Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK james.cimburek@yankton.net

Nearly a month after the University of South Dakota made its basketball Summit League debuts, the Coyotes will finally get their first taste of a home game in league play.

Southern Utah and Oral Roberts are the first two Summit League foes to visit the newest site in the league the DakotaDome. Ironically, both are the two schools that are leaving the league after this season. So what can the fans of the Thunderbirds and Golden Eagles expect when they visit Vermillion?

Odds on, they won't be seeing a big crowd. If the home attendance in the non-conference portion of the seasons are any indication, the attendance will not be good for the teams that aren't "familiar" for Coyote fans. And,

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

since USD fans will not get the chance to become familiar with either of these programs — though they might have seen the Oral Roberts men on a couple of SportsCenter highlights earlier this season (wins over Xavier and Texas Tech will do that). The lack of students due to the Christmas break will also hurt attendance.

Attendance will be better for a few games. A three-game homestand (four for the women) in February will bring in North Dakota State and South Dakota State, two old North Central Conference rivals that always draw (The women's extra game is another former NCC foe, Nebraska-Omaha.)

But when will USD be able to draw fans consistently for home events? Granted, I don't expect 6,000 fans when USD hosts Peru State or Tabor, but it would be nice to see that kind of crowd for a Summit League game against someone other than SDSU or NDSU.

Wis-

Will we have to wait until a new arena is built for that to happen? I hope not.

YANKTON EVENTS JAN. 13 HURON TOWN 7:30 p.m. 5 p.m. 1 p.m. JAN. 7 JAN. 10 ABERDEEN CENTRAL 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. JAN. 7 t Brooking t Vermillio 6:30 p.m. noon JAN. 6 JAN. 10 Central 7:30 p.m.

LEGE	EVEN	TS
WED. SOUTHERN UTAH 7 p.m.	FRIDAY ORAL ROBERTS 7 p.m.	JAN. 3 at Western Illinois 7 p.m.
	Tickets 605-6	577-5959
THURSDAY ORAL ROBERTS 7 p.m.	SATURDAY SOUTHERN UTAH 2 p.m.	JAN. 7 at Missouri- Kansas City 4 p.m.
BASKETBAL	L / Tickets 60	5-677-5959
JAN. 4 BRIAR CLIFF 8 p.m.	JAN. 8 at Hastings 4 p.m.	JAN. 11 MORNING- SIDE 8 p.m.
SKETBALL		
JAN. 4 BRIAR CLIFF 6 p.m.	JAN. 7 at Hastings 2 p.m.	JAN. 11 MORNING- SIDE 6 p.m.
BASKETBAL	L	
	WED. SOUTHERN UTAH 7 p.m. SKETBALL / THURSDAY ORAL ROBERTS 7 p.m. BASKETBAL JAN. 4 BRIAR CLIFF 8 p.m. SKETBALL JAN. 4 BRIAR CLIFF 6 p.m.	SOUTHERN UTAH 7 p.m. SKETBALL / Tickets 605-6 THURSDAY ORAL ROBERTS 7 p.m. SATURDAY SOUTHERN UTAH 7 p.m. BASKETBALL / Tickets 60 JAN. 4 BRIAR CLIFF 8 p.m. SKETBALL JAN. 4 BRIAR CLIFF 8 p.m. SKETBALL JAN. 4 BRIAR CLIFF 2 p.m. SKETBALL

Home Games Appear In White, Road / Neutral Site Games Appear In Gray

Ex-Huskers To Appear At RADIO & TELEVISION **Inaugural Big Ten Game** KYBB-FM LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska is welcoming back

KYRR-FM

ıy			former players to the Devaney Sports Center as pa
	Women's BB: Oral Roberts at USD KYBB	-FM	the festivities for the Big Ten opener against No. 13 \
			consin on Tuesday.
			Fans are encouraged to arrive early for the 8:05 p
	Girls' BB: Tea Area at Vermillion KVTK	-AM	
	Boys' BB: Tea Area at Vermillion KVTK	-AM	CST game for the pregame ceremony. At least two do
	Men's BB: Oral Roberts at USD KYBB	-FM	former players will be introduced individually and then
			welcome the 2011-12 Combuskers to the court for the

augural Big Ten game.

Home Portion Of The Summit League Era Begins This Week

OTHER EVENTS

Women's RB: Southern Utah at USD

YANKTON BOYS': Friday, at Sioux Falls, 8:45 p.m.
YANKTON BOYS': Friday, at Sioux Falls, 6:45 p.m.
YANKTON GIRLS' JV: Saturday, vs. Walertown, 11 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.
YANKTON BANTAM: Saturday, at Sioux Falls, 11:30 a.m. (A) and 1:30 p.m. (B); Sunday, B at Sloux Falls, 8 a.m.

YANKTON PEEWEE: Saturday, vs. Watertown, 12:30 (B) & 1:30 p.m. (A);

Sunday, vs. Brookings, 11 a.m. (B) & 1 p.m. (A)

Missouri Beats North Carolina

The Huskers goes into the game with an 8-3 record

and riding a four-game win streak to close out non-confer-

41-24 In Independence Bowl SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — James Franklin ran for two touchdowns and threw for another, and Missouri easily beat North Carolina 41-24 in the Independence Bowl on Monday night.

Missouri (8-5) won its final football game as a member of the Big 12, finishing the season on a four-game winning streak for the first time since 1965. The Tigers will join the Southeastern Conference next season.

Franklin rushed for 142 yards and threw for 132, leading Missouri to an Independence Bowl-record 31 first-half noints. Kendial Lawrence added 108 rushing yards for the Tigers, who gained 337 yards on the ground.

North Carolina (7-6) fell in interim coach Everett Withers' final game on the sideline. The Tar Heels lost five of their final seven after starting the season with a 5-1

Bryn Renner threw for 317 yards, three touchdowns and an interception for UNC.

No QB Club This Week

The Yankton Quarterback Club will not meet on Wednesday, Dec. 28, due to the holiday week.

Weekly meetings will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 4. Meetings are held at noon on Wednesdays at the Elks Lodge, 504 West 27th Street, Yankton. The public is in-

Report a score: Call 605-665-7811, ext. 106 or 800-743-2968 after 4 p.m. ■ Fax: 605-665-1721 ■ E-mail: sports@yankton.net

BOWLING

SCOREBOARD

YANKTON BOWL INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE HIGH TEAM GAME: Dakota Trailer

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Dakota Trailer 2465 HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Ryan

Braunesreither 261, Scott Byrkeland 249, Bruce Myers 243 HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Bob Braunesreither 687, Ryan Weverstad 685, Bruce Myers 665, J.J. Peterson 649,

Randy Svendsen 623 STANDINGS: Yankton Redi-Mix 161 (wins second quarter), Dakota Trailer 149.5, H&K Oil 132, H&K Oil #2 121, Wholesale Supply 111.5, Yankton Redi-Mix #2 109, KPI-JCI 92, Smidt Captain & Crew 89.5, Steiner's Locker 58, Don's Auto 56.5

BASKETBALL AP TOP TWENTY FIVE

. Syracuse (54)

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 25, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous

2. Ohio St. (5)	12-1	1,507	2	
3. Kentucky (4)	11-1	1,480	3	
4. Louisville (2)	12-0	1,386	4	
5. North Carolina	11-2	1,366	5	
Baylor	12-0	1,299	6	
7. Duke	10-1	1,281	7	
8. Missouri	12-0	1,149	9	
9. UConn	10-1	1,143	8	
Florida	10-2	1,050	11	
Wisconsin	11-2	898	13	
Georgetown	10-1	851	16	
Indiana	12-0	820	17	
Marquette	11-1	775	10	
Mississippi St.	12-1	718	18	
Michigan St.	11-2	613	19	
I7. Kansas	8-3	548	12	
18. Michigan	10-2	504	20	
19. UNLV	13-2	473	21	
20. Murray St.	13-0	342	22	
21. Creighton	10-1	254	23	
22. Pittsburgh	11-2	238	15	
23. Virginia	10-1	214	24	
24. Harvard	10-1	121	_	
25. San Diego St.	11-2	119	_	
Others receiving v	otes: k	(ansas	St.	
105, Illinois 70, Saint Lo				
18. Xavier 42. Ohio 20.	Stanfo	ord 10,	Wi-	

chita St. 9, Texas A&M 3, Alabama 2, Wag-

USA TODAY/ESPN TOP 25 POLL The top 25 teams in the USA Today-ESPN men's college basketball poll, with for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

774 719 702 Kentucky 4. Louisville 674 . Duke 623 587 574 Missouri . Connecticut 538 501 434 400 359 347 10. Florida 11. Wisconsin 12. Georgetown 13. Marquette Mississippi State 15. Indiana 337 Kansas 250 19. Creighton 193 20. UNLV 23. Harvard

24. Virginia 25. Kansas State 22. Stanford 11. Gonzaga 10. Ohio 5. Saint Mary's 5, Alabama 3, BYU 3, Middle Tennessee 3, Saint Joseph's 3, Cleveland State 2, Southern Miss. 1, West Virginia 1, Wichita State 1.

AP WOMEN'S TOP TWENTY FIVE The top 25 teams in the The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 25, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previ

us ranking:	Record	Pts F	rv
. Baylor (40)	12-0	1,000	1
. UConn	10-1	949	2
. Notre Dame	11-1	927	3
. Stanford	9-1	881	4

837 756 728 703 13-0 651 10 Texas A&M 639 578 521 510 9-2 10-0 13. Texas Tech 14 17 16 11-2 491 487 401 339 323

Georgia 18. Green Bay 19. Delaware 262 212 211 166 110 23. Nebraska 24. North Carolina 106 23 25. Vanderhilt

Tennessee

9. Ohio St

14. Louisville

Others receiving votes: Gonzaga 28, Virginia 28, California 22, LSU 14, South Carolina 10, Arkansas 7, Georgia Tech 4, BYU 2. Kansas 1. Northwestern 1. St.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOC. EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division New Jersey

Toronto	1	0	1.000	
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	1
Boston	0	1	.000	
Sout	heast D	ivis	ion	
	W	L	Pct	G
Charlotte	1	0	1.000	
Miami	1	0	1.000	
Orlando	1	1	.500	1
Atlanta	0	0	.000	1
Washington	0	1	.000	
Cer	ntral Div	/isio	on	
	W	L	Pct	G
Indiana	W	0	1.000	G
Indiana Chicago				
	1	0	1.000	
Chicago	1	0	1.000	
Chicago Cleveland Milwaukee Detroit	1 1 0 0	0 0 1 1 1	1.000 1.000 .000 .000	
Chicago Cleveland Milwaukee Detroit WESTER	1 0 0 0 0 RN CON	0 0 1 1 1 IFEI	1.000 1.000 .000 .000 .000 .RENCE	
Chicago Cleveland Milwaukee Detroit WESTER	1 1 0 0	0 0 1 1 1 IFEI	1.000 1.000 .000 .000 .000 .RENCE	
Chicago Cleveland Milwaukee Detroit WESTER	1 0 0 0 0 RN CON	0 0 1 1 1 IFEI	1.000 1.000 .000 .000 .000 .RENCE	G
Chicago Cleveland Milwaukee Detroit WESTER	1 0 0 0 0 RN CON	0 1 1 1 IFEI	1.000 1.000 .000 .000 .000 RENCE	
Chicago Cleveland Milwaukee Detroit WESTEF Souti	1 0 0 0 RN CON hwest E	0 1 1 1 IFEI Divis	1.000 1.000 .000 .000 .000 RENCE sion	G

San Antonio 0 .000 .000 GB L Pct 0 1.000 Oklahoma City .000 Portland .000 Minnesota .000 1 1/2 Pacific Division Pct

1/2 1/2 .000 Sacramento .000 .000 .000 Sunday's Games New York 106, Boston 104

Miami 105, Dallas 94 Chicago 88, L.A. Lakers 87 Oklahoma City 97, Orlando 89 L.A. Clippers 105, Golden State 86 Monday's Games Toronto 104, Cleveland 96

Charlotte 96, Milwaukee 95 Chandite 96, Milwaukee 95 Indiana 91, Detroit 79 Orlando 104, Houston 95 New Jersey 90, Washington 84 Oklahoma City 104, Minnesota 100 Denver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. Memphis at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m. New Orleans at Phoenix, 9 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 10 p.m. Philadelphia at Portland, 10 p.m. Chicago at Golden State. 10:30 n.m.

Tuesday's Games Atlanta at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m. Boston at Miami, 7 p.m. Minnesota at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m. Sacramento at Portland, 9 p.m. Utah at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAA FCS PLAYOFFS CHAMPIONSHIP
Friday, Jan. 7
At Pizza Hut Park, Frisco, Texas
Sam Houston State (14-0) vs. North
Dakota State (13-1), noon

FBS BOWL GLANCE Saturday, Dec. 17 NEW MEXICO: Temple 37, Wyoming

NEW ORLEANS: Louisiana-Lafayette

FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO: Ohio 24,

Tuesday, Dec. 20 BEEF 'O'BRADY'S: Marshall 20, Wednesday, Dec. 21
POINSETTIA: TCU 31, Louisiana Tech 24

Thursday, Dec. 22 MAACO: Boise State 56, Arizona

Saturday, Dec. 24 HAWAII: Southern Mississippi 24, Nevada 17 Monday, Dec. 26 INDEPENDENCE: Missouri 41, North

Tuesday, Dec. 27 LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA: Western BELK: North Carolina State (7-5) vs.

Louisville (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday, Dec. 28 MILITARY: Air Force (7-5) vs. Toledo (8-4), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN) **HOLIDAY:** Texas (7-5) vs. California (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 29 CHAMPS SPORTS: Florida State (8-4) vs. Notre Dame (8-4), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN) **ALAMO:** Baylor (9-3) vs. Washington (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Friday, Dec. 30 ARMED FORCES: Tulsa (8-4) vs.

BYU (9-3), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
PINSTRIPE: Rutgers (8-4) vs. lowa
State (6-6), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN) MUSIC CITY: Mississippi State (6-6) Wake Forest (6-6), 5:40 p.m. (ESPN) INSIGHT: Oklahoma (9-3) vs. lowa (7-

Saturday, Dec. 31 MEINEKE CAR CARE: Texas A&M SUN: Georgia Tech (8-4) vs. Utah (7-LIBERTY: Vanderbilt (6-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN) FIGHT HUNGER: UCLA (6-7) vs. Illi-

(8-4) vs. CHICK-FIL-A: Virginia Auburn (7-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Jan. 2 TICKETCITY: Penn State (9-3) vs. Houston (12-1), 11 a.m. (ESPNU) CAPITAL ONE: Nebraska (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), noon (ESPN)

OUTBACK: Georgia (10-3) vs. Michigan State (10-3), noon (ABC) GATOR: Florida (6-6) vs. Ohio State From Page 8

GATON: Florida (0-0) vs. Grind State (6-6), noon (ESPN2) ROSE: Oregon (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (11-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN) FIESTA: Stanford (11-1) vs. Okla-homa State (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Jan. 3 SUGAR: Michigan (10-2) vs. Virginia

catcher Yorvit Torrealba was suspended Monday from Venezuela's professional baseball league for 66 games for striking an umpire.

plate umpire after striking out Friday. He angrily

statement. "I have extended an apology to the for my conduct, and personally relayed that feeling to the umpire after that night's game.

Rangers C Torrealba Suspended By Venezuelan League

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Texas Rangers

Torrealba issued an apology, saying he was

embarrassed about his argument with a home out a hand on the umpire's mask and shoved him. He was then ejected.

"I wanted to express my sincere apologies to all parties for my actions," Torrealba said in his Rangers organization as well. I am embarrassed

"One of things about Adrian's

absence earlier in the season, we had a chance to get Toby some extended snaps and we really

haven't altered the offense by any means," Frazier said. "Toby has done a very good job in

Adrian's absence. Did a great job

(Saturday) of stepping in and per-

forming and rushing for over 100

yards. So we really haven't had to

alter things. We really don't plan

to. We look forward to eventually

getting Adrian back on the field,

but we don't think we have to re-

AREA CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 27

BASKETBALL, BDYS' Lance Buseman Classic at Centerville (Avon vs Beresford, 4:30 p.m.; Viborg-Hurley vs. Sioux
Falls Lincoln JV, 6 p.m.; Centerville vs. Parker, 7:30 p.m.);
Snowball Classic at Winner (Platte vs. St. Francis, 4 p.m.; Bon
Homme vs. Winner, 7 p.m.); Chamberdain at Scotland; Marion
Alecsdor, Hudger Menap is Irapa Wisterda at Wisterda at Alcester-Hudson; Menno vs. Irene-Wakonda at Wakonda BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Chamberlain at Scotland; Marion at

Alcester-Hudson; Menno vs. Irene-Wakonda at Wakonda Wednesday, December 28

BASKETBALL, MEN'S Southern Utah at USD (7 p.m., BASKETBALL. BOYS' Great Northeast Nebraska Shootout at Wayne (Hartington Cedar Cahtolic vs. Norfolk JV, 2 p.m.; Laurel-Concord-Coleridge vs. West Point-Beemer, 5:30 p.m.); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca vs. Tekamah-Her-

BASKETBALL. BOYS' Great Northeast Nebraska Shootout at Wayne (Hartington Cedar Cahtolic vs. Norfolk JV, 12:30 p.m.; Laurel-Concord-Coleridge vs. West Point-Beemer, 4 p.m.); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca vs. Tekamah-Herman, 3:30 p.m.)

Thursday, December 29 BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Oral Roberts at USD (7 p.m., BASKETBALL, BOYS' Creighton Holiday Tourn. (Harting-

ton vs. Wausa, 4:15 p.m.; Creighton vs. West Boyd, 7:45 p.m.)

Crofton Holiday Tourn. (Bloomfield vs. Wynot, 3:45 p.m.; Crofton vs. O'Neill St. Mary s 6:45 p.m.); East-West Classic at Chamberiain (Gayville-Volin, Platte-Geddes); Great Northeast Nebraska Shootout at Wayne (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge): Randolph Holiday Tourn, (Plainview vs. Newcastle 3:30 p.m.; Winside vs. Randolph, 6:30 p.m.); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Verdigre Booster Club Tourn. (Os-mond vs. Lynch, 4:30 p.m.; Allen vs. Niobrara-Verdigre, 8 p.m.); Andes Central at Menno: Bon Homme at Elk Point-Jefferson

BASKETBALL GIRLS' Creighton Holiday Tourn. (Hartington vs. Wausa, 2:30 p.m.; Creighton vs. West Boyd, 6 p.m.); Crofton Holiday Tourn. (Bloomfield vs. Wynot, 2 p.m.; Crofto vs. O'Neill St. Mary's 5 p.m.); Great Northeast Nebraska vs. O'relin St. Mayy's 3 p.iin.) Gelar Nourineast reorisas. Shootout at Wayne (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge): Northern State Classic (Menno vs. McIntosh, 4 p.m.); Parkston Classic (Avon vs. Highmore-Harold, 10 a.m.; Viborg-Hurley vs. Mitchell Christian, 11:30 a.m.; Hanson vs. Lennox, 1 p.m.; Dell Rapids vs. Sully Buttes, 2:30 p.m.; Elkton-Lake Benton vs. Clark-Willow Lake, 4 p.m.; Centerville vs. Tri-Valley, 5:30 p.m.; Parkston vs. St. Thomas More, 7 p.m.; Beresford vs. Wagner, 8:30 p.m.); Randolph Holiday Tourn. (Plainview vs. Newcastle, 2 p.m.; Winside vs. Randolph, 5 p.m.); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Swiftel Classic (Gayville-Volin vs. Lake Preston, 12:30 p.m.); Verdigre Booster Club Tourn. (Osmond vs. Lynch, 2:45 p.m.; Allen vs. Niobrara-Verdigre, 6:15 p.m.); Mount Vernon at Andes Central GYMNASTICS, PREP Winter Wonderland Inv. at Vermillion (Vermillion, Wagner, 11:30 a.m.)
WRESTLING, PREP Floyd Farrand Inv. at Sioux Falls
(Parkston, Vermillion, Wagner, 11 a.m.); Pierce Duals Tourn.
(Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, 10 a.m.) Friday, December 30 BASKETBALL, MEN'S Oral Roberts at USD (7 p.m.,

BASKETBALL, BOYS' Creighton Holiday Tourn. (Consola-BASKE IBALL, BOYS' Creignton Holiday fourn. (Consolation 4-115 p.m.; Championship — 7:45 p.m.); Crofton Holiday Tourn. (Consolation — 3:45 p.m.; Championship — 6:45 p.m.); Great Northeast Nebraska Shootout at Wayne (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); Parkston Classic (Corsica-Stickney vs. Wolsey-Wessington, 11 a.m.; S.F. Christian vs. Wagner, 12:30 p.m.; Platte-Geddes vs. Groton Area, 2 n.m.: Sully Buttes vs. Mount Vernon, 3:30 n.m.: Parkston vs. Mitchell Christian, 5 p.m.; Miller vs. Clark-Willow Lake, 6:30 p.m.; Wborg-Hurley vs. James Valley Christian, 8 p.m.); Randolph Holiday Tourn. (Consolation — 3:30 p.m.; Championship — 6:30 p.m.); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Verdigre Booster Club Tourn. (Consolation - 4:30 p.m.: Champi-

onship — 8 p.m.); Alcester-Hudson at Avon; Tea Area at Vermillion (7 p.m., kVTK-AM)

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Creighton Holiday Tourn. (Consolation — 2:30 p.m.; Championship — 6 p.m.); Crofton Holiday Tourn. (Consolation - 2 p.m.; Championship - 5 p.m.); Great Northeast Nebraska Shootout at Wayne (Hartington Gedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); Randolph Holiday Tourn. (Consolation — 2 p.m; Championship — 5 p.m.); Shootout on

35 17 15 3 37 96 103 36 13 16 7 33 88 101

outheast Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA

the Elkhom at Wisner (Ponca); Verdigre Booster Club Tourn. (Consolation — 2:45 p.m.; Championship — 6:15 p.m.); Alcester-Hudson at Avon; Bon Homme at Winner; Tea Area at Vermillion (5 p.m., KVTK-AM) HOCKEY, BOYS' Yankton at Sioux Falls (8:45 p.m.)

HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Yankton at Sloux Falls (6:45 p.m.)
HOCKEY, PEEWEE S.F. East at Yankton B (7 p.m.)
WRESTLING, PREP McCook Central-Montrose Tourn. (Alcester-Hudson, Bon Homme, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes, Marion-Freeman Parker, Scotland, 9 a.m.); Floyd Farrand Inv. at Sioux Falls (Parkston, Vermillion, Wagner, 10 a.m.) Saturday, December 31
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Southern Utah at USD (2 p.m.,

HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV Watertown at Yankton (DH, 11 a.m. &

3:30 p.m.) HOCKEY, BANTAM Yankton A at Sioux Falls (11:30 a.m.);

Yankton B at Sioux Falls (1:30 p.m.)

HOCKEY, PEEWEE Watertown at Yankton A (2 p.m.); Waown at Yankton B (12:30 p.m.)
Sunday, January 1
HOCKEY, BANTAM Yankton B at Sioux Falls (8 a.m.)
HOCKEY, PEEWEE Brookings at Yankton A (1 p.m); Brook-

ings at Yankton B (11 a.m.)

Tech (11-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)	Oakland	8	7	0	.533	333	395
Wednesday, Jan. 4	San Diego	7	8	0	.467	368	351
ORANGE: West Virginia (9-3) vs.	Kansas City	6	9	0	.400	205	335
Clemson (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)	NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
Friday, Jan. 6			Ea	st			
COTTON: Kansas State (10-2) vs.		W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA
Arkansas (10-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)	N.Y. Giants	8	7	0	.533	363	386
Saturday, Jan. 7	Dallas	8	7	0	.533	355	316
BBVA COMPASS: Pittsburgh (6-6) vs.	Philadelphia	7	8	0	.467	362	318
SMU (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)	Washington	5	10	0	.333	278	333
Sunday, Jan. 8			Sou	ıth			
GODADDY.COM: Arkansas State		W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA
(10-2) vs. Northern Illinois (10-3), 8 p.m.	x-N. Orleans	11	3	0	.786	457	306
(ESPN)	Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	341	281
Monday Jan 9	Carolina	6	9	0	.400	389	384

Sunday, Jan. 8 GODADDY.COM: Arkansas State (10-2) vs. Northern Illinois (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Monday, Jan. 9 BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE AMERICAN CONFERENCE W L T Pct PF 12 3 0 800 464

N.Y. Jets	8	7	0	.533	360	344			
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	351	385			
Miami	5	10	0	.333	310	296			
South									
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA			
y-Houston	10	5	0	.667	359	255			
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	302	295			
Jacksonville	4	11	0	.267	224	316			
Indianapolis	2	13	0	.133	230	411			
		Noi	th						
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA			
x-Baltimore	11	4	0	.733	354	250			
x-Pittsburgh	11	4	0	.733	312	218			
Cincinnati	9	6	0	.600	328	299			
Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	209	294			

6 9 0 .400 389 384 4 11 0 .267 263 449 4 11 0 North W L T Pct 1 0 .933 Tampa Bay 10 5 0 .667 433 342 x-Detroit Chicago 8 0 .467 336 328 3 12 0 .200 327 432 West
W L T Pct PF PA
12 3 0 .800 346 202
7 8 0 .467 301 292 y-San Fran. 8 0 .467 289 328 2 13 0 .133 166 373 x-clinched playoff spot; y-clinched divi-

Thursday, Dec. 22 Indianapolis 19, Houston 16 Saturday, Dec. 24 Oakland 16, Kansas City 13, OT Tennessee 23, Jacksonville 17 Pittsburgh 27, St. Louis 0 Buffalo 40. Denver 14 Baltimore 20, Cleveland 14 New England 27, Miami 24

N.Y. Giants 29, N.Y. Jets 14

Detroit 38, San Diego 10 San Francisco 19, Seattle 17 Philadelphia 20, Dallas 7 Sunday, Dec. 25 Green Bay 35, Chicago 21 Monday, Dec. 26 Atlanta at New Orleans, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 1 Chicago at Minnesota, noon

Cincinnati 23, Arizona 16

Carolina at New Orleans, noon Detroit at Green Bay, noon Buffalo at New England, noon Tampa Bay at Atlanta, noon N.Y. Jets at Miami, noon Pittsburgh at Cleveland, noon Dallas at N.Y. Giants, noon

Seattle at Arizona, 3:15 p.m. **HOCKEY**

Washington at Philadelphia, noon

San Diego at Oakland, 3:15 p.m. Kansas City at Denver, 3:15 p.m.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA

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N.Y. Rangers	34	22	8	4	48	102	72
Philadelphia	34	21	9	4	46	118	9
Pittsburgh	35	20	11	4	44	114	9
New Jersey	35	19	15	1	39	97	103
N.Y. Islanders	34	11	17	6	28	77	111
N	orth	eas	t Di	visio	on		
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	G/
Boston						119	
Toronto	35	18	13	4	40	110	113
Ottawa	36	17	14	5	39	111	12

Florida 36 18 11 7 43 94 98 35 16 14 5 37 96 104 Winnipeg 34 17 15 2 36 100 105 34 14 17 3 31 90 116 37 12 19 6 30 95 123 WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division

Vancouver

17 15 4 38 90 98 15 16 3 33 93 91 Pacific Division

Monday's Games Colorado 4, Minnesota 2 Buffalo 4, Washington 2

GP W L OT Pts GF GA 35 22 9 4 48 118 102 35 21 10 4 46 92 77 35 22 12 1 45 115 79 36 18 14 4 40 96 103

34 9 21 4 22 85 117 Northwest Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA 37 20 12 5 45 88 86 35 21 12 2 44 115 85 37 19 17 1 39 100 107

GP W L OT Pts GF GA San Jose 32 19 10 3 41 95 77
Dallas 35 20 14 1 41 95 101
Phoenix 35 18 14 3 39 92 92
Los Angeles 36 16 14 5 37 76 85
Anaheim 34 9 19 6 24 80 113 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

N.Y. Rangers 3, N.Y. Islanders 0 Carolina 4, New Jersey 2 St. Louis 5, Dallas 3 Detroit 4, Nashville 1 Columbus at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. Edmonton at Vancouver, 10 p.m

Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.
Toronto at Florida, 6:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Detroit, 6:30 p.m. Winnipeg at Colorado, 8 p.m. ednesday's Games Buffalo at New Jersey, 6 p.m.

Phoenix at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Anaheim at San Jose, 10:30 p.m

Tuesday's Games Carolina at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.

Calgary at Columbus, 6 p.m.

Montreal at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.

N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 6:30 . Minnesota at Nashville, 7 p.m. Los Angeles at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

Boston at Phoenix, 8 p.m. Vancouver at San Jose, 9:30 p.m. coach Ron Wilson to a contract extension

TRANSACTIONS BASEBALL National League
CHICAGO CUBS—Agreed to terms
with LHP Andy Sonnanstine and RHP

Manny Corpas on one-year contracts. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association HOUSTON ROCKETS—Signed Samuel Dalembert to a multiyear contract.

POOTBALL

National Football League

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Signed

OT Daniel Baldridge from the practice
squad, Placed DE Matt Roth and CB Ashton Youboty on injured reserve. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Re-HOCKEY

National Hockey League ANAHEIM DUCKS—Recalled LW

Jean-Francois Jacques from Syracuse (AHL).
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Recalled F Brandon Pirri from Rockford (AHL).
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Re-

called LW Dane Byers from Springfield (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES—Recalled G
Curtis McElhinney and F Patrick O'Sullivan
from Portland (AHL). Placed G Mike Smith

on injured reserve, retroactive to Dec. 20.

Assigned G Justin Pogge to Portland (AHL).
ST. LOUIS BLUES—Recalled F Adam Cracknell from Peoria (AHL).
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS—Signed

American Hockey League
ADIRONDACK PHANTOMS—Returned F Jean Bourbeau to Elmira (ECHL).
BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS— Signed G Nic Riopel, F Kael Mouillierat and F Joey Haddad to professional tryout agreements.
PEORIA RIVERMEN—Signed F Chris Bruton, D Maury Edwards and G David

McKee to professional tryout agreements.
PROVIDENCE BRUINS—Signed F
Daniel Koger to a professional tryout SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE—Recalled F Joe Devin, F A.J. Jenks and F Garrett Wilson from Cincinnati (ECHL) and F David Marshall from Rio Grande Valley

(CHL).
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS—Signed F Chad Costello to a professional tryout

ELMIRA JACKALS—Announced F Jean Bourbeau was assigned to the team by Adirondack (AHL).

Packers

West W L T Pct PF PA 8 7 0 .533 306 383

against the Chiefs, Rodgers couldn't mount a comeback and the Packers lost their first game of the season. But the reshuffled line then had a week to practice together and prepare for the Bears, and things looked much better Sunday night.

McCarthy helped keep the Bears' pass rush off-balance early by using a no-huddle offense and rolling out Rodgers, and the line did the rest.

"That was a big challenge for the offensive line," McCarthy said. "The offensive line actually is going to receive a game ball when we come back together Wednesday. I think that tells you how we felt about their performance as a whole. The offense did hit a lull in the

first half that allowed the Bears

to stay in the game into the third

quarter. Then the Packers scored

on three straight possessions to

"It was big that we had a full week to kind of jell together and practice together as the five we had out there starting," Lang said

The Packers did allow a sack of backup quarterback Matt Flynn in the fourth quarter Sunday night, but not until well after

'They played excellent,' Rodgers said. "I think a lot of people were questioning even the starters and the way that they've played. We had T.J. at right tackle and we had Evan at left guard and those guys played great. I've got to give them a lot of credit. They're the MVPs

from backups is nothing new for

CERAMIC

a Packers team that shook off significant injuries to win the Super Bowl last year.

"For us to not give up any sacks tonight was a huge thing," Sitton said. "It speaks to the guys that we have. Last year, we dealt with the whole injury thing all year, and this week, we had to play a couple guys in different positions upfront and everybody handled it well. It's pretty cool.'

McCarthy said Bulaga is "close" to returning, and said he wants Clifton to play this week.

"He knows that, and that's the goal," McCarthy said. "But once again, it is an injury situation,

and what he's gone through the last nine, 10 weeks, we'll take it day by day. And while it's not clear when

Clifton or Bulaga will return, one thing is certain: The Packers' backup linemen don't particularly like hearing the term "patchwork" used to describe their play.

"I think we played pretty well, our quote-unquote 'patchwork' line," Newhouse said. "We have guys who have been in the system for a while and trust each other, and we had a good week of preparation, so it worked out



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Vikings

play ability of his own, busting free for a 67-yard run, the longest of his short career.

Believing Peterson will be ready for the first game of 2012 and knowing Gerhart is available if needed, Frazier said the team wouldn't change its run-first offensive approach.

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ally alter the offense.'

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Rod McNatt

Sunday. "Definitely big for us today to go out and pitch a shutout in the sack category. It took a little bit more pride in protecting Aaron. Obviously, the last couple games, he was getting hit too much. That was one thing we knew that the Bears had a great pass-rushing defense and we would have to take a little more pride in winning your individual battle and keep him clean."

the game had been decided.

tonight." Of course, getting good play



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