

USD Hires Consulting Firm For Coach Search

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION – To help in the search for a new head football coach, the University of South Dakota is utilizing College Sports Solutions, a consulting firm based out of Atlanta, Georgia, USD athletic director David Herbster said Monday.

Though he did not divulge any names, Herbster did say that USD, in coordination with the firm, has established a preliminary list of candidates to replace Joe Glenn, who announced his retirement a week ago.

“We’ve got our list; we know who’s interested,” Herbster said. “We’re slowly narrowing down that list, trying to get to that point where we can have some face to face conversations.” College Sports Solutions

(CSS) is led by founder Jeff Schemmel, a former Division I athletic director (such as Minnesota and San Diego State) whose son, Jon, serves as SUD’s senior associate athletic director for Development.

The firm will cast a wide net – across all divisions – for potential candidates, Herbster said.

“Their reach is pretty extensive,” he said. “Their level of experience in the NCAA is pretty vast and pretty wide.”

As far as a timeline? Herbster again reiterated his belief that USD will move fast on the search, possibly having a new coach named within the next week or two.

The trick to this particular search, he pointed out, was the timing. Glenn announced his retirement a week ago, and the combination of the Thanksgiving

holiday and certain candidates still coaching their teams made things a little tricky.

“It’s always tough because a good number of the people we’re talking to are still coaching,” Herbster said. “But I would say, I like our candidates very much.”

USD Looking For FBS Game

The other situation facing Herbster and his staff in the past week was the official news that California had canceled its 2016 football game with USD.

California, of the Pac-12 Conference, was granted a waiver by the NCAA to open its 2016 season a week earlier against Hawaii, in Sydney, Australia. That meant the Golden Bears would have to cancel the Sept. 3 game against the Coyotes to accom-



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
University of South Dakota athletic director David Herbster, right, speaks at football coach Joe Glenn’s retirement announcement last week in Vermillion. USD has hired a consulting firm to help in the search for a new coach, Herbster said Monday.

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Frick, Brunsing Among Nine Recruits For DWU Volleyball

MITCHELL – Yankton’s Becky Frick and Wagner’s Emily Brunsing are among the nine recruits announced by the Dakota Wesleyan volleyball program on Monday. Frick had announced her commitment earlier in the season.

Frick, a 5-11 outside hitter, finished her Gazelle career ranked second on Yankton’s all-time kills list with 847 and the team’s single-match leader with 32. She finished her career with 127 aces, 856 digs and 145 blocks, earning all-Eastern South Dakota Conference honors each of the past three seasons. She also played club volleyball for the Yankton Storm, and will play for the CPAC club team this spring.

In addition to volleyball, Frick also competed in basketball and golf for the Gazelles, earning four varsity letters in basketball and five in golf. She was named to the All-ESD Second Team in basketball as a junior. She was also a member of the All-ESD team in golf for her freshman, sophomore and junior seasons and All-State her sophomore and junior seasons.

Frick is a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to major in exercise science at DWU and is the daughter of Brian and Susie Frick.

Brunsing, a 6-0 middle, earned four varsity letters for Wagner, finishing her career with 830 kills, 201 solo blocks, 250 total blocks and a hitting percentage of .261.

Brunsing was named to the Little Missouri Valley All-Conference team and Southeast South Dakota Conference All-Tournament Team in 2013, 2014 and 2015. She also earned All-State Honorable Mention honors after her 2014 season. She played vital role for Wagner in a fifth place finish at the 2013 State ‘A’ Tournament. In addition to playing high school volleyball for the Raiders, Brunsing played club volleyball in Mitchell for two years.

Brunsing is a four-year letter winner in basketball and track for the Raiders. She was named to the Little Missouri Valley All-Conference team and Southeast South Dakota Conference All-Tournament Team in 2013 and 2014 for basketball. She was also a state track qualifier and school record holder in the medley relay in 2015 and a state qualifier in the 4X800 in 2014.

Also committing to DWU are Hannah Capko (OH) of Corvallis, Montana; Kimball-White Lake’s Jessica Backes (OH/RH), Wolsey-Wessington’s Brittany Bergquist (MH), Winner’s Sydney Fritz (OH), Lead-Deadwood’s Sydnee Hamann (MH), Baltic’s Madison Roberts (DS) and West Central’s Melissa Wollman (OH).

S.D. All-State Football

Warriors Rule 11B Team

Champion Winner Has Six Players Recognized

BY GARRICK HODGE
Mitchell Daily Republic

Class 11B football was dominated by the Winner Warriors in 2015.

The South Dakota Football Coaches Association took notice when selecting the Class 11B all-state high school team.

The team – released by the South Dakota Sportswriters Association – consisted of six Winner football players. The names include quarterback Drew DeMers, fullback Riley Frazier, running back Windsor Barry, tackle Krocket Krolkowski, guard Jayden Schroeder and defensive end Isaac Naasz.

All six were integral parts of Winner’s undefeated season that culminated with a state championship, as the Warriors defeated Tri-Valley 45-6.

“Those honors come with team success,” Winner head coach Dan Aaker said of his all-state players. “It’s nice to see those awards come with it for the guys, but those things come hand in hand.”

Winner rolled through the season, forcing a running clock in each contest and outscoring its opponents 594-26.

The Warriors could be favorites to repeat in 2016, as DeMers, Krolkowski, Schroeder and Naasz will be back next season.

“The expectations will be high,” Aaker said. “Anytime you follow up a year like you had this year, expectations soar the year after. It’s all going to come down to if

guys stay hungry and put the work in for next year in the offseason.”

Here’s a capsule look at each player on the all-state squad:

Offense

• **Winner junior quarterback Drew DeMers:** The 5-foot-10, 155-pound DeMers benefited from a strong Warriors running game, but the junior made plays for Winner with his arm when he had to. Demers completed 28-of-43 passes for a 65 percent completion rate. He also threw for 592 yards, tossed 12 touchdowns and had one interception. He is a 60 percent passer in his career with 732 yards, 14 touchdowns and one interception.

• **Winner senior fullback Riley Frazier:** Frazier was an essential part of Winner’s one-two punch on the ground. He had 65 carries for 679 yards (averaging 10.4 yards per carry) and 13 touchdowns this season. In his career, Frazier tallied 1,062 yards and 19 touchdowns for the Warriors.

• **Sioux Valley senior running back Brock Swartos:** The 6-foot, 200-pound running back carried the Sioux Valley ground attack. He had 1,262 rushing yards and amassed 16 touchdowns in 2015. He finished his career at Sioux Valley with 1,843 rushing yards and 24 touchdowns. This was the second time Swartos made the all-state team as a first-team selection.

• **Winner senior running back Windsor Barry:** Barry — the other member of the two-headed rushing attack for Winner — gashed opposing defenses on the ground this season. The 6-foot, 180-pound running back averaged 13 yards per carry this season for the Warriors. In 2015, Barry ran for 882 yards on 71 carries and amassed 19 rushing touchdowns.

• **Sioux Valley senior wide receiver Collin Kramer:** The 6-foot-7, 190-pound target stood tall in the Cosacks’ offense. He caught 25 passes for 344 yards, averaging 13.8 yards per catch. Kramer was a two-time Class 11B

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P&D FILE PHOTO

Winner’s Jayden Schroeder takes down Tri-Valley running back Brenton Hanisch during the Class 11B championship game on Nov. 13 at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Schroeder was one of six Winner players named to the Class 11B All-State Team.

Michigan State-Iowa A Blue Collar Matchup For Big Ten Title

BY NOAH TRISTER
AP Sports Writer

Over the past few seasons under coach Mark Dantonio, Michigan State has become one of the Big Ten’s top programs, while embracing seemingly every opportunity to use perceived slights as motivation.

Now the Spartans are in the Big Ten championship game — and they’re favored by a few points over an undefeated Iowa team.

Maybe it’s the Hawkeyes who should be clamoring about disrespect. “They’re undefeated. They’re 12-0,” Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook said. “They’ve beaten some really good opponents, pretty good teams, this year. I don’t know what’s going on in their locker room. I don’t know what they’re talking about. But I’m sure they have similar thoughts that go through their head that we’ve had.”

When the fifth-ranked Spartans face the fourth-ranked Hawkeyes in Saturday’s showdown, a berth in college football’s playoff will almost certainly be at stake. Yet this isn’t what many fans have in mind when they think about the glamor teams of the Big Ten. Ohio State, the defending national champion, lost to Michigan State this year. So did Jim Harbaugh and Michigan. Iowa beat Wisconsin and Nebraska, the brand names of the West

Division.

Michigan State-Iowa is a blue collar matchup between programs that still have to fight a bit for recognition and respect.

“We’re two programs that like to play physical football,” Iowa offensive lineman Austin Blythe said. “They’re going to play the full 60, and they’ll take it into overtime if they have to. Just two really good programs that respect each other and understand what they bring to the table and understand that it’s going to be a 60-minute fight.”

The spread offense craze never really caught on at Michigan State and Iowa. The Spartans do have an outstanding quarterback in Cook, but despite his pro potential and Michigan State’s fine season, he doesn’t appear to have gotten much traction in the Heisman Trophy race.

The Spartans are making their third appearance in the Big Ten title game in five years, but they rarely make major news on national signing day. Iowa’s 2015 recruiting class was ranked 51st in the nation by Scout.com, right between Syracuse and Rutgers. Maybe this year’s run will help the Hawkeyes attract more top prospects, but it’s hard to envision them recruiting the kinds of classes that routinely end up at Ohio State or Alabama.

The Spartans (11-1) have reached 11 wins for the fifth time in the past

six years, and coach Mark Dantonio says in some ways, he tried to pattern Michigan State’s system after Iowa’s.

“They come to play every game,” Dantonio said. “Iowa, they always had a workmanlike attitude. They always went to work, they always played people tough, they always seemed to win consistently. They were very well coached, their players played very firm up front on both sides of the ball. That’s who we wanted to be.”

This will be one big matchup without much pregame animosity. Michigan State and Iowa haven’t played each other since 2013, and although the Hawkeyes handed the Spartans their only regular-season loss in 2010, that game feels like a long time ago.

Michigan State has a rivalry with Michigan and has played big games against Ohio State and Wisconsin. The Spartans don’t have much of a reason to dislike Iowa — although that could always change once this weekend’s clash kicks off.

“You need to understand that you’re playing for a championship,” Michigan State defensive lineman Shilique Calhoun said. “We’ve competed against those guys and they’ve been great competitors, but at the end of the day you have to understand that this is another goal that we’re trying to obtain as a team, and Iowa is another team that we have to face that’s in the way.”

5-7 Bowl Teams To Be Selected In Order Of Academic Rating

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

After a bad season on the field for Mike Riley’s first Nebraska team, some good work in the classroom by the Huskers when Bo Pelini was coach will keep Big Red playing football this season.

Missouri, however, will pass on a chance to play in a bowl game with a 5-7 record.

The NCAA Division I council approved a plan Monday that will make teams with 5-7 records eligible for at least two bowl bids — and as many as five — based on their Academic Progress Rates.

The council approved a recommendation made by the football oversight committee that was necessary to fill the record 40 bowls after not enough teams met the standard bowl-eligibility requirements.

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Theme Night:
Wild, Wild West

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