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Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.

To This Non-NASCAR Fan, Penalty Against Kenseth Seems Ridiculous Until You Look Closer

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

james.cimburek@yankton.net

Three grams. (For those of you not metrically inclined, it is 0.106 ounces.)

That was the weight that one of the eight connecting rods on Matt Kenseth's car was off after Sunday's race at Kansas Speedway.

Here is what that fraction of an ounce cost Kenseth and those he worked for and with:

- To Kenseth, 50 driver points (he got 48 for winning the race, the de-

duction dropped him from 8th to 14th), as well as 3 Chase bonus points, credit for the victory (which could hurt his wild card chances) and credit for winning the pole (which could hurt his eligibility for next year's Sprint Unlimited exhibition race.

Crew Chief Jason Ratcliff was suspended six races, fined \$200,000 and placed on probation for the rest of the season Owner Joe Gibbs had his owner's license suspended for six races

(which means he won't earn car owner points during that time) - Toyota, which supplied the engines through California-based TDR. was docked five points in the manufacturer standings. (TDR claimed full responsibility for the error) I understand what NASCAR is trying to do in terms of leveling the

playing field mechanically. The racing series wants the drivers to decide the race, not the cars. But I don't understand why three grams should make such an impact.

Maybe if you look at it mathematically: 3 grams X 6,000 rpm (just guessing) X 3 hours (the race actually lasted 2:59:51) = 7,143 pounds. I don't know enough about mechanics or physics to know how much of a factor that would be, but I'm guessing that is enough in the course of a race to make NASCAR justified in its heavy-handed decision.

USD Women's Track And Field Team Ranked 28th

VERMILLION — South Dakota's women's track team is ranked 28th in the nation according to the latest United States Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches Association rankings. The rank is an 11-spot jump from last week's standings.

The Coyotes are the highest-ranked Summit League member in the standings. Omaha (36th) and Kansas City (74th) were the only other league teams to crack the top-100. USD is ranked higher than 10 of 11 Big Ten schools and seven of eight Missouri Valley schools that sponsor women's track and field.

South Dakota has three athletes ranked in the top-15 nationally with two coming from the pole vault. Bethany Buell holds the top vault in the nation at 14 feet, 7 1/2 inches, while Emily Grove ranks 11th at 14-0. Megan Glisar ranks ninth in the high jump with a 6-0 mark.

Four more Covotes are ranked in the top-50. Madison Mills is 22nd in the pole vault (13-5 1/4), Hunter Wilkes is 28th in the pole vault (13-4 1/4), Megan Dennis stands at 43rd in the javelin (151-4) and Alexa Duling ranks 49th in the 400-meter hurdles (59.60 seconds). Mills, Wilkes and Dennis are all freshmen.

Two athletes on the men's side rank in the top-30. Jeff Mettler is 24th in the 3000 steeplechase (8:54.40) and Cody Snyder is 30th in the discus (184-6).

YSD Looking For Workers For Junior High Relays

The Yankton Activities Department is looking for individuals to help with the annual Junior High Relays track and field meet, scheduled for Saturday, May 4, at Williams Field.

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. Workers will be needed throughout the day. Contact the YHS Activities Department at 665-8369 to sign up.

S.D. Junior Football Adopts USA Football's Heads Up Program For 2013 Season

SIOUX FALLS - Two youth leagues in South Dakota have committed to the future of youth football by adopting a new USA Football program dedicated to making the game better and safer. The Heads Up Football program ensures a positive youth football experience and advances player safety by providing leaguewide coaching education and teaching resources that benefit players, parents and coaches.

USA Football is the official youth development partner of the NFL and the league's 32 teams. These two youth leagues are among more than 700 youth football organizations nationwide that will incorporate Heads Up Foot-

AUTO RACING

May 5 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala. May 11 — Bojangles' Southern 500, Darling-

June 2 - Dover 400, Dover, Del.

June 29 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, Kv.

July 6 — Coke Zero 400 powered by Coca

Aug. 18 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn,

Sept. 7 — Federated Auto Parts 400, Rich-

Oct. 12 — Bank of America 500, Concord,

Sept. 15 - GEICO 400, Joliet, III

Cola, Daytona Beach, Fla. July 14 — New Hampshire 300, Loudon,

N.H.

anapolis

Pa.

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

ball into its 2013 season. Brian Hansen, a 15-year NFL punter will work alongside select area leagues throughout the 2013 season as a Heads Up Football Ambassador. Hansen was a Pro Bowl selection his rookie year with the Saints in 1984. He also played with the Patriots, Browns, Jets and Redskins during his pro career from 1984-99.

Participating league coaches will be trained in Heads Up Football techniques before leading their teams this season. All head coaches and assistant coaches will complete USA Football's accredited Level 1 Coach Certification Course, which includes Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concussion recognition and response protocols; proper helmet and shoulder pad fitting; and Heads Up Tackling techniques, which aim to take the head out of the line of contact.

Parents can help ensure their youth football players are participating in a better and safer brand of football by visiting www.USAFootball.com, where they can enroll their leagues as Heads Up Football leagues and ensure that their coaches are certified.

South Dakota leagues showing a commitment to players and coaches through Heads Up Football membership include South Dakota Junior Football, which includes Yankton, and Boys and Girls Club of Watertown Tackle Football

Through Heads Up Football, each league will appoint a Player Safety Coach to be trained by USA Football.

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Player Safety Coaches will evaluate and monitor Heads Up Football player safety protocols within the organization as well as work with league commissioners, coaches, parents and players throughout the season to provide on-site clinics and mentoring to ensure that coaching and player safety best practices are used.

Adopted in 2013 by youth leagues on a national level, Heads Up Football requires five primary elements: Heads Up Tackling, Concussion recognition and response Coaching education. Equipment fittin and Player Safety Coach.

Area High School Golf Meet Sites **Changed For Upcoming Fridays**

Locations for South Dakota Class B golf meets on the next two Fridays have been changed.

Friday's tournament, which had been scheduled for Burke and Platte, has been moved south. The girls' event will be held at the Springfield Golf Course, with the boys' event at the Dawson Creek Golf Course in Scotland. Start time at both sites is 9:45 a.m.

The golf tournament on Friday, May 3, will be be moved north. The girls' tournament will be played in Burke, with the boys' tournament to be played in Platte.

Nebraska's Thramer Sidelined

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska volleyball coach

John Cook has announced that volleyball player Hayley Thramer will miss her senior season because of a knee iniury.

Thramer was hurt Saturday in the Cornhuskers' final spring exhibition at Wichita State.

Cook said Wednesday the program "had its heart ripped out" with the news that Thramer had suffered a career-ending injury.

Thramer is a two-vear starter at middle blocker from Ewing, Neb, She ranked second in the Big Ten in blocking and fourth on the team in kills.

Thramer is the fifth starter from last season who will be missing. Three seniors graduated, and libero Lara Dykstra transferred

Macalester Football To Join MWC

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - Macalester College says its football program will join the Midwest Conference in 2014. The Scots have been competing as an independent football team for the past 11 years after leaving the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 2001.

Macalester said Wednesday the school is committed to remaining an MIAC member in all other sports that the conference sponsors.

Athletic director Kim Chandler says the choice to return to conference play was "an institutional decision and one that was purposeful and measured.'

Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ran-

dolph, 9 a.m.); West Holt Inv. (Creighton, Niobrara-Verdigre

Kansas City at USD (DH, 1 p.m.) TENNIS, WOMEN'S Summit League Championships at Fort Wayne, Iud.; MMC at Neb. Wesleyan (9 a.m.) TENNIS, BOYS' YHS/Mitchell/Watertown at Madison (9

SOFTBALL, COLLEGE MMC at Hastings (DH, 1 p.m.);

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Drake Relays

TRACK & FIELD, PREP Andes Central Inv. (Andes Cen-

TRACK & FIELD, FREF Andes Central intro (Andes Central trail, Bon Homme, Marty, Menno, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Wagner, 9 a.m.); Barker Relays at Madison (Irene-Wakonda, 9 a.m.); Lewis & Clark Conf. at Ponca (Allen, Bloomfield, Hart-

ann), tewis a dana serie and a fair for biometer, fair ington, Ponca, Wausa, Wynot, 10 a.m.); Mid-State Conf. at Madison, Neb. (Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, 10 a.m.); Tom Main Inv. at Chester (Parker, Viborg-Hurley, 10 a.m.) Sunday, April 28 BASEBALL, PREP Bon Homme at Parkston BASEBALL, 9TH-10TH R.C. Central at Yankton (DH, Doct

GOLF, MEN'S Dakota Cup at Morton, Minn. (USD) GOLF, WOMEN'S Dakota Cup at Morton, Minn. (USD) SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Kansas City at USD (noon); MMC

Dedmon will enter the NBA draft.

assistant basketball coach.

This could be the year the pole

vaulters overshadow the big guys.

U.S. gold medalist Jenn Suhr

will again face Cuban Yarisley Silva,

day, a finalist at the 2012 Olympics.

French gold medalist Renaud Lavil-

lenie headlines the field for the

men's pole vault, which also fea-

Otto of Germany.

tures London silver medalist Bjorn

Gold medalist Brittney Reese

will be the favorite in the women's

along with American Becky Holli-

SOUTHERN CAL-Announced C Dewayne

UTEP-Named Scott Stoker defensive co-

WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER—Named Alan

Hensell wide receivers coach. WOFFORD-Named Dustin Kerns men's

The Midwest Conference began in 1921.

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(USD)

noo

at Presentation (DH, 1 p.m.)

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division GB Pct W L .667 .571 Boston Baltimore 12 2 9 11 13 New York .550 2 1/2 10 Tampa Bay .476 5 1/2 Toronto .409 Central Division Pct .556 .529 GB Kansas City 1/2 Minnesota 9 11 12 Detroit 10 .526 1/2 2 1/2 Cleveland .421 .400 3 Chicago West Division GB Pct Texas 13 7 9 .650 .591 Oakland 13 Los Angeles Seattle 11 15 14 .421 .348 4 1/2 Houston .333 6 1/2 Tuesday's Games Minnesota 4, Miami 3, 1st game Oakland 13, Boston 0, 7 innings Baltimore 4, Toronto 3 Kansas City at Detroit, ppd., rain N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 3 Miami 8, Minnesota 5, 2nd game Houston 3 Seattle 2 Cleveland at Chicago, ppd., rain L.A. Angels 5, Texas 4, 11 innings Wednesday's Games Toronto 6. Baltimore 5. 11 innings Chicago White Sox 3, Cleveland 2 Houston 10, Seattle 3 Boston 6, Oakland 5 Detroit 7, Kansas City 5 Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Yankees 0 Texas at L.A. Angels, 10:05 p.m. Thursday's Games Kansas City (Shields 1-2) at Detroit (Verlander 2-2), 12:05 p.m. Houston (Humber 0-4) at Boston (Buchholz 4-0), 5:35 p.m. Toronto (Buehrle 1-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Kuroda 2-1), 6:05 p.m. Tampa Bay (Hellickson 1-1) at Chicago White Sox (Sale 1-2), 7:10 p.m. Texas (Tepesch 1-1) at Minnesota (Worley 0-2), 7:10 p.m. Baltimore (Hammel 2-1) at Oakland (Parker 0-3), 9:05 p.m. L.A. Angels (Richards 1-0) at Seattle (Maurer 1-3) 9.10 n m Friday's Games Atlanta at Detroit, 6:05 p.m. Toronto at N.Y. Yankees, 6:05 p.m. Houston at Boston, 6:10 p.m. Cleveland at Kansas City, 7:10 p.m. Tampa Bay at Chicago White Sox, 7:10 p.m. Texas at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m. Baltimore at Oakland, 9:05 p.m.

L.A. Angels at Seattle, 9:10 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers 7, N.Y. Mets 2 Harvick) Feb. 21 — x-Budweiser Duel 1 (Kevin Har-Miami 8. Minnesota 5. 2nd game Atlanta 10, Colorado 2, 2nd game vick) Feb. 21 — x-Budweiser Duel 2 (Kyle Busch) Milwaukee 6, San Diego 3 Arizona 6, San Francisco 4, 11 innings Feb. 24 - Davtona 500 (Jimmie Johnson) March 3 — Subway Fresh Fit 500, Avon-dale, Ariz. (Carl Edwards) Cincinnati 1. Chicago Cubs 0 St. Louis 4, Washington 2 Colorado 6, Atlanta 5, 12 innings Arizona 3, San Francisco 2, 10 innings March 10 — Kobalt Tools 400, Las Vegas (Matt Kenseth) March 17 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 3 (Kasey Kahne) March 24 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif. N.Y. Mets 7, L.A. Dodgers 3, 10 innings Milwaukee at San Diego, 10:10 p.m. (Kyle Busch) April 7 — STP Gas Booster 500, Ridgeway, Thursday's Games Pittsburgh (Ja.McDonald 2-2) at Philadel-Va. (Jimmie Johnson) phia (Lee 2-1), 12:05 p.m. L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 2-1) at N.Y. Mets (Hefner April 13 - NRÁ 500, Fort Worth, Texas (Kyle Busch) April 21 — STP 400, Kansas City, Kan. (Matt Kenseth)

Cincinnati (Arroyo 2-1) at Washington (G.Gonzalez 1-1), 6:05 p.m. Chicago Cubs (E.Jackson 0-3) at Miami Va. (Slowev 0-2), 6:10 p.m. Colorado (J.De La Rosa 2-1) at Arizona (Cahill 0-3), 8:40 p.m. ton, S.C Friday's Games Atlanta at Detroit, 6:05 p.m. N.C. Cincinnati at Washington, 6:05 p.m. Cincinnati at Washington, 6:05 p.m. Chicago Cubs at Miami, 6:10 p.m. Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, 6:10 p.m. Concord, N.C. May 26 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C. Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 7:15 p.m. Colorado at Arizona, 8:40 p.m. Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10 p.m San Francisco at San Diego, 9:10 p.m. June 23 — Toyota/Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif.

Minnesota 4, Miami 3, 1st game

Atlanta 4. Colorado 3. 1st game

Chicago Cubs 4, Cincinnati 2, 10 innings

Pittsburgh 2, Philadelphia 0 St. Louis 2, Washington 0

Wednesday's Games

0-2), 12:10 p.m

BASKETBALL

NBA PLAYOFFS FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7) Saturday, April 20 New York 85, Boston 78 N.H. July 28 — Crown Royal Presents The Your Hero's Name Here 400 at The Brickyard, Indi-Denver 97, Golden State 95 Brooklyn 106, Chicago 89 L.A. Clippers 112, Memphia 91 Sunday, April 21 Indiana 107 ina 107, Atlanta 90 San Antonio 91, L.A. Lakers 79, San Antonio leads series 1-0 Miami 110, Milwaukee 87 Oklahoma City 120, Houston 91 Monday, April 22 Chicago 90, Brooklyn 82, series tied 1-1 L.A. Clippers 93, Memphis 91, L.A. Clippers

Mich. Tenn leads series 2-0 ton, Ga Tuesday, April 23 Miami 98, Milwaukee 86, Miami leads series mond, Va. 2-0 New York 87, Boston 71, New York leads series 2-0 Golden State 131, Denver 117, series tied City, Kan. Wednesday, April 24 Oklahoma Citv 105, Houston 102, Okla- N.C

15. Jeff Gordon, 202. 16. Mark Martin, 201. 17. Ryan Newman, 200. 18. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 196. x-non-points race Feb. 16 — x-The Sprint Unlimited (Kevin

Marcos Ambrose, 193. 20. Joey Logano, 187.

TRANSACTIONS BASEBALL

American League BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Recalled RHP Josh Stinson from Frederick (Carolina). Optioned RHP Alex Burnett to Norfolk (IL). Sent RHP Steve Johnson to Norfolk for a rehab assignment. BOSTON RED SOX—Sent LHP Craig Bres-

low to Portland (EL) for a rehab assignment. Op-tioned RHP Steven Wright and RHP Alfredo Aceves to Pawtucket (IL). Recalled RHP Daniel Bard from Portland. CLEVELAND INDIANS—Reinstated C Lou

Marson from the 15-day DL. Optioned C Yan Gomes to Columbus (IL). Assigned RHP Fer-nando Nieve outright to Columbus. DETROIT TIGERS—Selected the contract April 27 — Toyota Owners 400, Richmond,

of RHP Jose Valverde from Lakeland (FSL) ignated LHP Duane Below for assignment. HOUSTON ASTROS—Placed OF Justin well on the 15-day DL. Recalled OF Robbie

May 18 — x-Sprint Showdown, Concord. Grossman from Oklahoma City (PCL). LOS ANGELES ANGELS—Optioned INF May 18 — x-NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race Tommy Field to Salt Lake (PCL). Recalled LHP Nick Maronde from Arkansas (TL). TAMPA BAY RAYS—Sent DH Luke Scott to

Charlotte (IL) for a rehab assignment. TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Designated RHP June 9 — Pocono 400, Long Pond, Pa. June 16 — Quicken Loans 400, Brooklyn, Rar

mon Ortiz for assignment.

National League ATLANTA BRAVES—Placed OF Jason Heyward on the 15-day DL, retroactive to April 21. Recalled INF Tyler Pastornicky from Gwin-

COLORADO ROCKIES--Recalled RHP Tyler Chatwood from Colorado Springs (PCL). Optioned RHP Rob Scahill to Colorado Springs. LOS ANGELES DODGERS--Reinstated

LHP Ted Lilly from the 15-day DL. Optioned C Federowicz to Albuquerque (PCL). MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Sent RHP Mark Aug. 4 — Pennsylvania 400, Long Pond, Rogers to Huntsville (SL) for a rehab assign-Aug. 11 — Cheez-It 355 at The Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y.

ment. PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Sent RHP Char lie Morton to Altoona (EL) for a rehab assign-

Ment. SAN DIEGO PADRES—Reinstated OF Car-Aug. 24 - Irwin Tools Night Race, Bristol, los Quentin from suspension. Selected the contract of LHP Robbie Erlin from Tucson (PCI) Sept. 1 — AdvoCare 500 at Atlanta, Hamp-Optioned RHP Thad Weber to Tucson. Trans-ferred INF Logan Forsythe from the 15-day to the 60-day DL.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association CLEVELAND CAVALIERS-Named Mike

Sept. 22 — Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H. Nation Sept. 29 — AAA 400, Dover, Del. CLEVELA Oct. 6 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas Brown coach. FOOTBALL

National Football League ARIZONA CARDINALS-Signed WR Jarett

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, April 25 BASEBALL, COLLEGE Briar Cliff at MMC (DH, 5 p.m.) GOLF, MEN'S GPAC #4 at Sloux Center, Iowa (MMC) GOLF, BOO'S' O'Neill inv. (Hartington, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Santee, 9 a.m.); Laurel-Concord-Coleridge/Ponca at

Hartington SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Briar Cliff at MMC (DH, 4 p.m.,

TENNIS, BOYS' YHS at S.C. Heelan (4 p.m.) TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Drake Relays

TRACK & FIELD. PREP First Dakota Relavs (YHS, Beres-

ford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Vermillion, 1 p.m.); Boyd Co. Inv. at O'Neill (Niobrara-Verdigre, Santee, 9:30 a.m.); Erv Ptak Relays at

Menno (Avon, Centerville, Marion, Menno, 4 p.m.); Jesse James Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Marion, Parker, 9:30 a.m.); Great

Plains Conf. at Avon (Andes Central, Avon, Marty, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 11:30 a.m.); Norfolk Classic (Allen, Creighton, Hartington, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Niobrara-

Verdigre, Randolph, Wausa, 4:30 p.m.); Red Raider Inv. at Wagner (Andes Central, Bon Homme, Ethan-Parkston, Marty,

Plate-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Wagner, 2 p.m.); Terry Bong Inv. at Canton (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman, Viborg-Hurley, 4 p.m.)

BASEBALL, PREP S.F. Lincoln at Yankton (5:30 p.m.);

ance at Marvland

Friday, April 26 ARCHERY IFAA World Indoor Tourn. at Yankton

NASHVILE PREDATORS—Signed LW Mi-

VANCOUVER CANUCKS—Recalled G Joe Cannata from Chicago (AHL). WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Re-signed Fs

ikka Salomaki to a three-year, entry-level con-

Eric Fehr and Aaron Volpatti to two-year con-

COLLEGE

Beresford-Centerville at Tea Area; Dakota Valley at Bon Borosof Johns Markov and Karlow Anderson Andes BASEBALL, JV S.F. Lincoln at Yankton (7:30 p.m.) GOLF, WOMEN'S GPAC #4 at Slow City, Iowa (MMC) GOLF, BOYS' Big East Conf. at Dell Rapids (Parker, 8:30

a.m.); Burke-Platte Inv. at Scotland (Andes Central, Avon, Freeman, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delamont, 9:30 a.m.); Os-mond Inv. at Rolling Hills CC (Bloomfield-Wausa, Crofton, Hartington, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Niobrara-Verdigre, Ponca, Randolph, 9:30 a.m.)

GOLF, GIRLS' Mitchell Inv. (YHS, Parkston, 10:30 a.m.); Big East Conf. at Dell Rapids (Parker, 8:30 a.m.): Burke-Platte

Inv. at Springfield (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Free-man, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont, 9:30 a.m.) SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Momingside at MMC (DH, 3 p.m.) TENNIS, WOMEN'S Summit League Championships at

rt Wavne, Ind. TENNIS BOYS' Vermillion at S.F. Roosevelt TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Mount Marty

Twilight (MMC, USD, 4:30 p.m.); Drake Relays (USD) Saturday, April 27 ARCHERY IFAA World Indoor Tourn. at Yankton

BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC at Dakota Wesleyan (DH, 4

BASEBALL, PREP Parkston at Elk Point-Jefferson GOLF, MEN'S Dakota Cup at Morton, Minn. (USD)

GOLF. WOMEN'S Dakota Cup at Morton, Minn, (ÚSD) GOLF, BOYS' Pierce Inv. (Bloomfield-Wausa, Crofton,

NCAA—Announced the resignation of asso-FLORIDA-Announced football G Jesciate director of enforcement Marcus Wilson to samens Dunker will transfer. become associate athletic director for compli-LIMESTONE-Named Ted Soenksen offen-

MACALESTER—Announced the football program will join the Midwest Conference in ECAC-Named Ben Rosenfeld director of sport administration/championships, Katie Hartman Boldvich coordinator of sport administra-2014

PENN STATE—Announced QB Steven tion/leagues and affiliates and Joyce Lambert administrative assistant to the commissioner. Bench will transfer

Purses Lure Elite Athletes To Drake Relays

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) -Drake Relays officials found a simple way to draw the best field in recent memory to Des Moines. Money.

The meet recently landed a new presenting sponsor in Hy-Vee, a grocery store chain based in West Des Moines. Together, they came up with the idea of staging as many rematches of the 2012 London Games as possible to better compete with the more prestigious Penn Relays, which runs on the same weekend in Philadelphia.

watch will be Friday and Saturday, which are stacked with events featuring London Olympians.

The marguee London rematch could be the first one of the meet, the 110 hurdles. American gold medalist Aries Merritt and teammate Jason Richardson, who won silver last summer, will square off against Jamaican bronze medalist Hansle Parchment on Friday night.

Another juicy rematch will feature hometown fan favorite Lolo Jones, a four-time Drake champion, against two of her biggest Ameri-

NASCAR

From Page 8

tional Speedway and Pocono Raceway.

"It's always been that way. It's kind of one of those pet peeves of NASCAR.'

Kenseth was docked 50 driver points in the standings — he earned only 48 points for the victory — and NASCAR also erased the three bonus points he earned for the win that would have been applied in seeding for the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. In addition, the victory will not be credited toward his eligibility for a wild card berth in the Chase.

So, although Kenseth has two wins on the year, the Kansas win does not count in any form toward Chase eligibility. He lost his pole award, too, which could hurt eligibility for next year's Sprint Unlimited exhibition race.

The penalty to Kenseth, who held off Kasey Kahne of Hendrick Motorsports to earn his second win of the season, dropped him from eighth to 14th in the standings.

NASCAR also suspended crew chief Jason Ratcliff for six races and fined him \$200,000. And in a rare move, car owner Joe Gibbs had his owner's license suspended for the next six races and he won't earn car owner points during that time. He also was docked 50 car owner points while Toyota, which supplies the JGR engines through Costa Mesa, Calif.-based TRD, lost five points

in the manufacturer standings. JGR said it would appeal. "It is our understanding that one of the eight connecting rods on the engine was ruled too light," the statement said. "We are working with our partners at TRD on this issue.'

White said Kenseth gained no advantage from the light rod.

"It was a simple oversight on TRD's part and there was no intent to deceive, or to gain any type of competitive advantage," White said. "Toyota is a company that was built on integrity, and that remains one of the guiding principles of the company. The goal of TRD has always been and will continue to be — to build high-performance engines that are reliable, durable and powerful, and within the guidelines established by NASCAR."

Elliott Sadler, in his first season driving for JGR's Nationwide Series team, felt for teammate Kenseth.

"It's tough if you're Matt because you don't have anything to do with the motor. That's a TRD deal. It's not a Gibbs deal," Sadler said. "At Gibbs, we don't even touch the motor. TRD brings the motor in and puts it in. We don't even get to touch it. That's a rule. Ă Gibbs employee doesn't even touch that.'

It's the second severe penalty against a Sprint Cup team levied by NASCAR in as many weeks.

It was Penske Racing and defending Sprint Cup champion Brad Keselowski who were punished last week after NASCAR said it found unapproved parts in the rear suspension of Keselowski and Joey Logano's cars at Texas. NASCAR docked 25

points each the drivers, fined the crew chiefs \$100,000 each and suspended seven Penske employees for six races. Penske Racing's appeal is scheduled for May 1.

Those penalties were for alterations to the body of the car, particularly in an area NASCAR has been working the last year to police after teams found a way to manipulate the skew of the cars last season. Team owner Roger Penske has maintained the team was not cheating, but "working in a gray area" of the rule book.

It's not clear if that argument will fly before the three-member appeal board, and the 2013 rule book was specifically tightened this season to add language specific to the rear suspension systems.

In the case of JGR and the engine, illegal is illegal and there is no gray area.

NASCAR has proven that through penalties before. The last violator, Carl Long, was severely punished when he was found to have an illegal engine at the 2009 All-Star Race. Long was docked 200 points - which would be about 50 points under

the current points system fined \$200,000 and suspended for 12 races.

His suspension was reduced to eight races on appeal, but Long has said he is unable to pay the fine and can't work in Sprint Cup until he settles the debt.

We've always known the engine and tires are sacred ground. You don't mess with the engine or the tires," said former crew chief and current Fox analyst Larry McReynolds, who added that all eight connecting rods would have been light if TRD was trying to cheat.

This was pure human error," McReynolds said. "But in NASCAR's defense, they can't completely determine intent or non-intent. They absolutely should appeal. I'd primarily appeal Ratcliff's suspension. He was an innocent bystander in this. The engine is a different deal than the rest of the car. If I was Joe Gibbs, I'd be pretty ticked off about losing my crew chief under these circumstances. This was an error but an enormously costly one."

JGŘ has the means to pay the

fine and the personnel to recover from this setback. The appeal would likely be to reduce the penalties on the argument it was TRD that erred and the team had no control or access to assembly of the engine.

Clint Bowyer, a Toyota driver for Michael Waltrip Racing, said it's unfortunate so many employees are punished by NASCAR for one infraction.

"For the governing body, that's a difficult situation knowing that a lot of guys that you're penalizing don't necessarily have anything to do with what's inside those frame rails," Bowyer said. "It's tough. It's unfortunate for

(gold) is the only reigning Olympic triple jump.

long jump, and Christian Taylor

nes officials buzz generstature of nt help it land s in 2016. But ene, Ore., to focus on a 20. If the tinue to lure s Moines, r shot in

have leverevent,"

Matt. Obviously it was a shock to all of us.'

Kenseth is unlikely to get back his bonus points. NASCAR stripped Carl Edwards of his 10 bonus points under an older scoring system for not having a cover on his oil tank after a 2008 win at Las Vegas. The victory stood, but Edwards was not able to carry the 10 bonus points into the Chase. His crew chief was also suspended six races.

AP Sports Writer Dan Gelston in Harrisburg, Pa., contributed to this report.



