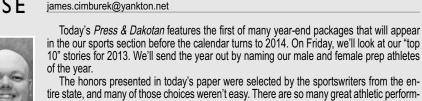
Press&Dakotan **BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK** DAILY DOSE

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



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. But we did just that, and we will present them on Friday's paper.

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. Is it a perfect list? No, and none of these lists never are. What these will be, though, as a starting point for discussions about what was an exciting year in sports.

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

SCOREBOARD FOOTBALL FBS BOWLS Saturday, Dec. 21 New Mexico: Colorado State 48, Las Vegas: Southern Cal 45, Fresno State 20 Washington State 45 (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2) South Famous Idaho Potato: San Diego State 49, Buffalo 24 noon (ESPN) New Orleans: Louisiana-Lafayette 24 Tulane 21 Monday, Dec. 23 Beef 'O' Brady's: East Carolina 37, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN) Ohio 20 Thursday, Jan. 2 Tuesday, Dec. 24 Hawaii: Oregon State 38, Boise State 23 Thursday, Dec. 26 Little Caesars Pizza: Bowling hc Green (10-3) vs. Pittsburgh (6-6), 5 p.m. Poinsettia: Northern Illinois (12-1) vs. Utah State (8-5), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN) Friday, Dec. 27 Military: Marshall (9-4) vs. Maryland (7-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN) Texas: Minnesota (8-4) vs. Syracuse Sunday, Jan. 5 (6-6), 5 p.m. (ESPN) (6-6), 5 p.m. (ESPN) **Fight Hunger:** BYU (8-4) vs. Wash-ington (8-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN) **Saturday, Dec. 28 Pinstripe:** Notre Dame (8-4) vs. Rut-cer (6-6) H o.cm. (ESPN) Monday, Jan. 6 gers (6-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN) Belk: Cincinnati (9-3) vs. North Carolina (6-6), 2:20 p.m. (ESPN) Russell Athletic: Miami (9-3) vs. Louisville (11-1), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN) Buffalo Wild Wings: Kansas State y-New England11 (7-5) vs. Michigan (7-5), 9:15 p.m. Miami N.Y. Jets ESPN) Monday Dec. 30 Buffalo Armed Forces: Middle Tennessee Armed Forces, middle termission (8-4) vs. Navy (7-4), 10:45 a.m. (ESPN) Music City: Mississippi (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 2:15 p.m. (ESPN) Alamo: Oregon (10-2) vs. Texas (8-4), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN) Jacksonville Houston Holiday: Arizona State (10-3) vs. Texas Tech (7-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN) y-Cincinnati Tuesday, Dec. 31 AdvoCare V100: Arizona (7-5) vs. Baltimore Boston College (7-5), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN) Sun: Virginia Tech (8-4) vs. UCLA (9-Cleveland 4 11 0 .267 301 3), 1 p.m. (CBS) W L T Pct PF PA 12 3 0 .800 572 385 Liberty: Rice (9-3) vs. Mississippi State (6-6), 3 p.m. (ESPN) v-Denver

(ESPN)

Chick-fil-A: Texas A&M (8-4) vs. x-Kansas City 11 4 0 .733 406 278 San Diego Oakland Duke (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday Jan 1 Heart of Dallas: UNLV (7-5) vs. North Texas (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPNU) Gator: Nebraska (8-4) vs. Georgia Philadelphia **Capital One:** Wisconsin (9-3) vs. uth Carolina (10-2), noon (ABC) **Outback:** Iowa (8-4) vs. LSU (9-3), Dallas N.Y. Giants Washington South Rose: Stanford (11-2) vs. Michigan State (12-1), 4 p.m. (ESPN) Fiesta: Baylor (11-1) vs. UCF (11-1), x-Carolina New Orleans Atlanta Tampa Bay Sugar: Alabama (11-1) vs. Okla-homa (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN) Friday, Jan. 3 Chicago **Cotton:** Missouri (11-2) vs. Okla-na State (10-2), 6:30 p.m. (FOX) Green Bay Detroit Orange: Ohio State (12-1) vs. Clem-1 (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN) Minnesota BBVA Compass: Vanderbilt (8-4) x-Seattle Houston (8-4), noon (ESPN) x-San Fran. Arizona GoDaddy.com: Arkansas State (7-5) vs. Ball State (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN) Sunday's Games St. Louis 23, Tampa Bay 13 BCS National Championship: Florida State (13-0) vs. Auburn (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN) NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE AMERICAN CONFERENCE N.Y. Jets 24. Cleveland 13 East
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ances each year, the choices for those awards never get any easier. Besides the three with

area ties that were selected — Colton Iverson, Bethany (Buell) Firsick and Layne Somsen

- several others with local ties were on the nomination list.

SDHSCA Honors Announced

SIOUX FALLS — The South Dakota High School Coaches Association has announced its fall sports Coach of the Year hon-

Todd Thorson of Ipswich was named girls' cross country coach of the year. Ervin Gebhart of Elkton-Lake Benton was selected for boys' cross country. Vern Smith of Potter County was honored for football. Julie Kolbeck of Sioux Falls O'Gorman was selected for vollevball.

These coaches will be recognized at the annual awards banquet to be held in Aberdeen on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 in conjunction with the summer coaches' clinic

Schweigert Named North Dakota Football Coach

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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.

He inherits a team that went 3-8 this year and succeeds Chris Mussman, who was fired after six seasons. Schweigert will be introduced at a news conference Friday.

Schweigert said in a statement he wants to solidify relations with fans, alumni, the community and the students

as "we strive to win the Big Sky Conference championship and, ultimately, reach the pinnacle of FCS football."

Coach Schweigert brings a wealth of coaching experience, is a proven recruiter, an effective communicator and has an incredible passion for the game," North Dakota athletic director Brian Faison said.

Schweigert was the defensive coordinator at Southern Illinois, where he has been for six years. He worked under coach under Dale Lennon and coached three first-team All-Americans. His defensive standouts

included linebacker Jayson DiManche, now with the Cincinnati Bengals, and cornerback Korey 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. That came after 15 seasons as an assistant at North Dakota. He was part of eight NCAA playoff teams and six NCC title squads at North Dakota.

Schweigert began his coaching career at his alma mater, Jamestown University, from 1985 to 1988.

AREA CALENDAR

Wagner, 11 a.m.) Saturday, December 28 BALL, BOYS' Buseman Classic sington vs. Centerville, 7 p.m.; Beresford,

BASKETBALL,

Thursday, December 26 No activities so

Verdigre (Allen, Bloomfield, Niobraa-Verdigre); Ran-dolph Holiday Tourn. (Randolph); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Stuart Holiday Tourn. (Santee); Swiftel Classic at Brookings (Gayville-Volin); Wayne Holiday Tourn. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Lau-rel-Concord-Coleridge); Irene-Wakonda at Bon Homme: Parkston at Aven

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Crofton Holiday Tourn. (O'Neill St. Mary's vs. Ainsworth, 2 p.m.; Crofton vs. Wynot, 5 p.m.); Niobrara-Verdigre Holiday Tourn. at Verdigre (Allen, Bloomfield, Niobrara-Verdigre); Ran-dolph Holiday Tourn. (Randolph); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Stuart Holiday Tourn. (Santee); Swiftel Classic at Brookings (Gayville-Volin); Wayne Holiday Tourn. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Lau-Wakonda at Bon Homme WRESTLING, PREP S.F. Lincoln Inv. (Ve

Thomas More, 8:30 p.m.); Randolph Holiday Tourn (Randolph): Shootout on the Elkhom at Wisner (Ponca); Snowball Classic at Winner (Platte-Geddes); Stuart Holiday Tourn. (Santee); Wayne Holiday Tourn. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge) GYMNASTICS, GIRLS' Winter Wonderland Inv. at

1. & 7 p.m.

HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Yankton at Aberdeen (11:30

MARION — Kynedi

Cheeseman had 21 points, 10

rebounds and four steals to

lead Hanson to a 64-26 win

ference girls' basketball ac-

over Marion in Cornbelt Con-

Sydney Dodd added 13

points and four assists in the

led the way with 14 points.

Erica Schoenwald had seven

Hanson, 5-0, plays Sully

Buttes in the Parkston Clas-

sic on Saturday. Marion, 0-3,

travels to Alcester-Hudson on

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For Marion, Devin Nelson

Marion 26

tion on Monday.

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rebounds.

Jan. 3.

HANSON (5-0)

MARION (0-3)

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.

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. Darrin Hopkins led Andes Central with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Joe Evans had 13 points and Aaron Swanson added 10 points for the Eagles

Menno for their next action, Andes Central (1-2) on Dec. 30 and Freeman Academy (2-2) on Jan. 3. FREEMAN ACADEMY (2-2)......14 26 38 58 ANDES CENTRAL (1-2).11 22 34 50

lverson

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 death 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/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

Awards

the program into champions. Before Poppinga arrived the Governors hadn't won a state championship in football, and its only appearance in a state title game came in 1988 Poppinga turned the Governors around through the introduction of an invears tensified off-season conditioning program that he brought in while serving as an assistant coach for two years in Pierre. The results coincided with a strong senior class and South Dakota's sevenclass system of football, giving Poppinga 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 Governors were even better when the playoffs began as Poppinga'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.

The Governors' inspirational journey five seasons as the girls coach continued at the state tournament in Sioux Falls, where a 15-point advantage in the fourth quarter allowed the Governors to defeat Brandon Valley and win the school's first state championship in 31 that.

"I said in the interview that I'd go five vears and then we'd take a look at it." he said. "What I was hoping to do was build it up a little and see if we could get 'em on the right track. I'd like to think we did

year this year, his 18th track or cross College Women's country coach of the year honor. This year, for the first time, Hellman's

Both teams travel to

No activities scheduled Friday, December 27 BASKETBALL, BOYS' Crofton Holiday Tourn. (O'Neill St. Mary's vs. Ainsworth, 3:45 p.m.; Crofton vs. Wynot, 6:45 p.m.); Niobrara-Verdigre Holiday Tourn. at Union (1) Uni (Wolsey-Wessington vs. Centerville, / p.m.; Berestora, Viborg-Hurley); Crofton Holiday Tourn. (Consolation — 3:45 p.m.; Championship - 6:45 p.m.); East-West

3.45 p.m., Champonismp — 6.45 p.m.), East-West Classic at Chamberlain (Platte-Geddes vs. Belle Fourche, 1:30 p.m.); Niobrara-Verdigre Holiday Tourn. at Verdigre (Allen, Bloomfield, Niobrara-Verdigre); Ran-dolph Holiday Tourn. (Randolph); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Stuart Holiday Tourn. (Santee); Wayne Holiday Tourn. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); Scotland at Alcester-Hud-

> BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Crofton Holiday Tourn. (Consolation — 2 p.m.; Championship — 5 p.m.); Nio-brara-Verdigre Holiday Tourn. at Verdigre (Allen, Bloomfield, Niobrara-Verdige); Parkston Classic (Parkston vs. Centerville, 10 a.m.; Highmore-Harrold vs. Corsica-Stickney, 11 a.m.; Ipswich vs. MItchell Christian, 1 p.m.; Dell Rapids vs. Aberdeen Roncalli, 2:30 p.m.; Wagner vs. Tri-Valley, 4 p.m.; Ethan vs. Groton, 5:30 p.m.; Han-son vs. Sully Buttes, 7 p.m.; Elk Point-Jefferson vs. St.

million (Vermillion, Wagner, 11:30 a.m.) HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Yankton at Aberdeen (DH, 2 p.m.) HOCKEY, PEE WEE Yankton B at Oahe (DH, 11

a.m. 8.7 p.m.) WRESTLING, PREP Pierce Inv. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); S.F. Lincoln Inv. (Vermillion, Wagner, 10 a.m.) Sunday, December 29 BASKETBALI, MEN'S USD at Youngstown State

HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV Yankton at Watertown (2

HOCKEY. PEE WEE Yankton A at Brookings (DH,

Hanson 90, Marion 49 Girls: Hanson 64,

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

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 teals. Greg Engbrecht added 12 points for the Bears.

Hanson, 5-0, plays James Valley Christian at the Parkston Classic on Dec. 30. Marion, 1-1, travels to Alcester-Hudson on Jan. 2.6 25 35 49 ...23 50 74 90 MARION (1-1). HANSON (5-0)

From Page 7

championship in August.

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

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

Prep Boys' Athlete

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

Severyn'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.

Severyn 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 fifth leading scorer of all time. Severyn also ended his career with the Governors by grabbing the school's records for most career 3-pointers made and most career rebounds.

It wasn't just about individual accolades for the All-State select, and he proved it when it mattered most.

Severyn had a memorable post-sea son run that included a late flurry in the District 3AA championship game in which he brought the Governors back from a nine points down in less than three minutes. Severyn's district title game heroics proved to be only a precursor for things to come

The Governors entered the final guarter of play with a four-point deficit and their state championship hopes in jeopardy in the title game against Brandon Valley. Severyn answered the bell with three fourth-quarter makes from beyond the arc, helping the Governors outscore the Lvnx 18-3 in the final guarter of play and secure a state championship.

"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," Severyn 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."

Prep Boys' Coach

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

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

Prep Boys' Team Their road to the championship wasn't

always a smooth one, but it'd be hard to script a better ending than the one the Pierre Governors' basketball team had in

After finishing third at the state tournament in 2012, the Governors were armed with a talented roster that was led by soon-to-be Division 1 players Zach Hanson and Lane Severyn. That roster took a hit before the season even began when junior Conrad Adam was diagnosed with cancer, but Adam and the Governors soon proved how far resiliency could take a team.

The Governors began their season with a 2-4 mark, but they quickly made that a distant memory by winning all but one game through the remainder of the season. During the season, Hanson and Severyn each made their mark in history, by finishing second and first respectively in Pierre's all-time scoring and all-time rebounding lists.

Hanson and Severyn guided the Governors, but Adam quickly became the face of the team and the entire state's basketball landscape. The entire state rallied around Adam through his battle with cancer, and green quickly became the unofficial color of the South Dakota high school basketball with nearly everyone becoming a member of Conrad's Clan.

The scene in Sioux Falls fittingly ended with Adam cutting down the final portion of the net, giving the Governors a memorable finish to the 2013 season.

Prep Girls' Athlete

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

After swimming in the USA Olympic Trials in 2012, she placed ninth at the 2012 U.S. Summer Junior National Championships.

In the spring, Kastigar led the Aberdeen Central girls to its first-ever State AA track and field championship. She won the 800 and 1,600 meters and ran on the winning 3,200-meter relay team. She was second in the 3,200-meter run. This season, Kastigar is swimming for Grand Canyon University in Arizona.

Prep Girls' Coach

It's hard to argue that Lyle Pearson wasn't the right man for the job. After all, the Lincoln Patriots experienced as much adversity as any Class AA team last season, and through it all, Pearson steadied the ship all the way to the program's first girls state basketball title.

When standout point guard Darby Hugunin went down temporarily with a broken forearm, Pearson and the Pats found strength in numbers as players outside of Lincoln's "Big 3" should red the responsibility of larger roles.

And when the Patriots (17-8) entered the state tournament as the fifth seed, they played underdog-turned-victor to all three opponents as they knocked off rival Roosevelt and top-seeded Aberdeen Central by a combined six points before pouring it on in a 51-36 win over defendng champ Mitchell.

The big word I've been reading the last few days is, 'upset, upset,' and I'm sure tomorrow morning we'll read upset again," Pearson said following the championship game. "But thankfully, we're out of upsets.

Pearson, who also led the Lincoln boys to a state title in 1995, resigned in June after compiling a 66-48 record in

Prep Girls' Team

The lpswich girls are dominating the high school State B running scene in South Dakota The Tigers won their fourth straight State B cross country championship this

past fall. Ipswich placed five runners among the top 16 place winners without a senior in the bunch Ipswich also has won the last two

State B track and field championships.

College Men's Athlete

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

Somsen, a right-hander, had a 1.87 ERA and struck out 91 batters in 91 1/3 innings. He limited opponents to a .196 batting average. Somsen recorded a quality start (three earned runs or less and at least six innings pitched) in 12 of his 13 starts. He had a record of 4-5 with one save.

Somsen finished his Jackrabbit career with 180 strikeouts in 215 innings with 38 starts He was drafted in the 22nd round

(675th overall) by the Cincinnati Reds in the 2013 MLB Draft.

Somsen pitched for the Billings Mustangs in the Pioneer League last summer. He was 4-1 with a save and a 1.66 ERA in 17 appearance. He gave up 13 runs eight earned - on 37 hits with 40 strikeouts and 15 walks in 43 1/3 innings

College Men's Coach

Tracy Hellman has probably lost track of his coach of the year honors at this

The head coach of the Augustana men's and women's track and cross country teams, Hellman was named Central Region cross country coach of the

men's teams were the most successful, with the men's cross country team taking both the NSIC and Central Region team championships, then finishing third at nationals, the highest-ever finish for Augie on the men's side. The conference title was their fifth straight, the regional their second in a row. Senior Paul Yak won his third straight NSIC race, and followed it up by winning the regional crown a week

Though the Viking women's cross country team had its streak of six straight NSIC titles snapped, Hellman has still guided his cross country teams to 11 combined conference titles and three regional titles, as well as the 2011 women's national championship.

Those cross country successes came after a strong track season in which the Augie men finished third in the NSIC in the indoor season and second in the conference at the outdoor meet.

College Men's Team

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

South Dakota State finished with a 25-10 record, earning a share of the Summit League regular-season title with a 13-3 mark.

The Jackrabbits won the Summit League post-season title. They beat IUPŬI 66-49 and Fort Wayne 72-56, before dropping North Dakota State 73-67 in the championship game to earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tourney

In the Big Dance, SDSU earned a No. 13 seed and fell 71-56 to eventual runnerup and No. 4 seed Michigan in the second round of the South Regional in Auburn Hills, Mich.

SDSU, which also won the Summit League tournament in 2011-12, posted a two-year record of 52-18 (28-6 Summit). Point guard Nate Wolters - the

school's all-time leader in points (2,363) and assists (669) - was the Summit League Player of the Year and an AP All-America third-team selection: and was later selected in the second round of the NBA Draft.

Coach

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

NSU's Brent Aldridge was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference coach of the year. The third-year NSU coach guided the Wolves to a 22-8 season and their first top 25 ranking in program history.

The Wolves reached No. 20 during the season and finished ranked 23rd in the nation. NSU also had its first-ever All-American in sophomore Kelsey Cham-

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

In 2013, it finally happened.

The Vikings had been the preseason favorites to win the league, but faltered after a hot start to finish third. That just seemed to light their fire come post-season, however, as Augie - spurred by seniors Alex Feeney, Lydian Nelson, Faith Tinklenberg and Cami Koehn roared through the NSIC tournament, knocking off the two teams that finished ahead of them to win the conference tournament.

From there they conquered the regional tournament, earning them a berth in the Elite Eight in San Antonio. The Vikings scored a huge upset in their first game there, knocking off undefeated and No. 1 Clayton State to advance to the Final Four.

The dream ended in the next round with a loss to Dowling College, but with a school-record 27 wins and a pair of banners to hang, it was the most successful season in the history of an already successful program



