

Commentary: Are You Ready For Some Bowls?! We Aren't

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

This college football bowl season is like a brand of Chex Mix that comes with a bunch of nuts you don't really care to eat.

Sure, there's a handful of enticing matchups that are worthy of your time for three or so hours. But by the time you're done picking through to the good ones, you realize there's not much left.

Well, there are other things to do this holiday season.

Like, go ice skating.

Or, check out all the pretty lights.

Whatever it is, there's never been a better reason to spend some time — some real quality time — with your friends and family.

Believe us, you won't be missing a thing if you tune out what will soon be running virtually nonstop on your plasma screen, in all its high-def ugliness. This is nothing more than a bunch of meaningless contests between mediocre teams, a lineup that that makes "Honey Boo Boo" look like "Downton Abbey."

Call it Must-Miss TV. The guys who run the system clearly take us as nothing but a bunch of suckers, willing to watch whatever drivel they put before us as long they attach the word "bowl" to some product they're pushing.

When the complete list of bowls was finally unveiled in all its glory Sunday night, most of the attention turned to Northern Illinois, a team that somehow made the Orange Bowl after losing to Iowa (which won 33 percent of its games) and barely beating Army and Kansas (who combined for a grand total of three victories).

But let's not take out our wrath on the ... uh, hmmm ... whatever their nickname is. We should actually be saluting the MAC champs, because they're like a single minnow swimming ahead bravely to take on the BCS sharks, all while making an already ludicrous system look even sillier.

Besides, there's plenty of bowl games that are far more objectionable than the one in Miami between the Seminoles of Florida State and the ... uh, hmmm ... oh yeah, the Huskies, that's it, of Northern Illinois.

The good folks of El Paso will be subjected to a Sun Bowl featuring a team with a losing record (Georgia Tech) and perhaps the most underachieving squad in all the land (USC).

The Yellow Jackets (6-7) needed a waiver from the NCAA before they could accept their invitation. The Trojans lost five times after starting the season at No. 1.

"We're excited about a very good bowl and a great matchup," said USC coach Lane Kiffin, who we can only assume awoke the next morning to find his nose had grown by a foot or two.

But, who knows, maybe one of Kiffin's minions will go all rogue again and deflate the tires on the team buses. That way, they can't leave their hotels and no one would have to be subjected to such a marquee matchup.

Though, we must say, this game might have some car-crash appeal if held in conjunction with a Kiffin family reunion. The bratty coach already dumped his 72-year-old dad because of the team's defensive woes, and he surely would be willing to jetti-

BOWLS | PAGE 20

Harms' Return, Key Newcomers Help Get Lancer Men On Track

BY CHRIS RILEY
sports@yankton.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the Nov. 2 edition of the Press & Dakotan. It has been updated to reflect the on-going season. Statistics are current through Dec. 3.

Following a season where they finished 11-18 after a promising 8-4 start, the Mount Marty Lancers will count on a local talent's return from injury to lead them into the 2012-2013 season.

Lennox native Austin Harms helped lead the Lancers to five early-season wins last fall, averaging nearly 12 points per contest, before suffering a season-ending knee injury in the eighth game of the year. Following the injury to Harms the Lancers struggled offensively, hitting the 60-point mark just 11 times in their final 21 games after scoring at least 61 in their first eight contests.

The 6-6 senior, who is averaging 7.9 points and 3.6 rebounds this season, is joined by four other returning letterwinners from last year's squad that finished 7-13 in conference play before losing to Northwestern in the first round of the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) tournament.

Joining Harms in leading this year's squad is senior Joe Hieb (11.2 ppg). Hieb, a Chamberlain native, is a two-time letterwinner for the Lancers and was named All-GPAC Honorable Mention last season while averaging 11.7 points per game and playing in all of the Lancer's 29 contests.

The other returning letterwinners include seniors Jeff Larsen (8.2 ppg, 6.6 rpg) and Scott Odekirk (5.1 ppg, 4.9 rpg), junior Chevy Fischer (4.3 ppg, 1.6 rpg) and sophomore Tyler Payer (3.0 ppg, 1.7 rpg).

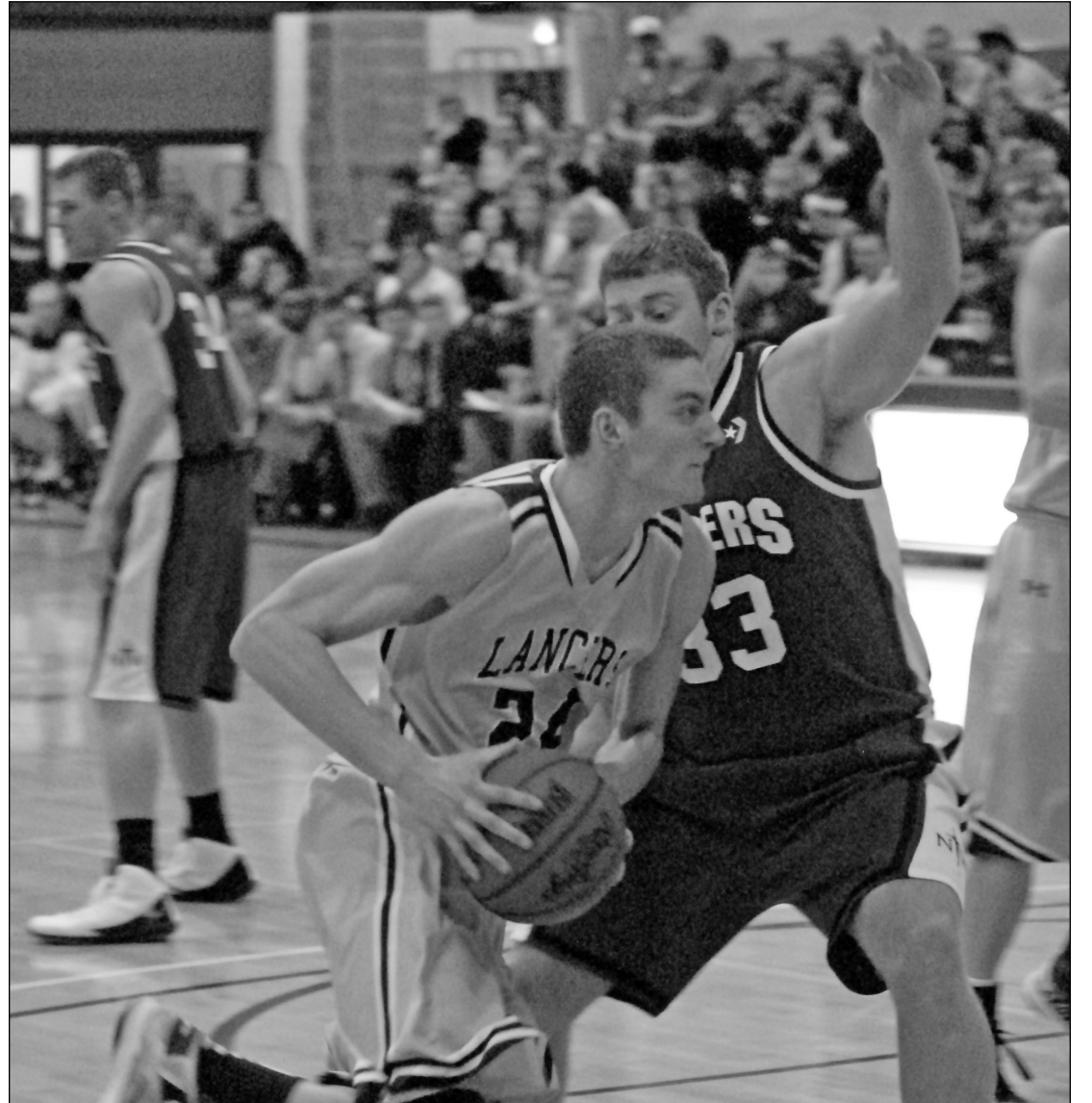
Payer, a former Armour standout, has big hopes for the upcoming season.

"I think it's going to be a bright future," the 6-4 guard said. "We have a good nucleus and a lot of athletic guys. I think we can get out and run a little bit this year."

The handful of returners and a number of new talents have head coach Jim Thorson optimistic about what the Lancers can accomplish in the coming months.

"It is kind of an unknown as this point," Thorson said. "We have a little bit of experience and we have some guys like Saladin Smith (10.9 ppg, 3.7 rpg) and T.J. Johnson (5.1 ppg) that were here last year but didn't play. We are counting on them to fill in."

Thorson, entering his 18th year as head coach of the



LANCERS: Austin Harms (above, No. 24); T.J. Johnson (below, 32)

Lancers, is joined on the bench by second-year assistant Andrew Baker and Highmore-native Ted Quinn. A trio of Lancers that led last year's squad but are out of eligibility also return this season as student-assistants. Mitch Ackelson, Will Eddie and Spencer Yackley, who combined to contribute over 26 points and 16 rebounds per game last season, will try to use their experience playing at Mount Marty to help this new squad form an identity.

"I've been real pleased with them (Ackelson, Eddie and Yackley) stepping in," Thorson added. "They know what we are looking for and they've been a big help."

Newcomers to the program that are expected to contribute right away include transfer Scott Sellers (3.7 ppg, 1.1 rpg) from Utah at the point guard position and New Jersey-native Jose Pena-Benjamin (7.1 ppg, 1.8 rpg) at small forward.

"Jose will give us good depth at the forward position," Thorson said. "He is a big strong player who can help out on defense."

Payer is excited about the way

LANCERS | PAGE 20



COYOTES: Juevol Myles

Coyotes

From Page 18

full in a league that is led by defending tournament champion South Dakota State. After one week of conference play, the Coyotes are 1-1 in league play and 4-4 overall.

To get a jump start on its season with so many newcomers, the Coyotes played two exhibition games in Canada in August. The 10 extra practices no doubt alleviated some early chemistry

concerns, Myles said. "We had a very good training camp, everyone got stronger," said Myles, who previously played at Kansas State. "We showed some promise in Canada, and hopefully that translates to the season"

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

HAASE BAR & GRILL
175 N. Main • Kaylor, SD
605-583-2329

Proud to support the Highlanders.
AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
All your protection under one roof

Tim Asche Agency
(605) 583-2330
www.timasche.com

American Family Mutual Insurance Co. and its Subsidiaries.
Home Office - Madison, WI 53783

SCOTLAND GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY
130 6th St.
Scotland, SD
(605) 583-2216

Dakota Plains Ag Center, LLC
540 Railway St.
Scotland, SD
605-935-6791

POET research center
Ethanol and Distillers Grain
"Buying Corn at Most Competitive Price."
SCOTLAND, SD
605-583-2258
Toll Free 1-877-735-5267

RETTEDAL'S DEPARTMENT STORE
Clothing and Shoes
for the Entire Family
Scotland, SD • 583-4115

Kronaizl Insurance, LLC
621 Main
Scotland, SD
605-583-4272

Schwan's
THE FOODS SINCE 1922
Scotland, SD
605-583-2362

The Main Hideout
530 Main St. • Scotland, SD
(605) 583-9964
Hours: Monday-Saturday
8am-2am
Weekly Saturday Night Steak Specials
Sunday Dinner Buffet 11am - 1pm

Scotland Boys' Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Location
12/7	South Central	Bonesteel
12/10	Viborg-Hurley	Hurley
12/14	Bon Homme	Scotland
12/22	Chamberlain	Chamberlain
12/29	Gayville-Volin	Scotland
1/4	Tripp-Delmont/Armour	Tripp
1/7	Mt. Vernon/Plankinton	Mitchell (Corn Palace)
1/10	Avon	Avon
1/11	Andes Central	Lake Andes
1/15	Irene-Wakonda	Irene
1/17	Marion	Scotland
1/25	Wagner	Scotland
1/28	Freeman	Scotland
1/31	Ethan	Scotland
2/4	Parkston	Parkston
2/8	Gregory	Scotland
2/11	Platte-Geddes	Scotland
2/15	Menno	Menno
2/18	Hanson	Alexandria
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

Wrestling

Date	Opponent/Event	Location
12/1	Kimball Tournament	Kimball
12/8	Howard Tournament	Howard
12/11	Alcester-Hudson, Dakota Valley, Tri-Valley	North Sioux City
12/13	Burke-Gregory, Marion-Freeman	Scotland
12/15	Warrior Invitational	Plankinton
12/29	McCook Central-Montrose Tournament	Salem
1/5	Southeast South Dakota Conference Tournament	Chamberlain
1/12	Harrisburg Tournament	Harrisburg
1/18	Parker, Tea Area	Tea
1/19	Kingsbury County Tournament	Arlington
1/26	Parker Tournament	Parker
1/31	Beresford, Elk Point-Jefferson, Wagner	Elk Point
2/16	Region 3B	Wagner
2/22-23	State B Tournament	Aberdeen

Girls' Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Location
12/4	Viborg-Hurley	Scotland
12/11	Menno	Scotland
12/13	Bon Homme	Tyndall
12/15	Ethan	Scotland
12/22	Chamberlain	Chamberlain
12/29	Gayville-Volin	Scotland
1/3	Avon	Scotland
1/7	Centerville	Mitchell (Corn Palace)
1/11	Andes Central	Lake Andes
1/12	Corsica/Stickney	Scotland
1/15	Irene-Wakonda	Irene
1/18	Platte-Geddes	Platte
1/22	Bridgewater-Emerly	Scotland
1/24	Wagner	Wagner
1/26	Tri-Valley Conf. Tourney	Alcester
1/29	Freeman	Scotland
2/4	Parkston	Parkston
2/8	Gregory	Scotland
2/12	Dakota Christian	Scotland
2/14	Tripp-Delmont/Armour	Tripp
2/16, 19, 22	District 11B Tournament	Mitchell (Corn Palace)
3/2	Region 6B Final	Mitchell (Corn Palace)
3/7-9	State Tournament	Huron

FMSB Farmers & Merchants State Bank
Scotland, South Dakota
Hometown Banking With Your Neighbors & Friends
550 Main St. • Scotland, SD • 583-2234
www.fmsbscotland.com
Member FDIC

Recreation Bar
BOWLING • DARTS • POOL
Now serving breakfast & lunch specials.
Along with all your favorite cold beverages.
536 Main St. • Scotland • (605) 583-4789