

# Seekamp Granted Fourth Year

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**VERMILLION** – A surprise announcement Monday by the University of South Dakota is likely to send shockwaves throughout the Summit League.

Nicole Seekamp will be back. The two-time tournament MVP was informed Monday that she was granted a fourth year of eligibility by the NCAA. The native Australian will have to sit out the first two games of the 2015-16 season, but will be back to help guide the Coyotes back to the NCAA Tournament.

"I'm ecstatic that I have been given the opportunity to compete with this group of girls," Seekamp said in a release. "I'm looking forward to improving my game and continuing my education at USD."

Seekamp, who hails from Renmark, Australia, sat out the 2011-12 season for former USD coach Ryun Williams as a redshirt after a standout prep career in her native country.

It was a result of those organized, amateur games that originally resulted in Seekamp being given

## The Résumé

- Two-time All-Summit League first team
- Two-time tournament MVP
- Has led USD to three straight post-season appearances (WBI, NCAA, WNIT)
- Ranks seventh all-time at USD in career points (1484), sixth in assists (396) and sixth in steals (376)

three seasons of eligibility at USD, following a redshirt season in 2011-12. She then played the next three seasons, all three times leading the Coyotes to the championship game of the Summit League tournament – winning the title in 2014.

Once USD's 2014-15 season ended March 22 at Northern Colorado in the second round of the WNIT, the Coyote coaches understandably began planning for life after Seekamp.

That all changed Monday. "It's certainly a drastic turn of events," head coach Amy Williams said Monday night. "We were really excited about a team we had coming back, with our new players and how the pieces of the puzzle would look."

With Seekamp's sudden re-addition, the Coyotes are poised for

another run at a conference title. The reigning league regular season champs will now return three starters (Seekamp, Tia Hemiller, Margaret McCloud), as well as most of their reserves, two redshirts (Caitlin Duffy, Abigail Fogg) and a strong recruiting class.

It's Seekamp, though, who figures to provide USD with the biggest boost. Last season for the WNIT-bound Coyotes, she averaged a team-best 15.6 points and 5.1 assists per game, to go along with 3.6 rebounds.

Getting to the point where another year for Seekamp was at the very least a realistic goal was a 2-week long task for the USD compliance department, led by Jamie Oyen, the associate athletic director for Compliance.

"It's really building a case," Oyen said. "We work with the NCAA, they give us the template on what type of case we're submitting, and we have to fill in the blanks."

Once USD and Seekamp gathered all the necessary documentation, the waiver was submitted to the NCAA Legislative Release Committee

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P&D FILE PHOTO  
University of South Dakota women's basketball player Nicole Seekamp, right, was granted Monday a fourth year of eligibility by the NCAA. She will have to sit out two games in the 2015-16 season, but will be eligible for the remainder of the schedule for the Coyotes.

## Somsen Will Join Coaching Staff At USF For 2015-16

**SIOUX FALLS** – Cincinnati Reds draftee Layne Somsen will serve as co-pitching coordinator with current assistant coach Derek Fischer for the University of Sioux Falls Baseball Team in 2015-16, according to an announcement today by USF head baseball coach Matt Guiliano.

Both Somsen of Yankton, and Fischer of Brandon, had standout collegiate careers (South Dakota State University, USF, respectively) at in-state schools and bring sterling resumes to the position.



Somsen

"The dual pitching coaches of Layne (Somsen) and Derek (Fischer) will provide the kind of leadership and expertise that will help our young staff," said Guiliano, who pointed out that Somsen will join the staff this fall after his season with the Pensacola Blue Wahoos ends. "I am very excited for our program to have these two talented individuals leading our pitching staff," said Guiliano.

As for Somsen and Fischer, who is already transitioning to pitching duties, baseball is in their blood and both relish this opportunity with the Cougars program.

"I have always enjoyed the game of baseball and coaching will allow me to stay active in the game during my offseason and after my career is over," said Somsen, who is pitching with Pensacola, the Reds' AA affiliate in the Southern League. "I've learned a lot about pitching from several knowledgeable minds and look forward to working with the USF program, which is on the rise. When I worked out with the team this winter, I noticed a good vibe and team chemistry. I look forward to working with Coach Fischer and coach Guiliano, the staff and the team," he said.

Like Somsen, Fischer, will play professional ball this

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## Golf: Parkston Wins WC Invite

**HARTFORD** – On a windy day at Central Valley Golf Course in Hartford, the Parkston Trojans beat the field by 30 strokes to the West Central Girls' Golf Invite on Monday.

Parkston, with a pair of golfers at 82 or better, carded a team score of 363. Vermillion and Dakota Valley tied for second place at 393.

Sydney Bormann (76) and Sydney Weber (82) went 1-2 respectively for the Trojans, while Dakota Valley's Mary High (83), Sioux Falls Christian's Kate Wynja (88) and Harrisburg's Megan Parsons (92) rounded out the top five.

TEAM SCORES: Parkston 363, Vermillion 393, Dakota Valley 393, Canton 407, Elk Point-Jefferson 417, Harrisburg 417

TOP 15: 1. Sydney Bormann, Parkston 76; 2. Sydney Weber, Parkston 82; 3. Mary High, Dakota Valley 83; 4. Kate Wynja, Sioux Falls Christian 88; 5. Megan Parsons, Harrisburg 92; 6. Miranda Stebe, Elk Point-Jefferson 93; 7. Courtney Chrystal, Dakota Valley 93; 8. Kacie Jacobsen, Canton 94; 9. Kayla Stammmer, Vermillion 95; 10. Megan Hinker, Lennox 98; 11. Kaitlyn Greenhoff, Dell Rapids 99; 12. Emily Schmitz, Vermillion 99; 13. Allison Odens, Vermillion 99; 14. Alexa From, West Central 100; 15. Audrey Miller, Vermillion 100



P&D FILE PHOTO  
Mount Marty College senior Abbey VanDenBerg, shown here during a meet last year, broke her own school record (38 feet, 4 1/2 inches) in the triple jump last Friday at the Sioux City Relays.

## Baseball: MMC, Hastings Split

**HASTINGS, Neb.** – The Mount Marty College baseball team picked up a doubleheader split with Hastings in Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) action Monday in Hastings.

The Lancers, behind a solid pitching performance from A.J. Griffith, won game one 3-0. The hometown Broncos rebounded to win game two 9-2.

In the opener, Griffith pitched an 8-hit shutout with five strikeouts for the Lancers, who scored one run in the top of the first inning and two more runs in the second inning. Reed Stone had two hits to lead Hast-

ings. In the second game, the Broncos used a 7-run bottom of the fifth inning to take command. The Lancers scored single runs in the eighth and ninth to make things interesting. William Reynolds pitched into the eighth inning for Hastings, which got three hits apiece from Micah Lockerby and Grant Kraus.

Mount Marty, now 27-17 overall and 8-6 in the GPAC, stays in Nebraska for a doubleheader today (Tuesday) at Nebraska Wesleyan in Lincoln.

# One Last Shot For MMC Star

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Mount Marty's Abbey VanDenBerg sees her senior track and field season as her "last chance." And it is one she's not about to let get away.

VanDenBerg moved into first in the Great Plains Athletic Conference and eighth in the NAIA with her school-record mark of 38-4 1/2 in the triple jump at the Sioux City Relays on Friday.

"She's jumping better than ever," said MMC head track and field coach Randy Fischer. "She's starting to peak in her senior season. She is determined to finish strong."

That determination has her trying different things in order to improve, with positive results.

"I'm working out two, three times a day," she said. "I'm running with the distance runners, running with the sprinters."

The result has been the ability to finish meets. "I feel stronger when I get to meets. I can get through my three prelim jumps and still feel like I have something left for finals," she said. "In past years, I had three good jumps in me, and then my legs were burnt out."

When VanDenBerg popped her first career 38-foot mark she wasn't completely convinced that she'd hit it.

"The coaches said that I looked disappointed. I felt pretty good down the runway, but I came out of the sand thinking it didn't feel like a strong jump," she joked. "Apparently I was wrong."

While VanDenBerg broke her own school record on Friday, she just missed going even further, scratching on a couple of attempts that might have been even better. She's hoping she can do just that this Wednesday, when MMC hosts its annual Twilight meet.

"I love to compete at home. I love that the students and staff come out to watch," she said. "Being at home pushes you to do well. We will all be pushing ourselves to be our best this week."

Besides the internal

**"She's starting to peak in her senior season. She is determined to finish strong."**

COACH RANDY FISCHER

push of competing at home, MMC should also have good competition for the meet. Several GPAC teams will be on hand, as well as athletes from regional NCAA Division I and II programs. As many as 15 programs could have athletes in Yankton on Wednesday.

Competition at Williams Field begins with the hammer throw at noon. The rest of the competition gets underway around 4 p.m.

"It seems to get bigger every year. There might even be a team from Wyoming coming out with some distance runners because they know it's a fast track," Fischer said of the meet. "It's kind of a Drake (Relays) for athletes that are not going to Drake."

As the only home meet for MMC during the season, the meet has become important, not just as one of the last remaining chances to qualify for the GPAC meet but as a showcase for an improving Lancer program.

"It's a good showcase for our athletes and our community," Fischer said. "Williams Field is a great complex."

With her spot in a fourth consecutive NAIA Outdoor Championships, May 21-23 in Gulf Shores, Alabama, assured with Friday's performance, VanDenBerg now turns her attentions to the last two items on her check list before she hangs up her spikes.

"I'm trying to get to my goal of a conference championship. I had never felt like that was realistic before this season," she said. "My other goal is to get my first-ever outdoor nationals All-American honor. This will be my fourth national meet, but I kept missing in previous tries."

"That is what I'm going for."

Follow @JCimburek on Twitter.

## 2 Years After Bombings, Festive Boston Marathon

BY PHILIP MARCELO AND JENNIFER MCDERMOTT  
Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — The weather was cold and damp but the atmosphere festive at Monday's running of the Boston Marathon, two years after pressure-cooker bombs exploded at the finish line and shattered one of sports' most cherished events.

All along the 26.2-mile course, spectators banged cowbells and blew air horns as they braved unseasonably chilly

weather and light rain in thick layers and ponchos.

Near the Boylston Street finish line, crowds at times four to five people deep roared each time an athlete approached, shouting words of encouragement.

"It's so great to see everyone cheering and being happy," said Jennifer Sunkin, a New York native watching from the comfort of a balcony overlooking the race's final stretch. "Life goes on. It's so inspiring to see and to realize how strong we are."

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