

# Dannenbring, Bennett To Share USF Golf Helm



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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In high school, Yankton's Ty Dannenbring and Sioux Falls Washington's Brett Bennett were rivals on the golf course, each competing for one of the top teams in the state. Nearly a decade later, golf is bringing the two of them back together — this time on the same team.

Dannenbring and Bennett have been named co-head coaches for the University of Sioux Falls men's and women's golf teams, Athletic Director Kevin Hesser announced on Thursday. They replace Jenny Coluccio, who coached USF for three seasons before being hired as assistant women's golf coach at the University of Illinois.

"We are very excited that Brett and Ty have accepted

our co-head coaching position," Hesser said. "Having two local coaches with NCAA Division II experience and a passion for the sport will be a great asset to both of our golf programs."

Dannenbring had been away from South Dakota since leaving to play collegiately at Lenoir-Rhyne University in North Carolina. After graduating, he remained in North Carolina and was a middle school golf coach at Hickory Christian Academy before his work with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes brought him back to South Dakota.

Dannenbring led the Bucks to the 2004 South Dakota Boys "AA" team championship and posted consecutive runner-up finishes as an individual in the 2004 and 2005 state tourna-

ments. Dannenbring has served as the FCA Tour Life Chaplain for the Dakotas Tour during the past two summers.

The Yankton graduate said that the opening at USF could not have come at a better time.

"I was going to be predominantly at USF anyway," he said. "Now I get to be on staff there, and serve the men and women on the golf team."

Bennett comes to USF after spending time working at both Westward Ho Country Club and the Todd Kolb Golf Academy in Sioux Falls. A 2009 graduate of the University of South Dakota, he completed a three-year PGA apprenticeship at the Tonto Verde Golf Club in Rio Verde, Ariz. Bennett was a four-year varsity letterman for the Coyotes, earning Great West Sec-

ond Team All-Conference honors and Great West Player of the Week honors during his senior season. He was also named to the North Central Conference All-Tournament team as a sophomore at USD.

Bennett wanted to "give kids the same opportunities I had." He had applied for the golf coaching job at NAIA Northwestern (Iowa) last fall, and had been in contact with Coluccio about helping with the program this year.

"In the spring, they had asked if I would help out," he said. "Then Jenny took the position at Illinois. I think this will be a great opportunity."

For Dannenbring, it is a homecoming of sorts, bringing him back to the state and within an hour's drive of home.

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## USD Ticket Sales Off To Strong Start

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — On the first day single game football tickets were available to the public, nearly 2,000 tickets were sold Thursday for the five University of South Dakota home games this fall, according to Chris Kaufman, coordinator of Ticket Operations and Sales.

Over 500 packages were also sold Thursday for the Coyote Pack, a bundle that includes home games with Indiana State (Oct. 12) and South Dakota State (Nov. 16).

"That's been by far our biggest seller," Kaufman said. "A lot of our fans want their hands on the SDSU game as soon as they can."

Tickets were — and still remain — available over the phone or online (through a link at goyotes.com). Kaufman said many fans have chosen to use the online ticketing system because of the convenience.

The reception to the Coyote Pack has been similar to last year when USD had a similar deal for games with Colgate and North Dakota State, Kaufman said. Any returned tickets to the Indiana State game by Jackrabbit fans will find a home, he added.

"A lot of our fans don't mind purchasing two games, because they can get an extra game already taken care of," Kaufman said. "From what I've seen online, SDSU fans are taking advantage of it."

Another sought-after ticket Thursday was the Oct. 5 DakotaDays homecoming game with Missouri State, Kaufman said. The Nov. 9 home game with Montana has also been a popular ticket target. USD's fifth home game is the Aug. 31 opener with UC Davis.

"The Montana fans do travel pretty well," he said. "It's not unlike North Dakota State. It's a close proximity for them, and they can make a weekend trip out of it."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)

## Nelson Named To MMC Men's Coaching Staff

Mount Marty College announced Thursday the hiring of Eric Nelson as assistant men's basketball coach for the 2013-2014 season.

Originally from Laurel, Neb., Nelson comes to Mount Marty from Westwood High School in Sloan, Iowa, where he spent the past three years as the head girl's basketball coach and was a teacher at the middle school.

"Eric brings a lot to this program. He has coached for many years and done it as both an assistant and as a head coach," MMC head coach Andrew Baker said. "He also has done lots of work with individual skill development."

Nelson received his undergraduate degree from Morn-



Nelson

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## Dakotas Tour | Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am

# Golfers Recall 40 Years



Yankton's Tyler Frick chips on to the No. 18 green Thursday during the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am at Yankton's Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Asked about his play in the 1974 Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am, Jim Tramp smiled and joked, "I know I wasn't a winner, that's for sure."

Forty years later, Tramp is still competing in the 4-day tournament, and the way he describes it, he is still having fun.

"That's a long time, forty years. I'm hoping to make it to 50 years," he said Thursday after his round at Yankton's Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

Tramp is one of three men to have competed in all 40 Hillcrest pro-ams, joining Don Munson and Jim Cihak. Tramp and Munson — Cihak is in a Sioux Falls hospital after suffering a stroke — were both given 40th anniversary watches during a brief ceremony Wednesday night.

Looking back on his time with the event, Tramp pointed to the total payout as one of the reasons why the Hillcrest Pro-Am has continued to grow. This year, there is \$105,000 in winnings available.

"I've seen a lot of different pros come through here," Tramp said. "The purse got higher all the time; I think that's why we get so many good pros."

"Eleven thousand dollars was a lot of money back in 1974."

Jay Hubner and Kyle Repp, both of Yankton, are also in their 39th year with the pro-am. Jeb Christensen (Yankton), Gary Stevens (Yankton) and Ted Gibbens (Nashville, Tenn.) are all in their 38th year.

Tramp's son, Jason, is competing in his 25th year with the event. His wife and daughter have also both played in the Ladies Pro-Am in previous years, he said.

One page in the Hillcrest Pro-Am program is dedicated to the golfers who are playing in at least their 25th year. And while many of the names are Yankton residents, a group of two near the top hail from Omaha, Neb.

Jerry Chestnut, 78, and Larry Hagewood, 82, are pro-am regulars, and have tried to recruit new amateurs over the years. They succeeded again this year,



Professional golfer Ryan Dillon putts on the No. 9 green Thursday during the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am at Yankton's Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

bringing with them Bruce Schrage, Ron Dahl and Mike Polk — all from Ashland (Neb.) Country Club.

To the two veterans, does it feel like 40 years?

"It seems like it sometimes when I'm playing," Chestnut joked Thursday after his round.

Added Hagewood, "We don't play as well as we used to. We've been saying for years that we were done, but we always end up coming back here."

Thirty-nine years ago, they themselves were recruited, Chestnut said.

"The guy (Joe Wall) who won the first pro-am told us one time, 'Guys, you've got to get up to Yankton. It's the best dang event out there.' And we've been here ever since," Chestnut said. "We love this tournament. The city does a hell of a job supporting this."

After years of hearing about the Hillcrest Pro-Am, Schrage and Dahl finally relented and decided to make the trip to Yankton. Their immediate reaction was positive, Schrage said.

"Oh yeah, I'll be back here continuously," he said. "Jerry

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# Amateurs: Lesterville Tops Freeman For State Berth



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

ABOVE: Lesterville pitcher Tyler Edler sends the ball home during the Broncos' District 6B matchup with Freeman on Thursday in Scotland. Lesterville held on to win 8-5.

RIGHT: Irene's Adam Gale, 2, congratulates teammate Ben Crush after the two scored in the second inning of the Cardinals' matchup with Wynot in the District 6B Amateur Baseball Tournament on Thursday in Scotland. The game was not completed by press time.

SCOTLAND — Tyler Edler went the distance as the Lesterville Broncos earned a trip to the state amateur tournament by beating Freeman 8-5 in the District 6B Tournament on Thursday night in Scotland.

The Broncos built a 7-0 lead after five innings and held off a late Black Sox rally. Freeman scored four runs in the top of the ninth to make things interesting.

Andy Gall doubled and singled twice for Lesterville, while Mike

Pavel, Cody Ulmer and Edler all doubled.

Brett Scherschligt also went the distance on the mound for Freeman. Nathan Weier singled three times and Jake Weier added a pair of singles.

Freeman has one more chance to qualify for state. It plays the loser of Irene and Wynot at 5 p.m. Saturday in Scotland.

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LESTERVILLE .....050 020 01X — 8 8 1  
Brett Scherschligt and Allan Scherschligt; Tyler Edler and Zach Johnson

