

Soccer | USD Women

Coyotes Hope Continued Growth Results In Wins

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — It's taken a while, but the USD soccer team finally has a large contingent of upperclassmen.

By sheer numbers, the Coyotes (2-13-3 a year ago) are again a young team — with one senior (Jenny Teslow), 11 juniors, seven sophomores and six freshmen.

Most of those sophomores, though, played significant minutes last season, as have the juniors the previous two years (they were part of the 2011 roster that was the youngest in the nation).

"It's nice this year to have a junior group that's been here with us for two or three years," said fourth-year head coach Mandy Green, whose team opens the season today (Friday) at home against Loyola (Ill.) at 4 p.m.

"We've tried to establish a culture of hard work and positive attitudes, so they know what we're all about."

It's been a struggle the last few years for the Coyotes, who were 1-6-1 in the Summit League last fall. The combination of offense, with 18 goals, and defense, 44 goals allowed, didn't allow much wiggle room last year.

The program, however, zeroed in on the defensive production over the off-season.

USD spent three months and one week out of its nearly four-month long spring session working on defensive drills, Green said.

"Our team goal is to allow the fewest goals in school history," she said. The USD record is 22.

"We saw on tape from last year that when we were one on one (defensively), we were in better attacking shape," she added. "We scored a lot more in the spring, so hopefully that keeps up."

To help that offensive attack, USD returns five of the seven players who scored a goal last year.

Teslow, a second team All-Summit League pick, led with five goals, fol-

lowed by Danielle Anderson (So., 4), Teagan Eberle (So., 2), Lauren Bennett (Jr., 2) and Rebecca Sparkman (So., 1).

"This is a group that's brought intensity already," Green said. "It's been a fun preseason for the coaches; we've been excited."

As the program has continued to progress, so too have its recruiting classes.

Many of the six freshmen had other offers — Green calls them "great gets" — and the Coyotes are banking on their high-level experience to translate to the collegiate ranks.

Midfielder Jamie Karch (Germantown, Wis.) was one of the top players in Wisconsin and midfielder Meghan Mannix (Crystal Lake, Ill.) is listed on some top freshmen sites, according to Green.

The Coyotes also nabbed for-



P&D FILE PHOTO

South Dakota's Jenny Teslow, 16, pushes the ball up-field during a home game last fall with Kansas City. Teslow is the only senior this season for the Coyotes, who host Loyola of Chicago today (Friday) at 4 p.m. in the regular season opener.

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'We're Not Big Into The Spotlight'



P&D FILE PHOTO

South Dakota State running back Zach Zenner, center, pops through a gap during a home game for the Jackrabbits in 2012. Wagner native Trevor Greger, 66, and the rest of the SDSU line are ready for another season of clearing the way for Zenner, the nation's leading rusher a year ago.

Greger, SDSU Line Ready To Clear Path

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Nation's leading rusher. Playoff berth. Post-season victory at home.

Trevor Greger and his football teammates at South Dakota State have plenty of reasons to be optimistic this fall after 2012, but make no mistake, the Jackrabbits aren't exactly satisfied.

As an offensive lineman, Greger — one of the affectionately-labeled "fat guys" — is accustomed to living in the shadows; at times far removed from all the recognition. The junior from Wagner said his position doesn't allow him to stop and savor the flavor.

"We're not big into the spotlight," Greger said by phone Thursday. "We sit back and do our job, and let the skinny guys make the money for us."

Those "skinny guys" — specifically running back Zach Zenner — played a key role in helping vault the Jackrabbits from five wins in 2010 and 2011 to a 9-4 record last season. Zenner led all of FCS in rushing with 2,044 yards to go along with 13 touchdowns.

Sure, Greger and his fellow lineman had something to do with that success, but as per the norm, they aren't about to assume credit.

"We take great pride in other people getting the credit. We're used to it," said Greger, who has started the last 16 games for the Jacks. "If Zach or (QB) Austin (Summer) get rewards and awards, we feel like they're ours too."

Saying that any success on the offensive side "starts with the fat guys," SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier chuckled when told of Greger's response.

"They're humble, just like we want them to be," the veteran coach said Thursday. "Zach, our big fat guys, and our quarterback are cut from the same cloth. None of them celebrate a bunch."

There was plenty of celebrating last fall, as the Jacks went 6-2 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, earned an at-large bid into the FCS playoffs, beat Eastern Illinois at home in the first round and lost to eventual national champion North Dakota State in the second round.

Of course, NDSU would be the

only team in the country that could say it accomplished what it wanted to, Stiegelmeier said.

Using the Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens as an example (saying that even those coaches would find something to nit-pick about), Stiegelmeier said he believes the program has progressed to the point where goals are raised.

"With our program, I think we've matured," he said. "It's a different kind of excitement now. With the expectations we have, the word mature feels right."

"We're not giddy," he added. "We're excited, yet we understand it's going to be a battle."

Part of that mindset comes with experience. The Jacks — picked No. 6 in the preseason FCS media poll — return 15 starters, including four on the offensive line, as well as tight end Vince Benedetto (Sr.) and wide receiver Brandon Hubert (Sr.).

On the defensive side, SDSU brings back three of four linemen, as well as linebacker T.J. Lally (So.) and two of four in the secondary.

The Jacks open their season Aug. 31 against Butler, at 6 p.m. in Brook-

ings, and for now, the focus remains on beating Butler, Greger said. Then will come North Dakota, Southeastern Louisiana and Nebraska before the conference opener Sept. 28 vs. NDSU.

"I know that we were picked in the top ten, but to me, that we're still picked to lose a couple games," Greger said. "We're focusing on going 1 and 0 every week."

"We can't focus too far ahead," he added. "If we set our minds on the second or third game, it takes all your attention away from the first game."

Peitz Out

Stiegelmeier said Thursday that starting long snapper Matt Peitz, a senior from Crofton, Neb., could be out for the season with a "fairly serious" injury.

Peitz has played in all 24 games over the past two seasons. Last year, SDSU's place-kicking unit was 32-of-33 on extra point attempts and 18-of-22 on field goals.

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

Quarriers Take DV Invite

DAKOTA DUNES — Dell Rapids edged out a tough nine-team field to claim top honors at the Dakota Valley Invitational boys' golf tournament, held on Thursday at Two Rivers Golf Course.

Dell Rapids finished at 312, four strokes ahead of West Central and Sergeant Bluff-Luton (Iowa). Sioux Falls Christian was fourth at 323.

The victorious Quarriers did not have a golfer in the top five, but had all four scoring golfers in the top 15, each shooting 79 or better. Ty Hoglund's 77 led Dell Rapids.

West Central's Riley Danielson shot a 72 to earn medalist honors, one shot better than Dakota Valley's Ben Williams. Corey Matthey of Sergeant Bluff-Luton shot 75.

TEAM SCORES: Dell Rapids 312, West Central 316, Sergeant Bluff-Luton 316, Sioux Falls Christian 323, Dakota Valley 327, Vermillion 328, Canton 338, Tea Area 351, Elk Point-Jefferson 397

TOP 15: Riley Danielson, West Central 72; Ben Williams, Dakota Valley 73; Corey Matthey, Sergeant Bluff-Luton 75; Dylan From, West Central 76; Colin Murphy, Tea Area 76; Connor Prescott, Sergeant Bluff-Luton 77; Lee Wynia, S.F. Christian 77; Ty Hoglund, Dell Rapids 77; Adam Karst, Dell Rapids 78; Andrew Heine, Vermillion 78; Caleb Ranschau, Canton 78; Devon Weber, Dell Rapids 78; Zach Schroeder, Dell Rapids 79; Andy Huntington, S.F. Christian 80; Cooper Williams, Vermillion 80

SDSU Women Announce Challenging 2013-14 Schedule

BROOKINGS — Throughout its rise in the Division I ranks, the South Dakota State University women's basketball team has played a challenging schedule. The Jackrabbits' slate of games for the upcoming 2013-14 season may be their most challenging yet as half of the team's 30 regular season games will be against teams that played in the postseason a year ago, highlighted by seven contests versus fellow NCAA Tournament qualifiers — including two No. 1 seeds,

Stanford (Nov. 28 at Puerto Vallarta Hardwood Tournament of Hope) and Notre Dame (Jan. 2).

SDSU opens its season at Brigham Young on Nov. 8, one of five WNIT qualifiers on its non-Summit League schedule. Other games away from Frost Arena include Creighton (Nov. 12), Texas Christian (Nov. 27 at Puerto Vallarta) Wisconsin-Green Bay (Dec. 7) and Arkansas-Little Rock (Dec. 29).

SDSU's home schedule begins with Georgetown (Nov.

15) and Northern Iowa (No. 17), and includes Penn State on Dec. 11.

South Dakota State finished the 2012-13 season with a 25-8 overall record, including a 14-2 mark in Summit League play. The Jackrabbits won both the Summit League regular season and postseason tournament titles, advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the fifth consecutive season.

OCTOBER: 27, vs. Bemidji State, exhibition

NOVEMBER: 1, MSU-Mankato, exhibition; 8, at Brigham Young; 12, at

Creighton; 15, Georgetown; 17, Northern Iowa; 21, Pepperdine; 27-28, at Puerto Vallarta Hardwood Tournament of Hope (27 vs. Texas Christian; 28 vs. Stanford; 29 vs. Florida Gulf Coast)

DECEMBER: 2, NJIT; 7, at Green Bay; 11, Penn State; 15, Central Michigan; 17, Northern Iowa; 21, at Middle Tennessee State; 29, at Arkansas-Little Rock

JANUARY: 2, at Notre Dame; 9, IUPUI; 11, Fort Wayne; 16, at Western Illinois; 18, at Omaha; 25, at North Dakota State; 30, Denver

FEBRUARY: 2, South Dakota; 6, at Fort Wayne; 8, at IUPUI; 13, Omaha; 15, Western Illinois; 22, North Dakota State; 27, at Denver

MARCH: 1, at South Dakota; 8-11, Summit League Tour. at Sioux Falls

Memorial Stadium Addition Pushes Capacity Past 90,000

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The new addition to Nebraska's Memorial Stadium will allow about 6,000 more fans to watch the Cornhuskers play football and also serve as a hub for research on concussions and other areas of brain science as well as athletic performance.

Gov. Dave Heineman, retired football coach and athletic director Tom Osborne and Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany were among the dignitaries who participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of the East Stadium entrance Thursday.

The addition of 38 skybox suites pushes the stadium's total to more than 100, and capacity increased from about 86,000 to almost 92,000.

Private donations and revenue from the new seating are funding the \$63.5 million project, which will be paid off in seven years.

The east side of the stadium now rises

165 feet, double its previous height, and the highest seats offer a complete view of the field in addition to a panoramic view of downtown Lincoln and the outlying rural landscape. There are 36 new restrooms, 12 new concession stands and three retail stores selling Husker gear.

Beyond the enhancement of the fan experience, officials touted the collaboration between the athletic and academic arms of the university.

Researchers in the Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior will study concussions, most notably, but also conditions such as autism and addiction. The Athletic Performance Lab, which is connected to the brain center by a 100-foot skywalk, will be tasked with enhancing the well-being of athletes in addition to finding ways to provide them an edge on the playing field or court. But work in the performance lab also could be applied to the treatment and rehabilitation of physical problems out-

side the sports realm. The lab is partnering with a rehabilitation hospital in Lincoln.

Osborne shepherded the stadium expansion as one of his last major projects before he retired as athletic director in January.

"Anybody coming through here will have to say the University of Nebraska is doing as much or more than any university in the country to promote the health and safety of student-athletes," Osborne said. "As far as athletic performance, we're going to be ahead of the curve."

"Great research is going to come out of here, things that will benefit mankind all over. But we also think from the standpoint of recruiting it's going to be huge."

The structure was built as a shell around the facade of the original East Stadium, which opened in 1923.

The 18th-ranked Huskers open the season Aug. 31 at home against Wyoming.

Many Already Cashing In On Minn. Vikings Stadium

BY BRIAN BAKST

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Even before ground is broken on a new Minnesota Vikings stadium, a white-collar brigade of accountants, architects, lawyers and other consultants has locked in millions of dollars in contracts that would complicate any effort to derail the project.

Nearly two dozen contracts examined by The Associated Press reflect ample amounts already spent or committed to developing the \$975 million downtown football stadium. They include engineering assessments that cost less than \$10,000, a \$25,000-a-month law firm retainer and a \$34 million deal with a Texas-based architecture firm that's deep in the design process.

There's also a contract with M.A. Mortenson Co., the Minneapolis general contractor expected to forge ahead with construction after a groundbreaking tentatively set for November. The company is due a \$12.5 million base fee with the chance for bonuses at the end.

It's difficult to assign an overall value to the contracts because some merely set an outer limit for work being periodically billed, with the best-paid consultants earning nearly \$400 per hour and others entitled to expense reimbursements. But documents total in the tens of millions of dollars.

Signed agreements reviewed by AP demonstrate a project at an advanced stage. And despite recent concerns over legal woes of the principal Vikings owners, the stadium that even foes admit is nearing a no-turning-back point.

Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority chairwoman Michele Kelm-Helgen said she expects that point will come in early November when a "guaranteed maximum price" for construction is set. Until now, all of the money spent has come from a \$50 million account filled by the Vikings; a state bond sale could come as soon as next month.

"We have no reason to believe that we are not going to be moving ahead," Kelm-Helgen said, adding that an adjusted timetable will be discussed Friday at a meeting of the authority board.

The authority, which will run the new stadium, has launched an audit into the finances of team owners Mark and Zygi Wilf family finances after a civil court ruling in New Jersey claims they defrauded a business partner in a past development deal. Gov. Mark Dayton said the review is essential to ensuring the \$477 million pledge of private financing is "airtight" and that the team negotiated in good faith when saying it couldn't exceed that amount.

The taxpayer share of the new stadium is \$498 million, with portions from the state and city of Minneapolis.

Dayton said this week he didn't want to prejudice the audit. But he said he has difficulty imagining a scenario where the deal falls apart.

"It's highly probable it's going to get built," Dayton said.

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