

NDSU Senior Drevlow Shows Off Homegrown Talent

BY DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — When North Dakota State made the jump from Division II to Division I athletics 10 years ago, some believed it would spell the end of the homegrown football player. Ryan Drevlow wasn't buying it then, or now.

Drevlow grew up in the small southeastern North Dakota town of Gwinner, expecting someday to play for the Bison. When he told his mother about those plans, she told him it was going to take a lot of hard work.

"She said it was something that doesn't happen very often," Drevlow said.

The three-year starting nose guard, a member of The Associated

Press All-America team, is one of a half-dozen North Dakota athletes on the roster who have played on a regular basis this season. The others are wide receiver Ryan Smith of Wahpeton, fullback Andrew Grothmann of Hillsboro, linebacker Travis Beck of Munich, defensive lineman Danny Luecke of Fargo and linebacker Esley Thornton of Bismarck.

All are expected to play key roles in Friday's Championship Subdivision semifinal playoff game against visiting New Hampshire.

"North Dakota's got good athletes. That's all the coaching staff is looking for, is a good athlete that they can hone into a football player," said Drevlow, who played center in basketball and set high school track and field records in the shot put, discus, javelin and relay.

"There's always going to be good athletes," he said. "There's always going to be a chance for the North Dakota kids."

Drevlow says his favorite event every year when he was a kid was watching NDSU play North Dakota when both schools participated at the NCAA Division II level. The teams have not played since NDSU made the jump to D-I in 2003, and UND followed about five years later.

Drevlow signed up for the Bison football team even though they were barely above .500 his senior year of high school and went 3-8 when he was a redshirt freshman.

"It was never really a deterrent," Drevlow said of the brief hiccup in Bison success. "From the time I was a little kid I wanted to play football for the Bison. It's just something that

being a North Dakota kid and playing for the university, it's special no matter what the record is."

NDSU has gone 50-7 in Drevlow's career, including 41-2 in the last three years. The Bison currently have the longest winning streak in FCS at 22 games. They are hoping to polish off its first undefeated season since 1990, the year Drevlow was born.

The 6-foot-4, 281-pound Drevlow, who has a 3.7 grade point average in electrical engineering, said the only game that matters is the next one.

"We have to do our all just to get another 60 minutes," he said, which in this case would be NDSU's third straight trip to the FCS championship in Frisco, Texas. "Because all that we're guaranteed is the present 60 minutes we have."

Winner DE Krolikowski Commits To South Dakota

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

The University of South Dakota football program picked up another in-state commit, as Winner senior defensive end Kray Krolikowski verbally committed to USD on Wednesday night, according to Winner coach Dan Aaker.

Krolikowski, at 6-foot-5 and 227 pounds, earned Class 11B all-state honors after helping the Warriors reach the state semifinals. Krolikowski, who has a sister who attends USD, recorded 45 tackles, eight for loss, with seven sacks this season.

"Physicality is his biggest attribute," Aaker said Thursday. "We treated him more as a blocking tight end, but he did an excellent job on the defensive line."

According to Aaker, Krolikowski becomes the first Winner player to head to a Division I program since Seth Daughters, who played at South Dakota State (2008-12).

Krolikowski figures to even get bigger once on USD's strength program, his coach said.

"He really enjoyed the process, I think, listening to other schools," Aaker said. "Ultimately he liked the repertoire with the coaches at USD."

"I think he was leaning that way most of the fall, but he felt very comfortable with his decision."

Commitments are not binding until athletes sign their intent letters on National Signing Day, which is Feb. 5, 2014.

USD Downs St. Mary 76-48

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — The way 28-point victories go, Thursday night's for the University of South Dakota women wasn't exactly the kind that had the team buzzing after the game.

Sure, the Coyotes rolled past NAIA College of Saint Mary (Neb.) 76-48 at the DakotaDome, but the hosts were more concerned with only a plus-3 edge on the glass and a 39-percent shooting effort.

Still, a win is a win. Especially heading into Saturday's showdown with Nebraska.

"It was a lot more scrappy than we wanted, but with eight days off, it was hard to get right back into game mode," said Coyote junior Nicole Seekamp, who scored 11 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

"We knew it wouldn't be easy, but we played like it was, I think."

Still, the disparity in the open court — USD had a 23-0 edge in fast break points — was enough to help the Coyotes (7-5) roll to their fifth consecutive win.

Especially in the second half, USD's reserves saw plenty of action. Seekamp played the most minutes at 27, but six of the seven players off the bench saw at least 10 minutes.

"We were able to get out of that game without anybody having to play over 30, which was what we wanted," head coach Amy Williams said.

In all, the Coyotes outscored Saint Mary 40-28 in the paint and scored 26 points off turnovers against a

nationally-ranked NAIA squad that counted Thursday's game toward its record.

The Flames (9-4), who came in averaging 84 points a game, were held to 16 points on 20 percent shooting in the first half. Only late did they find some rhythm — CSM scored 19 points in the final 6:50.

Saint Mary didn't attempt a free throw until midway through the second half, which yes, played a role in the lop-sided score, according to head coach Chuck Brewer.

"I know at the Division I level, we expected it to be more physical, but it wasn't even in that way," said Brewer, a Mount Marty College alumnus and member of that school's hall of fame.

"USD is a very good team at their level, and they gave us a lot of problems in transition," he added. "But I think we're much better than we showed."

The Coyotes led by as many as 39 points (as late as 5:18 remaining), but the Flames went on an 11-0 run and finished at 42 percent after halftime.

"We got a little lazy in the second half," Williams said. "Defensively, to give up 32 points and be basically even, that's just a little sloppy."

University of Florida transfer Deandra Young led Saint Mary with 21 points, 17 rebounds and five blocks.

Sophomore point guard Tia Hemiller added 15 points and nine rebounds in the win for the Coyotes, while junior reserve Raeshel Contreras also reached double figures with 12 points.



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

South Dakota's Raeshel Contreras scores an easy layup during Thursday's basketball action against College of St. Mary. She contributed 12 points and seven rebounds for South Dakota.

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Gazelles Fall At Brandon Valley 46-33

BRANDON — Even with a stronger second half than the first, the Yankton Gazelles struggled to come back against the Brandon Valley Lynx, who took a 46-33 victory against the Gazelles Thursday night in Brandon.

Head coach Doug Pesicka said the Gazelles struggled during the first half on both ends of the court, and didn't come out with much energy.

"We played harder and cut down the lead during the second half, but we really cut ourselves a hole the first half," he said. "You have to

come ready to play right when you jump off the bus, and we had a hard time with that."

Despite the loss, Pesicka is hopeful for the Gazelles' game against Sioux Falls Washington today (Friday), he said.

"We've had a good start to our season," he said. "We've done some good things so far, and the real test is how we react and come back when things don't go well."

Brandon Valley won the JV game 39-31, with Yankton's Sarah Rockne and Josie

Sayler each scoring six points. Yankton won the freshman-sophomore game 24-20, with Brianna Benjamin scoring seven points and Sayler scoring six points.

Bon Homme 47, Scotland 38

SCOTLAND — Liz Kubal scored 18 points Thursday night to lead the Bon Homme Cavaliers to a 47-38 win against the Scotland Highlanders in Scotland.

Kubal also had three rebounds and three steals in the win, while Kelsey Sutera

score eight points with three rebounds, three assists and three steals. Megan Schmidt scored eight points and had two rebounds.

Carley Skorepa scored 12 points and had 10 rebounds, three assists and three steals for the Highlanders, with Amber Alvey adding seven points. Hannah Mogck had eight rebounds.

Scotland travels to face Ethan Saturday, while the Cavaliers host Centerville.

BON HOMME (2-1).....7 23 38 47
SCOTLAND (1-2).....8 16 22 38

Mt Vernon-Plank. 50, Corsica-Stickney 31

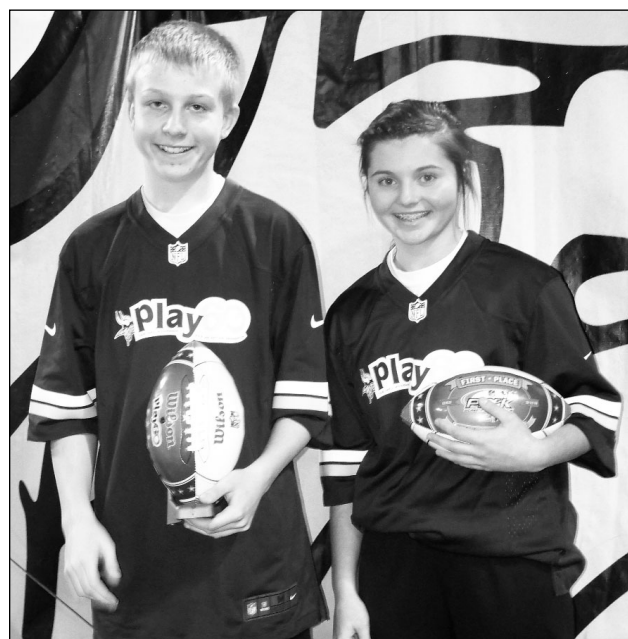
PLANKINTON — Megan Bultsma scored 15 points Thursday night to lead the Mount Vernon-Plankinton Titans in a 50-31 win against the Corsica-Stickney Jaguars in Plankinton.

Bultsma also had five rebounds, while Makaela Karst added 13 points in the win, and Payleen O'Day had six rebounds and six assists.

Micayla Bamberg put up

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PP&K Champs



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Matthew Mors, left, of Yankton and Bailey Kortan of Tabor each won their age group at the Minnesota Vikings team championship of the NFL Hunt, Pass & Kick competition, held this past weekend in Minneapolis. Kortan, who won the girls' 12-13 year-old division, finished in the top-four nationally, and will advance to the national finals for the second time. The national finals will be held the weekend of Jan. 11-12 at the site of a NFL conference championship game. Mors won the boys' 10-11 year-old division, and just missed the national finals.

Vikings Backups Set To Return To Background

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Adrian Peterson and Toby Gerhart will likely be back on the field soon for Minnesota, and that means Matt Asiata will be pushed to the background again.

He'll take his important-but-basically-invisible spot on special teams and otherwise stand on the sideline while the offense is working, a third-string tailback simply waiting for a chance to carry the ball that may or may not come again.

Last Sunday, the opportunities were there. Thirty of them. Asiata took three in for touchdowns.

He held on tight each time, avoiding any fumbles and helping the Vikings burn through valuable time on the clock on their way to a 48-30 victory over division-leading Philadelphia. Asiata totaled only 51 yards for a paltry 1.7-yards-per-attempt average, but his already-sizable fan club in the Vikings locker room expanded during that bittersweet afternoon for the 26-year-old.

"I look at it as a blessing, just getting the opportunity to show the coaches what I can do and help this offense out," Asiata said.

Asiata's father, Pita, was killed in October when the tour bus he was driving collided with a utility truck near the Nevada-Utah line.

"My dream was to make it in the NFL, and I wish my dad was here to witness it," Asiata said softly after the win over the Eagles.

He was undrafted out of Utah in 2011 and cut in training camp by the Vikings. He worked in an industrial supply warehouse that season instead, staying in shape for his next chance, and the Vikings gave him another one in 2012.

He made the team as the backup to fullback Jerome Felton and carved out a niche on special teams, and 15 months later there he was making a key block on Cordarrelle Patterson's 79-yard go-ahead touchdown reception in the final minute at Baltimore. Peterson's sprained

foot that day moved Asiata up on the depth chart, and Gerhart's hamstring injury near end of that game put Asiata on top the following week.

"We were all so fired up for him," quarterback Matt Cassel said. "There's a lot of talented people that sometimes don't get that opportunity, and I was just happy for him that he did get an opportunity to play."

Those opportunities can be fleeting, and Asiata wasn't the only one last Sunday whose extensive playing time could wind up being the most of their careers. Tight end Chase Ford filled in with Kyle Rudolph and John Carlson out and caught both passes thrown his way for 55 yards.

"Coach Frazier always talks about the next man up. When you get your opportunities to make a play, you have to make it," Ford said.

Then there's cornerback Shaun Prater, cut by the Eagles two months ago. He was

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10 Millionth Fan Expected At Next Wild Home Game

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Wild expect the 10 millionth fan to attend the team's next home game Dec. 29 against the New York Islanders at Xcel Energy Center.

The 10 millionth fan will receive a prize package. It includes a custom Wild 10 Millionth Fan jersey, a team-signed hockey puck, four tickets to the Wild game against Detroit at 1 p.m. on March 22 and four tickets to the Big Ten Championship Game at 7 p.m. on March 22 at Xcel Energy Center.

With Tuesday night's crowd of 18,531, a total of 9,986,408 patrons have attended Wild games at Xcel Energy Center in team history.

Minnesota played its first game at the "X" on Sept. 29, 2000, a preseason match against Anaheim.