

SPORTS DIGEST

USD's Bergner Named To Valley's All-Academic Team

VERMILLION — South Dakota junior punter and place-kicker Miles Bergner (Longmont, Colo.) has been named to the Missouri Valley Football Conference All-Academic Team announced Wednesday by the conference office. Bergner is the only special teams player named to the 24-man team.

Bergner, who earned all-MVFC honors as a place-kicker Monday, made all 27 extra-point attempts and 14 of 22 field goals during the season. He had five makes of at least 45 yards including one from 50 and another from 53. He also had 18 touchbacks on 47 kickoffs.

Bergner averaged 41.4 yards per punt, which ranked fourth in the Valley and 23rd nationally. He pinned 17 punts inside the 20 and had 14 go for more than 50 yards. Bergner is on the CFPA Watch List as both a punter and place-kicker.

South Dakota State had a league-best six honorees, including first-team selections Shayne Gottlob, Nick Mears and Jake Wieneke. Bryce Siverling, Jesse Bobbit and Cole Langer were second-team selections for the Jackrabbits.

DWU's Sabers Ties School Record In Win At Dordt

SIOUX CENTER, Iowa — Dakota Wesleyan's Kristin Sabers, the reigning Great Plains Athletic Conference Player of the Week, tied a DWU record with eight three-pointers as the Tigers beat Dordt 93-65 in GPAC women's basketball action on Wednesday.

Sabers finished with a game-high 26 points as well as six assists. Erica Herrold (Parkston) added 22 points.

For Dordt, Alissa Pollema scored 20 points off the bench to lead the way.

S.D. Academic All-State Volleyball Honors Announced

CHESTER — Eight members of the Yankton Gazelles volleyball team were named Academic All-State for the 2015 season. The honors were announced by the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association earlier this week.

Hannah Bockholt, Amy Doering, Sophie Drotzmann,

Ellie Fedders, Becky Frick, Sydney Ingalls, Presley Pasco and Danielle Salvatore were honored by the SDVBCA. No other Class AA program had more than six honorees. Mount Vernon-Plankinton led all classes with nine honorees.

Here are the other area student-athletes honored. To be honored, a senior student-athlete, statistician or manager must have a 3.5 cumulative grade-point average or better and have participated for three or more seasons.

ALCESTER-HUDSON: Cassie Schaefer
ANDES CENTRAL-DAKOTA CHRISTIAN: Abbi Baan Hoffman, Lydia Hansum, Kennedy Muckey, Madisyn Gray, Erica Kitchenmaster, Mikayla Petsche
BON HOMME: Alie Adams, Morgan Rothschild, Michelle Sestak, Morgan McAllister

GAYVILLE-VOLIN: Genevieve Clark, Viola Ishmael
PARKER: Hannah Carlson, Contessa Harold, Hannah Herlyn, Danielle Geis
PARKSTON: Sydney Weber, Katie Lucas, Susan Roth, Brittany Waltz

PLATTE-GEDES: Jenna Erickson, Sam Ringling
VIBORG-HURLEY: Abby Hora, Cassandra Voss
WAGNER: Ali Kuca, Emily Brunsing, Tayleigh Kaup, Krista

Dvorak, Brooke Roth

Tulane Hires Northern Iowa's Dannen As New Athletic Director

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Tulane has named Troy Dannen as the university's new athletics director, luring him away from the same spot at Northern Iowa.

The announcement, made Wednesday by Tulane president Michael FITTS, comes as the Green Wave seeks a new football coach to take over for Curtis Johnson, who was fired last weekend following a second straight 3-9 season.

Fitts says Dannen was hired because he has "demonstrated outstanding leadership and success in every job, at every level," and because of "his dedication to his student-athletes and his goal to win championships in every sport."

Dannen says Tulane, which recently built a new on-campus football stadium and a new practice center for basketball, was attractive to him because it has built a "terrific infrastructure" that has set the university up to win.

NFL Owners Set Special Los Angeles Vote Meeting For Jan. 12-13

BY BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

IRVING, Texas (AP) — NFL owners have punted on allowing teams to move to Los Angeles — at least for five weeks.

The owners on Wednesday set a special meeting to deal with a possible relocation of teams to Los Angeles for Jan. 12-13 in Houston. But Commissioner Roger Goodell admitted there might not even be a vote then.

"It's not a requirement that we vote at that meeting," Goodell said. "There are still a lot of unknowns to make that prediction."

The Rams, Raiders and Chargers are interested in moving to LA, which has not had an NFL franchise since the Rams and Raiders left after the 1994 season. But the 32 owners, 24 of whom are required to OK a franchise relocation, are seeking more information from the cities hoping to retain their franchises: St. Louis, Oakland and San Diego.

There also is nothing close to a clear consensus on approval of either of the stadium proposals for LA.

Rams owner Stan Kroenke is planning a billion-dollar stadium in Inglewood, California, while the Raiders and Chargers have a joint project in mind for nearby Carson. Kroenke also is willing to share his proposed stadium with either the Chargers or Raiders.

"All the proposals must be in by the end of December," Giants co-owner Steve Tisch said, adding "it is the strong hope" of the league that the vote on relocation will come out of that meeting.

"It's so tough to talk about drop-dead dates because this is herding cats," Tisch said, drawing chuckles from reporters.

Colts owner Jimmy Irsay added that getting 24 owners

to approve any of the proposals was a difficult chore, but was optimistic a decision would be made in Houston. He also strongly defended the three-quarters majority for approval.

"We've had this three-quarter rule that's in existence for a long time. It's a strong foundation of our league," Irsay said. "Usually when you get a three-quarters vote, you get 24 teams, you really have a good decision, a thoughtful decision made by more than just a simple majority."

"Right now, if we were voting today, I don't see anything getting 24 votes. That certainly can change with more discussion. We want to hear more as we move forward in the next five weeks. I think there will be a vote (in January)."

Goodell said he believes the Los Angeles relocation committee "intends to make a recommendation" on the LA stadium proposals at some point, even if it is not in Houston. He added "the membership wants them to make a recommendation."

Goodell consistently has advised against establishing a timeline on the issue.

"I am in favor of making sure this is done the right way," he said. "The ownership has expressed their desire to get this done in a reasonable amount of time."

In St. Louis, a governor-appointed stadium task force is developing plans for a \$1 billion stadium along the Mississippi River as part of the effort to either keep the Rams or even lure another team.

That project is much further along than anything proposed by San Diego. Oakland has made virtually no viable stadium proposals, the NFL has said repeatedly.

There's even the possibility the Rams could wind up in Los Angeles and another team moves to St. Louis if a

satisfactory new stadium is built.

"It's going to be musical chairs," Tisch said. "Well, it is musical chairs right now. But the music hasn't stopped yet. That seat hasn't been removed."

Also Wednesday:

—Goodell said he asked the league's powerful competition committee to look into how games are officiated, and the size of the rule book. He's seeking suggestions on clarifying and simplifying the rules, as well as how the league trains officials. Goodell said "no stone will be left unturned" in examining and improving officiating.

The NFL has been plagued by missed or erroneous calls in games this season.

—Goodell has asked various "football personnel" to examine the confusing catch rule. He reached out last month to former players, coaches, general managers and others, "to come together and try and see if we can study this and come up with proposals for the competition committee to consider."

What constitutes a completed catch has been a controversial subject for years. Goodell wants those people to examine how the play is officiated and coached, and "how fans react to this."

—The owners voted to allow compensatory draft picks to be traded beginning in 2017. In the past, those picks — awarded to teams for losing a certain number of free agents — have not been tradeable.

—The league reduced the window for player agents to contact teams about free agents. That goes from three days before the expiration of a player's contract to two days.

AP Sports Schuyler Dixon contributed to this report.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL									
NCAA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION PLAYOFFS									
SECOND ROUND									
Saturday, Dec. 5									
William & Mary (9-3) at Richmond (8-3), 11 a.m.	Denver	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
The Citadel (9-3) at Charleston Southern (9-2), noon	Kansas City	6	9	0	.818	252	207		
Colgate (8-4) at James Madison (9-2), noon	Oakland	5	6	0	.455	264	280		
Western Illinois (7-5) at Illinois State (9-2), 1 p.m.	San Diego	3	8	0	.273	244	307		
Chattanooga (9-3) at Jacksonville State (10-1), 1 p.m.									
Montana (8-4) at North Dakota State (9-2), 2:30 p.m.									
Sam Houston State (9-3) at McNeese State (10-0), 6 p.m.									
Northern Iowa (8-4) at Portland State (9-2), 9 p.m.									

NCAA DIVISION II PLAYOFFS									
Quarterfinals, Saturday, Dec. 5									
Slippery Rock (12-1) at Shepherd (11-0), 11 a.m.	Arizona	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
Tuskegee (10-2) at West Georgia (10-1), 11 a.m.	Seattle	6	5	0	.818	355	229		
Emporia State (10-2) at Northwest Missouri State (11-0), noon	St. Louis	4	7	0	.364	186	230		
Colorado State-Pueblo (12-1) vs. Grand Valley State (11-2), 1 p.m.	San Francisco	3	8	0	.273	152	271		

NAIA PLAYOFFS									
Semifinals, Saturday, Dec. 5									
Marian (Ind.) (10-2) at Saint Francis (Ind.) (11-0), 11 a.m.									
Southern Oregon (10-2) at Morning-side (Iowa) (12-1), noon									

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE									
AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
East									
New England	10	1	0	.909	347	212			
N.Y. Jets	6	5	0	.545	272	228			
Buffalo	5	6	0	.455	266	257			
Miami	4	7	0	.364	225	287			

South									
Indianapolis	6	5	0	.545	249	260			
Houston	6	5	0	.545	232	234			
Jacksonville	4	7	0	.364	236	299			
Tennessee	2	9	0	.182	203	257			
North									
Cincinnati	9	2	0	.818	297	193			
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545	266	230			
Baltimore	4	7	0	.364	259	276			
Cleveland	2	9	0	.182	213	310			
West									

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, December 3									
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S									
Drake at USD (7 p.m., KYNT-FM)									
BASKETBALL, BOYS'									
Niobrara-Verdigré at Stuart, Walhalla at Santee; Wynot at Bloomfield									
BASKETBALL, GIRLS'									
Hartington Cedar Catholic at Crofton; Niobrara-Verdigré at Stuart, Walhalla at Santee; Wynot at Bloomfield									
GYMNASTICS, PREP Mitchell'									
Parkston-Ethan-Hanson at YHS (5:30 p.m.)									
WRESTLING, PREP									
Battle Creek at Creighton (6:30 p.m.); Bon Homme-Scotland at Wagner (6:30 p.m.); Crofton-Bloomfield at Pierce (6:30 p.m.); Kimball White Lake-Platte-Geddes-Stanley County/Todd County at Lyman (6 p.m.); Randolph at Stanton; Scribner-Snyder at Hartington Cedar Catholic									

Friday, December 4									
BASKETBALL, BOYS'									
Allen at Wakefield; Crofton at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge; Elgin Public-Pope John vs. Niobrara-Verdigré at Verdigré; Hartington Cedar Catholic at Boone Central-Newman Grove; Hartington-Newcastle at Ponca; Osmond at Randolph; Plainview at Wausa; Santee at Omaha Nation; West Holt at Creighton; Winside at Wynot									
BASKETBALL, GIRLS'									
Allen at Wakefield; Crofton at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge; Elgin Public-Pope John vs. Niobrara-Verdigré at Verdigré; Hartington Cedar Catholic at Boone Central-Newman Grove; Hartington-Newcastle at Ponca; Osmond at Randolph; Plainview at Wausa; Santee at Omaha Nation; West Holt at Creighton; Winside at Wynot									
BOWLING, CLUB HS									
O'Gorman vs. Vermillion at Yankton									
HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV									
Brookings at Yankton (8 p.m.)									
HOCKEY, BANTAM S.F.									
West at Yankton (6:15 p.m.)									
Saturday, December 5									
BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD									
at Minnesota (12 p.m., KYNT-FM, BTN Plus); Ogilvie Lakota at MMC (4 p.m.)									
BASKETBALL, MEN'S JV In-									

Sunday, Dec. 6									
Arizona at St. Louis, noon									
Seattle at Minnesota, noon									
Jacksonville at Tennessee, noon									
San Francisco at Chicago, noon									
N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants, noon									
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, noon									
Buffalo at Buffalo, noon									
Baltimore at Miami, noon									
Cincinnati at Cleveland, noon									
Denver at San Diego, 3:05 p.m.									
Kansas City at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.									
Carolina at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m.									
Philadelphia at New England, 3:25 p.m.									
Sunday, Dec. 7									
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.									
Monday, Dec. 7									
Dallas at Washington, 7:30 p.m.									
Tuesday, Dec. 10									
Minnesota at Arizona, 7:25 p.m.									
Saturday, Dec. 13									
Detroit at St. Louis, noon									
San Diego at Kansas City, noon									
Washington at Chicago, noon									
Buffalo at Philadelphia, noon									
San Francisco at Cleveland, noon									
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, noon									
Tennessee at N.Y. Jets, noon									
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, noon									
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, noon									
Atlanta at Carolina, noon									
Seattle at Baltimore, noon									

Oakland at Denver, 3:05 p.m.

Dallas at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m.

New England at Houston, 7:30 p.m.

Arizona State Edges Creighton 79-77

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Geoffrey Groselle was called for goaltending on Tra Holder's layup try with 15 seconds left to give Arizona State the lead, and Creighton's Cole Huff missed two free throws and a 3-point try at the buzzer as the Sun Devils defeated the Bluejays