

Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE

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



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If you'll excuse me, I'd like to step out of our common channels in this space to discuss something you might not expect here. Tonight (Tuesday) figures to be a critical point in the city-wide discussion for a potential sports facility. The Yankton City Commission is hosting a town hall meeting at 7 p.m. at the Summit Activities Center theater. Anyone interested in providing feedback or comments on a possible complex should plan to voice those opinions. If you are not planning to attend the forum, plan on the Press & Dakotan for an interactive live chat. At 7 p.m., you can access the chat at yankton.net/townhall, though you will have to log in via Facebook or Twitter to add your thoughts.

Town Hall Meeting For Sports Facility Figures To Be Lively

I will be your chat host, on site at the SAC theater, and I encourage you to join us. It will be the first news chat of its kind at the P&D, though we have hosted a weekly sports chat for nearly two years and regularly host chats for University of South Dakota and Yankton High School sports. Why mention a news chat on the sports page? It's simple, really. A potential sports facility in Yankton would naturally impact local and area youth who run into space issues with current athletic facilities in Yankton. If you consider that a total of six baseball teams share Riverside Field for practice and games, you can see why such a complex would be a hot-button issue. Let's also account for seven girls' softball teams for three fields, as well as the Yankton Youth Soccer Association. Needless to say, tonight's town hall forum should be lively — whether in person or on our chat.

YANKTON EVENTS

Table of Yankton events including Bucks Football, Bucks Boys' Golf, Bucks & Gazelles Cross Country, and Gazelles Volleyball.

COLLEGE EVENTS

Table of college events including Coyotes Football, Coyotes Cross Country, Coyotes Volleyball, Coyotes Women's Soccer, Lancers Men's Soccer, Lancers Women's Soccer, and Lancers Volleyball.

OTHER EVENTS

Table of other events including Soccer, Yankton Boys JV, Yankton Girls JV, and Yankton Girls JV.

RADIO & TELEVISION

Table of radio and television broadcast information.

Likness At QB Club

The Yankton Quarterback Club will begin its 66th season on Wednesday, Aug. 22, at noon at the Ellks Lodge, 504 West 27th Street, Yankton. This week's speaker is Yankton High School football coach Arlin Likness, who will talk about the Bucks and their upcoming season. Yankton opens its 2012 campaign Aug. 25. The public is invited to attend.

SDSU's Heemstra To Speak At Yankton State Men's Aug. 22

South Dakota State men's basketball and baseball standout Marcus Heemstra will be featured speaker at First United Methodist Church in Yankton on Wednesday, Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. The public is invited to hear and meet Heemstra. An upcoming junior at SDSU majoring in Math Education, Heemstra will talk about the successful 2011-12 men's basketball season, dealing with the transition from high school to college, and keeping balance and focus in your life amid pressures.

First United Methodist Church is located at 207 W. 11th St. in Yankton.

Twins Take Blackburn, Nishioka Off 40-Man Roster

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Minnesota Twins were sent struggling starting pitcher Nick Blackburn back to Triple-A Rochester and taken him off their 40-man roster. The move was made before Monday's game at Oakland. The Twins will replace him on the 25-man roster on Tuesday. Blackburn was scheduled to take the mound on Wednesday against the A's. After a decent performance over his first two major league seasons, making 33 starts each in 2008 and 2009, Blackburn has regressed since signing a four-year, \$14 million contract in 2010. He has a 7.39 ERA in 19 starts and 143 hits allowed in 98 2-3 innings. The right-hander is making \$4.75 million this season and due \$5.5 million in 2013.

The Twins also outrighted infielder Tsuyoshi Nishioka off their 40-man roster. He'll remain with Rochester.

Rudolph Returns For Vikes; Cook, Carlson Still Out

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph has passed his post-concussion tests. Comerback Chris Cook hasn't. Rudolph returned to practice on Monday, but Cook was held out again. Both players were hurt last week in a Leslee Frazier also said that tight end John Carlson won't be ready to play Friday in a preseason game against San Diego. The Vikings signed Carlson as a free agent to pair him with Rudolph in their two-tight end sets for a boost to their passing game, but he sprained the medial collateral ligament in his right knee on July 31 and hasn't practiced since. Frazier said Carlson might be able to play in the final preseason game on Aug. 30 at Houston.

Carlson missed the 2011 season after tearing the ligament in his left shoulder.

Commissioner: WAC Football On Its Way Out

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — The commissioner of the Western Athletic Conference says it has become apparent the league won't have enough football members to compete after this season, and his focus now is on trying to keep the conference together for other sports. "It doesn't future we've given up on the idea of football for the future, but it's apparent we don't have enough members in 2013 to play football," Jeff Hurd told The Associated Press on Monday. That means Idaho and New Mexico State will have to play other football members — Louisiana Tech, San Jose State, Texas State, Utah State and Texas-San Antonio — leave next year. So, the league would have to add six FBS programs to continue football.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table for Volleyball, Football, and Baseball.

AREA CALENDAR

Area Calendar table listing various sports events and dates.

BASEBALL

Baseball scores and statistics for Little League World Series and American League.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

National League scores and statistics.

TRANSACTIONS

Baseball transactions including trades and signings.

Coyotes

have allowed the Coyotes extra time together. A new NCAA rule, enacted this year, allowed coaches two hours a day and eight hours a week to work with players. Each time, the focus was clear, Gruis said. "I don't think anyone was really satisfied with our season," he said. "They (coaches) usually remind us on a daily basis that we won 10 games, and all the guys are responding." Wayne State College (Neb.) is also traveling to Canada this weekend. The Wildcats will play the University of Winnipeg (Sept. 1), the University of Manitoba (Sept. 2) and Winnipeg (Sept. 3). The Wildcats, under head coach Paul Combs, returns four starters from a team that was 10-17 last season. Though they will be making the same trip, the two schools did not schedule them together, James said. "It'll be nice to run into those guys, though," he said. "We all have the same goal."

Flack (F) and Eric Robertson (F). "The nice thing about this is, we've been able to put in what we want to do offensively, and some of our defensive schemes," James said. "Being able to see your team all together over those few weeks really opens your eyes to different positions. "That opened up the door for us." The trip will also be a homecoming of sorts for two USD players. The 2012-13 roster boasts two native Canadians — Juevol Myles (Sr., G, Ajax, Ontario) and Bos (Markham, Ontario). Juevol has been really hyped about it lately. He knows a couple of guys we'll be playing against, so that'll be fun for those guys," Gruis said. "It's kind of like when Jared (Bartling) and I play SDSU; we know some of the players." The Coyotes open their season Nov. 14 at the Global Sports Showcase in Laramie, Wyo. Over the weekend tournament, USD will play Southern, Wyoming and North Carolina Central. The pre-season practices, combined with a new NCAA rule,

Indiana St

"When I first got here, we were in the old locker room and you'd shower with four inches of water at your feet," said Obaseki, a senior. Miles insisted he could win at Indiana State if he could get the mindset, he could change more support from the administration and community. He kicked more than three dozen players off the team, and the school came up with nearly \$2.75 million to replace the flooded locker room. "The new locker room is top of the line," Obaseki said. "We went from having nothing to having a lot." Administrators didn't stop there. They spent an estimated \$250,000 to add a remote camera system to record practices, splurged on a new scoreboard, complete with a video screen, and an ex-football player who owns a local construction company donated his time to help put in a new grass practice field. Miles raised roughly \$500,000 to add a field that allowed the football team to practice on its own schedule. The total cost came to roughly \$4 million and the benefits have been bountiful. Morale is up and

Miles has more leeway to recruit out-of-state talent. "In the past, we were only funded for so many out-of-state scholarships," Miles said. "Our philosophy is that we're Indiana State, so we're going to recruit in-state kids first. But we border Illinois, Ohio has great football, St. Louis and Atlanta aren't that far away, so we've got other areas where we can recruit very good football players and now we can do that more easily." Miles didn't go far from the cornerstones for this rebuilding project. Obaseki, a 6-3, 260-pound defensive lineman, played high school ball in nearby Washington, Ind. — a school better known for producing the three Mr. Basketball-winning Zeller brothers.

Bell hails from Warren Central in Indianapolis, which has produced dozens of Division I players over the last decade and had so much talent Bell couldn't crack the starting lineup until his senior season. Because he was undersized at 5-foot-8 and 185 pounds and virtually unknown until he rushed for 3,105 yards in 2009, Indiana State got its chance to convince the state's 2009 Mr. Football runner-up to risk everything by choosing the Sycamores. All Bell wanted was a chance to be part of something big. "Coach Miles told me everything that was changing and that he had just kicked about 45 guys off the team and that it would be a great place for me to come and display my talents," Bell said. "Plus, I wanted to be a part of history."

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

www.yankton.net

Air Duct Cleaning advertisement with Steamway logo and phone number 665-5700.

Morning Coffee Weekdays 7:40 AM Monday Thru Friday advertisement for Yankton's Home Team.

Top 10 Skills gained from the Advanced Manufacturing degree from BHSU advertisement.

Yankton Area 1st & 2nd Graders Registration advertisement for Sertoma.