

Vision, 'Bold Goals' Bring Nielson To USD

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VERMILLION – Through his stoic and serious exterior, Bob Nielson made clear during his introductory press conference that he was thinking long-term. Does that include championships for the University of South Dakota?

Yes. That's the goal, the new Coyote coach said Tuesday.

"I think if you don't have bold goals, you'll never achieve bold goals," he said after his speech in Vermillion.

"I came here with the confidence that we can continue to move forward, and from my standpoint, the next step is to be a team that's competing for a championship."

Hired away from Western Illinois, where he was this season named Coach of the Year in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, the 56-year-old Nielson takes over a USD program that won 6 of 32 league games under former coach Joe Glenn.

While the Coyotes were certainly competitive within the Missouri Valley, Nielson's talk of winning league titles certainly caught some attention. Bold, yes, but within grasp, sure.

"That may sound bold, and I understand how hard that's going to be in this league, but that's going to be our belief and the goal we work toward," said Nielson, who will have an annual base salary of \$255,000.

Widely known for his ability to turn programs into playoff contenders, Nielson – who boasts 186 career wins in 23 seasons – talked at length during his 5-minute speech at the podium about the vision he sees at USD.

It was a vision he wanted to be part of, he said.

"Part of the decision to come here was based on the future," said Nielson, who guided Western Illinois to a 7-6 record this season and a berth in the FCS playoffs – the Leathernecks lost in the second round.

That was the kind of success USD envisioned when it began the search process three weeks ago after Glenn retired; someone who had a track record of winning, according to athletic director David Herbster.

It didn't take long for Nielson enter the radar, he said.

What followed were a series of back-and-forth conversations that ultimately led Nielson to agree to come to Vermillion. USD officials flew to Macomb on Monday to pick up Nielson and his wife, Terri.

"It's not often you hire a



Bob Nielson, right, address the gathering at Tuesday's press conference announcing his selection as the next head football coach for the University of South Dakota.

USD Steps Up To The Plate To Hire Nielson

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VERMILLION – The realization that the University of South Dakota was doing things a little differently than it had in the past was perhaps driven home Monday when athletic department officials took a ride on a jet to pick up their new football coach.

The other, more pressing, realization facing USD in the pursuit of a coach was that it was going to have to drastically increase the base salary for that position.

"If you're going to be competitive, you've got to pay competitively," athletic director David Herbster said Tuesday, after Bob Nielson was introduced as the next Coyote head coach.

With that in mind, USD and Nielson agreed to a base salary of \$255,000. That marks a 71 percent increase from what former Coyote coach Joe Glenn was making (\$145,000) when he retired.

That jump also thrusts Nielson into the top-5 among highest-paid coaches in the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

According to media reports and available salary reports, North Dakota State coach Chris Klieman makes the most, at \$326,000 per year. Then comes Illinois State coach Brock Spack (\$300K), Northern Iowa coach Mark Farley (\$296K), Missouri State coach Dave Steckel (\$270K) and Nielson.

The 56-year-old Nielson had been making \$206,000 per year at Western Illinois, where he was this season named the Coach of the Year in the Missouri Valley.

Now that the salary for its new coach is set, USD's next task, Herbster said, is to ensure that the salary pool is such that Nielson can attract the kind of staff that can also make the Coyotes competitive within the league.

"That's a big part of it," Herbster said. "We made an investment in the things we needed to do to address the football program. That's getting Bob and then allowing him to get a staff here."

Asked during his introductory press conference Tuesday about the makeup of his staff, Nielson said that's a process he hopes to have completed by the end of the week.

Not known is the future of

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SDSU Women Upend No. 16 DePaul 88-79

BROOKINGS (AP) — Macy Miller scored 19 points and Clarissa Ober had 15 points and 10 rebounds as South Dakota State knocked off No. 16 DePaul 88-79 on Tuesday night.

South Dakota State (9-2) raced to take a 13-point lead after one and 15 by intermission.

The Blue Devils (7-4) rallied, cutting the Jackrabbits' lead to eight points through three quarters but Ober sandwiched a pair of layups around a Miller 3-pointer to push the lead back to 13 points with 7:11 remaining.

DePaul cut the lead to five points, 84-79 with 35 seconds remaining but South Dakota State closed it out by hitting 4 of 6 from the free throw line.

Madison Guebert scored 16 points and Kerri Young dished out eight assists for the Jackrabbits, who now have beaten a Top 25 opponent in each of the last four seasons.

Chanise Jenkins and Megan Podkova scored 22 and 21 points, respectively, to lead DePaul.

S. DAKOTA ST. 88, No. 16 DEPAUL 79
 DEPAUL (7-4)
 Jenkins 9-14 1-2 22, Young 5-9 3-4 13, Schulte 6-13 0-0 14, Miller 2-4 1-1 5, Ober 5-6 0-0 11, Cornemann 3-3 0-0 9, Totals 33-54 12-16 88.

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Ponca Girls Down Laurel-Concord-Coleridge

LAUREL, Neb. – The Ponca Indians defeated the Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Bears by a score of 51-41 on Tuesday night in Laurel.

For the Bears, Bryn Schutte recorded 12 points and six steals. Lorna Maxon added nine points, while Katie Leapley finished the game with a team-high eight rebounds.

No stats available for Ponca.

Ponca will have a road game on Friday against Emerson-Hubbard, while LCC hosts Plainview on Friday.

LAUREL-CONCORD-COL. (0-5).....8 17 29 41
 PONCA (4-1).....15 33 44 51

Gayville-Volin 60, Wausa 39

WAUSA, Neb. — Gayville-Volin moved to 3-1 on the season after 60-39 point victory over Wausa on Tuesday night.

No stats were provided for

Gayville-Volin (3-1).

Krissy Krum led the scoring from Wausa with 12 points, and she also tied with Regan Hennings for most total rebounds with five.

Both teams will return to action on Friday night with Wausa on the road against Wynot and Gayville-Volin facing off against Alcester-Hudson in Alcester.

GAYVILLE-VOLIN (3-1).....18 27 50 60
 WAUSA (3-2).....10 18 27 39

Randolph 55, Wakefield 25

RANDOLPH, Neb. – Katelyn Backhaus totaled 24 points and 11 rebounds to help the Randolph Cardinals prevail 55-25 over Wakefield on Tuesday in Randolph.

Carlee Thies added 14 points and six rebounds for the Cardinals, while Madysen Andrew finished with eight points and nine steals.

No stats available for

Wakefield.

Next action for Randolph will be a home game on Thursday against the Bloomfield Bees. Wakefield will travel to Stanton to take on the Mustangs on Friday.

RANDOLPH (3-1).....15 31 42 55
 WAKEFIELD (0-4).....6 15 20 25

Dakota Valley 60, Beresford 45

BERESFORD – The Dakota Valley Panthers defeated the Beresford Watchdogs 60-45 for their second straight victory of the season in girls' basketball on Tuesday in Beresford.

Haley Hoffman led the way with 19 points, while Anne McCabe added 15 for the Panthers.

Hannah Nelson and Becca Nelson were the top scorers for the Watchdogs with 12 and 10, respectively.

Dakota Valley will host Canton on Friday for its next

game and Beresford will travel to face Deubrook Area on Thursday.

DAKOTA VALLEY (2-1).....10 27 43 60
 BERESFORD (1-1).....10 20 31 45

Freeman Academy 50, Santee 12

FREEMAN – Freeman Academy jumped out to a 37-6 halftime lead on the way to a 50-12 victory over Santee in a girls' basketball border battle on Tuesday.

Bethany Wollman and Hannah Yoder each had 13 points for Freeman Academy. Tiana Schroeder finished with nine rebounds and three assists. Annie Carlson added three steals in the victory.

For Santee, Kiana Torrez scored seven points and Tori Torrez had three assists.

Freeman Academy, 2-1, faces another opponent on Saturday, traveling to Walthill. Santee returns to action Dec. 29-30 with the

Omaha Nation Holiday Tournament.

SANTEE (0-5).....4 6 7 12
 FREEMAN ACADEMY (2-1).....12 37 48 50

Monday Cedar Catholic 48, Norfolk Catholic 42

NORFOLK, Neb. – Taylor Lammers and Mallorie Steffen each scored 10 points as Hartington Cedar Catholic ran its win streak to five games with a 48-42 victory Monday night at Norfolk Catholic.

Lammers also hauled in nine rebounds and Steffen grabbed nine rebounds for Cedar Catholic (5-1), which hosts Avon, S.D., on Thursday.

Maddie Love scored 13 points to lead Norfolk Catholic (1-4).

HARTINGTON CATHOLIC.....15 28 32 48
 NORFOLK CATHOLIC.....15 18 25 42

Santee Boys Edge Freeman Academy

FREEMAN – After trailing by five points heading into the fourth quarter, Santee (Nebraska) defeated Freeman Academy by a score of 59-57 on Tuesday in boys' basketball action in Freeman.

Santee's Thomas Macios posted a game-high 24 points, while Robert Hoffman added 15 points.

Ryan Haggerty had a strong performance for Freeman Academy, totaling 15 points, seven rebounds, four steals, and four blocked shots. Jeffrey Graber added 10 points, while Steven Waltner finished with nine rebounds and five steals.

Freeman Academy will travel to Walthill (Nebraska) on Friday, while Santee will take place in the Omaha Nation Holiday Tournament on Dec. 29.

SANTEE (2-3).....16 29 41 59
 FREEMAN ACADEMY (0-3).....15 29 46 57

Hartington-New. 43, Allen 26

ALLEN, Neb. – Hartington-Newcastle went on the road and defeated Allen 43-26 in Allen on Tuesday, holding its opponent under 10 points in each of the final three quarters.

No stats were reported for Hartington-Newcastle (3-2).

For Allen, S.T. O'Keefe led the team in scoring with seven points, while Tayler Kumm recorded a team-high eight rebounds.

Hartington-Newcastle's next game will be at home against Wakefield on Saturday, while Allen will travel to Lyons-Decatur Northeast the same day.

Tea Area 74, MCM 34

MONTROSE – Noah and Ethan Freidel combined for 43 points for Tea Area in their 74-34 victory over McCook Central-Montrose on Tuesday night in Montrose.

Noah Freidel finished with 20 points and seven rebounds, while Ethan Freidel finished with 23 points. Tate Hoff added 11 points and seven rebounds for the Tea Area Titans.

For MCM, Noah Edwards collected a game-high 10 rebounds, while Kylar Hansen had 10 points. Collin Cleveland finished with five points and four rebounds.

Tea Area will travel to Dell Rapids on Friday, while MCM takes on Howard in Salem on Friday.

TEA AREA (2-1).....24 25 57 74
 MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONT. (1-1).....12 24 26 34

S.F. Washington 68, S.F. Roosevelt 56

SIoux FALLS – Fifty points in the second half allowed Sioux Falls Washington to continue its perfect start to the boys' basketball season with a 68-56 point win over cross city rivals, Roosevelt.

Carter Keller led the Washington Warriors with 18 points, he was followed by Isaac Goeman with 15. Jack Talley and Logan Uttecht each recorded seven rebounds for the home team.

For the visiting Rough Riders, Christopher Bwanya put up 17 points to lead his team. Tristen Teichmeier led the team in rebounds with 10 total.

Washington will not be in action again until Tuesday when they host the Yantron

Bucks. Roosevelt will host Marshall on Thursday night.

SF ROOSEVELT (0-1).....10 23 36 56
 SF WASHINGTON (3-0).....6 18 43 68

Monday Hartington-New. 64, Emerson-Hubbard 54

HARTINGTON, Neb. – Ethan Morten scored 20 points as Hartington-Newcastle surged past Emerson-Hubbard 64-54 in boys' action on Monday.

Jared Fuelberth added 14 points and five assists for Hartington-Newcastle, which led 43-42 after three quarters.

Dayne Morten chipped in with 13 points.

No stats were reported for Emerson-Hubbard (0-5).

Hartington-Newcastle hosts Wakefield on Saturday.

EMERSON-HUBBARD (0-5).....15 23 42 54
 HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE.....19 30 43 64