

Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK james.cimburek@yankton.net

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

Lennox's Fodness Signs With MMC Baseball Program

Jared Fodness of Lennox will attend Mount Marty College and play baseball for the Lancers, the institution announced on Thursday. Fodness, a 6-5, 235-pound pitcher and first baseman, compiled an 8-3 record with a 2.18 earned run average this past summer. He struck out 84 batters in 67 innings pitched.

GPAC Teams Rated In NAIA Pre-season Cross Country Poll

SIOUX CITY, Iowa — Concordia has both men's and women's teams ranked in the top 25 of the NAIA pre-season cross country poll, released Thursday.

In the women's poll, Concordia ranks 10th and Dordt ranks 15th. In the men's poll, Morningside ranks 14th, with Concordia 19th and Dordt receiving votes.

USD Teams Picked Fourth In Vermillion League

VERMILLION — Both South Dakota college country teams placed fourth in the annual Summit League pre-season poll released Thursday. The Coyotes men received 32 points and a first-place vote, while the women received 46 points. South Dakota State won the poll for the men with five first-place votes and 46 points, and North Dakota State was picked to repeat as champions on the women's side with 64 points. The SDSU men won a tight poll with NDSU, which finished with 43 points and a pair of top-votes. Kansas City edged South Dakota for third with 33 votes. IUPUI placed fifth with 27, Oakland was sixth with 21, Western Illinois received 15 and Fort Wayne was voted last with seven.

Cornbelt Conference Volleyball Moved To Marion

MENNO — The Cornbelt Conference volleyball tournament will be moved from Menno to Marion by a change in format.

John Stiegelmeier Radio Show Begins Monday

BROOKINGS — The John Stiegelmeier Radio Show returns to the airwaves Aug. 27 and continues each Monday through the 2012 football season.

Strasburg Shutdown Is DC's Debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Nationals' impending shutdown of Stephen Strasburg has caused the baseball team to do

UFC 151 Canceled After Henderson Gets Injured

UFC 151 has been canceled after light heavyweight contender Dan Henderson was sidelined with a knee injury and champion Jon Jones declined a replacement fight with Chael Sonnen.

Volleyball Leagues Forming

The Yankton Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for Adult Women's, Men's, and Coed Volleyball Leagues.

Stiegelmeier Radio Show

The John Stiegelmeier Radio Show returns to the airwaves Aug. 27 and continues each Monday through the 2012 football season.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Football, Thursday's NEB. Scores, NFL Preseason, Friday's Games, Saturday's Games, Sunday's Games, Wednesday, Aug. 29, Thursday, Aug. 30, Friday, Aug. 31, Saturday, Aug. 31, Sunday, Sept. 1.

AREA CALENDAR

Table with columns for Friday, August 24, Saturday, August 25, Sunday, August 26, Monday, August 27, Tuesday, August 28, Wednesday, August 29, Thursday, August 30, Friday, August 31, Saturday, August 31, Sunday, September 1.

Goodell: NFL Seeks Long-Term Improvement With Refs

NEW YORK (AP) — NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says possibly using replacement referees for regular-season games is worthwhile to ensure long-term improvements to officiating.

NFLRA lead negotiator Mike Arnold said Thursday that officials have been training on their own during the lockout and would need less than a week to prep.

The league and the NFL Referees Association have yet to reach an agreement, and Goodell acknowledged Thursday that time was running out to make the regular officials available for the openers.

While the NFL and officials disagree on some financial matters, Goodell also characterized the differences as "philosophical." The NFL's proposal includes making some refs full-time — currently all game officials work part-time with outside jobs — and adding more crews.

"We're anxious for a deal done, but it has to get done that it's going to help us for the long term," Goodell said at a fantasy football event in Times Square. "It's not a short-term issue."

Arnold said that the union was open to discussing such issues but any proposal to increase the number of officials while decreasing the pay for current refs was not viable.

Of the replacement refs who have been calling preseason games, Goodell said: "We think they'll do a very credible job."

Increasing the pool of officials would allow the league to replace individual officials or entire crews that are not performing well, Goodell said.

Officials probably need a week to 10 days to prepare for the season, Goodell said, and the first game is Sept. 5, 13 days away. The first full Sunday of games is Sept. 9.

"Then it's based on performance, which is what fans all want," he said.

Goodell said that teams and fans would question the credibility of results if that inevitable first disputed call of the season takes place while replacement officials are on the field.

"We have controversial calls. Officiating is an imperfect science," he said. "They're not going to be correct all the time, but we have systems in place to try to help. We have instant replay, as an example, to try to help correct those mistakes. ... It's like any game. We get calls every Monday from fans, from coaches, from teams upset about a particular call. That happens. And it will happen going forward regardless of who's on the field."

CROSS COUNTRY

Table with columns for 2012 Summit League Men's Pre-Season Poll, Pts (1st), '11, '10, '09.

Table with columns for Washington, Atlanta, Philadelphia, New York, Miami, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Arizona, San Diego, Colorado, West Division, East Division, Pct, GB.

LLWS

Table with columns for Ivan Nova on the 15-day DL, Oakland Athletics, Arizona Diamondbacks, Atlanta Braves, Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians, Colorado Rockies, Detroit Tigers, Houston Astros, Kansas City Royals, Los Angeles Angels, Miami Marlins, Milwaukee Brewers, Minnesota Twins, New York Mets, Philadelphia Phillies, Pittsburgh Pirates, St. Louis Cardinals, Texas Rangers, Toronto Blue Jays, Washington Nationals, White Sox, World Baseball Classic.

But Edison Gonzalez got a strikeout to end the game.

"I was not nervous in the beginning of the game," he said, "but in the last inning when the first batter got on, I got nervous because I'm not having a good tournament at the plate and we needed it to win the game."

Gonzalez joined several teammates to exchange high-fives one more time with Mexico's disappointed players. He tapped counterpart Ballina, 13, on the shoulder, as the Mexico starter backed to his dugout to offer kind words and an embrace.

After the teams exchanged handshakes at the plate, Edison RBI single to center, but Gonzalez

got two strikeouts to end that inning. Renowned earlier in the tournament for their power, Mexico hitters struggled at the plate until the final innings. The loss eliminated Mexico.

After losing Curacao on Tuesday, Mexico lost its second game without manager Fernando Rios, who was suspended two games after failing to have all his players take a turn at bat in a 4-3 win earlier this week over Taiwan.

Mexico's acting manager elected not to speak with reporters after the game.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns for East Division, West Division, Pct, GB.

Table with columns for Cincinnati, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Arizona, San Diego, Colorado, West Division, East Division, Pct, GB.

Preview

In football, quarterback Michael Rucker will become the Bucks' all-time leading passer barring something going horribly wrong. The Bucks will be deeper on the line and could be faster in the backfield, both of which could make them more likely to hang with the top teams in 11AA in the final year of a 16-team big-school class.

The Yankton volleyball team has just two returning starters, but two that can turn the tide of a match, Mikala Hora and Kelsey Fitzgerald. If the Gazelles have fitters step up they could be a force to contend with.

The men's and women's soccer teams are in their second season under Nathan Epps, and strong recruiting classes on both sides give reasons for optimism. Volleyball also had a strong recruiting class for coach Candice Climer. Cross country posted solid finishes with younger teams, and their hard work in the off-season has those teams looking to be competitive in a very tough conference.

NATIONAL SUN MEN'S PRE-SEASON POLL

Table with columns for 1, Augustana (12), 2, U-Mary (5), 3, Minnesota State, 4, U-Mary, 5, Sioux Falls, 6, MSU Moorhead, 7, Northern State, 8, St. Cloud State, 9, Winona State, 10, Minot State, 11, Wayne State, 12, Southwest Minnesota State, 13, Concordia-St. Paul.

NATIONAL SUN WOMEN'S PRE-SEASON POLL

Table with columns for 1, Augustana (9), 2, U-Mary (5), 3, Winona State, 4, Minnesota State, 5, Minnesota State, 6, Northern State, 7, St. Cloud State, 8, MSU Moorhead, 9, Sioux Falls, 10, Minot State, 11, Wayne State, 12, Southwest Minnesota State, 13, Concordia-St. Paul.

BASEBALL

Table with columns for Double Elimination, UNITED STATES: GREAT LAKES, NEW ENGLAND, MIDWEST, SOUTHEAST, INTERNATIONAL: ASIA-PACIFIC, TAIWAN, CARIBBEAN, WILMESTAD, EUROPE, JAPAN, LATIN AMERICA, PANAMA, MEXICO, NATIONAL LEAGUE, East Division, West Division, Pct, GB.

TRANSACTIONS

Table with columns for BASEBALL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, SCHEDULED, TRADES, SIGNINGS, RELEASES, SUSPENSIONS, OTHER.

Preview

The men's and women's soccer teams are in their second season under Nathan Epps, and strong recruiting classes on both sides give reasons for optimism. Volleyball also had a strong recruiting class for coach Candice Climer. Cross country posted solid finishes with younger teams, and their hard work in the off-season has those teams looking to be competitive in a very tough conference.

AREA: One of the fun things about working in this part of the world is the competitiveness of the area teams. There are so many teams in southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska that will be competing for state titles, I can't even attempt to list them all here.

All I know is it's going to be another fun school year.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904

Huskies

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Brown said he could tell it was hard for Beck to hold back last season. "There were times he might have felt frustration," Brown said. "There were times his creativity wanted to come out of the bag, but he's smart enough to understand it is only good if the players are ready to do those kinds of things."

Going into year two of the offense, Beck believes the players are ready. "We're all a little bit more comfortable," Beck said. "They kind of know what I'm expecting, and I know what they're capable of doing."

That was the year Kansas finished 12-1 and ranked No. 7. The Jayhawks were second nationally in scoring (42.8 ppg), eighth in total offense (479.8 ypg) and 17th in passing (291.0 ypg).

Having worked under Mark Mangino, Beck developed an affinity for wide-open offense. After Watson was fired, Beck asked Pelini for the job.

"I felt an advantage to hiring me was that I knew Bo and we grew up in the same hometown," Beck said. "The mentality and culture

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of the Huskers running 26 plays for 169 yards and two touchdowns to break open the game. The week before, in a 41-14 win over Minnesota, Beck capitalized on a vulnerable spot in the defense by calling a reverse that Kenny Bell turned into a freshman-record 82-yard TD.

The 46-year-old Beck is two years older than Pelini, and both are products of the powerhouse Cardinal-Mooney High School program in Youngstown, Ohio. Beck went on to play at Central Florida and Pelini at Ohio State. Their coaching ca-

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