



P&D FILE PHOTO
Yankton's Andi Sprakel, shown here during the fall 2013 season, played for the South Dakota Select this summer. She batted .398 and helped them to a strong finish at the Triple Crown World Series in San Diego.

Sprakel 'Selected' For Squad

Yankton Senior-To-Be A Key Contributor For South Dakota Select Softball Team

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Yankton's Andi Sprakel played some winter events with the South Dakota Select girls' fastpitch team, a 16-under squad comprised of players from Mitchell, Madison and other smaller communities in the state. When summer rolled around, she stayed with the squad with the hopes of advancing her softball career to the next level.

The Select, coached by Mitchell fall coach and Dakota Wesleyan assistant Jim Misiaszek, made a deep run in the Gold championship of the Triple Crown World Series last month in San Diego, California.

Misiaszek, whose daughter Hallie is also on the team,

said his goal was to give players from smaller communities in the state a chance to be noticed by more college coaches.

"Every one of these kids is from towns the size of Mitchell, Yankton, Madison," he said. "This is about giving girls from all over eastern South Dakota a showcase team, putting them in front of college coaches."

With Sprakel batting cleanup and playing shortstop, the Select went 3-1 in pool play to advance to the Gold championship, the top 48 teams in the field.

"She made contact and protected are number three hitter," Misiaszek said. "They could not pitch around our number three hitter because Andi would put the ball in play."

Sprakel did just that, batting .396 with four doubles, three triples and 40 RBI in 55 games. In 160 plate appearances, she walked 19 times while striking out just three times.

In the final game of pool play, Sprakel collided with the center fielder, resulting in an eye that was swollen shut. But Sprakel stayed in the batting order, continuing to be an offensive contributor as the Select went 3-2 in bracket play.

"It was a huge national tournament," she said. "I wanted to stay in the game as long as I could."

Besides being a determined player, Sprakel was fun to have on the team, according to Misiaszek.

"She was an absolute joy to work with," he said. "She's

been a great teammate on a very diverse team."

The Select not only played in San Diego, but in Kansas City and Sioux Falls as well.

"It was really fun," she said. "I got to see a lot of different teams. Some were strong pitching, some batting, some defense."

Sprakel, though, will be playing with the Yankton Gazelles this fall as she begins her senior season. She believes the experience will help her as she tries to help lead the Gazelles to a successful season.

"I'm really excited for my last year," she said. "Hopefully we can make a showing at state."

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

Archery | IFAA World Field Championships

'Exhausting' Travel Worth The Trip

Archers: Event Makes Effort To Get To Yankton Worthwhile

BY JEREMY HOECK
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With Yankton joining the ranks of Africa, Germany and Argentina as hosts for an international field archery tournament, that meant archers from literally all corners of the globe had to find a way to get to Yankton.

That task, depending who you ask, presented travel obstacles.

Still, the consensus from those archers at the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Field Championships, which began Monday in Yankton, was that the travel has already been worth the adventures.

"It was exhausting," said Lilian Zietsman of South Africa, who needed 49 hours to eventually arrive in Yankton.

For Rainer Knaack of Switzerland, his total travel time was a mere 30 hours.

"Too long," he said with a smile.

With the IFAA rotating countries for its biennial World Field Championships, eventually those regular participants are faced with a daunting travel itinerary.

The tournament was held in Namibia, Africa in 2008, and then moved to Germany (2010), Argentina (2012) and to Yankton for 2014 — word is, it moves to Australia for 2016.

As for where Yankton ranks on that international scale, Zietsman was complimentary of the National Field Archery Association complex and ranges.

"We have indoor ranges, but nothing this size," said Zietsman, who said she has been shooting for nearly five years. "Other countries say the same thing; that it's uncommon to see one like this."

Zietsman, who was previously in Yankton last year for



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
ABOVE: These three archers score their arrows on Monday during the first day of the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Field Championships in Yankton. Archers include, from left, Eduardo Toledo (Argentina), Paul Fender (California) and Reiss David (New York).

BELOW: Lilian Zietsman, left, of South Africa and Jolie Baty focus on a target Monday during the first day of the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Field Championships in Yankton.



Archery Events Putting Yankton On A World Stage

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Here are some athletic-related things in the Yankton area that could attract some kind of national attention:

- Division I football or basketball at South Dakota State or the University of South Dakota.

And that's probably it.

Now, can you name any sport that would attract international attention?

The short answer is no, unless archery came to mind. Then you'd be right.

This isn't a 'rah-rah archery is fun, try it!' speech, because frankly I don't shoot a bow, but let's not kid ourselves: Yankton, South Dakota (population of nearly 14,500) is firmly on the international radar when it comes to archery.



Jeremy
HOECK

Especially over the past two months. Back in June, Yankton was informed that it will host the 2015 World Youth Championships — beating out, for one, Mexico City. The week-long tournament will bring approximately 600 youth archers from 60 countries, and is expected to be viewed and followed by millions of people online (or through other viewing options).

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Huskers' Gregory Wants To Expand Game Beyond Sacks

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Randy Gregory wants to be known for more than just being a pass rusher.

A sack total that jumped off the stat sheet last season helped established him as a possible high draft pick for 2015. The Nebraska junior went into the start of preseason practice Monday night with the objective of becoming a complete player.

"I can't say I want this amount of tackles or sacks or anything like that," Gregory said. "If I feel like I've improved my overall game, I'll be happy. Some other people might not be satisfied, but I'm out here for the team and myself and to help us win championships and make myself a better player."

Gregory burst onto the scene after missing the 2012 season at Arizona Western

Community College because of a broken leg. He arrived in Lincoln a few days before fall practice, made the starting lineup by the second game and finished the season with a Big Ten-leading 10 1/2 sacks and 19 tackles for loss.

For all his flashiness off the edge, Gregory knows he must get better against the run.

"I think I used my hands real well, but at times I don't use them correctly," he said. "That's a big thing I've been working on, just my get-off, simple things. I know a lot of people see me as a pass rusher, and every day I try to perfect that. Trying to work on my play against the run and just my eyes and reading keys better, that's been big for me this offseason."

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Coyotes Open Camp In Third Season Under Glenn

BY ALAN DALE
Vermillion Plain Talk

VERMILLION — It has been set in motion...year after year the University of South Dakota football program's relationship with head coach Joe Glenn is under way.

Monday, the Coyotes, coming off of a 4-8 campaign (3-5 in Missouri Valley Football Conference (MVFC) play) were in full throttle as practices for the 2014 season officially launched just outside the Dakota Dome.

"As it should have been our practice was full of a lot of enthusiasm, spirit, and energy," Glenn said about his squad. "Our coaches were coaching them up and it was a fun first day."

Glenn has been quite open about his feelings regarding his team's 8th-place predicted MVFC finish by coaches and media and has stated that the Coyotes would play with a "chip on the shoulder."

Junior College transfer, defensive back Michael Lilly (junior, Santa Anna, California JC), made an immediate impression with an interception in the

skeleton drill.

"That was the first time we saw Michael do anything," Glenn said. "He has great speed and is one of our faster kids."

Also senior defensive back Steve Tellefsen (Weston, Florida) who was injured during spring ball, also picked off a pass.

"It was nice to see those two make a play," Glenn said of Lilly and Tellefsen.

Kansas City-native, senior running back Jasper Sanders, came out with a renewed vigor after missing 2013 with an injured wrist and the spring season with an ailing knee.

Josh Vander Maten (Rock Valley, Iowa) enters the senior year as a wide receiver after moving to that position last fall following his play as starting quarterback for the Coyotes' first three games.

"Jasper's speed was obvious all over the place on offense and we used him at three spots," Glenn said. "It was nice to have Josh back and he made a couple of plays where his speed is real obvious."

Overall, the first practice was getting the newcomers through the early obsta-

cles of learning the system while simply getting the veterans back up to speed.

"It's just getting the kids lined up and in and out of the huddles," Glenn said. "The new guys are totally swimming, going through it the first time. It's automatic for the older guys who have gone through the spring and the fall.

"We take off like we our shot out of the cannon. Then we just keep adding every day, more and more and more."

Glenn liked the condition his young charges looked to be in during their first practice on a new, promising campaign.

"They looked great and especially the guys were here this summer and were trained by my training staff," Glenn said. "They are ready to go and could play a game tomorrow."

Today's (Tuesday) slate: More of the same. Glenn says the first two weeks is about installing the general schemes for his offense, defense, and special teams. He feels that conditioning his players comes hand-in-hand with "being out there two hours and running at 90 miles-per-hour."