



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton senior Mikala Hora attacks the ball during a home match this past season. Hora, who led Class AA in kills per set, was named to the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association All-State first team, announced today (Saturday).

Yankton's Hora Earns First Team Honors

BY JUSTIN WULF
Sioux Falls Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS — The lethal duo that led Roosevelt to its third Class AA state volleyball championship in seven years also highlights the first team selections of the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association all-state team announced today.

Senior right side Ashley Beaner and junior middle hitter Maggie DeJong were among seven first-teamers, but were arguably two of the more dominant players in the state, saving their best for the state tournament in Rapid City.

DeJong, who tallied a blistering .530 kill percentage with 295 kills this season, led the Riders in kills in each of the team's three state tournament matches, while Beaner (.410 kill percentage for 230 kills) consistently tormented teams with a southpaw swing.

"Even when we block her in practice, it's a hard ball to block and a hard ball to adjust to because you're going against your opposite shoulder," said Roosevelt coach Holly Lynch of the lefty Beaner.

For as powerful as the Riders' offense was this season, the all-around play from DeJong and Beaner is what made the eventual state champions such a dominant force. Along with combining for 140 blocks, the tandem recorded at least 230 digs apiece to display a much-improved effort in the back row.

"Both of these girls last year didn't play the back row, but both were six-rotation players this year," said Lynch. "We didn't have to take them out of the game, which was a huge benefit to us because they're both phenomenal athletes."

Washington's primary weapon, senior middle hitter Emma Hanson, also earned first team honors after pacing the team with 283 kills and 262 digs. Hanson guided the Warriors to a state runner-up finish with 4.8 kills per set during the tournament, capping a strong career.

"Emma was our catalyst all year long. She did exactly what was expected of her," said Washington coach LaDawn Nesje. "She needed to be either one or two in kill leaders every single match. She developed her back row very well and turned into a good defensive player for us."

Yankton senior Mikala Hora (376 kills, 250 digs), Rapid City Central senior Lauren Schad (310 kills, 163 blocks) and six-foot-four Mitchell junior Taylin Alm (274 kills) rounded out the first team middle hitters along with Aberdeen Central outside hitter Lauren McCafferty, who finished with 175 kills and 145 digs.

Rapid City Stevens senior Anna Sykora was the lone setter chosen overall, earning one of seven second team selections with 665 assists, 177 digs, 74 kills and 51 blocks.

Huron senior middle hitter Katelyn Allerding, who led all hitters with 6.4 kills per set at the state tournament, was also selected to the second team with 304 kills and 887 blocks.

Other second team selections include O'Gorman sophomore outside hitter Taryn Kloth (214 kills, 165 digs), Brookings senior outside hitter Mack Rief (276 kills, 135 digs), Lincoln junior middle block Steph Buss (295 kills), Washington junior libero Ellie Benson (433 digs) and Mitchell senior libero Megan Farnham, who tallied 522 digs this season and led all players with 7.1 digs per set at state.

Big Ten Title Game Organizers Expect Empty Seats

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Wisconsin and No. 14 Nebraska likely will play Saturday night's Big Ten title game in front of at least a few empty seats.

A little more than 24 hours before kickoff, thousands of tickets remained unsold and local organizers and Big Ten officials were already saying they didn't anticipate selling all of them.

"I think from the vantage point in the press box, you're going to see empty seats," said John Dedman, a spokesman for Indiana Sports Corp., which helps the Big Ten put on the game. "But at the same time, there's going to be a lot of people in those seats. There are 67,000 seats in there."

This has not been a good year for the Big Ten, which has four teams ranked in the Top 25.

No. 4 Ohio State (12-0, 8-0) isn't

playing for the title because it's ineligible for postseason play. Had the Buckeyes made it, ticket sales likely would have been more brisk.

Penn State (8-4, 6-2) finished second in the Leaders Division but also is out of the mix because it cannot play in a bowl game.

So the third-place Badgers (7-5, 4-4) have a chance to become the first conference team to reach the Rose Bowl in three straight years since Michigan in the late 1970s.

Both Nebraska (10-2, 7-1) and Wisconsin are known for taking large contingents of fans on the road. But this time, neither school sold its entire 15,000-ticket allotment, and general public ticket sales fell behind last year's pace, too, making plenty of seats available for walk-up sales Saturday.

"It's noticeably behind last year," Dedman said of the pace. "Obvi-

ously, it's been a unique year for the Big Ten. But it also means that those who are coming downtown tomorrow can walk right into Lucas Oil Stadium and see what we think is going to be a great game."

It's an unusual situation in Indianapolis, a city that has embraced all forms of major sporting events ranging from the Final Four and Super Bowl to national championships in track and field, swimming and diving and gymnastics.

This is the second straight year the title game will be played in Indy. Last year, the game was nearly sold out, and the title game is scheduled to return to Indy in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Coach Bo Pelini said at a news conference Friday that he expects the retractable-roof dome stadium to be closer to capacity than most expect.

SDSU Set For Rematch With Bison

BY JEREMY HOECK
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The challenge of already knowing who the second round opponent was before the first round game was even played turned out not to be an issue for the South Dakota State football team.

No, instead the Jackrabbits dispatched Eastern Illinois in dominating fashion, 58-10, setting up a rematch with defending FCS champion North Dakota State today (3 p.m.) in Fargo.

"I know that our coaches maybe didn't want us to know it was already North Dakota State, but I think we were really focused on the task at hand," said senior receiver Tyrel Kool, a Yankton native. "The thing that kept us motivated is that it was a whole new season; you either play well or go home."

For SDSU (9-3), there were a lot of firsts in the victory over Eastern Illinois: A first playoff game at home, the school's first-ever playoff win and a season-high 580 yards of total offense.

The reward? Having to travel to Fargo for the second time in three weeks — the Bison beat the Jackrabbits 20-17 on Nov. 10.

"Surely it's a unique situation that you turn around and play three weeks later," SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier said. "North Dakota State was in, and we had to battle to get in, so we're not going to question anything. We just try to every week play our best football."

That was what presented SDSU with the obstacle of having to prepare for Eastern Illinois while already knowing NDSU was looming in the second round. No easy task, said Jacks sopho-

more right tackle Trevor Greger, considering SDSU's previous playoff game was a shocking loss at Montana in 2009.

"Coach kept bringing up the Montana game, and I remember watching it on TV," Greger, a Wagner native, said. "We had to go out there and focus on being 1-0, like we always talk about."

"We knew for a fact that if we didn't win, we would be done. We had no other choice."

And so now, the Jackrabbits have no other choice but to beat the top-ranked Bison (10-1) if they are to keep moving in the FCS playoffs.

North Dakota State ranks first nationally in scoring defense (11.82 ppg), total defense (195.73 yards/game), rushing defense (67.09) and passing defense (128.64). The biggest thing SDSU has to clean up from the Nov. 10 game,

though, is mistakes.

The Jackrabbits hurt themselves with nine penalties in Fargo — taking them out of rhythm on both sides of the ball.

"I don't have a crystal ball, but I think if we eliminate some errors, which has nothing to do with the scheme or their scheme, if we eliminate half of those nine penalties, we improve our chances to win that game," Stiegelmeier said. "As we look at the game and the game plan for North Dakota State, we're not saying that we have to reinvent the wheel."

Especially when you consider what the Jacks did last week.

Sophomore running back Zach Zenger ran for a school-record 295 yards

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge's Cameron Eddie, middle, drives to the hoop between Crofton defenders Tiffany Tramp, left, and Alex Allen during their game Friday night in Crofton, Neb.

Arens Double-Double Lifts Crofton Past Bears

CROFTON, Neb. — Bridget Arens scored 19 points and pulled down 11 rebounds as Crofton snuck past Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 44-41 in girls' basketball action Friday night in Crofton, Neb.

The visiting Bears (0-1) pulled within one point in the closing seconds on a three-pointer. And after Crofton hit a pair of free throws, LCC got off a clean look at a three ahead of the buzzer, but it was off the mark.

Allison Arens recorded 12 points and three assists for the Lady Warriors (2-0), while Maria Wortmann added five points and 12 rebounds. Quinn Wragge chipped in with four points and five rebounds.

In the loss for the Bears, Cameron Eddie had 19 points, three assists and two steals, while Katie Gubbels had nine points and Kiley Thompson added seven points. Sammie Camenzind led the defense with five steals.

Both teams return to action next Tuesday, with Crofton at Boone Central (in Albion) and LCC playing Homer.

LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE (0-1).....	8	15	33	41
CROFTON (2-0).....	9	20	36	44

Thursday

West Holt 51, Creighton 29

WEST HOLT, Neb. — West Holt defeated Creighton by the score of 51-29

in girls Nebraska high school basketball action Thursday night.

Megan Wenner led all scorers with 14 points for West Holt. Chey Shaw picked up 12 points on the night. Blake Butterfield contributed eight points in the winning effort. April Everett recorded six points.

Rebecca Eggerling led the Creighton charge with 14 points on the night. Maddi Oltkenbruns recorded five points. Jessica Gragert and Emily Sorensen each had three points in the loss.

West Holt will travel to Valetine on Saturday (today). Creighton will travel to Wausa on Dec. 4.

WEST HOLT (1-0).....	15	22	34	51
CREIGHTON (0-1).....	8	18	22	29

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N. Illinois Wins MAC In Double OT Over Kent St

DETROIT (AP) — Jordan Lynch ran for three touchdowns, including a 2-yarder in the second overtime, and Demetrius Stone's interception in the end zone gave No. 19 Northern Illinois a 44-37 victory over No. 18 Kent State in a stirring Mid-American Conference championship game Friday night.

Both teams were hoping a win would boost them into the top 16 of the BCS rankings and give them a berth in one of college football's marquee bowls. Northern Illinois (12-1) dominated for much of the night, but the Golden Flashes (11-2) tied it at 34 in the final minute of regulation.

Kent State trailed 27-13 earlier in the fourth before scoring two touchdowns in a 15-second span.

It was 34-41 at the end of regulation, and after the teams traded field goals in the first overtime, Northern Illinois needed only two plays to reach the end zone. A 23-yard run by Akeem Daniels set up Lynch's final TD.

Wieselers Power Wynot Past Bees

WYNOT, Neb. — Nathan Wieseler just missed a double-double, finishing with 17 points and nine rebounds, as Wynot defeated Bloomfield 57-43 in the season and Lewis & Clark Conference openers for both squads.

Davis Wieseler added 14 points for Wynot, which led 34-17 at halftime.

Nick Nagengast led Bloomfield with 19 points. Chet Beckman added 11 points.

Bloomfield hosts Hartington Cedar Catholic on Tuesday. Bloomfield won the JV game 28-27.

BLOOMFIELD (0-1).....	6	17	25	43
WYNOT (1-0).....	15	34	43	57

Ponca 76, Hartington 62

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Nick Miller scored a game-high 20 points, but it wasn't enough as the Hartington Wildcats lost their season opener 76-62 to Ponca on Thursday night.

Derek Jueden added 14 points for Hartington, while Riley Haug had seven points and Colby Jueden scored six.

No stats were reported for Ponca.

Creighton 52, West Holt 41

WEST HOLT, Neb. — In the finale of the double header, the Creighton (1-0) boys basketball team defeated West Holt (0-1) in Nebraska C2 basketball action.

There were no stats available for Creighton.

Bronson Pahl led the way for West Holt in the losing effort. Reid Liska contributed 10 points. Austin Diedrichsen tallied nine points on the night. Beau Schindler and Seth Wilmes each added six points respectively.

Creighton will host Wausa on Dec. 4th. West Holt will travel to Valetine on Saturday (today).

CREIGHTON (1-0).....	14	27	41	52
WEST HOLT (0-1).....	11	17	24	41



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Crofton's Evan Woockman, left, drives past Laurel-Concord-Coleridge defender Shawn McCoy during their game Friday night in Crofton, Neb.