

# Weather Throws Wrench Into Today's Area Sports Schedules

The expected poor weather conditions for today (Tuesday) have sent area schools scrambling to reschedule spring sporting events.

Among them is Yankton High School, which cancelled its track and field triangular and postponed a road boys' tennis match and a girls' golf dual.

The triangular with Mitchell and Brandon Valley was called off. A sophomore meet with Brandon Valley, scheduled for Thursday, will now be a varsity event. Start time remains 4 p.m.

Today's tennis dual at Sioux City,

Iowa, North will be held on Friday, April 12, at 4 p.m.

The girls' golf dual between Yankton and O'Gorman has been postponed. No makeup date has been set.

Mount Marty College postponed its Great Plains Athletic Conference softball doubleheader at Dakota Wesleyan to Monday, April 15, at 3 p.m. MMC's non-conference doubleheader with Dakota State was moved from April 15 to April 18 to accommodate the change.

Here are the other postponements that have been reported to the Press &

Dakotan. All were originally scheduled for today, unless otherwise noted.

— The Dakota Valley Invitational girls' golf tournament has been postponed to Tuesday, April 16.

— The Rotary Relays track and field meet has been postponed to April 16 in Centerville.

— The Red Raider Invitational track and field meet has been postponed to Thursday, April 25, in Wagner.

— The boys' golf triangular featuring Hartington Cedar Catholic and Hartington Public at Ponca has been postponed.

No makeup date has been announced.

— The Parker Invitational boys' and girls' golf tournament has been postponed. No makeup date has been set.

— The Chester Booster Club track and field meet, the Sandhills track and field meet in Bassett, Neb., and the McCook Central-Montrose Invitational track and field meet have been cancelled and will not be rescheduled.

— The Wayne State College High School Outdoor Track and Field Meet scheduled for Tuesday, April 9 at Cun-

ningham Field/LeRoy Simpson Track has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled.

— The Menno Relays track and field meet, scheduled for Thursday, April 11, will be held on Monday, May 6. Field events will begin at 9:30 a.m., with running events beginning at 11:15 a.m.

To report a schedule change, athletic directors and/or coaches are asked to email sports@yankton.net, fax the information to 605-665-1721 or call 1-605-665-7811, ext. 106.

# Looking Back At 'Cloddy'

## Legacy Of National Champion Coach For USD Remains In Yankton

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Among the well-known coaches to have spent time and found success in Yankton is one who graced this town for only 10 months over 60 years ago.

The nickname says it all. "Cloddy."

Victor "Dwane" Clodfelter, a former high school and collegiate coach who later won a small school national basketball title at the University of South Dakota and passed away in 2006, is the subject of a forthcoming biography by his son, Kim.

The full story of "Cloddy" is not complete without the inclusion of his one year, 1949-50, as football, basketball and track coach at Yankton High School, according to former Bucks standout Don St. Clair.

"That was a magical one year with him," said St. Clair, a 1950 YHS graduate who himself later became a successful basketball coach in California, where he resides.

"It wasn't even a full year, but we were so fortunate that we were around when he came to Yankton."

Notable for his soft-spoken but motivating style, Dwane Clodfelter arrived in Yankton in August 1949 and within three months, had guided the Bucks to their first Eastern South Dakota Conference (ESD) football title in eight years.

The following March, his YHS basketball team — well-known since for its pink warm-up jerseys during the post-season — qualified for the State Class A Tournament. For good measure, the Bucks took fourth place at the state track meet.

By June 1950, Clodfelter was gone, headed to Huron High School.

His brief stay in Yankton, though, meant quite a bit to his father, according to Kim, whose biography — appropriately entitled "Cloddy" — does yet not have a publisher.

"The bottom line is, he enjoyed his year here," Kim said during a stop to the Press & Dakotan last week. "He met some people who became lifelong friends."

### Journey To Yankton

Saying he wanted to "write about the high school years and move on from there," Kim said his research path has taken him down new roads.

Prior to coming to USD as a freshman coach in 1958, the elder



ABOVE: The 1949-50 Yankton Bucks boys' basketball team, coached by Dwane Clodfelter (back row, second from right). Clodfelter went on to coach the University of South Dakota men to a NCAA Division II national championship in 1957-58.

BELOW: Kim Clodfelter, Dwane's son, was in Yankton recently researching a book that he is doing on his father. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

Clodfelter — a Woonsocket native — spent 15 years on the high school circuit. He coached in Alpena, Forestburg, Fedora, Centerville (1943-49), Yankton (1949-50) and Huron (1950-53), winning state track titles in Class A and B.

"I'm finding out so much more to this story," Kim said.

Taking the job in Centerville at age 25, Clodfelter soon found that the school only had a dirt track. A plea to the superintendent for funding didn't work, so Clodfelter was able to wrangle some cinder blocks and cement.

"He went into the study hall and took the boys out and put them to work with shovels and wheelbarrows," Kim said. "It took three of them to pull the cement compactor, but they got it done."

The manual labor paid off, as the Tornados won a pair of Class B state track titles.

### Brief Yankton Stay

Though success seemed to eventually develop wherever he went, Clodfelter inherited a Yankton football program in 1949 that had been rather talented under former coach Bob Burns. The Bucks were 8-2 in 1947 and 8-1-1 the following year.

"He came in there with not a lot of expectations," St. Clair, the team's left guard, said. "Coach Burns had been at Yankton and had two very good teams before that."

Burns left in 1949 for Sioux Falls Washington High School, and as St. Clair says, "It didn't look like the Bucks would be nearly as good as the previous two, but we surprised everybody."

Yankton was dealt an early blow

that fall, however, as two cases of polio in town delayed the football team's pre-season conditioning. A few days later, the team returned to the field together and got an early glimpse of their new coach.

"Here was this very quiet, English-looking professor," St. Clair said. "He was so soft-spoken. We were used to having Bob Burns, who looked like a football player and was a golden gloves boxer. Cloddy was just the opposite."

The team's debut under Clodfelter was rather anticlimactic, as the Bucks dropped a 13-0 game at Sioux City (Iowa) East in a torrential rain storm. Many of the players suffered burns on their face, arms and hands because of an acid-based chalk that was lining the field that night, St. Clair said.

As the season progressed and the players got to spend more time around their coach, both in the YHS halls and on the field, they got to see how much of a "psychologist" Clodfelter was, St. Clair said.

The Bucks went on to win five of their next six games, with their only blemish a 6-6 homecoming tie against Mitchell. That set up a Nov. 29, 1949 showdown in Yankton with Aberdeen for the ESD title — a game in which Clodfelter used his psychology prowess.

"The wind was blowing like crazy," St. Clair said. "He made sure we had the wind with us in that last quarter. We're down 7-6 and Kaye Andrews (one of Yankton's captains) quick-kicked on third down and booted it 72 yards."

"They got the ball, but we stopped them. They punted it

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# Kozak To Continue Softball Career At Mount Marty



Infielder Karlee Kozak rears back to fire the ball to first base during a softball game last fall. Kozak, who attends Bon Homme High School but plays for high school and club softball teams in Yankton, will attend Mount Marty and play softball for the Lancers, the institution announced.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Karlee Kozak has played much of her softball career in Yankton. It seemed only fitting that she would play collegiately in Yankton as well.

Kozak, a Bon Homme High School standout who played her club and high school softball with Yankton teams, will attend Mount Marty and play softball for the Lancers, the institution announced on Monday.

Kozak played for the Yankton high school club softball team this past fall, and has been a regular for the Yankton Spitfire club team in recent years. In 2012, she batted .363 with four doubles, three triples and 28 RBI to earn all-state tournament and all-state honorable mention honors. She also earned first-team all-state honors in 2011, and all-state honorable mention honors in 2010.

"Karlee has a good work ethic. She's determined," said Spitfire coach Robin Wirth. "She doesn't like to lose."

MMC head coach Albert Fernandez said that Kozak had been on his radar in recent years, but that she made the first step in the recruiting



Kozak

with us, that started communications."

The versatility Kozak displayed in her years in Yankton Girls' Softball Association programs made her a valuable asset, Wirth said.

"We can put Karlee in the infield or outfield, and she reads the ball well," she said. "Offensively, she hits the ball well and she can put down a bunt if you need her to."

While Kozak does not have any former softball teammates at MMC, she does have a former teammate and schoolmate at MMC, Raquel Sutera. Sutera, who is on the women's basketball team at MMC, gave Kozak an inside look at the college.

"Raquel told me about Mount Marty," she said. "I also talked to Coach Fernandez and the team, and

process.

"I'd seen her play the past two, three years, with the Spitfire and with Yankton. Her competitiveness and athleticism stood out," he said. "But she was the one that initiated contact

they seemed pretty cool. I'm happy to be playing with them next year."

Wirth is looking forward to seeing another player from the Yankton softball program continue her career collegiately.

"It will be nice that Karlee's here, that we can watch her play," she said. "It's good to see that these kids that come up in the Yankton program can succeed like that."

For MMC, bringing in another good local student-athlete has many advantages, according to Fernandez.

"We've been trying to focus on the tri-state area. We had a big freshman class this past year, mostly local athletes," he said. "When their families are close, we have more support for the team. It's good for the players because if they want to go home for a weekend, they can."

Fernandez also noted that the talent pool in the state is continuing to deepen.

"The talent in South Dakota is continuing to get better," he said. "The high school and club teams are allowing kids to get more opportunities to play at a high level."

With her collegiate path set,

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## NCAA Final Not Done At Presstime

ATLANTA — The NCAA men's basketball championship game between Louisville and Michigan was not complete when this edition went to press.

A feature on the game will appear in Wednesday's edition of the Press & Dakotan.

## Lancers Card 349 In Third Round Of GPAC Men's Golf

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Mount Marty College men's golf team shot a 349 in the third round of the Great Plains Athletic Conference, held Monday at Wilderness Ridge Golf Course in Lincoln, Neb.

Luke Loecker led MMC, tying for 29th with an 80. Dylan Bales shot 86, Weston Swanson shot 89, Brett Korth carded a 94 and Josh Engquist shot 101 for the Lancers.

Northwestern's Neil Malenke posted the low score on Monday, shooting a 3-under 68. Morningside's Brandon Thompson carded a 71.

MMC is at 1,022, 166 strokes over par, through three rounds. Loecker ranks 32nd (246), with Swanson 35th (261), Korth 36th (262) and Bales 38th (265).

Northwestern shot a 291 to extend its lead on Morningside. Through three rounds, Northwestern is at a 9-over 865, 26 strokes better than Morningside.

Malenke and Jay Monahan are 1-2 for Northwestern, with Malenke at 3-under 211 and Monahan at 2-over 216.

The final round of the GPAC Tournament will be held April 25 at The Ridge in Sioux Center, Iowa. The four-round event — two in the fall, two in the spring — decides team and individual qualifiers for NAIA post-season events.

## Miss, Mr. Basketball To Be Named At May 5 Event In SF

SIoux FALLS — Hansen Anderson Basketball will name the South Dakota prep Miss and Mr. Basketball during its annual awards luncheon at the Ramkota Convention Center in Sioux Falls on Sunday, May 5.

Thirteen senior girls and 12 men were selected as finalists by a vote of South Dakota high school basketball coaches at the conclusion of the 2012-13 season.

The 13 girls selected as finalists include Allison Koehn, Brandon Valley; Cera Ledbetter and Darby Huginin, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Chynna Stevens, Clark/Willow Lake; Emma Hanson, Sioux Falls Washington; Erica Herrold, Parkston; Kerri Young, Mitchell; Kieran O'Malley, Centerville; Logan O'Farrell and Presley O'Farrell, Summit; Rachel Rogers, Warner; Samantha Knecht, Aberdeen Central; and Taylor Trohkimoinen, Newell.

The 12 finalists for Mr. Basketball include Adam Hofer, James Valley Christian; Brock Zeller, Elk Point-Jefferson; Bryce Koch and Cole Langer, Dell Rapids; Chase Marso, Brandon Valley; Jordan Baker, Sioux Falls Christian; Lane Severyn and Zach Hanson, Pierre T.F. Riggs; Skylar Flatten, Clark/Willow Lake; Tanner Heiser, Watertown; Tyler Howard, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; and Wyatt Kroghman, White River.

The luncheon is open to the public with tickets available in advance by contacting Kari Jurens at kjurens@ncppub.com, or at the door the day of the event. Doors will open at noon for lunch with the awards presentation beginning at about 1 p.m.

## Oregon Police To Probe If Alaska Coach Hit Player

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — A police department in Oregon will investigate whether an Alaska assistant high school football coach assaulted a player on a school-sponsored team trip to a summer camp last year.

Police in Juneau announced Monday they are turning the investigation over to the Gold Beach, Ore., Police Department to determine if a Thunder Mountain High School coach assaulted a player during an informal boxing match on the trip.

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