

# Coyotes Power Past Kansas City

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — The prospect of a let-down was certainly possible. It was even something University of South Dakota men's basketball coach Craig Smith said he thought about immediately after last Saturday's emotional, double overtime win at Minnesota.

The Coyotes couldn't afford to play sloppy. "You immediately think about, 'We better be ready to go in three days,'" Smith said after his team beat Kansas City 79-70 on Tuesday night at the DakotaDome.

There were certainly times — particularly early — when it looked like USD (6-3) wasn't entirely locked in against the Kangaroos, who had earlier this season beaten South Dakota State.

That was perhaps to be expected, as Smith said, given USD basically had a day and a half to prepare for a Kansas City squad that is long, athletic and aggressive.

"Once we got through about the first 10-12 minutes, and a lot of screaming and yelling, we figured some things out," Smith said.

Any sign of a potential let-down were squashed once the Coyotes started to beat the 2-2-1 press and started getting out in transition.

"We weren't really focused on going out there and having anything to prove, we just wanted to out there and play basically as hard as it could," said senior Tre Burnette, who had 18 points and seven rebounds.

On a night when USD's guards struggled early — leading scorer Casey Kasperbauer (14.5) was limited to three points — senior reserve Trey Norris provided a late spark.

Norris, who played 27 minutes, scored 12 of his team-high 19 points in the final 5:02.

It wasn't as though Norris lifted the Coyotes from a huge deficit into the lead (USD led 66-56 when he started his surge), but his calming presence was the key for the Coyotes.

"We expect that that out of T-Nill, coming in and giving us a spark," Burnette said. "We

look to him to be one of the leaders on the team."

Norris said later that because of the way Kansas City was playing Kasperbauer (who was 1-of-7 shooting), it opened things up a bit for him to get some open looks.

"The shots just found me a couple times and I knocked them down," Norris said.

With USD leading 67-61 with 2:18 remaining, Norris hit a three-pointer with the shot winding down. On the next trip, he tacked another three-pointer to give the Coyotes a double-digit lead.

"He plays with a chip on his shoulder," Smith said. "He's not afraid of a whole lot.

"I've always felt he's a better shooter than his numbers show," the coach added. "When he shoots a three, I always feel comfortable with it."

Another USD senior, Eric Robertson, came up big for the Coyotes. This week's Summit League Player of the Week, Robertson scored 12 points and rabbed nine rebounds.

And off the bench, freshman post Dan Jech continued to impress. Jech — who Smith anchors USD defensively — scored 10 points and hauled in six rebounds.

LaVell Bell led Kansas City (5-4) with 25 points.

Off to their best start since the 2007-08 season, the Coyotes will look for a sixth straight win Saturday when Cal State Bakersfield comes to the Dome.

The key to USD's hot streak of late?

"The last five games we won, our preparation has been on key with the scouting report before games," Norris said.

"Our coaching staff puts us in a great position to win."

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UMKC (5-4)  
Steward 2-6 1-2 6, Bell 10-19 0-0 25, Smith 0-0 0-2 0, Harrison 2-10 1-2 5, Austin 3-10 3-4 9, King 1-2 0-0 2, Leach 0-0 0-0 0, Shayok 3-3 0-0 6, Newbill 5-9 3-3 13, Leek 1-4 0-0 2, Tillman 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 28-65 8-13 70.

S. DAKOTA (6-3)  
Robertson 5-9 2-4 12, Burnette 8-13 1-1 18, McClelland 4-7 1-5 9, Kasperbauer 1-7 0-0 3, Davis 3-4 0-1 6, Norris 5-8 6-7 19, Dickerson 0-0 0-0 0, Mayot 0-0 0-0 0, Hagedorn 1-3 0-0 2, Jech 3-7 4-5 10. Totals 30-58 14-23 79.

Halftime—S. Dakota 37-34, 3-Point Goals\_UMKC 6-26 (Bell 5-13, Steward 1-4, Austin 0-2, Leek 0-2, Harrison 0-5), S. Dakota 5-15 (Norris 3-4, Burnette 1-3, Kasperbauer 1-6, Hagedorn 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—UMKC 39 (Newbill 7), S. Dakota 33 (Robertson 9). Assists—UMKC 14 (Harrison 5), S. Dakota 16 (McClelland, Norris 4). Total Fouls—UMKC 20, S. Dakota 16. A—1,423.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
South Dakota's Shy McClelland goes in for a layup during the Coyotes' men's basketball matchup with Kansas City on Tuesday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

## Jackrabbits Roll Past Minnesota

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jake Bittle scored a career-high 25 points for South Dakota State, which dominated from start to finish on both ends of the floor for an 84-70 victory Tuesday over Minnesota, the second loss in four days at home by the Gophers to a border-state team from the mid-major Summit League.

Deondre Parks pitched in 21 points for the Jackrabbits (8-1), who played without second-leading scorer George Marshall. Picked for the preseason All-Summit League first team with fellow senior guards Bittle and Parks, Marshall had a walking boot on his right foot.

Nate Mason scored 18 points and Kevin Dorsey added 16 points for the Gophers (5-4), who were beaten 85-81 by South Dakota at home on Saturday in double overtime. The Coyotes were predicted in the annual poll of coaches, sports information directors and media to finish fifth in the nine-team conference. The Jackrabbits, who made the NCAA tournament in 2012 and 2013 and won 24 games last season, were the landslide favorite to win the league.

Minnesota entered the evening as the second-worst defensive team in the Big Ten, allowing an average of 74.6 points per game, and South Dakota State took full advantage by shooting 11 for 19 from 3-point range. Bittle swished his second one about 6 1/2 minutes into the game, giving the Jackrabbits a 17-5 lead. The Gophers didn't cut the deficit below

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# Wrestling: Yankton Earns Sweep In Home Quad



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Yankton's Ray Wermers shoots in on Lennox's Brock Stien during their 160-pound match, part of a wrestling quadrangular at the Summit Center on Tuesday. Wermers got the pin in 1:13, helping the Bucks to a sweep of the event.

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND  
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Senior Spencer Huber and sophomore Ray Wermers each notched three pins as Yankton defeated Lennox 42-39, Sioux Falls Lincoln 58-18, and Washington 42-39, to sweep the Yankton Quad on Tuesday in Yankton.

"Ray Wermers came out and did a great job," Yankton coach Riley Smith said. "Spencer Huber always leads by example and came out and did what he needed to do."

Along with Huber at 132 and Wermers at 160, freshman Jarret Rueb and senior Brock Folkers each won all of their matches at 106 and 195, respectively. Huber took down Lennox's Mitchell Messersmith, Lincoln's Brandon Bedell, and Washington's Freddy Sanchez all within

the first two minutes of the match.

"I came ready, I knew some of my opponents, and I wrestled tough I guess," Huber said. "That was great, at home especially, we had a good crowd and a good turnout for the student section, which I was happy for."

The dual wins come in Yankton's first home event, and just second event of the season following a dual tournament in Watertown last Saturday that saw them finish 1-3 on the day. Smith thought they had to make some adjustments to get better results.

"We started off with Watertown and w took some lumps there and we had to adjust and we didn't have a lot of time," Smith said. "We did some readjusting, we talked about a few things

we've got to work on, and that really showed.

"To come out and make those adjustments, that's what makes a difference, and that's what wins those close duals."

Yankton started the quad by facing Lennox and quickly found themselves down 33-12, with only Rueb and Huber scoring for the Bucks, but they would go on to win five of the final six matches in the duel to take it 42-39. In the final stretch, Wermers and Folkers secured pins and Yankton picked up forfeit victories at 170, 182, and 285.

"Lennox we had to do some shifting to come out with that win," Smith said. "We had to bump up a little bit so we could come out with that win at heavyweight and the win at the end."

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# Volleyball: Hitters Dominate Class A All-State Team



P&D FILE PHOTO  
Dakota Valley sophomore outside htter Meredith Lammers was named to the Class A all-state first team, as selected by the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association. Lammers was a second-team selection a year ago.

## DV's Meredith Lammers Named To First Team

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Players who could finish a point in front and could contribute in back were an emphasis as the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association chose its Class A All-State Volleyball Team.

The first team was comprised of four middle hitters and two outside hitters, five of which play the full rotation. Senior Shelby Zomermaand and sophomore Ellie Voss of state champion Sioux Falls Christian were honored, as were seniors Miranda Gallagher of Lead-Deadwood, Sydney Fritz of Redfield-Doland, Dakota Valley sophomore Meredith Lammers rounded out the first-team selections.

Zomermaand, the only repeat first-team selection from a season ago, posted 196 kills, 25 ace serves, 31 blocks and 128 digs in helping the Chargers win a fifth title in six years.

"Shelby is an excellent all-around player. She is very solid in front and in back," said Sioux Falls Christian

head coach Darcy Wassenaar. "She is a great leader. We needed her on the court all the time."

Zomermaand is currently undecided on a college destination, but is looking at opportunities to continue her playing career.

One of those players under Zomermaand's win was her opposite middle, Voss, who recorded 300 kills, 57 ace serves, 40 blocks and 49 digs on the season.

"Ellie has really grown a lot as a player and a person this season," Wassenaar said. "She's a great player already. It will be exciting to see what is ahead for her."

Fritz, a second-team selection a season ago, posted 456 kills, 43 ace serves, 37 blocks and 263 digs for a Winner squad that overcame the losses of two starters to advance to the Region 7A title match.

"She's a hard worker, at practice after practice and in the summer," said Winner head coach Jaime Keiser. "She wants to win, and she'll do what is best for the team."

This season that included taking a pair of inexperienced

middles under her wing after injuries thrust them into the starting lineup.

"We had two very young middles, both with zero varsity experience," Keiser said of the Dakota Wesleyan recruit. "She was very patient with them. She worked with them a lot in practice and after practice, especially on reading opposing hitters."

Rozell, a second-team selection a year ago, posted 332 kills, 35 ace serves, 115 blocks and 217 digs for the Pheasants. Of her 115 blocks, 74 were solo.

"She is a good all-around volleyball player," said Redfield-Doland head coach Joel Osborn. "She was one of those players coming in during the summer and working hard. By doing that, she made a lot of other girls around her better, too."

Rozell is undecided about her collegiate future, but has received offers to walk on, according to Osborn.

"If she does (play college volleyball), those college coaches will be pleasantly surprised," he said. "She has been a great role model for our kids."

Gallagher, a three-year starter for Lead-Deadwood, has been the ultimate stat-sheet filler for the Goldiggers during her career, finish-

ing with over 1,100 kills and 1,000 digs in four seasons. She posted 423 kills, 267 digs, 65 ace serves and 85 blocks in 2015.

"She has been a major contributor to how successful we have been," said Lead-Deadwood head coach Joe Williams. "She is a natural leader, as an athlete and as a person."

Gallagher has been contacted by several schools but has not received any official offers, according to Williams.

Lammers, a second-team selection as a freshman, notched 250 kills, 34 ace serves, 38 blocks and 302 digs for the Panthers. Her twin sister, Elizabeth, is an honorable mention selection.

Earning second-team recognition were seniors Megan Bultsma and Makaela Karst of runner-up Mount Vernon-Plankinton, seniors Ashton Burditt and Shelby Dittman of third place Spearfish, senior Tiffany Bjorklund of Sioux Valley and senior Ali Kuca of Wagner.

Burditt was the only setter named to first or second team — the other 11 selections are either outside or middle hitters. Karst was a second-team selection for a second straight season.

Honorable mention rec-

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