# Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.

# Yankton City Classic Aug. 25-26

Entries are now being taken for the Yankton City Classic, which will be held Aug. 25-26 at both Hillcrest Golf and Country Club and Fox Run Golf Course. The event is a 36-hole event, with 18 holes played on each course. Half the field will play at each course each day.

The event is open to all players 18 years and older who have either a Yankton mailing address as their residence or are members of either course. All players must also have a valid USGA handicap for entry. No entries will be accepted without a valid USGA handicap.

The event will be flighted by handicap. All flight champions will be decided by gross score, with the exception of the last men's flight and the ladies' flight which are determined by net score. The overall city champion can come from any flight.

Entries are due Sunday, Aug. 19, with entry fees due upon registration. Entries are available at Fox Run Golf Course, Hillcrest Country Club, or at http://www.cityofyankton.org/recreation/golf/events/2012\_city\_classic.pdf Questions can be directed to the Fox Run golf shop at

Huskers Snag Top Spot in Preseason Big Ten Poll

668-5205

CHICAGO, III. — The Nebraska volleyball team was selected as the favorite to win the Big Ten Conference title in the coaches' preseason volleyball poll released Thursday afternoon by the conference office. The defending Big Ten Champion Huskers were voted to finish first, while Penn State was voted to finish second and Purdue third. Minnesota, Illinois and Ohio State rounded out the rest of the top six.

**BY JEREMY HOECK** 

football field.

the defensive stopper.

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The conference office also announced its Preseason All-Big Ten Team on Thursday, with three Huskers being honored, including unanimous selections seniors Lauren Cook and Hannah Werth. Cook and Werth were joined by senior Gina Mancuso, as the Huskers were one of four schools with more than two honorees.

Cook will lead the Husker offense in 2012 after she was a first-team All-Big Ten and AVCA honorable mention All-America selection in 2011. She took over at setter as a iunior after sharing the position with two-time All-American Sydney Anderson in NU's 6-2 rotation in 2010. Cook nélped the Huskers hit .300 or better in 10 matches in 2011, including two matches over .400. She also led NU with 18 double-doubles on the year.

Werth will guide the Husker defense as a senior after earning AVCA honorable mention All-America and firstteam All-Big Ten honors as a junior. She recorded 10 double-doubles in 2011, while averaging 2.80 kills per set and 3.11 digs per set on the season. Werth notched at least 10 kills in 18 matches, while recording at least 10 digs in 19 matches in 2011. She also posted a streak of eight matches where she recorded at least 10 digs.

Mancuso produced a stellar junior campaign and closed the season with an AVCA first-team All-America honor. Elevating her play in her third year with the Huskers, she led the team in kills and points in 2011 and was also a unanimous first-team All-Big Ten selection. She averaged 3.60 kills per set, 2.66 digs per set and was continually ranked in the top 10 in the Big Ten Conference for total kills during the season. She totaled 406 kills in 2011 and notched at least 10 kills in 27 matches.

VERMILLION - You could make a case that Tyler Starr is one of the most polite, yet most dominating player out on the

With the long, blonde hair, tattoos streaking across his chest and arms, the 6-foot-5 linebacker (more of a hybrid defensive end) is on first glance intimidating. Yet, as we saw during USD's football media day on Thursday, Starr is a layered dude. Myself, sports editor James Cimburek, along with our summer intern, watched as Starr used part of Wednesday morn-

ing's practice to spend a few minutes playing with his young child. He later returned to the field and re-assumed the role as

Fans will have their first opportunity to see the Huskers in at the Red/White Scrimmage on Saturday, Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. Tickets are still available online at Huskers.com or by calling 1-800-8-BIGRED. Fans are also encouraged to secure their tickets through Ticketmaster for the Nebraska-Notre Dame match at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha on Aug. 26 at 1:30 p.m.

## **DSU Baseball To Hold Youth Fall** League, Prospect Day

MADISON — The Dakota State University baseball coaching staff will be holding a Youth Fall League on Sundays beginning Sunday, Sept. 9. The league is open for kids ages 8-12 and will have two different age divisions. The teams will be coached by current DSU baseball players.

DSU will also be holding a prospect scout day for high school juniors and seniors on Saturday, Sept. 22. The morning will consist of campus tours & admission information. The afternoon will consist of several baseball tests and finish with a scrimmage.

As has his destruction of opposing run games

"I'm a firm believer that we have to establish dominance in our state"

"We have a goal, so if we just keep at it every day, success will become a habit."

For more information on these events, contact Assistant Coach Eric Hortness at 605-760-0621 or eric.hort-

# ness@dsu.edu SDSU Soccer Ranked 61st In

# Preseason Poll

tackles for loss a year ago.

Coyotes' Starr Shows His Depth On Media Day

BROOKINGS - The South Dakota State women's soccer team opened the 2012 season at No. 61 on the TopDrawerSoccer.com Tournament 64.

The Tournament 64 rankings are a running attempt to project the postseason college soccer tournament qualifiers, including every automatic conference berth. Thus, some college soccer teams will not be included that are included in other rankings lists.

SDSU faces two other teams included in this week's rankings this season in Georgia (No. 25) and Wisconsin (No. 33)

The Jacks are the lone Summit League team included in the Preseason (Aug. 6-12) rankings.

In addition to the rankings, SDSU is featured in The Summit League preview on TopDrawerSoccer.com and is one of the predicted league champions in the conference predictions

SDSU opens the regular season this weekend at

Green Bay and Wisconsin.

That's the Tyler Starr that opposing teams fear. The one they scheme against. The one who recorded 14 sacks and 19

And yes, he is not short on bold statements. When I asked him about the Nov. 17 game at South Dakota State, he said,

As many of the top players do, Starr admits to playing with a chip on his shoulder. He said he was recruited by some of

the FCS schools in the area, and naturally, that fuels his fire for entering the Missouri Valley Football Conference this fall. In our brief interview at the USD student center, Starr said the team's goal for 2012 is to "come out here and change the

game; to do something no team has ever done." Does that mean a national championship? Yes, that's exactly what he

## Youth Groups Selling Riverboat **Days Parking Passes**

Two Yankton youth groups are selling parking passes for near Riverside Park for this weekend's Riverboat Days festivities.

- Yankton Baseball Association passes are available at JJBenji and First Chiropractic. The parking area is located in the old Gurney's parking lot.

For more information, contact Jeff Benjamin at 661-6351 or Marcia Walter at 660-6564.

Yankton club high school soccer passes are available at Slumberland and the Scrapbook Store. The parking area is located near the Scrapbook Store, 315 E 3rd Street.

For more information, contact Deb Lillie at 661-1296.

#### **Coaches: Send In Fall Sports Info**

The 2012 Press & Dakotan Fall Sports Preview will be released in the Friday, Aug. 24 edition. Coaches of fall sports are asked to send in their team information

forms as soon as possible. Forms may be sent by fax to 605-665-1721. Information may also be e-mailed to sports@yankton.net. Forms were sent to the schools earlier this month. Coaches who

have not received their fall sports information forms may call 1-800-743-2968, ext. 106, or e-mail sports@yankton.net

#### 297-Pound Boy Too Big For PeeWee Football AREA CALENDAR SCOREBOARD **FOOTBALL** Seattle 1, Tampa Bay 0 Baltimore 5, Boston 3 Yankton (3 p.m.); Freeman Academy at MESQUITE, Texas (AP) - A "I'm not sad, I'm mad that I Friday, August 17 GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR Paradise Valitary in her family. Mitchell suburban Dallas boy has been don't get to play," Elijah said. "I've Élijah took the practice field, N.Y. Yankees 3, Texas 2 Chicago White Sox 9, Toronto 5 Kansas City 3, Oakland 2 SOCCER, BOYS' JV Brandon Valley at NFL PRESEASON nv. at Casper, wyo. SOCCER, WOMEN'S USD at Gonzaga barred from playing peewee footbeen practicing for three weeks.' looming over boys more than half kton (1 p.m.) SOCCER, GIRLS' Brandon Valley at Thursday, Aug. 16 Cleveland at Green Bay, 7 p.m. (6 p.m.) SOCCER, BOYS' Custer at Vermillion SOCCER, BOYS' Custer at Vermillion his size, and was thrilled.. ball because the league says he is Henderson said three other L.A. Angels 8, Cleveland 4 Cincinnati at Atlanta, 7 p.m. Thursday's Games Texas 10. N.Y. Yankees 6 TENNIS, GIRLS' R.C. Stevens/Water-n at YHS (1 p.m.) Saturday, August 18 GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR Paradise Val-SOCCER, GIRLS' JV Brandon Valley at just too big at nearly 300 pounds. boys were turned away that day Friday, Aug. 17 Tennessee at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m. Yankton (1 p.m.) Sunday, August 19 GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR Paradise Valbecause of safety concerns for Mesquite Pee Wee Football Asjah said, "I feel energetic. I feel Boston 6, Baltimore 3 Chicago White Sox 7, Toronto 2 Buffalo at Minnesota, 7 p.m. Jacksonville at New Orleans, 7 p.m sociation President Ronnie Henderother players. happy.' "We've got little boys that play Oakland at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m. ley Inv ley Inv. at Casper, Wyo. SOCCER, WOMEN'S USD at Idaho (3 son said the rules are clear and nv. at Casper, Wyo. TENNIS, GIRLS' R.C. Stevens/Water-Detroit at Baltimore, 7 p.m. Tampa Bay at L.A. Angels, 10:05 p.m. Miami at Carolina, 7 p.m. 12-year-old Elijah Earnheart is not against him that are 85, 95 and 100 n/Vermillion at YHS (9 a.m.) SOCCER, BOYS' Brandon Valley at Friday's Games Baltimore (Tom.Hunter 4-7) at Detroit (Ver-lander 12-7), 6:05 p.m. Oakland at Arizona, 9 p.m. pounds," Henderson said. "We in a scrimmage. Then came the eligible. The 6-foot-1-inch boy ex-Saturday, Aug. 18 N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets, 6 p.m. ceeds the 135-pound limit for sevhave to look out for all the kids, weigh-in. Boston (F.Morales 3-3) at N.Y. Yankees San Francisco at Houston, 7 p.m. Henderson said the exception (P.Hughes 11-10), 6:05 p.m enth-graders, and he got the bad not just him. San Francisco (M.Cain 11-5) at San Diego Justin Ziegler. Traded RHP Drew Bailey to El Kansas City at St. Louis, 7 p.m Texas (Darvish 12-8) at Toronto (Happ 1-1), Washington at Chicago, 7 p.m. Dallas at San Diego, 8 p.m. (Ohlendorf 4-3), 9:05 p.m. Paso for future considerations. news last Sunday when the league Cindy Earnheart said her son in the rulebook was meant for 6:07 p.m. LAREDO LEMURS-Released RHP Chris Saturday's Games Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 12:10 p.m., 1st Chicago White Sox (Sale 14-3) at Kansas was feeling self-conscious about sixth-graders who can weigh as held its official weigh-in. Ch Seattle at Denver, 8 p.m. ST. PAUL SAINTS—Released RHP Bret Severtson. Acquired OF/LHP Brian Gump from City (Mendoza 6-8), 7:10 p.m. Cleveland (McAllister 5-4) at Oakland Henderson said he asked Elijah his size until he discovered peewee Sunday, Aug. 19 Indianapolis at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. game Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 3:05 p.m. whether he was in sixth or seventh football. His barber happened to (Milone 9-9), 9:05 p.m. Tampa Bay (Shields 10-7) at L.A. Angels (Weaver 15-2), 9:05 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20 Philadelphia at New England, 7 p.m. Arizona at Houston, 6:05 p.m. San Rafael (North American) for a player to be grade, then told him "no need N.Y. Mets at Washington, 6:05 p.m. Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 6:10 p.m., 2nd team, but the boy doesn't have coach a team, the Mesquite WICHITA WINGNUTS-Released RHP going" any further. Vikings, and suggested the boy Minnesota (Blackburn 4-8) at Seattle Jose D. Perez. game BASEBALL (lwakuma 3-3), 9:10 p.m. Cindy Earnheart, the boy's join. Coach Marc Wright said a pas-L.A. Dodgers at Atlanta, 6:10 p.m. BASKETBALL Saturday's Games Texas at Toronto, 12:07 p.m. Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 3:05 p.m. Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 6:10 p.m mother, said she was incensed and sage in the rulebook seemed to in-LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES National Basketball Association NEW ORLEANS HORNETS—Signed G first. Miami at Colorado, 7:10 p.m. San Francisco at San Diego, 7:35 p.m. At South Williamsport, Pa. Elijah was humiliated. dicate that youths who weigh more Cindy Earnheart said barring Brian Roberts. Af South Williamsport, Pa. Double Elimination UNITED STATES: GREAT LAKES, New Castle, Ind.; MID-ATLANTIC, Parsippany, N.J.; MIDWEST, Kearney, Neb; NEW ENGLAND, Fairfield, Conn; NORTHWEST, Gresham, Ore; SOUTHEAST, Goodlettsville, Tenn.; SOUTH WEST, San Antonio; WEST, Petaluma, Calif. INTERNATIONAL: ASIA-PACIFIC, Townan Taiwar CANADA Vancouver British Baltimore at Detroit, 6:05 p.m. her son was discrimination. FOOTBALL They would not even let him than 135 pounds could play, but Sunday's Games Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 12:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, 6:10 National Football League CLEVELAND BROWNS—Placed RB Eddie weigh in on the scales like every only on the offensive or defensive L.A. Dodgers at Atlanta, 12:35 p.m. . Cleveland at Oakland, 8:05 p.m. Tampa Bay at L.A. Angels, 8:05 p.m. Minnesota at Seattle, 8:10 p.m. NY. Mets at Washington, 12:35 p.m. Arizona at Houston, 1:05 p.m. Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 1:10 p.m. Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 1:15 p.m. Williams on injured reserve. single boy out there," she said. "He line. too thin or too small that they DALLAS COWBOYS-Signed TE Harry might be the size of a grown man At his physical last month, Eli-Flaherty. DETROIT LIONS—Placed CB Drew Colenday's Games Baltimore at Detroit, 12:05 p.m. but he's 12 years old and he has jah's doctor said he weighed 297 tell my kid he's too big? She added: "Isn't bigger better Miami at Colorado, 2:10 p.m. man on injured reserve. Claimed G Bill Nagy off feelings, too." pounds and stood 6-feet-1 1/2Texas at Toronto, 12:07 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, 1:10 Taoyuan, Taiwan; CANADA, Vancouver, British Columbia; CARIBBEAN, Willemstad, Curacao; waivers from Dallas. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Signed RB Alvester Alexander and LB Mike Balogun. San Francisco at San Diego, 3:05 p.m. Elijah, who describes himself as inches tall. His mother said they EUROPE, Ramstein, Germany; JAPAN, Tokyo; LATIN AMERICA, Aguadulce, Panama; MEA, Lugazi, Uganda; MEXICO, Nuevo Laredo. **TRANSACTIONS** "gentle giant" and dreams of special-ordered his helmet, shoul-Tampa Bay at L.A. Angels, 2:35 p.m. Waived LB Scott Lutrus and CB Buddy Jackson. MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed LB Josh someday playing pro football, said Cleveland at Oakland, 3:05 p.m. Minnesota at Seattle, 3:10 p.m. Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m. der pads, pants and jersey because tackled, get him off the field." BASEBALL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE—Suspended Thursday, Aug. 16 Tokyo 7, Willemstad, Curacao 0 the turn of events was unfair. of his size, which she said is hered-Linam. mior league free agents RHP Yeudis Penalo, RHP Miguel Polanco and RHP Vladimil Suero 50 games for violations of the Minor League NFW YORK GIANTS-Signed DB/KR Petaluma, Calif. 6, Fairfield, Conn. 4 Taoyuan, Taiwan 14, Ramstein, Germany 1, Laron Scott and DT Bobby Skinner. Placed LB Clint Sintim on the waived-failed physical list and NATIONAL LEAGUE **Ponder: Vikings Can 'Win Now'** 4 innings East Division Drug Prevention and Treatment Program. DE Justin Trattou on the waived-injured list. Goodlettsville. Tenn. 12, Kearney, Neb. 1 L 45 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL—Approved the sale of the San Diego Padres to a group con-trolled by Ron Fowler that includes the **W** 73 Pct .619 GB OAKLAND RAIDERS-Signed LB Korey LLWS Friday, Aug. 17 Game 5 — Nuevo Laredo, Mexico vs. Van-couver, British Columbia, noon Game 6 — Parsippany, N.J. vs. San Anto-Washingtor Bos MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Christian 4 17 PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Placed RB competitive balance provided by 49 62 .585 Atlanta 69 New York 56 .475 Seidler/O'Malley families. John Clay on injured reserve. ST. LOUIS RAMS—Waived TE Jamie Ponder's success as an NFL guarterthe salary cap, there's almost al-Philadelphia .462 18 1/2 .449 20 54 53 63 65 American League BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Placed INF Wilnio. 2 p.m. back is years away from being deways one club that turns a double-Childers. Signed WR Brandyn Harvey and WR Charles Gilbert. Miami Game 7 — Aguadulce, Panama vs. Lugazi, From Page 7A son Betemit on the 15-day DL, retroactive to Aug. 12. Recalled 1B Joe Mahoney from Norfolk **Central Division** Uganda, 4 p.m. Game 8 — New Castle, Ind. vs. Gresham, termined. digit-defeat season into a playoff SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS-Waived TE GB Pct **W** 71 L 47 He's not interested in waiting for spot the next year. Gijon Robinson. Signed LB Ikaika Alama-Fran-cis. Placed TE Nate Byham on the waived-in-Cincinnati .602 (IL). Ore., 7 p.m. 6 . BOSTON RED SOX—Acquired RHP Pedro 65 53 53 .551 .547 the Minnesota Vikings to improve, "In our minds, we have a good Saturday, Aug. 18 Game 9 — Willemstad, Curacao vs. Ram-Pittsburgh St. Louis 64 6 1/2 jured list. though. team," Ponder said. "Obviously, TENNESSEE TITANS—Signed T Jonathan Milwauke 52 64 .448 "We want to win now. We're put-46 70 80 .397

stein, Germany, 11 a.m. Game 10 — Fairfield, Conn. vs. Kearney, Chicago Houston Neb., 2 p.m. West Division Game 11 — Game 5 loser vs. Game 7 loser. 5 p.m Game 12 — Game 6 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 7 p.m. Los Angeles San Francisco Arizona Sunday, Aug. 19 Game 13 — Game 5 winner vs. Game 7 San Diego Colorado

Beato from the N.Y. Mets to complete and earlier trade, and optioned him to Pawtucket (IL). Transferred RHP Scott Atchison to the 60-day 18 24 .328 32 1/2

DL. MINNESOTA TWINS-Optioned RHP Jeff GB Manship and RHP Luis Perdomo to Rochester

(IL). OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Agreed to terms 1/2 with RHP Jeremy Accardo on a minor league .433 13 1/2 .383 19 contract and assigned him to Sacramento (PCL). TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Sent RHP Kevin

Palmer and G Michael Jasper. WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Signed DL

Marlon Favorite. HOCKEY

National Hockey League PHILADELPHIA FLYERS—Agreed to terms with F Wayne Simmonds on a six-year contract.

SOCCER Major League Soccer D.C. UNITED—Traded M Danny Cruz to we've still got a lot of things to get better at in these next two weeks. Obviously, we know it's tough. We know it's a tough division. You look at last year: We were in so many games. We could have easily been 10-6. and we ended 3-13. So that's a

When he's playing football Eli-

He practiced with the Vikings for three weeks and even took part

much as 160 pounds. He suggested Elijah play for his middle school much football experience and was hoping to feel his way in peewee

"No one is telling boys who are can't play football," she said. "Why

in football? Football is a contact sport. If you don't want your son

"I didn't have my best control The ball wasn't going exactly where I wanted it, but it got better the longer I pitched," the 12-year-old Osaka said through interpreter Yuichi Ishibashi.

Christopher Koeiman and Mychellon Jansen each had singles for Curacao, which made its first tournament appearance since 2009

TAIWAN 14, GERMANY 1, 4 INNINGS: Li-

winner, 11 a.m.					Colorado	44	71	.383	19	
Game 14 — Petaluma, Calif. vs. Goodlettsville, Tenn., 1 p.m. Game 15 — Game 6 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 4 p.m. Game 16 — Tokyo vs. Taoyuan, Taiwan, 6 p.m. AMERICAN LEAGUE					Wednesday's Games Miami 9, Philadelphia 2 Chicago Cubs 7, Houston 2 Colorado 7, Milwaukee 6 Washington 6, San Francisco 4 L.A. Dodgers 9, Pittsburgh 3 Cincinnati 6, N.Y. Mets 1 Atlanta 6, San Diego 1 St. Louis 5, Arizona 2					
East Division					Thursday's Games					
New York Baltimore Tampa Bay Boston Toronto	W 70 64 63 58 55	L 48 54 54 61 63	Pct .593 .542 .538 .487 .466		Pittsburgh 10, LA. Dodgers 6 N.Y. Mets 8, Cincinnati 4 Atlanta 6, San Diego 0 Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m. Arizona at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m. Miami at Colorado. 8:40 p.m.					
Ce	ntral Div				Fridav's Games		•			
Chicago Detroit Cleveland Kansas City Minnesota	W 65 63 54 51 50	L 52 55 64 65 67	Pct .556 .534 .458 .440 .427	2 1/2 11 1/2	N.Y. Mets (J. Santana 6-8) at Washington (Detwiler 6-5), 6:05 p.m. Chicago cubs (T. Wood 4-8) at Cincinnati (Arroyo 8-7), 6:10 p.m. L.A. Dodgers (Capuano 11-8) at Atlanta (Hanson 12-5), 6:35 p.m. Arizona (Milev 12-8) at Houston (Keuchel 1-					
West Division W L Pct GB						(12-8) a	Hous	ton (Keud	hel 1-	
Texas Oakland Los Angeles Seattle <b>Wednesday's Gan</b> Detroit 5, Mint	68 61 62 55 nes	49 55 56 64	.581 .526 .525 .462	_	4). 7:05 p.m. Philadelphia (Worley 6-7) at Milwaukee (Gallardo 11-8), 7:10 p.m. Pittsburgh (Ja.McDonald 10-5) at St. Louis (Westbrook 12-8), 7:15 p.m. Miami (LeBlanc 1-2) at Colorado (Francis 4- 4), 7:40 p.m.					

Comer to Houston to complete an earlier trade ston 2 e 6 ancisco 4 urgh 3 National League COLORADO ROCKIES—Reinstated OF

39

64 58

52 68 44 71

Pct .546 .542 .496

Nichael Cuddyer from the 15-day DL Optioned INF Matt McBride to Colorado Springs (PCL). Agreed to terms with RHP Austin Bibens-Dirkx on a minor league contract. LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Sent RHP

Ryan O'Sullivan to Philadelphia to complete an MIAMI MARLINS—Placed 2B Nick Green

on the 15-day DL, retroactive to Aug. 13. Trans-ferred OF Logan Morrison to the 60-day DL. Selected the contract of 2B Gil Velazquez from New Orleans (PCL) MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Reinstated RHP

Mark Rogers from the paternity list. Optioned SS Jeff Bianchi to Nashville (PCL). PITTSBURGH PIRATES-Agreed to terms

with INF Dallas McPherson on a minor league contract and assigned him to Indianapolis (IL). Recalled RHP Jared Hughes and INF/OF Yamaico Navarro from Indianapolis. Placed RHP Chad Qualls on the bereavement list. Optioned LHP Jeff Locke to Indianapolis. Promoted RHP Phil Irwin from Altoona (EL) to Indianapolis.

ald 10-5) at St. Louis American Association GRAND PRAIRIE AIRHOGS—Released Colorado (Francis 4-

RHP Adrian DeMar. KANSAS CITY T-BONES—Signed RHP

adelphia for F Lionard Pajoy and an international roster spot. NEW YORK RED BULLS—Signed M Lloyd

Sam. COLLEGE INDIANA-Announced freshman men's basketball G Ron Patterson will tranfer. KANSAS STATE-Named Mike Clement

hitting coach and baseball recruiting coordina-LAMAR-Named John Ishee women's as

sistant basketball coach. MARSHALL—Announced WR Devon Smith has transferred from Penn State.

NORTHWESTERN—Announced the NCAA ruled that freshman basketball C Chier Ajou is eligible for the upcoming season. OHIO STATE—Named Jenna Hall assistant

softball coach PFEIFFER—Announced the resignation of

en's lacrosse coach Peter Milliman. SHEPHERD-Named Eric Gabriel men's istant basketball coach. ST. JOHN'S (NY)-Named Frauke Dittel di-

ctor of leadership for student-athletes. SUSQUEHANNA—Named B.J. Merrian men's assistant soccer coach.

XAVIER (NO)-Named Hannah Lawing women's assistant volleyball coach.

son AP Pro32) are 9-24 since they advanced to the NFC championship game behind Brett Favre 2 1/2 years ago. Even if running back Adrian Peterson is back to normal from the start following his rehabilitation from reconstructive surgery on his left knee, there are too many rookies and recent late-round draft picks in the starting lineup for the Vikings to be seriously considered around the league as contenders.

ting that pressure on ourselves that

we want to do a lot better than 3-13.

We want to make the playoffs. We

want to be competitive in the NFC

The Vikings (29th in the presea-

North," Ponder said.

But one of the beauties of the NFL, of course, is the thin margin between bad teams and good ones. With 16 games and the constant

**Backs** 

#### From Page 7A

everywhere. It's good for our team to have a competition like

that. The 5-foot-10, 200-pound Sanders came to USD in time for the spring 2012 semester from Butler Community College (Kan.), where he spent two seasons at one of the nation's top junior col-leges. He rushed for 937 yards and 15 touchdowns last fall, earning honorable mention All-American honors.

'We complement each other really well. He's more of a 'masher,' and I'm more of a 'slasher,'" Sanders said. "He's like a brother to me."

That was the end goal in bringing aboard Sanders, that he and Sims would develop a bond that crushed all concern of a 'battle,' according to running backs coach Brooks Little.

On the pre-season depth chart released Wednesday, Sims is listed as the starter, with Sanders behind him.

At first I thought it might be a problem, but when you look around football, you see more teams going with that 2-back system. They've handled it very well," Little said. "It's good to see that leadership. They don't care who gets the rock, they just want the team to win.

"We're not out here for our

Of course, as both players said and the assistant coaches all good sign. We were close last year, and we're only going to be better this year.'

The question is how much better the Vikings can be with Ponder, whose first 10 NFL starts could be best described as erratic.

His confidence has been apparent on the field and that's one of the most important steps. He's had some practice performances during training camp that were rookie-like, but overall he's been more accurate in the pocket and made better choices about where to throw the ball.

pointed out, it takes an effective

ground last fall, but that line was

anchored by an NFL draft pick

(Tom Compton) and two other

long-time starters (Brent John-

cal of losing what we did up

front, but we've gelled well so

far," senior center Tim Ross said.

can step right in and not have us

"Someone might expect a

huge step back, but they've been

through it; they learned from an

This season's line, though,

can benefit from the combination

"You know you're not going to

of prior experience and the skill

set of the two running backs,

have a running back that's get-

ting tired. They'll be constantly

fresh," Ross, the lone senior on

the offensive line, said. "Confi-

dence when you block is huge

when you've got guys like that

put from last year into the Mis-

the figure would have ranked

seventh. Indiana State star run-

ning back Shakir Bell's average of

151.8 yards a game was nearly as

"I'm an offensive lineman, I'm

much as USD's total — though

going to enjoy the heck out of

the Coyotes' focus is an all-

around improvement.

souri Valley Football Conference

(which the Coyotes join this fall),

Translating USD's rushing out-

"We have guys like Derek Chan-

cellor and Steve Tellefsen who

"Everyone was a little skepti-

son and R.J. Polley).

miss a beat.

NFL guy."

Ross said.

behind you."

offensive line to key the run

game. The Coyotes averaged

158.2 yards per game on the

Wei Chiang homered and drove in four runs, and Feng Chen went 3 for 3 with three RBIs for the team from Taoyuan. Kyle Glenn had Germany's only hit, while Justin Wilson scored the team's only run in the game that ended early because of Little League's 10-run rule.

It hardly mattered to Wilson's father, Marquis, who arrived in South Williamsport on Wednesday — just in time to see his 12-yearold son play for the first time in two months. The elder Wilson, who serves in the military as a security forces trainer in Afghanistan, is on a 15-day leave.

Marquis Wilson said it was a little nervewracking watch Justin from the stands. "It was hard, but he did his best and that's

all you can ask for," the proud father said.

guarding them," joked offensive coordinator Wes Beschorner of his 1-2 punch of Sims and Sanders.

Among the other lineman tasked with creating space for the duo are left tackle Matt Huffer (So.), left guard Cody O'Neill (Jr.), right guard Andrew Schofield (So.) and right tackle Marc Murtha (Jr.), according to the depth chart.

"This is probably the best offensive line I've been around," Sanders said. "They're all big and pretty fast. We've got some receivers around us who can do everything; block, catch and run.'

It will all start with the quarterback, a position that will be anchored by sophomore Josh Vander Maten. The 6-foot-2, 212pound Vander Maten appeared in seven games last season, and completed just over 60 percent of his passes for 1,729 yards and 14 touchdowns

"A lot of people are going to be very impressed by him," Sims said. "He can definitely run, but he's even better at making the right decision."

Can that decision-making extend to the running backs?

Before he even took his first hand-off in a USD practice, Sanders said he was confident that he made the right move in coming to Vermillion.

"I just felt like with the change, it helped me transition well," he said. "We're all gelling; we're all in this together.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

three fumbles into touchdowns, and a holding call wiped out a braska was trying to come back from a 17-10 deficit.

opener is Sept. 1 at home against Defending Big Ten champion Wisconsin visits Sept. 29, and then there are consecutive road games against Urban Meyercoached Ohio State and a Northwestern team that upset the

Huskers in Lincoln last year. A home game with Michigan is followed by a trip to Michigan State. "There's a lot of good — obvi-

Huskers

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ously very, very good - coaching in the league and a lot of talent running around there on the field," Pelini said. "Our players came out of (2011) knowing that we're going to be challenged week in and week out. You've got to be ready to go each and every Saturday, or things aren't going to go your way."

The Huskers were 36th of 120 FBS teams for penalties per game, with numerous drives imploding because of false starts and holding calls. They were 67th in turnover margin.

In a 48-17 loss to Wisconsin, the Huskers were penalized nine times for 80 yards and Martinez threw three interceptions on four possessions. In the 28-25 loss to Northwestern, the Huskers lost fumbles at the Wildcats' 6 and 19. In the 45-17 loss at Michigan, the

Wolverines converted two of long run and forced a punt as Ne-

In the 30-13 Capital One Bowl loss to South Carolina, Nebraska was up 13-9 and driving for another score when Ameer Abdullah fumbled at the Gamecocks 7. Martinez was intercepted at the South Carolina 26 on the next series, leading to the end-of-the-half desperation heave that gave the Gamecocks the lead.

Tight end Kyler Reed said he doesn't mind entering this season as an underdog.

"We know to get to the top we have to take care of ourselves," he said. "Less turnovers, less penalties. We had a lot of those last year, and those really killed us in our big games. We have to take care of ourselves. If we do that, we believe we have a chance to be at the top.'

Beck's priority on offense is to be more balanced. The Huskers ran two-thirds of the time last season, and their passing game ranked 104th.

Martinez, who has run for more than 1,800 yards and 21 touchdowns the past two years, worked in the offseason to correct a throwing motion that often has him chucking the ball off his back foot. A 57 percent career passer, he said his goal is 70 percent — a mark achieved in 2011

had a minimum of 15 attempts a game.

second freshman to lead the

of his 32 catches, 331 of his 461 receiving yards and two of his three touchdowns in the last eight games. And when Martinez hands off, most carries will be by Burkhead, the most productive Nebraska running back since 1997. He scored 17 touchdowns, and his 104.4 yards per game ranked third in the Big Ten.

starters and sustained a blow the first week of practice when projected No. 1 left tackle Tyler Moore quit for what Pelini said were personal reasons.

Big Ten and 37th nationally, endured a run of injuries on the line and struggled at times against the run.

Tight end Ben Cotton said last season's disappointments have given him and his teammates new resolve.

The transformation that we've had as a team these last seven months — the amount that we've grown, not only footballwise, but getting these guys together for a greater purpose there's no individual minds thinking about themselves," Cotton said. "We're focused on one thing, and that's getting that ring.

by only eight quarterbacks who

He will largely target Bell, the

Huskers in receiving. He had 26

The offensive line lost three

The defense, seventh in the

own stats.'