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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As sports editor James Cimburek and I sat down a couple weeks ago to come up with our annual list of top 10 sports stories from the past year, we agreed on most of the 'big' stories. But as you can imagine, narrowing a list down to 10 is certainly challenging.

In the case of the Press & Dakotan, we cover nearly 40 high schools across two states, an NAIA college (Mount Marty) and an NCAA Division I school (University of South Dakota). And so naturally, you've got a wide array of issues to deal with.

There were, in our eyes, three 'major' stories from the past year that needed to find a spot in the • USD women's basketball winning the Summit League tournament and reaching the NCAA Tour-

· Yankton High School football team winning a state Class 11AA title, capping a perfect season,

• A dominant year for Crofton girls' athletics. The Warriors won state titles in basketball, track and cross country, and finished second at state in volleyball.

One of the first things that came to mind for me — as it usually does in a list like this — was national prominence. Which of those issues had an impact beyond Yankton and the surrounding area? The answer was clear, the USD women.

So once we slotted the Coyote basketball story at No. 1, the rest of the list came together fairly easy. Stories like Yankton archery, Trey Krier taking over Yankton girls' basketball, Craig Smith hired at USD, pole vaulter Emily Grove and USD breaking ground on building projects soon found their

Of course, with any list like this, you have to make tough choices, and have to ultimately leap-frog certain items over others

In the case of our top 10 list, stories such as Parkston football (winning first-ever state title), Parkston wrestling (repeating as state champion), USD diver Greyson Hertling's dominance of Summit League diving scene and the Yankton boys' basketball team reaching the state tournament for the first time since 2008 fell just short of our list.

What do you think of our list? We'd like to hear from you. Both James and I are active on Twitter, with James at @JCimburek and myself at @jhoeck. Otherwise you can email the sports department

Hope you enjoyed the list.

Narrowing Sports Stories To Top 10 Proved To Be Challenging

Crofton Booster Club Basketball Tourney Jan. 24-25

CROFTON, Neb. — The Crofton Booster Club will host a youth basketball tournament on Jan. 24-25 in Crofton, Nebraska. The tournament is open to boys' and girls' teams in grades 4-8. Grades 7-8 will be in one division.

There is a discount for teams registered prior to Jan. 3, 2015. For more information, contact Theresa Guenther at 402-357-3748 or 605-660-

Mount Marty Youth Basketball Tournaments Set

Mount Marty College will host several youth basketball tournaments in the coming months: Jan. 24 and March 7. Games will be played at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena, with cost based on the number of

Each tournament is open to boys' and girls' teams in grades 4-7. For more information, contact Andy Bernatow at abernatow@mtmc.edu

Skyforce Guard Drew Sets D-League Assists Record

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls Skyforce guard Larry Drew II dished out 23 assists against the Rio Grande Valley Vipers on Christmas night, breaking the NBA Development League record. The previous record of 22 was set by Darry

McDonald of the Skyforce in 1992 and tied in 2007 by Idaho's Randy Livingston. Drew also scored 16 points as the Skyforce downed the Vipers 135-129.

Vikings Thin At Linebacker For Finale Vs. Bears

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) Minnesota Vikings linebacker Chad Greenway is questionable for the season finale because of a knee injury. Greenway didn't practice all week. Coach Mike Zimmer said he probably could have participated Friday, but the team didn't want to risk aggravation.

Greenway's backup, Brandon Watts, was ruled

AREA CALENDAR

out with a hamstring injury. The starter at the other

outside spot, Anthony Barr, is also out with a knee

the roster, plus two practice-squad players that Zimmer said are possibilities for promotion for the game Sunday against Chicago. Tight end Kyle Rudolph (ankle) and wide receiver Jarius Wright (back) were listed as question-

injury. That leaves only Jasper Brinkley, Gerald

Hodges and Audie Cole as healthy linebackers on

UND's Schmaltz Playing For USA In World Juniors

able to play the Bears.

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — University of North Dakota freshman forward Nick Schmaltz has made the final roster of the U.S. National Junior Team that is competing at the 2015 International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championships in Canada.

Schmaltz is the 37th UND player to participate in the World Junior Championships through the years. This year's tournament in Toronto and Montreal began Friday and runs through Jan. 5.

Schmaltz is a native of Verona, Wisconsin. He has three goals and 12 assists in 15 games for UND this season.

Gophers Get Down To Business As Bowl Game Nears

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — It's down to business for the Gophers football squad.

The University of Minnesota team is on the ground in Orlando, Florida ahead of its Jan. 1 Citrus Bowl matchup with Missouri. The Gophers were headed to a high school field Friday for a 75-

This is the team's first January bowl appearance since 1962.

Narduzzi Takes Over At Pitt PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pat Narduzzi is the next

man up at Pittsburgh.

The Panthers officially announced the longtime Michigan State defensive coordinator as their new coach Friday. Narduzzi replaces Paul Chryst, who left Pitt last week after three seasons to become the coach at Wisconsin.

Narduzzi won the Broyles Award as the nation's top assistant in 2013, when Michigan State's defense helped the Spartans to a 13-1 record.

When Would You Like To **Chat Sports?**

We are looking for ways to draw more interest in the Press & Dakotan Sports Chat with James Cimburek and Jeremy Hoeck, which currently runs Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

If a different time slot would make it easier for you to participate, let us know and we will consider moving the chat to a different time or a different day of the week. Tweet at @Yankton-Sports, email sports@yankton.net or call us at

1-605-665-7811, ext. 106 to let us know.

The weekly chat will return on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

YANKTON BOWL

MOONSHINERS
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Rich
Hinckley 268, Terry Wiebelhaus 202,
Wendy Wiebelhaus 176, Carol Myers
174

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Rich Hinckley 647, Al Sinclair 552, Wendy Wiebelhaus 456, Carol Myers 446 STANDINGS: Westys 15-0, Steamway 13-2, JB Auto 13-2, L&S 2-13,

Flyn Great Whites 0-15

CROFTON, NEB. MEN'S COMMERCIAL HIGH TEAM GAME: Wiebelhaus

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Bud Light 2442
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Michael

Zimmerman 248, Steve Honeywell 238, Galen Zimmerman 225 HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Galen

Zimmerman 598, Steve Honeywell 592, Michael Zimmerman 592 A-STANDINGS: Leader Angus 17-3, Bud Light 15-5, Wiebelhaus Rec 5-15, Coor's Light 3-17

B-STANDINGS: DSM Apts 15-5, Crofton Elevator 12-8, Service Master 8-12, Merkel Insulation 5-15 STANDINGS: Michael Zimmerman — 85 over game avg., 103 over series

FOOTBALL

NCAA FCS PLAYOFFS

CHAMPIONSHIP
Saturday, Jan. 10
At FC Dallas Stadium, Frisco, Texas
North Dakota State (14-1) vs. Illinois State (13-1), noon

FBS PLAYOFFS Semifinals, Jan. 1 At Pasadena, Calif. Oregon (12-1) vs. Florida State (13-

0), 4 p.m. (ESPN) 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)

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES NEW ORLEANS: Louisiana-Lafayette 16, Nevada 3 NEW MEXICO: Utah State 21,

LAS VEGAS: Utah 45, Colorado FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO: Air CAMELIA: Bowling Green 33. South

Monday, Dec. 22
MIAMI BEACH: Memphis 55, BYU Tuesday, Dec. 23

BOCA RATON: Marshall 52, North-POINSETTIA: Navy 17, San Diego

Wednesday, Dec. 24 BAHAMAS: Western Kentucky 49, ntral Michigan 48 HAWAII: Rice 30, Fresno State 6 Friday, Dec. 26 HEART OF DALLAS: Louisiana

QUICK LANE: Rutgers 40, North ST. PETERSBURG: UCF (9-3) vs. N.C. State (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Dec. 27

MILITARY: Virginia Tech (6-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3), noon (ESPN) **SUN:** Duke (9-3) vs. Arizona State (9-3), 1 p.m. (CBS) INDEPENDENCE: Miami (6-6) vs with Carolina (6-6), 3 p.m. (ESPN2)
PINSTRIPE: Boston College (7-5)
Penn State (6-6), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
HOLIDAY: Nebraska (9-3) vs. rn Cal (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN) nday, Dec. 29

LIBERTY: West Virginia (7-5) vs.

as A&M (7-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN) RUSSELL ATHLETIC; Clemson (9-3) vs. Oklahoma (8-4), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN) **TEXAS:** Texas (6-6) vs. Arkansas (6-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 30 MUSIC CITY: Notre Dame (7-5) vs. U (8-4), 2 p.m. (ESPN)

BELK: Louisville (9-3) vs. Georgia s), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)

FOSTERS FARM: Stanford (7-5) vs.

Maryland (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN) dnesday, Dec. 31

PEACH: Mississippi (9-3) vs. TCU
-1), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)

FIESTA: Boise State (11-2) vs. Ari-3 p.m. (ESPN)

ORANGE: Mississippi State (10-2) Georgia Tech (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN) irsday, Jan. 1
OUTBACK: Wisconsin (10-3) vs. ourn (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

COTTON: Michigan State (10-2) vs. ylor (11-1), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)
CITRUS: Minnesota (8-4) vs. Misuri (10-3), noon (ABC) ARMED FORCES: Pittsburgh (6-6) Houston (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

TAX SLAYER: lowa (7-5) vs. Ten-

see (6-6), 2:20 p.m. (ESPN) **ALAMO:** UCLA (9-3) vs. Kansas , 5:45 p.m. (ESPN) CACTUS: Oklahoma State (6-6) vs Washington (8-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN) Saturday, Jan. 3 BIRMINGHAM: Florida (6-5) vs.

st Carolina (8-4), noon (ESPN2)
GODADDY: Toledo (8-4) vs.
ransas State (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN) NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

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W L T Pct PF PA 11 4 0 .733 301 252 x-Detroit x-Green Bay Minnesota 11 4 0 .733 456 328 6 9 0 .400 312 334 5 10 0 .333 310 429 Chicago

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Lance Buseman Classic at Centerville (Centerville); Parkston Classic (Wagner vs. Dell Rapids, noon; Parkston vs. Aberdeen Roncalli, 7:30 p.m.); Snowball Classic at Winner (Platte-Ged-HOCKEY, BOYS' Yankton at

HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Yankton at HOCKEY. BANTAM Rushmore HOCKEY, PEEWEE Rushmore at Yankton 'B' (4:30 p.m.); Rushmore

at Yankton 'C' (3 p.m.) BASKETBALL, MEN'S Milwau-e at USD (2 p.m., KVHT-FM) BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S UTSA Tourn. — USD vs. Texas-San Antonio (2:30 p.m., KVHT-FM) HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Sioux Cen-

HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV Yankton at HOCKEY, BANTAM Rushmore HOCKEY, PEEWEE Rushmore at Yankton 'B' (9:30 a.m.); Rushmore at Yankton 'C' (8 a.m.)

Monday, December 29
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S
SA Tourn. USD vs. Chat-

Holiday Tourn. (Wynot vs. O'Neill St. Mary's, 3:45 p.m.; Crofton vs. Ainsworth, 7:15 p.m.); Niobrara-Verdigre Holiday Classic in Verdigre (Allen, Bloomfield, Niobrara-Verdigre, 4:30 p.m.); Parkston Classic (Dakota val-ley vs. Sully Buttes, noon; Hitchcock-Tulare vs. Canistota-Marion, 1:30 nuare vs. Canistota-Wanon, 1-xo p.m.; Corsica-Stickney vs. C-1xo ville, 3 p.m.; Hanson vs. Alcester-Hudson, 4:30 p.m.; Parkston vs. Miller, 6 p.m.; Vermillion vs. McCook Central-Montrose, 7:30 p.m., KVTK-AM); Randolph Holiday Tourn. (Win-Awi, Randolph Holiday Houri. (Will-side vs. Humphrey-Lindsay Holy Family, 3:30 p.m.; Randolph vs. Plain-view, 6:30 p.m.); Wayne Holiday Tourn. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); Wisner-

BASKETBALL, BOYS' Crofton

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Croftor Holiday Tourn. (Wynot vs. O'Neill St Mary's; 2 p.m.; Crofton vs. Ainsworth 5:30 p.m.); Niobrara-Verdigre Holiday Tourn. at Verdigre (Allen, Bloomfield, Niobrara-Verdigre); Randolph Holiday Tourn. (Winside vs. Humphrey-Lindsay Holy Family, 2 p.m.; Randolph vs. ainview, 5 p.m.); Swiftel Classic a Brookings (Hamlin vs. Beresford, 8 p.m.); Wayne Holiday Tourn. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge); Wisner-Pilger Holiday Tourn. (Ponca); Corsica-Stickney at

WRESTLING, PREP S.F. Lincoln

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11 4 0 .733 293 279 x-Seattle San Francisco 7 8 0 .467 286 323 6 9 0 .400 318 334 x-clinched playoff spot

tanooga (noon, KVHT-FM)

Sunday, Dec. 28 Indianapolis at Tennessee, noon Jacksonville at Houston, noon San Diego at Kansas City, noon Chicago at Minnesota, noon Cleveland at Baltimore, noon Dallas at Washington, noon Buffalo at New England, noon Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, noon New Orleans at Tampa Bay, noon Carolina at Atlanta, 3:25 p.m Arizona at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m. Detroit at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m. St. Louis at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.

Oakland at Denver, 3:25 p.m. Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m. END REGULAR SEASON

BASKETBALL NATIONAL BASKETBALL

Friday's Games Brooklyn 109, Boston 107 Cleveland at Orlando, 7 p.m. Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Indiana at Detroit, 7:30 p.m. San Antonio at New Orleans, 8 p.m. Charlotte at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. Houston at Memphis, 8 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. Minnesota at Denver. 9 p.m.

Philadelphia at Portland, 10 p.m. Phoenix at Sacramento, 10 p.m. Saturday's Games Toronto at L.A. Clippers, 2:30 p.m. Boston at Washington, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Memphis at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Chicago, 7 p.m. Indiana at Brooklyn, 7 p.m. Atlanta at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Utah, 8p.m.
New York at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Golden State, 9:30

Detroit at Cleveland, 3:30 p.m. Houston at San Antonio, 6 p.m. Oklahoma City at Dallas, 6:30 p.m. New York at Portland, 8 p.m. Toronto at Denver, 8 p.m. Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS BASEBALL
National League
WASHINGTON NATIONALS —
Agreed to terms with 2B Dan Uggla, 1B Clint Robinson, 3B Ian Stewart and RHPs Heath Bell, Mitch Lively and Scott McGregor on minor league contracts. BASKETBALL

Quincy Acy one game and fined him \$15,000 for a Flagrant Foul Two during Thursday's game. HOUSTON ROCKETS — Signed F Josh Smith. Released F Tarik Black. FOOTBALL

National Basketball Association

National Football League
NFL — Fined Oakland DE Justin
Tuck, San Francisco OT Joe Staley and Detroit DE Ziggy Ansah \$22,050; Seattle RB Marshawn Lynch \$11,050; and San Francisco WR Anquan Boldin \$10,000 for their actions during last week's games. CHICAGO BEARS — Agreed to

terms with C Roberto Garza on a one-

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed OL Alex Boone and S Bubba Ventrone on injured reserve. Signed WT Trindon Holliday to a two-year contract and CB Cameron Fuller from the practice squad.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Released Travian Robertson.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS —

Agreed to terms with WR Louis Murphy HOCKEY

National Hockey League

MONTREAL CANADIENS — As-

work real. Canadilens — Assigned D Dalton Thrower from Hamilton (AHL) to Brampton (ECHL).

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Fired coach Pete DeBoer. Reassigned G Maxime Clermont from Orlando (ECHL) to Albany (AHL).

Daniel, who starred nearby

plan this week. We're excited about it," Daniel said after Friday's workout, "and it was great to get out here and go over the entire game plan."

No. 24 Colo. State Off To Best Start

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) The cohesion was instant at Colorado State, even with all the transfers and junior

college additions. That's because of video game sessions in the locker room after practice. And bowling nights. And movie matinees. And watching fighter Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s last bout at the home of guard Gian Clavell, who whipped up his famed Puerto Rican chicken-and-rice dish his mom taught him to make.

The 24th-ranked Rams are a tight-knit group of overlooked vagabonds arriving from the University of Arizona, Navy, North Carolina Central, Northwest Kansas Technical College, Southern Illinois and places in be-

Colorado State possesses an attitude — picked fifth in the Mountain West preseason poll — and a savvy coach in Larry Eustachy who melds the pieces seamlessly together, helping the Rams (12-0) to their best start in school history. They're one of eight remaining unbeaten teams heading into a game at New Mexico State on Saturday, but will be without starting center Tiel Daniels (calf) and key reserve Clavell hind for treatment.

"The whole team is filled with chips on their shoulders," said Stanton Kidd, a forward from Baltimore who transferred in from North Carolina Central. "Colorado State never gets the respect we deserve. But we don't really care. We just want to win.'

It's easy to see why the Rams didn't receive a whole lot of preseason love: They had a largely unknown group.

Sure, senior sharp-shooter Daniel Bejarano was back, along with senior post player J.J. Avila, who played at Navy before his arrival at Colorado State last season. After that, no one really knew much about the Rams' ensemble.

But they had three players in Daniels (Southern Illinois), John Gillon (Arkansas-Little Rock) and Stanton who practiced all last year even as they sat out under the NCAA transfer rule. So, they had a built-in familiarity. Clavell, a junior college ar-

rival from Caguas, Puerto Rico, fit right in as well, holding dinner parties for the team off the court as the team cooked on it. "We don't care who scores

the most points or who got the most rebounds," Bejarano said. "We have that feel of a brotherhood, of a family. We just find ways to win.' Colorado State captured

the Great Alaska Shootout title in November and turned heads with a 62-60 win at Colorado on Dec. 10. After a nailbiting 85-84 victory at Denver last week, the Rams appeared in the polls for the first time since February 2013. It also marked the first

time in school history that both the basketball and football programs made a Top 25 appearance in the same season. The football team finished 10-3 and recently left for Florida, with former Georgia offensive coordinator Mike Bobo.

Eustachy knew this team had a chance to be special, because "it's fun going to practice," he said.

The good times don't end there. The players go to movies, bowl and play video games as a team. 'That's just us being us,"

Bejarano said. "That close-

ness shows up in the games,

Colorado State marches to the beat of Bejarano, a second-team all-Mountain West player a season ago. He

began his career at Arizona, only to transfer to Fort Collins after things didn't work out in Tucson.

The topic remains a sore subject.

["]At Arizona, I don't think I got a shot. I was told I couldn't play defense, couldn't play Division I," Bejarano said. "That's a lot of motivation. Coach Eustachy has impacted my life. He's bonded us together." Eustachy knows about

second chances. He resigned from Iowa State in 2003 after pictures of the coach partying with students surfaced and went into rehabilitation to treat alcoholism. He resurrected his career

at Southern Mississippi then joined Colorado State in 2012, the third and fourth schools he's taken to the NCAA tournament.

Eustachy does his homework, finding players who will help the program, not hinder. "Just because vou make

some mistakes in high school doesn't mean you can't correct them," said Eustachy, who also has five players on the roster from Colorado and another from Regina, Saskatchewan. "We've taken transfers for one year and orked out well Like Kidd, who started at

South Plains College in Texas and then went to North Carolina Central, where he averaged 14.5 points in 2012-13. After a year out, he's making up for lost time, scoring 12.5 points a game this season. "Everyone's like, 'Where

did this kid Stanton come from? Where did this kid Tiel Daniels come from? How did this kid Bejarano become such an all-around player?" Kidd said. "It's surprising to all of us, but at the same time it's expected. We're built on winning and we're all buying

From Page 8

kept wide receiver Dwavne Bowe from practicing all of last week, so Smith and the training staff suspected that might be the cause.

The Chiefs had off for Christmas and Smith didn't want to leave his family, but a team doctor helped persuade him to undergo a scan, which to his surprise found a 3-centimeter laceration. There was only a bit of bleeding, though, which explained why Smith

had so few symptoms.

"If you would take another shot there and the laceration would increase, then you have a medical emergency," Burkholder said. "This is a 1-in-100 find for our doctors because he didn't have any signs of a spleen (injury). Burkholder said scans also

revealed a slight enlargement of the spleen, and Smith will have more testing to determine why that's the case. Burkholder said it may just be natural. It's a non-surgical case. It

will heal on its own, but he is

time down from contacts and

going to have to have some

collisions," Burkholder said. "I won't go as far as to say that we saved a life, but you saved something that could go on

at Missouri, was acquired by the Chiefs last season. He's appeared in only seven games since, mostly in mop-up duty, but was 21 of 30 for 200 yards with a TD pass and no interceptions in that 27-24 loss to San Diego last year. We have a sharp game

Huskers From Page 8

efficiency is currently better than USC's season record of 164.6 by Mark Sanchez in 2008. He has thrown for 3,505 yards and 36 touchdowns, with just four interceptions.

AMEER ABDULLAH: Despite being slowed by a sprained left knee suffered Nov. 1 against Purdue, the Nebraska running back will finish one of the most prolific careers in Nebraska history. With 1,523 yards, he has registered his third straight 1,000-yard season, a first in Cornhuskers history. He has

4,500 career yards, trailing only Mike Rozier's record 4,780 yards. **BITTERSWEET**: Cotton's

time at Nebraska is coming to an end. A 1983 Cornhuskers graduate, he has been on the staff as associate head coach for the past seven seasons, and has eight seasons total as an assistant at Nebraska, where he's coached his sons. "I've had a nice seven-year run here and I've been very blessed," he said. "Even though it's kind of a sad time, it's coming to an end. I couldn't have been more blessed to be back at Nebraska.

BEST TEAM: Sarkisian said the combination of Abdullah and quarterback

Dr. Dan Johnson

Tommy Armstrong Jr. make the Cornhuskers the best team the Trojans have faced this year. "Every run you can think of, they have, whether it's the fly sweep, whether it's a designed quarterback runs, whether it's the traditional run game, and they do it with tempo," Sarkisian said. "Makes it really, really difficult, makes it hard.

QUOTABLE: "If I'm the Holiday Bowl, I'm pretty ecstatic that I've got USC and Nebraska in this game," Sarkisian said. "Two Top 25 teams in America that have traditional programs that have won Heisman trophies, national championships and a bunch of other accolades. This is a heck of a game.

NFC North

From Page 8

chart at center. He might be matched up against defensive lineman Mike Daniels. one of the keys to the Packers' improved

RUNNING MEN: Welcome back, Reggie Bush. The veteran, who has been slowed by injuries this season, had seven carries for 54 vards and a touchdown last week against the Bears, while also catching six passes for 44 yards The Packers' running game has improved in the second half of the season

following a sluggish start, which included

a 76-vard outing in the Week 3 loss at Detroit. Eddie Lacy, who is over the 1,000yard mark for the second straight season,

and James Starks will have to earn yards against the Lions' stout run defense. **CLAY-MAKER**: Packers linebacker Clay Matthews is on a pass-rushing roll with 5 1/2 sacks in his last three games to get to 10 on the season.

"The one thing you look for more im-

ATTENTION

portant than the sacks is the pressure that's being generated, and I felt myself around the quarterback a lot these last several games," Matthews said. Green Bay has 10 sacks overall in its

last two games.

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