# Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

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



BY JEREMY HOECK

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The spectacle that a national TV audience saw on Thursday afternoon with Jabari Parker is something that no local or area athlete will ever experience. And the way I see it, that's not exactly a bad thing. Maybe you didn't see it, but Parker — one of the nation's top high school basketball recruits in front of a packed gym in Chicago and a national audience watching on ESPNU that he will play for Duke and coach Mike Krzyzewski. The decision ended a months-long journey that included other schools like Michigan State, Stanford, Florida and Brigham Young. In the end, though, TV executives thought it would generate enough interest to show his decision live — it's happened before and it will happen again in the future.

The hour or so leading up to the afternoon broadcast was litered with Twitter posts about what Parker was wearing as he walked into the gym, which hats were lined up where on a table near the podium, what color shirt his parents were wearing, and of course, plenty of fans speculating on his eventual decision.

The entire process was pretty ridiculous for a couple of reasons, in my opinion. First, let's ease up a little

bit on this stuff, national media. There's no need for something like that to be televised nationally. Sure it's a tough call for the kid, but he certainly doesn't need the pressure. And second, he'll be at Duke for what, one

As I was interviewing the Press & Dakotan's 2012 Prep Girls Athlete of the Year (you'll find out who it is next week) on Thursday, we got to talking about her college recruiting. It's obviously a tough decision, but she will ultimately make up her mind without the fanfare Parker did. And to me, that's the best way to do it.

#### **YHS Schedule Change**

The start times for the Yankton High School girls' and boys' basketball games on Saturday against Aberdeen Central have been moved up The Yankton girls host Aberdeen and the Bucks play in Aberdeen.

The junior varsity and freshman games will start at 1 p.m., followed by the sophomore games at 2:45 p.m., and the varsity games at 4:30 p.m.

#### Elks Hoop Shoot Dec. 29

The 41st annual Elks Hoop Shoot competition information has been sent to 30 schools in the Yankton Elks 994 District. In order to compete at the district level, winners from local schools will advance to the finals at the Summit Activities Center on Saturday, Dec. 29, at 10 a.m. Boys and girls in ages 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13

are eligible to compete. Ages as of April 1, 2013, determines their age category.

Winners in each age group advance to the state level, to be held on Saturday, Jan. 12, in Pierre. Contact Ray Kooistra at 665-5587 for more information.

**More Honors For Zenner** 

sity running back Zach Zenner has been named to his fourth different Football Championship Subdivision All-America team, earning honors this week from the Walter Camp Football Foundation. The 26-player team was selected by the head coaches and sports information directors of FCS schools.

A sophomore running back from Eagan, Minn., Zenner leads the FCS rushing race with 2.044 yards for an average of 157.2 yards per game. He crossed the 100-yard mark in nine games and topped 200 yards three times, including a school-record 295 yards in the opening round of the FCS playoffs Nov. 24 versus Eastern Illinois. Zenner averaged 6.8 yards per carry and scored 13 touchdowns on the ground, while adding 28 receptions for 197 yards.

#### **Tickets Available For FCS** Title Game

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — NCAA officials say a limited number of standing room tickets are available for the Football Championship Subdivision title game between North Dakota State and Sam

The tickets are set for online sale at 10 a.m. Thursday at NCAA.com/fcs.

Tickets are \$30 and provide access to watch the game from the concourse. Seats are officially sold out.

The game is scheduled Jan. 5 in Frisco. Texas. It is a rematch of last year's title game.

#### **Pelfrey, Twins Finalize \$4** Million, 1-Year Deal

MINNEÁPOLIS (AP) — Recovering righthander Mike Pelfrey and the Minnesota Twins finalized a \$4 million, one-year contract on Thursday, filling another hole in a thin rotation.

For Pelfrey, the simple opportunity to pitch -rather than competing with several others for a spot on a team with a deeper staff -- was what lured him to Minnesota. Target Field's reputation as a place that's difficult to hit home runs in helped, too, as did the chance to move closer to his home in Wichita, Kan.

After making only three starts for the New York Mets in 2012, a season cut short by elbow ligament-replacement surgery on May 1, Pelfrey's passion for the sport was renewed as well. He said in a phone interview on Thursday he's fully confident he'll be ready for the start of spring training, a little more than 10 months removed from the Tommy John procedure.

Pelfrey went 50-54 with a 4.36 ERA over seven seasons with the Mets.

Recruiting Is Key, But Should It Be A National TV Spectacle?

His deal, agreed to last weekend, includes \$1.5 million in performance bonuses: \$100,000 for 150 innings, \$150,000 for 160 innings, \$250,000 each for 170, 180 and 190 innings and \$500,000 for 200 innings. The 6-foot-7, 230pound, 28-year-old Pelfrey, who was arbitration eligible, was not offered a contract by the Mets earlier this offseason.

#### **Iowa State Cancels Game** With ETSU

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa State says its game on Thursday night against East Tennéssee State has been postponed

The Cyclones says the Lady Bucs encountered travel problems and couldn't make the trip to Ames.

Much of lowa was hit with the first major winter storm of the season overnight Wednesday. Snow piled up as much as a foot in spots, and Ames was among the towns worst hit by the weather.

The schools say they might reschedule the game if an agreeable date is found.

# **Top Prospect Parker Chooses Duke**

CHICAGO (AP) — Jabari Parker still had just about everyone guessing. Then, he pulled out that blue Tshirt with a white "D," and, finally, it became clear.

The prized prospect from Chicago's Simeon Career Academy, one of the most highly touted recruits in years, is headed to Duke to play for Mike Krzyzewski. Parker made the announcement in front of a national TV audience Thursday, in his high school gym, surely delighting Blue Devils fans.

A 6-foot-8 forward with the ability to nail jumpers from just about any spot when he's not throwing down vicious dunks, Parker can't sign his letter of intent until April 17. But he made his intentions clear with one highly anticipated oral commitment.

Michigan State, Florida, Stanford

BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Boise State (2 p.m.,

BASKETBALL, BOYS' YHS at Aberdeen Central (4:30

BASKETBALL, BOYS' JV YHS at Aberdeen Central (1

BASKETBALL, BOYS' SOPH YHS at Aberdeen Central

5 p.m.)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' 9TH YHS at Aberdeen Central (1)

and Brigham Young also made his top five and caps from each school lined a table next to the podium. But he said it really came down to three schools, with the Gators and Spartans right there with the Blue Devils.

In the end, he chose to play for Krzyzewski for at least a year before making what many believe will ultimately be a jump to the NBA.

"Duke is always going to be a team in the tournament," he said. "You can't go wrong at the program and most importantly, the long-term investment. I feel like if I go there, I can get a good degree. I can also stay close to home where it's easily accessible to my parents, my family. It's not too far away. Coach K, that's one of the best coaches ever, and I wanted to be able to experience the things that he has next year."

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' SOPH Aberdeen Central at YHS

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' 9TH Aberdeen Central at YHS (1

HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV Yankton at Sioux Falls (DH, 1:30 &

HOCKEY, PEEWEE Yankton A at S.F. East (DH, 11:30 a.m

WRESTLING, PREP S.F. Lincoln Inv. (Parkston, Vermil-

BOSTON RED SOX-Promoted Jared Ban-

ner to assistant director, player personnel; Mike Murov to coordinator, baseball operations; Dun-

tor, player development; Laz Gutierrez to

coordinator, player development programs. Tim

Hvers to minor league hitting coordinator: George

to regional crosscheckers; Steve Peck to special

assignment scout; Victor Rodriguez Jr. area su

pervisor and Dominican Republic crosschecker

Dave Klipstein to major league scout; Anthony Turco to professional scout. Named Mike Rikard

national scouting coordinator; John Booher na

tional crosschecker; Tom Kotchman, Brian

Moehler, John Pvle and Willie Romav area

scouts; Wilder Lobo, Ramon Mora and Alex Requena scouts in Venezuela; Carlos Lugo scout in the Dominican Republic; Dennis Neuman scout

n Curacao and Aruba; and David Tapia scout in

MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with

Sunday, December 23
HOCKEY, PEEWEE Yankton A at S.F. West (8 a.m.)

#### SCOREBOARD

# VOLLEYBALL

YANKTON PARKS & REC MEN'S LEAGUE

RESULTS: Stockmen's def. Chico's Bail Bonds 2-1 17-21, 21-10, 21-7; Net Ninjas/Upper Deck def. Murdo's 2-1 21-16, 21-23, 21-12 STANDINGS: Stockmen's 6-0, Net Ninjas/Upper Deck 5-2, KPI Crushers 3-3, Murdo's 2-4, Chico's Bail Bonds 0-7

### **BASEBALL**

**COLLEGIATE BASEBALL PRESEASON** TOP 25

Dec. 20, 2012 46-22 2. North Carolina 46-16 3. Vanderbilt 35-28 494 487 484 482 4. Louisiana St. 47-18 5. UCLA 6. Oregon 7. South Carolina 481 478 49-20 8. Kentucky 45-18 Stanford 41-18 476 473 470 467 464 40-20 43-20 40-17 12. San Diego 40-24 Mississippi St. 42-25 40-22 36-20 14. Oklahoma Georgia Tech. 38-26 456 454 452 450 448 446 445 443 437 434 427 423 420 418 18. Arizona 48-17 19. Florida St 50-17 20. Rice 21. Texas 23. Cal. St. Fullerton 36-21 24. Florida 47-20 25. Mississippi 26. Texas A&M

35-28

28. Miami, Fla.

Hoops

Pierre 35, Brookings 22

BROOKINGS — Kaitlyn Severyn led the Pierre Lady Governors in a 35-22 victory against

he Brookings Bobcats in Thursday night bas-

ketball action in Brookings.
Severyn had a total of eight points and 12

rebounds on the night. Sydney Palmer put up

eight points and nine rebounds, while Taylor

Hyde and Stevi Claussen each had five points

points and two rebounds. Kaitlyn Hadley, Margaret Chell and Sara Tvedt each had three

points. Hadley had six rebounds on the night,

Falls on Jan. 5, and the Lady Governors host

Warner 59, Milbank 39
MILBANK — Rachel Rogers scored 22

points as Warner overcame 20 turnovers to beat

Ashley Rozell added 13 points for Warner,

Kendra Snaza led Milbank with 16 points.

Boys

IRENE — Gabe King led the Irene-Wakonda Eagles in a 59-41 win against the Bon Homme

Milbank 59-39 on the road Thursday night.

Brookings faces Sioux Falls Lincoln in Sioux

...6 12 25 35 ...8 10 14 22

Chell had two and Tvedt had one rebound

Rapid City Central on Friday.

which led 35-14 at halftime.

Irene-Wakonda 59,

**Bon Homme 41** 

PIERRE (4-0).

BROOKINGS (0-5).

For the Bobcats, Emily Johnson had 12

From Page 8A

and three rebounds.

34. Kent St. 35. Virginia 39-19-1 32-24 36. Southern Mississippi 37. East Carolina 38. Coastal Carolina 39 Dallas Baptist 41-19 397 395 40. Pepperdine

37-24

47-20

411 408 405

403 400

## **BASKETBALL**

THURSDAY'S S.D. BOYS

32. Wichita St.

33. New Mexico

Aberdeen Roncalli 70, Britton-Hecla 40 Baltic 58, Colman-Egan 49 Deuel 63, Groton Area 43 Hanson 76 Lake Preston 44 Jones County 49, Colome 43, OT Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 85, Dakota Christian

Sioux Valley 59, Parker 45 Sisseton 62, Webster 50 Stanley County 55, Highmore-Harrold 41 Summit 68, Waverly-South Shore 39 Viborg-Hurley 59, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 30 Winner 67, Lead-Deadwood 53 Lakota Nation Tournament (Makosica Bracket) White River 92, McLaughlin 50

Red Cloud 64, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 52 St. Francis Indian 55, Little Wound 52 Lakota Nation Tournament (Paha Sapa Bracket)

Crow Creek 54, Takini 37 Custer 69, Omaha Nation, Neb. 40 Tiospa Zina Tribal 56, Hill City 50

THURSDAY'S S.D. GIRLS

Baltic 74, Colman-Egan 43 Brookings 64, Pierre 62 Castlewood 58, Florence/Henry 47 Chester 40, Garretson 30 Corsica/Stickney 43, Wessington Springs 26 Deubrook 44, Arlington 18 Deuel 46, Groton Area 43 Harrisburg 49, Sioux Falls Christian 37 Menno 33, Freeman Academy 24 Northwestern 57, Faulkton 36

Rapid City Christian 38, Dupree 27 Rosholt 53, Milnor, N.D. 38 Sioux Falls Washington 51, Sioux Falls Lin-

Sully Buttes 82, Mobridge-Pollock 33 Viborg-Hurley 57, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 39 Warner 59, Milbank 39 West Central 72. Tea Area 38

Lakota Nation Tournament (Makosica Bracket) Crow Creek 69, McLaughlin 55 Little Wound 61, Todd County 51

Pine Ridge 65, Hill City 30 Lakota Nation Tournament (Paha Sapa Bracket) Omaha Nation, Neb. 47, Custer 45 White River 81, Takini 22

THURSDAY'S NEB. BOYS Anselmo-Merna 58, Sumner-Eddyville-Miller

45 Grand Island Northwest 50, Grand Island Central Catholic 34 Lakota Nation Tournament (Paha Sapa Bracket)

Custer, S.D. 69, Omaha Nation 40 **Paxton Tournament** 

Maywood 38, Garden County 33 Championship Paxton 60, Mullen 46

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS Bellevue East vs. Bellevue West, ppd. Cedar Bluffs vs. Walthill, ppd. Cross County vs. Osceola, ppd. to Jan 31.

Diller-Odell vs. Exeter/Milligan, ppd. Dundy County-Stratton vs. Chase County. Humphrey St. Francis vs. Nebraska Chris- ppd. tian, ppd.

Lewiston vs. Friend, ppd.

King had 21 points, four rebounds, three

steals and two assists in the win. Dustin Liv-

ingston put up 12 points, eight rebounds, three

assists and two steals. Chris Heirigs had nine

points and Garrett Anderson had eight points.

total of 10 points, five rebounds and three

steals, while Kodi Larson had seven points, nine

rebounds and one steal. Mike Mesman also had

Saturday, and Bon Homme will play against

Viborg-Hurley 59, TDA 30

VIBORG — The Viborg-Hurley Cougars de-

feated the Tripp-Delmont-Armour Nighthawks

59-30 in Thursday night basketball action in Vi-

11 points for the Cougars, and Seth Andersen had a total of 10 points. Hora also had 13 re-

bounds on the night, while Austin Bjerkaas had

For the Nighthawks, Trevor Payer scored 11

Tripp-Delmont-Armour will face Scotland in

Tripp on Jan. 4, and the Cougars will play

**Mount Vernon-Plankinton** 

PLANKINTON — Deric Denning put up 34 points and three rebounds Thursday night to

lead the Mount Vernon-Plankinton Titans in an

85-69 win against the Dakota Christian Cadets

bounds in the win. while Kellam Karst had 15

points and three rebounds. Cote Hinker also

contributed 10 points and two rebounds.

Jared Long had 18 total points and five re-

Zach Van Zee had 23 points and three re-

bounds, and Jake Spoelstra made 10 points

85, Dakota Christian 69

Beresford in Centerville on Thursday.

TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (1-4).....VIBORG-HURLEY (4-0).....

Tyler Gerdes and Andrew Hora each scored

The Eagles hit the road to face Menno on

six points and seven rebounds.

BON HOMME (2-4).

points.

in Plankinton.

For the Cavaliers, Dakota Bodden had a

Niobrara/Verdigre vs. Lindsay Holy Family, ppd. North Platte vs. Lincoln East, ppd. to Dec 21. O'Neill vs. Guardian Angels, ppd. Omaha Gross Catholic vs. Bishop Neumann,

Omaha Roncalli vs. Plattsmouth, ppd. to Dec 21.

Phillipsburg, Kan. vs. McCook, ppd. Platteview vs. Louisville, ppd. Ralston vs. Fort Calhoun, ppd Scribner-Snyder vs. Douglas County West,

Southern Valley vs. Loomis, ppd. Southern vs. Freeman, ppd. St. Edward vs. Nebraska Lutheran, ppd. to

Classic Tournament Elkhorn Mount Michael vs. Hartington Cedar Catholic, ppd. to Dec 21

### THURSDAY'S NEB. GIRLS

Boyd County 57, Hartington 47 Madison 67, Elkhorn Valley 37 Perkins County 44, Ogallala 36 Sumner-Eddyville-Miller 35, Anselmo-Merna 24

Twin Loup 37, Burwell 29 Harrison Tournament Crawford 60, Banner County 7
Maxwell Booster Tournament SMC 50, Maxwell 44

Paxton Tournament

Third Place Maywood 42. Garden County 37 Championship
Mullen 55. Paxton 40

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS Bellevue East vs. Bellevue West, ppd. Cedar Bluffs vs. Walthill, ppd. Cross County vs. Osceola, ppd. to Jan 31.
Diller-Odell vs. Exeter/Milligan, ppd.
Dundy County-Stratton vs. Chase County,

Humphrey St. Francis vs. Nebraska Christian, ppd.
Lewiston vs. Friend, ppd.
Loomis vs. Southern Valley, ppd. Malcolm vs. Logan View, ppd. to Jan 5. Nehraska Lutheran vs. St. Edward, ppd. to

and three rebounds. Carter Dykstra and Darren

Dakota Christian faces South Central in Jan.

3 in Burke, and teh Titans will face Aberdeen.

Roncalli in the Parkston Classic on Saturday.

PIERRE — The Brookings Bobcats defeated

the Pierre Governors 64-62 in South Dakota

boys 'AA' basketball action Thursday night.

Braxton Carlson hit the game winner for the

a buzzer beater for the Bobcats, who beat Bran-

don Valley in similar fashion earlier in the week.

witjh 28 points and four rebounds. Kaleb Vig

added 11 points and three rebounds. Konner

Beste netted 10 points in the victory.

Zach Hanson led the way for Pierre (2-3)

with 24 points and five rebounds. Lane Severyn

also added 24 points, nine rebounds and four

assists. Cody Honeywell added six points in the

the Bucks on Jan. 5. Pierre will play Our Savior

New American (NY) in the Mike Miller Classic

De Smet 81, Iroquois 25
DE SMET — De Smet defeated Iroquois 81-

25 in South Dakota Boys 'B' basketball action

Thursday night. Brad Penny led the way for De

and five rebounds for De Smet (2-2). Andrew

Foley and Dylan Gehm each netted seven

points and five rebounds. Cody Weed and Roy

(today). Iroquois will participate in the Holiday

Miller each added seven points in the loss.

Classic in Kimball on Dec. 27.

Kyler Asleson added 17 points, seven steals

Erik Wehlander led Iroquois (0-3) with 11

De Smet will travel to Miller on Friday

Smet with 25 points and five rebounds.

points in the victory.

on Dec. 29 in Mitchell at the Corn Palace.

Brookings will travel to Yankton to take on

It was the second straight game decided on

Tyler Nagy led the Brookings (5-1) attack

**Brookings 64, Pierre 62** 

Fallis each had eight points.

Bobcats as time expired.

Corsica: Wynot at Randolph HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Yankton at Brookings (7:45 p.m.)
HOCKEY, BOYS' BANTAM Yankton at Brookings (6 p.m.)

Wilcox-Hildreth vs. Red Cloud, ppd. Knight

North Platte vs. Lincoln East, ppd

Platteview vs. Louisville, ppd. Raymond Central vs. Wilber-Clatonia, ppd. to

Southern vs. Freeman, ppd. Wilcox-Hildreth vs. Red Cloud, ppd.

#### NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOC. **EASTERN CONFERENCE**

11 12 21 22 .542 .538 .250 WESTERN CONFERENCE

Northwest Division Pct GB 5 11 .808 — .542 7 .538 7 .519 7 1/2 .478 8 1/2 12 13 12

Indiana 104. Utah 84 Orlando 90, Washington 83 Boston 103, Cleveland 91 Oklahoma City 100, Atlanta 92 Houston 125, Philadelphia 103 Phoenix 121, Charlotte 104 Memphis 90, Milwaukee 80 Sacramento 131, Golden State 12 L.A. Clippers 93, New Orleans 77

Minnesota 99, Oklahoma City 93 Miami at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

Denver at Portland, 10 p.m. Friday's Games
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Milwaukee at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 6:30 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 9:30 p.m

#### **WRESTLING**

Huron 49, Mitchell 21 Rapid City Central 66, Douglas/New Underwood 10

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE Monday's Game Tennessee 14, N.Y. Jets 10

Sunday, Dec. 23 Tennessee at

Tennessee at Green Bay, noon Indianapolis at Kansas City, noon New Orleans at Dallas, noon Minnesota at Houston, noon Oakland at Carolina, noon Buffalo at Miami, noon Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, noon New England at Jacksonville, noon Washington at Philadelphia, noon St. Louis at Tampa Bay, noon San Diego at N.Y. Jets, noon

**FBS BOWL GAMES** 

Chicago at Arizona, 3:25 p.m. N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 3:25 p.m.

Indiana at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m. Washington at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Dallas at Memphis, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m. Charlotte at Golden State, 9:30 p.m. Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Chicago at Atlanta, 6 p.m. Detroit at Washington, 6 p.m. Utah at Miami, 6:30 p.m. Memphis at Houston, 7 p.m. Indiana at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m. Charlotte at Denver, 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY'S S.D. SCORES

# **FOOTBALL**

Saturday, Dec. 22 Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

San Francisco at Seattle, 7:20 p.m.

POINSETTIA: San Diego State (9-3) vs. BYU (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN) BEEF 'O' BRADY'S: Ball State (9-3) vs. UCF

iisiana-Lafayette (7-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN) LAS VEGAS: Boise State (10-2) vs. Wash-

## BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Aberdeen Central at YHS (4:30

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' JV Aberdeen Central at YHS (1

LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA: Central Michigan

(6-6) vs. Western Kentucky (7-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN) Thursday, Dec. 27

MILITARY: Bowling Green (8-4) vs. San Jose State (10-2), 2 p.m. (ESPN) BELK: Duke (6-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3), 5:30 HOLIDAY: Baylor (7-5) vs. UCLA (9-4), 8:45

Friday, Dec. 28
INDEPENDENCE: Louisiana-Monroe (8-4) vs. Ohio (8-4), 1 p.m. (ESPN)

RUSSELL ATHLETIC: Virginia Tech (6-6) vs. gers (9-3), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

MEINEKE CAR CARE: Minnesota (6-6) vs.

(7-5), 2:15 p.m. (ESPN)

BUFFALO WILD WINGS: Michigan State (6-6) vs. TCU (7-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

), 11 a.m. (ESPN) **SUN:** Georgia Tech (6-7) vs. Southern Cal (7-LIBERTY: Iowa State (6-6) vs. Tulsa (10-3), CHICK-FIL-A: LSU (10-2) vs. Clemson (10-

6:30 p.m. (ESPN) HEART OF DALLAS: Purdue (6-6) vs. Okla-

mEART OF DALLAS, Fullder (0-0) vs. Oka-homa State (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPNU)

GATOR: Mississippi State (8-4) vs. North-western (9-3), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

CAPITAL ONE: Georgia (11-2) vs. Nebraska OUTBACK: South Carolina (10-2) vs. Michi- Jones on injured reserve. Signed DT Hebron Fan-

gan (8-4), noon (ESPN)

ROSE: Stanford (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (8-5), ORANGE: Northern Illinois (12-1) vs. Florida State (11-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Jan. 2 SUGAR: Florida (11-1) vs. Louisville (10-2), FIESTA: Kansas State (11-1) vs. Oregon (11-

COTTON: Texas A&M (10-2) vs. Oklahoma

BBVA COMPASS: Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. Misssippi (6-6), noon (ESPN) GODADDY.COM: Kent State (11-2) vs.

ansas State (9-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN) nday, Jan. 7 BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AT MIAMI: Notre Dame (12-0) vs. Alabama (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

MINNESOTA STATE (MANKATO)-Named

REGIS—Named Dan Flynn track and field TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE-

nator Matt Wells to football coach. WISCONSIN-Named Gary Andersen foot

# Cavaliers in Thursday night basketball action in

Walsh From Page 8A

"For us as an offense to just cross a certain threshold on the field and know that there's a good chance of the ball getting put through the uprights and getting some points on the (board) is big for us. It takes a lot of pressure off of us. The guy's done an unbelievable job.'

Perhaps as important as his big leg, Walsh has a strong mental approach that has allowed him to avoid the crunch-time struggles that many kickers experience. "His approach mentally has been terrific and it's shown on

tine things as well. The fact that plus for us." Special teams coordinator

the field," coach Leslie Frazier said. "He's got ice water in his veins when it comes to making clutch kicks and doing the rouhe's very coachable has been a

Mike Priefer and assistant Chris

White worked in the offseason to tweak Walsh's delivery, smooth out his routine and try to instill more consistency in his approach to get him out of the funk that plagued him as a senior at Georgia when he missed 14 of his 35 attempts. 'You have to keep locked in

the whole game," Walsh said. "Good or bad, I have a rule where I take about five or 10 seconds to reflect on what happens. Then I let it go and get on to the next kick."

If the Vikings (8-6) are going to make the playoffs, Walsh is likely

going to have to make a few more big ones. They play at Houston on Sunday against the stingy Texans defense, then host rival Green Bay in the finale.

His performance thus far has earned Frazier's faith to run him out there in any situation.

"We weren't afraid we would be in a situation where we were putting ourselves on a shorter field," Frazier said. "We felt very confident that once he went out there, it was a very good chance that he would make the kick and he did."

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# AREA CALENDAR

Friday, December 21

BASKETBALL, BOYS' Knight Classic in Fremont (Hart-ion Cedar Catholic); Elk Point-Jefferson at Dell Rapids; kston vs. Corsica-Stickney at Corsica; Wynot at Randolph BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Elk Point-Jefferson at Dell Rapids; reeman at Canistota; Hanson at Wagner; Norfolk Catholic at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge; Parkston vs. Corsica-Stickney at

WRESTLING, PREP S.F. Lincoln Inv. (Parkston, Vermil-lion, Wagner, 1 p.m.); Wisner-Pilger at Wakefield-Allen Saturday, December 22 BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD at Green Bay (7 p.m., KVHT-

Niobrara/Verdigre vs. Lindsav Holy Family. Ord vs. Cozad, ppd. Phillipsburg, Kan. vs. McCook, ppd.

Scribner-Snyder vs. Douglas County West, ppd. to Jan 7.

A	tlantic Di	/ision			
	W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	19	6	.760	_	
Brooklyn	13	12	.520	6	
Boston	13	12	.520	6	
Philadelphia	12	14	.462	7 1/2	
Toronto	8	19	.296	12	
So	utheast D	ivisio	n		
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	16	6	.727	_	
Atlanta	15	8	.652	1 1/2	
Orlando	12	13	.480	5 1/2	
Charlotte	7	18	.280	10 1/2	
Washington	3	20	.130	13 1/2	
Č	entral Div	rision			
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	14	10	.583	_	

185 10 1/2 .739 .704 San Antonio 12 13 20 .520 .480 .200 Oklahoma City

Portland Pacific Division

W L

19 6

17 9

12 14

11 15

8 17 .760 .654 .462 GB 2 1/2 7 1/2 8 1/2 11 L.A. Lakers Wednesday's Games New York 100, Brooklyn 86 Toronto 97, Detroit 91

Saturday, Dec. 15 NEW MEXICO: Arizona 49, Nevada 48 FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO: Utah State 41,

(9-4), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 22
NEW ORLEANS: East Carolina (8-4) vs.

ington (7-5), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Dec. 24

HAWAII: SMU (6-6) vs. Fresno State (9-3), 7

Texas Tech (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Dec. 29 ARMED FORCES: Rice (6-6) vs. Air Force i), 10:45 a.m. (ESPN)
FIGHT HUNGER: Arizona State (7-5) vs.

Navy (7-4), 2:15 p.m. (ESPN2)

PINSTRIPE: Syracuse (7-5) vs. West Virginia RHP Mike Pelfrey on a one-year contract.

TEXAS RANGERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Yoshinori Tateyama on a minor league con-ALAMO: Texas (8-4) vs. Orgeon State (9-3),

National League
LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Assigned OF1B Scott Van Slyke outright to Albuquerque (PCL).
MIAMI MARLINS—Agreed to terms with 3B MUSIC CITY: Vanderbilt (8-4) vs. N.C. State Placido Polanco on a one-vear contract.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Agreed to terms
with RHP Mike Adams on a two-year contract.

BASKETBALL

Notice 1 Proceedings 1 National Basketball Association MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES-Waived F Josh Howard.

> National Football League
> BUFFALO BILLS—Placed CB Leodis McKelvin on injured reserve. Signed LB Kirk Morrison. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Signed TE Evar

FOOTBALL

gupo from the practice squad. Signed WR Bryan CAMPBELL—Named Landon Mariani offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, Craig Cox defensive coordinator, Kevin Thompson offensive line coach, Adam Morris wide receiver coach, D.J. Summers running backs coach

Damien Adams defensive line coach, Bryant Fos ter defensive backs coach and Jonathan Hodges linebackers coach. DEPAUW—Named Bill Lynch football coach. LSU—Suspended P Brad Wing for the Chick-fil-A Bowl for an unspecified violation of team

Nick Burns interim assistant director of athletic communications.

Announced athletic director Scott Gines will assume the title of vice president for intercollegiate athletics and campus recreation, effective Jan. 2. UTAH STATE—Promoted offensive coordi-

From Page 8A

play a very similar scheme and similar techniques. It's been really a tremendous tool for us. ... It's going to really help us a lot."

Freshman cornerback KeiVarae Russell was recruited as a running back and came to Notre Dame with dreams of scoring touchdowns. Instead, coach Brian Kelly moved him to defense before fall camp started.

"Of course I always think about what it would be like if I played running back," Russell said. "But it would have been tough to have a big impact coming in this year, with (running backs) Cierre Wood and Theo



Riddick having such great seasons, and George Atkinson III. If Coach said I could play running back next year, I wouldn't do it because I've come to enjoy corner a lot." The transition wasn't exactly

seamless. Russell had to learn a

new position and completely

shift how he prepares for the

game. The touchdown pass he

gave up during the season opener against Navy in Dublin, Ireland, still sticks in his mind. "I think I've gotten a lot better," Russell said. "My confidence has increased from the first game, when I allowed that touchdown. I was beat down after that. But I've kept getting more experience throughout the year, learning the techniques of other players and the schemes of our

Russell said he embraces the

challenge of guarding Alabama

receiver Amari Cooper, also a

freshman. "He's very strong, runs great routes, knows how to attack the ball," Russell said. "It's going to be fun, me and him looking each other in the eye, freshman to freshman. I'm going to be looking him in the eye, every play, and letting him know I'm here.



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