

# Scheduling FBS Games Requires Right 'Fit'

## Follow The Coyotes

Press & Dakotan assistant sports editor and USD beat writer Jeremy Hoeck will be in Eugene, Oregon, for Saturday night's football game. He will provide a live game chat. Look for more information on the game throughout this week on Jeremy's Twitter page at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)



Hoeck

BY JEREMY HOECK  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

Scheduling a game against a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) program can prove to be a balancing act between money, regional exposure and yes, a reasonable chance to win.

Both Division I schools in South Dakota, though, are taking their teams to the highest of high level college football. One — South Dakota State — opens its season Saturday in a regional location (Missouri), while the other, University of South Dakota, visits Eugene, Oregon, to face a top-5 program.

Finalizing any FBS game, regardless of how good the team is, isn't exactly the easiest thing to do, according to USD athletic director David Herbster.

"As much as we're looking for them, they're looking for games with us, as well," Herbster said.

Ideally, USD and SDSU would prefer to play regional games in which its fans can easily attend the game, and where the respective universities traditionally recruit, anyway.

"It comes down to a fit," Herbster said.

In the case of the Oregon contract, secured nearly two years ago, the potential money was too much to pass up, Herbster said — particularly for an athletic department with a budget near \$12 million.

"Oregon was an opportunity at the time," Herbster said. "For the dollar amount we got, it made a lot of sense. "We do some recruiting on the west coast, but we wanted to give our players an unbelievable experience."

And so, the Coyotes will take the field at Autzen Stadium against a Ducks team picked anywhere between No. 3 and No. 5 in various national

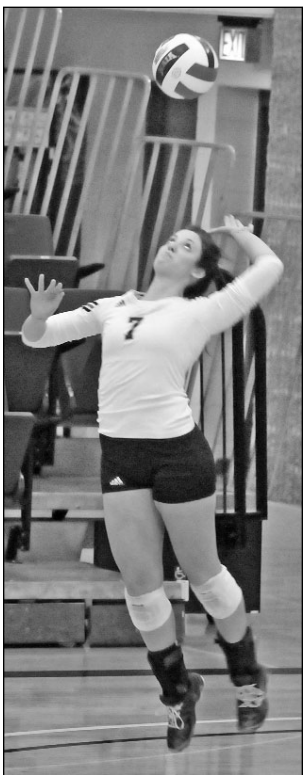
polls. Missouri, meanwhile, was tabbed No. 24 in the preseason Associated Press poll.

Since becoming a D-I counter in 2010, USD has played the likes of Central Florida, Minnesota, Air Force, Wisconsin, Northwestern and Kansas. South Dakota State, meanwhile, has since 2008 played Iowa State, Minnesota, Nebraska (twice), Illinois and Kansas.

The Jackrabbits have really tried to zero in on the Midwest for those guarantee games, according to head coach John Stiegelmeier. He called it a "win-win" for the program and for its fans.

"We don't schedule them to see where we get to go," Stiegelmeier said. "We want to keep them within the region so people recognize the name and are able to get there."

SCHEDULES | PAGE 8



P&D FILE PHOTO

Mount Marty's Caitlyn Illg serves the ball during a home match last season at Cimpr Arena. Illg, a senior, is one of 14 returning varsity players for the Lancers.

## High School Girls' Softball

# Gazelles Sweep Patriots

## Yankton Wins Twice In Home Opening Action

In their home opener, the Yankton Gazelles softball team gave their fans plenty to cheer about.

Yankton swept Sioux Falls Lincoln in a girls' softball doubleheader Monday night at Sertoma Park in Yankton, winning by scores of 3-0 and 10-5.

In the first game, Bailey Kortan had two hits and two runs, while Andi Sprakel, Jaclyn Arens and Madison Dangler all had one hit and an RBI.

Arens was the winning pitcher, striking out five batters in a complete game shutout.

Lincoln got doubles from both Jill Ricke and Mo Renville, while Ricke was the losing pitcher.

In the second game, Bailey Peterka had three hits, three RBI and a run scored for the Gazelles. Heather Hauer had two hits, two RBI and two runs, while Sprakel had two hits, an RBI and two runs scored.

Holly Mines was the winning pitcher, with two strikeouts over seven innings.

For Lincoln, Allie Schriever had three hits and Renville added a pair of hits including a double. Jalena Smallfield was the losing pitcher for the Patriots, who led 1-0 early in the game.

Yankton, now 5-1 on the season, will travel to Rapid City this weekend for six games, three each on Friday and Saturday. The Gazelles will face Rapid City Central, Rapid City Stevens and Douglas.



## Yankton Nets DH Sweep In Home Opener

ABOVE: Yankton shortstop Andi Sprakel, 3, tags out a Sioux Falls Lincoln runner during game of their Monday night softball doubleheader at Sertoma Park.

LEFT: Yankton pitcher Jaclyn Arens delivers to home plate during game one of Monday night's softball doubleheader against Sioux Falls Lincoln at Sertoma Park.

PHOTOS BY JEREMY HOECK/P&D

## Veteran Lancers Aim For GPAC Tourney Run

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
[james.cimburek@yankton.net](mailto:james.cimburek@yankton.net)

Mount Marty College volleyball coach Candice Climer is used to having plenty of fresh faces in practice when the season begins. This season, she had plenty of familiar ones as well.

The Lancers return 14 of their 18 varsity players from a year ago as they begin the 2014 campaign today (Tuesday) at home against York College.

They will actually have 15 familiar faces among the 18 who dress for varsity in tonight's opener, as Jena Peters returned to MMC after playing one season away. As a sophomore, Peters recorded 145 kills, 78 blocks (36 solo) and 22 ace serves for MMC.

Besides Peters, the Lancers boast seniors setter Caitlyn Illg (865 assists, 83 kills, 22 ace serves, 207 digs, 19 blocks), middle hitter Laura Groseth (85 kills, 12 blocks), opposite-side hitters Kristen Boyle (157 kills, 38 blocks) and Roxy Ross (14 digs), and libero Courtney Miller (374 digs, 42 assists, 16 ace serves).

"We had 14 coming back. That's the most we've had returning since I've been here," said Climer, who is entering her fifth season. "The five seniors were from my first recruiting class. We have a pretty good group of seniors leading the way."

The experience of Illg, in her fourth season of starting at setter, is a major factor.

LANCERS | PAGE 9

# Experienced MMC Soccer Teams Kick Off Seasons Today

## Women: Lancers Seek Return To Tourney

BY NICK ROBINSON  
[sports@yankton.net](mailto:sports@yankton.net)

The Mount Marty Lancers women's soccer team is coming off the first ever trip to the Great Plains Athletic Conference playoffs.

"We were very excited and it was well deserved," head coach Nathan Epp said. "They had a rough start to the season with injuries, which made it tough. The last month of a half, they played great soccer and that's why they deserved to be there. The hunger to get back to that this year is very well alive."

The Lancers are eager to get back to the postseason.

"I think now that we have done it, people will keep an eye out for us," Epp said. "They won't assume that it is an easy win. We have to go in and be ready to go."

This season, Mount Marty has an abundance of young players.

"We're going to have a lot of youth," Epp said. "They have done great of playing hard and learning the system so far. I think our talent this year is better than it was last year."

The injury plague has hit the Lancer program the past few years. Yet again, Mount Marty will have a few setbacks.

"We have dealt with some



P&D FILE PHOTO

Mount Marty's Courtney True dives after a shot during a home game last season.

injuries and have two girls who won't be able to play with this season," Epp said. "We haven't been able to get over the injury bug the past few years. That will be a bit of an issue for us."

The Lancers will rely on two seniors this season and a junior. Two of which, are Yankton High School alums.

Those players are Alexandra Rojas, Paige Anderson,

and Courtney True.

"She (Rojas) has been a four year starter," Epp said. "She's looking to improve on a very good season last year. Paige plays very physical and understands how she fits in. Courtney is one of the best goalies in the country. This year people will see

## Men: Lancers Seek First Tourney Trip

BY NICK ROBINSON  
[sports@yankton.net](mailto:sports@yankton.net)

With their whole squad returning back from last season, the Mount Marty Lancers men's soccer program is looking to make the Great Plains Athletic Conference playoffs for the first time.

"For the first time, we have 17 returning players," Mount Marty head coach Nathan Epp said. "That's a very nice situation to be in. They have all been here and know what to expect. Even though we still have more underclassmen, the level of understanding is way ahead of where we were last year."

The Lancers went 4-14 (0-10 in GPAC) last season. Even though their record didn't show, Epp feels his team got better from the previous season.

"We were much improved," he said. "We didn't really have the depth we would like to see or to be consistently competitive. We lost two guys and didn't have the talent level to fill in those positions."

In the offseason, the Lancers worked very hard to change the script from a year ago.

"The guys came in good shape," Epp said. "We don't do a lot here, because they're from all over, but they stayed



P&D FILE PHOTO

Mount Marty's James Elliot, left, is congratulated by teammate Manuel Borjon after scoring during a home game last season.

in shape and played with club programs. They were focused and want to step it up."

In order for success, Mount Marty will need their three seniors to be leaders.

"We will rely on our seniors," Epp said. "They have played a lot. They will really have to set the tone for us this fall."

Those three players are: James Elliot (MF), Adan Garcia-Marquez (F), and Oscar

Martinez-Mojica (G).

"Elliot will be called on to be our go-to guy," Epp said. "He's played up front for four years now and really has an understanding of the game."

Epp likes his squad's odds on the offensive side of the ball.

"I think our ability to attack teams from multiple parts of the field will be a big

MEN | PAGE 9

WOMEN | PAGE 9