



P&D FILE PHOTO

South Dakota State runner Phillip LaVallee, pictured competing in the 2013 Summit League Indoor Track and Field Championships, was killed in a car-pedestrian accident near Otsego, Minn., on Thursday.

SDSU Runner Killed In Minnesota

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State University cross country and track and field student-athlete Phillip LaVallee died Thursday afternoon in a car-pedestrian accident near Otsego, Minn.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Phillip's family, his teammates and coaches during this very difficult time," said Justin Sell, director of athletics. "He was a model student-athlete and a great teammate to everyone in our cross country and track and field programs. He loved being a Jackrabbit and the entire SDSU community shares in this tragic loss."

LaVallee was training for his sophomore season and was expected to be a key contributor this fall for the Jackrabbit cross country team. During his freshman season, LaVallee finished 15th overall at the 2012 Summit League Championships in helping SDSU claim the team title for the third time in four years. He also finished fifth in the 800-meter run at both the league indoor and outdoor track and field championships.

He also was honored as a Summit League Distinguished Scholar and was named to the Summit League Honor Roll for academics while majoring in civil engineering.

The incident remains under investigation by the Wright County Sheriff's Office and the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

NDSU Football Looks To Remain Atop Conference

BY JEFF KOLPACK

Fargo Forum

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — It was just a handful of years ago when North Dakota State first played a game in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. The Bison weren't exactly welcomed with opened arms.

Some teams objected to the No. 1 preseason ranking the Bison got in 2008. They were right: NDSU went 4-4 in the conference that season.

Times have changed.

There are no objections to the No. 1 ranking heading into this season. The Bison are coming off their second straight NCAA Football Championship Subdivision national title and return more starters than anybody else.

It means for the second straight year, head coach Craig Bohl has had to answer the complacency question on more than one occasion.

"The best way I know how to guard against it is to take care of business every day and make sure you have good competition within your football team," he told The Forum. "We have a clear vision of what we need to accomplish. While it's important to celebrate past victories, to sit and meander in all of that is a proven ground for complacency."

The Bison haven't lost on the road since a 2010 playoff loss at Eastern Washington. They are 28-2 in the last two seasons, with those two losses coming at home against Missouri Valley teams that didn't make the playoffs.

"That's a real case in point of the competitive nature of Missouri Valley football," Bohl said. "We know we'll have our hands full in the Valley."

On offense, the Bison return the likes of quarterback Brock Jensen, wide receivers Zach Vraa and Ryan Smith, running backs Sam Ojuri and John Crockett and four of the starting five on the offensive line.

On defense, the starting four defensive linemen and a few key backups are back. All three linebackers return, as well as most of the defensive backfield. About the only hole to fill is departed cornerback Andre Martin.

"I don't think there's anything wrong talking

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USD Takes Arena Plan Above Ground

New Plan Moves Court To Same Level As DakotaDome Concourse Instead Of Floor

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — With fundraising efforts continuing to progress, the proposed basketball and volleyball arena project at the University of South Dakota went back to the drawing board for a slight design change.

Rather than have a 2-level arena with the basketball and volleyball courts beneath ground level (at the same level as the football field in the DakotaDome), the courts would be constructed at concourse level, according to USD athletic director David Herbster.

The change was proposed after contractors determined that costs associated with digging that far under ground would escalate the \$69 million pricetag, Herbster said, pointing out that the changes are still being evaluating.

"Everything will still be in there that we need to have in there," he said Friday, adding that USD has surpassed the \$52 million mark for both facility projects, including an outdoor track and soccer complex.

The 6,000-seat arena is now but assured of a spring 2014 construction start because of the changes, Herbster added.

Other than that, the original proposed components of the arena remain in place. They include: 3 practice courts, locker rooms, coaches and administrative offices, new training room, new weight room and other fan amenities.

In short, a lot of pieces had to be considered.

"Any time you do change, the biggest thing is, you have to make sure the vision and functionality aren't compromised," Herbster said. "We have to make sure that even when we do it, it still meets the needs of the

athletes, staff and the academic component."

Between the DakotaDome and the arena would be a 3-story sports performance enhancement facility, that will house the Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Kinesiology & Sports Sciences departments. That structure could also be affected in the potential changes, Herbster said.

"If we don't go that (original) direction, it'll all be one level," he said. "Regardless, from a programmatic standpoint, the only thing that would really change is where things are placed. We could still end up keeping the original plan, it just depends."

Those original plans — kick-started from a \$20 million gift from Sanford Health and later a \$1.5 million donation from CorTrust Bank — have helped build momentum for the project, Herbster said.

"What's going to help us the most is actually being able to see more fully what it's going to be like," he said. "We've been able to

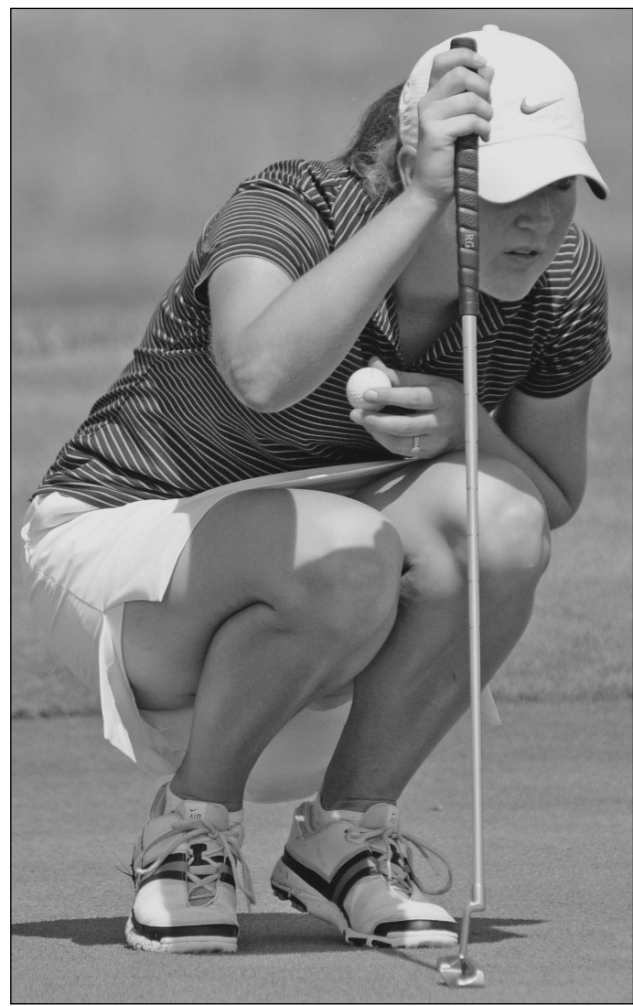
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Golf | SDGA Women's Amateur Notebook



Lauren Fitts of Brookings watches her tee shot on Hole No. 11 during the first round of the SDGA Women's Amateur Championship on Friday at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course.

New Champion Guaranteed



Karla Cotton of Sioux Falls stares down a putt during the first round of the SDGA Women's Amateur Championship on Friday at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course. Cotton, who won the event in 2008 and 2010, shares the first-round lead with Maggie Leland of Alexandria, who golfs at Augustana, at 72.

Kaufman Playing On Symetra Tour, One Step Below LPGA Tour

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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There will be a new champion for the South Dakota Golf Association's Women's Amateur championship, which began at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course on Friday. But not because last year's titlewinner isn't able to play golf.

It is because she has moved on to a high level of competition.

Clark native Kim Kaufman, who won the last two women's amateur titles among her many golf crowns won in the state, is currently on the Symetra women's golf tour, the level below the LPGA. Kaufman, who won the Island Resort Championship in just her third tour event, ranks ninth in the tour standings despite missing the first five events due to her final season at Texas Tech.

"It's been fun to watch Kim progress. I first saw her play when she was 12 years old," said Wade Merry, the executive director of the SDGA. "She grew up in Clark, playing on a nine-hole course, and developed her skills there. More than anything, she's a great example of where hard work can take you."

Kaufman, who also won the Women's Amateur in 2009, would

not be the first former SDGA champ to play on the LPGA. Sioux Falls native Kris Tschetter won the SDGA Women's Amateur, then called the "Women's Stroke Play," four straight years, from 1983-86.

Many of the young golfers in the field may be eyeing a similar path. Over half the field is currently a collegiate golfer or will be beginning this fall. Several others were competitive in the SDGA Junior Championship two weeks ago.

"This is becoming a younger person's tournament," Merry said. "It's good to see all the high school and college players out there. I'm happy with the turnout of the younger players."

Of the four returning golfers from last year's top-10 at the Women's Amateur, three played in the SDGA Junior last month in Wattertown. The other is Karla Cotton, who won this event in 2008 and 2010.

"It's fun to watch these kids grown up and become better golfers," Merry said. "They're getting more and more opportunities to play at a higher level."

Of the eight NCAA Division I golfers in the field — four each from the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University — six are S.D. natives.

Cotton, Leland Share Lead

Cotton, a two-time Women's Amateur champion, and Maggie Leland of Alexandria share the first-round

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Irene, Crofton, Tabor Open State Amateur This Weekend

Cards Aim For Better Showing

BY JEREMY HOECK

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The state's biggest stage has not been kind to the Irene Cardinals over the last three years.

Each of those summers, the Cardinals lost their first-round game at the South Dakota Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament, twice getting shut out — the other time losing a lead in the ninth inning.

Irene, sitting at 15-14 overall, will look to stop that streak when it plays Miller today (Saturday) at 11 a.m. at the state tournament at Sioux Falls Stadium.

"The last few years we've

been one and done," Cardinals manager Kendall Johnke said. "We just have to get over that hump."

"We're capable of making a run," he added, "but our downfall all year has been leaving people on base. In the games we've won, we've brought those guys in."

The Cardinals, who earned the last bid out of District 6B, qualified for state for the 10th consecutive year. In both 2008 and 2009, they lost in the second round after winning their opener.

As has been the case for Irene in the last handful of

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'Jays Look For 4th Straight Title Berth

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Crofton's résumé at the South Dakota Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament since 2010 reads like this: 13-2 record, three consecutive trips to the championship game, and one title in 2011.

So yes, the Bluejays are the target.

"I'm sure people aren't looking past us, by any means, because we've had the success we've had the last few years," Schieffer said. "We can't do that, either. There's a reason these teams are at state; they can play."

Thrown into a tough part

of the bracket with teams like Canova, Tabor and defending champion Parkston Mudcats, the Bluejays (19-2) can't afford to look past Lake Norden, Schieffer said.

"Each game, you have to look at it that way," he said. "It (bracket) won't change how we look at our games, we know we have to show up ready to play each night. Otherwise you don't have to worry about tomorrow."

Using that theme all season, the Bluejays have again rolled. Following a season-opening loss, Crofton won 13 straight South Central League games, and later

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Roller Coaster Season Brings Bluebirds To State

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Two months ago, the Tabor Bluebirds were more worried about simply winning a regular season game, let alone one at the South Dakota Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament.

After starting their season 0-4, the Bluebirds won 10 of their next 12 and quickly became a contender in the South Central League. They eventually lost to Crofton in the District 6B title game.

Now, Tabor (13-8) will look to rediscover its win-

ning ways Sunday with it plays Lennox Only One in the first round of the state tournament. Game time is 11 a.m. at Sioux Falls Stadium.

It's already been a roller coaster season for the Bluebirds, according to manager Jon Vavruska.

"At the beginning, I'm sure everyone thought it would be a long season," he said. "Then things started coming together, nerves settled, just enjoyed the game."

"Now we'll see if we can have some fun in Sioux Falls."

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