

Coyotes Look To Finish Better In 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was originally published in our Aug. 18 edition.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — With an eye on finishing everything they do, the University of South Dakota football players concluded the team's annual media day press conference earlier this month by singing the school song.

Sounds like these guys are serious.

After a disappointing 2010 season that included five losses in which the Coyotes had second-half leads, USD returns 19 of 22 starters in attempt to right the ship for 2011.

"It's been our motto all through fall camp; finishing everything you do," said senior linebacker Shea Williams, a second team All-Great West Conference selection last season. "It doesn't matter if it's on the field, in class or in the weight room, everything we do is about getting the job done."

"It left a bad taste in our mouth last year, losing those games late."

Among those five late defeats a year ago, three came against ranked Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) teams — at North Dakota State, home against Northern Iowa and on the road at Cal Poly.

The 38-16 loss in Fargo, N.D., against the 18th-ranked Bison — who later came within a win of the FCS title game — is that one that specifically aggravates the Coyotes, according to senior receiver Jeremy Blount.

"Ever since that game, we take it personally," Blount said of the game, in which USD led 13-7 at halftime. "It was tough, especially because they were ranked and we were at their place."

"We were never used to going

2011 Schedule	
Sept. 3	— At Air Force, 1 p.m.
Sept. 10	— Eastern Washington, 4 p.m.
Sept. 17	— Northwestern Oklahoma State (Hall of Fame Day), 4 p.m.
Sept. 24	— at Wisconsin, TBA
Oct. 1	— Lindenwood, 4 p.m.
Oct. 8	— Southern Utah (Dakota Days), 4 p.m.
Oct. 15	— At Illinois State, 3 p.m.
Oct. 22	— UC-Davis (Family Day), 4 p.m.
Oct. 29	— at Cal Poly, 8:05 p.m.
Nov. 12	— Missouri S&T (Senior Day), noon
Nov. 19	— at North Dakota, 1 p.m.

into halftime winning and coming out losing, so it was a big change for us," he added. "Now we want to change it again."

To make sure such second-half collapses are avoided this season, the Coyotes have been working through fourth-quarter drills during fall camp. The point, Blount said, is to ensure that the team can still make plays when players are tired and exhausted.

"We can finish games if we don't just give up and expect to win," he said.

Part of that mentality to ensure more efficient third and fourth quarters is a recommitment to not over-looking the running game, head coach Ed Meierkort said.

"We ran the ball well last year, but where I thought we hit some of our stumbling blocks was when we were not able to finish games with the lead with the run game," said Meierkort, entering his eighth season.

With nine starters back on offense for 2011, the Coyotes could be in for an explosive campaign.



COYOTES: Will Powell

The offensive line returns four starters, highlighted by pre-season All-America selection Tom Compton. Considered to an emerging NFL prospect, Compton said the offense understands what is necessary to finish games.

"We know we were in these games, but now we know what it takes," Compton said. "Until you're actually in those situa-

tions, you probably don't realize what you need to do."

What needs to be done and what can be done might not be an issue for USD's playmakers on offense.

Senior quarterback Dante Warren is back for a second year as a starter, while senior Chris Ganius is back a running back following a second straight All-Great West first team selection.

The receiving corps boasts junior Will Powell, senior Dusty Nowotny, sophomore transfer Anthony Williams and Blount, another senior.

"It's already been exciting to watch us play this fall," Powell said. "Dante's threading the needle like you wouldn't believe. We all bring different things to the table, so teams aren't going to be able to double-team any of us."

On defense, the Coyotes are just as experienced.

USD returns all three defensive linemen (Jesse Weisbrod, Evan Capper and David Giese, as well as Jordan Eaton), all four linebackers (led by Williams and Adam Broders), as well as four starters in the secondary — Shane Potter, Aaron Swift, Marquis Butler and Dametrius Turner.

Broders, a Bloomfield, Neb., native, said the defense understands how important is to keep up the pressure in the second half.

"That was our main point coming into this season," said Broders, a first team all-conference pick a year ago. "With a lot of returning starters and a lot of seniors, we can improve on that, and get a better handle on things."

The fact that the Coyotes were even in position to win those five games they lost late in 2010 is a statement in itself, Powell said.

"It's a huge motivator," the Sioux Falls native said. "It was a disappointing season, and we didn't accomplish our goal. This year, our main goal again is winning the Great West, and we feel like we have the team to get us there."

With defending champion Southern Utah the pre-season pick to win the Great West title, the Coyotes were chosen to finish fourth by the league coaches.

Yet, the upset victory at Minnesota, combined with the close games later in the season, shows that USD has what it takes to get the job done, Compton said.

"It's a big confidence booster. It lets you know you are capable of winning those games," he said. "Certain things have to go your way, obviously. We know after competing with Central Florida and beating Minnesota, it's like, 'Why not again this year?'"



COYOTES: Jenny Teslov

USD Hopes To Build Off Strong '10 Finish

Coyotes Won 12 Of 16, Made Run In GWC Tourney To End Season

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — At one point last season, the University of South Dakota volleyball team sported a 2-15 record.

However, it did not last long. Winning 12 of their final 16 matches, the Coyotes finished 14-19 and made a run to the Great West Conference tournament championship match where they lost to North Dakota.

"We just got sick of losing, to be honest. We had a team meeting and pretty much decided, 'We can't let this keep happening,'" said senior Tahnee Reed, one of six returning players for USD which opens its season Aug. 27 in Wyoming.

"That's the attitude we need to have all the time now," she added. "Coach always tells us that we don't know how good we can be yet, because we haven't had a chance to prove it."

Now, as USD begins its first

2011 Schedule	
Aug. 26-27	— at Wyoming Tour., Laramie, Wyo. (Aug. 26 — Gonzaga, noon; DePaul, 6 p.m.; Aug. 27 — Oregon St., 10 a.m.; Wyoming, 2:30 p.m.)
Sept. 2-3	— at Creighton Tour., Omaha, Neb. (Sept. 2 — Marquette, 4:30 p.m.; Sept. 3 — Creighton, noon; N. Illinois, 5:30 p.m.)
Sept. 9-10	— at Montana Tour., Missoula, Mont. (Sept. 9 — Montana, 1 p.m.; Idaho, 5:30 p.m.; Sept. 10 — CS-Fullerton, 5 p.m.)
Sept. 15	— at Oral Roberts, 7 p.m.
Sept. 17	— at Southern Utah, 2 p.m.
Sept. 19	— North Dakota State, 7 p.m.
Sept. 24	— Missouri-Kansas City, 5 p.m.
Sept. 27	— at Nebraska-Omaha, 7 p.m.
Sept. 30	— IUPUI, 7 p.m.
Oct. 2	— Western Illinois, 2 p.m.
Oct. 3	— South Dakota State, 7 p.m.
Oct. 7	— at IPFW, 6 p.m.
Oct. 8	— at Oakland, 6 p.m.
Oct. 11	— Nebraska-Omaha, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14	— Southern Utah, 7 p.m.
Oct. 16	— Oral Roberts, 2 p.m.
Oct. 17	— Drake, 7 p.m.
Oct. 22	— at Missouri-Kansas City, 7 p.m.
Oct. 28	— at Western Illinois, 7 p.m.
Oct. 29	— at IUPUI, 6 p.m.
Nov. 1	— North Dakota, 7 p.m.
Nov. 4	— Oakland, 7 p.m.
Nov. 6	— IPFW, 2 p.m.
Nov. 11	— at North Dakota State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 12	— at South Dakota State, 7 p.m.

season in the Summit League, the Coyotes appear to have the pieces in place to carry over last year's momentum.

"That was a huge step in the right direction for us, and it's even better knowing we have all those girls, for the most part, back," fourth-year head coach Matt Houk said. "We've been able to start on day one with the stuff we want to do, and not have to teach everyone our system."

USD graduated only one player from last fall, but Kristin Kritenbrink led the team in kills (430).

Back for 2011 are Reed (Sr., MB), Carol Logato (Sr., OH/Libero), Kim Bulaga (Jr., OH), Natalie

Walseth (So., MB), Tori Kroll (So., S) and Amber Aschoff (So., OH).

Logato transferred to South Dakota before last season, Bulaga has started every match in her two years, and the three sophomores all started as freshman.

In other words, it's an experienced group.

"It'll help a lot in the sense that we all know how we work on the court together, how each player functions around everybody else," Reed said. "We all have formed that bond because we've played together."

"By having that, it'll be a lot easier to bring the freshmen along."

The Coyotes also brought in two transfers, Bailey Lupardus (Jr., S, Iowa Western CC) and Lindsey Sathre (Jr., MB, Michigan Tech) to add to the veteran mix. By adding Lupardus, USD will now have options at the setter position — instead of relying on one last season.

"It'll be nice to actually have depth at that position," Houk said. "We've got a big setter battle on our hands, between Tori (Kroll) and Bailey. Regardless of who wins it, we'll have somebody behind her who can step right in."

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Young 'Yotes Ready To Go

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG
P&D Correspondent

VERMILLION — Welcome to the Summit. After playing four Summit League games in 2010, the University of South Dakota Coyotes will begin Summit League play in earnest with a nine-game conference schedule in 2011.

As the Coyotes embarked on that schedule Aug. 19 with a 3-2 loss at the University of North Dakota, they will truly be the new kids on the block.

With 19 true and 21 official freshmen, USD athletic director David Saylor joked to head coach Mandy Green that no other team in the NCAA has ever had so many freshmen.

"We're excited; we played four of the Summit teams and it gave us a good idea of where we stand," said Green. "I think we'll be prepared and I think we will match up with a lot of Summit League teams."

The Coyotes were 4-12-2 in Green's first season in Vermillion, but as she acclimated herself with the lay of the land, she was able to cement a foundation for USD soccer's future.

"It was nice to get a full year in and recruit our first class and to bring in players committed to the vision and philosophy that I have," said Green. "We were able to clear out the old and bring in

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