



P&D FILE PHOTO
Yankton's Becky Frick was named second-team all-state by the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association.

Volleyball: Class AA All-State Team Announced

Yankton's Frick Named To Second Team

By Troy Maroney
The Register

The power shift in Class AA volleyball to the Eastern South Dakota Conference in 2015 was reflected by the makeup of the All-State honor squads as nominated and voted on by the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association.

Six of the seven first-team selections hailed from the ESD, led by Aberdeen Central's Brianna Kusler, who helped lead the Golden Eagles to the state championship and added the title of Class AA Miss Volleyball, as well.

Joining Kusler on the honor squad are Alex Anderson of Sioux Falls O'Gorman, Sarah Carr of Huron, Macy Denzer of Watertown, Hanna Jellema of Brandon Valley, Samantha Slaughter of Harrisburg and Sara Tvedt of Brookings.

The second team's lineup included Becky Frick of Yankton, Rylie Kooima of Sioux Falls Roosevelt, Becca Koehn and Taylor Thorson of Brandon Valley, Rachel Nelson and Avery Thorson of Harrisburg and Anezka Szabo of Sioux Falls Lincoln.

n Brianna Kusler, OH, Aberdeen Central

Kusler has already committed to join Curt Frederickson's Northern State basketball team, but she went out with a bang to end her volleyball career.

The 5-10 senior finished with 298 kills and 234 digs, to go along with 29 blocks (nine solo and 20 assists), and added seven set assists. The all-tournament selection added 28 kills, 44 digs, nine block assists, four solo blocks, four aces and two set assists as the Eagles didn't drop a set in their state tournament run.

"Brianna is one of the best players that I have coached in 24 years," said Central head coach Dennis Northrup. "She can do anything that she wants on the volleyball court - her stats prove that she can play volleyball.

"Her other resume is what is impressive. She has many hours of volunteer work, church activities, Student Senate, National Honor Society, and everything else."

n Alex Anderson, OH, Sioux Falls O'Gorman

The 5-8 senior helped lead the Lady Knights to a third-place finish at the 2015 State Tournament. Along the way, she totaled 344 kills, 37 solo blocks, 78 block assist, 187 digs and 28 service aces. Anderson added 36 kills, 30 digs, eight service aces and a pair of block assists in the state tournament to earn all-tournament honors.

"Alex is a two-year starter and has been on the varsity team since she was a freshman," said O'Gorman head coach Julie Kolbeck. "An outside hitter with an amazing vertical, she has the ability

to hit most balls out of system and is a very disciplined volleyball player dedicated to her craft.

"She has aspirations to play at the collegiate level with no decisions made at this point."

n Sarah Carr, OH, Huron

The 5-11 senior, who has committed to play basketball at Dakota Wesleyan University, helped lead the Tigers to a AA State Tournament berth where they finished eighth.

She had 256 kills, 190 digs, 42 service aces, 27 blocks (two solo) and 10 set assists during the regular season before adding 45 kills, 43 digs, seven assists, four aces and four block assists during the state tournament to earn all-tournament accolades.

"Sarah has been on the varsity for four years, playing key roles for the past two seasons," said Huron head coach Shelly Buddenhagen. "Last year, she played middle blocker on a team which placed third at the state tournament, but she moved to the outside hitter position in the midst of this current season in order to provide a young, inexperienced team with power, while increasing our termination probability both from the back and front row. As she grew into the position, so did the team.

"For much of the season, she has been the lone senior on the court for us and therefore has had to shoulder exponential leadership duties and stability on and off the court. Because

USD Women Roll At San Jose State

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Jasmine Trimboli scored a career-high 15 points off the bench as South Dakota downed San Jose State 87-77 on women's basketball action on Tuesday at The Event Center in San Jose, California.

Tia Hemiller scored 19 points and Nicole Seekamp had 15 points, 11 assists and four steals for USD (6-3), winners of six straight. Margaret McCloud and Kelly Stewart each scored eight points in the win.

Dezz Ramos scored a game-high 31 points and had seven assists to lead SJSU (1-6). Jasmine Smith scored 18 points and Nyre Harris added 10 points in the effort.

USD shot 55.3 percent from the field as it built a 54-37 halftime lead. Hemiller's three-pointer to start the second half gave the Coyotes their largest lead, 57-37, but SJSU began to cut into the margin, edging as close as nine points in the fourth quarter.

USD returns home to face Washington from the Pac 12 Conference on Saturday. Game time is 8 p.m. at the DakotaDome.

SOUTH DAKOTA (6-3)
Margaret McCloud 4-6 0-2 8, Tia Hemiller 8-13 0-1 19, Kelly Stewart 1-4 5-6 8, Caitlin Duffy 2-7 0-0 6, Nicole Seekamp 6-16 1-1 15, Jasmine Trimboli 6-10 0-0 15, Allison Arens 2-3 1-1 5, Jaycee Bradley 1-2 0-0 3, Bridget Arens 1-2 3-4 5, Madeline Homoly 0-0 0-0 0, Kate Liveringhouse 1-3 1-2 3, Heidi Hoff 0-2 0-0 0, Abigail Fogg 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 32-69 11-17 87.

SAN JOSE STATE (1-6)
Jasmine Smith 8-10 2-4 18, Ellie Stevens 0-4 0-0 0, Nyre Harris 4-9 2-3 10, Rachol West 0-4 0-0 0, Dezz Ramos 12-18 3-3 31, Mychonique Ladd 0-0 0-0 0, Andrea Kohlhaas 0-0 0-0 0, Paris Baird 0-1 0-0 0, Emily Vann 1-2 0-0 3, Kalle Matthews 3-3 1-1 8, Riana Byrd 2-6 3-4 7. TOTALS: 30-57 11-15 77.

SOUTH DAKOTA.....30 54 69 87
SAN JOSE STATE.....20 37 58 77

Three-Pointers: USD 12-25 (Hemiller 3-6, Trimboli 3-4, Duffy 2-5, Seekamp 2-4, Stewart 1-3, Bradley 1-1, A. Arens 0-1, Hoff 0-1), SJSU 6-16 (Ramos 4-5, Vann 1-2, Matthews 1-1, Stevens 0-1, Harris 0-3, West 0-3, Baird 0-1). Rebounds: USD 34 (McCloud 6, Hemiller 6), SJSU 31 (Stevens 8). Personal Fouls: SJSU 18, USD 17. Fouled Out: Stevens. Assists: USD 23 (Seekamp 11), SJSU 22 (Ramos 7). Turnovers: SJSU 22, USD 15. Blocked Shots: USD 2, SJSU 1. Steals: USD 15 (Seekamp 4), SJSU 6 (Stevens 2, Harris 2). Attendance: 217.

Basketball | Summit League

League Off To Record-Breaking Start



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
South Dakota's Eric Robertson attacks the basket against the Kansas City defense during a game on Tuesday. USD is one of three Summit League schools with victories against Power 5 conference this season, helping the league to a record RPI ranking of 10th.

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Scott Nagy sees the momentum. It's only a matter of time, he says.

Getting a second Summit League men's basketball team into the NCAA Tournament is a constant goal for the South Dakota State head coach.

His Jackrabbits have been close. Last season, for example, SDSU had 23 victories but lost to North Dakota State in the conference tournament title game – therefore ending a bid for the NCAA Tournament. The Jackrabbits, who would finish 24-11, got to the second round of the NIT.

It's the 'Big Dance' that Nagy, and his fellow Summit League coaches, is after, though. Slowly but surely, Nagy said Wednesday, it will happen for two league teams.

"We want to be that kind of team where we're good enough to get an at-large bid," Nagy said.

And so far this season, the Jackrabbits (8-1) – like many others across the Summit League – are putting together the kind of early resume that would warrant a second look.

South Dakota State owns two of the league's four Power 5 Conference victories (TCU of the Big 12 and Minnesota of the Big Ten) and has helped vault the Summit League to No. 10 in the latest Division I conference RPI – the league's highest-ever mark.

A lot of numbers – from RPI rankings to records – could and will be thrown at you, but they all serve to prove the same point: The Summit League is off to one of its best starts ever.

"Our league's probably way better than what people anticipated, and maybe even better than some within the league thought too," Nagy said.

The nine-member Summit League boasts a Division I record of 40-28 and has a 34-11 mark against fellow mid-major teams.

It has been games against high-major teams, however, that has really vaulted the conference up the RPI ladder and on to the national radar.

Western Illinois got things rolling with a victory over then-No. 17 Wisconsin of the Big Ten, followed eight days later by SDSU beating TCU. And then in a 4-day span this last week, the University of South Dakota beat Minnesota last Saturday, and SDSU then trounced the Gophers on Tuesday night.

There have been other notable mid-major wins – USD beat Eastern Washington, an NCAA Tournament team from last season – along the way, and the Summit League will need more of them to really assure itself of an at-large bid.

"If we can continue to play well, it would be the hope that maybe someday, we would get one more than one team in the NCAA tournament," Nagy said. "And these are the kinds of things that help."

Especially in the Summit League.

The one-bid format, as it stands now, is wholly reliant on the conference tournament, where high-major teams can put together an impressive enough regular season resume to warrant consideration.

In the time being, though, all it takes for a Summit League team to reach the 'Big Dance' is three wins over three – or four – days at the conference tournament in March. Put another way, the team with the most impressive regular season resume may not reach the NCAA Tournament.

"That's certainly not the

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Wildcats Split With Walthill

HARTINGTON, Neb. – Wila Scoville scored 12 points and Sophie Noecker added 11 points as Hartington-Newcastle downed Walthill 54-40 in Lewis & Clark Conference girls' basketball action on Tuesday.

Belle Harms had nine rebounds and Camie Stratman had seven rebounds and seven steals in the victory.

Hartington-Newcastle hosts Emerson-Hubbard on Monday. Walthill travels to Whiting, Iowa, today.

WALTHILL.....8 17 26 40
HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE (1-2)....18 32 43 54

Cedar Catholic 62, Bloomfield 42

HARTINGTON, Neb. – The Hartington Cedar Catholic Trojans led 19-2 after the first quarter on their way to a 62-42 victory over Bloomfield on Tuesday night in Hartington.

Taylor Lammers scored 11 points and Maddie Wieseler had 10 points to lead Cedar Catholic. Five different players had six or more points in

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Changes Coming After Bowl System Reaches Record 40 Games

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The bowl system has finally snapped after years of being stretched thin.

Three teams with losing records will be among the 80 playing in a record 40 bowl games over the next month and two teams from the same conference will play each other in a bowl.

This offseason, a task force will study the bowl system, intent on making changes to prevent that from happening again. The NCAA has largely removed itself from the bowl business, allowing conferences, communities and television networks to create postseason games. The NCAA is not looking to take control of the bowls, but everyone agrees adjustments are needed.

"The members are going to have to figure out, what's the purpose of bowl games?" NCAA President Mark Emmert told reporters Wednesday at the IMG Intercollegiate Athletics Forum. "Is it a reward for a successful season or is it just another game that we're going to provide an opportunity for?"

Ten years ago a bit less than 50 percent of the FBS earned a postseason bid. This season, 63 percent of 127 FBS teams will play in bowls, including new games in Florida and Arizona.

The new NCAA football oversight committee was forced to tweak a safety net policy to allow 5-7 teams to be bowl-eligible based on their Academic Progress Rates. That let the Big Ten fill its contracted bowl spots with Nebraska and Minnesota, though the new Arizona Bowl in Tucson ended having to match Mountain West rivals.

Colorado State and Nevada, who play in different divisions and didn't meet this season, will play Dec. 29. That angered Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson.

"Clearly, the system is broken," Thompson said in a statement. Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby leads the football oversight committee and said the goal of the task force is not specifically to cut bowl games.

"I think the fact is we do have too many bowl games and we have more bowl games waiting in the wings,"

Bowlsby said. "But you can't fault the communities from going and ahead and doing something if they want to. We're going to have to do a deep dive on it and figure it out."

Figuring it out won't be easy. There are some clear disagreements among major players.

ACC Commissioner John Swofford said athletic directors in his conference would prefer teams be at least 7-5 to be bowl eligible. Currently, the minimum requirement for bowl eligibility is six victories and a .500 record.

"For the Southeastern Conference, the opportunity for 6-6 teams to participate is important," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said.

As many established bowls made deals with Power Five conferences in recent years, Group of Five conferences such as the Mountain West, American Athletic Conference and Mid-American Conference have worked to create bowls to provide postseason opportunities for their members.

Last season, Temple of the American went 6-6 and didn't go to a bowl game.

South Florida Athletic

Director Mark Harlan said it was tough to hear his counterpart at Temple, Patrick Kraft, recount the story of how he told last year's team it wouldn't be playing in the postseason.

"We have to make sure 6-6 teams are rewarded," Harlan said.

Some have suggested drawing a hard line at six victories and not filling spots if there are not enough eligible teams.

"We're going to have a candid conversation about bowls either going dark, that's an assumption of risk that they'll have to understand that there might not be teams, or do you structure a set of expectations, whether it's some criteria bowls have to meet to be a part of consideration," Sankey said.

It's early to speculate on what changes are coming, but some are expected.

"In our society, sometimes we don't put up a traffic light until there have been a couple of accidents at an intersection," FBA executive director Wright Waters said during a teleconference with reporters this week. "This may be the opportunity to force that conversation."

Creighton Rolls Past Nebraska

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Isaiah Zierden scored 17 points, Geoffrey Groselle added 15 and Creighton defeated Nebraska 83-67 on Wednesday night, the Bluejays' fifth win in a row over their in-state rival.

The Bluejays (6-3) have won 10 straight home regular-season meetings with the Cornhuskers (6-4), with their only loss to them in Omaha the last 20 years coming in the 2004 NIT.

Nebraska's Andrew White followed his 30-point game against Abilene Christian on Saturday with 28 against the Bluejays.

Creighton got off to a fast start, as it has often in recent meetings with Nebraska, and was up 21-7 less than eight minutes into the game. Nebraska got within four points early in the second half, but the Bluejays broke things open with a 16-2 run.

Shavon Shields, who was averaging 15.9 points, was held to a season-low six.

The Bluejays, who were coming off back-to-back losses to Arizona State and Loyola-Chicago, avoided their first three-game nonconference

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