

PHOTO OF THE DAY

National Runner-Up



Jarett Rueb of Yankton finished second in the fourth grade 60-pound bracket at the 2011 Brute Adidas Nationals Wrestling Tournament, held April 8-10 at Independence, Mo. Rueb won a free singlet for being in the Championship match and lost 1-0 in quadruple overtime. He is the son of Troy and Brenda Rueb.

State Hobey Baker Winners



Two players from Yankton were recognized with the Hobey Baker High School Character Award at their respective S.D. state high school junior varsity hockey tournaments. The goal of the "Hobey Baker High School Character Award" is to develop, recognize, and reward exemplary character and sportsmanship demonstrated by our high school hockey players. This high school level award is a natural extension of the prestigious Hobey Baker Award given to the nation's top collegiate hockey player and sportsman. The winners from Yankton were Annelise Curran for the JV girls and Jay Heilman for the JV boys.

AREA DIGEST

Dakota Wesleyan Wrestler Earns Academic Honors

MITCHELL — The Dakota Wesleyan University wrestling team has been honored for its accomplishments off the mat this season. The Tigers are one of 10 teams in the NIAA to earn recognition from the NIAA and the National Wrestling Coaches Association for their cumulative team GPA. DWU earned team recognition for maintaining a GPA of 3.16 — the third-highest GPA in the NIAA — as a team throughout the 2010-11 season. Great Plains Athletic Conference rivals Hastings College (3.40) and Morningside (3.21) were the only schools with higher GPAs. Along with the team accolades, Dakota Wesleyan also had five individuals recognized for their academic success in 2010-11. Senior Tanner LaValiere, junior Josh Geppert and Ray Rickenbach, sophomore Nick Hutcheson (Elk Point) and freshman Tyler Sarringer were all honored by the NIAA and NWCA. The Tigers are one of just three schools in the NIAA to have five individuals earned the NWCA honor. There were 44 total wrestlers honored. Geppert, who earned All-American status after placing sixth at 285 pounds at the NIAA Wrestling National Championships, is a sports management major with a 3.02 GPA. Sarringer is an athletic training major with a 4.0, Rickenbach is undecided on a major and has a 3.59 GPA, LaValiere will graduate with a degree in business administration and a 3.48 GPA and Hutcheson is an elementary education major with a 3.27 GPA. The NWCA annually honors individual wrestlers who have a GPA of 3.25 or higher and All-Americans with a GPA of at least 3.0. Morningside and McKendree University also had five wrestlers earn individual honors and GPAC school Midland, which had the 10th-best team GPA, had our wrestlers honored, as did Menlo.

Second Annual River Rat Marathon April 23

The second annual River Rat Marathon will be held Saturday, April 23, in Yankton. Races include a marathon and marathon relay beginning at 8 a.m., a half-marathon beginning at 8:30 a.m. and a 5K run-walk beginning at 9:30 a.m. There is also a bike tour beginning at 9:30 a.m. For more information or to register, go online to www.riverratmarathon.com or www.allsportcentral.com

AREA CALENDAR

- Saturday, April 16
GOLF, BOYS' Plainview Inv. (Creighton, Crofton, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Niobrara-Verdige, Randolph, 8:30 a.m.)
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE UMC Triangular (USD)
TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Mt. SAC Relays at Azusa, Calif. (USD); Sioux City Relays (USD, 8 a.m.)
TRACK & FIELD, PREP Sioux City Relays (YHS, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Ponca, 8 a.m.); Jesse James Inv. at Garretson (Alcester-Hudson, Marion, Parker, 9:30 a.m.); Wausa Inv. at Pierce (Hartington, Newcastle, Wausa, 10 a.m.)
Sunday, April 17
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Doane at MMC (DH, 1 p.m.)
BASEBALL, CLUB Beresford vs. Westington Springs-Mount Vernon-Ethan-Hanson-Woonsocket at Mount Vernon (2 p.m.); Bon Homme at Dakota Valley (5 p.m.); Vermilion at Lennox (2 p.m.)
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE MMC at Hastings (DH, 1 p.m.); UMC Triangular (USD)
Monday, April 18
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Hastings at MMC (DH, 3 p.m., KVTX-AM)
BASEBALL, CLUB Corsica-Stickney-Armour-Plankinton at Wagner (7:30 p.m.); Dakota Valley at Beresford (6 p.m.); Westington Springs-Mount Vernon-Ethan-Hanson-Woonsocket at Parkston (6 p.m.); Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian vs. South Central at Burke (5:30 p.m.)
BASEBALL, CLUB 9-10 Brandon Valley Black at Yankton (DH, 5 p.m.)
GOLF, BOYS' Ewing Quad at Summerland GC (Creighton, Niobrara-Verdige, 4 p.m.); Ponca Inv. (Ponca, Randolph, 11:30 a.m.); Pierce/Wayne at Hartington Cedar Catholic
GOLF, GIRLS' Lennox at Vermilion
TENNIS, BOYS' Vermilion at S.C. North
TRACK & FIELD, PREP Corn Palace Relays (Ethan-Parkston, Platte-Geddes, 4 p.m.); St. Mary's Inv. at O'Neill (Niobrara-Verdige, 9 a.m.)
TRACK & FIELD, MS YMS at South Sioux City (4 p.m.)

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APRIL IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
IT'S TIME... TO GET INVOLVED!
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The NBA

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)
Saturday, April 16
Indiana at Chicago, noon
Philadelphia at Miami, 2:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Portland at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 17
Memphis at San Antonio, noon
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, 2:30 p.m.
New York at Boston, 6 p.m.
Denver at Oklahoma City, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, April 18
Philadelphia at Miami, 6 p.m.
Indiana at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19
New York at Boston, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Orlando, 6:30 p.m.
Portland at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

NBA DRAFT ORDER

Held June 23 at The Prudential Center, Newark, N.J.
First Round
Team Record Ch
Minnesota 17-65 250
Cleveland 19-63 199
Toronto 22-60 156
Washington 23-59 119
Sacramento 24-58 76
New Jersey (To Utah) 24-58 75
Detroit 30-52 43
L.A. Clippers (To Cleveland) 32-50 28
Charlotte 34-48 17
Milwaukee 35-47 11
Golden State 36-48 8
Utah 39-43 7
Phoenix 40-42 6
Houston 43-39 5
Ch: Chances out of 1,000
Note: The lottery will be held on May 17. The first three picks will be determined by the lottery and the remainder of the "lottery teams" will select in positions 4 through 14 in inverse order of their consolidated standings at the end of the regular season.
15. Indiana
16. Philadelphia
17. New York
18. Atlanta (To Washington)
19. New Orleans (To Charlotte via Portland)
20. Memphis (To Minnesota via Utah)
21. Portland
22. Denver
23. Orlando (To Houston via Phoenix)
24. Oklahoma City
25. Boston
26. Dallas
27. L.A. Lakers (To New Jersey)
28. Miami (To Chicago via Toronto)
29. San Antonio
30. Chicago
Second Round
31. Minnesota (To Miami)
32. Cleveland
33. Toronto (To Detroit)
34. Washington
35/36. X-New Jersey
35/36. X-Sacramento
37. Detroit (To L.A. Clippers)
38. L.A. Clippers (To Houston)
39. Charlotte
40. Milwaukee
41. Golden State (To L.A. Lakers via New Jersey)
42. Indiana
43. Utah (To Chicago or to Golden State via Chicago)
44. Phoenix (To Chicago or to Golden State via Chicago)
45. Philadelphia (To New Orleans)
46. New York (To L.A. Lakers)
47. Houston (To L.A. Clippers)
48. Atlanta
49. Memphis
50. New Orleans (To Philadelphia)
51. Y-Portland
52. Denver
53. Orlando
54. Oklahoma City (To Cleveland via Miami)
55. Boston
56. L.A. Lakers
57. Dallas
58. Miami (To L.A. Lakers)
59. San Antonio
60. Chicago (To Sacramento via Milwaukee)
x-Teams that finished the regular season with identical records will select in the second round in the reverse of the order in which they select in the first round. The order may change based on the results of the Draft Lottery.
y-May be conveyed to Detroit via Denver.
z-May be conveyed to Portland or to Detroit.

NHL Playoffs

FIRST ROUND
Wednesday, April 13
Detroit 4, Phoenix 2, Detroit leads series 1-0
Pittsburgh 3, Tampa Bay 0, Pittsburgh leads series 1-0
Washington 2, N.Y. Rangers 1, OT, Washington leads series 1-0
Vancouver 2, Chicago 0, Vancouver leads series 1-0
Nashville 4, Anaheim 1, Nashville leads series 1-0
Thursday, April 14
Montreal 2, Boston 0, Montreal leads series 1-0
Buffalo 1, Philadelphia 0, Buffalo leads series 1-0
San Jose 3, Los Angeles 2, OT, San Jose leads series 1-0
Friday, April 15
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Nashville at Anaheim, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 16
Phoenix at Detroit, noon
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Boston, 6 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Jose, 9 p.m.
Sunday, April 17
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 2 p.m.
Anaheim at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Monday, April 18
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Boston at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19
Vancouver at Chicago, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

American League

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes East Division (New York, Baltimore, Toronto, Tampa Bay, Boston) and Central Division (Cleveland, Kansas City, Chicago, Detroit, Minnesota) and West Division (Texas, Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle).

Thursday's Games

Tampa Bay 4, Minnesota 3, 10 innings
N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 5, 10 innings
Kansas City 5, Seattle 1, 8 innings
Detroit 3, Oakland 0
Friday's Games
Baltimore at Cleveland, 7:05 p.m.
Texas at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.
Seattle at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Baltimore (Guthrie 1-1) at Cleveland (Tomlin 2-0), 12:05 p.m.
Texas (Holland 2-0) at N.Y. Yankees (F.Garcia 0-0), 12:05 p.m.
Seattle (F.Hernandez 1-1) at Kansas City (O'Sullivan 0-1), 12:10 p.m.
Toronto (Jo-Reyes 0-1) at Boston (Beckett 1-1), 12:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Chatwood 0-1) at Chicago White Sox (Floyd 1-0), 3:10 p.m.
Detroit (Verlander 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Niemann 0-2), 3:10 p.m.
Detroit (Verlander 1-1) at Oakland (Braden 0-1), 8:05 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Baltimore at Cleveland, 12:05 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 12:35 p.m.
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 12:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Chicago White Sox, 1:10 p.m.
Seattle at Kansas City, 1:10 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.
Texas at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Monday's Games
Toronto at Boston, 10:05 a.m.
Chicago White Sox at Tampa Bay, 5:40 p.m.
Minnesota at Baltimore, 6:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Texas, 7:05 p.m.

National League

Philadelphia 9, St. Louis 7, 5 innings
Washington 5, Florida 4, 5 innings
Atlanta 5, New York 4, 5 innings
Cincinnati 8, Milwaukee 7, 5 innings
Chicago 6, St. Louis 6, 7 innings
Pittsburgh 7, Houston 4, 9 innings

West Division

Colorado 9, N.Y. Mets 5, 1st game
Colorado 9, N.Y. Mets 4, 2nd game
Milwaukee 4, Pittsburgh 1
Philadelphia 4, Washington 0
Florida 6, Atlanta 5
Houston 1, San Diego 0
St. Louis 9, L.A. Dodgers 5
Friday's Games
Florida at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.
Milwaukee at Washington, 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, ppd., rain
San Diego at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
St. Louis at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Milwaukee (Gallardo 1-0) at Washington (Marquis 0-0), 12:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Ja.McDonald 0-0)

SCOREBOARD

Activated RHP Joe Smith from the 15-day DL.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Selected the contract of C Steve Holm from Rochester (IL).
NEW YORK YANKEES—Placed RHP Phil Hughes on the 15-day DL. Called up RHP Lance Pendleton from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).
TEXAS RANGERS—Recalled LHP Michael Kirkman from Round Rock (PCL). Placed RHP Colby Lewis on the paternity leave list.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Recalled LHP Luis Perez from Las Vegas (PCL).
NATIONAL LEAGUE
ARIZONA DIAMOND BACKS—Placed RHP Aaron Heilman on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Josh Collmenter from Reno (PCL).
HOUSTON ASTROS—Placed RHP Wilton Lopez on the 15-day DL, retroactive to April 14. Selected the contract of RHP Jose Valdes from Oklahoma City (PCL).
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Selected the contract of LHP Joe Beimel from Indianapolis (IL). Designated LHP Garrett Olson for assignment.
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
ARIZONA DIAMOND BACKS—Placed RHP Kevin Butler on the 15-day DL.
FARGO-MOORHEAD RED HAWKS—Released RHP Nick Felman and RHP Alex Kent. Signed INF Damon Lessler and RHP Alex Kaminsky.
FORT WORTH CATS—Signed RHP Ben Daxton to Lake County (North American) for INF Guillermo Martinez. Signed RHP Jon Hutton, RHP Bryce Cox, INF David Espinosa and RHP Dustin Cameron.
LINCOLN SALTDOGS—Released RHP Carter Clemens.
SAN ANTONIO SPRINGERS—Signed OF Joey Gathright.

SIQUOX FALLS PHEASANTS—Signed LHP Ryan Fleckenstein and RHP Brad Stone.
ST. PAUL SAINTS—Signed RHP Ruben Flores and RHP Kyle Zaleski.
WICHITA WINGUTS—Sold LHP Kevin Angelle to York (Atlantic). Traded OF Eric Williams to River City (Frontier) for a player to be named. Signed INF Jorge Delgado and RHP Dan Gnybash.
WINNIEPEG GOLDFEYS—Signed OF Kody Kaiser and RHP Erick Carrillo.
CAN-AM LEAGUE
BROCKTON ROX—Signed LHP Brad Hertzler and INF Jorge Jimenez.
NEW JERSEY JACKALS—Signed RHP Steve Fox.
PITTSFIELD COLONIALS—Signed INF John Welch and LHP David Quackenbush.
ROCKLAND BOULDERS—Signed RHP Adrian Martin, RHP Jon Velasquez, C Todd Jennings and C Jeremy Weingartner.
WORCESTER TORNA DOES—Released INF Dallas Christison. Signed OF Peter Fatse.
FRONTIER LEAGUE
FLORENCE FREEDOM—Signed INF Anthony Bello and UTL Cole Miles.
ROCKFORD RIVER HAWKS—Signed OF Caleb Curry, 3B Matt Greener, OF J.J. Sierra and OF Kyle Standridge.
WASHINGTON WILD THINGS—Placed C Billy O'Connor on the suspended list. Signed RHP Tim Dupuis, RHP Ryan Gardner, INF Scott Lawson and OF Doug Thennis.
NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE
CALGARY VIPERS—Released OF Drew Miller.
CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
WINNIEPEG BLUE BOMBERS—Signed WR Terrence Edwards to a contract extension.
HOCKEY
NHL—Suspended Los Angeles F Jarret Stoll one game for delivering a check from behind on San Jose D Ian White in an April 14 game.
CAROLINA HURRICANES—Agreed to terms with D Justin Faulk on a three-year contract.
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Reassigned F Alex Hultich to Norfolk (AHL) from Florida (ECHL).
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
MLS—Suspended Seattle MF Servando Carrasco one game and fined him \$500 for a reckless challenge on Chicago F Patrick Nyarko in an April 9 game. Suspended Los Angeles MF Jovan Kirovski one game in addition to the automatic one-game ban and fined him an additional \$750 for drawing a red card and his verbal abuse of an official in an April 9 game against D.C. United.
HOUSTON DYNAMO—Signed F Sergio Koke and MF JeVaughn Watson.
SPORTING KANSAS CITY—Signed D Aurelien Collin.
TORONTO FC—Acquired D Richard Eckersley on loan from Burnley (Npower, England).
COLLEGE
FLORIDA—Announced freshman WR Chris Dunkey and freshman WR Javaree McRoy are transferring.
GEORGIA TECH—Named Josh Postorino men's assistant basketball coach.
LSU—Signed athletic director Joe Alleva to a contract extension through 2016.
PITTSBURGH—Announced sophomore basketball F J.J. Richardson has been granted a release from his scholarship and will transfer.
RUTGERS—Announced freshman G Daisha Simmons and freshman F Briana Hutchen are transferring from the women's basketball team.
SMU—Named Frank Gans Sr. special teams coach.
SOUTH CAROLINA—Signed women's basketball coach Dawn Staley to a three-year contract extension through 2016.

Lakers' Phil Jackson Prepares For Last Playoff Run

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — Phil Jackson showed up for the first day of his final NBA playoff run with the Los Angeles Lakers in a laid shirt and khaki shorts, lightly leaning on a walking stick. The most successful coach in league history looked a bit like a hiker, or maybe a shepherd — a role Jackson has filled with unparalleled skill over the past 22 years with the Bulls and Lakers. Inheriting two teams with enormous talent and no real success, he patiently nudged and directed them to greatness with his unique combination of basketball savvy and mental manipulation. But the walking stick subtly underlined the 65-year-old former Knicks forward's nagging mobility problems, which are among several reasons he can't wait to retire this summer. The shepherd is leaving the flock, and he says there's nothing the Lakers can do about it. "I'm looking forward to going through this thing and giving it every bit of energy I have left until it's over," Jackson said. "My thoughts are about tomorrow, about practice." Jackson clearly has plenty of energy for the last task on his career to-do list, and his final team — dominant at times, incompetent at others — certainly has kept him busy. After nearly quitting last sum-

mer in the glow of his 11th NBA title, Jackson decided he owed Kobe Bryant, Derek Fisher and their teammates a chance to finish what they all started, returning to chase No. 12 and an unprecedented fourth threepeat. "He made a decision, and it's not like we expect him to change his mind," said forward Pau Gasol, whose arrival in 2008 gave Jackson the tools necessary to build another championship club. "He knows better than anybody that he likes to play mind games with everybody here. I'm not mad at him for that. I know he's here with us now." The process continues Sunday in the Lakers' playoff opener against New Orleans. Los Angeles is the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference after finishing with exactly the same record (57-25) it posted last year despite a roller-coaster season featuring everything from a 17-1 post-All-Star break run to a five-game losing streak that ended just last week. Jackson won his 1,155th career regular-season game — fifth-most in NBA history — on Wednesday in Sacramento, the same day he was fined \$75,000 by the NBA for discussing the potential league lock-out's importance to his retirement decision. He never had a losing season or missed the playoffs while becoming the only coach in league history to win 70 percent of his games. Yet for all his incredible suc-

cess, Jackson realizes he's a tough act to emulate for assistant coach Brian Shaw or whoever replaces him. The triangle offense, the heavy psychological component of his coaching technique, his unique personal style — none of it has led to a coaching tree of assistants spreading his successful approach through the league. Jackson, who titled his first autobiography "Maverick," has little use for many of the spoils of his success. "I don't know him," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, who has four titles of his own. "I mean, we don't go out and have beers. But the incredible nature of what he's done, I don't think has really sunken in on people. What he's done is unbelievable to me. To win three in a row as many times in a row as he's done, we've tried 90 times and can't win a second one in a row. For him to do that with two different teams, it's just beyond my comprehension." Ring or no ring, Jackson insists he's done for good, finally retreating to Montana and leaving behind the life of constant air travel, endless media interviews and millionaire ego massage. He'll walk away in typically idiosyncratic style, leaving a perennial contender with most of its key pieces still near their prime and an organization that adores him — and is run by his girlfriend, Lakers executive Jeanie Buss.

"This is a team that will probably stay intact with most of its players," Jackson said. "I'm the one that's on his way to retirement, so it's very interesting. It's something that we have to acknowledge and go through, but it's not something that's, 'Win one for the Gipper, win one for Phil.'" The Lakers don't want him to go, but they can't exactly say they didn't see it coming. Most of his players still hold out hope he'll have another change of heart, remembering Jackson wrote a book called "The Last Season" six seasons ago in 2004 — even while Jackson explicitly denies there's any chance he'll return. "I've been around Phil long enough to have that same philosophy," Bryant said. "Whatever happens, happens. ... It's just Phil. We've all been around him for so long." Yet Jackson apparently still isn't sure whether he handled the final manipulation of his career in the proper way. He acknowledges he's felt like "a lame duck" at times during the season, laughingly citing Ron Artest as being less receptive to his coaching — or his "mind control," as Artest calls it. "We'll digest this during the course of the playoffs, and yet it's imminent," Jackson said. "It's the elephant in the living room or in the bedroom, depending upon where you want to put that elephant."

COYOTES

From Page 9

Minnesota as a memory the Coyotes need to get back to for this season. "The way we played against Minnesota gave us some huge confidence. It showed that we can beat (Football Championship Subdivision) teams," said Ganius, who rushed for 817 yards and four touchdowns last season. "We have to treat each game as its own, but if we go out there and give it our best, it'll be a fun season."

Creating Depth

With so many returning starters in the mix, spring practice has allowed USD to fine-tune certain areas rather than worry about position battles. The Coyotes have used their nine practices so far — with a stop in Sioux Falls today (Saturday) — to develop depth across the board, Meierkort said. "It allows you to play with scheme adjustments and evaluate guys at different positions; maybe in ways we couldn't before," he said. "It's important that you create depth at this

level, to keep fresh bodies in the game at crunch time." The one specific area Meierkort pointed to as leading that effort is the defensive line, saying the team has been able to use 8-9 players at the three positions. "We've got tremendous depth on the line, and that's a tribute to our three-year recruiting effort," he said. Another area that has gotten attention is at linebacker, which will again be led by seniors Adam Broders (Bloomfield, Neb.) and Shea Williams. Darius Hogsan, who Meierkort said is "having the best spring of anybody," Elliott Harper and transfer Zack Wilson have also worked their way into the mix. On the offensive side of the ball, the main focus, according to Ganius, has been on simply fine-tuning various aspects. "Having guys who've been around the block gives us a chance to do more things," Ganius said. "There aren't really surprises to anybody, we just go out there and give it our best."

New No. 2 Quarterback

With so many veterans returning to an offense that averaged 23.4 points a game in 2010, the Coyotes need only to find replacements at tight end and

backup quarterback. It appears they accomplished both in one fell swoop. Last year's No. 2 quarterback Tyler Wilhelm has been moved to tight end, primarily because of his size (6-4, 211), but also because USD graduated two tight ends. And so, the team has named redshirt freshman Josh Vander Maten (6-2, 195) as the backup after his solid performances in spring drills. "He's looked very good so far, so he's No. 2 guy," Meierkort said of the Rock Valley, Iowa, native. "He's very athletic and has a hose of an arm. He's still learning the game, like how to be under center after going out of the shotgun in high school, but we're very encouraged by him."

New Day For Spring Game

In previous years, USD's annual spring game has been held on a Friday, but Easter weekend and heavy use of the DakotaDome caused the 2011 scrimmage to be moved to next Thursday. Meierkort said that because next Friday is Good Friday and the players already having Easter weekend off, it would have been a "logistical nightmare" to have the game then. "We couldn't have it the following week (April 29) because we can't practice the week before finals," he said. "And we couldn't go the week before because the Dome is a three-ring circus this time of the year."

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