



COYOTES: Tyler Flack (23), Trevor Gruis (50)

Boots 'Guarantee': Team Will Be Better In March

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VERMILLION — Dave Boots made an apparent bold statement in guaranteeing his University of South Dakota men's basketball team will qualify for the 8-team Summit League tournament next March.

"I'll make that promise to you," the 25th-year head coach said at USD's media day, holding for comedic pause to later point out that the league only has nine teams and newcomer Nebraska-Omaha is ineligible.

"How we'll be in November is certainly not going to be how we're going to be in March."

To that end, the Coyotes will certainly be tested in their non-conference season. USD, which returns only four of its top 10 players from last season, has already faced Gonzaga, and will play Iowa (Dec. 4) and Kansas State (Dec. 31).

"Those are the games you definitely look forward to, seeing how you can do on the national level," said Coyote junior guard Steve Tecker. "Hopefully it makes the Summit League seem easier." The Coyotes, 10-18 a season ago, return only three players who saw significant minutes — juniors Trevor Gruis (C, 11.3 ppg, 6.8 rpg) and Tecker (G, 4.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg), as well as senior reserve Jordan Boots (G, 4.9 ppg).

In a move to bolster the team's depth and overall athleticism, USD brought in four transfers and three freshmen who figure to see quality minutes.

Of the newcomers, Karim Rowson (Jr., G, Western Okla-

homa State; 12.3 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.8 spg) started immediately, while Adam Thoseby (So., G, Utah State) and Trey Norris (So., G, North Texas) will redshirt. Tyler Larson (Jr., G, Casper College) is out for the season after tearing his ACL.

Last year's redshirt transfer, Juevol Myles (Sr., G; 15.8 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 4.5 apg, 1.6 spg), has assumed the starting point guard duties vacated by Louie Krogman.

Two of the freshmen, Casey Kasperbauer (G) and Tyler Flack (F), have cracked the starting lineup. Kasperbauer (8.9 ppg, 1.9 rpg, 2.3 apg) has 17 three-pointers made, one behind team leader Myles. Flack (9.0 ppg, 5.1 rpg) has a team-best 21 blocked shots.

"There's some pressure already, not just on me, but all the freshmen, but I think it's good pressure," said Kasperbauer, a shooting guard from Carroll, Iowa.

Also on the roster are reserves Brandon Bos (So., G; 5.9 ppg, 1.6 rpg), Jared Bartling (Jr., F; 0.8 rpg), Jack Foley (So., G) and Eric Robertson (Fr., F; 1.6 ppg, 0.7 rpg). Mitchell native Tucker Volesky, also a freshman, will redshirt this season.

The offensive end is where the Coyotes need to especially improve, coach Boots said. In putting together a 5-13 record in the Summit League, USD had scoring outputs of 44, 56, 59, 45, 64 and 60 before turning a corner late in the season.

"We have to get going," Boots said. "This isn't a process I want to take forever to do. I want this quickly; I want us to be competitive right away."

The Coyotes, picked eighth in the conference pre-season poll, will certainly have their hands

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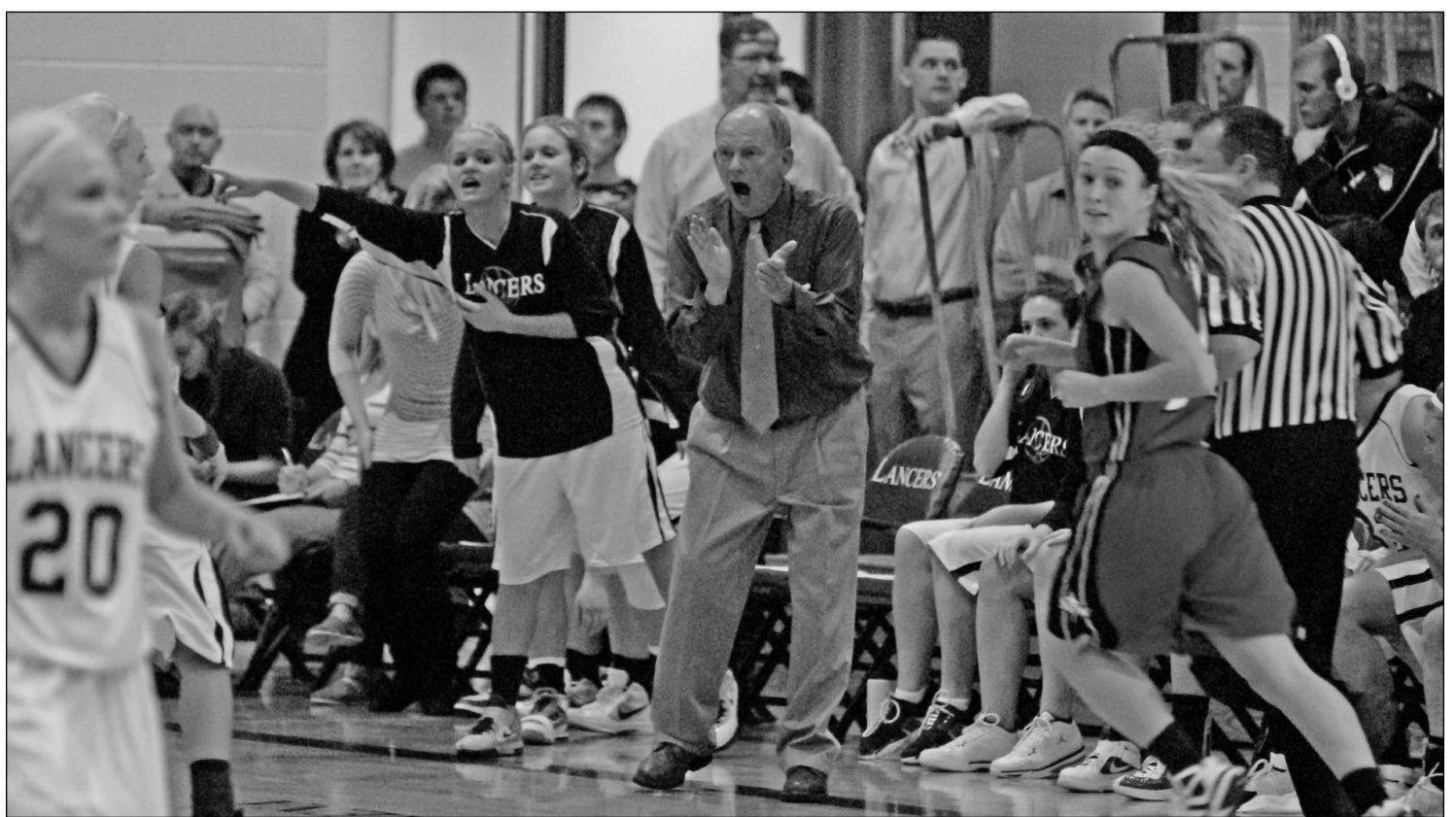
U Women

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The Coyotes were picked to finish sixth in the nine-team Summit League in the preseason poll

with 151 points. SDSU was picked first with 330 points and 22 out of 25 first-place votes.

Despite the early season rash of injuries and loss of last season's standouts, the 2012-13 Coyotes are primed to move forward with their new coach and a positive outlook for the year ahead.



LANCERS: Head coach Tom Schlinggen

Mount Marty Women Work To Bounce Back From .500 Season

BY JILANNE DOOM
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After three 20-win seasons in a row, last season's .500 record fell short of the expectations held by many.

But because of a packed returning roster, the Lancers aren't concerned.

"We're looking forward to rebounding," Mount Marty women's basketball head coach Tom Schlinggen said. "We've got a lot of kids back and a lot of experience back."

The Lancers return nine letterwinners, including six seniors, and bring in a slew of freshmen, some who could possibly contribute right away. Because of the mix of returners and newcomers, one of the main focuses for the women this year is team camaraderie.

"We've got quite a few seniors including Alexa Berg who has been a three-year player and so has Taylor Forsch," Schlinggen said. "So we're hoping that we get some good leadership there and that we gel. That we 'connect' — that's the word we use."

Although the Lancers only graduated two seniors last season, the team will have to fill the gap in the center left by All-American Kylie Gross. Along with Berg (7.6 ppg, 1.5 apg) and Forsch (15.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg), senior forward Brittany Little (6.3 ppg, 5.0 rpg) looks to play significant minutes and fill that gap. Of the eight freshmen on the roster, forward Raquel Sutura (5.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg) of Tabor will also see time in the center position.

"We think we've got a really nice class of freshmen," Schlinggen said. "But when you've got 14 returners, I would say our freshmen, with the exception of Raquel, will be getting most of their time with our JV schedule."

Also for MMC, veteran forward Allison De Kam is posting 10.1 points and a team-best 8.3



LANCERS: April Winne (15)

rebounds per game. She also leads the team with 11 blocked shots and ranks second with 11 steals. April Winne (5.9 ppg, 1.9 rpg) has team-bests of 25 assists and 13 steals. Holly Hegge (5.6 ppg, 4.1 rpg) and Alyssa Whetham (4.4 ppg, 2.3 rpg) have been regulars off the bench, as has Kelli Norrid (1.9 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 1.6 apg).

Another newcomer looking to make an impact for the Lancers can't be found on the roster — not anymore, at least. Former Mount Marty basketball standout Jenny (Miller) Krier has been added to the coaching staff as an assistant this season. She will work primarily with perimeter players and assist in recruiting. One aspect that should help

the team adjust to the new year is a very similar scheme to years past. Along with spreading the floor and getting penetration, Schlinggen thinks the team's depth might have them trying a full-court defense.

But Mount Marty women's basketball not only has strength in numbers. The Lancers shine in

the classroom as well, with a long-running tradition of academic excellence in the NAIA.

"I think that speaks highly of the kind of kids we get here at Mount Marty. Our team GPA, 3.40 last season, has been in the top 25 in the nation I think 12 or 13 years in a row. So that's basically the kind of students we get and the kind of kids we recruit."

The 30-game schedule officially opens at the Dakota Wesleyan Classic in Mitchell against two non-conference opponents — exactly where another of the Lancers' goals focuses.

"Obviously I set pretty high goals and one of the things we're talking about right now is finishing undefeated in non-conference play," Schlinggen said.

The Lancers will also travel to Florida to take on a few non-conference opponents over winter break, but the real test will be their Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) opponents. Pre-season conference voting placed the Lancers sixth in the GPAC, which Schlinggen thinks won't be good enough to reach the team's ultimate goal.

"Sixth place in our conference will not get us in the national tournament," he said. "So we need to exceed expectations of where the other coaches think we're at. And we think we have a good chance to do that."

Through eight games, MMC is 4-4 overall, 2-2 in the GPAC.

You can follow Jilanne Doom on Twitter at twitter.com/JilanneDoom

Menno

Boys' Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Location
12/8	Tripp-Delmont/Armour	Tripp
12/13	Hanson	Alexandria
12/20	Freeman Academy	Freeman
12/22	Irene-Wakonda	Menno
12/27	Andes Central	Lake Andes
1/4	Alcester-Hudson	Menno
1/11	Bridgewater-Emerly	Bridgewater
1/14	Ethan	Menno
1/17	Freeman	Menno
1/19	Howard	Menno
1/22	Gayville-Volin	Gayville
1/24	Corsica/Stickney	Stickney
1/26	Centerville	Menno
1/28	Avon	Menno
1/31	Mitchell Christian	Menno
2/2	Cornebelt Conference Classic	Freeman
2/4	Marion	Marion
2/7	Canistota	Canistota
2/12	Viborg-Hurley	Hurley
2/15	Scotland	Menno
2/23, 26, 3/2	District 11B Tournament	Mitchell (Corn Palace)
3/5	Region 6B Final	Mitchell (Corn Palace)
3/14-16	State Tournament	Aberdeen

Girls' Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Location
12/4	Gayville-Volin	Menno
12/8	Tripp-Delmont/Armour	Tripp
12/11	Scotland	Scotland
12/14	Hanson	Menno
12/20	Freeman Academy	Freeman
12/22	Irene-Wakonda	Menno
1/4	Alcester-Hudson	Menno
1/10	Bridgewater-Emerly	Menno
1/14	Ethan	Menno
1/15	Centerville	Menno
1/18	Freeman	Freeman
1/25	Marion	Menno
1/29	Avon	Avon
1/31	Mitchell Christian	Menno
2/2	Cornebelt Conference Classic	Freeman
2/4	Marion	Marion
2/5	Canistota	Menno
2/8	Andes Central	Menno
2/11	Howard	Menno
2/12	Viborg-Hurley	Hurley
2/16, 19, 22	District 11B Tournament	Mitchell (Corn Palace)
3/2	Region 6B Final	Mitchell (Corn Palace)
3/7-9	State Tournament	Huron

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