

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
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With assistant sports editor Jeremy Hoeck breaking out his list of the top stories for the University of South Dakota in 2013, I felt it only appropriate that I do the same for Mount Marty College. So, without further adieu, I give you my list of the 10 biggest MMC athletics stories for 2013.

1. Thorson Steps Down

When a coach steps away from a program after a decade, it always comes as a shock. Jim Thorson had taken the program over in the mid-1990s, and took it higher than anyone ever had, advancing to the national semifinals. He stepped away as the Lancers' all-time wins leader, and remains a teacher at MMC. His replacement, former assistant Andrew Baker, was left with no seniors and little returning talent, but has the team making steps forward.

2. Smelker Shines In The Fall

Katie Smelker started her running career at MMC as a walk-on. She finishes the cross country portion of her career as its most-decorated athlete ever. Besides being the Lancers' first-ever All-American in cross country (22nd in NAAIA meet), she was also MMC's first-ever Great Plains Athletic Conference cross country champ, and its first-ever Mount Marty Invitational champ.

3. Fernandez Fights On

Diagnosed with cancer late in 2012, MMC softball coach Albert Fernandez went through treatments prior to and during the season, rarely missing a game. The Lancers responded to his toughness, going 5-5 down the stretch. The GPAC recognized his valor, giving him GPAC co-coach of the year for the second time in his career, as well as awarding him its Coach of Character Award.

MMC Had Some Big Stories In 2013

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4. A First On The Pitch

The Mount Marty women's soccer team's victories in GPAC play in the entire program's history could be counted on one hand. But this year, one win and one tie was enough to put the Lancers into the GPAC Tournament for the first time ever. Entering as the eighth seed, the Lancers battled top-seeded Morningside before dropping a 2-0 decision in the program's first-ever post-season match.

5. Stellar Debut

In the first season of women's tennis at Mount Marty, the Lancers already claimed one of the league's top honors. Led by Yankton natives Vanessa Rockne and Lexie Klimisch, the Lancers made the GPAC Tournament, with Rockne being named the league's Player of the Year.

6. Black Eye

Four Mount Marty College athletes — two baseball and two men's basketball — were arrested on drug possession charges in April. The one basketball player with remaining eligibility transferred. Neither baseball player is currently on the MMC roster.

7. Men Beat No. 12 Dordt

The 2012-13 season was not filled with oodles of highlights for the MMC men, but a 77-60 victory over 12th-ranked Dordt on Jan. 16 was a big one.

8. Hieb Scores 43 In Final Game

Joe Hieb had never scored more than 25 points in a Lancer uniform, and hadn't scored more than 34 in any uniform. But when he put on a Lancer uniform for the final time, he went off for 43 points — one shy of the MMC school record — in an 84-48 rout of Concordia on Feb. 16.

9. Women Beat No. 4 Morningside

The Mount Marty women scored their biggest rout victory of the season on Jan. 9, beating No. 4 Morningside 77-68.

10. Baseball Team Beats Division I Opponent

In what would be the final games played by the MMC baseball team in the Metrodome, the Lancers took one of four from NCAA Division I North Dakota, a 7-5 decision in the opening game of a Feb. 19 doubleheader. It marked the first time the Lancers had beaten a NCAA Division I opponent in baseball.

Putting together lists like these are never easy, and I will be the first to note that I probably missed something. But what these lists do is get people talking. Discuss freely, either on comments below or @JCimburek on Twitter, but be cordial.

SDSU Soccer Camp Jan. 20

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota State women's soccer team is hosting the 2014 Jackrabbit Soccer College ID Camp. The camp is set to take place on Jan. 20 in Sioux Falls at the Sanford Fieldhouse.

The camp is open to girls in 10th and 11th grade and enrollment is limited to 30 players. If the sessions aren't filled by Jan. 6th, 9th and 12th graders will be eligible to attend.

The camp will be broken into two sessions, the first session will take place from 10 a.m. - noon and the second session is from 1-3 p.m.

There is a cost to participate. For more questions please contact assistant soccer coach Brock Thompson at Brock.Thompson@sdsstate.edu or at 605-688-5522.

RC Cheer & Gymnastics Winter Chill Challenge Jan. 12

River City Cheer and Gymnastics will hold its annual Winter Chill Cheer and Dance Challenge on Sunday, Jan. 12, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Summit Center main gym.

Teams will be attending from South Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska, with participants ranging ages 5 to adult. Participants will be competing in cheer, stunting and dance competitions in team and individual events.

The public is invited to attend. Admission will be charged. Concessions will be available on site.

Elks Hoop Shoot District Finals Today

The district finals for the Yankton Elks Lodge #994 Hoops Shoot free throw contest will be held today (Saturday) at the Summit Activities Center. Qualifiers were determined at the school levels earlier this year. Doors open at 9 a.m., with competition to begin at 10 a.m. There is no charge for admission.

District winners will advance to the state finals, Jan. 4 at Pierre.

Duster Dunkfest Youth Tourney Feb. 8-9

HOLDREGE, Neb. — Mr. Basketball, Inc., is pleased to announce the return of the Mr. Basketball & Miss Basketball Duster Dunkfest youth basketball tournament, slated for Feb. 8-9, 2014, in Holdrege, Neb. The event is open to 3rd-8th boys & girls teams.

All teams are guaranteed three games, with medals awarded to the top places in each division.

The registration deadline for the Duster Dunkfest is Jan. 17, 2014. Registration forms are available at misterbasketball.com, or by contacting Doug Koster at (308) 237-4012.

Huskers' Pelini Says DE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Nebraska defensive end Avery Moss returned to his home in Arizona to attend to a personal issue and won't play in the Gator Bowl against No. 23 Georgia next week.

Cornhuskers coach Bo Pelini also announced Friday that linebacker Jared Afalava and receivers Richard Wynne and Ishmail Jackson violated team rules and won't be on hand for Wednesday's game in Jacksonville, Fla.

Moss has played in every game, starting three, and was second on the team with 4.5 sacks and six quarterback hurries.

Afalava played in four games but has not been on the game field since October. Wynne and Jackson have caught no passes.

Chisholm Basketball Coach Wins 1,000th Game

HIBBING, Minn. (AP) — Chisholm High School basketball coach Bob McDonald has reached 1,000 career victories.

McDonald reached the milestone with his team's 61-55 win over Walker-Hackensack-Akeley on Thursday night in the Hibbing Holiday Tournament.

The 80-year-old McDonald is in his 53rd and final season coaching the Bluestreaks.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

FRIDAY'S S.D. BOYS

Bon Homme 92, Irene-Wakonda 65
Clark/Willow Lake 60, Florence-Henry 30
Hartington 64, Lead-Deadwood 57
Parkston 60, Avon 20
Mike Miller Classic
DeLaSalle, Minn. 51, Sioux Falls Washington 45
LaPorte LaLumiere, Ind. 84, Mitchell 51
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 66, Minneapolis Henry, Minn. 53
Eldendale Holiday Tournament
Leola/Frederick 62, Edgeley-Kulm-Montpelier, N.D. 52
Swiftel Classic
Pipestone, Minn. 62, Summit 30
St. Francis Indian 66, Potter County 64
Waverly-South Shore 59, Gayville-Volin 21

FRIDAY'S S.D. GIRLS

Clark/Willow Lake 58, Mitchell Christian 51
Highmore-Harold 56, Wessington Springs 38
Irene-Wakonda 57, Bon Homme 49
Rapid City Stevens 66, Aberdeen Central 50
Todd County 65, Red Cloud 58
Eldendale Holiday Tournament
Leola/Frederick 44, Edgeley-Kulm-Montpelier, N.D. 39, OT
Marshall Tournament (SMSU)
First Round
Sioux Falls Washington 75, Mankato West, Minn. 30
Swiftel Classic
Potter County 56, Waverly-South Shore 54
Summit 51, Pipestone, Minn. 30

FRIDAY'S NEB. BOYS

Red Cloud 55, Franklin 17
Aspenhol Tournament
First Round
Hitchcock County 54, Pleasanton 33
Arlington Tournament
Arlington 72, Logan View 42
Fort Calhoun 58, Elmwood-Murdock 45
Axtell Tournament
Arcadia-Loup City 60, Blue Hill 46
Axtell 43, Meridian 40
Bishop Neumann Tournament
First Round
Bishop Neumann 74, Lincoln Christian 38
Elkhorn South 88, Wahoo 55
Brownell-Talbot Tournament
First Round
Clarkson/Leigh 76, St. Edward 22
Cleaver/Orchard Holiday Tour.
First Round
Cleaver/Orchard 70, Ewing 46
Columbus Tournament
Columbus Lakeview 52, Twin River 32
Columbus Scotus 54, Schuyler 48
Croton Tournament
First Round
Holdrege 48, Seward 21
Ainsworth 72, St. Mary's 61
Wynot 55, Crofton 52
David City Tournament
First Round
North Bend Central 52, Aquinas 50
Omaha Roncalli 60, David City 35
Friend Tournament
Friend 54, East Butler 29
High Plains Community 60, Palmyra 38
Grand Island Central Catholic Tour.
Fullerton 62, Superior 43
Grand Island Central Catholic 52, Fillmore Central 31
Great Northeast Nebraska Tournament

Hampton 52, Walthill 31
Sandy Creek Tournament
First Round
Cross County 53, Milford 33
Sandy Creek 43, Ord 37
Shootout on the Elkhorn
First Round
Pierce 57, Winnebago 35
Wakefield 47, Oakland-Craig 39
Stanton Holiday Tournament
First Round
Stanton 73, Madison 50
Wilber-Clatoria Tournament
Southern 52, Tri County 27
York Tournament
First Round
York 59, St. Paul 36

FOOTBALL

FBS BOWLS
Thursday, Dec. 26
Little Caesars Pizza: Pittsburgh 30, Bowling Green 27
Poinsettia: Utah State 21, Northern Illinois 14
Friday, Dec. 27
Military: Marshall 31, Maryland 20
Texas: Syracuse 21, Minnesota 17
Fight Hunger: BYU (8-4) vs. Washington (8-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 28
Pinestripe: Notre Dame (8-4) vs. Rutgers (8-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Belt: Cincinnati (9-3) vs. North Carolina (8-2), 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 (7-2), 2:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo: Oregon (10-2) vs. Texas (8-4), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday: Arizona State (10-3) vs. Texas Tech (7-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Minnesota 4 10 1 300 377 467

West

W L T Pct PF PA
x-Seattle 12 3 0 800 390 222
x-San Fran. 11 4 0 733 383 252
Arizona 10 5 0 667 359 301
St. Louis 7 8 0 467 339 337
x-dinched playoff spot; y-dinched div.

Sunday, Dec. 29
Houston at Tennessee, noon
Detroit at Minnesota, noon
Carolina at Atlanta, noon
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, noon
Washington at N.Y. Giants, noon
Baltimore at Cincinnati, noon
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, noon
N.Y. Jets at Miami, noon
Denver at Oakland, 3:25 p.m.
Kansas City at San Diego, 3:25 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 3:25 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 3:25 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 3:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

AREA CALENDAR

Saturday, December 28

BASKETBALL, BOYS' Buseman Classic (Wolsey-Hessington vs. Centerville, 7 p.m.; Beresford, Wiborg-Hurley; Crofton Holiday Tour; Consolation — 3:45 p.m.; Championship — 6:45 p.m.); East-West Classic at Chamberlain (Plate-Geddes vs. Belle Fourche, 1:30 p.m.); Niobrara-Verdige Holiday Tour at Verdige (Consolation — 4:30 p.m.; Championship — 8 p.m.); Randolph Holiday Tour. (Randolph); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Shootout Classic at Winner (Plate-Geddes); Stuart Holiday Tour. (Santee); Wayne Holiday Tour. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); Scotland at Alcester-Hudson

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Crofton Holiday Tour. (Consolation — 2 p.m.; Championship — 5 p.m.); Niobrara-Verdige Holiday Tour. at Verdige (Consolation — 2:45 p.m.; Championship — 6:15 p.m.); Parkston Classic (Parkston vs. Centerville, 10 a.m.); Highmore-Harold 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.; Hanson vs. Sully

Buttes, 7 p.m.; Elk Point-Jefferson vs. St. Thomas More, 8:30 p.m.); Randolph Holiday Tour. (Randolph); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Snowball Classic at Winner (Plate-Geddes); Stuart Holiday Tour. (Santee); Wayne Holiday Tour. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); GYMNASTICS, GIRLS' Winter Wonderland Inv. at Vermilion (Vermilion, Wagner, 11:30 a.m.)
HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Yankton at Aberdeen (DH, 2 & 8 p.m.)
HOCKEY, PEE WEE Yankton B at Oahe (DH, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.)
HOCKEY, PEE WEE Yankton A at Brookings (DH, 9 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.)

Monday, December 30

BASKETBALL, MEN'S Arizona Christian Tour. (MMC vs. The Masters, 7:30 p.m.; KYNT-AM)
BASKETBALL, BOYS' Parkston Classic (Corsica-Stickney vs. Canistota, 10:30 a.m.; Miller vs. McCook Central-Montrose, noon; Parker vs. Sully Buttes, 1:30 p.m.; Hitchcock-Tulare vs. Ethan, 3 p.m.; Vermilion vs. Mount Vernon-Parkinton, 4:30 p.m.; KYTK-AM; Hanson vs. James Valley Christian, 6 p.m.; Parkston vs. Dakota Valley, 7:30 p.m.); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Wayne Holiday Tour. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); Aberdeen Central at Menno
BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Swiftel Classic (Beresford vs. Hamlin, 6:30 p.m.); Wayne Holiday Tour. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); Scotland vs. Corsica-Stickney at Stickney

WRESTLING, PREP Pierce Inv. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); S.F. Lincoln Inv. (Vermilion, Wagner, 10 a.m.)
Sunday, December 29
BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD at Youngstown State (11 p.m., KYNT-FM)
HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Yankton at Aberdeen (11:30 a.m.)
HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV Yankton at Watertown (2 p.m.)

DALLAS STARS — Activated D Sergei Gonchar on injured reserve. Placed D Aaron Rome from injured reserve. Placed

POTTER COUNTY (3-1).....12 33 48 64

Randolph Tour.

Randolph 74, Winside 10
RANDOLPH, Neb. — Andrea Ghirelli and Garrett Watters both scored 14 points to help the hometown Randolph Cardinals roll past Winside 74-10 on Friday at the Randolph Holiday Tournament.

Logan Nordhues added 11 points, five rebounds and four steals for the Cardinals (6-0), who led 49-9 at halftime.

Bryce Meis scored six points to lead Winside.

Randolph hosts Humphrey-Lindsay Holy Family today (Saturday) at 7 p.m.

WINSIDE.....5 9 9 10
RANDOLPH (6-0).....30 49 63 74

Boys

From Page 7

Parkston 60, Avon 20

AVON — Parkston rolled past Avon 60-20 on Friday evening in South Dakota boys' basketball action.

Wes Geanet led Parkston (3-0) with 14 points and seven rebounds. Jalen Hurley added 11 points, five rebounds and four steals in the victory.

Logan Mudder led Avon (1-2) with 16 points and eight rebounds. Devin Tolmsa added seven points and four steals in the loss.

Parkston will host the Parkston Classic next Monday. Avon will host Alcester-Hudson on Jan. 3.

Waverly-South Shore 59, Gayville-Volin 21

BROOKINGS — Waverly-South Shore limited Gayville-Volin to under 10 points shooting after halftime on the way to a 59-21 win Friday at the Swiftel Classic in Brookings.

Bailey Comes scored 15 points for the Coyotes (4-1), who led 28-13 at halftime and 48-13 after three quarters.

The Raiders (0-4) were 3-of-31 from the field in the second half and finished the game at 15 percent. Brandon Van Osdel scored nine points, Luke Hummel added six points and Grant Rice hauled in 11 rebounds.

GAUYVILLE-VOLIN (0-4).....8 13 21
WAVERLY-SOUTH SHORE (4-1).....12 28 48 59

St. Francis Indian 66, Potter County 64

BROOKINGS — St. Francis Indian overcame a 9-point halftime deficit to edge Potter County 66-64 on Friday at the Swiftel Classic in Brookings.

Potter County, now 3-1, led 33-24 at halftime, only to see SFI scored 44 points over the final two quarters. Kole Hawkins scored 18 points to lead PC (3-1).

Charles Broken Leg scored 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds for St. Francis Indian (2-4), while Jacob Black Bear had 16 points and Leon Bad Hand scored 10 points.

ST. FRANCIS INDIAN (2-4).....14 24 46 66

West Point-Beemer 50, Grand Island Northwest 36

WAYNE, Neb. — In the second game of the Northeast Nebraska Shootout, West Point-Beemer toppled Grand Island Northwest 50-36 on Friday afternoon.

Ty Haase led WPB (5-1) with 19 points. Justin Anderson added 14 points in the victory.

Darrek McNeus led Northwest (3-3) with 10 points. Trevic Schliep and Garrett Kepp combined for 12 points in the loss.

West Point-Beemer advanced to the semi-final to take on Laurel/Concord-Coleridge. Northwest dropped to the elimination bracket to face Boone Central/Newman Grove.

West Point-Beemer 50, Grand Island Northwest 36

WEST POINT-BEEMER (5-1).....18 29 41 50
GRAND ISLAND NORTHWEST (3-3).....12 23 36 36

Verdige Tournament Niobrara-Verdige 72, Allen 27

VERDIGE, Neb. — Niobrara/Verdige steam-rolled past Allen 72-27 on Friday night in the Niobrara/Verdige Holiday Tournament.

Hayden Lisika led Niobrara/Verdige (5-2) with 16 points, five rebounds, three steals and two assists. Steven LaPointe added 14 points, six assists and four steals in the victory.

Colman Kniff led Allen (0-5) with nine points and three rebounds in the loss.

Niobrara/Verdige will play Bloomfield in the championship of the Niobrara/Verdige Holiday Tournament. Allen will play Osmond for their place.

NIORBARA-VERDIGE (5-2).....18 34 56 72
ALLEN (0-5).....10 16 21 27

Mike Miller Classic West Oaks Flame 72, Sioux Falls Lincoln 67

MITCHELL — West Oaks Flame (Fla.) edged out Sioux Falls Lincoln 72-67 on Friday evening in the Mike Miller Classic.

Sidy Ndir led West Oaks Flame (12-0) with 29 points and five rebounds. Haroldas Saprykinas added 20 points and four assists. Richardson Maitre added 10 points and four rebounds.

Kaleb Johnson led Linoln (1-3) with 19 points and four rebounds. Malik Dunn contributed 17 points and two assists.

West Oaks Flame takes on LaLumiere (Ind.) today in the Mike Miller Classic. Lincoln hosts Tartan (Minn.) at the Sanford Pentagon on Jan. 3.

WEST OAKS FLAME (12-0).....16 31 42 72
SIoux FALLS LINCOLN (1-3).....15 29 52 69

Girls

From Page 7

beat Waverly-South Shore 56-54 on Friday at the Swiftel Classic in Brookings.

Potter County (4-1) forced 30

turnovers to overcome a 27-percent shooting performance.

In the loss for WSS (3-2), Mikaela Fisher scored 21 points, and Michaela Kranz had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

WAVERLY-SOUTH SHORE (3-2).....10 26 40 54
POTTER COUNTY (4-1).....13 26 43 36

Summit 51, Pipestone 30

BROOKINGS — Karissa Chamley

posted 19 points and 10 rebounds as Summit stayed unbeaten with a 51-30 rout of Pipestone (Minn.) on Friday at the Swiftel Classic in Brookings.

Kalissa Pereboom added 15 points for Summit, which out-scored Pipestone 28-11 in the fourth quarter.

PIPESTONE.....9 19 25 30
SUMMIT (5-0).....13 23 41 51

Smith's biggest field goals came on a cold, windy and snowing afternoon at Penn State.

His 19-yarder late in the fourth quarter pulled the Huskers into a 20-20 tie. In overtime he was set up for a 37-yard attempt. He split the uprights, but a false start

forced him to try again from 5 yards farther away. He made that one, too, earning him a ride on the shoulders of his teammates.

"That's the reason I came here," Smith said, "for an opportunity like that."

Huskers

From Page 8

to kick in the Big Ten, a chance to be on that big stage," he said. "Having that opportunity to roll the dice and take a chance at it is something I wanted to do."

It looked as if scholarship kicker Mauro Bondi would be next in line at Nebraska after Brett Maher graduated following the 2012 season. Smith won a competition that wasn't settled until the second week of October. That's when Smith began to handle point-after kicks and field goals exclusively. He went on to earn All-Big Ten honorable mention from the media.

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Sunday, January 5th ~ 1:00-4:00 p.m.

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MORNING COFFEE

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Yankton's Home Team!