

# Hitting from deep

## Tribes women avenge earlier loss to Pioneers

By CINDY PETERSON  
*Bismarck Tribune*

The 3-point shot looks pretty nice when the ball goes into the hoop.

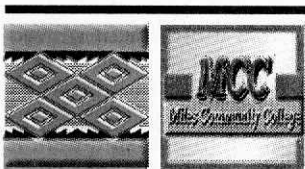
The United Tribes women's basketball team turned it into a thing of beauty on Sunday afternoon against the Miles Pioneers. The United Tribes Thunderbirds connected on 15 of 28 attempts from beyond the arc in an 89-75 victory in Mon-Dak action.

It was United Tribes' first victory over the Pioneers in at least five years. The Thunderbirds avenged a 77-50 victory from earlier this season.

"We have a lot of tough conference games coming up," United Tribes guard Kristin Bearstail said. "They're a good team, and this is a good win for us."

The Miles men topped United Tribes 80-64.

Bearstail led United Tribes with 31 points, including a 9-of-13 effort



**United Tribes women 89,  
Miles 75  
Miles 80,  
United Tribes men 64**

from the 3-point arc. Post Cristin Haase added 28 counters.

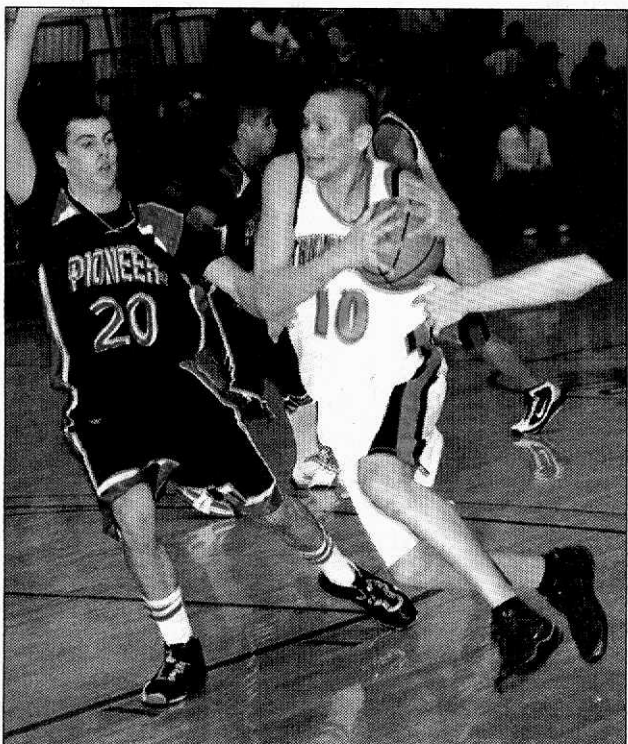
Sara Plavljanin led Miles with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Malissa Ingram added 17 points and Leva Jansone 13.

Bearstail scored 22 of her points in the second half after playing only 10:33 of the first half because of foul trouble.

"Nobody likes sitting on the bench," Bearstail said. "It pumps you up more because you know you have to work harder and not foul."

The Thunderbirds started off the contest hitting three straight 3-pointers — one by Haase and two from Bearstail — to claim a 9-0 lead at the 17:59 mark.

*Continued on 6D*



WILL KINCAID/Tribune

United Tribes' Andrew Russell drives down the lane on Miles' Brandon Robbins on Sunday.

# United Tribes women win

Continued from 1D

Haase finished with 18 first-half points and helped United Tribes lead 40-28 at the break. The Thunderbirds never trailed in the contest.

"(Haase) has been a big help to us," Bearstail said. "She's usually a three man, but she's one of our tallest players. She's been working hard down low. On the year, she has become a better post player."

The Thunderbirds created an even bigger separation by starting the second half with a 26-8 run. The Thunderbirds drained seven 3-pointers in the first five minutes with Bearstail hitting four, Haase two and Hannah Hellekson one.

United Tribes led by as many as 32 points in the second half. Miles was able to narrow the deficit to 17 points with 8:12 to play, but Bearstail answered the Pioneers' run at 7:51 with a triple from the right wing.

The offensive output ends a shooting slump for Bearstail that started around the holidays.

"I've been waiting for the right game," she said. "Today was perfect. I had been in the gym every day shooting around to try to get out of the slump."

**MCC (75):** Shaye Murphy 1-6 3-3 5, Sara Plavlijanin 9-17 0-2 18, Dale Samuels 4-8 0-0 10, Leva Jansone 5-12 2-2 13, Stren Traneli 1-6 0-0 2, Mackenzie Johnson 1-3 0-0 2, Malissa Ingram 5-10 2-2 17, Echo Thurston 0-1 0-0 0, Micah Kirkpatrick 3-7 0-0 7, Fusli Lutui 0-2 1-2 1. Totals 29-72 8-11 75.

**UTTC (89):** Nicole Wells 2-5 3-3 7, Hannah Hellekson 2-4 2-2 8, Kristin Bearstail 10-16 2-4 31, Cristin Haase 11-24 3-4 28, Marie Spotted Horse 3-3 2-4 9, Allyssa Starr 0-4 2-2 2, Charli Largo 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 30-59 14-19 89.

Halftime: UTTC 40, MCC 28.

3-pointers: MCC 9 (Ingram 5, Samuels 2, Jansone 1, Kirkpatrick 1), UTTC 15 (Bearstail 9, Haase 3, Hellekson 2, Spotted Horse 1). Rebounds: MCC 42 (Plavlijanin 12), UTTC 35 (Haase 7), Assists: MCC 9 (Plavlijanin 5), UTTC 21 (Wells 7, Spotted Horse 7). Steals: MCC 12 (Plavlijanin 3, Jansone 3), UTTC 8 (three with two). Turnovers: MCC 17, UTTC 19. Fouls: MCC 18, UTTC 15. Fouled out: MCC, Ingram. Technical fouls: None.

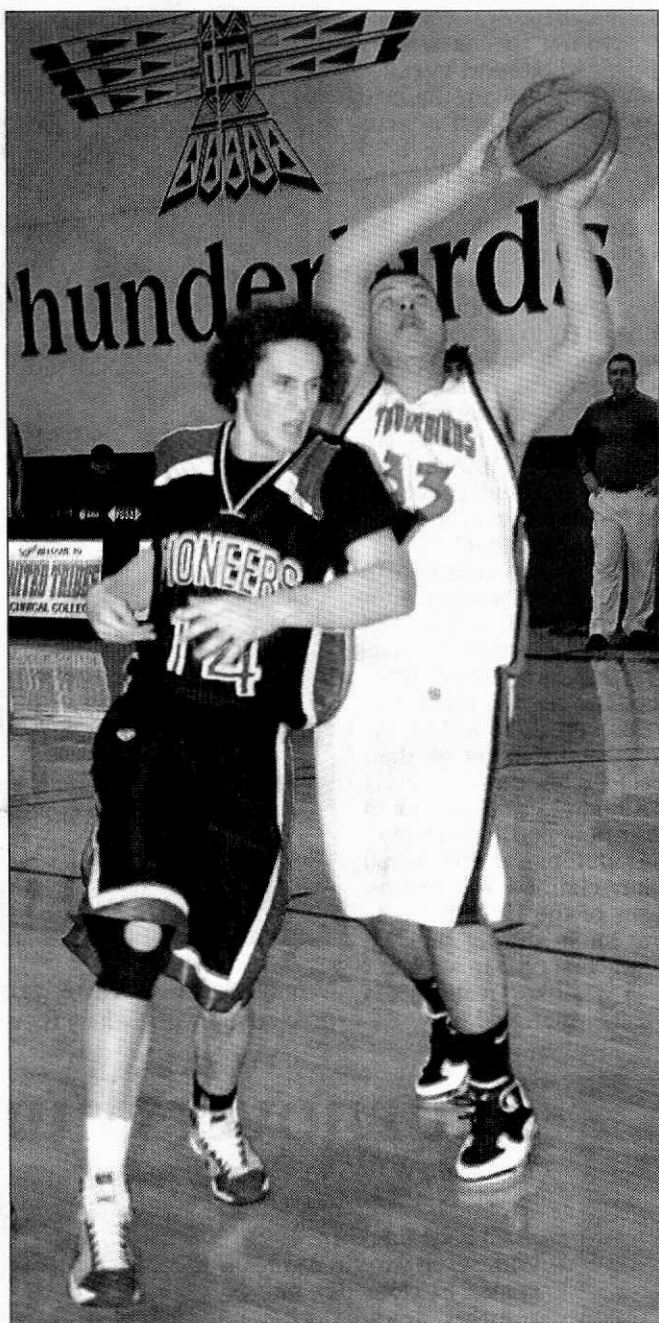
Records: MCC 2-3 Mon-Dak, 7-8 overall; UTTC 3-1, 13-5.

## Miles 80, United Tribes 64

The Thunderbirds hung around but couldn't muster a big enough run to overtake the Pioneers.

"Tonight they were a hard team to put away," Miles coach Chase Tait said. "They are a good offensive rebounding team. They beat us on the offensive glass pretty good quite a few times. They got a lot of second shots. I thought (United Tribes) played hard. A team that plays hard in their own gym is going to keep coming at you. You have to adjust to that when you are playing on the road."

Briahn Smith led Miles with 20 points. Willie Brown added 15 and Ben Perry and John Bayo added 13 each.



WILL KINCAID/Tribune

United Tribes' John Gunville puts up a shot over Miles' Dana Ori on Sunday.

United Tribes was led by Andrew Russell with 19 points. Patrick Wolf added 14 and James Bagwell 11.

United Tribes trailed by as many as 17 points in the second half. Bagwell started a 10-0 run at 13:06 of the second half with a three-point play. Wolf drained a 3-pointer from the top at 10:58 to bring the Thunderbirds as close as five points, 55-50.

Julien Botten started a 12-0 run on Miles' next possession when he drove the right side of the hoop to help put the game out of reach.

"We made plays when we needed to," Tait said. "Our defensive intensity picked up when they cut it to five."

The Thunderbirds held a 48-37 advantage on the boards.

United Tribes, however, was charted for 29 turnovers. Mistakes contributed to a Mon-Dak loss to Dawson on Saturday.

"Turnovers are killing us," United Tribes coach Jay Claymore said. "We work on them every day. It's the first thing we say when we come on to the court; turnovers have to be at a minimum."

**MCC (80):** Brandon Robbins 1-4 5-6 7, Willie Brown 7-13 1-4 15, Ben Perry 5-8 2-3 13, Briahn Smith 8-18 2-2 20, John Bayo 4-8 3-6 13, Julien Botten 1-6 0-0 2, Travis Peevey 1-4 0-0 2, Mitch Buerkle 0-0 0-0 0, Dana Ori 2-6 0-0 6, James Sparkman 1-1 0-0 2, Anthony Williams 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-63 12-20 64.

Halftime: MCC 42, UTTC 31.

**UTTC (64):** James Bagwell 5-13 1-2 11, Andrew Russell 8-15 3-5 19, Patrick Wolf 6-11 0-0 14, Jarvier Bustos 0-3 1-3 1, John Gunville 2-5 4-6 8, Denver Spotted Bear 0-2 1-2 1, Myles Frazier 2-6 0-0 4, Aljo Strange Owl 0-1 0-0 0, Duran Clark 0-2 0-0 0, Tyson Maxon 2-5 2-2 6. Totals 25-63 12-20 64.

Halftime: MCC 42, UTTC 31.

3-pointers: MCC 7 (Bayo 2, Smith 2, Ori 2, Perry 1), UTTC 2 (Wolf 2). Rebounds: MCC 37 (Smith 7), UTTC 48 (Bagwell 8). Assists: MCC 15 (Smith 4), UTTC 12 (Bustos 5). Steals: MCC 17 (Brown 6), UTTC 8 (Russell 2). Turnovers: MCC 22, UTTC 29. Fouls: MCC 19, UTTC 21. Fouled out: UTTC, Russell. Technical fouls: None.

Records: MCC 3-2 Mon-Dak, 8-2 overall; UTTC 0-4, 7-9.