

Huskers Happy To Be Back At Practice After Changes

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The start of bowl practice brought a sense of normalcy to a Nebraska team that has experienced a range of emotions in the days since the firing of Bo Pelini and hiring of Mike Riley. Interim coach Barney Cotton said after Wednesday's one-hour workout that he was proud of the effort the players showed under the circumstances. "I'm telling them four things: honor God with your effort, honor your teammates with your effort, honor coach Bo with your loyalty and love and support along with your effort. And let's reveal our char-

acter one last time together in the Holiday Bowl." At athletic director Shawn Eichorst's request, Cotton and the rest of Pelini's assistants will coach the No. 25 Cornhuskers (9-3) in their game against the No. 24 Trojans (8-4) on Dec. 27 in San Diego. "I really have a very simple job," Cotton said. "That's to help our players finish out the best way and help this coaching staff stay cohesive and united and keep loving each other." Riley has been recruiting and assembling his coaching staff since he was hired last week, and he said he would watch the Holiday Bowl as a

fan. A number of assistants from Oregon State are expected to follow him to Nebraska. It isn't known if any of the current Nebraska assistants will be retained. "We know that we've got one last chance together. That's our future here," Cotton said. "Then I hope and pray that everybody gets an opportunity to do what they want to do next year. Some coaches are spending some of their down time trying to find out what their future holds." Senior cornerback Josh Mitchell said it was "definitely weird" not having Pelini at practice. He said he's not worried about the team being

out of sorts once it's game time. "They definitely want us to finish right," Mitchell said. "We're a competitive bunch and that's one thing we preach. For us to have one more game, especially against an opponent we're going to play, who wouldn't want that? It's not a huge BCS bowl game, but the opponent is a big name and we're a big name. Why not strap it on and have some fun?" Mitchell was among the players who, in the hours after Pelini's firing, were vocal in their disappointment about Eichorst's decision. He said he felt better being back on the field.

"When we're out on this field, everything else doesn't matter," he said. "Just what's going on inside these walls is what matters to us, and playing on the football field is what we came here to do. It's nice to be on this field and be away from everything and be around the people you want to be around the most." Senior safety Corey Cooper said Pelini would be on his and his teammates' minds as they get ready for the Trojans. "We definitely want to win and send him out on the right note knowing he pretty much coached 10 wins. That's something," Cooper said.

MMC Volleyball Signs Stevens' Hitter

Mount Marty College announced Wednesday the signing of Brooke Bennett of Rapid City Stevens High School to play volleyball for the Lancers next year. Bennett, a 5-foot-10 outside hitter, helped lead the Raiders to the Class AA State Tournament in Yankton last month. She recorded 203 kills, 24 blocks, 326 digs and 42 service aces during her senior season.

ball and uses strategy to get the kill." MMC head coach Candice Cramer said. "Her experience with both club and high school volleyball will only strengthen the MMC program. Brooke is a 6 position player and will be a great addition to the Lancer program."

Bennett, daughter of Mark and Cindy Bennett of Rapid City, plans to major in nursing and will be receiving an academic merit scholarship in addition to her volleyball award.

Correction

Due to incorrect information provided to the

Press & Dakotan, a photo in Wednesday's edition misidentified a Yankton Gazelles basketball player. The player pictured was Sarah Rockne. We apologize for the error.

S.F. To Host Softball Tourney

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls has been chosen to host an International Senior Softball Association tournament late next spring. The city's Convention and Visitors Bureau says the Heart of America Senior Classic tournament June 12-14 will field about 30 teams. The CVB hosted two representatives from the

softball association for a site visit in October. CVB officials also met with the tournament planners at the National Association of Sports Commissions Annual Conference in Oklahoma City.

The Sioux Falls tournament will be at the Harwood Park Softball Complex. It will be the first time the International Senior Softball Association will hold an event in South Dakota.

Alexandria Native Zens Signs With DWU Baseball

MITCHELL — Jerrod Zens from Alexandria

signed his National Letter of Intent to play baseball at Dakota Wesleyan University, it was announced Wednesday.

Now in his senior year at Hanson High School in Alexandria, Zens comes to the Tigers after a standout baseball season last year. During the 2014 high school baseball season, Zens batted .282, while being named an All-Region outfielder.

The 5-foot-7 outfielder also plays for the Miner-McCook County Legion baseball team. Last season he batted .309 with 21 RBIs and 31 runs scored. He bats from the left side and throws right handed.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	9	15	.375	7 1/2
Charlotte	6	15	.286	9
Cleveland	13	7	.650	—
Chicago	13	8	.619	1/2
Milwaukee	11	12	.478	3 1/2
Indiana	7	15	.318	7
Detroit	2	16	.111	11

Western Conference	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	17	4	.810	—
Houston	16	4	.800	1/2
San Antonio	15	6	.714	2
Dallas	17	7	.708	1 1/2
New Orleans	10	11	.476	7

Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	17	5	.773	—
Denver	9	12	.429	7 1/2
Oklahoma City	8	13	.381	8 1/2
Utah	6	16	.273	11
Minnesota	5	16	.238	11 1/2

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, December 11
BASKETBALL, BOYS' Crofton at West Boyd; Ewing at Allen; Ponca at Randolph.
BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Coling at Andes Central; Crofton at Boyd County; Ewing at Allen; Freeman at Parker; Marion at Canistota; Ponca at Randolph; Tripp-Delmont-Armour vs. Kimball-White Lake at White Lake.
GYMNASTICS, PREP YHS/S.F. O'Gorman at S.F. Roosevelt (5:30 p.m.).
WRESTLING, PREP Firebrand Quint (Alcester-Hudson, Parker, 5 p.m.); Lyman Quad (Andes Central, 6 p.m.); Adrian/Canton/Parkston at Tri-Valley (5 p.m.); Bon Homme-Scotland vs. Crofton-Bloomfield at Crofton (7 p.m.); Burke-Gregory/Wagner at Winner (5:30 p.m.); Creighton at Boone Central-Newman Grove.
Friday, December 12
BASKETBALL, BOYS' YHS at Watertown (7 p.m.); KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM; Alcester-Hudson at Freeman Academy, Allen at Homer; Clearwater-Orchard vs. Niobrara-Verdigre at Verdigré; Creighton at Neigh-Oakdale; Dakota Valley at Tea Area; Elk Point-Jefferson at Canton; Emerson-Hubbard at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge; Gayville-Volin at Baltic; Marty Indian at Lower Brule; O'Neill at Hartington Cedar Catholic; Osmond at Wynot; Santee at Elkhorn Valley; Scotland vs. Burke-South Central at Bonesteel; Viborg-Hurley at Freeman; Wakefield at Wausa; Winside at Bloomfield.
BASKETBALL, BOYS' JV YHS at Watertown (4 p.m.).
BASKETBALL, BOYS' SOPH YHS at Watertown (5:30 p.m.).
BASKETBALL, BOYS' 9TH YHS at Watertown (4 p.m.).
BASKETBALL, BOYS' Alcester-Hudson at

Freeman Academy; Allen at Homer; Avon at Gregory; Bon Homme at Vermillion (7:45 p.m., KVTK-AM); Clearwater-Orchard vs. Niobrara-Verdigre at Verdigré; Creighton at Neigh-Oakdale; Elk Point-Jefferson at Canton; Emerson-Hubbard at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge; Gayville-Volin at Baltic; Marty Indian at Lower Brule; O'Neill at Hartington Cedar Catholic; Osmond at Wynot; Santee at Elkhorn Valley; Tea Area at Parkston; Wakefield at Wausa; Winside at Bloomfield (4 p.m.); Vermillion at S.F. Roosevelt.
HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV Yankton at Sioux Center (8 p.m.).
WRESTLING, PREP Brandon Valley/Dakota Valley/Vermillion at YHS (5:30 p.m.).
Saturday, December 13
BASKETBALL, MEN'S MMC at Concordia (4 p.m.); KYNT-AM; USD vs. UNLV at Sioux Falls (7 p.m., KVHT-FM).
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S MMC at Concordia (2 p.m., KYNT-AM).
BASKETBALL, BOYS' Tea Area Classic (Beresford vs. Aberdeen Roncalli; Centerville; Bloomfield vs. Niobrara-Verdigre at Niobrara; Freeman Academy vs. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland at Rutland; Guardian Angels Central Catholic at Crofton; Irene-Wakonda at Ponca; Madison at Elk Point-Jefferson; Menno vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Tripp; Parker vs. McCook Central-Montrose at Montrose; Platte-Geddes at Dakota Catholic; Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Wakefield-Allen, 9:30 a.m.); Western Inv. at Akron (Creighton, Elk Point-Jefferson, Ponca, 10 a.m.); West Point-Beemer Inv. (Crofton-Bloomfield, Randolph).
Sunday, December 14
HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Rushmore at Yankton (10 a.m.).
HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Rushmore at Yankton (8 a.m.).
HOCKEY, PEEWEE Yankton 'C' at Oahe (11 a.m.).

USA TODAY WOMEN'S TOP 25 POLL

The top 25 teams in the USA Today women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 8, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1.	South Carolina (24)	8-0	792	2
2.	UConn (6)	6-1	739	3
3.	Texas (2)	7-0	725	4
4.	Notre Dame	8-1	691	1
5.	Texas A&M	9-0	680	5
6.	North Carolina	8-0	646	6
7.	Stanford	5-2	584	9
8.	Kentucky	8-1	556	13
9.	Baylor	6-1	530	11
10.	Louisville	8-1	504	7
11.	Maryland	7-2	470	10
12.	Duke	5-3	428	8
13.	Tennessee	6-2	418	14
14.	Oregon State	7-0	333	18
15.	Nebraska	7-1	309	15
16.	Oklahoma State	6-1	269	17
17.	California	7-1	263	12
18.	Georgia	10-0	256	23
19.	Rutgers	7-1	232	20
20.	West Virginia	6-1	189	21
21.	Michigan State	5-2	158	21
22.	Mississippi State	8-0	140	25
23.	Syracuse	6-1	140	22
24.	Iowa	7-2	105	19
25.	DePaul	6-2	64	24

Others receiving votes: St. John's 38, James Madison 26, Northwestern 14, Florida State 11, Oklahoma 11, Green Bay 8, Michigan 7, South Florida 7, Western Kentucky 7, Seton Hall 6, Washington 4, George Washington 3, Dayton 2, Arizona State 1, Tulane 1, Washington State 1.

MOONSHINERS

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Kevin White 208, Rich Hinkley 202, Bob Wieseler 200, Wendy Wiebelhaus 199, Carol Myers 175, Bonnie Welch 175
 HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Kevin White 530, Terry Wiebelhaus 530, Wendy Wiebelhaus 478, Elaine Lane 451
 STANDINGS: JB Auto 77.5-27.5, Westlys 64-41, Steamway 55.5-49.5, L&S 54.5-50.5, Flynn Great Whites 42-63
 CLASSIC LEAGUE
 HIGH TEAM GAME: Manitou 992
 HIGH TEAM SERIES: Manitou 2896
 HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Ryan Weverstad 286, JJ Peterson 279, Scott Byrkeland 279, Steve Shutt 279, Don Casey 268
 HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Scott Byrkeland 788, JJ Peterson 755, Ryan Weverstad 733, Frank Osborn Jr. 725, Mike Barta 702
 STANDINGS: Manitou 112, Barta Electric 83, Janssen's Garbage Service 70, Eisenbraun & Associates 60.5, Coke Zero 53.5, The Varsity Pub 52.5, Smidt Capers & Crew 50, Plath Chiropractic 44

NCAD DIVISION II PLAYOFFS

Quarterfinals, Saturday, Dec. 6
 North Dakota State 27, South Dakota State 24
 Eastern Washington 37, Montana 20
 Villanova 29, Liberty 22
Quarterfinals
 Friday, Dec. 12
 Chattanooga (10-3) at New Hampshire (11-1), 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
 Coastal Carolina (12-1) vs. North Dakota State (12-1), 11 a.m.
 Sam Houston State (10-4) at Villanova (11-2), noon
 Illinois State (11-1) at Eastern Washington (11-2), 3 p.m.

CLASS AA ALL-STATE TEAM

As chosen by the S.D. Volleyball Coaches Association
First Team
 Brianna Kusler, jr., Aberdeen Central
 Macy Denzer, jr., Watertown
 Taryn Kloth, sr., O'Gorman
 Tagyn Larson, sr., Roosevelt
 Maddie Goetz, jr., Aberdeen Central
 Jacey Hupp, sr., Huron
 Samantha Zell, sr., Huron
Second Team
 Becky Frick, jr., Yankton
 Samantha Slaughter, so., Harrisburg
 Dalee Stene, sr., O'Gorman
 Sydney Daane, sr., RC Stevens
 Hannah Paauw, jr., Brandon Valley
 Jessica Mieras, sr., O'Gorman
 Cassidy Steele, sr., RC Stevens

SEMIFINALS, SATURDAY, DEC. 6

Concord (W.Va.) 32, Bloomsburg 26
 West Georgia 31, Valdosta State 17
 Minnesota State (Mankato) 44, Minnesota-Duluth 17
 Colorado State-Pueblo 31, Ohio Dominican 28
Semifinals, Saturday, Dec. 13
 Concord (W.Va.) (13-0) at Minnesota State (Mankato) (13-0), 2 p.m.
 West Georgia (12-2) at Colorado State-Pueblo (12-1), 5:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S JUST FOR FUN LEAGUE

RESULTS: Riverside Autobody def. Larry's Heating & Cooling 21-19, 21-14, 21-12; Phinney's def. Ice House 22-20, 21-11, 21-10; Itsy Bitsy Spikers def. Budlight Spikaholics 21-18, 21-8, 21-12; Mojos def. Just For Kicks (forfeit).
 STANDINGS: Mojos 5-0, Phinney's 4-1, Ice House 3-2, Riverside Autobody 3-2, Larry's Heating & Cooling 2-3, Itsy Bitsy Spikers 2-3, Budlight Spikaholics 1-4, Just For Kicks 0-5

SEMIFINALS, JAN. 1

At Pasadena, Calif.
 Oregon (12-1) vs. Florida State (13-0), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
At New Orleans
 Alabama (12-1) vs. Ohio State (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Championship, Jan. 12
 At Arlington, Texas
 Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Thursday, Dec. 11
 Arizona at St. Louis, 8:25 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 14
 Oakland at Kansas City, noon
 Pittsburgh at Atlanta, noon
 Washington at N.Y. Giants, noon
 Miami at New England, noon
 Houston at Indianapolis, noon
 Jacksonville at Baltimore, noon
 Green Bay at Buffalo, noon
 Tampa Bay at Carolina, noon
 Cincinnati at Cleveland, noon
 Denver at San Diego, 3:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Jets at Tennessee, 3:05 p.m.
 San Francisco at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.
 Dallas at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 15
 New Orleans at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAD FCS PLAYOFFS
Second Round, Saturday, Dec. 6
 New Hampshire 44, Fordham 19
 Chattanooga 35, Indiana State 14
 Coastal Carolina 36, Richmond 15
 Illinois State 41, Northern Iowa 21
 Sam Houston State 37, Jacksonville

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

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 L.A. Clippers 103, Indiana 96
 Charlotte 96, Boston 87
 Atlanta 95, Philadelphia 79
 Chicago 105, Brooklyn 80
 Dallas 112, New Orleans 107
 Minnesota 90, Portland 82
Thursday's Games
 Cleveland at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
 Houston at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.

TUESDAY NIGHT MIXED

HIGH TEAM GAME: TCB 505
 HIGH TEAM SERIES: RTBN 1393
 HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Todd Moody 267, Kelly Merrin 247, Steve Obr 235, Ryan Weverstad 235, Annabelle Merrin 206, Sharon Merrin 203, Lonnie Remington 181
 HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Todd Moody 740, Kelly Merrin 656, Steve Obr 659, Annabelle Moody 530, Sharon Merrin 500, Lonnie Remington 483
 STANDINGS: S&L Date Nite 20.5-18-10, RTBN 17-11, The Call Gals 17-10, TCB 16-12, Vikes 16-12, Gutter Mattes 15-13, Changing Lanes 15-10, 2 Broke Girls 14.5-13.5, Ten Pins 14-14, 5-Pinners 14-13, The Split Ends 12-16, Alley Kates 12-14, Yogi & BooBoo 11.5-16.5, Missils 11-17, Split Happens 6.5-21.5
 HIGHLIGHTS: Elmer Misar 3-10, Hal

ASSOCIATION BASKETBALL

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	16	6	.727	—
Brooklyn	8	12	.400	7
Boston	7	13	.350	8
New York	4	19	.174	12 1/2
Philadelphia	2	19	.095	13 1/2

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