

USD Ready For First Year Of Indoor Eligibility

Track & Field: Summit League Championships, Potential NCAA Meet Berths On Horizon For Coyotes

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VERMILLION — For all the track success at the University of South Dakota, there has been one thing missing from the mix in the Division I years.

That final piece to the full puzzle, qualifying for the D-I Indoor Championships, is added this season as the USD men's and women's program will be eligible to compete at the nation's highest level.

Of course, getting to that meet is a lot different than quali-

fying for the D-I outdoor nationals — which the USD women had three athletes earn All-American honors. In all, the Coyotes qualified 13 athletes for the NCAA West Preliminaries for the outdoor season this past spring.

"For some of our kids, it's definitely an added goal," USD women's track coach Lucky Huber said. "To make the nationals in indoors is very difficult. We're pretty realistic. We have some really high-end kids, but probably not a lot who will be there."

When the Coyotes kick off

their indoor season Jan. 18-19 at the Jack Johnson Invite in Minneapolis, Minn., the focus won't necessarily be on the national meet. But make no mistake, athletes realize it's now an option, according to men's track coach Dave Gottsleben said.

"Our kids are aware of those marks; of what it takes, and they train with that thought in mind," he said. "It's not a feast or famine thing, the conference is our main goal. But we'll get more educated on that."

For the first time since joining the Summit League, USD will host a conference tournament. The Summit League Indoor Track & Field Championships will be held at the DakotaDome from Feb. 24-25, 2013.

USD previously hosted the Great West Conference indoor championships in 2009 and 2010, but bringing in the Summit meet is a whole new endeavor, according to men's senior jumper Chad Pinkelman.

"I'd love to see us compete and come away with a team title," Pinkelman, a Norfolk, Neb. native, said. "Defending the dome is an old saying, but we like to say it. We get the advantage of training here every day, so hopefully we can do something special."

Women

With still a month and a half before the season-opening meet in Minneapolis, the Coyote women's squad is still trying to sort through injuries and make final decisions on redshirts.

One thing that is certain, though, is that the Coyotes again figure to be in the mix for a Summit League indoor title. Last spring, USD finished second, 91 points behind North Dakota State.

"It's still a big question mark with our indoor season, getting over some of the dings we have," Huber said. "We're still trying to figure out our lineup, but we're excited to see what we can do."

Of the returning athletes for the Coyotes, sophomore Analisa



COYOTES: Bethany Buell

Huschle is back and figures to contend for an individual league crown in three events. The reigning Summit League Indoor Newcomer of the Year finished third in the 60-meter dash, third in the 100-meter dash and fourth in the long jump.

Up and down the lineup, the Coyotes have the depth necessary to again contend for a conference title, according to Tansha Clarke, a junior multi-event athlete and former Great West Freshman of the Year from St. Catherine, Jamaica.

"Last year we had some great performances. Even though some girls graduated, with the recruits we have, I'm excited," Clarke said. "We see a lot of people just in practice that you can tell how good they are."

Despite some key graduation losses, the Coyotes also return one of the nation's top pole vaulting units. Sophomore Emily Grove was second at last year's indoor meet, while Bethany Buell redshirted the indoor season. The script will likely be flipped in 2013, Huber said, as Grove is a

likely redshirt candidate and Buell will compete in the indoor season.

"We're not sure about Emily yet, partly because we've got a lot of vaulters, and we don't need all of them at the same time," Huber said. "Bethany is ready to go. We've got super high expectations with her, and she should be able to contend for indoor nationals."

Adding to the puzzle pieces already in place, the Coyotes will benefit from a pair of key transfers — Megan Glisar (So.) from Morningside College and Tess Johnson (So.) from the University of Mary.

Glisar was the 2012 NAIA Indoor national champion in the high jump and later tied for second place in the NAIA Outdoor Championships. Johnson, a native of Henry, S.D., finished third in the 2012 Northern Sun outdoor heptathlon, third in the high jump, fifth in the triple jump and eighth in the long jump.

Prior to hosting the Summit League indoor meet in February, the Coyotes will have a pair of

other home meets in the DakotaDome. The Jan. 26 Alumni Meet will feature athletes from South Dakota State, North Dakota State and Minnesota-Moorhead.

It's all preparation for the 2-day conference meet in the DakotaDome, Huber said.

"We've always built our program on being successful at the conference meet," he said. "To see what we can have and give the kids another home meet, it'll be a big plus for us."

Men

The Coyote men's team returns a bulk of its athletes that helped USD finish fourth at last year's Summit League indoor meet — 19 in all that placed in that meet.

"We are a better team than we were a year ago," Gottsleben said. "We filled in some spots that we weren't as strong last season, but we're extremely optimistic that we can be successful."

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COYOTES: Kyle McKelvey

NEBRASKA PREP WRESTLING

Creighton-Verdigre

COACH: Zac Kliment
ASSISTANTS: Tim Nielsen, Cully Forker, Jason Simens
VITALS: Class C, District C-2, Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference

LAST YEAR: The Bulldogs lost no starters and no letterwinners from last season.

RETURNING LETTER-WINNERS: Braden Forker (Sr.), Owen Pavelka (Sr.), Eli Schreier (Sr.), Ryan Velquardsen (Sr.), Jake Ripp (Sr.), Dakotah York (Sr.), Michael Kracht (Sr.), Cole London (Sr.), Rylee Klawitter (Sr.), Kaleb Fritz (Sr.), Austin Larsen (So.), Connor Baldwin (So.)
TOP PROSPECTS: Leri Nielsen (Sr.), Daniel Christensen (Sr.), Tyler Powers (So.), Caleb Vokoc (So.), Garret Zimmerer (Fr.), Chase Ruzicka (Fr.), Ean Staben (Fr.)

Crofton

COACH: Michael Magorian
ASSISTANT: Alex Phillips
VITALS: Class C, District C-2, Northeast Activities Conference, Mid-State Conference

LAST YEAR: Crofton produced a runner-up wrestler in the Mid-State Conference.

RETURNING LETTER-WINNER: Brady Steffen (Sr. Second in Mid-State Conference)
TOP PROSPECTS: J.T. Allen (Sr.), Dustin Berschinger (So.), Lucas Miller (Fr.)

Hartington

Cedar Catholic

COACH: Justin Bartling
ASSISTANT: Matt Wortmann
VITALS: Class C, District 2, Mid-State Conference
LAST YEAR: Cedar Catholic lost three starters and letterwinners from last season.

RETURNING LETTER-WINNERS: Sam Wortmann (So.), Zach Thoene (Sr.), Austin Koch (So.)

TOP PROSPECTS: Adam Leise, Tucker Loberg, Soren Doll

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge

COACH: Don Maxwell (Fifth year)

ASSISTANTS: Joe Frost, Adam Zellmer

VITALS: Class D, District D-2, Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference

LAST YEAR: Laurel-Concord-Coleridge lost two letterwinners from last season.

RETURNING LETTER-WINNERS: Austin Roach (Sr., First team all NENAC), Drew Lunz (Sr.), Brett Haisch (Sr.), Travis Pinklemam (Sr.), Ethan Hirschman (Sr.), Ben Barelman (Sr.), Lathan Ohlrich (Sr.), Chris Heydon (Sr.), Dakota Heitman (So.)

TOP PROSPECTS: Cody Swanson (Fr.), Blake Reimers (So.), Brandon Depledge (Sr.), Billy Barelman (Fr.), Nolan Casey (Fr.)

Randolph

COACH: Mark Lech
ASSISTANTS: Bill Gubbels, Tom Shafer

VITALS: Class D, Region D-2, Northeast Activities Conference
LAST YEAR: Randolph lost two letterwinners from last season. They had one wrestler qualify for state.

RETURNING LETTER-WINNERS: Shawn Thelen (So.), Colten Korth (So.), Austin Korth (Sr.), Dylan Loberg (So.), Tyler Branssen (Sr.)

TOP PROSPECTS: Jesse Schmidt (Fr.), James Oelrich (Fr.), Lane Bowers (Sr.), Austin Gubbels (Sr.), Hunter Lawson (So.), Grant Brunssen (Fr.)

Ponca

COACH: Keith Trusty
VITALS: Class C, District 2
LAST YEAR: Ponca has one returning state qualifier.

RETURNING LETTER-WINNERS: Jonathan Larsen (Sr.), Jose Markworth (Sr.), Joaquin Antonio (Sr.), Mario Markworth (So.), Cory Dyer (So.)
TOP PROSPECTS: Cory Ryker (Fr.), Jordan Walker (Fr.), Sean Uhl (So.), Michael Brewer (Fr.), Loe Markworth (Fr.)

Wakefield-Allen

COACH: Eric Buchaneide
ASSISTANT: Brady Nicholson
VITALS: Class D, District 2

LAST YEAR: Wakefield lost two starters and two letterwinners from last season.

RETURNING LETTER-WINNERS: Daniel Muller (Sr.), Steve Sarmincato (Sr.), Alan Lopez (Sr.), Caleb Thomas (So.), Devin Anderson (Sr.), Alex Caldeno (Sr.), Irvin Ramirez (Sr.), Justin Dorcay (Sr.), Daniel Gustafson (Sr.)

TOP PROSPECTS: Rosbin Ravanales (So.), Juan Gonzalez, Dalton Fudge (So.), Franky Nuno (Sr.), Jacob Newton (Sr.), Jon Romero (So.), Efen Godinez (Fr.), Christian Chinchilla (Sr.), David Olvera (Fr.), Tony Vasquez (Sr.), Brody Adair (Fr.)

Freeman Public

Boys' Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Location
12/7	Viborg-Hurley	Freeman
12/10	Bon Homme	Freeman
12/13	Canistota	Freeman
1/4	Bridgewater-Emery	Freeman
1/8	Parkston	Freeman
1/11	Marion	Freeman
1/15	Centerville	Centerville
1/17	Menno	Menno
1/19	St. Francis Indian	Freeman
1/22	McCook Central/Montrose	Montrose
1/24	Dakota Christian	Freeman
1/28	Scotland	Scotland
2/1	Howard	Howard
2/2	Cornbelt Conference Classic	Freeman
2/4	Hanson	Alexandria
2/7	Corsica/Stickney	Corsica
2/11	Irene-Wakonda	Freeman
2/14	Alcester-Hudson	Alcester
2/15	Avon	Freeman
2/18	Ethan	Ethan
2/25-26, 3/2	District 7B Tour.	Tea
3/5	Region 4B Final	TBD
3/14-16	State Tournament	Rapid City

Wrestling (Marion-Freeman)

Date	Opponent/Event	Location
11/27	Marion-Freeman Quadrangular	Marion
12/1	Kimball Tournament	Kimball
12/8	Gregory Invitational	Gregory
12/11	Marion-Freeman Triangular	Marion
12/15	Warrior Invitational	Plankinton
12/29	McCook Central Tournament	Salem
1/5	Miller-Highmore-Harold Invitational	Miller
1/12	Tri-Valley Tournament	Colton
1/17	Beresford Triangular	Beresford
1/19	Kingsbury County Tournament	Arlington
1/22	Alcester-Hudson Triangular	Alcester
1/26	Wagner Invitational	Wagner
2/8	Alcester-Hudson Quad	Alcester
2/16	Region 2B	Salem
2/22-23	State B Tournament	Aberdeen

Girls' Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Location
12/4	Parkston	Parkston
12/8	Irene-Wakonda	Freeman
12/14	Canistota	Canistota
12/15	Platte-Geddes	Freeman
12/18	Centerville	Centerville
1/3	Bridgewater-Emery	Emery
1/7	Bon Homme	Freeman
1/10	Marion	Marion
1/12	Howard	Howard
1/14	Viborg-Hurley	Freeman
1/18	Menno	Freeman
1/19	St. Francis Indian	Freeman
1/21	McCook Central/Montrose	Salem
1/28	Marty Indian	Marty
1/29	Scotland	Scotland
1/31	Alcester-Hudson	Freeman
2/2	Cornbelt Conference Classic	Freeman
2/4	Avon	Freeman
2/5	Hanson	Freeman
2/12	Ethan	Ethan
2/16, 19, 22	District 7B Tournament	Tea
2/28	Region 4B Final	Tea
3/7-9	State B Tournament	Huron

Freeman Academy

Boys' Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Location
12/7	Alcester-Hudson	Freeman
12/8	Oldham-Ramona/Rutland	Ramona
12/15	Walthill, Neb.	TBA
12/17	Andes Central	Freeman
12/20	Menno	Freeman
1/4	Hanson	Freeman
1/5	Mitchell Christian	Mitchell
1/8	Marion	Marion
1/12	Tri-Valley Classic	Alcester
1/15	Canistota	Canistota
1/17	Baltic	Baltic
1/22	Ethan	Ethan
1/24	Irene-Wakonda	Freeman
1/29	Marty Indian	Marty
1/31	Gayville-Volin	Gayville
2/1	Viborg-Hurley	Hurley
2/4	Centerville	Freeman
2/7	Flandreau Indian	TBA
2/11	Marion	Freeman
2/25-26, 3/2	District 7B Tournament	Tea
3/5	Region 4B Final	TBA
3/14-16	State Tournament	Aberdeen

Girls' Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Location
12/7	Alcester-Hudson	Freeman
12/8	Oldham-Ramona/Rutland	Ramona
12/15	Walthill, Neb.	TBA
12/17	Andes Central	Freeman
12/20	Menno	Freeman
1/5	Mitchell Christian	Mitchell
1/8	Marion	Marion
1/11	Dakota Christian	Freeman
1/17	Baltic	Baltic
1/22	Ethan	Ethan
1/24	Irene-Wakonda	Freeman
1/26	Tri-Valley Classic	Alcester
1/29	Marty Indian	Marty
1/31	Gayville-Volin	Gayville
2/1	Viborg-Hurley	Hurley
2/4	Centerville	Freeman
2/7	Flandreau Indian	TBA
2/11	Marion	Freeman
2/12	Canistota	Freeman
2/16, 19, 22	District 7B Tournament	Tea
2/28	Region 4B Final	Tea
3/7-9	State Tournament	Huron

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