

# Weather Continues To Frustrate Fernandez, Other Area Coaches

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Like most coaches this spring, Mount Marty College softball coach Albert Fernandez has been feeling the effects of the return to a "normal" South Dakota spring. One where we're talking about a chance of snow on April 10, rather than temps in the 90s, as in 2012.

If the Lancers are able to reschedule today's (Wednesday) doubleheader with Presentation College, it will mean Fernandez's team will play 24 games — 12 doubleheaders — between this Friday and the end of the regular season, April 28.

"We're going to have at least three doubleheaders a week for the next three or four weeks," he said. "We have a lot of games to get in."

Only seven open dates — counting Thursday, which doesn't look much better in the weather forecasts — remain between now and the April 28 regular season finale at Presentation, meaning that the home date with the Saints may be a victim of this spring's weather.

"Our (Great Plains Athletic Conference) games are a priority," Fernandez said. "We're going to try to keep our non-conference dates as well but, if it comes down to it, those teams know that our league games come first."

**"The tough part is trying to prepare your team," Fernandez said. "You're inside all winter, and when you're inside, it's not a perfect situation."**

ALBERT FERNANDEZ, MMC SOFTBALL COACH

The Mount Marty softball season got off to a rough start, with a tournament in Friends, Kan. — the outdoor opener for the Lancers last season — being called off because the host school got a foot of snow a week before the tournament. After the Lancers got back from a spring break trip to Arizona, the team had to wait another 2 1/2 weeks before it could finally get on the field for its home and conference opener.

"The tough part is trying to prepare your team," Fernandez said. "You're inside all winter, and when you're inside, it's not a perfect situation. Then we weren't able to get outside as early as we wanted."

"As a staff, you try to keep them positive and put them in situations to prepare them for games."

MMC will next try to take the field on Friday, when the Lancers are scheduled to host Morningside.

These are the other schedule changes that were reported to the *Press & Dakotan* on Tuesday. To report a schedule update, athletic directors and/or coaches are asked to email sports@yankton.net, fax information to 1-605-665-1721 or call 1-605-665-7811.

— The Mount Marty College softball team announced that today's (Wednesday) doubleheader with Presentation College had been postponed. No makeup date has been set.

— Baseball games featuring North Dakota at South Dakota State Tuesday and Mount Marty at SDSU for today were both postponed. No makeup date has been set for either contest.

— Tuesday's third round of the Great Plains Athletic Conference women's golf qualifier was postponed. It will be combined with the fourth round, and will be played as a 36-hole event on April 26 at Two Rivers Golf Course in Dakota Dunes.

— Tuesday's Canton Relays track and field meet was postponed. No makeup date has been set.

— Tuesday's Cedar/Knox Relays track and field meet was postponed. No makeup date has been set.

— The boys' tennis dual featuring Brandon Valley at Vermillion, scheduled for Tuesday, was called off. No other information is available at this time.

— Thursday's Brandon Valley at Yankton track and field dual has been canceled.

— The Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian-White Lake baseball game with Chamberlain, scheduled for Thursday in Platte, has been moved to Friday, April 26 in Platte. A varsity and JV game are scheduled. Start time will be 6 p.m.

— Thursday's Lennox Invitational track and field meet has been postponed to Thursday, April 25.

— Today's Augustana vs. Bemidji State baseball doubleheader was canceled. The games were originally to be played in Bemidji, Minn., but were moved to Sioux Falls due to snow on the BSU Baseball Field.

— The Wayne State softball doubleheader with Southwest Minnesota State, scheduled for today, was moved to Thursday at 2 p.m. in Wayne, Neb.

— The Wayne State baseball doubleheader at the University of Mary, scheduled for today, was moved to Thursday.

Game one begins at 1:30 p.m.

— Tuesday's SDSU at Creighton softball game, scheduled for Tuesday, was cancelled. SDSU also announced the cancellation of its April 24 matchups with Dakota Wesleyan.

— Tuesday's Nebraska-Creighton baseball game was postponed. It may be made up at a later date.

— Thursday's Sioux Falls city track and field meet was postponed. No makeup date has been set.

Several other postponements and cancellations of Tuesday events were reported to the *Press & Dakotan* on Monday.

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.

Tuesday'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

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## Bianchi: Pitino Proves Tiger's Point — Winning Takes Care Of Everything

BY MIKE BIANCHI

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ORLANDO, Fla. (MCT)— He is, in my opinion, the greatest sports writer of all-time.

He's hilariously funny. Incredibly poignant. Amazingly thought-provoking.

Which is why I was shocked when I read Rick Reilly's column the other day and found it to be so definitively wrong.

Headline on Reilly's column at ESPN.com: "Tiger Woods" ad way out of bounds.

The column was about a new Nike marketing campaign that started after Tiger won The Arnie in Orlando two weeks ago. It was a picture of Tiger with the caption: "Winning Takes Care of Everything."

Wrote an indignant Reilly: "Winning doesn't take care of everything. There are some stains winning can't scrub clean. Like the worst sex scandal in pro sports history. ..."

Come on, Riles, you know better. You've been covering big-time sports for a long time, which means you should understand more than anyone that winning gets rid of stains 10 times better than Clorox and disinfectants and deodorizes 100 times more effectively than Lysol.

If winning doesn't take care of everything, how do you explain the massively and raucously cheering galleries Tiger enjoyed at The Arnie and will revel in this week at The Masters.

If winning doesn't take care of everything, how do you explain Rick Pitino — the toast of college basketball who Monday night became the first coach in history to win a national title at two different schools? Four years ago, Pitino was embroiled in a scandal in which he had sex with a woman inside an Italian restaurant and allegedly paid for the woman's abortion. The woman is now in a Florida jail for trying to extort money from him.

In all of CBS' coverage of Pitino during the national-championship game, there was not one mention of the scandal. However, the TV cameras did show Mrs. Pitino, and commentator Jim Nantz pointed out that she and the coach had just celebrated their wedding anniversary. Just goes to show how quickly you can go from one shameful moment to one shining moment.

And if winning doesn't take care of everything, how do you explain Ray Lewis going from the player who was once charged with murder to a Super Bowl hero, magazine cover boy and endorsement machine? Not bad for a guy who, at the very least, covered up evidence in a murder case and pleaded down to obstruction of justice. If he had not been a winner, Lewis would still be perceived as the football player who may have literally gotten away with murder.

And if winning doesn't take care of everything, how do you explain Kobe Bryant, who has gone from the man who was once accused of rape to one of the greatest champions in NBA history and an athlete who is not only revered in the United States but beloved in communist China. If Kobe weren't such a winner — such a rich, successful and famous professional athlete — would the criminal rape case against him have been dropped so that he could resolve the civil case in an out-of-court settlement with the alleged victim? After the settlement, Kobe signed a seven-year, \$136 million deal and regained endorsements from Nike and Coca-Cola.

We could go on and on. How did Nick Saban erase the perception of being the biggest liar in sports? By winning national titles. How did LeBron James erase the perception of

## AREA STANDOUTS



A total of 56 competitors from Avon, Parkston and Scotland competed in a National Archery in Schools competition, held March 24 in Avon. Place winners include (front) Hannah Van Gerpen (2nd, junior high girls), Brooklyn VanZee (3rd, junior high girls), Olivia Wemers (3rd, high school girls), Breanna Berendsen (2nd, high school girls), Courtney Bucholz (1st, junior high girls), Jimmy Schurmans (3rd, junior high boys), Brady Petrik (2nd, junior high boys), (back) Nick Metteer (3rd, high school boys), Zack Wyna (2nd, high school boys), Brianna Voigt (1st, high school girls), Riley Namminga (1st, junior high boys) and Brendan Anderson (1st, high school boys).



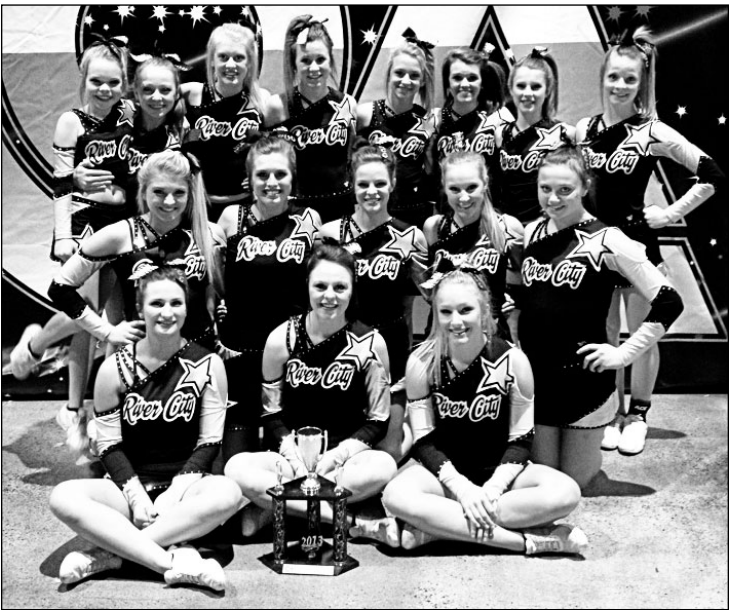
The Yankton Storm volleyball club went 4-1 to win the consolation championship in the U-17 silver division at the Great Plains Volleyball Regional Championships, April 7 in Lincoln, Neb. Team members include Hailey Bockholt, Emily Bos, Haley Mines, Rylee Smith, Paige Thieman, Jessi Anderson, Brooke Wuebben, Becky Frick and Coach Brittany Salonen.



The Yankton Morning Optimist Club held its Tri-Star Hockey Competition last month at Alcoa Arena. Placewinners include (front) Dawson Vellek (1st, 7-9 division), Cole Pedersen (2nd, 7-9 division), Alexander Nockels (3rd, 7-9 division), Optimist president John Lillivold, Oakley Palmer (1st, 12-13 division), Caid Koletzky (2nd, 12-13 division), Jaxson Erickson (3rd, 12-13 division), Keith Schenkel (1st, 11-12 division), Ryan Eichacker (2nd, 11-12 division) and Brody Burgeson (3rd, 11-12 division).



The Yankton Wolves won the seventh grade boys' Red Division of the Roger Haas Tournament on March 22-23. Team members include (front) Kellen Franzen, Jack Wolffgram, Cameron Krejci, Tate Gale, Casey Krejci, (back) coach Jeff Wolfgang, Trevor Rafferty, Brady Dangler, Kobe Bowker, Garrett Tennant, Gerri Dykstra and coach Nate Franzen.



Yankton's River City Cheer Chill squad, a senior level 3 team, finished fifth in its division at the Mid-America Championships this past weekend in Kansas City. It was the first national-level competition for the Chill. The team qualified to compete at the U.S. Finals event, but will not participate.



The Yankton Hawks went 3-0 to qualify for the Pacesetter Four-State Championships, to be held July 6 in Minneapolis. This is the third time this squad has qualified for the Pacesetter event. Team members include (front) Tanner Frick, Nathan List, Reid Sawatzke, (back) Bradey Sorenson, Alex Withrow, Keenan LaCroix, Landon Binder and Coach Chris Frick.



The Yankton Heat sixth grade boys' basketball team recently won its division at two tournaments, the Roger Haas Tournament in Yankton and the Salem Tournament. Team members include (front) Miles Card, Michael Frick, Cole Sawatzke, Owen Feser, (back) coach Jim Sawatzke, Jack Raab, Ethan Wishon, Nick Kurtenbach, Rex Ryken and coach Brian Carda.



The Yankton Hoosiers fourth grade boys' basketball team added a tiel at the Sioux Falls Lincoln spring tournament to titles it won in Brandon, Lennox, Salem and Norfolk, Neb. Team members include (front) Aidan Feser, Matthew Mors, Carson Koletzky, Brodey Peterson, (back) coach Aaron Feser, Trevor Fitzgerald, Jimmie Cunningham, Austin Frick, Quentin Moser and coach Jay Fitzgerald.