

Jamaican Connections Paying Off For USD



P&D FILE PHOTO

Shanice Cannigan is one of three current University of South Dakota track and field athletes who is a native of Jamaica.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION – What foot-ball is to the United States and ice hockey is to Canada, track – specifically sprints – is to Jamaica.

The University of South Dakota track program is learning that first-hand.

“Track is probably the number one sport in Jamaica right now,” said junior Teivaskie Lewin, a native of Montego Bay.

And so far, Lewin, along with Gawain Williams and Shanice Cannigan haven’t just provided the Coyote men’s and women’s teams with a new perspective on the sport, they’ve become instant Summit League title contenders.

They’re not the first Jamaicans to compete for USD

and probably won’t be the last, and it’s all thanks to a former Coyote athlete.

Hamid Woodham, who ran for the Coyotes back in the late 1980s and is now an optometrist in his native Jamaica, has been a kind of intermediary – helping introduce athletes to certain programs, and vice versa.

“Part of his commitment to track is that he likes to help kids get placed,” said Dave Gottsleben, USD’s head men’s coach.

Woodham’s influence on the high school scene has been beneficial for USD, which wouldn’t otherwise get an opportunity to see – and recruit – Jamaican athletes in person.

“You really need that,” Gottsleben said. “You can’t just go off of marks, you have

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P&D FILE PHOTO

Teivaskie Lewin is one of three current University of South Dakota track and field athletes who is a native of Jamaica. He is redshirting for the spring 2015 season.

Baseball | GPAC Tournament

MMC Ready For Post-Season

Lancers Face Northwestern Today At Noon In Sioux City

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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A.J. Griffith – and several other members of the Mount Marty College baseball team – want to “keep being a kid” for a few more weeks.

For that to happen the Lancers will have to make a strong post-season run, beginning with the 2015 Great Plains Athletic Conference Tournament, which begins today (Thursday) in Sioux City, Iowa, and Crete, Nebraska.

The Lancers (30-20) tied for third in the tightest GPAC race in recent memory. Only five games separate top-seeded Briar Cliff and eighth-seeded Midland, and only seven games stood between the regular season champion Chargers and last place Dordt and Nebraska Wesleyan.

“Going into the final week, every team was in play for a conference (tournament) spot, and five were in play for the title,” said MMC head coach Andy Bernatow. “It was definitely another crazy year in the GPAC.”

MMC finished 11-9 in the GPAC, tying with Morningside and Northwestern three games behind Briar Cliff. The Lancers played a school-record 30 games at home, thanks in large part to the recently-installed turf at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

“I like the way our season went. I thought our kids played hard,” Bernatow said. MMC’s 30 victories was the most since winning 39 in 2010, the season the Lancers won the GPAC regular season title. “We had a 30-win season and were pretty competitive in the conference. Going into

the last weekend, we still had an opportunity to win the regular season championship.

“That speaks volumes.”

The season has been extra-special for Griffith, who saw his 2014 season cut short due to injury, but was granted a medical hardship waiver that gave him one more season of college baseball.

“It’s been a really nice opportunity that I never thought would come about,” he said. “It’s been surreal, being able to play one more season. I get to keep being a kid, putting off the real world.”

MMC led the GPAC in team earned run average during conference play, posting a 3.35 team ERA in 20 league games. Griffith (6-2, 2.50 ERA, 39 K in 50 1/3 IP) and Brandon Nickolite (4-4, 5.16 ERA, 25 K in 52 1/3 IP), and sophomores Dustin Haffeman (4-3, 3.07 ERA, 23 K in 44 IP) and Alex Mogensen (3-3, 2.68 ERA, 27 K in 47 IP) have held down the conference starting spots. Senior Bryton Carlson (2-0, 4 saves, 2.61 ERA, 13 K in 20 2/3 IP) and junior Josh Teichroew (3-3, 4 saves, 3.82 ERA), have anchored the bullpen.

“We were fortunate that we essentially had 75 percent of our innings back from a year ago. Our pitching, at times, has carried us,” Bernatow said. “We had four guys back with conference starting experience, and we got things figured out in our bullpen.”

Of the players in the regular lineup, all but two are juniors or seniors. Freshman

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P&D FILE PHOTO

Mount Marty senior pitcher A.J. Griffith sends the ball home during a home game earlier this season. Griffith and the Lancers begin play in the Great Plains Athletic Conference Baseball Tournament today (Thursday) in Sioux City Iowa. The Lancers, 30-20 on the season, open against Northwestern at noon.

A Look At The Eight Tourney Qualifiers

Briar Cliff Bracket

No. 1 Briar Cliff

RECORD: 28-20-1, 14-6

GPAC

VS. BRACKET: 5-1 (vs. Midland – W 5-4, W 4-2; vs. Northwestern W 19-10, W 10-2; vs. Mount Maarty W 4-1, L 5-15)

RETURNING ALL-GPAC: Brandon Amenta (HM as 2B, .338, 1 HR, 26 RBI); Adam Alexander (HM as RP; 6-2, 3.46 ERA, 38 K in 54 2/3 IP); Jake Erichsen (HM as 1B; .232, 6 HR, 33 RBI)

OTHER OFFENSIVE LEADERS: Scott Morton (.376, 8 HR, 19 doubles, 49 RBI); Darrell Wilson (.338, 1 HR, 34 RBI); Chase Hernandez (.331, 3 HR, 32 RBI)

OTHER PITCHING LEADERS: Jeraldo Montejano (2-0, 10 saves, 1.29 ERA, 16 K in 21 IP); Dylan Hannah (4-0, 4.83 ERA, 23 K in 41 IP); Dylan Romo (6-1, 5.29 ERA, 32 K in 51 IP)

No. 4 Northwestern

RECORD: 23-26, 11-9 GPAC

VS. BRACKET: 2-4 (vs. Mount Marty L 2-9, W 13-7; vs. Briar Cliff L 10-19, L 2-10; vs. Midland W 9-4, L 1-15)

RETURNING ALL-GPAC: Skyler Wheeler (2nd team as 1B; .387, 6 HR, 13 doubles, 44 RBI); Tony Schultz (2nd team as C; .183, 7 RBI); Isaac Horigan (2nd team as P, 1-4, 6.03 ERA, 30 K in 34 1/3 IP)

OTHER OFFENSIVE LEADERS: Grant Lang (.375, 9 doubles, 30 RBI); Mitch Pe-

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Lightning Clip Wings To Advance In Playoffs

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Braydon Coburn broke a scoreless tie early in the third period and Ben Bishop made 31 saves to help the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Detroit Red Wings 2-0 on Wednesday night in Game 7 of the first-round series.

Ryan Callahan set up Coburn’s third goal in 79 career postseason games with a pass through the slot to the top of the right circle, where the Tampa Bay defenseman sent a shot over goalie Petr Mrazek’s right shoulder.

Anton Stralman added an empty-net goal with 1:18 remaining, ensuring the Lightning would win their first Game 7 at home since they beat Calgary in the 2004 Stanley Cup Final.

Tampa Bay, which rallied from a 3-2 series deficit, advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals against Montreal. The Canadiens host Game 1 on Friday night.

The Red Wings outshot the Lightning 31-17, but Bishop wasn’t tested a lot in posting his first career playoff shutout. Coburn was obtained from Philadelphia in a trade March 2 and had one goal in 43 games for Tampa Bay during the regular season.

Tyler Johnson’s third two-goal game of the series helped the Lightning even the series with a 5-2 victory in Detroit on Monday night. With Red Wings defenseman Niklas Kronwall suspended for Game 7 for a hit on Nikita Kucherov, the Lightning felt good heading back to Amalie Arena, where they posted the NHL’s best home record this season.

But after winning the series opener, as well as shutting out the Lightning in Game 5, on the road, Detroit liked its chances of advancing, too.

The Red Wings outshot the Lightning 14-7 in the first period, but had few real scoring opportunities early against Bishop.

They didn’t generate much more in the second period, although there was an anxious moment for the sellout crowd of 19,204 when Drew Miller’s chip got behind Bishop when the goaltender left the net to cut off the forward on a breakaway. The puck trickled left past the unprotected net, and Detroit wasted another chance to break the scoreless tie when Tomas Tatar was unable to control a pass from Darren Helm and get off a shot in front of the Tampa goal.

Summit’s Chamley Signs With Mount Marty Women

Karissa Chamley, a two-time third team all-state selection for Summit, will attend Mount Marty College and play women’s basketball for the Lancers, the institution announced on Wednesday.



Chamley

Chamley, a 5-9 guard/forward, played through injury as a senior, but still averaged 10.5 points per game to help the Eagles to fourth in the South Dakota State Class B Tournament. She averaged 18.1 points and 7.3 rebounds per game as a junior. A four-year contributor who scored over

1,000 points in her career, Chamley was part of the Eagles’ 2012 state championship team along with current Lancer Alex Kneeland.

“Karissa is a great addition to both our women’s basketball program and the MMC campus,” said MMC women’s basketball coach Tom Schliming. “Her desire and love of the game are great traits that make her somebody that coaches love to have on their team. The fact that she comes from a very strong high school program and is a great student is added benefits.

“We look forward to working with Karissa during her time at Mount Marty.”

Chamley, the daughter of Colin and Brenda Chamley, plans to major in nursing at MMC. She will receive an Academic Honor Scholarship in addition to her basketball award.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Wagner-Avon-Lake Andes catcher Hunter Hewitt, right, reaches to tag out Bon Homme-Scotland’s Cole Uecker as Uecker tried to score on a hit to left field during their club high school baseball game on Wednesday in Tabor.

Bon Homme-Scotland Edges WALA

TABOR — Carter Mecham’s RBI single in the bottom of the seventh lifted Bon Homme-Scotland to a 4-3 victory over Wagner-Avon-Lake Andes in club high school baseball action on Wednesday.

WALA jumped out to an early 2-0 lead, but Bon Homme-Scotland tied the game with three runs in the third. After WALA tied the game in the fifth, the teams played to a draw until Cole Uecker scored on Mecham’s game-winner.

Mecham finished with two hits and two RBI for Bon Homme-Scotland. Uecker,

Mace Merkwan and Cole Goehring also had hits.

For WALA, Logan Mudder had a hit and two runs scored.

Uecker pitched a perfect seventh in relief of Chase Kortan to pick up the win. Kortan struck out 10 in six innings of work. Drue Soukup took the loss in relief of Derek Soukup, who also struck out 10 in six innings of work.

Bon Homme-Scotland, 6-0, travels to Vermillion May 8.

Bon Homme-Scotland won the JV game 7-0 as Merkwan, Christian Uecker and Bryce Scieszinski combined on a five-inning no-hitter.

9/10: S.F. Lincoln

3-12, Yankton 0-4

SIoux FALLS – Sioux Falls Lincoln swept Yankton in freshmen-sophomore baseball action on Tuesday.

In the opener, a 3-0 decision, Jack Schoenfelder singled to lead Yankton. Jakob Larson took the loss for the Bucks.

In the nightcap, a 12-4 decision, Schoenfelder, Nate Eichacker and Ben Wold each had a hit and a run scored to lead Yankton. Carter Peterson and Larson each had hits. Tanner Fitzgerald added a run. Miles Carda took the loss.

Yankton, 2-8, hosts Harrisburg on Tuesday. The doubleheader will begin at 5 p.m.