

USTA Honors Huether Family

BY TYLER SMIT
sports@yankton.net

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SIOUX FALLS — Yankton native Mike Huether, the mayor of Sioux Falls, and his family have been named the United States Tennis Family of the Year.

The United States Tennis Association presented the Huethers with this award at the 2012 Annual Meeting and Conference in Carlsbad, California. This is the first time a South Dakota family has been recognized since Martin L. Tressel, past President of the USTA, instituted the award 47 years ago.

Tressel founded the award to promote "tennis is a family game." "At the banquet in California, they called Sioux Falls the "Flushing Meadows of the Midwest," Mike Huether said.

Flusing Meadows is the name commonly given to the public park in New York City where the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament takes place.

"My gosh, I got pumped hearing that as Cindy, Kylie, and frequent the US Open as much as we can and love the memories we have made there," Mike said.

The Ralph W. Westcott USTA Family of the Year Award recognizes outstanding service-to-tennis by a family who, in recent years, has done the most to participate as players or volunteers.

The Huether parents consider their daughter, Kylie, the legitimate tennis player in the family. "She has been our catalyst for the love of tennis," Mike said.

Kylie played tennis for Sioux Falls Washington then became the first four time All-Conference Selection for the College of St. Benedict. "It was overwhelming to be given this recognition," Kylie Huether said.

"But I hope this encourages others in South Dakota to be active and participate in something they enjoy; if it's tennis, great," Kylie said.

"Cindy is the steward for the sport, and I am the cheerleader that wants to hit every ball," Mike said.

Cindy is the Executive Director of the Sioux Falls Tennis Association. The Huethers have also provided support for the renovation of the tennis facility at Augustana College, which is called the Huether Tennis Centre.

"Our family was very excited and humbled to find out that we were chosen as USTA family of the Year," Cindy Huether said.

"When you choose to get involved in something you do it's because you want to make a difference not for the recognition, but with that said, it's nice to be recognized for the difference we've made in tennis," Cindy said.

"I believe South Dakota is very passionate about tennis. Out of the seven national awards given out by the USTA, four were given to members of the Northern Section which includes Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and western Wisconsin."

Mike Huether said he is optimistic for the continuing support for tennis in the state.

"Being a steward is not easy but the rewards from giving back are non-stop. Hey, you only live once on Earth, so go out there and get others excited about life and giving back — Yankton, Sioux Falls, and South Dakota need you," he said.



KRISTIN LOUTSCH • SO • CATCHER

Softball

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tighter and more aware of situations that can progress during a game such as how to manage the pressure and pick ourselves back up."

Mount Marty officially opened their season at a tournament at Friends University in Wichita, Kan., but the Lancers have already been able to play a few games against other GPAC teams. On Feb. 11 and 12 Mount Marty played at the Briar Cliff indoor tournament, which was a

tournament of an unofficial scrimmages. It was an opportunity for each of the players to get at-bats, and for all of the pitchers to get some innings, according to Fernandez.

Amanda Volgarino, who batted between .350 and .400 last year, spoke about the Briar Cliff tournament.

"The indoor tournament was strictly for us to get out of the gym and see some of the competition and see some live pitching," Volgarino said. "It went well though; it was a good learning experience for us."

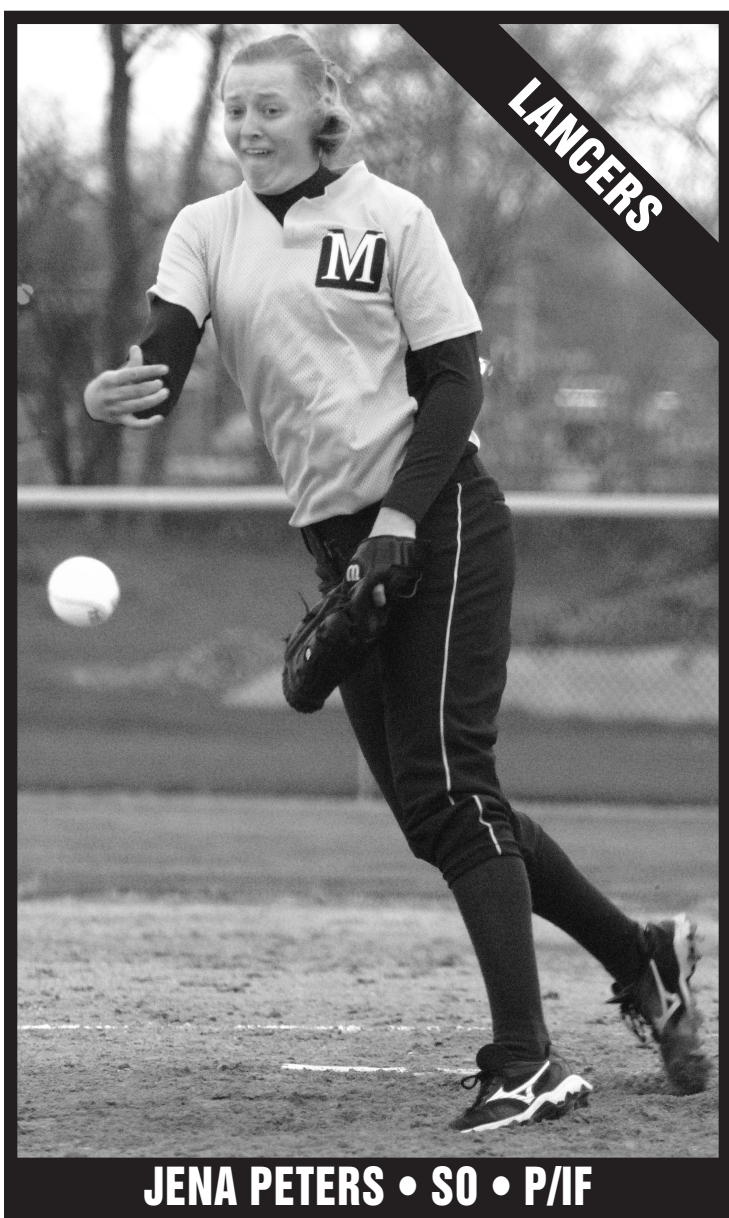
Girard also felt the indoor tournament was beneficial for getting the team ready.

"The indoor tournament gives

us the opportunity to see some live pitching and practice game situations," Girard said. "It also helped get rid of some pre-season jitters. Besides a few errors defensively, we did a good job of knowing our situations."

The Lancers are hoping that the preseason experience against fellow GPAC teams will lead to more success when conference play begins. Heading into conference play the Lancers dropped their first 13 games, but came away with a 4-3 home win over Mayville State on March 21. Jena Peters was credited with the win for the Lancers, and Girard went 2-4 with two RBI.

Mount Marty opened conference play on March 27 at Briar



JENA PETERS • SO • P/IF

Cliff. The Lancers scored a split in their conference opener, winning the first game 7-6 and losing the second 5-2. Junior Gabi Cardenas knocked in two RBIs, as did Rechtenbaugh and Hansen in the win. Peters picked up her second pitching victory as well.

To this point in the season Volgarino has paced the Lancers with 10 RBI, five homeruns, and is batting 0.306. Girard leads in hitting efficiency with a 0.375 average, and has batted in four runs. Michaela Bunde has also accounted for four RBI, and Hansen is hitting at a 0.324 rate, and leads the team with five stolen bases. Bruns leads the pitchers with a 4.29 earned run average.

The Mount Marty roster is rounded out by transfer Cardenas, sophomores Peters, Mercedees Ricke, Bunde, and Kristin Loutsch. The team also has three

freshmen, Shaina Lonneman, Lauren Orwig, and Karley Seuntjens. Seuntjens is expected to use this season as a redshirt year.

Fernandez gave his outlook for the Lancers softball season. "We talk about 'team first' all the time, so it is hard to single out one person that will be a top player for us. I look for us to have many consistent players and different players step up for us throughout the year," Fernandez said. "To be honest, I have really enjoyed this team and the type of people they are. They are all in with what we are trying to do as a program and you can't ask for much more than that from your players. They are successful student athletes and we look forward to them achieving their team goals which they have worked for all year."

Calendar

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(Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Vermillion, 9 a.m.); Viborg-Hurley at Alcester-Hudson
TENNIS, BOYS' S.F. Lincoln at Vermillion
TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Summit League Championships at Fargo (USD)
TRACK & FIELD, PREP Neb. Districts — C-6 at Hartington (Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ponca); C-7 at Atkinson (Creighton, Niobrara-Verdigris); Big Eight Conf. at Hartford (Vermillion, 3 p.m.); Big Sioux Conf. at Sioux Falls (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, 1:30 p.m.); Cornbelt Conf. at Freeman (Freeman, Marion, Menno, 1 p.m.)

Friday, May 11
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL S.F. Washington at Yankton (6 p.m.)

BASEBALL, CLUB JV S.F. Washington at Yankton (8 p.m.)

BASEBALL, CLUB 9TH-10TH Fr.-So. Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton)

GOLF, BOYS' YHS S.D. Regions — 4B at Lakeview GC, Mitchell (Andes Central, Avon, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont, 10 a.m.)

GOLF, GIRLS' YHS at Vermillion (2 p.m.); S.D. Regions — 4B at Lakeview GC, Mitchell (Andes Central, Avon, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont, 10 a.m.)

TENNIS, BOYS' Eastern South Dakota Conf. at Brandon (YHS, 9 a.m.)
TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Summit League Championships at Fargo (USD); Concordia

Last Chance Meet (MMC)
TRACK & FIELD, PREP Big East Conf. at Chester (Parker, 3 p.m.); Ethan-Parkston Inv. at Parkston (Avon, Bon Homme, Ethan-Parkston, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, 1:30 p.m.); Kimball-White Lake Inv. at Kimball (Andes Central, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 4:30 p.m.)

Saturday, May 12
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Watertown at Yankton (DH, 1 p.m.)

BASEBALL, CLUB 9TH-10TH Fr.-So. Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton)

TENNIS, BOYS' Madison Inv. (Vermillion, 9 a.m.)
TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Summit League Championships at Fargo (USD)

TRACK & FIELD, PREP Eastern South Dakota Conf. at Yankton (YHS, 11:30 a.m.)

Sunday, May 13
BASEBALL, CLUB JV Yankton at Brookings (DH, 1 p.m.)

Monday, May 14
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Yankton at S.F. O'Gorman (6 p.m.)

GOLF, BOYS' Neb. Districts — C-2 at Wisner (Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ponca); C-3 at Battle Creek (Creighton); D-1 at Oakland (Hartington); D-3 at Ewing (Niobrara-Verdigris, Randolph, Santee); S.D. Regions — 3B at Elmwood GC, Sioux Falls (8 a.m.)

GOLF, GIRLS' S.D. Regions — 2A at Spring Creek GC, Harrisburg (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Vermillion, 9 a.m.); 3A at Lakeview GC, Mitchell (Bon Homme, Parkston, Wagner, 9:30 a.m.); 3B at Elmwood GC, Sioux Falls (Alcester-Hudson, Centerville, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Parker, Viborg-Hurley, 8 a.m.)

Thursday, May 17
TENNIS, BOYS' S.D. State Tourn. at Rapid City (YHS, Vermillion, 9 a.m.)

TRACK & FIELD, PREP AA Last Chance at Beresford (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Vermillion, 2 p.m.); 5A at Wagner (Bon Homme, Ethan-Parkston, Platte-Geddes, Wagner, 11 a.m.); 4B at Centerville (Alcester-Hudson, Centerville, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Parker, Viborg-Hurley, 10 a.m.); 6B at Lake Andes (Andes Central, Avon, Marty, Menno, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 9 a.m.)

Friday, May 18
TENNIS, BOYS' S.D. State Tourn. at Rapid City (YHS, Vermillion, 8:45 a.m.)

TRACK & FIELD, PREP Nebraska State Meet at Omaha (9 a.m.)

Saturday, May 19
BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL Class A Regions

TENNIS, BOYS' S.D. State Tourn. at Rapid City (YHS, Vermillion, 8:45 a.m.)

TRACK & FIELD, PREP Nebraska State Meet at Omaha (8:30 a.m.)

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