

DV's Bergmann, Wagner's Koupal Lead 'A' All-State

Panthers' Smith, Wagner's Tolliver Earn Second-Team Honors; EPJ's Bertram On HM List

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The ability to adapt is vital for an athlete. The S.D. Class A All-State volleyball team, selected by the S.D. Volleyball Coaches Association and announced today (Wednesday), is proof of that.

Three of the six players selected to the first team underwent a position change after the 2012 season. A fourth went from being a setter/hitter in a two-setter offense to being the setter in a one-setter offense.

Jayde Bergmann of Class A champion Dakota Valley, Sara Husher of state runner-up Winner, Stacy Smidt and Kristin Stern of Sioux Falls Christian, Fehrin Ward of Belle Fourche and Kimberly Koupal of Wagner were named to the first team. All six were seniors.

For Ward, the adjustment was simple — from a middle hitter to an outside hitter.

"She had always played middle for us, but this year we switched her to the outside. One of our outsiders graduated, and Fehrin filled the bill," said Belle Fourche head coach Loree Schlichte-meier. "She's 5-11 and moves well. There are a lot of balls that you'd think she wouldn't get to that she does."

Ward had 306 digs to go with her 338 kills and 49 ace serves.

Smidt switched back to



Wagner's Kimberly Koupal (above) and Dakota Valley's Jayde Bergmann (right, 21) were named first-team All-State by the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association.



P&D FILE PHOTOS

setter after spending the 2012 season as a middle hitter. She posted 939 assists and 112 digs, but also posted 55 blocks — second only to teammate Stern among first-team honorees.

"Stacy's got excellent hands and is very athletic," said S.F. Christian head coach Darci Wassenaar. "She's smart and has a great attitude."

Koupal was a starting libero for two seasons before accepting the move to an outside hitter spot her senior season.

"We thought that she would be useful in front as well because of her height and wingspan," said Wagner head coach Amy Tyler. "Toward the end of the season, she started perfecting all sorts of shots. It's been fun to

watch her grow." Koupal posted 261 kills, 328 digs and 57 ace serves on the season, including 22 kills and 32 digs and the Red Raiders beat Mount Vernon-Plankinton in the Region 5A final.

"She became one of our go-to's this year," Tyler said. "We did right by moving her up front."

Husher helped Winner end a five-year post-season drought and nearly led the Warriors to their first title.

"She's put in a tremendous amount of work over the last few years, and it's really paid off," said Winner head coach Jaime Keiser. "We wouldn't have been where we are without her."

Husker posted 680 assists, 285 digs and 46 ace serves. She also finished with 64 kills.

"She knows where to move the ball, and she can read blockers very well," Keiser said. "She's a lefty, so she can dump it or attack more easily."

Bergmann led the Panthers to their first-ever title, one year after Dakota Valley lost to Sioux Falls Christian in the final. The senior posted 248 kills, 29 ace serves, 27 blocks and 158 digs, becoming the leader first-year head coach Rick Pruett needed her to be.

"She did a great job of taking over that role. She really had a lot of confidence out there," he said. "Last year she would get rattled, so we really worked on the mental part. She took that role, became a leader and played with confidence all season." Adding to Bergmann's

confidence was an expanded offensive arsenal.

"She could hit it hard. She's got a big left-handed swing," Pruett said. "But she incorporated some off-speed stuff and some tips. That opened up a lot more floor for her, made her much more dangerous."

Stern added to her resume with 345 kills, 58 blocks and 62 ace serves on the season.

"Kristin started for us for three years, and she kept getting better every year," Wassenaar said. "She really did an excellent job of putting the ball away."

Second team honorees included Winner's Lindsey Cal-

hoon and Cassidy Hanson, Dakota Valley's Lindsey Smith, Hamlin's Hope Juntunen, Miller's Jamie Mentzer, Wagner's Brooklyn Tolliver and Sioux Valley's Mariah Vander Wal.

Honorable mention honorees were Elk Point-Jefferson's Keely Bertram, Webster's Briana Bullert, Belle Fourche's Taylor Gubbbrud, Mount Vernon-Plankinton's Mikayla Weiss and Sioux Falls Christian's Shelby Zommermaand.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

AREA CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 11 BASKETBALL, MEN'S Morningside at MMC (8 p.m., KYNT-AM) BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Morningside at MMC (6 p.m., KYNT-AM)	Deuel/Flandrau/Marion-Freeman at Alcester-Hudson; Wagner/Winner vs. Burke-Gregory at Gregory	BASKETBALL, BOYS' 9TH Watertown at YHS (4 p.m.)
Thursday, December 12 BASKETBALL, BOYS' Allen at Ewing; Randolph at Ponca BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Allen at Ewing; Andes Central at Colome; Canistota at Marion; Kimball-White Lake vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Armour; Parker at Freeman; Randolph at Ponca GYMNASTICS, GIRLS' S.F. Roosevelt/S.F. O-Gorman at YHS (6:30 p.m.) WRESTLING, PREP Canton Quad (Parkston); Lyman Quad (Andes Central); Parker Dual (Parker); Boone Central-Newman Grove at Creighton-Verdigris; Crofton vs. Bon Homme-Scotland at Tyndall	Friday, December 13 BASKETBALL, BOYS' Watertown at YHS (7 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM); Baltic at Gayville-Volin; Bloomfield at Winside; Canton at Elk Point-Jefferson; Elk Horn Valley at Santee; Freeman Academy at Alcester-Hudson; Gregory at Avon; Hartington Cedar Catholic at O'Neill; Homer at Allen; Lower Brule at Marty Indian; Madison at Beresford; Neligh-Oakdale at Creighton; Niobrara-Verdigris at Clearwater-Orchard; Parkston at Tea Area; Vermillion at Bon Homme (7:30 p.m., KVTT-AM); Wausa at Wakefield; Wynot at Osmond BOWLING, HS CLUB Yankton at Dell Rapids; S.F. Roosevelt vs. Vermillion at Yankton SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE USD at Omaha (8 p.m.) WRESTLING, PREP YHS/Brandon Valley/Dakota Valley at Vermillion (5:30 p.m.)	BASKETBALL, BOYS' 8TH Watertown at YHS (4 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Baltic at Gayville-Volin; Bloomfield at Winside; Canton at Elk Point-Jefferson; Elk Horn Valley at Santee; Freeman Academy at Alcester-Hudson; Gregory at Avon; Hartington Cedar Catholic at O'Neill; Homer at Allen; Lower Brule at Marty Indian; Madison at Beresford; Neligh-Oakdale at Creighton; Niobrara-Verdigris at Clearwater-Orchard; Parkston at Tea Area; Vermillion at Bon Homme (7:30 p.m., KVTT-AM); Wausa at Wakefield; Wynot at Osmond BOWLING, HS CLUB Yankton at Dell Rapids; S.F. Roosevelt vs. Vermillion at Yankton SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE USD at Omaha (8 p.m.) WRESTLING, PREP YHS/Brandon Valley/Dakota Valley at Vermillion (5:30 p.m.)
	BASKETBALL, BOYS' 7TH Watertown at YHS (7 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM); Baltic at Gayville-Volin; Bloomfield at Winside; Canton at Elk Point-Jefferson; Elk Horn Valley at Santee; Freeman Academy at Alcester-Hudson; Gregory at Avon; Hartington Cedar Catholic at O'Neill; Homer at Allen; Lower Brule at Marty Indian; Madison at Beresford; Neligh-Oakdale at Creighton; Niobrara-Verdigris at Clearwater-Orchard; Parkston at Tea Area; Vermillion at Bon Homme (7:30 p.m., KVTT-AM); Wausa at Wakefield; Wynot at Osmond BOWLING, HS CLUB Yankton at Dell Rapids; S.F. Roosevelt vs. Vermillion at Yankton SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE USD at Omaha (8 p.m.) WRESTLING, PREP YHS/Brandon Valley/Dakota Valley at Vermillion (5:30 p.m.)	BASKETBALL, BOYS' 10TH Watertown at YHS (4 p.m.)

USD Men

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the Wildcats on the free throw line and it nearly paid off.

The Wildcats closed the game with a 3-8 performance from the line, and a half-court heave from South Dakota's Brandon Bos fell short at the final buzzer.

KANSAS ST. 64, S. DAKOTA 62
S. DAKOTA (3-6)
Flack 4-8 0-0 0, Gruis 7-8 4-7 18, Norris 3-5 1-1 6, Bos 0-7 4-4 4, Thosby 6-10 3-6 16, Kasperbauer 1-3 0-0 3, Rowson 0-0 0-0 0, Larson 1-3 2-2 5. Totals 22-44 14-20 62.

KANSAS ST. (6-3)
Southwell 7-14 2-4 17, Ivundu 0-1 0-0 0, Gipson 4-8 5-9 13, Foster 6-20 2-2 18, Spradling 0-3 0-0 0, Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Lawrence 4-8 1-3 9, N. Johnson 3-7 0-0 7, D. Johnson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-62 10-20 64.
Halltime—S. Dakota 31-26, 3-Point Goals—S. Dakota 4-14 (Norris 1-2, Larson 1-2, Kasperbauer 1-3, Thosby 1-4, Flack 0-1, Bos 0-2), Kansas St. 6-19 (Foster 4-9, Southwell 1-3, N. Johnson 1-4, Spradling 0-3). Fouled Out—Flack, Rebounds—S. Dakota 32 (Gruis 9), Kansas St. 39 (Gipson 8). Assists—S. Dakota 15 (Norris 7), Kansas St. 14 (Foster 4). Total Fouls—S. Dakota 17, Kansas St. 20. A—11,612.

Coyotes

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and Bridget Arens with eight apiece.

"It gives us energy, and makes us play hard when people are crashing the boards and getting those put-backs," Harrington said. "It sparks the team."

"It's great when everyone is working hard to rebound." Not to mention when just about everyone is approaching double figures in points.

"The more threats you have, the harder it's going to be to stop a team," Contreras said. "No team is going to get so far with one or two people doing everything."

"We have so many scorers that can go off at any time, that makes us more dangerous."

The Coyotes now have an 8-day layoff before returning to action Dec. 19 against College of Saint Mary — a top-25 program in the NAIA ranks.

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NORTHERN IOWA (3-7)
Hannah Schonhardt 4-8 0-2 8; Alyssa Johnson 0-2 0-0 0; Madison Weekly 4-10 2-2 11; Stephanie Davison 1-4 0-0 2; Brooke Brown 3-6 0-0 8; Erin Dohmala; 3-4 2-2 9; Amber Sorenson 0-6 0-0 0; Angie Davison 0-1 0-0 0; Moran Lanning 1-1 1-2 3; Abbe Ackerman 0-1 0-0 0; Ty Smith 1-3 1-1 3; Britni Donaldson 2-5 2-2 7; Jen Ketel 6-12 4-5 16. TOTALS 25-63 12-16 67.

SOUTH DAKOTA (6-5)
Polly Harrington 8-14 2-2 18; Lisa Loeffler 3-4 0-0 6; Tia Hemiller 5-7 0-0 11; Nicole Seekamp 3-14 1-1 9; Heidi Hoff 1-3 0-0 2; Bailey Milne 0-0 0-0 0; Madeleine White 0-0 0-0 0; Taylor Moore 1-2 0-0 3; Bridget Arens 2-4 3-7; Raeshel Contreras 6-11 6-6 21; Jaylah Jackson 0-0 0-0 0; Margaret McCloud 3-8 4-5 10. TOTALS 32-67 16-17 87.

Halltime: USD 35-22. Three-Pointers: USD 7-17 (Contreras 3-7, Seekamp 2-3, Hemiller 1-2, Moore 1-2, Harrington 0-1, Hoff 0-2), UNI 5-23 (Brown 2-3, Dohmala 1-1, Donaldson 1-4, Weekly 1-5, A. Davison 0-1, Schonhardt 0-2, S. Davison 0-2, Sorenson 0-5). Total Rebounds: USD 44 (Loeffler 8, Arens 8), UNI 28 (Schonhardt 6). Assists: UNI 17 (Ketel 4), USD 13 (Seekamp 4). Turnovers: 12 each. Personal Fouls: USD 17, UNI 16. Fouled Out: None. Attendance: 1138.

Gator

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Shannon Sherman, senior director for communications.

Sherman said she expects alumni from Florida, Georgia and South Carolina to show up in high numbers.

The Georgia Alumni Association is not offering a travel package but will be coordinating "watch parties" across the nation, said assistant director of communications Elizabeth Elmore.

Bulldogs fans already know their way around Jacksonville. They travel there en masse every year for the game against Florida, dubbed the "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party." Mary Daniel, president of the 1,000-member Georgia Bulldog Club of Jacksonville, said if the annual Florida game registers a 10 on the excitement scale, the needle for the rematch with Nebraska sits at a 6 or 7.

"I think it'll raise up to an 8 once we let it sink in," Daniel said. "It's not what we thought it would be, but it's a bowl game. You hear teasing around here that Florida would take the Gator Bowl all day long."

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