

# Weather Has Kept Mastodons On The Sidelines

Fort Wayne Softball Has Played Just Two League Games; Weather Has Cost 'Dons 15 Games In '13

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — Mother Nature has not been kind to sports teams this spring, but has been especially cruel to the Fort Wayne softball program.

The Mastodons, whose 3-game weekend series with the University of South Dakota in Vermillion has been changed to a Saturday doubleheader because of weather, have been able to play only two Summit League games this season.

Weather has cost Fort Wayne 15 contests in all so far and has the Mastodons in jeopardy of not having enough games to qualify for the post-season tournament. "It's been our biggest battle to overcome, honestly," head coach Amy Tudor said Thursday, shortly before a team practice in Vermillion.

"I'm not sure when or how we're going

to be able to make those games. And now we roll into South Dakota and there's snow on the ground."

According to a Summit League regulation adopted in 2008, "Each team must complete 50 percent of its league contests in order to be eligible for the League championship."

In other words, league teams need to get in at least 12 conference games before the May 9-10 tournament in Fargo, N.D.

"It's one of those things that's very frustrating, because it's out of our control," Tudor said. "It's just Mother Nature, and there's nothing we can do about it."

As is the case with nearly every sport in the region, Fort Wayne is not alone with weather issues. In the Summit League, Kansas City has played only three conference games (1-2), while Oakland is 1-4. South Dakota, meanwhile, has now had only three games postponed, including today (Friday), before

because of weather — including a home doubleheader with Creighton.

To ensure the field in Vermillion stayed clear enough, the Coyote players spent parts of Tuesday and Wednesday chipping away ice from Nygaard Field. And on Thursday, they got help from football players to brush away snow.

For the opposing team Saturday, the key is just playing, however the vacancies on the schedule work, Tudor said. Including this weekend, Fort Wayne has 14 Summit League games remaining, and still has to fit in some postponements.

"Our (athletic director) would be supportive of us squeezing in games, and I'm sure the other Summit League teams would be the same way," she said. "A lot of people are in the same boat. It'll just be hard with classes and finals at the end of the semester."

As frustration has mounted, the

Mastodons have naturally had to ensure focus stays on softball and not on weather, Tudor said.

"We talk about things we can control; it's been that way since I've been here," she said. "I've got a good group of kids. We try to keep practices entertaining to keep our spirits high."

Of course, now Fort Wayne has to contend with a USD squad playing rather hot of late. The Coyotes are 8-1 in Summit League action and sit in third place.

"They've been playing very well, and even out of conference has been playing well, so I'd expect to see good pitching and some really good hitting," Tudor said. "We played them last year and they're much improved. I'm sure they're ready to come get us."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](http://twitter.com/jhoeck)

## Weather Keeps Area Venues Quiet

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

The weather continued to put a damper on the spring sports season on Thursday, with postponements and cancellations continuing to pour in.

To report a schedule change, athletic directors and/or coaches are asked to contact the Press & Dakotan at [sports@yankton.net](mailto:sports@yankton.net), by fax at 1-605-665-1721 or by phone at 1-605-665-7811.

— Mount Marty College's home softball doubleheaders with Morningside today (Friday) and Nebraska Wesleyan on Saturday have been postponed. No makeup date has been announced for either contest.

— The Yankton boys' tennis team will be traveling to Sioux City North for a dual today. Start time is 4 p.m.

— The Sioux City Relays have altered the collegiate schedule for the event. All field events have been pushed back to Saturday, with the exception of the hammer and the pole vault. The pole vault will be held at the DakotaDome at 7 p.m. tonight. Running events will begin in Sioux City at 4 p.m. with the 10,000-meter run, followed by the 800, 400, distance medley relay and women's 5,000-meter run.

Also regarding the Sioux City Relays, the Yankton High School track and field team will not be participating in the event, if it is held.

— The boys' tennis triangular featuring Madison and Rapid City Stevens at Yankton, scheduled for Saturday at 9 a.m., has been canceled. It will not be made up.

— MMC and Dakota Wesleyan also pushed back their game that was originally scheduled for Wednesday. It will now be played on Monday, April 22, in Mitchell.

— Thursday's Homer Invitational track and field meet was canceled.

— South Dakota State's scheduled baseball game Thursday afternoon at Indiana Tech has been canceled due to rain. It marks the third time this week the Jackrabbits had a game wiped out due to inclement weather.

— Today's Avon Invitational track and field meet was postponed. Organizers are looking to find a new date.

— Yankton High School announced that the girls' golf triangular, originally scheduled for April 1 in Brandon, will be held April 23 in Brandon. Sioux Falls Lincoln will replace Brookings in the event.

— Today's Morningside Invitational golf tournament has been canceled.

— The wintry spring weather forced the South Dakota State to make further changes to the schedule, and keep the Jackrabbits away from home for another week, as SDSU moved its series with Oakland to Westgate Field in Omaha, Neb. The Jacks and Golden Grizzlies still play a doubleheader on Friday starting at 2 p.m., followed by a single game on Saturday at noon. Westgate Field is located just south of Interstate 80 in Omaha on South 82nd Street.

— In addition to the Oakland series this weekend, North Dakota State officials pushed back its series with South Dakota State back a week from April 16-17 in Fargo to April 23-24, due to unplayable field conditions at Ellig Sports Complex.

— NDSU and Oakland have pushed their baseball doubleheader today back a day due to rain. The teams will play a doubleheader on Saturday at noon, weather permitting.

— The Dakota Wesleyan's baseball team's Great Plains Athletic Conference double against Northwestern, scheduled for Friday, April 12 in Mitchell, is postponed to Monday, April 15, at 1 p.m. If the field is not ready by Monday, the game will be played Tuesday in Mitchell. The Tiger baseball team, which is in second in the GPAC (6-2) behind Northwestern (7-1), canceled a nonconference doubleheader Saturday at home against Dakota State. DWU is still scheduled to play Midland University Sunday in Fremont, Neb.

— The DWU softball team canceled a nonconference doubleheader at Dakota State scheduled for Saturday, April 13, in Madison. That game was originally scheduled to be played Wednesday, April 10, was pushed back to Saturday and is now canceled.

— Augustana has moved its softball doubleheaders with Minnesota-Duluth and St. Cloud State to Omaha, Neb., at North High School. The Vikings will play UMD Saturday at 3 p.m., and SCSU Sun-

# 'Bruise Brothers' Ready To Run For 'U'

USD: Redshirt Freshmen RBs Making Waves In Spring Workouts

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — Between their numbers, size and styles, Trevor Bouma and Jordan Roberts can be hard to tell apart on a football field for the University of South Dakota.

One, Bouma, wears number 21 and is a 5-foot-11, 205-pound bruising fullback. The other, Roberts, sports number 23 and is a 5-foot-11, 205-pound bruising running back.

Sense a trend?

"It's scary how similar we are," Roberts said Thursday after an afternoon practice in the DakotaDome. "We're both one-cut and go guys, and we'll bang it up in there."

The two redshirt freshmen for the Coyotes are quickly making waves during spring practices, according to head coach Joe Glenn — who later called the duo "Bruise Brothers."

Whether or not they see significant time in the backfield this fall behind senior running back Jasper Sanders remains to be seen, but Bouma and Roberts both put on nearly 20 pounds of muscle during the off-season and have impressed the coaches so far this spring.

In short, it's been a different spring for the duo, knowing they are now fighting for time.

"Last year I knew I was going to redshirt, so I didn't really think about it," Bouma said. "We both have a good shot to play. It's exciting."

Even before they got to Vermillion, Bouma and Roberts were similar standouts. They combined for 5,384 yards and 80 touchdowns as high school seniors, with Bouma in LeMars, Iowa, and Roberts in Sheridan, Wyo.

A year together as redshirts has helped the duo, Glenn said.

"Everything they do, from the weight room to their work ethic to practices, they're similar," he said. "It'll be fun breaking them in this year."

"They'll work behind our senior starter, but we know those guys will help us."

Bouma, who was named USD's Offensive Scout Player of the Year



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

ABOVE: University of South Dakota teammates Jordan Roberts, left, Earv Archambeau, center, and Trevor Bouma watch a play during Wednesday afternoon's practice in the DakotaDome.

BELOW: Bouma (lower left photo), right, and Roberts (lower right photo, left, participate in a drill Wednesday afternoon in the DakotaDome with running backs coach Jace Rindahl.



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# Masters Notebook: Two Good Scores, Two Bad Shirts

BY TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Dustin Johnson and Sergio Garcia played just one group apart Thursday and were only one shot apart on the leaderboard at the Masters.

That wasn't terribly confusing, though their shirts were.

Viewers around the country had to be doing double takes as the cameras switched between the two players as they battled for the lead in the late afternoon on the back nine. That's because both were wearing the same garish shirt, color and all.

"Well, we are not wearing the same outfit because we want to," Johnson said. "This is Adidas; they script our clothing this week. We are wearing the same outfit because they told us to."

The shirts were partly striped and an acid shade of green. From a distance, it was hard to tell which player was which.

Whatever they looked like, the shirts seemed to work. Garcia shot a 66 to tie for the lead, while Johnson was a shot back at 67.

Johnson was asked if he would like to wear something on Sunday that moderator Tom Nelson — an Augusta member — was wearing in the interview room. That, too, comes in green and is put over the shoulders of the Masters champion.

"I would love to," Johnson said, laughing.

**MICKELSON MOMENT:** There's a reason fans love Phil Mickelson. He usually goes the extra step to please them.

Mickelson was at it again Thursday after finishing his opening round of 71. After signing his scorecard in the clubhouse he came out to see about 30 fans lined up in a roped off area hoping to get autographs from Lefty.

Mickelson asked if anyone had a Sharpie, then had caddie Jim Mackay fetch it from a woman in the crowd. He then took out a used glove and signed it for a little boy who was waiting with his father.

"You can't sign outside the clubhouse but for him I'll make an exception," Mickelson said.

Those waiting applauded the move, then someone yelled out

that Mickelson should sign for the woman, too, for giving him the Sharpie.

He didn't, and said it should serve as a lesson.

"Sometimes you can do something nice without anything in return," Mickelson told them.

**WEATHER ALERT:** Spring means unpredictable weather in Georgia, and the forecast for Thursday was ominous with late afternoon thunderstorms expected.

It held off, though, until just after the final groups were done and players had signed their scorecards. Rory McIlroy was just beginning his post-round interviews when thunder rumbled and the weather siren sounded and everyone was ordered off the course.

For McIlroy it was a chance to get some dinner early. For the Masters, it was the break the tournament might have needed to remain on schedule.

"Can you believe this," one green jacketed member said. "What a deal."

The storms may still come, with a 50 percent chance of rain pre-

dicted for Friday. But all 93 players got their full rounds in Thursday despite the best efforts of Mother Nature.

**AMATEUR WOES:** Alan Dunbar would have been happy to break 80 in the first round after getting his first look at Augusta National this week.

Unfortunately for the amateur from Northern Ireland, he couldn't even do that.

Dunbar made only one par on the front nine Thursday on his way to an 11-over 83 that was the worst score of the day. It included a triple bogey on No. 2, and he didn't make a par until the ninth hole.

"It's definitely a learning experience on a course like this," said the 22-year-old, who qualified for his first Masters by winning the British Amateur.

Dunbar rebounded after a 46 on the front nine to shoot 37 on the back. He even made a birdie on the par-5 15th, and was positive about his day despite the bloated score.

"I enjoyed the whole way around," he said. "I wasn't scoring great, but I enjoyed it. It was a great experience."

**RACING AROUND:** Rickie Fowler used to race motocross, so he knows a few things about crashes and spills.

After making double bogey on the first hole Thursday, he could have stayed down. But Fowler came back to play the next 17 holes in 6-under and put himself in contention after the first round of the Masters.

Afterward, Fowler was asked to compare the roller coaster round to a motocross race.

"I would have went down pretty hard on the first corner and probably been out of the race," Fowler said. "Yeah, could have been a pile up in the first corner, so I would have been heading back to the pits."

Fowler was even happier that he had few problems with his back after spending much of the last year battling back issues. He said he kept the back problem mostly quiet as he worked his way through it.

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