



P&D FILE PHOTO

South Dakota's Nicole Seekamp drives past a South Dakota State player during the Summit League Tournament championship game in March. Seekamp was granted a fourth season of eligibility on Monday. She will have to sit out the first two games of the 2015-16 season.

Seekamp: 'It Was A Relief'

USD Star Granted Extra Year Of Eligibility

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION – As it turns out, Nicole Seekamp's college career wasn't done March 22 in Greeley, Colorado.

It was that night when the University of South Dakota women's basketball standout hit a shot at the buzzer against Northern Colorado in the WNIT that was ultimately ruled to be a two-pointer, not a three-pointer.

Game over. The Coyotes lost by one point. The final game in Seekamp's USD career, right?

Wrong. Thirty days later, on Monday afternoon, she was informed that the NCAA had granted her a fourth season of eligibility, ensuring that she would be back – minus two games – for the 2015-16 season.

"It was a relief," Seekamp said Tuesday morning. "Like, 'Yes, I'm not done here!'"

"That last game in the Dome, it didn't really feel like the last game. It's exciting that I can play in the Dome again."

A native of Australia, the two-time Summit League tournament MVP returns to a Coyote team coming off a 26-win season that for the third straight year featured a run to the league championship game.

Seekamp averaged a team-best 15.6 points and 5.1 assists per game last season, to go along with 3.6 rebounds. She again picked up her production in the Summit League tournament, scoring 25, 23 and 21 points as the Coyotes lost in the final to South Dakota State.

It was two weeks later, after two games in the WNIT, when Seekamp said she began having serious thoughts that she could maybe come back the following season – provided that another attempt at an NCAA waiver would be successful.

"We've done it a couple times, but they (NCAA) didn't think I had a good

enough argument," Seekamp said. "We worked hard this time. I was pretty confident, but you never know with the NCAA."

Seekamp worked with Jamie Oyen and Drew DeGroot in the USD Compliance department to gather the necessary documents, many involving her (brief) amateur career in Australia. Seekamp also submitted a personal statement, as did one of her former coaches in Australia. The entire waiver was then sent to the NCAA Legislative Release Committee on April 4 for review.

"They probably have so many cases like that, they could just throw it away," Seekamp said. "I talked to one of my friends who went through this, and she was declined before."

"I had faith, though."

When the good news arrived Monday afternoon, the only caveat provided in the NCAA decision was that Seekamp sit out the first two games of the 2015-16 season. That was what the NCAA deemed she had played in amateur competition after her high school graduation in Australia.

"I thought, 'Really? The first two games?' she said. "At the end of the season, it doesn't mean much. It's nothing in the scheme of things. Especially with the team we're going to have."

Seekamp's return now gives the Coyotes three starters back for next season, with seniors-to-be Tia Hemiller and Margaret McCloud. The program will also see redshirts Caitlin Duffy and Abigail Fogg become eligible, and will welcome highly-touted freshman Allison Arens, Jaycee Bradley, Megan Bonar and Madeline Homoly.

"I've played pickup with Allison and Jaycee, and in practice with Duffy and Fogg, so I'm looking forward to it," Seekamp said. "I'm excited for the fall."

Once the Coyotes begin

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Sweep Pushes MMC Baseball Into Second

LINCOLN, Neb. – The Mount Marty College baseball team scored a double-header sweep of Nebraska Wesleyan in Great Plains Athletic Conference baseball action on Tuesday at NWU Field in Lincoln.

The victories pushed the Lancers to 29-17 overall and 10-6 in the GPAC, ranking MMC in second place in the league standings with four games to play.

In the opener, Bryton Carlson's two-run home run in the eighth gave the Lancers a 5-3 victory.

Carlson finished with two hits and three RBI, and Derrik Nelson had two hits, including a RBI double, to lead MMC. Ryan Buck also had two hits. Zac Hollenback, Derek Blumenstock, Collin Peterson and Nick Sehr added hits in the victory.

Jordan Watteyne went 3-4 with a double to lead Nebraska Wesleyan. Joe Babic added two hits.

Carlson also picked up the win, pitching three innings of shutout relief. Matt Schommer took the loss.

In the nightcap, Dustin Haffeman tossed a complete game shutout, striking out five, as MMC won 7-0.

Buck went 3-4 with two RBI and Sehr went 2-2 to lead MMC. Nelson had a double and two RBI. Carlson and Cody Ulmer added hits in the victory.

Sam Ayars had two hits for NWU. Nolan Lott took the loss.

MMC plays its final two regular season home games on Thursday, hosting first place Briar Cliff. Start time for the doubleheader is set for 3 p.m.

Club High School

Yankton 10, O'Gorman 5

SIOUX FALLS — The Yankton Bucks doubled up Sioux Falls O'Gorman 10-5 in club high school baseball action on Tuesday.

Sheldon Gant had two doubles and Jordan Kathol had two singles to lead Yankton. Brad Ulmer and Mason Townsend also doubled for the Bucks.

Colin Muth pitched six innings, striking out six, for the victory. Hunter Cameron pitched the seventh.

Yankton, 5-5, hosts Sioux Falls Roosevelt on Friday.

O'Gorman topped the Bucks 8-7 in a time-shortened JV game. The junior

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New Home For The Raiders



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

A number of volunteers serve as timers during Tuesday's Tri-State Invite track meet in Gayville. It was the first high school meet at the new Gayville-Volin track complex.

GVHS Celebrates New Track

Complex Hosted First Varsity Meet On Tuesday

BY JEREMY HOECK
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GAYVILLE – Laura Nelson and her teammates were used to the same routine for a high school track meet: Hop on a bus, travel to some random town, climb off the bus, compete, travel home.

It was always the same cycle. Until Tuesday.

A day after hosting a junior high meet, Gayville-Volin officially took the track for its first-ever home varsity meet Tuesday when the Raiders hosted the Tri-State Invite.

"It's definitely a new experience," said Nelson, a sophomore standout for the girls' squad.

"We've never had a meet where we just walk out of the school and we're right there. It's awesome."

It was a 4-year process of fundraising and construction for those involved in the Gayville-Volin track project, which cost approximately \$350,000. The motto all along, according to those involved, was "If we build it, they will run."

The committee put together several fundraisers over the past four years, and in 2013, a Facebook campaign helped net the Gayville-Volin project \$25,000 from a State Farm Neighborhood Assist program.

"It's pretty special," said Jason Selchert, the Gayville-Volin superintendent who also served as a meet starter Tuesday. "It's been a long time coming for a lot of people that put a lot of work into this."

The result was an all-weather, 8-lane, 400-meter track, as well as space for jumps and pole vault.

"It's awesome, the community came together, and it's now real," Nelson said. "It's not like we got a track, we got a quality one."

Brandon Van Osdel, a staple of the Gayville-Volin boys' relays, pointed out that it wasn't that long ago he and his teammates were marking their relay zones with chalk on pavement outside of the school.

"It's definitely unbelievable," said Van Osdel, a senior. "We've been lucky to have an actual track to practice relays on."

Having been out on the track nearly every day for practice this season, Van Osdel said he felt confident in saying that the new surface runs faster.

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Gayville-Volin's Kelia Barta races out of the blocks at the start of the girls' 800-meter relay at Tuesday's Tri-State Invite in Gayville.

YHS Wins 15 Events At Home Opener

The Yankton track and field team earned nine boys' titles and six girls' titles at a five-team meet at Williams Field on Tuesday. The event marked the home opener for the Bucks and Gazelles.

The Yankton boys won three relays – 400 (45.3), 800 (1:34.1) and 1600 (3:33.0) – and had four different individuals earned field event titles. The Bucks also placed third in the 3200 relay (9:05.6) and the medley (4:06.2).

On the track, the Bucks were led by the hurdle sweep of Charlie Stephenson, who clocked 15.5 in the 110-meter and 42.2 in the 300-meter event.

Nick Raab won the discus (144-5) and finished second to teammate Evan Greenway (46-2) in the shot put with a toss of 45-6. Jordan Payer was fifth in the discus (126-3) and shot put (42-6.5). Greenway was sixth in the discus (125-0).

Lee Rose on the long jump with a mark of 22-4, with Chris Kinsley placing fifth. Kinsley was also second to teammate Kenneth Schroeder (39-9.5) in the triple jump with a mark of 39-3.5, as well as sixth in the high jump (5-



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Ryan Sternhagen takes the baton from teammate Charlie Stephenson before anchoring the Bucks to victory in the 800-meter relay at Yankton's home five-team track and field meet on Tuesday at Williams Field.

8). Yankton's Coleton James was sixth in the triple jump (36-5).

In the pole vault, Colby Benson was third and Black Schwack fifth, each clearing 10 feet. Also for Yankton, Tim Cross was fifth in the 300 hur-

dles (46.0), Sam Gusso was sixth in the 3200 (10:58.8) and Mason Strahl was sixth in the 200 (23.2).

Other boys' double-winners included Washington's Ethan McKinney in the 100

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