

# NV's Ives Joins Talented Wayne State Throws Corps

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Verdigre, Neb., native Tessa Ives isn't built like a prototypical thrower. But that's part of why Wayne State College track and field coach Marlon Brink feels the Niobrara-Verdigre Cougars standout can make an impact at the next level.

Ives was one of three recruits announced by Wayne State on Tuesday, adding to an already-solid women's recruiting class for the NCAA Division II program.

Brink sees Ives, a two-time state qualifier in the discus, as an individual who can make an impact in the hammer throw.

"The hammer may end up being her best event," he said in a phone interview on Tuesday. "She's not the biggest, but she's athletic and coordinated, and she has the potential to get stronger."

Brink compared Ives to one of his current throwers, junior Mackenzie Masching, who is provisionally qualified for nationals in the hammer throw.

Ives got to see the indoor version of

the hammer throw, the weight throw, at a Wayne State meet this past winter.

"It looks pretty fun," she said. "It will be interesting to try."

Ives was planning to go to Wayne State regardless of her athletic status, but is excited about the opportunity to continue her competitive career.

"I am going in to elementary education, and they have a very good program there," she said. "My sophomore year I talked to (WSC assistant coach Brett) Suckstorff at a throws camp in Pierce, and I talked to both him and the Pierce

coach at state the last two years."

Ives adds to a group of throwers that includes another of the recruits announced on Tuesday, O'Neill (Neb.) St. Mary's Jessica Pongratz, and Hartington standout Michaela Dendinger (from Coleridge, Neb.). It adds to a throws corps that has four athletes ranked in the top-10 nationally in six events, with three of those athletes returning for next season.

"That was one of the areas that we wanted to emphasize in recruiting," Brink said. "We have an established tra-

dition with our throwers, and we wanted to continue to have good throwers year in, year out.

"With Tessa, Michaela and Jessica, we feel we have athletes who will fit into our system and carry on that success."

Also announced on Tuesday was the signing of Omaha Burke standout Cassidy Tinsley-Hanika, a cross country and track recruit.

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## 44 STOLEN BASES IN 8 GAMES



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

The Yankton Bucks baseball team huddles up between innings during Sunday's home doubleheader. Yankton is off to a 6-2 start on the season, thanks in large part to the team's prowess on the basepaths. The Bucks have recorded 44 stolen bases on the season, including two games with double-digit steals.

# Speed Sparks Bucks' Surge

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Ross Heine didn't have to look far to find his new team's strength.

No, the first-year head coach for the Yankton High School club baseball team saw early two aspects that could come in handy: Speed and aggressiveness.

"I knew we'd have to do something," Heine said. "I knew from previous years that maybe our bats weren't our strong point. We knew we'd have to play small ball."

That's exactly what the Bucks (6-2) have done, combining a consistently feisty running game with a quality pitching staff to make for an already successful spring.

The speed realization, coupled with the introduction of wood bats to high school baseball this year, was met with open arms, according to senior infielder Andrew Hummel.

"The wood bats help us because we're not a long ball team," Hummel said. "You get a guy on first and it's almost like hitting a double. It fits our style. We take what we can get."

And so far, that's been a kind of unofficial motto for the Bucks.

Run, run, run.

Through eight games, Yankton has recorded 44 stolen bases. The average of 5.5 per game includes just one steal in the

season opener, and later, games of 13 and 12.

They have all come in handy too.

The Bucks have scored a total of 46 runs (5.75 per game) and allowed 30 (3.75), meaning that every run is critical for a team reliant on fundamentals.

"It's more relaxing as a player," Hummel said. "You're not looking over at the coach, you're judging on your own. If you get a jump, go. It makes the game that much more fun."

It also means the players are in control of running. Heine said he hardly gives signs anymore, but when he does it's whether or not to steal third base. He estimates that six of the nine starters have the "green light."

"It's one of those things that if you don't get there, we'll do it again next time," Heine said. "That's the way the guys want to play. If it's first to second, that's on them, as long as you don't make the third out."

Yankton's prowess on the base paths really took off during a weekend tournament in Rapid City earlier this month. In winning three of four games (the only loss was to Rapid City Central), the Bucks were successful in 22-of-23 stolen base attempts.

They were again active in the second game of last Sunday's home doubleheader with Watertown. Yankton stole 12 bases in an 8-0 shutout over the Arrows.

"You don't have to sit back and wait for a couple hits in an inning," Heine said. "It keeps the guys into it; they don't get bored."

The Yankton attack is more than simply baserunning, however.

A balanced and strong pitching staff has also played a big role in Yankton's 6-2 start, specifically keeping the games moving fast and not allowing fielders to get bored, Heine said.

Tanner Termansen and Zach Benjamin have each won two games, while Greg Hauer picked up a victory in relief and Garrison Brockberg has the other — a shutout in Sunday's second game.

Not only did Benjamin once have a string of 15 consecutive hitless innings, the Bucks have depth beyond the starters. Guys like Brady Hale, Austin Johnson and Mitch Gullikson have given Yankton quality stints.

And so, it's more than just stealing bases, right?

"I think that's a big part of it, but our pitching has been bringing us together," Hummel said. "They're our backbone."

The other consistent aspect to Yankton's season this spring has been weather, an ongoing issue for every other sports team in the area. The Bucks have had five games called off because of weather, including Tuesday's game with Sioux Falls Roosevelt in Vermillion.

Riverside Field has proven to be a pop-

ular target by other teams, Heine said.

"I've gotten numerous texts and calls asking about our field, because it's usually in great shape," he said. "But a lot of times we're the only team they can play."

Because other teams have been desperate to squeeze in games, Yankton has often times had to face their top pitchers. The Bucks have already beaten Sioux Falls Washington's Jon Hander (a Kansas recruit) and Watertown's Brody Ries (a Mount Marty College recruit).

Weather has also helped Yankton's run game, Heine said.

"When you have this many gaps between games, you can't really notice many trends," he said. "If you have a week off, you're worried about getting yourself ready to finally play, not the opponent."

With still a handful of games remaining over the next month, the Bucks could be sitting well for a possible berth into the State Class A Tournament in Sioux Falls on May 25.

"I think with the way we're playing, if we keep the bats going, we've got a good chance," Hummel said. "We didn't know what to expect with a new coach, but he's been really relaxed."

"He lets us play our style."

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

## Area Schools Continue To Update Spring Schedules

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

As the weather begins to turn warmer, area schools are trying to put their athletic schedules back on track.

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

— The Morningside at Mount Marty softball doubleheader has been pushed back to Friday, April 26, at 3 p.m.

— The Yankton at Sioux City North boys' tennis dual has been rescheduled for Monday, April 29, at 4 p.m.

— The Augustana-Upper Iowa softball doubleheader has been postponed to Thursday, April 25.

— The Dakota Wesleyan at Dordt softball doubleheader has been pushed back to Friday, April 26, at 3 p.m.

— The Hartington boys' golf invitational has been pushed back to Tuesday, April 30, at 9 a.m.

Here are schedule changes involving today (Wednesday) and future dates:

— Wednesday's Mount Marty College Twilight track and field meet has been pushed back to Friday, April 26. Start time will be 4:30 p.m. at Williams Field.

— The start time for Thursday's First Dakota Relays track and field meet has been changed to allow for more teams to participate. Field events will begin at 1 p.m., with running events beginning at 1:30 p.m.

# Sanders, Others To Help Heads Up Football Program

BY BARRY WILNER  
AP Pro Football Writer

Randall Cunningham wants the game taught the proper way, so he has joined USA Football's player safety initiative as one of its ambassadors.

And the former Pro Bowl quarterback plans to teach, teach, teach.

"Kids are like sponges," Cunningham said, "so it's critical to have people who have been there doing the coaching. We need to have the right, knowledgeable people involved."

Cunningham is joined by Pro Football Hall of Famer Barry Sanders and 76 others who have played in the NFL as USA Football ambassadors, working with youth leagues in the Heads Up Football program. USA Football is the governing body for the sport in America.

More than 900 youth leagues across the nation have adopted the program, which emphasizes proper tackling technique — keep your head up — along with concussion recognition and response; coaching certifications; properly fitted equipment; and coaches trained to implement Heads Up Football.

The ambassadors will work alongside youth leagues, attending practices and games. Each league nominates a player safety coach who is trained by USA Football in its Heads Up program. Those coaches will then implement the safety practices in their leagues and monitor player safety protocols within the organization.

A \$1.5 million grant from the NFL Foundation has helped launch the program.

"As chairman of the NFL Foundation and a parent of football players, I believe the Heads Up Football program is essential in making the game we all love safer for youth players," said Cowboys executive vice president Charlotte Jones Anderson.

Cunningham feels the same way, and he's adamant about ensuring that the educators are, well, highly educated in football.

"I thank God I had good coaches all my life, from Pop Warner on up," said Cunningham, who played 16 seasons with Philadelphia, Minnesota, Dallas and Baltimore. "I had coaches who did play the game, not just rah-rah guys. They came back from their football careers and sowed into the community. These guys who went to the NFL or went off and played in college, they have a lot more to give. You can't just wash away experience."

As a youth player, Cunningham recalls having four coaches on his team alone that had played in the NFL. Most of the others played in college.

He encourages everyone interested or involved in the sport at the youth level to reach out to such experienced athletes.

"Local schools have to want these guys to come in," he said, "and not be worried about taking over the program, but to get them teaching these kids the right skills."

## USD Men Second Entering Final Round Of Summit League Golf Championships

KELLER, Texas—South Dakota men's golf is in second-place at the Summit League Championships after shooting a 10-over-par 298 in Tuesday's second round at the Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club. The Coyotes bettered their first-round score by one stroke and sit four shots behind first-place Kansas City.

"This was an important round for us," said head coach Nick Hovden. "I'm incredibly proud of these kids. Today was a back-and-forth battle that could've gone either way, and we showed a lot of toughness while proving we belong in that final group."

Individually, Sam Matthew and Alex Kline are tied for fifth-place at 4-over-par. Matthew has shot 73-75—148 while Kline has gone 75-73—148.

Dakota Clark and Miles Death are tied for 13th overall at +7. After taking 76 strokes on day one Death fired a 75 on Tuesday. Clark took 75 shots in the opener and 76 strokes in his second-day effort. Jordan Rykal birdied three of

the final four holes to finish +3 on the day and is tied for 17th overall. The Coyotes are the only team in the competition with all five golfers in the top 20.

"It's definitely exciting," Hovden said. "This is where you want to be, we've put ourselves in great position entering the final round."

The Coyotes combined to birdie 16 holes on the day, with six coming on par-3's, six on par-4's and four on par-5's. USD is eight shots ahead of third-place South Dakota State.

Kansas City's Antoine Rozner (69-75—144) leads all individuals.

"(USD assistant coach) KC (Kane) did a wonderful job on the course today," Hovden said. "I let her work with the guys, and she kept them calm and focused throughout the round."

The third and final round of competition will begin at 8 a.m. this morning (Wednesday). South Dakota will tee off at 9:30 a.m. as part of the final pairing.

rates homered successively on Sept. 15, 1938.

B.J. Upton homered to left off Jon Garland to start the fifth, his third of the season. Justin Upton, who homered in the first game as part of Atlanta's 4-3 victory, then drove Garland's first pitch over the wall in center for his major league-leading 11th home run.

The Uptons have homered in the same game three times this season.

## Four Mount Marty Athletes Arrested On Drug Charges

A pair of Mount Marty College baseball and men's basketball players were arrested last week-end on drug possession charges.

Baseball players Asau Rodriguez and Hunter Jackson, both freshmen from Rapid City, were arrested for possession of marijuana.

Joe Hieb, a senior for the MMC basketball team last season, was arrested Saturday for possession of marijuana, while Chevy Fischer, a junior last season, was arrested Sunday for possession of marijuana and eight counts of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Rodriguez had pitched in six games, with an 0-1 record in 18 innings of work. Jackson hadn't appeared in a varsity game.

As of Tuesday afternoon, both baseball players were no longer listed on the MMC online roster.

Hieb was Mount Marty's leading scorer in basketball last season as a senior, averaging 10.8 points. Fischer played in 26 games and averaged 4.6 points and 3.3 rebounds.

## 'College Football Playoff' To Replace BCS

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Bowl Championship Series will be replaced by the College Football Playoff.

The BCS conference commissioners announced the name of the new postseason system that starts in 2014 on Tuesday, the first of three days of meetings at a resort hotel in the Rose Bowl's backyard.

They also will choose the remaining three sites for the six-bowl semifinal rotation and the site of the first championship game to be held Jan. 12, 2015, this week.

The website [www.collegefootballplayoff.com](http://www.collegefootballplayoff.com) is already up and running and allowing fans to vote on a new logo. And there also is a Twitter handle: (@)cfplayoff.

"It's really simple. It gets right to the point," BCS executive director Bill Hancock, who will hold the same position in the playoff system, said at a short news conference with the 10 commissioners of the FCS conferences.

"Nothing cute. Nothing fancy. We decided it would be best to call it what it is."

Premiere Sports Management in Overland Park, Kan., was hired to help come up with a name and brand the new system. A committee of commissioners handled the