

New Faces Emerge At USD Spring Game

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VERMILLION – Many of the top playmakers were in street clothes. The starting quarterback wasn't in the building. A former linebacker was carrying the ball out of the backfield. And a tight end came in for a series at offensive guard.

That was the kind of patchwork effort needed, because of injuries, for Saturday's University of South Dakota spring football game at the DakotaDome.

Given the opportunities for increased action throughout 15 spring practices because of injuries, guys like Nick Jensen – an offensive lineman from Vermillion – saw extended time and set themselves up for extended action in the fall.

"Obviously being down on numbers, we couldn't do what we usually do," said Jensen, a 6-foot-5, 290-pound redshirt freshman lineman.

"But it was still a good chance to have more of a live scrimmage."

For the record, the Coyote de-

fense bested the offense thanks to four interceptions, three 3-and-outs, and a goal-line stand, but the bigger story centered on two related issues: Injuries and the opportunities for new faces to showcase themselves.

"We have a lot of guys who were injured, but I took this opportunity to learn the playbook more and get in and know what's going on," Jensen said.

"So that if I do come in in the fall, it's not too much of a dear in the headlights thing."

Junior Ryan Saeger, who started four games last season, saw all the first-team reps at quarterback this spring in place of senior Kevin Earl who remains back home in Illinois healing from a lower back injury.

The Coyote offense was also without its top two running backs, as junior Trevor Bouma and sophomore Khorey Kilgore were held out with injuries. That forced USD to move Anthony Vigneri – listed as a linebacker last season – and Cole Lindhout, a wide receiver, as well as Clay Fisher to running back.

With such a limited stable of options, the run game was understandably limited: The Coyotes rushed for 46 yards on 15 carries, with 14 of those yards coming from Saeger. Through the air, Saeger was 9-of-17 for 89 yards and two interceptions – one was deflected and caught at the line, and the second was certainly catchable by a receiver in the end zone.

"When we had the right guys in there, we did some good things on offense," head coach Joe Glenn said. "Defensively, we made some plays. We stopped the run better than we did last year."

"It's just really hard because we're a little disconnected with the running game right now."

The same was true on the offensive line.

Down to only 5-6 available lineman for Saturday's spring game, the Coyotes saw sophomore Stetson Dagle leave with an injury, and then moved freshman tight end Josh Hale to guard for the final drive.



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
South Dakota wide receiver Paul Anderson, right, tries to haul in a pass while Adam Harris defends during Saturday's spring game at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

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Riverrat Marathon

Uecker, Willenborg Win

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Saturday morning, while many in Yankton were sound asleep, a number of people were gathered at Riverside Park in anticipation for the start of the sixth annual Riverrat Marathon. This race attracts people from surrounding areas and beyond.

Bruce Schild, the acting president of the Riverrat Marathon Committee, said that he could not have been more proud of how this event turned out.

"This year the organization on things like the mile-maker signs and the volunteers went really well," said Schild.

The event marathon, half-marathon, 5k run and 22.5-mile cycling races.

This year, 53-year-old Gregg Uecker of Freeman, South Dakota won the men's marathon in 3:12:18.8. This was Uecker's 27th marathon but the first time he has done a whole marathon at the River Rat event.

"I've never done the full but I've done the half a few times, it's a nice course and it's close by," said Uecker.

Finishing in second in the men's division was Chris Riley (3:18:38.6), a graduate of Mount Marty College. Like Uecker, this was his first time competing in the full marathon.

"I've ran in the half for the last four years," Riley said. "It's a fun and mellow environment with a great atmosphere."

Riley, who student-taught in Uecker's home town, and Uecker know each other and were friendly towards each other after the race.



Gregg Uecker, left, of Freeman was the men's champion and Katie Willenborg, right, of Waterloo, Iowa, won the women's marathon title at the Riverrat Marathon on Saturday in Yankton. There were 40 finishers (28 male, 12 female) in the full marathon, as well as three relay teams that finished the full marathon, 125 finishers in the half-marathon, 82 finishers in the 5K, 18 finishers in the 22.5-mile bike challenge and several youngsters who competed in the untimed kids run.

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

MMC Swept At DWU, Draw Fifth Seed In GPAC Tourney

MITCHELL – Dakota Wesleyan spoiled Mount Marty's bid to host the opening portion of the Great Plains Athletic Conference baseball tournament and got themselves into the post-season event in the process, sweeping the Lancers 2-1 and 3-0 in GPAC action on Saturday at Cadwell Park.

In the opener, DWU took advantage of three MMC errors to claim victory.

Tyler Johnson doubled for DWU, which was outthit 6-3 in the contest.

For MMC, Derrik Nelson and Mitchell native Ryan Buck each doubled to lead the way. Derek Blumenstock, Collin Peterson, Hunter Hallock and Cody Ulmer added hits.

Patrick Whetham picked up the win, with Will Lutjen earning the save. A.J. Griffith took the hard-luck loss, striking out seven in six innings of work.

In the nightcap, DWU's Dustin Steckler tossed a complete game one-hitter, striking out eight, to give the Tigers the victory.

Tyler Waddle doubled and singled for DWU, which finished with seven hits. Julian Cutolo had the lone Lancer hit.

Brandon Nickolite took the loss, allowing two earned runs in the complete game effort.

Both teams advance to the GPAC Tournament, which begins on Thursday.

In Sioux City, Iowa, Mount Marty (30-20) will face Northwestern (23-26) at noon, followed by top-seeded Briar Cliff (28-20-1) against Midland (25-30) at 3 p.m.

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Track & Field: USD Runners Earn Top-10 Marks At Drake

DES MOINES, Iowa—South Dakota track and field teams concluded the final day of the 106th annual Drake Relays on Saturday with two top-10 finishes.

Taking fifth in the 1,500-meter run, senior Taylor Chapman led the Coyotes as he crossed the finish line in 3 minutes, 50.06 seconds.

Junior Katie Wetzstein placed ninth in the 1,500 meters with a time of 4:28.74.

The South Dakota women's sprint medley placed 11th. Freshman Brooke Ireland and junior Analisa Huschle each ran 200 meters before handing off to senior Amber Watson for the 400 meter leg. Sophomore Nicole Schmidt brought the Coyotes home in the 800 meter leg, crossing the finish line in 3:57.87.

Coyote pole vaulters sophomore Emily Brigham and junior Hunter Wilkes finished in 11th and 15th, respectively. Brigham made it over 13-3 1/2 and Wilkes cleared 12-9 1/2.

In the discus ring, senior Cody Snyder tossed 160-7 on his first throw but fouled on his to remaining attempts to finish in 15th place. Sophomore Dustin Valind threw the disc 141-6 for 24th.

Sophomore Ashley Thompson finished 21st in the triple jump with a mark of 38-3 1/4.

South Dakota boasted a successful weekend at the Drake Relays with new school records in the 4x200-meter and 4x1,600-meter relays, while adding a Drake Relays

champion in junior Kelsey Barrett for the 10,000-meter run.

The Coyotes return to South Dakota next weekend for the Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls.

High School Wausa Inv.

PIERCE, Neb. – The Wausa boys and Hartington-Newcastle girls, each bolstered by a four-event winner, claimed top honors in the Wausa Invitational, held on Saturday in Pierce, Nebraska.

Wausa's Austin Hegge continued his strong spring, winning the 100 (11.1), 400 (52.4), long jump (20-3.5) and triple jump (40-8.5), helping the Vikings to a 144-135 victory over Osmond. The Vikings also got a victory in the 3200, with Jordan Burns, Gaige Hegge, John Rosberg and Nick Story clocking a 9:01.1.

Hartington-Newcastle was third with 116 points. The Wildcats' Griffon Kalin won the 300 hurdles in 41.6. Hartington-Newcastle also won the 400 (46.4) and 1600 (3:46.8) relays (no names submitted).

Osmond's Cameron Moes swept the distance events, clocking a 2:08.4 in the 800, a 4:46.7 in the 1600 and a 10:15.4 in the 3200. Osmond's Cole Kralicek won the discus (128-2) and shot put (45-6). Wakefield's Dylan Hurlbert

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WIU Cools Off South Dakota

Softball: MMC Splits At Hastings; YGSA Hosts ESD Weekend

MACOMB, Ill. — Western Illinois took advantage of three consecutive South Dakota miscues during a five-run third inning and held on to beat South Dakota 6-3 Sunday in the final game of a three-game Summit League series at McKee Stadium.

Leatherneck pitcher Kayla Kirkpatrick (5-8) allowed three runs on eight hits in her complete-game effort. She walked two and struck out one.

Leadoff hitter Sammy Marshall had three of Western Illinois' six hits. She stole two bases and scored two runs.

South Dakota (19-23-1, 10-4 Summit) lost in Summit play for the first time in eight games and saw its title hopes fade. The Coyotes enter the final week 2.5 games behind North Dakota State and one game ahead of IUPUI in the Summit League standings. NDSU and IUPUI square off next weekend in Fargo while South Dakota hosts South Dakota State.

South Dakota had at least one runner on in each of the last four innings, but generated one run off Kirkpatrick. Taylor Steinfeldt's RBI double in the sixth inning scored Katie Cochran for the final

run of the day. Kirkpatrick worked through the heart of South Dakota's order in the seventh to earn the win.

USD 7-4, WESTERN ILLINOIS 4-3; MACOMB, Ill.

—South Dakota senior center fielder Katie Dinning hit a home run with two outs in the top of the seventh inning to break a 3-3 tie in game two and help the Coyotes complete a doubleheader sweep of Western Illinois Saturday at McKee Stadium. Scores went 7-4 and 4-3.

Yvon Minogue and Allie Day both drove in a pair of runs in the opener. South Dakota scored four runs in the third inning to take a 4-1 lead and added three more in the sixth to make it 7-2. Morgan Hancock was 3-for-4 in game one and crossed home twice for the Coyotes. Minogue was 2-for-4.

Madison Frain (10-9) pitched into the seventh inning to pick up her 10th win of the season. Rachel Cue got the final two outs to earn a save.

The top four batters in South Dakota's lineup combined to go 8-for-18 with three RBIs and scored all four runs in game two. Jones was 2-for-4 and extended her hitting streak to 12 games. She's also reached base safely in 27 consecutive games. Dinning and Daly both have 10-game hitting streaks.

Mount Marty 16-1, Hastings 11-16

HASTINGS, Neb. – The Mount Marty College softball team closed its Great

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton Fury Xtreme pitcher Hanna Cummins sends the ball home during the squad's matchup with the Norfolk Impact on Sunday in the ESD Weekend softball event at Sertoma Park. The teams played to a 4-4 tie.