

High-Powered Gazelles Set For Season



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton's Sophie Drotzmann, left, and Becky Frick go up for a block during practice last week. The two, both fourth-year starters, are among the nine seniors for the Gazelles, who open the 2015 volleyball season today (Tuesday) at Brandon Valley.

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The Yankton Gazelles have their eyes on an improved record.

Head coach Tiffany Beste, whose team opens the season tonight (Tuesday) at Brandon Valley, finished 9-12 last season but returns a number of starters who want to turn the corner this year.

Last season, the Gazelles lost out to Harrisburg in the 2AA District Championship match with a score of 3-1, and missed out on the state tournament after a loss to Watertown.

With last season still fresh in her mind, Beste will be looking to show off the quality of her squad on Sept. 1. With a few weeks of practices already behind them, the team is showing their quality and desire to win.

Beste has many talented

YHS VOLLEYBALL		
8/25	at Brandon Valley	7 p.m.
8/27	at Watertown	7 p.m.
9/1	vs. S.F. Lincoln	7 p.m.
9/3	at Brookings	7 p.m.
9/8	vs. Harrisburg	7 p.m.
9/10	at Mitchell	7 p.m.
9/12	at Pierre	5 p.m.
9/22	vs. Huron	7 p.m.
9/24	at S.F. Roosevelt	7 p.m.
9/26	vs. Aberdeen Central	5 p.m.
10/1	vs. Mitchell	7 p.m.
10/5	vs. Brookings	7 p.m.
10/6	at Harrisburg	7 p.m.
10/13	vs. Brandon Valley	7 p.m.
10/15	vs. Watertown	7 p.m.
10/16	at Aberdeen Central	7 p.m.
10/19	at S.F. O'Gorman	7 p.m.
10/23	vs. Pierre	7 p.m.
10/26	vs. S.F. Washington	7 p.m.
10/27	at Huron	7 p.m.
11/2	District 2AA Play-In	7 p.m.
11/3	District 2AA Tour.	7 p.m.
11/7	District 2AA Tour.	7 p.m.
11/12	Region 1AA Game	7 p.m.
11/19-21	State Tour. at Sioux Falls	

players who are willing to work hard on the court and off of it. There is no lack of

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P&D FILE PHOTO

Irene-Wakonda's Gabe King, 15, shown here during the 2014-15 season, has committed to attending Northern State University and playing basketball for the Wolves.

IW's King Commits To Northern State

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Northern State University hadn't really been on Gabe King's radar.

Not until the Irene-Wakonda standout was invited on a visit to the NCAA Division II school in Aberdeen.

That visit, two weeks ago, was a game-changer.

"My friend was going up there for a football visit, so I went up there too and fell in love with it," King said Monday, a day after he verbally committed to play basketball at Northern State.

King, a 6-foot-5 wing, emerged last season as one of the state's top offensive and defensive threats. He averaged 23.1 points and 13.7 rebounds a game as a junior, and earned second team Class B All-State honors.

King said he had walk-on offers to the University of South Dakota and Augustana, as well as offers from a number of area NAIA schools. Ultimately, though, what he saw in Aberdeen put him over the top.

"I really liked the school, especially the basketball program and the complex," he said. "And they just win."

"And I want to win."
 He was so anxious to inform the Northern State coaches late Sunday night that he left a voicemail on head coach Paul Sather's phone with news of his commitment. Text messages from Sather and one of his assistants soon followed, and King was ready to let everyone else know.

King's decision culminated a busy summer in which his recruiting stock soared. A member

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Season Preview | MMC Soccer

Women Look For Playoff Return

BY BEN HEGGE
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The Mount Marty College Lancers soccer teams will feature some new faces for the upcoming season. While the Lancers have added several new athletes, they will also be under new leadership.

Peter Shepherd, a 2013 graduate of Mount Marty, will be taking over the women's along with the men's program.

"It's an exciting time of the year and our girls have been working very hard," said Shepherd.

The Lancers return a great deal of experience for the 2015 season and hope to build off it.

"We want to get back to the postseason," said Shepherd. "Our numbers are a little low, but we have the experience returning to have a strong season."

Among the returning players is Yankton native, senior Courtney True. True finished last season eighth in the country in total saves with 152.

"Courtney is coming off a huge season," Shepherd said. "She is a great leader and is the backbone of our defense."

Offensively, Mount Marty will return 86 percent of its

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P&D FILE PHOTO

Mount Marty goalkeeper Courtney True corrals a shot during the 2014 season. True, a senior from Yankton, ranked eighth in the nation in total saves and returns to help lead the Lancer women's soccer team. MMC is looking to return to the Great Plains Athletic Conference Tournament after missing the event last season.

MMC Men Look To Improve

BY BEN HEGGE
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Under new leadership, Mount Marty will be looking for new results in 2015. Like any coaching changeover, the Lancers will be adjusting to new changes to start the seasons.

"We are doing a little transitioning," said new head coach and former Lancer Peter Shepherd. "The first few days were new for everyone, but the guys adjusted pretty quick."

Along with Shepherd, the Lancers are also coached by two other alumni in Dane Hansen and Javy Murguia.

The story of this year's Lancer team will be several new faces taking on heightened roles.

"Our guys put in a lot of hard work this summer," said Shepherd. "We need some younger players to step into more significant roles."

The Lancers come into the 2015 season ranked 11th in the Great Plains Athletic Conference pre-season poll, but will look to exceed expectations.

While going just 3-15 last season, the Lancers lost five of those games by just one goal.

"There is excitement in the air," Shepherd said. "As a team, we have high expectations for the upcoming season."

The Lancers will be led by seniors Juan Magana and Ludwin Arana, who are the lone Lancers returning with double-digit goals.

Other Mount Marty returners who saw significant time in 2014 include Melvin Gabel, Joe Finn, Colin Linde, and 2014 captain Danny Barillas.



P&D FILE PHOTO

Mount Marty's Ludwin Arana plays the ball during a 2014 match. Arana and the Lancers open the 2015 season today (Tuesday) against York.

MOUNT MARTY MEN'S SOCCER		
8/25	vs. York	4:30 p.m.
9/2	at Presentation	4 p.m.
9/19	at Clarke	3:30 p.m.
9/20	vs. Jamestown	3:30 p.m.
9/26	vs. Midland	4 p.m.
9/29	at Morningside	8 p.m.
10/3	at Doane	3:15 p.m.
10/7	vs. Northwestern	4:15 p.m.
10/10	vs. Nebraska Wesleyan	4:15 p.m.
10/13	at Briar Cliff	4:15 p.m.
10/17	at Rocky Mountain	3:30 p.m.
10/18	at Johnson & Wales	2:30 p.m.
10/21	at Dakota Wesleyan	8 p.m.
10/24	vs. Hastings	3 p.m.
10/27	vs. Dordt	3 p.m.
10/31	at Concordia	7:30 p.m.

"We have several players coming into this season with experience under their belts. We have several upper-class-men who have been starting since they were freshman, and we hope that experience pays off," Shepherd said.

Mount Marty opens today (Tuesday) against York College.

Follow @bigheadbenny13 on Twitter.

College Football | USD

Elon Transfer Has Found Home At USD

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION - Thomas McGuire is no stranger to adjustments.

First there was the matter of moving away from his home in Ames, Iowa, to attend Elon University in North Carolina. Then there was a coaching change before his senior year. And then came the change to a new school: The University of South Dakota.

Through it all, the passion for football and for his education has remained for the now 22-year-old offensive lineman.

"I like to think of myself as an adaptable player," McGuire said after Monday's practice in Vermillion. "I can roll with the punches."

That quality certainly came in handy when it was time to decide on his next - and last - college destination.

McGuire, who made 20 starters on the offensive line for Elon (a Division I FCS member), graduated in May with a Bachelor's degree in History and a teaching license in North Carolina.

He then had a decision to make. He had already planned to pursue a Master's degree, and could play one more season at a different school - thanks to an NCAA rule, which allows student-athletes an extra season at a school that offers a Master's program not available at their previous school.

It was just a matter of finding that next place.

"It was a very short list of schools around here," McGuire said.

While in high school in Ames, he had once came to a USD team camp and had known Coyote offensive coordinator Wes Beschoner. Eventually, the pieces fell into place and McGuire was enrolled at USD - where he is pursuing a Master's degree in Educational Technology.

"I wanted a place where I liked the coaches and where I felt like I could win a lot of games," McGuire said. "Obviously I wanted to play one more year, but I feel like this is the whole package."

Plus, it certainly doesn't hurt that he'll now be a 3-hour drive from home, where his brother is a senior in high school - "and I'd like to see him play a game."

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University of South Dakota senior offensive lineman Thomas McGuire competes in a drill at Monday afternoon's practice in Vermillion. McGuire transferred to USD after earning his undergraduate degree at Elon University (North Carolina).



JEREMY HOECK/P&D