

# Huskers' New Offense Won't Put Brakes On QB Runs

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Quarterback runs were supposed to be deemphasized in Nebraska's new offense. At least that was Tommy Armstrong Jr.'s recollection of his first conversation with offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf. That was last winter, though. After practices in the spring and through two weeks of the preseason, Armstrong appears to have the green light to take off if he sees an opening. It's another sign coach Mike Riley isn't going to force a full-scale change to the pro-style system. Elements of the old Nebraska spread/zone-read option offense will remain. Armstrong last year ran for 705 yards on 145 carries, second-most

on the team in both categories and second among Big Ten quarterbacks behind Ohio State's J.T. Barrett. Langsdorf said Monday he never intended to totally change Armstrong's style. "We've always known he can run. You look at last year's stuff, and he has some real strengths running the ball," Langsdorf said. "What we don't want to do is lose him to an injury because he's getting hit all the time. I want him to run like crazy and get out of bounds or slide and save those hits. I think that's important." Armstrong wasn't shy about taking contact his first two years as the starter. His hurdling of a Northwestern defender near the goal line was

one of his signature plays in 2014. The 6-foot-1, 220-pound Armstrong made one of the best plays in a weekend scrimmage when he kept the ball on a zone-read keeper and ran 50 yards for a touchdown. "We're not going to turn him into a statue by any means," Langsdorf said. "He's going to move around, and we're all for him making plays in the passing game and running the ball." The passing game needs work. Armstrong and the other quarterbacks struggled in practice with interceptions the last two weeks. Armstrong was a 53-percent passer last year, and his ratio of one interception every 22.2 attempts in

Big Ten games was second-worst in the conference. Langsdorf declined to disclose Armstrong's completion percentage in preseason practices. "Incompletions and interceptions, they can easily be pointed at the quarterback," Langsdorf said. "But there are a ton of times where the ball was thrown correctly, the receiver was wrong, maybe it's a tipped ball." Armstrong said not all the interceptions in practice have been the result of bad throws. "When we have miscommunication and one person is on one page and the quarterback's on another,"

HUSKERS | PAGE 10

## Basketball I Q&A With Amanda Hart

# Hart: USD Move A 'No-Brainer'

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

Forty days. That's all it took for Amanda Hart to take a couple giant leaps up the coaching ladder. In that span, Hart — an Alexandria native — has gone from being an assistant coach at an NAIA Division II women's basketball program to a member of an NCAA Division I women's basketball staff. The 23-year-old former Dakota Wesleyan University basketball standout and former assistant coach was announced Monday as Director of Basketball Operations for head coach Amy Williams at the University of South Dakota.



Hart

For Hart, one of the most prolific scorers in DWU history, it's been a whirlwind last 40 days. She's known about the USD opportunity for a while now, but as she said, "I kept it to myself for a week. I wanted to wait to let it come out on its own."

On July 9, Hart was announced as the top assistant for coach Jason Christensen at Dakota Wesleyan, replacing Sam Sikkink who left for a position at Bemidji State (Minnesota).

Now, she's readying herself for life at the Division I level.

She spoke with the *Press & Dakotan* on Monday night about her new position.

### It's been a busy summer for you, hasn't it?

Yeah, that's for sure. Sam had announced she was leaving in the middle of June, and coach told me I would take her spot. I wasn't actively looking for jobs or anything; I was happy where I was at. Then a few weeks ago, Amy gave me a call and said she had this position come open, and would I be interested? Immediately I was. Career-wise, it was a no-brainer. Even though I was having a great experience at Dakota Wesleyan, I couldn't say no.



Dakota Wesleyan's Amanda Hart, left, tries to pass around the defense of Mount Marty's Alexa Berg during a GPAC women's basketball game during the 2012-13 season in Yankton. Hart, who later became an assistant coach at DWU, was announced Monday as the new Director of Basketball Operations at the University of South Dakota.

P&D FILE PHOTO

### Has this always been a goal, to coach at the Division I level?

Definitely. There's never really been a doubt in my mind; I always wanted to get into coaching. It didn't really matter the level, NAIA or Division II or Division I, it wasn't a huge deal to me. I didn't think at 23, I would get there, but I found a really good situation.

### How did your experience at DWU help you for something like this?

I had an awesome experience with coach Christensen and the program. He had a lot of trust in me, let me take the reins with certain things that a lot of assistants probably don't get to do. Going from a player to a coach in that role, it was a huge

HART | PAGE 10

## 'Competitive' McKeever Commits To USD

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

Madison McKeever had done her research. Summit League regular season championships. Three straight trips to the conference title game. NCAA Tournament trip in 2014. WNIT appearance in 2015. New arena on the way. McKeever, a senior point guard from Win-E-Mac High School (Minnesota), knew the University of South Dakota is a place where she could potentially thrive. All that was left was to see for herself. "I looked into their records and what they've done in the past," McKeever said Monday morning. "I'm really competitive, so that's what I liked." The 5-foot-8 McKeever, with already 2,503 points to her high school credit, visited the Vermillion campus last Friday and verbally committed to the Coyote coaching staff on Saturday.

Between the conversations on the drive back to Minnesota and the realization when she got home that USD was a place she could see herself, McKeever said she knew it was the right decision. So why wait any longer?

"For that being a distance drive, I wanted to make sure I knew the place well and that I would be comfortable down there," McKeever said.

As much research as she did, her parents probably did five times as much, she joked.

"They didn't want to send me off somewhere random that they didn't know anything about," McKeever said.

Growing up an hour and a half from Fargo (home to North Dakota State), McKeever said she was at least a little familiar with the Summit League. Her ultimate goal, she said, was to stay within the region. "For me, growing up in a small town,

RECRUIT | PAGE 10

## Golf: Parkston Wins POET Inv.

MILBANK — Teammates Jacob Lee and Garret Hohn helped the Parkston Trojans get off to a good start this season, with a 19-stroke victory in Monday's POET Boys' Golf Invitational in Milbank.

Lee won the individual title with a round of 75, two shots better than Hohn, and Parkston carded a team score of 318. Madison was second at 337, followed in the top five by Sisseton (340), Tea Area (340) and Chamberlain (342). In other area finishes, Vermillion's Cooper Williams was fifth (81), Parkston's Alex Scott was seventh (81) and Vermillion's Cole Anderson finished ninth (82).

TEAM SCORES: Parkston 318, Madison 337, Sisseton 340, Tea Area 340, Chamberlain 342, Vermillion 345, Aberdeen Roncalli 347, Dell Rapids 352, West Central 367, Watertown JV 370, Sioux Valley 373, Groton 385, Redfield-Doland 398, Aberdeen Central JV 405, Milbank Area 437

TOP 20: 1. Jacob Lee, Parkston 75; 2. Garret Hohn, Parkston 77; 3. Adam Huttmacher, Chamberlain 78; 4. Devin Rue, West Central 80; 5. Cooper Williams, Vermillion 81; 6. Ty Hoglund, Dell Rapids 81; 7. Alex Scott, Parkston 81; 8. Koldy Newborg, Tea Area 81; 9. Cole Anderson, Vermillion 82; 10. Tanner Burg, Madison 82; 11. Brock Murphy, Tea Area 83; 12. Carsten Archer, Sisseton 83; 13. Brian Finn, Tea Area 83; 14. Gabe Heller, Aberdeen Roncalli 83; 15. Tieggen Priebe, Chamberlain 84; 16. Taner DenHoed, Madison 84; 17. Nate Nielsen, Sisseton 84; 18. Josh Parrot, Dell Rapids 84; 19. Hunter Jamison, Madison 84; 20. Jamie Smith, Parkston 85

## LA Stadium Could Bring Shift In NFL Divisions

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Construction of an NFL stadium in the Los Angeles area could come with another change: a possible shift in division for the Oakland Raiders or the San Diego Chargers.

The teams have proposed a shared \$1.78 billion stadium in the city of Carson — one of two stadium projects being considered by the NFL near Los Angeles that could bring professional football back to the region after a two-decade absence.

Carmen Policy, a former San Francisco 49ers executive who was hired to help oversee the Carson project, said Monday that the teams have agreed to shift divisions, if necessary, to make the project acceptable to the league.

The Chargers and Raiders are rivals in the AFC West, which could make game scheduling and other issues difficult in a shared stadium.

The teams have made clear to the league and NFL owners that "you send us to LA and you'll make the decision as to who plays in what conference or division," Policy told reporters after detailing stadium plans for business leaders and a sports group at an event in downtown Los Angeles.

"There are some very interesting scenarios, depending on how all this

**"There are some very interesting scenarios, depending on how all this turns out."**

### CARMEN POLICY

turns out," Policy said.

Policy detailed the possible division shift on a day when the teams unveiled the latest design update for the 65,000-seat stadium, which would rise on the site of a former landfill about 12 miles from downtown Los Angeles.

The renderings show an open-air stadium wrapped in steel bands, its seating shaded by canopies, with features that range from a nearby stage for live music performances to an authentic farmers' market. Outside, towering screens would carry game-day highlights that could be viewed from the parking lots.

A promotional video, narrated by actor Kiefer Sutherland, boasted that the stadium bordered by palm trees would become part of a quintessential Los Angeles experience while dodging fans.

"Sunshine. Beaches. Hollywood. Where anything is possible," he says.

High-end amenities would include an on-field patio "blurring the line between spectator and teammate," according to the video that depicted fans sipping drinks just steps from a team bench. Eight acres would be reserved, rent-free, for an "NFL campus," which could include a home for the NFL Network and a western annex

for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

One prominent feature from earlier versions vanished. Previous plans called for a tower that could simulate lightning bolts for the Chargers or a huge flame honoring late owner Al Davis for the Raiders. A dominant feature is now an oversized, gleaming Vince Lombardi Trophy, the prize that goes to Super Bowl winners.

A development group that includes St. Louis Rams owner Stan Kroenke is pushing a rival project in nearby Inglewood. The \$1.8 billion venue on the site of a former horse track would be part of a sprawling development of homes, parks and office space.

Policy promoted the Raiders-Chargers plan as an ideal solution for two California teams playing in stadiums long out of date. He said the teams would attract fans from California's Central Coast to Mexico to a stadium with 12,000 parking spots for tailgating and easy freeway access.

League spokesman Brian McCarthy has said the NFL wants franchises that are "strong and successful in their existing markets." Under current rules, the next opportunity for a team to file to relocate would be in January 2016. Any decision to move would have to clear a tangle of hurdles, including winning the support of at least 24 of the 32 teams.

The NFL owners meet again in October in New York, but no relocation vote is expected at that meeting. Policy predicted there could be a decision by the league early next year.

## Commentary

# Athletes Are Winners Even On Day They Lost

BY TIM DAHLBERG  
AP Sports Columnist

The idea that a union shop leader would be able to schedule practice breaks or negotiate travel upgrades for Northwestern football players always seemed a bit preposterous.

Football teams may be collective units but they are run by dictators, as anyone who ever watched Nick Saban in action would surely agree. So it wasn't terribly surprising Monday when the National Labor Relations Board punted on the idea of union representation for Northwestern's players, saying it would disrupt the competitive balance in college football.

Not that the players were all on board with the concept of a union to begin with. The ballots cast in a union election last year were never tabulated and will now be destroyed because they are moot in the wake of the labor board's decision.

That doesn't mean the organizing drive by the United Steelworkers union and the College Athletes Players Association was a waste of time. Far from it, and for that every high school player now pondering scholarship offers should be grateful.

If timing is indeed everything, the timing of the union effort was impeccable. It came amid a seismic shift in college athletics and just before former UCLA basketball star Ed O'Bannon and his team of lawyers headed to court to challenge the mighty NCAA in court on antitrust issues, a fight they wound up winning.

Together, they helped crystallize public opinion over the treatment of big-time college athletes at a time when conferences were signing huge new TV deals that would leave schools swimming in cash.

Together, they woke up college athletic administrators, who previously were far too busy sipping cocktails with fat cat supporters to worry about whether players had enough money to take a date out for pizza and a movie.

"I think by what we did, our voice out there really helped get things going forward," former Northwestern player Kyle Prater said.

Prater was one of those voting no, and the guess is he was hardly alone. Northwestern was never the worst place to play college football, and was already offering some of the benefits that other schools had to be dragged kicking and screaming into giving their players.

That included the guaranteed four-year scholarship, which incredibly the NCAA itself wouldn't allow until being called on the carpet on the issue before Congress a few years ago. What should be a fundamental right for any 18-year-old eyeing their future is now just that in the Big 10, which voted last October to formalize the practice conference-wide.

That didn't come about because athletic directors and coaches were suddenly concerned about the educational rights of their players. It happened because of the Northwestern union drive and the O'Bannon lawsuit, the twin tsunamis that hit college sports head on last year.

Not that you would know it by the official NCAA reaction to the ruling. In a statement, NCAA lawyer Donald Remy had the audacity to take credit for leading the way in athlete reforms, including guaranteed scholarships, free education and unlimited meals.

"The NCAA and its member schools are committed to providing the best support possible for all college athletes and will continue to do so in the future," Remy said.

Left unsaid was why the NCAA continues to spend tens of millions of dollars to aggressively try and overturn the federal court decision in the O'Bannon case that gives