

USD Already Off To Strong Outdoor Start

VERMILLION — Aided by a warmer than usual spring, track and field athletes at the University of South Dakota have gotten a head start on competition.

The men and women aim to capitalize off their impressive indoor season; highlighted by a second-place finish for the women and a men's fourth place finish at the Summit League Indoor Championships. "We had a great meet," USD men's head coach Dave Gottsleben said.

There wasn't much time for celebration, however. Both teams traveled to San Diego, Calif. March 16-17 for the Aztec Invitational (San Diego State University) for their first scheduled outdoor meet.

The Coyotes didn't waste any time; walking away with two school records after two days of competition — junior Bethany Buell in the women's pole vault and junior Alexa Duling in the 400-meter hurdles.

On the men's side for the Coyotes, Gottsleben said he is looking forward to Kyle McKelvey and Cody Snyder in the shot put, Kyle Ballew in the pole vault, Jeff Mettler in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, Casey Shade in the 800 meters, Lukas Bernard in the 400 hurdles, and Erik Hill in the 400 hurdles.



BETHANY BUELL • SO • POLE VAULT

gottsleben said. "Our goal for outdoor track and field is a top three finish and getting 10 NCAA Qualifiers in the first round of the playoffs. They were beaten by Wagner in the first round of the playoffs.

on March 31. "Our goal for outdoor track and field is a top three finish and getting 10 NCAA Qualifiers in the first round of the playoffs. They were beaten by Wagner in the first round of the playoffs.

a 3.0 GPA in the classroom," Gottsleben said. The only home meet for the Coyotes this spring is the April 6 Dakota Duals in Yankton, though USD is scheduled to

compete in the Mount Marty Twilight in Yankton on April 24. The Summit League Outdoor Championships will be held May 10-12 in Fargo, N.D.

Lancers On Track For Top Years In Team History

BY CHRIS RILEY
sports@yankton.net

Entering his fifth season at the helm of the Mount Marty College track and field program, head coach Randy Fischer is ever-optimistic that this spring will be the most successful of his tenure at the school and perhaps even the best in the 19-year history of the program.

"We've finally got our numbers up within the program and now we can really start to concentrate on getting some quality performances across the board," Fischer said.

On the women's side, senior Katie Breuer will lead the way after claiming her first All-American award in early March at the NAIA Indoor Championships with a fifth place finish in the pole vault.

"Katie has a chance to win conference for us and get one more All-American award if everything falls into place," Fischer said.

The former Class A state champion from Madison acknowledged that she would love to close out her collegiate career with one more national meet appearance.

"I'd like to clear 12-feet and

SD BASEBALL

Beresford

COACH: Al Hoines
ASSISTANT: Nathan Ivarsen
VITALS: Class B, Region 1B
LAST YEAR: The Watchdogs went 10-4 in the 2011 season. Beresford lost to Bon Homme in the region finals, falling one win short of the state tournament.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Matt Hoines (Sr., 3B, First Team All-State), Hayden Palmer (Sr., CF), Ethan Sorenson (Sr., 1B), Michael Mullinix (Sr., LF), Logan Hunter (Jr., 2B), Ty Knutson (Jr., LF)

TOP PROSPECTS: Jason Strand (Sr., 3B), Austin Carlson (Sr., RF), Matt Wiebers (Jr., 1B), Devon Saugstad (Jr., LF), Caleb Johnke (So., 1B), Derek Wiebers (So., C), Eli Orr (So., LF), Kory Diefendorf (So., SS), Trevor Anderson (So., SS), Oliver Doeden (Fr., C), Brent Beckstrom (Fr., CF), Hunter Cotton (Fr., 2B), Thomas Brewers (Fr., RF), Blake Kennedy (Fr., RF), AJ Schmidt (Fr., 3B)

Bon Homme

COACH: Gary Kortan
ASSISTANT: Don Kortan
VITALS: Class B, Region 1B
LAST YEAR: The Cavaliers went 13-2 on the year and were crowned the 2011 Class B State Champions.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Blase Vanecek (Jr., C, First Team All-State, .510 batting average), Ross Kortan (Jr., SS/P), Kodi Larson (Jr., CF/P), Scott Ulmer (Sr., P), Jeff Honner (Sr., OF), Sawyer Fridrich (Jr., OF), Ezra Bartlett (Jr., 1B), Alec Weber (Jr., OF), Nathan Bares (Sr., OF), Mitch Merkwan (Jr., 1B), Mike Messman (So., P/OF), Austin Kaul (So., P/C)

TOP PROSPECTS: Chase Kortan (7th, SS), Zach Sutera (Fr., P/OF), Hunter Young (Fr., IF/P), Andrew Roland (Fr., IF), Carter Mecham (Fr., C), Cole Uecker (7th, IF)

Corsica-Stickney-Armour

COACH: Bob Bamberg
ASSISTANTS: Wade Gall and Dean Fink
VITALS: Class B, Region 1B
LAST YEAR: Corsica-Stickney-Armour went 6-5 overall last year. They were beaten by Wagner in the first round of the playoffs.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Adam Fink (Sr., P/C/IF), Aaron Groen (Sr., P/C/IF), Dustin Bultje (Jr., P/C/IF), Lane Thomas (Jr., P/C/IF), Kade Rexwink (So., P/C), Nick Blom (So., P/OF)

TOP PROSPECTS: Ryan Hongslo (Sr., OF/P), Gunner Baan Hoffman (Jr., OF), Mason Van Vuren (So., OF), Kruz Kundson (Fr., IF/P), Aaron Hargans (Fr., OF), Walker Barr Hoffman (Fr., P/IF), Micah Noteboom (Fr., IF), Eli Van Roekal (8th, P/C)

Wagner-Avon-Lake Andes

COACH: Jeff Sand (1st year)
ASSISTANTS: Tanner Christensen, Josh Davies
VITALS: Class B, Region 1B
LAST YEAR: WALA lost in the second round of playoffs to Parkston.

TOP PROSPECTS: Chase Zepher (8th, IF/P), Johnny Kanter (8th, OF), Dylan Zepher (Fr., OF/IF), Derek Dickerson (Sr., P/OF), Alex Kocer (Sr., IF/OF/P), Chris Kuca (So., IF), Quinn Wilson (8th, OF), David Kocer (So., IF/P), Branson Tolliver (Sr., C/OF), Derek Soukup (Fr., IF/OF/P), Mike Kocer (Jr., OF), Zach Cournoyer (So., IF/P), Hunter Hewitt (8th, IF), Gabe Cournoyer (Jr., IF/P), Brady Cuka (Sr., OF), Cadan McBride (7th, C/P), Jonah Keen (So., OF), Drue Soukup (Fr., OF/P), Bryce Soukup (Jr., IF/P), Truman Ashes (7th, IF/P)

BY CODY BALL
sports@yankton.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the March 30 edition of the Press & Dakotan. It has been updated to reflect the ongoing season.

VERMILLION — With the ideal weather that southeast South Dakota has been experiencing, the Vermillion Tanagers baseball team has yet another reason to have a positive outlook on the upcoming season.

The Tanagers ended last year with a 6-9 overall record and lost to Beresford 7-6 in the playoffs. But Vermillion returns seven starting fielders and three pitchers from last year's squad.

Among those returning starters are All-Region selection D'Andre Fore who is a senior centerfielder and All-Region honorable mention selection short stop Tanner Settles who is a junior.

The other starters returning include seniors: Cale Miller at first base, Stormy Mintz will cover a few infield roles, pitcher Nate Garrett, and pitcher Nile Morecraft. The returning starters who are juniors are: Chayse Meierkort at catcher, Tanner Anderson at third base, and Collin Bertram who plays outfielder and pitcher.

Vermillion head coach Jason Gault spoke about the pitching rotation that the Tanagers will have.

"We should have solid pitching rotation," Gault said. "With the possibility of having five quality pitchers in the starting rotation, Vermillion will have a variety of options and looks."

Gault also spoke about



D'ANDRE FORE • SR • OUTFIELD

the defensive side of his squad.

"Defensively, we lost only two starters from last season," Gault said. "So the expectations are high for the starting nine

to make the routine play often."

Other Tanagers baseball players that are expected to make an impact this season are seniors Cody Sommervold and

Mitch Ellison. Juniors that are expected to see some time on the diamond are: Joe Mazour, Peter Haught, Collin Olson, and Damerius Johnson. Jayce Huska is currently the

only sophomore that is expected to make some appearances for the Tanagers.

Gault pointed to a few things that will lead to a successful season for Vermillion.

"Without sounding too much like a broken record, pitchers will need to throw strikes, and our defense will need to make plays," Gault said. "The introduction of wood bats will provide for a much more pitcher and defense oriented game. Something that plays along nicely with our small ball philosophy."

"That doesn't mean that we don't have the hitting to put lots of runs up on our opponents," Gault said. "But if we keep other teams off of base, it takes pressure off of our hitters."

Gault feels that the experience of his team will lead to a successful season.

"This is a very experienced group of ballplayers with proven success," Gault said alluding to a state Teenier title won by Vermillion and a successful legion season. "The coaching staff feels that with offseason workouts, and a year of growth with our younger players, we should be in the hunt for the Region 1B title."

Vermillion opened their season with a split against the Sioux City Bancrofts. Vermillion won the first game 9-4, before dropping game two 4-1.

Vermillion earned a 9-3 win over Dakota Valley on March 24 and an 8-0 victory over Beresford on March 31. The Tanagers lost to Yankton 6-2 on April 2, dropping their record to 3-2.

Yankton

From Page 10

senior infielder Alex Mueller (hit .307 with 35 runs scored in legion ball) and fellow senior, outfielder Chris Kanaly (hit .310 last year).

Seniors Tom Binder (OF), Andrew Kotalik (C/OF), Morgan Jones (UTL) and Steven Marlow (C) will also need to contribute for a successful season.

"We will look to the seniors for leadership and hopefully the young guys can get some experience as the season goes along," McClemons said.

Across the state, McClemons sees Sioux Falls Lincoln as one of the favorites.

"Lincoln will be one of the top teams in the region and state, led by Alex Schultz who signed to play baseball at the University of Nebraska-Omaha," McClemons said.

McClemons also sees Brookings and Mitchell as stiff competition.

"Brookings will have young talent to go with senior Landon Busch, who has signed to play baseball at Kansas State," McClemons added. "Mitchell also returns a lot of letter winners so they should have a lot of talent and experience back."

Yankton is 1-2 on the season.

CRWS
Clay Rural Water System
Wakonda, SD • 605-267-2088

Quality On Tap!
Our Commitment • Our Passion

Commercial State Bank
~ Since 1902 ~
(605)384-3646
204 South Main • Wagner, SD
Fax: (605) 384-3403
www.commercialstate.com
MEMBER FDIC
Email - bank@commercialstate.com

CROSBY-JAEGER FUNERAL HOME INC.
Avon, SD
119 N. Poplar St.
Wagner, SD 124 E. Hwy 50 384-3781
Springfield, SD 604 8th St. 369-2488
Jim & Julie Jaeger and Chad Peters

Valley View Hay Co.
P.O. Box 107 • Volin, SD
(605) 267-2025
Steve & Michele Gustad

Mac's Pub
Opens 4:30pm
300 Lincoln Ave., Volin, SD
(605) 267-2333
Mac & Vicki McDonald

Gerstner Oil Co.
E. Hwy. 50
Yankton
665-5568

Valley Ag Supply
509 Washington St.
Gayville, SD
(605) 267-3100

The Bag Lady
Michele Gustad, 661-8405
"Unique Home Party or Fundraiser Shopping Experience"
Trendy Handbags, Jewelry & Accessories
Cash & Carry Checks Accepted
Hostess receives: 20% with \$500.00 party or 15% with less than \$500.00 party

Charles Mix Electric
A Touchstone Energy Cooperation
Lake Andes, SD 57356 (605)487-7321