has been Morgan Wheeler. She averages 8.1 kills and a one block per match. Paige Rosencrans is tops on the team in assists (16.2). Tia Haskins averages just under 10 digs per contest. Allie Nelson averages just over one ace per match.

Stat Leaders: Kills: Morgan Wheeler, 8.1; Allie Nelson, 7.1; Blocks: M. Wheeler, 1.0; Assists: Paige Rosencrans, 16.2; Digs: Tia Haskins, 9.8; P. Rosencrans, 9.1; Service Aces: A. Nelson 1.3

—Notes compiled by M. Mullally, WDA SID/Executive Secretary