

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 (38th) 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 Coyotes 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 decus (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 for 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-

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.

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 fitting 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 moved north. The girls' tournament will be played in Burke, with the boys' tournament to be played in Platte.

Nebraska's Thrasher Sidelined

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska volleyball coach

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

Thrasher 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 Thrasher had suffered a career-ending injury.

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

Thrasher 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."

The Midwest Conference began in 1921.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division			
	W	L	Pct
Boston	14	7	.667
Baltimore	12	9	.571
New York	11	9	.550
Tampa Bay	10	11	.476
Toronto	9	13	.409

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Kansas City	10	8	.556
Minnesota	9	8	.529
Detroit	10	9	.526
Cleveland	8	11	.421
Chicago	8	12	.400

West Division			
	W	L	Pct
Texas	13	7	.650
Oakland	13	9	.591
Los Angeles	8	11	.421
Seattle	8	15	.348
Houston	7	14	.333

Tuesday's Games
Minnesota 4, Miami 3, 1st game
Oakland 13, Boston 7, 11 innings
Baltimore 4, Toronto 3
Kansas City at Detroit, p.d., rain
N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 3
Miami 8, Minnesota 5, 2nd game
Houston 3, Seattle 2
Cleveland at Chicago, p.d., 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 (Tejedor 1-1) at Minnesota (Worley 0-2), 7:10 p.m.
Baltimore (Hammel 2-1) at Oakland (Parker 0-3), 9:05 p.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.
Texas at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m.
Baltimore at Oakland, 9:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 9:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	15	6	.714
New York	10	9	.526
Washington	10	11	.476
Philadelphia	9	13	.409
Miami	5	16	.238

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
St. Louis	13	8	.619
Cincinnati	13	9	.591
Milwaukee	11	8	.579
Pittsburgh	12	9	.571
Chicago	6	14	.300

West Division			
	W	L	Pct
Colorado	14	7	.667
San Francisco	13	9	.591
Arizona	12	9	.571
Los Angeles	9	11	.450
San Diego	5	15	.250

Tuesday's Games

Minnesota 4, Miami 3, 1st game
Atlanta 4, Colorado 3, 1st game
Pittsburgh 2, Philadelphia 0
St. Louis 2, Washington 0
Chicago Cubs 4, Cincinnati 2, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 7, N.Y. Mets 2
Miami 8, Minnesota 5, 2nd game
Atlanta 10, Colorado 2, 2nd game
Milwaukee 6, San Diego 3
Arizona 6, San Francisco 4, 11 innings

Wednesday's Games
Cincinnati 1, Chicago Cubs 0
St. Louis 4, Washington 2
Colorado 6, Atlanta 5, 12 innings
Arizona 3, San Francisco 2, 10 innings
Pittsburgh 6, Philadelphia 3
N.Y. Mets 7, L.A. Dodgers 3, 10 innings
Milwaukee at San Diego, 10:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Pittsburgh (Ja.McDonald 2-2) at Philadelphia (Lee 2-1), 12:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 2-1) at N.Y. Mets (Helmer 0-2), 12:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Arroyo 2-1) at Washington (Gonzalez 1-1), 6:05 p.m.

Friday's Games
Atlanta at Detroit, 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.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 7:15 p.m.
Colorado at Arizona, 8:40 p.m.
Milwaukee at San Diego, 9:10 p.m.
San Francisco at San Diego, 9:10 p.m.

BASKETBALL

NBA PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)

Saturday, April 20
New York 85, Boston 78
Denver 97, Golden State 95
Brooklyn 106, Chicago 86
L.A. Clippers 112, Memphis 91

Sunday, April 21
San Antonio 91, L.A. Lakers 79
leads series 1-0
Miami 110, Milwaukee 87
Oklahoma City 120, Houston 91

Monday, April 22
Chicago 80, Brooklyn 82, series tied 1-1
L.A. Clippers 93, Memphis 91, L.A. Clippers leads series 2-0

Tuesday, April 23
Miami 98, Milwaukee 86, Miami leads series 2-0
New York 87, Boston 71, New York leads series 2-0
Golden State 131, Denver 117, series tied 1-1

Wednesday, April 24
Oklahoma City 105, Houston 102, Oklahoma City leads series 2-0
Indiana 113, Atlanta 98, Indiana leads series 2-0
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 25
Miami at Milwaukee, 6 p.m.
Brooklyn at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, April 26
New York at Boston, 7 p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 27
Brooklyn at Chicago, 1 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 3:30 p.m.
Indiana at Atlanta, 6 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 28
New York at Boston, noon
Miami at Milwaukee, 2:30 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 6 p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

Feb. 16 — x-The Sprint Unlimited (Kevin Harvick)

Feb. 21 — x-Budweiser Duel 1 (Kevin Harvick)

Feb. 21 — x-Budweiser Duel 2 (Kyle Busch)
Feb. 24 — Daytona 500 (Jimmie Johnson)
March 10 — Kobalt Tools 400, Las Vegas (Matt Kenseth)

March 17 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. (Kasey Kahne)
March 24 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif. (Kyle Busch)
April 7 — STP Gas Booster 500, Ridgeway, Va. (Jimmie Johnson)
April 13 — NRA 500, Fort Worth, Texas (Kyle Busch)

April 21 — STP 400, Kansas City, Kan. (Matt Kenseth)
April 27 — Toyota Owners 400, Richmond, Va.

May 5 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala.
May 11 — Bojangles' Shootout 500, Darlington, S.C.
May 18 — x-Sprint Showdown, Concord, N.C.
May 18 — x-NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race, Concord, N.C.

May 26 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C.
June 2 — Dover 400, Dover, Del.
June 9 — Pocono 400, Long Pond, Pa.
June 16 — Quicken Loans 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

June 23 — Toyota/Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif.
June 29 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, Ky.
July 6 — Coke Zero 400 powered by Coca-Cola, Daytona Beach, Fla.

July 14 — New Hampshire 300, Loudon, N.H.
July 28 — Crown Royal Presents The Your Hero's Name Here 400 at The Brickyard, Indianapolis

Aug. 4 — Pennsylvania 400, Long Pond, Pa.
Aug. 11 — Cheez-It 355 at The Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y.
Aug. 18 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

Aug. 24 — Irwin Tools Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.
Sept. 1 — AdvoCare 500 at Atlanta, Hampton, Ga.
Sept. 7 — Federated Auto Parts 400, Richmond, Va.

Sept. 15 — GEICO 400, Joliet, Ill.
Sept. 22 — Sylmar 300, Loudon, N.H.
Sept. 29 — AAA 400, Dover, Del.
Oct. 6 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.

Oct. 12 — Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C.
Oct. 20 — Camping World RV Sales 500, Talladega, Ala.
Oct. 27 — Goody's Fast Relief 500, Ridge-way, Va.
Nov. 3 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas
Nov. 10 — AdvoCare 500, Avondale, Ariz.
Nov. 17 — Ford EcoBoost 400, Homestead, Fla.

Driver Standings

1. Jimmie Johnson, 311.
2. Kasey Kahne, 274.
3. Brad Keselowski, 273.
4. Greg Biffle, 264.
5. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 263.
6. Carl Edwards, 262.
7. Kyle Busch, 257.
8. Clint Bowyer, 247.
9. Paul Menard, 240.
10. Jamie McMurray, 227.
11. Kevin Harvick, 224.
12. Eric Alvorado, 222.
13. Martin Truex Jr., 204.
14. Matt Kenseth, 202.

15. Jeff Gordon, 202.
16. Mark Martin, 201.
17. Ryan Newman, 200.
18. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 196.
19. Marcos Ambrose, 193.
20. Joey Logano, 187.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

BALTIMORE Orioles—Recalled RHP Josh Simpson 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 Breslow to Portland (LE) for a rehab assignment. Optioned 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 Fernando Nieve outright to Columbus.

DETROIT Tigers—Selected the contract of RHP Jose Valverde from Lakeland (FL). Designated LHP Duane Below for assignment.

HOUSTON Astros—Placed OF Justin Maxwell on the 15-day DL. Recalled OF Robbie Grossman from Oklahoma City (PCL).

LOS ANGELES Angels—Optioned INF Tommy Field to Salt Lake (PCL). Recalled LHP Nick Maronde from Arkansas (IL).

TAMPA BAY Rays—Sent DH Luke Scott to Charlotte (IL) for a rehab assignment.

TORONTO Blue Jays—Designated RHP Ramon 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 Gwinnett (IL).

COLORADO Rockies—Recalled RHP Tyler Chatwood from Colorado Springs (PCL). Optioned RHP Rob Scallion to Colorado Springs.

LOS ANGELES Dodgers—Reinstated LHP Ted Lilly from the 15-day DL. Optioned C Tim Lincecum to Albuquerque (PCL).

MILWAUKEE Brewers—Sent RHP Mark Rogers to Huntsville (IL) for a rehab assignment.

PITTSBURGH Pirates—Sent RHP Charlie Potters to Altoona (LE) for a rehab assignment.

SAN DIEGO Padres—Reinstated OF Carlos Quentin from Tucson. Selected the contract of LHP Robbie Erlin from Tucson (PCL). Optioned RHP Thad Weber to Tucson. Transferred INF Logan Forsythe from the 15-day to the 60-day DL.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
CLEVELAND Cavaliers—Named Mike Brown coach.

FOOTBALL

National Football League
ARIZONA Cardinals—Signed WR Jarrett Dillard, OL Paul Fanaika, WR Robert Gill and TE Alex Goffie.

GREEN BAY Packers—Released RB Brandon Saine and LB D.J. Smith.

SAN DIEGO Chargers—Signed FB Chris Gronkowski.

SEATTLE Seahawks—Signed QB Jerrod Johnson.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League
NHL—Suspended Los Angeles F Dustin Brown two games for allowing Minnesota F Jason Pominville during Tuesday's game.

ANAHEIM Ducks—Recalled G Frederik Andersen and F Patrick Maroon and Devante Smith-Pelly from Norfolk (AHL). Reassigned G Igor Bobkov to Norfolk.

CAROLINA Hurricanes—Reassigned C Riley Nash and F Tim Wallace to Charlotte (AHL) and recalled Wallace and RW Jared Staal from Charlotte.

MINNESOTA Wild—Reassigned F Stephane Veilleux to Houston (AHL).

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, April 25

BASEBALL, COLLEGE Briar Cliff at MMC (DH, 5 p.m.)
GOLF, MEN'S SPAC #4 at Sioux Center, Iowa (MMC)
GOLF, BOYS' 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., Senior Day)

TENNIS, BOYS' YHS at S.C. Heelan (4 p.m.)

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Drake Relays (USD)
TRACK & FIELD, PREP First Dakota Relays (YHS, Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Vermillion, 1 p.m.); Boyd Co. Inv. at O'Neill (Niobrara-Verdige, Santee, 9:30 a.m.); Evr Plak 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-Verdige, Randolph, Wausa, 4:30 p.m.); Red Raider Inv. at Wagner (Andes Central, Bon Homme, Ethan-Parkston, Marty, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Wagner, 2 p.m.); Terry Berg Inv. at Canton (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman, Viborg-Hurley, 4 p.m.)

Friday, April 26

ARCHERY IFAA World Indoor Tour. at Yankton

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

Beresford-Centerville at Tea Area; Dakota Valley at Bon Homme; Hanson at Wagner-Avon-Lake Andes

BASEBALL, JV S.F. Lincoln at Yankton (7:30 p.m.)
GOLF, WOMEN'S SPAC #4 at Sioux 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-Delmont, 9:30 a.m.); Osmond Inv. at Rolling Hills CC (Bloomfield-Wausa, Crofton, Hartington, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Niobrara-Verdige, 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 (And