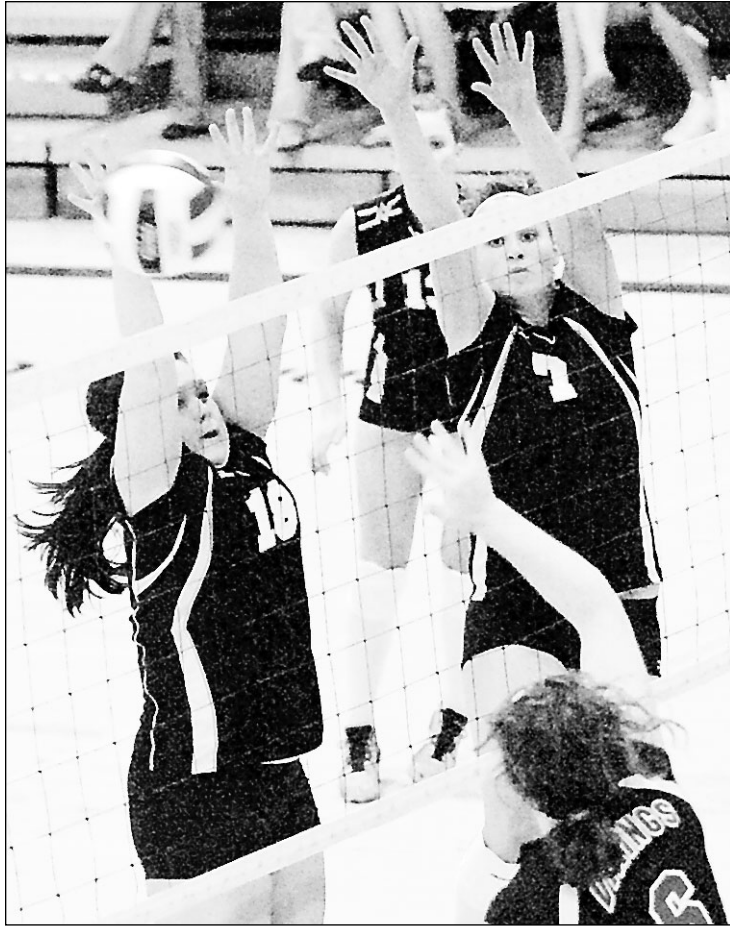


# Lancers Ready To Make Waves In First Year Under Climer



LANCERS: Maggie Goree (18), Krista Hohn (7)

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Coming off a 4-27 season — winless in the Great Plains Athletic Conference — the Mount Marty College volleyball team received little attention in the 2010 preseason poll.

But first-year head coach Candice Climer is hoping to show the league a much-improved team that is ready to make waves in the league.

The Lancers return three of their top four offensive weapons and a host of younger talent for Climer, who served as a Lancer assistant before spending the past couple years as a head coach at the high school level. What she has seen in practice early on has her excited for the season.

"They are working hard. They keep pushing each other," she said. "They are very connected. They give positive encouragement to every player."

"I've never had a group of girls that talks so much."

The leadership begins with a trio of seniors: Maggie Goree, Krista Hohn and Kayla Ranek. Goree was the team leader in



kills last season with 165, and also ranked third in assists (103). She had 120 digs and 27 blocks (4 solo) defensively.

"She's definitely a person that, if we get her the ball, she can put it down," Climer said of the right side hitter. "She's a great leader, a great motivator."

Hohn returns in the middle after posting 156 kills and 60 blocks (26 solo) in 2009.

"She's a very strong hitter, our go-to in the middle," Climer noted.

Ranek, a Bon Homme grad, will play libero after posting 156 digs last season.

A number of juniors could see increased or different roles this season, partially due to the return of Kerry McDonald, who sat out the 2009 season.

Jen Jerdee (231 assists, 33 ace serves, 130 digs) could see time at defensive specialist with the return of McDonald. Right-side hitter Charlie Lambert (74 kills, 28 blocks) and defensive specialist Kristen Grassa (14 digs) could also see expanded roles.

McDonald will likely return to setter after missing last season due to health issues. She recorded 14 assists, 20 ace serves and 21 digs in 2008.

"She's very aggressive, very smart," Climer noted.

The Lancers will also be bolstered by the addition of Cortney Bullington, who spent last year on the MMC basketball team. The 5-6 junior may see time at defensive specialist.

Sophomore Tina Rowbotham returns as the team's leading setter from a season ago, with 424 assists. She also had 11 service aces and 111 digs.

"She's smart with the ball," Climer noted.

Sophomores Kate Lingscheit (120 kills, 41 blocks) and Amanda Dirksen also look to have expanded roles.

"I'm excited to get Amanda going. If you put a ball on the court, she goes after it," Climer said. "Kate's done a lot of growing, and has a lot of growing to do. I'm excited to see her continue to improve."

A pair of freshman middle blockers could make an immediate impact on the Lancers, Emily Schreur (6-2, Alcester) and Jena Peters (6-1, Lake Park, Iowa).

"When you find a middle Emily's size, you don't normally see ones that can move as quickly as she can. She can get things done. She already gets girls frustrated in practice," Climer said. "Jena is very quiet but does well."

Brianna Wuestewald (5-8, Tea) was a middle in high school, but could make an impact on the outside. Haley Logan (5-10, Gettysburg) is a strong leaper who can make an impact on the outside. Sarah Bruce (5-7, Pierce, Neb.) could contribute defensively.

With just 16 players in camp, each one will be expected to contribute to the team, especially with a hectic season coming up.

"We've got a lot to get through these first couple weeks. After that, it's a crazy schedule," Climer said.

But the first-year coach expects the team to outperform its low preseason ranking, 12th in the 12-team GPAC.

"I told the girls that we have no where to go but up," she said. "We've set goals. Now we're ready to achieve them."

The Lancers open the 2010 campaign Aug. 31 at home against Dakota State.

## Coyotes Positioned For GWC Run

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — Combined with a group of returning runners and a crop of solid recruits, optimism is the word surrounding the University of South Dakota cross country programs.



And now, the Coyotes have eyes on repeat success in the Great West Conference.

The USD women bring back six of their top seven finishers to a team that earned a runner-up finish in the conference meet a year ago, while the USD men return four of seven to a third-place finish.

"With that core back and with our excellent recruiting class, we think we're a better team from top to bottom," said head coach Dan Fitzsimmons, whose squads open their season Sept. 4 at the Creighton/UNO Classic. "We had a young team, so we gained some experience."

"We're still young, but at the same time, we feel like we can run as a closer-knit pack."

On the women's side, USD graduated dual-sport standout Ramsey Fitzsimmons, but bring back Sigornie Pfefferle (So.), Sarah Wickman (Sr.), Carol Miller (So.), who all finished in the top-17 at the Great West meet last fall.

"We look for those three to be our 1-2-3 punch," coach Fitzsimmons said. "From there, it's a matter of who stepped it up over the fall and the freshmen coming in."

The Coyotes also bring back



COYOTES: Sigornie Pfefferle

Coyote women's team will be looking to see who fits in where as the season progresses, according to Fitzsimmons.

"We have the potential to score fewer points at conference, but we just might not have that one person leading the entire field," he said. "One through five, our pack will be pretty tight."

"We think we can be very competitive again."

On the men's side, despite losing three athletes, USD brings back four runners who found success at last fall's conference meet.

Though Fitzsimmons said much of the men's roster is still to be determined as the season nears, the Coyotes will look to Ethan Marquardt (So.) for another strong year.

From there, who fits in where is the question.

"We think our first three runners will be able to run toward the front of most of our competitors," Fitzsimmons said. "It's just a matter of developing the depth."

A pair of transfers who were at USD last year will be in the mix this season, including Eddie Niyonzigye (Jr.) from Iowa Central and Mike Schrum (Jr.) from the University of Sioux Falls.

The recruiting class for the men's team includes four former Yankton Bucks, including Travis Brenner, Jeff Grossenburg, Alex Hohenthaner and Mitch Yaggie. It still hasn't been determined whether they'll run cross country this fall.

"Overall, we feel like we've got some definite talent," Fitzsimmons said.

That talent will be put to the

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## Lancer XC Program Looking To Improve

BY CLAY STODDARD  
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LANCERS: Titus Kosgei

The 2009 Mount Marty men's and women's cross country teams finished with fairly similar results.



The men's team finished in 11th place in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) meet, while the women's team came up with a ninth-place finish.

The Lancers are looking to improve the standings for both the men's and women's teams. Randy Fischer, who is begin-

ning his fourth year as head coach, is optimistic about the teams' chances this year.

"Both the men's and women's teams are better and stronger than they were last year," Fischer said.

When coach Fischer joined the program the numbers of both squads were quite low, in fact the men's team didn't have a single runner.

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## USD VB

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and we have been pushing hard right away because we have a tough season ahead, so we have to be ready," Fields added.

Despite having a young team, the team still expects to compete for the GWC title.

"Being a senior definitely makes me want it more," Krittenbrink said. "As a senior, it's a bigger focus to have a better season, and I am confident we can do it."

Houk added that the expectations are still there to put together a quality season.

"The expectations are high and

we expect to do well," he said. "The players that were here in the spring are committed, and I think we have one of the most athletic teams every to be here at USD. We now have to give ourselves the opportunity to be successful."

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