

## **South Dakota Off To Strong Start** In First Summit League Season BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — Proof that the University of South Dakota softball team is at the next level is evident even by simply looking at its schedule.

The Coyotes, 8-27 (6-6 Summit) through games as of April 4, play 24 games in their new conference home, the Summit

Last season, by contrast, USD played only six games in the Great West Conference.

The goal now for the Coyotes is to prove they belong in their new league, junior infielder Kassie Loe said. "We've always had that fire

under our butts when we play teams that are pretty good," said Loe, a second-year transfer from Mount Marty College.

"It gives us a chance to show who we truly are.' Following suit, the Coyotes

have already won weekend series against defending Summit League champion (UMKC) and the firstplace team (Southern Utah).

"It's fun to watch them have a different fire. These games actually mean something now," coach Amy Klyse said. "They'll see these same players against next

year, so the rivalries have started

"We wanted to make a state-

ment; that's our goal." Being picked to finish last in

the pre-season Summit League poll was no doubt a motivator for USD, Loe said. "People underestimate us; it's

not really a surprise, I guess," she said. "They don't know what we have to offer. We're the new team on the block, but when we have the chance to show them what we're all about, we want to do And now, this spring, for really

the first time at the Division I level, the Coyotes have a chance to do that at home. Consistent home games, espe-

cially against similar competition, have been a struggle during the Division I transition for USD.

Last year, for example, the Coyotes had eight regular season home games, all against NAIA schools. USD then hosted the **Great West Conference Tourna**ment, going 0-2.

This season? That's a whole USD will host weekend series

with IUPUI, Oakland, North

# MM Track

then the ultimate goal would to be become an All-American again," Breuer said.

Fischer is also looking for the Lancers to make big strides in the other field events this sea-

"We are looking forward to some improved performances in the ladies field events," Fischer said. "We have a stronger core with some basketball players coming over for the outdoor season to help us out."

Those players include Crofton-native Holly Hegge who will compete in the jumps and sprints. Sophomore Cassie Schuurmans is a former Class A state meet champion in the triple jump for Bon Homme who looks to have an impact on the squad as well. Fellow sophomore and Scotland-native April Winne attained All-Conference at the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) outdoor meet last spring and is set to shine once again this season following a successful basketball

Another basketball player who will compete this outdoor season is freshman Kelli Norrid from Winner. Norrid medaled numerous times at the state meet in the hurdles and sprint relays for the Warriors in high school.

"Kelli should help us out a tremendous amount in the hurdles and will give us a top-level competitor in those events that we have never had before," Fis-

Freshman Abbey Vandenberg battled some nagging injuries throughout the indoor season but still managed to place at numerous meets in the long and triple jumps and earned All-Conference honors. Another freshman to keep an eye on is Yankton-native Emily Anderson in the high jump.
On the track, the Lancers will

be led by junior Kaylee Fly. The Omaha native and junior college transfer qualified for the NAIA national cross country meet last fall for the Lancers and improved steadily throughout the indoor season. Fly will be counted on in the 5000 meter run and possibly the 10.000 meter run as well.

"I'd like to run low 18's for the 5000 and qualify for nationals again," Fly said.

Sophomore Samantha Rus, **COYOTES** | PAGE 13 senior Courtney Beacom and jun-



Lancers in the throwing events.

The Lancer men lose perennial contender Titus Kosgei from last season's squad but return the bulk of the team along with some new additions.

Sophomore Sam Lopez is fresh off of an All-American at the indoor championships in the 800 meter run with a clocking of 1:54.

ence performer last spring in the 800 meter run and the 3200

"Sam had a great indoor season and we are hopeful that he can continue to build off of that success and lead us at the conference meet," Fischer said.

Junior Trevor Lopour leads the way in the field events as a

multi-time national meet qualifier in the high jump.

"Hopefully Trevor can finally put together a complete season and score points for us at conference and really hit a day at nationals and earn an All-American award," Fischer added.

Other field event leaders for the men include school record holder Dan Filsinger in the pole vault and Yankton-native Chris Hoffman in the shot put.

Sophomore Josh Monson and freshman Neil Hohenthaner will compete this season in the decathlon, an event in which athletes compete in 10 separate events to compile points.

Monson will also be counted on in the 400 and 800 meter runs and relays alongside senior Dane Hansen.

Sophomore Jordan Pater hopes to follow up an All-Conference performance (5000 meter run) in the indoor season with outdoor success as well. He is joined in the distance events by senior Tyler Smit. Smit, a standout Class A runner from Lennox, has qualified for the outdoor championships in the marathon in each of his first three years at Mount Marty.

'We have a couple of real good distance runners in Jordan and Tyler," Fischer said. "Jordan is going to focus on the 5000 meter run while Tyler will compete in the 10,000 meter run and potentially qualify to run the marathon at nationals once again." Rounding out the standout

harriers on the men's side is freshman Logan Ulmer. Ulmer set the school record in the 60 meter hurdles during the indoor season and could be a force at the 110 meter high hurdles this spring.

All in all, coach Fischer is pleased with the team that he has assembled alongside assistant coaches Justin Olson, Lenni Billberg and Jim Miner and is excited to see what happens as the conference and national meets approach.

"We have got a lot of good things happening," Fischer said. "We just need to work hard every day and see how the season un-

The GPAC Outdoor Championships are scheduled to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska on May 4 and 5 with the NAIA National Championships scheduled for May 24-26 in Marion, Indiana.

The Lancers are also planning on hosting a twilight meet at Williams Field on Tuesday, April

### April

Saturday, April 7
BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC at Dordt (DH, 1

BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Corsica-Stick-Armour at Mount Vernon SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Oakland at USD (noon) TRACK & FIELD, PREP Brandon Valley Inv. (YHS,

TENNIS, WOMEN'S USD at Chicago State (6:30

Monday, April 9 BASEBALL, COLLEGE Dakota State at MMC BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL S.F. Roo-

Parkston at Corsica-Stickney-Armour; Vermillion Mount Vernon (DH, 4 p.m.) GOLF, BOYS' Creighton/Randolph at Laurel-Con-

evelt at Yankton (noon): Bon Homme at Dakota Val-

TENNIS, WOMEN'S USD at Valparaiso Tuesday, April 10
BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC at South Dakota

BASEBALL, CLUB 9TH-10TH Brandon Valley at

GOLF, BOYS' Parker Inv. (Freeman, Gayville-

Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Parker, Viborg-Hurley, 9 a.m.); Hartington/Hartington Cedar Catholic at Ponca; Niobrara-Verdigre/Orchard-Clearwater at Plain-GOLF, GIRLS' YHS at S.F. O'Gorman (2:30 p.m.):

Dakota Valley Inv. at Two Rivers GC, North Sioux City (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Parkston, Vermillion, 9 a.m.); Parker Inv. (Freeman, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Parker, Viborg-Hurley, 9 a.m.)

SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S USD at North Dakota

H, 2 p.m.); Dakota Wesleyan at MMC (DH, 5 p.m.)

TENNIS, BOYS' S.C. North at YHS (4 p.m.); Ver-Illion at Brandon Valley

TRACK & FIELD, PREP YHS/Mitchell at Brandon

Valley (4 p.m.); Canton Relays (Beresford, Elk Point-Jefferson, Vermillion, 4 p.m.); Cedar-Knox Inv. at Hartington (Crofton, Hartington, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Randolph, Wynot, 1 p.m.); Centerville Rotary Relays (Centerville, Freeman Academy, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Menno, Viborg-Hurley, 10 a.m.); Chester Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Parker, 4 p.m.); McCook Central-Montrose Inv. at Salem (Freeman, 4 p.m.); Red Raider Inv. at Wagner (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Ethan-Parkston, Marty, Platte-Geddes, Scot-

land, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Wagner, 2:30 p.m.);

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New Patients.

Wayne State Inv. (Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, 1 p.m.) TRACK & FIELD, 9TH-10TH YHS/Mitchell at Bran-

Wednesday, April 11
GOLF, BOYS' Ewing Inv. at Summerland GC (Nio-

brara-Verdigre, Santee, 9 a.m.)
Thursday, April 12
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Wagner at Corsica-Stickney-Armour

BASEBALL, CLUB JV Yankton at S.F. Lincoln (6

GOLF, BOYS' L-C-C Inv. at Laurel (Crofton, Hartington, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ponca, Randolph, 10 a.m.); Marion/Parker at

GOLF, GIRLS' Marion/Parker at Alcester-Hudson SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Dakota State at MMC

TRACK & FIELD, PREP Homer Inv. (Dakota Valley, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Newcastle, Ponca, 4 p.m.); Lennox Inv. (Vermillion, 4 p.m.); Menno Relays (Centerville, Freeman, Gayville-Volin, Marion, Menno, Parker, Viborg-Hurley, 9:30 a.m.); O'Neill Inv. (Bloomfield, Niobrara-Verdigre, Santee, Wausa, 10 a.m.)

TRACK & FIELD, 9TH-10TH YHS at Brandon Val-Friday, April 13
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Brookings at

Yankton (5 p.m.); Beresford at Mount Vernon

BASEBALL, CLUB JV Brookings at Yankton (7

GOLF, BOYS' Burke-Gregory Tourn. at Burke (Andes Central, Avon, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont, 10 a.m.); Flandreau Inv. (Parker, 10 a.m.); Gayville-Volin Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, 9 a.m.)

GOLF, GIRLS' Burke-Gregory Tourn. at Gregory (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont, Wagner, 10 a.m.); Flandreau Inv. (Parker, 10 a.m.); Gayville-Volin Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman, Irene-Wakonda, 9 a.m.); Dakota Valley/Elk Point-Jefferson at Beresford SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S N.D. State at USD (DH, 2

TENNIS, BOYS' Mitchell at Vermillion TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Sioux City Relays (MMC, USD)

Saturday, April 14
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Doane at MMC (DH, 1

BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Dakota Valley Corsica-Stickney-Armour; Wagner at Bon Homme BASEBALL, CLUB 9TH-10TH Yankton at S.F.

Washington (DH, 5 p.m.) GOLF, BOYS' Plainview Inv. (Creighton, Crofton,

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Niobrara-Verdigre, Ran-SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S N.D. State at USD (noon);

MMC at Nebraska Wesleyan (DH, 1 p.m.)

TENNIS, BOYS' YHS/R.C. Stevens at Madison (9

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Sioux

City Relays (MMC, USD, 8 a.m.)

TRACK & FIELD, PREP Corn Palace Relays (YHS, Ethan-Parkston, Irene-Wakonda, Platte-Ged-

des, 9 a.m.); Sioux City Relays (YHS, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Ponca, 8 a.m.); Avon Inv. (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Gayville-Volin, Marty, Menno, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Viborg-Hurley, Wagner, 9 a.m.) Sunday, April 15

BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC at Concordia (DH, 1

BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Yankton at Brookings (DH, 2 p.m.); Bon Homme at Beresford; Ver-SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S St. Mary at MMC (DH, 2

Monday, April 16

BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Dakota Valley

GOLF, WOMEN'S Creighton Classic at Omaha GOLF, BOYS' Ponca Inv. (Ponca, Randolph, 11:30

a.m.); Ewing/Niobrara-Verdigre/Orchard-Clearwater at Hartington Cedar Catholic at Pierce GOLF, GIRLS' Vermillion at Lennox

SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S MMC at Dakota State

Tuesday, April 17 BASEBALL, COLLEGE Dordt at MMC (DH, 5

GOLF, WOMEN'S Creighton Classic at Omaha

GOLF, BOYS' Irene-Wakonda at Alcester-Hudson GOLF, GIRLS' YHS/Mitchell at S.F. Lincoln (2 p.m.); Dell Rapids Inv. (Beresford, 9:30 a.m.); Two Rivers Tri. (Elk Point-Jefferson); Irene-Wakonda at Al-

cester-Hudson: West Central at Vermillion TENNIS, BOYS' YHS at S.F. Washington (4 p.m.);

TRACK & FIELD, PREP YHS/Brandon Valley/S.F. Washington at S.F O'Gorman (4 p.m.); BAH Inv. at Beresford (Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Elk Point-Jefferson, Parker, 4 p.m.); Corsica-Stickney Inv. at Corsica (Andes Central, Marty, 2 p.m.); Harrisburg Inv (Dakota Valley, 4 p.m.); L-C-C Inv. at Laurel (Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ponca, 2 p.m.); Madison, Neb., Inv. (Randolph, 12:30 p.m.); Menno Wolves Inv. (Avon, Centerville, Freeman, Marion, Menno, 3 p.m.); SD-NE

Challenge at Tyndall (Bon Homme, Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Wagner 3:30 p.m.); Wildcat Inv. at Hartington (Bloomfield, Hartington, Newcastle, Wausa, Wynot, 1 p.m.)

TRACK & FIELD, 9TH-10TH YHS/Brandon Val-

ley/S.F. Washington at S.F O'Gorman (4 p.m.)

Wednesday, April 18

BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Bon Homme

at Corsica-Stickney-Armour
GOLF, BOYS' Cornbelt Conf. at ParMar (Freeman,

Marion, 9 a.m.)

GOLF, GIRLS' Cornbelt Conf. at ParMar (Free-SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S MMC at Northwestern

າ, ວ p.m.) **TRACK & FIELD, PREP** St. Mary's Inv. at O'Neill

Thursday, April 19
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Mitchell at inkton (6 p.m.); Beresford at Canton

BASEBALL, CLUB 9TH-10TH Yankton at Harris-

burg (DH, 5 p.m.)

GOLF, BOYS' Lutheran High Northeast Inv. at Norfolk CC (Creighton, Crofton, Niobrara-Verdigre, Ponca, 9 a.m.); O'Neill Inv. (Hartington, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Santee, 9 a.m.)

GOLF, GIRLS' Madison Inv. (Parkston) TENNIS, BOYS' YHS at S.C. West (4 p.m.) TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Kansas Relays at Lawrence, Kan. (USD); Mt. SAC Relays at

TRACK & FIELD, PREP Freeman Flyer Inv. (Beresford, Centerville, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Menno, Parker Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Viborg-Hurley, 11 a.m.); Lennox Booster Club Qualifier (Dakota Valley, Ethan-Parkston, Vermillion, 4 p.m.): Pierce Inv. (Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, 3 p.m.); West Central Inv. (Elk Point-Jefferson, 3:45 p.m.); West Sioux Inv. at Hawarden Iowa (Alcester-Hudson, 4 p.m.)

Friday, April 20
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Bon Homme

at Vermillion

BASEBALL, CLUB JV S.F. Roosevelt at Yankton

GOLF, BOYS' Avon-Scotland Inv. at Avon (Andes Central, Ávon, Freeman Academy, Irene-Wakonda, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont, Viborg-Hurley, 9:30 a.m.); Jesse James Inv. at Garretson (Parker,

GOLF, GIRLS' Yankton Inv. (YHS, 10 a.m.); Avon-Scotland Inv. at Scotland (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Freeman Academy, Irene-Wakonda, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont, Viborg-Hurley, Wagner, 9:30 a.m.); Jesse James Inv. at Garretson (Parker

SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Concordia at MMC (DH,

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Kansas Relays at Lawrence, Kan. (USD); Mt. SAC Relays at Saturday, April 21
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Hastings at MMC (DH, 1

BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Yankton at andon Valley (11 a.m.); Parkston at Beresford BASEBALL, CLUB JV Yankton at Mitchell (DH, 2 BASEBALL, CLUB 9TH-10TH Yankton at S.F. Lin-

ton Cedar Catholic, 9 a.m.); Osmond Inv. at Rolling Hills GC (Crofton, Hartington, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Niobrara-Verdigre, Ponca, Randolph, 9:30

SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S North Dakota at USD

coln (DH, 1 p.m.) **GOLF, BOYS'** Mid-State Conf. at Norfolk (Harting-

(DH, 2 p.m.)

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Kansas Relays at Lawrence, Kan. (USD); Long Beach State

Inv. (USD); Red Raider Open at Orange City (MMC)

TRACK & FIELD, PREP Chamberlain Relays (Platte-Geddes); Jim Flevares Relays at Tyndall (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Centerville, Irene-Wakonda, Marty, Menno, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Wagner, 9 a.m.); Jesse James Inv. at Garretson (Alcester-Hudson, Marion, Parker, 9:30 a.m.); Niobrara Valley Conf. at Atkinson (Niobrara-Verdigre, Santee, 9:30 a.m.); Wausa Inv. at Pierce (Bloomfield, Hartington, Newcastle, Wausa, 10 a.m.)
Sunday, April 22

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MMC (DH, 1 p.m.) **BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL** Beresford at Wagner, Mount Vernon at Bon Homme SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Midland at MMC (DH, 2

Monday, April 23
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Corsica-Stick-

ney-Armour at Wagner; Dakota Valley at Beresford **GOLF, MEN'S** Summit League Championships at mm, Nev. (USD)

GOLF, WOMEN'S Summit League Championships

GOLF, BOYS' Centerville at Freeman Academy TRACK & FIELD, PREP S.F. Lincoln at YHS (4

Tuesday, April 24
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Brandon Valley at Yankton (6 p.m.)

GOLF, MEN'S Summit League Championships at

GOLF, WOMEN'S Summit League Championships

GOLF. BOYS' Baltic Inv. at Renner (Freeman Academy, Irene-Wakonda, Viborg-Hurley, 9 a.m.); Hartington Inv. (Creighton, Crofton, Hartington, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ponca,

GC (Niobrara-Verdigre, Santee, 10 a.m.); Alcester-GOLF, GIRLS' Baltic Inv. at Renner (Freeman

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Randolph, 9 a.m.); Niobrara Valley Conf. at Niobrara

**CALENDAR** | PAGE 13





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