

# Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

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



**BY JEREMY HOECK**

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In trying to come up with one, overriding theme for University of South Dakota athletics in 2013, I keep coming back to: "Oh so close."

Progress has come at a slow pace, but it's easy to see. Coyote sports across the board continued on an upward trajectory this year. A series of near-misses and close losses in many USD sports proved to be the key theme in 2013.

And so, with that in mind, I present to you my personal Top 10 USD Stories For 2013.

**1. Dave Boots retires**

This piece of news took literally everybody by surprise, from administrators to assistant coaches to players to media and outsiders. The sudden nature of Boots' retirement (and the fact that it was immediate and not at the end of the season) makes this the easy choice for No. 1.

**2. Bethany Buell wins D-I pole vault title**

The top-ranked women's pole vaulter for most of the season, Buell (now Firsick) battled through a torn shoulder ligament to win the Division I national title on her final jump in Eugene, Ore. — cementing herself in USD lore.

## Year In Review: My Top USD Stories Of 2013

**3. Athletic facilities receive final approval from Regents**

Certain changes had to be made to the basketball/volleyball arena and sports performance facility plans, but getting that final — and expected — approval from the South Dakota Board of Regents was the final bureaucratic hurdle for USD.

**4. Women's basketball advances to Summit League final**

In head coach Amy Williams' first season at the helm, the Coyotes women surged to a third-place finish in the Summit League and lost by three points to rival South Dakota State in the championship game in Sioux Falls. Worth mentioning again, the crowd for that game was over 6,000. USD's Nicole Seekamp was named tournament MVP, becoming the first player from the losing team to earn the honor since 2004.

**5. David Herbster named athletic director**

When previous A.D. David Saylor bolted for Miami of Ohio (and no, that wasn't really all that surprising), Herbster was named interim athletic director. A few months later, he was given the job on a permanent basis — pleasing everybody over in Coyote Land.

**6. Men's indoor track wins Summit League title**

Toppling North Dakota State in any sport is an achievement in itself, and the Coyote men did that in the sport of indoor track at the 2013 meet held in Vermillion.

**7. Kendall Kritenbrink named Summit League volleyball POY**

Not that it was much of a surprise, but the USD junior hitter was

recognized by the league for dominating the conference all season.

**8. Football wins three straight in Missouri Valley**

Coming off a 1-10 season in 2012, the Coyotes had lost their first nine Missouri Valley Football Conference games before reeling off three straight wins in October — highlighted by a double overtime triumph at Northern Iowa. USD then lost its final five games to finish the season at 4-8.

**9. Volleyball reaches Summit League Tournament semifinals**

Appearing ready to cruise into the tournament championship match, the Coyotes, however, saw a 2-0 edge to Denver in the semifinals evaporate in a 3-2 loss.

**10. Softball qualifies for Summit League tournament**

Picked to finish sixth, the Coyotes bolted out to the No. 3 seed in the 4-team tournament. USD ultimately lost to Kansas City 2-0 in the opener, finishing its season at 29-20.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** A.D. David Saylor leaves for Miami (Ohio); USD men's basketball topples rival Jacks at the Dakota-Dome again; Men's cross country finishes second at Summit League Championships (women third); diver Greysen Hertting dominates Summit League early in career; John Thayer named radio voice of Coyote women's basketball; Basketball doubleheader moved to Rapid City; USD holds well-attended Howling Pack gathering in Yankton

## SCOREBOARD

### FOOTBALL

#### FBS BOWLS

**Saturday, Dec. 21**

**New Mexico:** Colorado State 48, Washington State 45

**Las Vegas:** Southern Cal 45, Fresno State 20

**Famous Idaho Potato:** San Diego State 49, Buffalo 24

**New Orleans:** Louisiana-Lafayette 24, Tulane 21

**Monday, Dec. 23**

**Beef 'O' Brady's:** East Carolina 37, Ohio 20

**Tuesday, Dec. 24**

**Hawaii:** Oregon State 38, Boise State 23

**Thursday, Dec. 26**

**Little Caesars Pizza:** Pittsburgh 30, Bowling Green 27

**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)

**6-6, 5 p.m. (ESPN)**

**Fight Hunger:** BYU (8-4) vs. Washington (8-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Saturday, Dec. 28**

**Pinstripe:** Notre Dame (8-4) vs. Rutgers (6-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

**Bale:** 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 (7-5) vs. Michigan (7-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

**Monday, Dec. 30**

**Armed Forces:** Middle Tennessee

(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)

**Sun:** Virginia Tech (8-4) vs. UCLA (9-3), 1 p.m. (CBS)

**Liberty:** Rice (9-3) vs. Mississippi State (9-6), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

**Chick-fil-A:** Texas A&M (8-4) vs. Duke (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

**Wednesday, Jan. 1**

**Heart of Dallas:** UNLV (7-5) vs. North Texas (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

**Gator:** Nebraska (8-4) vs. Georgia (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

**Capital One:** Wisconsin (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), noon (ABC)

**Outback:** Iowa (8-4) vs. LSU (9-3), noon (ESPN)

**Rose:** Stanford (11-2) vs. Michigan State (12-1), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

**Fiesta:** Baylor (11-1) vs. UCF (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Thursday, Jan. 2**

**Sugar:** Alabama (11-1) vs. Oklahoma (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Friday, Jan. 3**

**Compton:** Missouri (11-2) vs. Oklahoma State (10-2), 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

**Orange:** Ohio State (12-1) vs. Clemson (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

**Saturday, Jan. 4**

**BBVA Compass:** Vanderbilt (8-4) vs. Houston (8-4), noon (ESPN)

**Sunday, Jan. 5**

**GoDaddy.com:** Arkansas State (7-5) vs. Ball State (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

**Monday, Jan. 6**

**BCS National Championship:** Florida State (13-0) vs. Auburn (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**East**

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-New England	11	4	0	.733	410	318
Miami	9	7	0	.563	310	315
N.Y. Jets	7	8	0	.467	270	380
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	319	354

**West**

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Indianapolis	10	5	0	.667	361	326
Tennessee	6	9	0	.400	346	371
Jacksonville	4	11	0	.267	237	419
Houston	2	13	0	.133	286	412

**South**

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Cincinnati	10	5	0	.667	396	288
Baltimore	8	7	0	.533	303	318
Pittsburgh	7	8	0	.467	359	363
Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	301	386

**West**

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Denver	12	3	0	.800	572	385
x-Kansas City	11	4	0	.733	406	278
San Diego	8	7	0	.533	369	324
Oakland	4	11	0	.267	308	419

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**East**

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Philadelphia	9	6	0	.600	416	360
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	417	408
N.Y. Giants	6	9	0	.400	274	377
Washington	3	12	0	.200	228	458

**South**

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Carolina	11	4	0	.733	345	221
New Orleans	10	5	0	.667	372	287

### TRANSACTIONS

#### National Basketball Association

NBA — Fined Golden State F Draymond Green \$15,000 for failing to leave the court in a timely manner upon his ejection during a Dec. 25 game against the Los Angeles Clippers.

CHICAGO BULLS — Assigned G Marquis Teague to Iowa (NBADL).

DETROIT PISTONS — Assigned G Tony Mitchell and G Peyton Siva to Fort Wayne (NBADL).

#### Football

National Football League

NFL — Fined Buffalo WR Roberts Woods \$15,000 for punching Miami S Reshad Jones during a Dec. 22 game.

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed WR Chris Williams from New Orleans' practice squad. Waived DT Christian Tupou.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed DL Brian Sanford. Signed WR Conner Vernon to the practice squad. Released RB Jamaine Cook from the practice squad.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed DT Jeris Pendleton and CB Sheldon Price from the practice squad. Signed C Thomas Austin, DE Jake McDonough and RB Taurien Poole to the practice squad.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Released CB Marquise Cole.

#### Hockey

National Hockey League

DETROIT LIONS — Placed TE Dorin Dickerson on injured reserve. Signed TE Matt Videman from the practice squad. Claimed WR Michael Spurlack off waivers from Dallas. Signed WR Carlin Isles to the practice squad.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed DT Jeris Pendleton and CB Sheldon Price from the practice squad. Signed C Thomas Austin, DE Jake McDonough and RB Taurien Poole to the practice squad.

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