

# USD Track And Field Team Gets First At NCAA Post-Season

BY CASSIE BARTLETT  
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There's recently been snow on the ground, but the University of South Dakota men's and women's track teams have started their outdoor season.

The USD squads have the opportunity to be the first athletic teams to qualify for a Division I championship since the school transitioned to the higher level.

Men's head coach Dave Gottsleben said after a great indoor season, the team is excited to start competing outdoors.

"We had a very successful indoor season and we were able to repeat as Great West champs," Gottsleben said. "There are two things in our mind right now trying to be more successful in the GWC Outdoor Championship, and now, since we are eligible for NCAA post-season Division I meets, we want to qualify first for the West Regionals and then the top 48 marks continue on to the first round of the championship."

On the men's roster this season, the field events have strong competitors and the middle-distance and distance runners had promising showings during the indoor season.

"We have a lot of depth in all the events," Gottsleben said. "We have good sprinters, throwers, our jumping events are stable. We have great mid-distance and distance runners."

In field events, freshman Adam Mikkelsen took first in the men's high jump at the GWC Indoor Championships and sen-



**COYOTES:** Sophomore Bethany Buell holds both the indoor and outdoor school records in the pole vault, and looks to have a chance to qualify for nationals in the event. USD is eligible for NCAA post-season in men's and women's outdoor track and field this season for the first time.

ior Jeff Sebern finished right behind him in second. Junior Cody Linder had successful

meets throughout the indoor season in the triple and long jump events.

On the track, junior Jeremy Blount earned second in the 60-meter dash with teammate sophomore Michael Burrus following in third. Sophomore Ethan Marquardt and freshmen Jeff Mettler and Travis Brenner had success throughout the indoor season in the mile event and sophomore Casey Shade had top-place finishes in the 800 meters.

For the team to have a successful season, Gottsleben said the underclassmen will have to step up.

"I'd like our whole team to be successful. We have a lot of leadership in our seniors and juniors and a talented freshmen class. We'll look to seniors for leadership, but the freshmen and sophomores need to step up."

The women's track and field team also took first place for the second year in a row at the GWC Indoor Championships at the end of February. Women's head coach Lucky Huber said the indoor events prepared the team for the outdoor season.

"We really used the indoor season as a springboard for outdoor," Huber said. "We want to be prepared for outdoor nationals. We're pretty strong in all our events and we're really excited to compete."

For the women's field events, sophomore Bethany Buell had a record-breaking indoor season for both USD and the GWC. Buell set USD's pole vault record at the Iowa State Classic where she placed fourth and at the GWC Indoor Championship, she defended her conference title with a meet-record breaking pole



## South Dakota Track 2011 Outdoor Schedule

March 18-19	Baldy Castillo Invitational	Tempe, Ariz
March 25-26	Stanford Invitational	Palo Alto, Calif.
April 2	Vance Butler Invitational	Sioux Falls
<b>April 9</b>	<b>South Dakota State/North Dakota Double Dual</b>	<b>Yankton</b>
April 13-14	Mt. SAC Combined Events	Azusa, Calif
April 14	Cal State L.A. Twilight	Los Angeles, Calif.
April 14-16	Mt. SAC Relays	Walnut, Calif
April 15-16	Sioux City Relays	Sioux City, Iowa
April 15	Bryan Clay Invitational	Azusa, Calif.
April 15-16	Long Beach Invitational	Norwalk, Calif.
April 25	South Dakota State Twilight	Brookings
April 28-30	Drake Relays	Des Moines, Iowa
April 29	Kip Janvrin Open	Indianola, Iowa
May 1	Nebraska Open	Lincoln, Neb.
May 6-7	Howard Wood Dakota Relays	Sioux Falls
May 12-14	Great West Championships	Orem, Utah
May 26-28	NCAA West Regionals	Eugene, Ore.
June 8-11	NCAA Championships	Des Moines, Iowa
June 22-26	USA Championships	Eugene, Ore.

vault. Juniors Kenna Wolter and Ashlea Johnson had success in the long jump during the indoor season.

Freshman Morgana Running earned a first place finish in the 800 meters at the indoor championships and also had other first place finishes throughout the season to lead the women on the track. Sophomore Alexa Duling also had a strong indoor season as she placed first in the 400 and 200-meter dashes at the championship.

Huber said there are a lot of talented freshmen the team is excited to see compete.

On April 2, Gottsleben said they will compete in a "home meet" at the Vance Butler Invite in Sioux Falls because so many of the athletes are from the Sioux Falls area.

Then, on April 9, USD will host a double dual with South Dakota State and North Dakota in Yankton at Williams Field.

"Each week is a stepping stone," Huber said. "We're training hard right now and hope to progress throughout the season. We want to become a better team. We'll have tough competition in the conference."

Gottsleben said the main focus of the team is staying injury-free.

"We need to keep kids healthy," he said. "There were a lot of injuries during the indoor season and since there are so many opportunities to run in big events during outdoor, we're training kids to stay healthy and how to recover quickly."

# Combination Of Youth, Experience Power Mount Marty Program

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**LANCERS:** Junior Katie Breuer, right, is one of the top returning athletes for MMC.

The Mount Marty College track and field teams have had to push back the start of their season due to scheduling conflicts, but they are ready to get going.

Head coach Randy Fischer is in his fourth year at Mount Marty and said the weather during the early part of the season determines how much the team competes.

"A lot of our early meets are hit and miss, it all just depends on the weather," Fischer said. "We're going to work as hard as we can early in the season so that we can rest once we get closer to the conference meet."

Mount Marty is in the Great Plains Athletic Conference and the track and field teams will compete against schools such as Doane College, Midland College, Nebraska Wesleyan and the University of Sioux Falls to qualify for the conference meet at the end of the season. Fischer said both the men's and women's

teams have strong competitors that can qualify for the event.

On the men's side, Fischer said there quite a few contenders to keep an eye on. Junior Titus Kosgei will be one of the top runners and the leader for the men. Kosgei was named an All-American at the national indoor meet earlier this season.


Sophomore Dane Hansen will be one of the top runners in the 400 and 800 meter events, Fischer said. A new edition to the team, freshman Samuel Lopez, is expected to have a great-first season and be a big impact for the team.

In the men's field events, junior Trevor Lopour will be the strongest competitor. Lopour holds Mount Marty's school

records in high jump for both indoor and outdoor.

For the women, Fischer said the team will be strongest in middle-distance and distance events, as many runners qualified for indoor nationals.

Meghan Nelson is in her final year at Mount Marty and earned All-Conference honors in the 4x800 relay event at last season's GPAC Championships. Junior Kate Breuer will be a strong sprinter and will run with Nelson in some events. Fischer said Nelson and Breuer will be the main leaders for the women. Junior Jade Steinberg will also be a strong middle and distance runner this season. Steinberg was on the All-Conference 4x800 relay team last



## Mount Marty Track 2011 Outdoor Schedule

April 2	Vance Butler Invitational	Sioux Falls
April 9	Northwestern Red Raider Invitational	Orange City, Iowa
April 15-16	Sioux City Relays	Sioux City, Iowa
April 22	Dakota State Invitational	Madison
April 28-30	Drake Relays	Des Moines, Iowa
May 6-7	Great Plains Athletic Conference	Orange City, Iowa
May 26-28	NAIA Outdoor Championships	Marion, Ind.

season with Nelson and also holds school records in the 3,000 meter race walk indoors and the 5,000 meter race walk outdoors — two events she qualified for nationals in.

Despite having a young crew, the women's field team will have some depth. Freshman Cassie Schuurmans will be the team's

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