

Weather Again Sidelines Area Athletic Programs

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

The latest round of bad weather has sidelined area teams again.

To announce a schedule change, coaches and athletic directors are asked to contact the *Press & Dakotan* by email (sports@yankton.net), fax (1-605-665-1721) or phone (1-605-665-7811, ext. 106).

— Tuesday's Dell Rapids Invitational girls' golf tournament was canceled.

— Wednesday's final game of the series between Omaha and South Dakota has been canceled. USD travels to Oakland for a three-game series, beginning on Friday.

— Wednesday's Ewing boys' golf invitational has been canceled.

— Wednesday's St. Mary's track and field invitational has been canceled.

— Today's Yankton-Sioux City West boys' tennis dual has been canceled. The Yankton-Sioux City North dual is still on, and will be played at Four Seasons in Sioux City, Iowa. Start time is 1 p.m.

— The Yankton Middle School track and field team's dual with Brandon Valley, scheduled for today, was canceled. YMS will now travel to Brandon on Thursday, April 25, for a triangular with Brandon Valley and Watertown.

— Today's Dakota State-Mount Marty softball doubleheader has been postponed. No makeup date has been set. DSU also announced that its Friday

matchup with Midland has been canceled.

— Today's Tom Martin Invitational track and field meet will be held Saturday in Pierce, Neb.

— Today's O'Neill boys' golf Invitational has been moved to Thursday, April 25. The event will start at 9 a.m.

— Today's Lennox Booster Club Qualifier has been moved to Monday, May 6.

— Today's Huskies Invitational boys' and girls' golf tournament, scheduled for Valley View Golf Course in Freeman, has been canceled.

— Today's West Central Invitational track and field meet has been canceled.

— Friday's Yankton Invitational girls'

golf tournament has been canceled.

— Friday's Pierre American Legion Relays track and field meet has been canceled.

— The schedule for Friday's Fleveras Relays has been changed. They will no longer have a weight man's relay or freshmen relays in the meet. Entries will be limited to three entries per school. Field events will begin at 11 a.m., with running events beginning at 12:30 p.m.

— This weekend's South Dakota State-Western Illinois softball series has been moved to Omaha, Neb. SDSU also announced that its April 23-24 series with North Dakota State will be played

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Pain Benches Tecker

Hip Issues Force USD Guard To End His Career

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Pain in both hips had always bothered Steve Tecker.

It was always a constant, nagging issue, beginning with his days at Northwestern High School in Brule, Wis., and following him to the University of South Dakota.

Ultimately, the pain proved to be too much to handle.

Tecker, a 6-foot-5 guard, decided to forgo his senior season with the USD men's basketball program to rehabilitate his hip — both, to be exact.

"It was a tough decision, definitely, but I've been thinking about it for a while," he said Wednesday, a day after the school made the announcement in a release.

"I first brought it up with the coaches before Christmas, but we basically decided that I'd finish out the season and call it quits after that."

Dating back to his freshman year in high school, Tecker has undergone three surgeries to both sides of his torso — always in an effort to keep him going, pain-free. Two surgeries came while in high school, and the third came after his freshman season, 2010-11, at USD.

"It's just always been there," Tecker said. "Toward the end of the seasons it always got worse. Some days I don't feel it as much, but it's always there."

Tecker then played 28

games, starting 10, during his sophomore season, and last season appeared in 29 of 30 games, averaging 5.3 points and 3.5 rebounds.

Over the course of his Coyote career, Tecker played in 88 games, mostly as a reserve, though he did make 20 starts. He recorded 495 points, 297 rebounds, 116 assists and 59 steals.

"He has been a valuable member of our team for the past three years and we will miss him," head coach Dave Boots said in Tuesday's release. "The condition is just too painful for him to continue, but we look forward to having him involved in a non-playing role."

So begins the post-basketball career for Tecker, a pre-business major at USD.

He plans to remain with the program in some capacity, perhaps as a student assistant or a graduate assistant, he said.

"Coach said I can still go to practices and can go on road trips if I want," Tecker said. "I want to be a part of the team as much as I can."

"Especially in my senior year, I've been with these guys for so long that I want to be able to finish it out with them."

Though he won't be on the court to help, Tecker said he believes the Coyotes will improve next season with some of the additions — redshirts becoming eligible and recruits — to the roster.

"They'll have another year of experience in the Summit League, so we should come back and be better than this year," he said. "Hopefully we can make some noise in the conference."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck



South Dakota's Steve Tecker lays the ball in off the glass during the first half of the Coyotes' victory over Missouri-Kansas City at the DakotaDome. Tecker announced on Tuesday that he would forgo his senior season due to a string of hip-related problems.



P&D FILE PHOTO
Parker's Amber Dysthe sets the ball during the Pheasants' matchup with Northwestern at the 2011 South Dakota State Volleyball Tournament. Dysthe will attend Mount Marty and play for the Lancers beginning this fall.

Parker Standout Dysthe Headed To Mount Marty

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Despite suffering a concussion during basketball season, Amber Dysthe said she was immediately certain and has no plans to second-guess her college decision.

The school? Mount Marty College. The place? Yankton.

"I know I made the best choice by picking Mount Marty," Dysthe said Wednesday, hours after Mount Marty announced that the 5-foot-7 setter from Parker signed to play volleyball for the Lancers.

"I like their team a lot; love their coach," she added. "When I came into their practice, there was a girl who came right up to me and introduced herself. That really made a difference."

Dysthe, a first team All-State volleyball selection as a senior, suffered no ill effects from her concussion in February — she said she took a "lot of tests" — and ultimately found a home with the Lancers, over interest from another in-state school.

Aside from the contact during her recruiting visit, Dysthe had other connections to the MMC program.

She played on Sioux Falls Empire, a Junior Olympic summer club team, with current Lancers Caitlyn Illg and Roxy Ross, as well as incoming recruits Allison Cross (Tri-Valley) and Sierra Koth (Sioux Falls O'Gorman).

"We were trying to look for another setter, and here we get one who's played with some of our girls before," MMC head coach Candice Climer said. "It's kind of like, 'back together again.'"

The Lancers are not only getting another Empire player, but one from a Parker program that earned top-5 finishes at the S.D. State Class B Volleyball Tournament every year during Dysthe's career — fifth (2009), fourth (2010), third (2011) and third (2012).

As a senior, she recorded 876 set assists, 329 digs, 80 kills, 62 ace serves and 20 blocks. Dysthe also joins teammates Jessica McKenney and Tessa Weeldreyer (both committed to Dakota State) as college-bound recruits.

"That senior class had so much passion for volleyball; they love the sport," said Parker head coach Jill Christensen, owner of the most career wins in state history. "And they wanted to take that to the next level."

That passion is enhanced by Dysthe's pure athleticism, Climer said, referencing another observation during the recruiting visit to Yankton.

"We were messing around with her, running a 6-2, and during one of our drills, she goes up and gets a kill," Climer said. "I said, 'Wow.' She can do so many things; she brings that versatility."

Christensen agreed, saying Dysthe's work ethic translated to the court on more than one occasion.

"She has such soft hands, and she got to every ball this last year," Christensen said. "She just has that determination. She'll use that to keep making herself a better player."

Dysthe is the fifth recruit of a class that Climer expects to reach 7-9. Players have previously signed with Mount Marty also include Kelsey Abbey (Elk Point-Jefferson) and Kayla Jones (Council Bluffs, Iowa).

The Lancers will graduate just three players from a team that was 6-26 last season, including 1-15 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference.

Records aside, Dysthe said there were other factors that played a bigger role in her college decision.

"I like how they're all just so close, like a big family," she said. "That's what I came from in high school. That's what I'm used to."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Boston Fans Mourn, Then Cheer As Sports Return

BOSTON (AP) — Emerging from a moment of silence with a deafening cheer, fans at Wednesday night's Bruins game paid tribute to the victims of this week's Boston Marathon bombing with a stirring national anthem and a thunderous chant of "U.S.A."

The sold-out crowd at the first major sporting event in the city since Monday's attack lined up for metal-detecting wands and random car inspections to get into the TD Garden. Once inside, they watched a somber video with scenes from the race, ending with the words, "We are Boston, We are Strong."

The players on the ice for the opening faceoff banged their sticks in the traditional hockey salute, drifting back off the blue lines so that they, too, could see the video. The Boston Fire Department Honor Guard brought out the U.S. flag to honor the first responders who rushed to the aid of the three killed and more than 170 injured by the twin bombs at the marathon finish line.

Longtime Boston Garden troubadour Rene Rancourt took his place for the "Star-Spangled Banner." But he sang only the first few lines, allowing the crowd to carry the tune while he pumped his fist to keep time.

It was an emotional return to normal life for the city, which has been dazed by the attacks on one of its signature and most beloved events. Monday's scheduled Bruins game against Ottawa was rescheduled, and Tuesday night's Celtics game was canceled outright.

But the Bruins said they were determined to help the city move on.

"You're trying to live your life in peace, and there's people trying

to disrupt that," coach Claude Julien said after the team's morning skate. "The people trying to live their life in peace are going to stick together."

Players on both teams wore "Boston Strong" decals on their helmets, and the Garden was illuminated in blue and yellow, the colors of the Boston Athletic Association.

Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs pledged \$100,000 to The One Fund Boston, the charity established to help families affected by the bombing; the Garden, the NHL and the players association pledged \$50,000 each. Ads on the dasher boards and the video screens gave the website address for the fund.

Bruins players and staff collected 80 tickets to the game to donate to the first responders. Forward Brad Marchand raffled off his own suite for the team's first playoff game, with the proceeds to go to the family of 8-year-old Martin Richards, who was killed in the blast.

"I'm sure tonight will be full of emotion," forward Chris Kelly said Wednesday morning. "If we can go play hard to help the city of Boston in any way we can, I know everybody in this locker room would be willing to do that."

"We love the city. We want to help in any way we can — if we can give them 10 minutes of joy, or 20 hours of joy — anything we can do."

That was already accomplished 5:45 into the first period, when Daniel Paille's goal to give the Bruins a 1-0 lead over the Buffalo Sabres brought a raucous chant of "We are Boston!"

During the first break, public address announcer Jim Martin asked any runners from Monday's race to stand up; many were wear-

ing their finishers' medals. He then asked for applause for anybody who has ever run; by the time he recognized anyone who has ever volunteered or watched the race, virtually the entire crowd was standing.

"It's a great day. It's a great day for a lot of people," said Bruins forward Jay Pandolfo, who went to Boston University. "There's no reason for this to happen. You never thought something like this could happen, especially in the city of Boston. Stuff like this doesn't cross your mind."

Cars were searched inside and out before entering the arena's underground garage in the morning, with guards using a mirror on a pole to check the undercarriage. Sports writers, usually subject to only the most cursory inspection, were waved with a metal-detecting wand when passing through security for the Bruins' morning skate.

"It brings back memories you don't want," said Pandolfo, who was with the New Jersey Devils during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. "It's something you don't want to think about. You want to go ahead with your life. You don't want to live in fear."

All of the Bruins players said they feel safe at the arena and walking around the city, commending authorities for the added security since the bombing. Any anxiety, Julien said, needs to be directed toward the game.

"It's a different feeling, but you're battling with your inner strength to not let it get the best of you," he said. "The best thing we can do is to make things better for the people of Boston. Sports is a great way to pull people together. Just going out there making the city proud of their team, and that's what we're going to do."

Security On Minds Of London Race Runners After Boston

LONDON (AP) — For Geoffrey Mutai, the bombs that ripped through Boston stripped away some of the innocence and freedom from marathon running.

"Sport is like church, it's not a place where you can take arms," the Kenyan told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "It is a free area where we can stay free and enjoy ourselves with no politics."

But Mutai watched from afar Monday as the scene of one of his great triumphs two years ago turned into one of horror.

With three people killed and more than 170 wounded by the twin blasts near the Boston Marathon finish line, Mutai is apprehensive as he prepares to take on the London Marathon on Sunday.

And he fears marathons might never be the same.

"They have taken our freedom which we normally have in races," Mutai said. "When you are in a race you are relaxed and you are enjoying yourself and free to go anywhere."

"But now there must be watertight security, they cannot be having as many people at the end of the race."

The roar of the crowd along the route will leave Mutai on edge, fearing he is hearing "some sounds of the bomb."

"It will be challenging for the sport," said the Kenyan, who ran the world's unofficial fastest time in Boston in 2011.

The bombs in Boston,

which President Barack Obama called an "act of terror," exploded about four hours into the race and two hours after the men's winner crossed the finish line.

"Normally in a race you have not prepared yourself psychologically that something can happen like that," Mutai said. "So even in your mind you are not free (now) ... it's bringing another thing to sports which is not good."

Despite receiving no assurances about security on Sunday, Mutai has no concerns about his wife watching him bid for a first London title.

"We know that security will be OK because they were organizing the Olympics (last year)," he said.

After a security review with the London force, organizers are promising "considerable extra police" along the 26.2-mile course.

"One of the great things about the London Marathon is that it is perceived as being this event that brings people together," London Marathon chief executive Nick Bitel said. "One of the founding principles of the London Marathon was to show that at least on one day humanity can be united. We are taking every reasonable step to ensure the race is as safe and secure as possible."

There will be a moment of silence for 30 seconds before the elite men's race and mass start, and runners are being asked to wear black ribbons.