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**Chadrad Communications, Inc.**  
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: [kcsr@chadrad.com](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)

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**(S.D.)-South Dakota Edges Denver 59-54 In Summit Opener**

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 01/11/2014 06:50 PM

VERMILLION, South Dakota (AP) - Trevor Gruis had 19 points with 10 rebounds and Brandon Bos added 15 points as South Dakota defeated Denver 59-54 in the Summit League opener for both teams Saturday.

The Coyotes (6-9, 1-0) surged ahead in the second half as Tyler Flack had two jumpers and a dunk to fuel an 11-3 run and push the lead to 49-38 near the midway mark.

Denver (7-9, 0-1) looked to climb back as Brett Olson sank two free throws to ignite a quick 8-2 surge, but Karim Rowson answered with a layup and 3-pointer to make it 56-46 with 5:57 remaining.

Olson drilled a 3-pointer and two free throws to pull within three, but the Pioneers missed three 3-point attempts and two free throws in the final minute.

South Dakota shot 56.8 percent from the field and had a 29-21 advantage in rebounding.

Olson paced Denver with 22 points on 7-of-12 shooting.