

## Cancelations, Postponements Keep Coming

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

The effects of the snow and sleet that hit Yankton on Tuesday and Wednesday continue to hamper area high school athletic schedules.

Yankton High School announced two weather-related changes on Wednesday.

— Friday’s Parkston Invitational girls’ golf meet, in which Yankton was scheduled to participate, has been postponed. No makeup date has been announced.

— The Tuesday, April 16, Yankton track and field quadrangular will now be a seven-team meet beginning at 3 p.m. Teams participating will include Yankton, Brandon Valley, O’Gorman, Washington, Mitchell, Brookings and Watertown.

— Mitchell High School also announced that Saturday’s Corn Palace Relays track and field meet, in which Yankton was scheduled to participate, has been canceled.

Here are Wednesday’s other announcements involving regional teams.

— Wednesday’s Ewing Invitational boys’ golf tournament was postponed to Wednesday, April 17.

— Wednesday’s Augustana vs. Sioux Falls softball doubleheader was postponed. If conditions permit, the games will be played today (Thursday) in Vermillion.

— Today’s Laurel-Concord-Coleridge boys’ golf Invitational was postponed to Monday, April 15.

— Today’s O’Neill Invitational track and field was postponed to Tuesday, April 16. It will be run in conjunction with the O’Neill Junior High meet that was scheduled for that date. Start time will now be 9:30 a.m.

— Today’s golf triangular featuring Marion and Parker at Alcester-Hudson has been canceled.

— Today’s softball doubleheader featuring Southwest Minnesota State at Wayne State has been canceled.

— Friday’s Gayville-Volin Invitational golf meet, scheduled to be played at Hillcrest Golf and Country Club, has been canceled.

— The boys’ tennis match with Vermillion and Mitchell, scheduled for Friday in Vermillion, has been postponed. No makeup date has been set.

— Friday’s ‘Little Palace’ junior high track meet in Mitchell has been canceled.

— The Huron boys’ tennis quad, scheduled for Saturday, has been postponed.

— Dakota Wesleyan’s non-conference softball doubleheader with Dakota State, which had been pushed back to Saturday, has been canceled.

— This weekend’s Augustana women’s golf invitational was canceled.

— Wayne State’s baseball series with Minn.-Duluth was moved to Wayne, Neb., due to poor field conditions in Duluth, Minn. Double-headers on Saturday and Sunday will begin at noon each day.

— Estelline’s Sno Bird track and field meet, scheduled for Saturday, and its junior high meet, scheduled for Monday, have been canceled.

Here are earlier announcements involving events scheduled for Wednesday, today, or later this week.

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

— A baseball game featuring Mount Marty at South Dakota State for Wednesday was postponed. No makeup date has been set.

— 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.

— Also, 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.

## Barta Bests Her Yankton Record

A Decade After Setting Bar At 798, Barta Rolls 810 Series

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE  
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After nearly a decade, Stacy Barta is back to breaking records.

This March Barta rolled an 810 series, the highest recorded series by a woman at Yankton Bowl and the highest recorded by a woman in South Dakota during the 2012-13 season. She set the previous Yankton Bowl record of 798 in October of 2003.

“I thought somebody would have gotten higher than my score from back then,” Barta said. “I was always kind of worried about that because I always wanted to be the first one to do it. I carry a high average for a woman, and I’ve been close a lot of times, but I’ve always just missed it.”

Barta has always focused on consistency while she bowls, and that consistency finally paid off.

“A lot of times you’ll have two good games and the lane conditions change throughout the night,” she said. “If you don’t adjust to that you’re not going to get the high third game.”

That’s why Barta has wanted an 810 series more than a 300.

“I’ve always wanted to get an 800 — more importantly than a 300 because you have to bowl three good games instead of just one,” she said.

“Not many people have ever bowled an 800. Even some of the best bowlers haven’t bowled an 800.”

Although Barta used to bowl up to four nights a week, she now only bowls one night a week.

“I’ve just bowled for so many years I know what to do now. I don’t really practice,” she said. “Everybody’s kids are getting older and we’re busier, so I cut back. It was still my goal to get an 810 series, but one would think I would have done it before when I was bowling more.”

Barta began bowling when she was nine years old, and for her the sport has always been about family. Even now her team consists of her, her mom and her two sisters.

“We get along really well, and I’m sure a lot of families probably couldn’t do that for all these years, but we just stayed together and did it,” she said. “They’re my competition. It actually helps me.”

But Barta said her biggest competition is herself.

“I get the most upset with myself because I think, ‘Why did I do that?’ For myself I always try to get better,” she said.

Barta’s next goal is to shoot for a 300.

“I am the most competitive with myself, and now I have to get a 300,” she said. “It’s just fun.”

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at [twitter.com/ENiebrugge](https://twitter.com/ENiebrugge)



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Stacy Barta recently set the Yankton Bowl record for a women’s series, rolling an 810 series last month. It currently ranks as the best series in South Dakota by a woman during the 2012-13 bowling season.

## SOUTH DAKOTA SPRING FOOTBALL



JEREMY HOECK/P&D  
South Dakota receiver Ben Kramer, middle, is tackled from behind by linebacker Colin Buscarini, right, during a team practice Wednesday afternoon at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Linebacker Devon O’Farrell, left, picks up the fumble.

## Coyote Work To Put ‘12 Behind Them



JEREMY HOECK/P&D  
South Dakota quarterback Josh Vander Maten throws during a team practice Wednesday afternoon at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Vander Maten switched numbers, from No. 16 to 7.

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — Asked about his team’s off-season training and how it will translate to the football field, Joe Glenn points up to the DakotaDome south wall.

“That thing right there, see it?” he asks. “It’s called a scoreboard. Every occupation should have one of those, for the world to see.”

After nearly five months of off-the-field improvements, Glenn and his University of South Dakota football team are working — in all phases — to ensure that a 1-10 record last fall is truly a thing of the past.

Following his squad’s ninth practice Wednesday of the spring season, Glenn, in his usual light-hearted way, related a story from his playing days. A coach at the time said that any player can walk across a 4-foot wooden plank on the ground, but the trick is to do it 100 feet up in the air.

“You can do it here, but we better do it on gameday and when they have the lights on the scoreboard,” Glenn added, pointing out that USD lost four games last year by three points. “If we get some momentum going, who knows what can happen.”

On the issue of things they can control in the short team, the Coyotes chose to focus on bettering themselves rather than worrying about what happened in 2012, according to senior defensive back Devin Taverna.

“We all have the attitude that we’re not going to go down, we’re only going up,” said Taverna, who was second on the team with 48 tackles a year ago. “We’re getting after it every day.”

For the Coyotes, it all started in the weight room.

Spurred on by the direction of strength and conditioning coach Jevon Bowman, the team participated in a 6-week, total-body workout routine, focused additional attention on nutrition and yes, even worked on flexibility through yoga.

By all accounts, and even through first glances, the results followed.

“When we started spring ball, we attacked everything,” senior defensive back Aaron Swift said. “Everyone wants to win now. There’s a different attitude about it.”

Returning experience on both sides of the ball figures to help the Coyotes, even in spring ball — when the 2013 recruiting class is not yet on campus.

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## Dayton’s Vikings Stadium Chief Backs Tax On Pro Sports Gear

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The chairwoman of the state panel overseeing Vikings stadium construction said Wednesday that she supports a sales tax on professional sports merchandise as a backup for the financially struggling project.

Michele Kelm-Helgen was appointed last year by Gov. Mark Dayton to lead the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority. She testified at a hearing of the House Taxes Committee on a bill that would levy the sports memorabilia tax and an accompanying luxury seat tax in response to lagging tax revenue from electronic gambling that’s supposed to cover the state’s share of the \$975 million,

downtown Minneapolis stadium.

“I think it makes a lot of sense. It would provide a good cushion,” Kelm-Helgen said of the sports memorabilia tax, a proposed 10-percent sales tax on clothes, sports cards, equipment and other items that bear a pro sports logo. It would apply not just to Vikings gear but to the goods of all professional teams, based in Minnesota or elsewhere, and to purchases made anywhere — not just at pro sports venues.

Kelm-Helgen discouraged the luxury seat proposal, saying it would infringe on a deal state negotiators struck with the Vikings last year that led to the stadium bill the Legislature passed in May.

Vikings spokesman Lester Bagley said the team is opposed to the entire proposal but acknowledged that the sports memorabilia tax would not violate the letter of that deal since those sales are not considered “stadium revenue” in the same way that luxury seats are.

Rep. Ann Lenczewski, the Bloomington Democrat who chairs the House Taxes Committee, introduced the new tax proposals earlier this week amid rising concerns about the disappointing performance so far of the electronic pull-tab games that are supposed to help the state generate \$350 million in coming years to pay pack stadium construction bonds.

Lenczewski noted that she had

voted against the stadium but said all lawmakers have a responsibility to address the problem before it gets out of hand. The first bonds are supposed to go on sale in August, and the groundbreaking is scheduled for October with a hoped-for 2016 opening to the new stadium.

“We don’t know what those numbers are going to be in June, July,” Lenczewski said of the underperforming gambling tax revenue. “We’re not going to be here after May 20, and we’re not going to be back until sometime in 2014. If we can see there’s potentially a gap coming, we should try to solve it now.”

Defenders of the gambling plan

have said it needs more time to pick up steam. Also on Wednesday, members of Dayton’s staff, Vikings representatives, lawmakers and others met privately to discuss ways to better market the games, which are offered in some bars and restaurants. Bagley said the Vikings agreed to lend “marketing muscle” toward making the games more successful.

But lawmakers from both parties praised Lenczewski’s effort to head off bigger financing problems, even as some Republicans complained about the specific approach.

“I don’t think this is fair to fans of other sports, or to fans that can’t afford to go to games but

want to support their team by wearing a cap or a jersey,” said Rep. Kurt Zellers, R-Maple Grove. That was echoed by representatives from the Twins, Wild and Timberwolves.

“For us and for our fans, it comes down to the accessibility and affordability of the fan experience,” said Twins executive Kevin Smith.

Several other proposals from House Republicans surfaced Thursday to address the Vikings financing concerns. One proposal would cut the state’s \$348 million share of the project by \$200 mil-

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