

South Dakota | Volleyball

# Coyotes Raising Bar After Just Missing '12 Summit League Tourn.

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — One match. That's all that separated the USD volleyball team from advancing to last year's Summit League tournament. The Coyotes, along with two other teams, finished 8-8 in league play, one match behind both Oakland and Kansas City — both of whom left the conference.

So yes, that has fueled the fire for USD this season.

"We did all we could at the end to put ourselves in a position to make the tournament," sixth-year head coach Matt Houk said. "We just left it in someone else's hands. "We've got a little bit of a chip on our shoulders."

Thus became the team credo for 2013: Unfinished Business.

"There's definitely a different mindset," senior setter Tori Kroll said. "We saw what happened last year, that even if you finish really strong, it's not always enough. We're ready to make that difference."

A point of frustration last year for the Coyotes was a stretch of nine losses in 11 matches, followed by a string of five straight wins to close the season. Consistency is naturally the key this year, Houk said.

"Every year I've been here, we've had great runs like that, but we always seem to drop a few in a row," Houk said. "Hopefully we've done the work to not have that."

Part of that involved all 11 returners staying in Vermillion over the summer.

The Coyotes bring back four of their top five hitters from a year ago, their top setter (Kroll) and seven of their top eight defenders by number of digs.

Leading the way on offense are hitters Kendall Krittenbrink (Jr., 404 kills, All-Summit League), Amber Aschoff (Sr., 200 kills), Natalie Walseth (Sr., 160 kills) and



Kendall Krittenbrink (@inKREndiblehulk)

Sydney Dimke (So. 155 kills). Kroll added 1,036 set assists to go along with 102 kills.

USD also returns Riley Haug (Jr.), Melissa Firtko (Jr.), Kaitlyn Hastings (So.), Kelsey Biltoft (So.), Lindsey Brown (Rfr.) and Hurley native Haley Jorgensen (Rfr.).

"We've never had that many returners before," Houk said. "In the past we've always had to start two or three freshmen right away, and that requires an adjustment period.

"We haven't had to break

as many things down."

Of the four freshmen, Houk pointed to Audrey Reeg (Dubuque, Iowa) as a possibility to play right away in a couple different roles.

To challenge the team, the coaching staff put together a tougher schedule. The Coyotes will face seven teams that had a sub-100 RPI last season — Iowa State (15), Hawaii (21), Creighton (24), Wichita State (36), Missouri (59), Idaho State (87) and Texas Tech (96).

USD was able to get into

the Wichita State Tournament, Sept. 19-21, after Oakland left the Summit League, Houk said — that weekend was supposed to be the conference opener.

"It's not just cool to play with those teams anymore, we know we can take games from them," Houk said. "In the past, it was 'This is neat.' We felt confident enough in ourselves to put those teams on the schedule."

The Coyotes got experience against that level during the spring season, when they

USD Volleyball (@SDCoyotesVB)					
8/30	Idaho State	10 a.m.	10/4	@ N.D. State	7 p.m.
	Missouri	2 p.m.	10/5	@ S.D. State	7 p.m.
8/31	Arkansas State	9 a.m.	10/11	Denver	5 p.m.
	Pittsburgh	2 p.m.	10/18	W. Illinois	7 p.m.
9/6-7	Washington State Tourn.	10/25	@ IUPUI	Omaha	7 p.m.
9/6	Montana	4:30 p.m.	10/26	@ Fort Wayne	6 p.m.
	E. Washington	8 p.m.	11/1	S.D. State	7 p.m.
9/7	Texas Tech	1 p.m.	11/3	N.D. State	2 p.m.
	Washington State	10 p.m.	11/5	@ Iowa State	6:30 p.m.
9/16	North Dakota	7 p.m.	11/9	@ Denver	7 p.m.
9/19-21	Wichita State Tourn.	11/15	@ Omaha	7 p.m.	
9/19	Hawaii	7:30 p.m.	11/17	@ W. Illinois	2 p.m.
9/20	Wichita State	7:30 p.m.			
9/21	Creighton	5 p.m.			
9/27	Fort Wayne	7 p.m.	11/21	Semifinals	
9/29	IUPUI	1 p.m.	11/22	Championship	



Riley Haug (#5, @Rilo05)

took a game from Nebraska.

"We want to see where we are against some of those teams," Kroll said. "They're tougher than the teams in our conference, so that should help us down the road."

Picked fourth in the Summit League preseason poll, the Coyotes seemingly have a better chance to reach the conference tournament. Six

teams advance, rather than four like last year.

"All of us have expectations to get first," Kroll said. "But if we don't, we'll aim for as high as we can go. We know fifth place isn't an option this year."

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

South Dakota | Women's Soccer

# Experience Starting To Pile Up For Coyotes

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article originally appeared in the Aug. 23 edition of the Press & Dakotan.

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 opened the season with a 1-1 tie to Loyola (Ill.) on Aug. 23, and a 3-1 loss to Iowa State on Aug. 25. The ISU match marked the first time a BCS-conference opponent visited Vermillion for a NCAA Division I regular season game in any sport.

"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 Coy-



Corey Strang (#3, @Corey\_Strang)

otes, 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

USD Soccer (@SDCoyotesSoccer) 0-1-1					
8/18	Viberbo (exhibition)	W 3-0	9/26	Drake	4 p.m.
8/23	Loyola	T 1-1	10/4	@ Omaha	7 p.m.
8/25	Iowa State	L 1-3	10/11	@ S.D. State	6 p.m.
8/30	@ Wyoming	4 p.m.	10/13	@ N.D. State	noon
9/1	@ Colo.-Colo. Spr.	noon	10/20	Denver	noon
9/5	N. Illinois (Brookings)	3 p.m.	10/25	@ Fort Wayne	7 p.m.
9/8	Nevada (Brookings)	10 a.m.	11/1	W. Illinois	3 p.m.
9/13	@ Creighton	7 p.m.	11/3	IUPUI	noon
9/15	Coll. of St. Mary	1 p.m.			
9/20	@ North Dakota	3 p.m.			
9/22	Northern Iowa	noon			

seven players who scored a goal last year. Teslow, a second team All-Summit League pick, led with five goals, followed 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 forward Corey Strang (Temecula, Calif.), who had other regional Division I offers. Strang scored twice in USD's lone exhibition game, a 3-0 win over Viterbo (Wis.). A pair of other recruits ultimately chose Nebraska over USD, Green pointed out.

"It's already been a fun group to work with," Green said.

USD's home schedule has also taken a step forward this year. The Coyotes will host Iowa State, College of Saint Mary, Northern Iowa, Drake, Denver (league newcomer), Western Illinois and IUPUI.

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

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Football					
9/6	Hartington	7 p.m.	10/4	Creighton	7 p.m.
9/13	@ Pender	7 p.m.	10/11	@ Elgin Pub-Pope John	7 p.m.
9/20	@ Neill St. Mary's	7 p.m.	10/18	Niobrara-Verdige	7 p.m.
9/27	@ Neligh-Oakdale	7 p.m.	10/24	@ Plainview	7 p.m.

Volleyball					
9/5	Wynot Tourn.	5 p.m.	10/8	@ Santee/Boyd County	6 p.m.
9/10	@ Osmond	5:30 p.m.	10/10	Madison	5:30 p.m.
9/12	@ Wausa/Allen	5:30 p.m.	10/12	@ Randolph/Winside	9 a.m.
9/16	@ Wausa	5:30 p.m.	10/15	@ Wynot	5:30 p.m.
9/19	@ Winside	5:30 p.m.	10/17	Creighton	5:30 p.m.
9/24	@ Hartington	5:30 p.m.	10/21-22	Knox County Tourn.	
9/26	Humphrey St. Francis	5:30 p.m.		(Niobrara)	TBD
10/1	Neligh-Oakdale/Plainview	5:30 p.m.	10/28-11/1	Lewis & Clark Conf. Tourn.	
10/3	@ Osmond/Elkhorn Valley	5:30 p.m.			

Cross Country (co-op with Wausa)					
9/6	Niobrara-Verdige Inv.	4 p.m.	9/27	Crofton Inv.	4:30 p.m.
9/12	Hartington Inv.	4 p.m.	10/4	West Holt Inv.	4 p.m.
9/20	O'Neill Inv.	4 p.m.	10/11	Bloomfield Inv.	3:30 p.m.

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