

Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE

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



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK james.cimburek@yankton.net

Today's Press & Dakotan features the first of many year-end packages that will appear in the our sports section before the calendar turns to 2014.

The honors presented in today's paper were selected by the sportswriters from the entire state, and many of those choices weren't easy.

Year-End Made For Some Tough Choices

The top 10 stories and athletes of the year were both decided in-house, meaning that assistant sports editor Jeremy Hoeck and I sat down and talked it out.

There were so many stories of note in the area in the past year, it was hard to narrow it down to just 10.

The same could be said for our athletes of the year, especially on the girls' side. There were a lot of talented athletes who made a big impact this past year, and it made the choices for those awards especially difficult.

We present both the top 10 stories and the athletes of the year as precisely what they are: Our opinions of who and what stood out for us in the past year.

So here's to a great year in area sports, and to what could be an even better 2014.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

Table of football scores for various teams including FBS bowls, Saturday Dec 21, New Mexico, Las Vegas, Famous Idaho Potato, and various state games.

National Football League East, South, North, and West conference standings table.

American Football League East and West conference standings table.

SDHSCA Honors Announced - SIoux Falls - The South Dakota High School Coaches Association has announced its fall sports Coach of the Year honorees.

Schweigert Named North Dakota Football Coach

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Southern Illinois assistant Kyle "Bubba" Schweigert was hired Tuesday as the football coach at North Dakota, returning to the school where he was the defensive coordinator when it won the 2001 NCAA Division II national title.

included linebacker Jayson DiManche, now with the Cincinnati Bengals, and cornerback Corey Lindsey, a 2011 Bengals draft pick. Schweigert was the head coach at Division II Minnesota Duluth from 2004 to 2007, guiding the Bulldogs to their first North Central Conference title.

AREA CALENDAR

Calendar of events for Thursday, December 26 and Friday, December 27, including basketball, wrestling, and other sports events.

Hoops: Freeman Academy Edges Eagles

LAKE ANDES — Josh Stahl posted 20 points and 11 rebounds to lead Freeman Academy to a 58-50 victory over Andes Central in boys' basketball action on Monday.

Hanson 90, Marion 49 - MARIION — Tylar Nichols posted 32 points to lead Hanson to a 90-49 victory over Marion in Cornbelt Conference boys' basketball action on Monday.

Girls: Hanson 64, Marion 26 - MARIION — Kynedi Cheeseman had 21 points, 10 rebounds and four steals to lead Hanson to a 64-26 win over Marion in Cornbelt Conference girls' basketball action on Monday.

Stahl also had four assists and three steals for the victorious Bobcats. Pasait Mboob scored 15 points and Jeff Graber added 12 points in the win.

Jacob Parodeis had 13 assists and Jordan Marquardt had five steals in the victory. For Marion, Jacob Wuertz led the way with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Nick Gortmaker posted 12 points, seven assists and six steals.

Sydney Dodd added 13 points and four assists in the win. For Marion, Devin Nelson led the way with 14 points. Erica Schoenwald had seven rebounds.

Both teams travel to Menno for their next action, Andes Central (1-2) on Dec. 30 and Freeman Academy (2-2) on Jan. 3.

Hanson, 5-0, plays James Valley Christian at the Parkston Classic on Dec. 30. Marion, 1-1, travels to Alcester-Hudson on Jan. 2.

Hanson (5-0).....9 21 39 64 Marion (0-3).....2 5 14 26

Awards

From Page 7

championship in August. Alexandria also won the District 5 tournament and topped Clamdreau, Groton, Larchwood, 2012 champions Parkston Mudcats and Winner/Colome en route to state amateur crown.

The program into champions. Before Popping arrived the Governors hadn't won a state championship in football, and its only appearance in a state title game came in 1988. Popping turned the Governors around through the introduction of an intensified off-season conditioning program that he brought in while serving as an assistant coach for two years in Pierre.

The Angels, who were the top-ranked team all season, had a come-from-behind victory over Winner/Colome in the title game. Pitcher Tyson Gau hit a walk-off single to lift Alexandria to a 4-3 win.

The results coincided with a strong senior class and South Dakota's seven-class system of football, giving Popping and the Governors an added element of excitement. That excitement quickly turned into results when the Governors began their season with a 5-0 start and finished the regular season with a 7-1 record.

The Angels (27-3) had two players named to the Class B state all-tournament team in Gau and pitcher Trevor Vermeulen.

The Governors were even better when the playoffs began as Popping's team dominated the playoffs en route to a 34-7 win against Watertown in the state title game, giving the coach a state title during his first season as Governors' head coach.

Lane Severny simply wasn't going to be denied in 2013, and he has the accolades and championship hardware to prove it.

Severny's senior season with the Pierre Governors proved to be a historic one in 2013, when he assaulted the record books and helped the Governors do something that they hadn't in 31 years.

Severny began his 2013 calendar year by breaking Troy Schaefer's 30-year record for most points in Governors' history. The senior didn't stop scorching the nets there, as he eventually put himself in elite company by becoming Class AA's all-time leading scorer of all time.

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It was a really special year, and it was great to play with all of the teammates who I have been friends with since fifth grade," Severny said. "The season meant a lot to me, and it means a lot to get this award and even more that it all paid off with a championship."

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The Pierre Governors were never a team known for triumph on the grid iron, but Jayson Popping quickly changed that.

Popping became the Governors head coach in 2013 and he quickly turned

Transactions

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Baseball

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Iverson

From Page 7

learning that you feel have made you a better player?

Our season has seen some highs and some lows so far but we continue to get better. I had a very strong exhibition season with good performances against some of the top

teams in Europe. Turkish basketball league is very competitive and we have dealt with some injuries with two different American point guards already being hurt but we finished first place in a Euro Cup group and are advancing to the next round and we have begun to pick things up in the Turkish League also and have a great chance to go on a win streak in the next couple of weeks. Personally I have had some good per-

formances but have also dealt with foul troubles and the adjustment to the style of play, but this is what is making me a better player, the knowledge and experience I am getting so far this year will only help me for the second half of the season and going into the future.

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

Prep Girls' Athlete

Hannah Kastigar of Aberdeen Central stayed in the spotlight throughout her senior year with her running and swimming talents.

Prep Girls' Team

The Ipswich girls are dominating the high school State B running scene in South Dakota.

College Women's Coach

For only the second time in program history, Northern State qualified for the national volleyball tourney.

College Men's Athlete

The Yankton native was named Summit League Pitcher of the Year while helping South Dakota State win the conference post-season title and earn the school's first berth in the NCAA Division I Tournament.

College Men's Team

The Jackrabbits advanced to a second-consecutive NCAA Tournament during the 2012-13 season.

College Women's Team

Dave Krauth had been coaching the Augustana women's basketball team for a quarter century, and despite getting the Vikings consistently into national contention and posting 20-win seasons with regularity, Krauth's teams had never won a conference title or a regional championship.

College Men's Coach

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KYNT AM 1450 MORNING COFFEE WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY Thursday, December 26 7:40 am Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm)