



P&D FILE PHOTO  
Scotland's Shaye Bloch (34), shown during a game last season in Avon, signed to play basketball at Mount Marty College, the institution announced Tuesday.

## Scotland's Bloch Signs With MMC

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Shaye Bloch liked what he saw at Mount Marty College and liked what he heard from men's basketball coach Andrew Baker.

So much so that Bloch, a 6-foot-4 standout at Scotland High School, decided to continue his basketball career 33 miles away in Yankton.

"I liked the way coach Baker coaches the team and how he's going to have the team going in the right direction," Bloch said Tuesday afternoon, the same day MMC announced his signing.

A two-time All-Conference basketball player and standout high jumper for the Scotland Highlanders, Bloch averaged 16 points, 6 rebounds and 4 assists last season as a senior.

Production like that understandably caught Mount Marty's attention, but it was more than numbers that really piqued the program's interest, according to Baker.

"Shaye is a great kid first of all with a team-oriented mentality, and that fits our culture very well," Baker said.

The chance to vault a MMC program that has won a combined six games over the last two seasons was a challenge Bloch said he embraces.

"I wanted to be part of that," he said. "I have a bunch of confidence in him (Baker) and how the team is going."

If the Lancers are to improve next season, they will again do so with a roster dotted with South Dakota natives – there were eight in-state products on the 2014-15 roster. What there wasn't much of, however, was height.

Mount Marty boasted five players of at least 6-foot-5 last season.

"It's always good to get some size, especially if they can guard," Baker said.

"He's (Bloch) big and he can continue to grow, too. He can guard multiple spots, which gives us some flexibility."

The transition from Class B to the Great Plains Athletic Conference is a jump Bloch said he's ready for, based on his two summers playing AAU ball with the Dakota Schoolers.

"I know college is a lot more up tempo, so I'll have to develop my skills more," Bloch said. "I like that style, though."

He will walk on campus this fall, though, with skills that are already well developed, Baker said.

"He's got a good skill set for his age coming in, so hopefully he'll be able to help us early in his career," Baker said.

Mount Marty has signed five recruits to this point for the 2015 class, including White River guard Justin Prue – a Class B first team All-State selection. The program hopes to add at least five more, Baker said.

You can follow @jhoeck on Twitter.

# Well-Rounded Stars Lead Class A All-State

BY RYAN DEAL  
Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN — They score, rebound, defend and win.

The Class A boys' basketball all-state first-team is a fine collection of seniors and juniors that not only led their teams in scoring, but in other categories as well.

The first team consists of Ty Hoglund of Dell Rapids, Brayden McNeary of Aberdeen Roncalli, Tyson Jenkins of Clark-Willow Lake, Noah Vetrus of West Central, Jacob Hinker of Lennox and Brendan Harter of Winner.

The all-state teams are chosen by the South Dakota Basketball Coaches Association and the South Dakota Sportswriters Association.

The 6-foot-3 McNeary was instrumental in leading the Cavaliers (23-2) to their first state championship since 1975. The versatile guard averaged 17.4 points, 5.4 assists and 4.8 rebounds per game. The Northern State signee finished his career third on the program scoring list (1,084) and is the program leader in career three-pointers (155). McNeary, who was a third team all-stater last season, is only the fourth player in program history to reach the 1,000-point milestone.

McNeary is also the SDBCA Class A Player of the Year, which is awarded to the senior with the most all-state votes in each respective class.

"Brayden is a very versatile player," Aberdeen Roncalli coach Todd Neuendorf said. "We were able to play Brayden at all posi-

tions from one-through-four this season. Brayden is a scorer. He cannot only shoot it from the perimeter, but also get to the rim. His greatest attribute is his willingness to compete. He will not let others out work him. Brayden played the game as hard and as well as anyone I have ever coached. It is like having a coach on the floor. He thinks and knows the game so well."

The 6-foot-2 Hoglund guided Dell Rapids to a runner-up finish at the state tournament. The smooth southpaw recorded 19.3 points, 5.9 rebounds and 2.8 assists per contest for the 22-3 Quarriers. Hoglund, who was a second team all-stater last year as a sophomore, will begin next season with 996 career points. He's started since his fresh-

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## Attention To Details



JEREMY HOECK/P&D  
South Dakota's Alex Coker, center, and his teammates listen to inside linebackers coach Adam Breske during Tuesday's practice at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

# Coyotes Hope Little Things Lead To Big Success

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION – In his new role as special teams coordinator, Marquice Williams has lofty goals for the University of South Dakota football team.

He is at the same time, though, keeping things basic.

"Our motto is that we want to create and control field position," Williams, also in charge of the defensive line, said after Tuesday's practice inside the DakotaDome.

"The way we do that is with great effort."

Williams, starting his fourth season with the program, took over special teams duties from Tim Triplett who left last month for St. Thomas (Minnesota).

Improving their protection and production on special teams – which would therefore help both the offense and defense – was a key focus over the off-season for the Coyotes. And for good reason.

Last season, USD ranked last in the Missouri Valley Football Conference in scoring offense (19.4) and scoring defense

(35.6), as well as last in punt return average (4.5) and ninth in kickoff return average (17.5).

"This year, I think it's going to be a whole different ballgame, and I think special teams could be one of our stronger points," said redshirt freshman defensive back Alex Coker.

"We have a lot of guys out here competing for spots they didn't think they would get."

Five practices through the 14-practice spring season, the Coyotes still haven't put together an 11 on 11 for special teams. And that's by design, Williams said.

No, instead, he wanted every area of the team to work on things like blocking, coverage, tackling and getting off blocks.

"Doing all that, we're putting all the pieces together," Williams said. "I have the puzzle, but the guys don't see the final product yet."

"If we're able to do techniques within the schematics then it doesn't matter what guy we throw out there."

That's another change under the Williams regime: More guys will be involved in the 'core

four' areas of punt, punt return, kickoff and kickoff return.

"I can't expect receivers or tight ends to run around and be big contributors on special teams if we're not implementing it in practice and teaching them," Williams said.

The goal is simple, he added: Get the best 11 guys on the field, regardless of who they are.

"They want to be in a position to not want to take you off the field, because you're making plays," said senior Adam Juhl, a Sioux Falls native.

By involving everyone from senior on down to redshirt freshmen (and possibly true freshmen this fall), Williams' effort also sparks competition.

"It really pushes you to dig deep and find that extra gear you didn't think you had," Juhl said. "If you're not up there on offense or defense, you can be on special teams and you can ball out on special teams."

Depending on injuries, the Coyotes had a pretty good idea a year ago who would be contributing on special teams. Now, as Coker pointed out, anyone could be pointed to for help.

"With coach Williams, he's going to play the best players on the field," Coker said. "That's the beauty of it. If you come out here and give it your all, he's going to notice it and put you in a spot."

And in a spot to lessen the stress on the defense or set the offense up in a better spot.

"It puts you in a better position on offense and defense, because if you come out there and pin them back, it makes it easier on the defense," Juhl said. "Or if you get a big return, the offense can start racking up points."

"The energy out here is going to be wild and we'll start getting those (wins)."

Over the past three years, the Coyotes have seen first-hand in the Missouri Valley the fine line between winning and losing, and it usually involves one play.

"It's not really the schemes, it's guys giving great effort and using their techniques," Williams said. "If we can be consistent with those things, we'll be fine."

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# Rain Wipes Out Area Events On Tuesday

Tuesday's wet conditions sidelined Yankton High School's track and field team and boys' golf team, as well as the Yankton club high school baseball team and the Mount Marty College baseball team. Several other area events were called off as well.

- The track and field quadrangular featuring Yankton, Sioux City West and Sioux City East at Sioux Falls Washington was canceled. It will not be made up.

- The boys' tennis triangular featuring Yankton and Sioux Falls Roosevelt at Brandon Valley was canceled. Yankton will reschedule with Roosevelt for Monday, May 11, at 1 p.m. at Kuehn Park in Sioux Falls. The Bucks face O'Gorman at 4 p.m. that day, also in Sioux Falls.

The Bucks face Brandon Valley later in the season and will not try to reschedule Tuesday's matchup.

- The Yankton at Brandon Valley club high school baseball games scheduled for Tuesday were postponed. No makeup date has been set.

- The Mount Marty at Dordt baseball game as canceled and will not be made up.

- The Mount Vernon-Plankinton Invitational and the Parker Invitational golf tournaments were postponed. No makeup dates were set.

- The Scotland Invitational track and field meet was postponed to Friday, April 10. Field events will begin at 2:30 p.m., with running events beginning at 3:30 p.m.

- The Ethan-Parkston Early Bird, Knox County Invitational and West Central Early Bird track and field meets were all called off. No announcement was made as to potential makeup dates.

- The softball doubleheader between South Dakota State and North Dakota, scheduled for Tuesday, was pushed back to Tuesday, April 14. Start time is set for 2 p.m. at Jackrabbit Softball Stadium.

- The baseball game between South Dakota State and North Dakota, scheduled for today, was postponed. No makeup date has been set.

SDSU also announced that today's

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# South Sioux Boys, Canton Girls Win Husky Invite



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Ponca's Lexie Eifert, left, pulls away from Canton's Hailey Toft, center, and Ponca's Elizabeth Watchorn to win her heat in the girls' 100-meter dash at the Husky Invitational track and field meet on Tuesday in Elk Point. Eifert earned first place overall in the event.

ELK POINT – On a rainy afternoon in Elk Point, the Canton girls and South Sioux City (Nebraska) boys claimed team track titles at Tuesday's Huskies Invitational.

The triple jump and all of the throwing events were called off because of the wet conditions.

The Canton girls were led by double winner Justine Zylstra who was first in the 100 hurdles (16.8) and 300 hurdles (50.67).

Lexie Eifert of Ponca, Nebraska was first in the 100 (13.3), 200 (27.83) and 400 (1:04.53).

Dakota Valley's Sara Bohan qualified for state in the long jump (16-9.25), while Elk Point-Jefferson's Josie Heeren won the 800 (2:25.2), Dakota Valley's Marisa Schulz won the 1600 (5:17.16) and Beresford's Ashlynn Atwood won the 3200 (12:12.71).

On the boys' side, South Sioux City won seven events to take first place with 140 points, just ahead of Sioux City Bishop Heelan at 136.

South Sioux City had a pair of double winners, as Adesh Adesina was first in the 100 (11.48) and 200 (23.69) while teammate Alex Borchers won the 110 hurdles (15.42) and 300 hurdles (40.65).

The only area champion was Beresford's Joseph Kirkebak in the high jump (5-10).

## Hartington-Newcastle Inv.

HARTINGTON, Neb. – The hometown track squads from Hartington-Newcastle combined for 13 event victories during Tuesday's Hartington-Newcastle Invitational at Russ Hochstein Field.

No team scores were kept at the meet, but the Wildcats won seven events on the boys' side and six in the girls' division.

Griffon Kalin was victorious in two events for the boys' squad, with first-place finishes in the 100 (11.6) and 300 hurdles (42.8), while Andy Schmidt won the 400 (56.5), Tanner Fischer won the high jump (5-6) and Cole Schmidt won the triple jump (39-8). The Wildcats also took first in the 400 relay and 1600 relay.

In other area finishes, Allen's Tayler Kumm won the 800 (2:10.2), Allen's Brian Boese won the 110 hurdles (17.2) and Wynot's Cody Stratman had the top mark in the long jump (20-1).

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## S.D. FCA Night Of Champions To Feature Tebow

SIoux FALLS — The South Dakota Fellowship of Christian Athletes will host its Night of Champions event at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 13, at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls. The event will feature Heisman Trophy winner and current college football analyst Tim Tebow.

Tebow was the first sophomore ever to win the Heisman and won two NCAA FBS Championships before being picked in the first round of the NFL draft in 2010.

For more information about the event and about ticket sales, go online to [www.southdakotafca.org](http://www.southdakotafca.org) or contact Erika Hessman at [ehessman@fca.org](mailto:ehessman@fca.org) or 605-335-7555.