

Starr Named To Sports Network, AP All-American Teams

VERMILLION — South Dakota senior linebacker Tyler Starr was named to The Sports Network FCS All-America Team Wednesday.

He was named to the second team of the Associated Press FCS All-America Team, also announced on Wednesday. It is the second and third All-America teams Starr has been featured on in the past week.

Starr (Little Rock, Iowa/George-Little Rock HS) was one 13 linebackers selected to the team. He was also one of 14 Missouri Valley Football Conference student-athletes named to the team, which tied the Big Sky Conference for the most selections.



Starr

Starr is the 2013 Missouri Valley Football Conference Defensive Player of the Year. He led the MVFC in sacks (9.0), tackles for loss (15.0) and forced fumbles (4). He finished second on the team in tackles with 71. Starr also had an interception and was credited with four pass breakups.

Three South Dakota State football student-athletes, including repeat first-team selections Bryan Witzmann and Zach Zenner, were named The Sports Network Football

Championship Subdivision All-America Team.

Zenner was also a first-team selection on the AP All-America Team. Witzmann was a second-team selection.

A junior running back from Eagan, Minn., Zenner became only the second player in FCS history to rush for 2,000 yards in two different seasons, tallying 2,015 yards on a school-record 351 carries (5.7 ypc) in 2013. Zenner's rushing total ranks second among FCS backs, while his 23 rushing touchdowns rank fourth. He crossed the 100-yard mark in 12 of 14 games and surpassed the 200-yard mark three times, including

tying his own school record with 295 yards Sept. 7 at North Dakota.

Witzmann, a senior offensive tackle from Houlton, Wis., helped pave the way for Zenner and a Jackrabbit offense that averaged 28.9 points and 384.6 yards of total offense per game. Witzmann started every game during his four-year career with the Jackrabbits, putting together a school-record string of 49 consecutive starts.

Rounding out the Jackrabbits' All-America selections was senior cornerback Winston Wright, who earned third-team honors. A native of Lee's Summit, Mo., Wright shared the team lead with four intercep-

tions, while adding 52 tackles, a sack, a team-high four forced fumbles and a blocked kick. Wright also was named to the Allstate Good Works Team by the American Football Coaches Association earlier in the 2013 season.

South Dakota State's three All-America selections are the most for a Jackrabbit team in the Division I era. The Jackrabbits ended the 2013 season with a 9-5 overall record, including a 5-3 mark in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. SDSU, coached by John Stiegelmeier, made its second consecutive FCS playoff appearance, reaching the second round.

Kritenbrink Named D-I HM All-American

VERMILLION — Kendall Kritenbrink was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association's Division I Honorable Mention All-America team in a release on Wednesday.

Kritenbrink, a junior outside hitter, was The Summit League's Player of the Year while averaging 4.64 kills and 2.45 digs per set this season. She led the league in total kills (557), was second in total service aces (57) and led in kills per set during league play (5.09).

Kritenbrink currently ranks second on USD's all-time career kills list with 1,426 and ranks fifth among NCAA active players in career kills per set at 4.40 per set.

MMC Women Cruise Past Clarke 89-58

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. — The Mount Marty College women's basketball team put four players in double figures — three freshmen and a sophomore — in an 89-58 rout of Clarke University in women's basketball action at JustAGame Arena in Wisconsin Dells.

Freshman Kieran O'Malley (Centerville) scored a game-high 21 points, hitting 5-9 from three-point range and 6-6 from the line, to lead Mount Marty. Freshman Logan Wagner (Parkston) was 5-7 from three-point range on the way to 18 points. Sophomore Raquel Sutera (Tabor) netted 14 points and seven rebounds, going 4-5 from three-point range. Freshman Kellie Winckler (Lake Andes) finished with 11 points and seven rebounds.

Also for MMC, senior Allison DeKam had eight points and team-highs of eight rebounds and six blocked shots. Sophomore Cassidy Gebhart finished with six assists.

Kelsey Ernst led Clark with 12 points. Ashley Werner netted 11 points and Candis Kertson had 10 points for the Crusaders.

Mount Marty scored the game's first seven points and jumped out to a quick 15-4 lead. Clarke got within five, 25-20, but the Lancers stretched the lead to 17 by halftime.

After starting the second half on a 12-0 run, MMC never led by less than 22 points the rest of the way.

Mount Marty, 6-7, returns to GPAC action on Saturday, traveling to sixth-ranked Hastings. Start time is 2 p.m. CLARKE (6-3)

Breiland Prochaska 1-8 1-2 4, Molly Kleppin 1-3 0-0 2, Amanda Hamilton 1-3 0-0 3, Savannah Shepler 3-4 0-0 9, Kelsey Ernst 3-10 6-12, Jennifer Pettkoff 0-0 0-0, Brianna Boals 1-5 1-2 3, Candis Kertson 2-3 6-8 10, Maranda Ricker 0-5 0-0 0, Gwen Sutter 1-7 0-0 2, Megan Jensen 0-2 2-2 2, Ashley Werner 4-9 3-11. TOTALS: 17-59 19-28 58.

MOUNT MARTY (6-7)
Kellie Winckler 5-8 1-1 11, Logan Wagner 6-12 1-2 18, Allison De Kam 4-10 0-0 8, Kieran O'Malley 5-12 6-21, Samantha Blake 1-4 0-0 2, Haley Froelich 3-4 0-0 7, Cassidy Gebhart 0-3 3-4 3, Kelsey Schmidt 1-2 0-0 3, Denae Valdikamp 0-1 0-0 0, Erica Dreckman 1-5 0-0 2, Jill Jandreau 0-0 0-0 0, Raquel Sutera 5-7 0-0 14. TOTALS: 31-68 11-13 89.

At the half: MMC 45, CU 28. Three-Pointers: MMC 16-28 (Wagner 5-7, O'Malley 5-9, Sutera 4-5, Froelich 1-1, Schmidt 1-1, Winckler 0-1, Gebhart 0-1, Dreckman 0-3), CU 5-14 (Shepler 3-3, Hamilton 1-2, Prochaska 1-4, Boals 0-1, Ricker 0-2, Jensen 0-2). Rebounds: MMC 37 (De Kam 8), CU 35 (Sutter 9). Blocked Shots: MMC 9 (De Kam 5), CU 4 (Shepler 2, Werner 2, Stalls: MMC 7 (De Kam 2), CU 2. Assists: MMC 19 (Gebhart 6), CU 10 (Prochaska 3). Personal Fouls: MMC 22, CU 13. Fouled Out: Winckler. Turnovers: CU 14, MMC 9.

Men

SDSU 76, Wayne St. 56

BROOKINGS (AP) — Jordan Dykstra scored 18 points and Cody Larson and Brayden Carlson 16 apiece as South Dakota State defeated Wayne State (Neb.) 75-56 on Wednesday night.

The Jackrabbits (6-7) made a season-high 60 percent of their shots with a 27-of-45 performance, scoring 40 points in the paint to just 16 for the Division II Wildcats. The Jackrabbits never trailed, leading 49-33 at the half and taking their biggest lead of 24 points with 3:29 left in the game.

South Dakota State outscored the Wildcats 15-3 at the line, getting 23 attempts to seven for Wayne State.

The Wildcats (4-6) were led by Ty Bauschek's 22 points.

It was the final home game of the calendar year for the Jackrabbits, who now begin a five-game road string that includes their Summit League opener at IUPUI on Jan. 9.

Freshman Makes Splash For USD



The University of South Dakota freshman diver Greysen Hertting competes in a home meet for the Coyotes earlier this season. Hertting has already earned six Summit League Diver of the Week honors, the most recent on Tuesday.

AARON PACKARD/USD MEDIA RELATIONS

Hertting Already Has Six Summit League Diving Honors To Her Credit

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — A year ago, Greysen Hertting selected the University of South Dakota after what she called a "trial and error" recruiting process.

The decision is already paying off for the freshman from Appleton, Wis.

Hertting, who captured her sixth Summit League Diver of the Week award this week, leads the league in both the 1-meter and 3-meter events. That has her as the front-runner to sweep the conference diving championships in two months.

Did she expect this kind of success this early?

"No, I didn't think so, but I'm glad it's worked out so far," Hertting said this week. "It's a great bunch of people here, and I've had so much fun with them."

Not only fun, but plenty of success.

A former high school All-American, Hertting won both diving boards in last Friday's dual at Omaha. She won the 1-meter with 290.55 points and the 3-meter with 255.82 points.

The fact that both of those first-place scores were short of her season high proves that Hertting's impact has been helped by early work in the DakotaDome weight room, she said.

"Definitely the weights," Hertting said, referring to work with the strength and conditioning staff. "That's definitely helped. I've figured out how to use that in my dives."

Not only are both season bests tops in the league, Hert-



Hertting

ting's 1-meter personal best of 294.82 points ranks her fifth all-time in Summit League history.

Scores don't tell the full story of diving, though, she said.

In each event, at either one meter or three meters high, participants are given six dives and their scores after each jump are added together, multiplied by the depth and combined for a final score.

Hertting called such a format where she doesn't know exactly how she finished until the sixth and final dive "nerve-wracking."

"It depends on the person," she said. "I take it dive by dive and focus on that next one. You try to move on and keep a cool head."

Still, the adjustment from high school to the Division I level takes a certain patience.

Hertting's 'welcome to college' moment? Nov. 22 at St. Cloud State when she won the 1-meter dive and reached an NCAA Zone qualifying mark.

"That was the time when I thought, 'I can do this,'" Hertting said. "It made it super easy once that was out of the way. Then I knew for sure I could really compete."

USD, though, is no stranger to having top divers in its program.

Last season, Dustin Gens won the Summit League 3-meter title, while former standout Jill Smolczyk won

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Players Say Bison, Wildcats Present Similar Looks

BY DAVE KOLPACK

Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The Championship Subdivision semifinal playoff game between North Dakota State and New Hampshire will be the first meeting between the schools.

Players on both sides say they have a lot in common just the same.

NDSU offensive lineman Billy Turner and New Hampshire defensive back Manny Asam used the same words earlier this week to describe the other team, such as disciplined, physical and well-coached. Both teams pursue the ball and "play through the whistle," Turner said.

"They're kind of like us with the mindset that they come out, they play hard and they try to get the job done," Turner said.

Said Asam, "It's going to be a battle because we kind of rely on the

same kind of elements to make us successful."

Those elements include stingy defense — NDSU is No. 1 in FCS in fewest points allowed per game and New Hampshire is No. 14 — and offenses that are effective, if not flashy. The teams have been known to grind down their opponents, especially the Bison. NDSU has held 12 of its 13 opponents scoreless in the fourth quarter.

Something will have to give on Friday night, Bison offensive lineman Zack Johnson said.

"We're going to still try to wear them down, but from I've seen, they don't get worn down very easily," Johnson said.

The Bison (13-0) are seeking their third straight FCS title. The Wildcats (10-4) are making their first appearance in the FCS semifinals.

The All-American Turner, who ear-

lier this week was invited to the Senior Bowl, said New Hampshire will be the best team NDSU has faced in this year's playoffs. Unlike NDSU's opponents in the first two rounds, he said, the Wildcats go about their business quietly.

"Coastal Carolina came in here and everyone was talking about their offense," Turner said. "Furman was coming in here just talking about, you know, they beat Georgia Southern, they beat Wofford, they were going to get payback for their conference and what not."

"Each team had something different to say, but I haven't heard anything out of New Hampshire yet," he said.

The Wildcats advanced with wins over Lafayette, Maine and Southeastern Louisiana. This will be their third straight game on the road. NDSU hasn't left town for a month.

The Bison are 9-0 overall at home in the FCS playoffs and have won 10 straight home postseason games dating back to a 1992 victory in the Division II tournament. NDSU's 22-game winning streak is the longest in Division I, ahead of 15 in a row by Florida State.

The ESPN-driven game day schedule for NDSU will be drastically different from last week, when players met at 7:15 a.m. for the pre-game meal in advance of an 11 a.m. kickoff. Friday's game at the Fargodome is scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

The winner will face either Towson or Eastern Washington in the FCS championship Jan. 4 in Frisco, Texas.

"Friday night lights ... this brings me back to the high school days," Bison All-American defensive back Marcus Williams said. "There's nothing better than playing under those lights in front of that crowd."

Officials Ready Up For Winter-Weather Super Bowl

BY MEGHAN BARR

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Standing amid giant piles of snow in the shadow of MetLife Stadium, Super Bowl organizers said Wednesday that they're prepared to deploy thousands of trucks and tons of salt to prevent snowy weather from interfering with the biggest football game of the year.

Officials held the press conference to assure the public that snow or ice will not hinder the game on Feb. 2, when it will debut as the first outdoor, cold-weather Super Bowl in NFL history.

The stadium has several snow melters on hand that can clear the fields quickly, including one machine that can melt up to 600 tons of snow per hour, said the stadium's CEO, Brad Mayne. Removable snow chutes can funnel snow out of the seating and concourse areas, he said.

"As you can imagine, Mother Nature and her storms come in many different varieties," Mayne said. "And so we have to be flexible in how we address each and every storm."

Mayne pointed to the most recent storm to hit the region last week, which dropped 6.3 inches of snow and ice on the stadium just hours before the New York Giants played host to the Seattle Seahawks.

"Even though the storm ended just hours prior to kickoff, our experienced crew were able to have the stadium ready," Mayne said.

The stadium plans to have up to 1,600 workers on standby for the Super Bowl, which is double the typical amount of personnel used in most storms.

Officials said they would only consider rescheduling the game in extreme circumstances.

"It is our objective to kick

off the ball at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 2," said Frank Supovitz, Senior Vice President of Events for the NFL. "And we're going to expend every effort ... to make sure that that gets done."

Transportation experts say a snowy football field isn't the issue — after all, many NFL games have previously been played in the snow. But the players might be throwing passes in an empty stadium if the fans can't make it there during a blizzard.

Filling MetLife Stadium on Super Bowl Sunday hinges on the reliability of New Jersey's rails and roads to funnel fans to the game.

"They'll play the game," said Mitchell Moss, director of the Rudin Center for Transportation at New York University. "The question is, they may have to hire mannequins to fill the stadium."

An ice or snow storm would jeopardize the region's

airports, causing ground delays or cancellations that would prevent fans from arriving in New York City, including the scores of private jets that will likely touch down at Teterboro Airport, Moss said. Icy roads would also hinder the many buses that will ferry fans from Manhattan to the game.

During a nor'easter last February that crippled the region, for example, NJ Transit suspended bus operations across the state to decrease the number of vehicles on the road and help plows clear the pavement.

At the press conference, New Jersey Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner Joseph Mrozek said the state can deploy more than 820 vehicles and about 60,000 tons of salt within a 30-mile radius of the stadium, with even more resources available statewide if necessary.

The state also has more

than a quarter of a million gallons of brine and 850,000 gallons of liquid calcium in storage, which are used to treat salt when temperatures drop below freezing.

"We have the trucks, we have the manpower and we have the supplies to fight any major event," Mrozek said.

Interest in whether or not America will have its first snow Super Bowl has ramped up so much that the forecasting company AccuWeather has created a website asking that very question: www.willitsnow.com.

Launched on Wednesday, exactly 45 days before the game, the site currently predicts a 30 percent chance of snow on Feb. 2. The site will be updated daily.

On Super Bowl Sunday, it'll update with hourly forecasts for fans who want to track the weather by the minute.