

USD Aims For Great West Title Sweep On Home Turf

Track & Field: After Sweeping Two GWC Indoor Meets At Dome, Coyotes Will Host Outdoor In Yankton May 13-15

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VERMILLION — A new season brings a similar goal for the University of South Dakota men's and women's track teams: Defend an indoor league title.



Yet, the 2010 outdoor season includes a different twist.

Instead of traveling to Texas for the Great West Conference Outdoor Championships, the Coyote men and women can compete all season knowing their outdoor meet will be held down the road in Yankton, from May 13-15.

To accomplish that ultimate goal, USD will turn to some similar faces from its second-straight sweep of the GWC Indoor Championships.

On the men's side, the Coyotes return five athletes who won individual titles during the indoor season, as well as a solid group of younger athletes who should make a solid run at first-place finishes in Yankton.

"We've got some kids who have already been successful at this level," head men's track coach Dave Gottsleben said. "Our goal is to improve every meet. When you have a good team, that presents some good things."

"There's a lot to look forward to with this group."

Highlighting the men's team is a strong nucleus in the jumping events, led by two-time GWC indoor champion Cody Linder. Jeff Sebern won the high jump

title, while Chad Pinkelman competes in all three events for the Coyotes. Beau Hoodjer will also see significant action in the jumps during the outdoor season.

The Coyotes also boast a number of football players who have already performed well in the sprints.

USD's freshman quartet of Jeremy Blount, Brandon Kovash, Michael Burrus and Matt Kerswill combined to finish second in the 400-meter relay (41.24) at the season-opening Baldy Castillo Invitational in Tempe, Ariz.

"That's pretty uncommon for sprinters to be that fast already in the season," Gottsleben said. "We've really got some strength there. We're anxious to watch how that group performs."

Back this season for USD will be Dominic Artis, who redshirted during outdoors last year. The senior recorded a time of 10.68 in the 100-meter dash at the Baldy Castillo Invitational, his second-fastest time as a Coyote.

Another athlete who redshirted last spring is Vermillion native Ben Oberle, who suffered a dislocated ankle during last fall's football season. And although Gottsleben said doctors claim Oberle probably won't ever return to 100 percent, the coach said Oberle could still compete in some events this season.

In the throwing events, the Coyotes will again turn to football players Steve Nelson and Kyle Wheeler. Nelson finished second in the weight throw at the GWC indoor meet, while Wheeler won the discus throw at the league outdoor meet a year ago.



COYOTES: Dominic Artis

Gottsleben said USD also boasts a solid group in the quarter-mile events, highlighted by Bill Lane, who finished second in the hurdles at last year's GWC outdoor meet in Houston, Tex.

On the women's side for USD, the Coyotes also return plenty of talent from their second consecutive conference indoor title.

Again leading the way will be Yankton native Ramsey Fitzsimmons and former Gayville-Volin standout Emma Erickson, who combined to win four individual events at the GWC Indoor Championships in Vermillion.

Yet, as their coach said, the Coyote women are perhaps as balanced as they've ever been.

"We're a very well-rounded team," head women's track coach Lucky Huber said. "I think we're pretty solid all the way



COYOTES: Ramsey Fitzsimmons (right)

around in our events. We're anxious to see what this group can do."

As with the men, the USD women will also return some athletes who redshirted. Crofton, Neb. native Amber Hegge and Jasmine Mosley missed the indoor season because of basketball, while Jenessa Filler is back after missing the outdoor season in 2009.

Hegge won the triple jump title last spring and Filler was second in the 200-meter dash at the 2009 GWC Indoor Championships.

"Amber will be jumping and a little running, to keep in shape

for basketball," Huber said. "And Jenessa will be leading our sprinters, but Jasmine is a little banged up right now."

While those three athletes will return, the Coyotes will redshirt a pair of indoor conference champions. Bethany Buell, who won the pole vault title, and Kenna Wolter, who won both the long jump and triple jump, will be saved for later success down the road in the Division I transition, according to Huber.

On the track, Huber said USD will look to Kelsey Maloney and Abby Duling in the distance events, while Alexa Duling and Haley Juhnke will anchor the

hurdles.

Though Buell will not be competing in the pole vault this spring, the Coyotes do boast a solid freshman nucleus of Jessica Christian, Megan Meyer and Betsey Whisonant, as well as junior Haley Peterson and sophomore Natalie Newman.

And with Wolter out for the season, the Coyotes will turn to Yankton native Ashlea Johnson and Tia Haines — as well as Hegge — in the jumps. And in the throws, Danielle Dornbusch and Mosley will lead the way.

The indoor season for USD continues on April 2 in Brookings with the South Dakota State Dual, pitting USD vs. SDSU in a dual, and USD vs. North Dakota in another dual.

"We're really anxious for that," Huber said. "It should be a neat experience for our kids, with our rivalry with SDSU. I remember those days, competing against the Jackrabbits. We have a great relationship with (SDSU head coach) Rod DeHaven, and we'll look to continue these duals down the road."

Also down the road will be the GWC Outdoor Championships in Yankton on May 13-15 at Williams Field, located on the Yankton High School campus. It will be the first time USD will host an outdoor meet, a fact Gottsleben said will be both exciting and "nerve-wracking."

"We've got all the pieces in place to put the meet on, but it's kind of a scary proposition," he said. "We're definitely excited for the challenge, though. There will be some phenomenal Division I athletes coming to Yankton."

AREA CALENDAR

APRIL

Friday, April 2
BASEBALL, HS CLUB Bon Homme-Scotland-Menno vs. Corsica-Stickney-Armour in Corsica.
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD at Seattle (12:30 p.m.); USD vs. Simon Fraser at Seattle (3 p.m.).
TRACK, COLLEGE Vance Butler Memorial at Sioux Falls (MMC); USD at South Dakota State (10 a.m.).
BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC at Briar Cliff (DH, 1 p.m.).
BASEBALL, HS CLUB S.F. Washington at Yankton (12:30 p.m.); Beresford at Parkston, Lake Andes at Dakota Valley.
BASEBALL, HS CLUB JV S.F. Washington

at Yankton (2:30 p.m.).
BASEBALL, HS CLUB 9TH/10TH S.F. Washington at Yankton (4:30 p.m.).
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD at Seattle (11 a.m.); USD vs. Simon Fraser at Seattle (1 p.m.).
TENNIS, BOYS S.C. Heelan/Vermillion at YHS (9 a.m.).
Sunday, April 4
No activities scheduled.
Monday, April 5
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Sioux Falls at MMC (DH, 1 p.m.).
BASEBALL, HS CLUB Yankton at Vermillion (10 a.m.).
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD at Bon Homme-Scotland-Menno; Corsica-Stickney-Armour at Dakota Valley; Vermillion at Parkston.
BASEBALL, HS CLUB JV Yankton at Vermillion (noon).
BASEBALL, HS CLUB 9TH/10TH Yankton at Vermillion (10 a.m.).
GOLF, GIRLS Brandon Valley at YHS (2 p.m.).
Tuesday, April 6
GOLF, BOYS Freeman Academy Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Scotland, Viborg, noon).
GOLF, GIRLS Freeman Academy Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Scotland, Viborg, noon); Dakota Valley at Elk Point-Jefferson (3 p.m.); Madison at Vermillion.
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD at North Dakota State (DH, 5 p.m.).
TENNIS, BOYS YHS/Brandon Valley at S.F. Roosevelt (1 p.m.); Vermillion at Luverne.
TRACK, PREP Brookings/S.C. East/S.F. Washington at YHS (4 p.m.); Battle Creek (Randolph, 1 p.m.); Elk Point-Jefferson Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Elk Point-Jefferson, Gayville-Volin, Vermillion, 3:30 p.m.); Ethan-Parkston Early Bird (Avon, Bon Homme, Ethan-Parkston, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont-Armour,

Wagner, noon); Garretson Relays (Parker, 3:45 p.m.); Hartington Inv. (Coleridge, Hartington, Newcastle, Wymot, 1 p.m.); Knox County Inv. at Creighton (Blomfield, Creighton, Crofton, North Valley, Verdigris, Wausa, 1:30 p.m.); South Central Conf. at Bonesteel (Andes Central, Platte-Geddes, noon); Turner County Relays at Centerville (Centerville, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Hurley, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Menno, Viborg, 12:30 p.m.); Wayne Inv. (Hartington CC, 1 p.m.).
TRACK, SOPH Brookings/S.C. East/S.F. Washington at YHS (4 p.m.).
Wednesday, April 7
BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC at S.D. State (DH, 4 p.m.).
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Briar Cliff at MMC (DH, 4 p.m.).
Thursday, April 8
BASEBALL, HS CLUB Mitchell at Yankton (6 p.m.); Beresford at Dakota Valley; Lake Andes at Corsica-Stickney-Armour; South Central at Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian; Mount Vernon-Hanson-Ethan-Woonsocket at Parkston.
GOLF, BOYS McCook Central Inv. (Parker); West Point Inv. at Beemer (Hartington, Laurel, Concord, 11 a.m.); Hartington CC/Stanton at Norfolk Catholic.
GOLF, GIRLS Mitchell/S.F. Washington at Yankton (2 p.m.); Husky Inv. at Elk Point CC (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Vermillion, 9:30 a.m.); McCook Central Inv. (Parker); Stanley County Inv. (Parkston).
TRACK, PREP Vermillion Booster Club Early Bird Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Vermillion, 2:30 p.m.).
Friday, April 9
BASEBALL, HS CLUB Mount Vernon-Hanson-Ethan-Woonsocket at Wagner.
GOLF, BOYS Freeman Inv. (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Freeman, Freeman Academy,

Gayville-Volin, Marion, 10 a.m.); Mount Vernon Inv. (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Marion, Platte-Geddes, Tripp-Delmont, 10 a.m.).
GOLF, GIRLS Freeman Inv. (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Marion, Menno, Viborg, 12:30 p.m.); Mount Vernon Inv. (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Freeman, Marion, Platte-Geddes, Tripp-Delmont, Wagner, 10 a.m.).
TRACK, PREP Ivan Krumweide Inv. at Homer (Dakota Valley, Laurel-Concord, Randolph, 11 a.m.).
Saturday, April 10
BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC at Dana (DH, 1 p.m.).
BASEBALL, HS CLUB Beresford at Yankton (4 p.m.).
BASEBALL, HS CLUB JV Beresford at Yankton (6 p.m.).
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD vs. North Dakota at Kansas City, Mo. (noon); USD at Missouri-Kansas City (2:30 p.m.); MMC at Concordia (DH, 1 p.m.).
TRACK, COLLEGE Nebraska Inv. (USD); Northwestern Red Raider Inv. (MMC).
TRACK, PREP Brandon Valley Inv. (YHS, 10:30 a.m.); Corn Palace Relays (Platte-Geddes, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 9 a.m.); Dakota Valley Inv. (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Vermillion, 11 a.m.); Vinca Relays at Flandreau (Parker, 9 a.m.).
Sunday, April 11
BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC at Concordia (DH, 1 p.m.).
BASEBALL, HS CLUB Dakota Valley at Parkston; Mount Vernon-Hanson-Ethan-Woonsocket at Vermillion; Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian vs. Pine Ridge at Winner; Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian at Winner.

SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD vs. North Dakota at Kansas City, Mo. (11 a.m.); USD at Missouri-Kansas City (4 p.m.); MMC at Morningside (DH, 2 p.m.).
Monday, April 12
BASEBALL, HS CLUB Beresford at Wagner; Chamberlain at Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian; Dakota Valley at Vermillion; Parkston at Bon Homme-Scotland-Menno.
GOLF, BOYS Laurel-Concord/Randolph at Creighton; Niobrara at Bloomfield.
Tuesday, April 13
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Northwestern at MMC (4:30 p.m.).
GOLF, BOYS Irene-Wakonda Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman Academy, Hurley, Irene-Wakonda, Scotland, Viborg, 2 p.m.); Parker Inv. (Freeman, Marion, Parker, 9 a.m.); Orchard Tri. (Verdigris).

GOLF, GIRLS YHS at S.F. O'Gorman (2:30 p.m.); Dakota Valley Inv. at Two Rivers GC; Dakota Dunes (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, 9 a.m.); Irene-Wakonda Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman Academy, Hurley, Irene-Wakonda, Scotland, Viborg, 2 p.m.); Parker Inv. (Freeman, Marion, Parker, 9 a.m.).
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Dakota State at USD (DH, 5 p.m.).
TENNIS, BOYS S.C. North at YHS (4 p.m.); Vermillion at Brandon Valley.
TRACK, PREP YHS/Brandon Valley at Mitchell (4 p.m.); Canton Inv. (Beresford, Elk Point-Jefferson, Vermillion, 4 p.m.); Centerville Rotary Relays (Centerville, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Hurley, Irene-Wakonda, Marion,

CALENDAR, see Page 8

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Tripp Delmont/Armour Track Schedule

4/6/10	Parkston Invite	Parkston
4/10/10	Corn Palace Relays	Mitchell
4/13/10	Wagner Invite	Wagner
4/17/10	Avon Relays	Avon
4/22/10	Flyer Invite	Freeman
4/24/10	Flevaras Relays	Tyndall
4/27/10	Great Plains Conf	TBA
5/1/10	Andes Invite	Lake Andes
5/4/10	LMVC	TBA
5/8/10	Gregory Invite	TBA
5/11/10	Fort Randall	TBA
5/20/10	Region	TBA
5/28-29/10	State	Sioux Falls

Trip Delmont Golf Schedule

4/1/10	SEVSS Meet	Fox Run Yankton
4/9/10	Mt. Vernon Invite	Lakeview Mitchell
4/16/10	Burke/Gregory	B-Burke/G-Gregory
4/23/10	Avon/Scotland	B-Avon/G-Scotland
4/30/10	Platte/Pickstown	B-Platte/G-Pickstown
5/3/10	Freeman	Freeman
5/7/10	Springfield/BonHomme	B-Springfield/G-Tyndall
5/10/10	Pre Region	Lakeview Mitchell
5/14/10	Region	Lakeview Mitchell
5/17-18/10	State	Aberdeen

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Bon Homme Track & Field Schedule

Date	Name	Location
3/30/10	Van Lennon	Vermillion
4/6/10	Ethan/Parkston Early Bird Track Meet	Parkston
4/13/10	Wagner Relays	Wagner
4/20/10	SD-NE Challenge	Bon Homme
4/24/10	Jim Flevaras Relays	Bon Homme
4/27/10	Creighton Invitational	Creighton
4/30/10	Howard Wood Relays	Sioux Falls
5/1/10	Andes Central Invite	Lake Andes
5/4/10	LMVC Conference Track Meet	Parkston
5/8/10	Parkston Invite	Parkston
5/11/10	SESD Conference Track Meet	Wagner
5/20/10	Region Track Meet	Chester
5/28/10	State Track Meet	Lennox & Sioux Falls