

**SPORTS DIGEST**

**S.D. Hoops Hall Announces 2016 Class**

**SIOUX FALLS** — The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame will induct 18 new members during its seventh annual banquet April 2 at the Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls.

Included among the former greats in the Class of 2016 is Wayne Rasmussen, an all-state player at Howard High School. As a collegian at South Dakota State University he was named Most Valuable Player in the 1963 NCAA College Division National Basketball Tournament.

Rasmussen, now of Brandon, graduated from Howard in 1960. He led South Dakota State to the national championship as a junior. Rasmussen went on to play 10 years in the National Football League as a Detroit Lions defensive back.

Also selected for induction is former West Central and University of South Dakota standout Josh Mueller. Mueller finished his career as the Coyotes' all-time leader in assists (801), steals (258) and three-pointers (307), and ranked second all-time in scoring with 1,991 career points. He had the top two single-season assist totals in USD history, with 227 his sophomore season and 246 as a junior. He also set USD's single-season three-point standard with 109 made triples in 2004-05.

Amy (Allard) Carmody, a 1982 graduate of Jefferson, and Dale Hall (Ravinia 1954), who currently lives in Wagner, are also among the honorees.

Recognized at the banquet as Teams of Excellence will be the 1958 Huron Tigers and the 1926 Salem Cubs. Ticket information will be announced soon on the Hall of Fame website at www.sdbhof.com.

**Dakota Valley Boys Outlast Trojans**

**HARTFORD** — Dakota Valley jumped out to a 30-19 halftime lead and held on for a 58-51 victory over West Central in Dakota XII Conference boys' basketball action on Tuesday.

John Prochello scored 12 points and Luke Schmitt had 11 points to lead a balanced Dakota Valley attack. Robert Rosenquist posted 10 points, six assists and six steals. Tyler Johnson added eight assists in the victory.

Noah Vehruss scored a game-high 22 points to lead West Central. Nick Nagel added 16 points and six steals.

Dakota Valley, 4-0, plays host Parkston in the Parkston Classic on Dec. 29. West Central faces Belle Fourche in the East-West Classic on Dec. 29 in Chamberlain.

**Foreign Players Bolstering Women's College Basketball Programs**

BY DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer



P&D FILE PHOTO

Chen Yue had little trepidation about coming 6,000 miles from Beijing to Cal to play for the 21st-ranked Golden Bears.

The 6-foot-7 freshman center, who is believed to be one of the first Chinese basketball players to play at a high college level, wanted to challenge herself both on the court and in the classroom. So heading to the U.S. was an easy decision.

"American colleges have a high level of basketball and academics," she said. "It helps you not only with basketball, but for your whole life. It develops your whole character for the future."

She is one of 275 international players competing this season in women's Division I basketball. Nearly 50 different countries are represented, including Russia, Spain, Australia, Brazil, Senegal, Canada and China. While that number is down a little bit from last season when over 300 foreigners were playing, there has been an upward trend over the past few years. Last season 4.9 percent of women's players were from foreign countries.

Daniel Prince, who runs Passion Hoops International — a company that helps foreign players connect with American colleges, said that number will keep rising. He has helped over 120 of the current women's international players find schools, including Chen. The schools pay a fee for Prince's scouting services, getting access to a vast database of international players.

"There's a lot more talent down the road wanting to come here and that will only help the game grow," he said. Prince heard about Chen and knew she'd draw a lot of interest from top colleges. Her parents played professionally in China and she wanted to get a great education. Her transition to Berkeley has gone smoothly so far. It helps that nearly 20 percent of Cal's freshmen class is Chinese.

"It's not that different from home," said Chen, who grew up in Beijing. "It definitely makes a difference that there are a lot of Chinese students here."

On the court, Chen is still adjusting. She's played in eight games so far, averaging 2 points. The biggest difference for her is the physicality of play in the U.S. where players are stronger and there is a lot more contact allowed.

"It definitely is more physical here," said Chen, who has a smooth jump shot. "It's something I'm learning to play through."

While Chen is blazing a trail for Chinese players, Spain has been a hotbed for recruiting for the past few years. Twenty-one Spaniards are currently playing in the U.S., including Florida State star Leticia Romero and her teammate Maria Conde. While going so far away from home can be a challenge, especially around the holidays, the Spanish players try to help each other out.

They have a group chat in Spanish using the phone application WhatsApp where they can lend each other support, joke around and have a taste of home.

"It's a great way to keep in contact with each other," said Romero, who is spending Christmas in Canada with teammate Adut Bulgak and her family.

The downturn in the Spanish economy is a big reason why so many players from that country have come to the U.S. Spain used to be one of the top leagues with players earning thousands of dollars a month. Romero played in that league when she was in her teens going up against WNBA stars such as Maya Moore and Lauren Jackson.

"A lot of those players now that used to play in the top Spanish league want to get an education," said Prince. "Their parents are doing their homework on playing in America now. They are crunching the numbers, why not get the best of both worlds. It's the best situation possible."

The influx of foreign talent has also helped create more parity among schools. "There really is so much talent all over the world that it's great to have a broader recruiting pool to choose from," said South Florida coach Jose Fernandez.

Fernandez has been finding international stars for years, and the 20th-ranked Bulls have players on their roster from Spain, Portugal, Latvia and Kenya this season. Fernandez takes a few trips overseas to watch tournaments hoping to find his next star.

Playing in tournaments helped Duke freshman Angela Salvadores get discovered. She led Spain to the U18 European championship this past summer. That came a year after the tournament's MVP scored 40 points against the U.S. in U17 world championship. It put her on the radar of many of the top teams in the country, including the Blue Devils.

"I wanted to get a great education," Salvadores said of coming to Duke. "It's taken a little adjusting so far."

The Blue Devils' third leading scorer may miss some of the comforts of home, but she has found a Spanish restaurant or two in the area that definitely has helped ease the transition.

"It makes it a little easier," said Salvadores, who was able to go home to Spain for a few days over the holidays.

**SCOREBOARD**

**BOWLING**

**YANKTON BOWL**

**INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE**

HIGH TEAM GAME: H&K Oil 956  
HIGH TEAM SERIES: Kellen's Carts & Service 2561

HIGH individual game: Chris Sherman 298, Warren Muller 266, Jeremy Washburn 258, Tom Grass 254, Kevin Annis 249

**HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES:** Warren Muller 732, Chris Sherman 685, Layne Stewart 672, Jeremy Washburn 668, Dave Reich 662

**STANDINGS:** H&K Oil 93.5, Patriot Express 85.5, Carey's Bar 85.5, Barta Trucking 83.3, Kellen's Carts & Service 81, L&M Radiator 74.5, Wholesale Supply 71, Don's Auto 69.5, Yankton Redi-Mix 67.5, H&K Oil #2.41, KPI Bowl Dogs 41

**TUESDAY NIGHT MIXED**

HIGH TEAM GAME: Split Ends 493  
HIGH TEAM SERIES: Split Ends 1362

**HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME:** Ryan Weverstad 246, Syd Zurcher 235, Todd Moody 226 (errorless), Sharon Merrin 226 (errorless), Ashley Zurcher 213, Annabelle Moody 204

**HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES:** Ryan Weverstad 685, Todd Moody 661, Kelly Truening 633, Kellen's Carts & Service 61, L&M Radiator 74.5, Wholesale Supply 71, Don's Auto 69.5, Yankton Redi-Mix 67.5, H&K Oil #2.41, KPI Bowl Dogs 41

**STANDINGS:** RTBN 23-8, That's How We Roll 21-8, TCB 20-12, Hot Rollers 20-12, Ten Pins 19-13, The Split Ends 19-13, The Cali Gals 19-13, Dolls With Balls 18-13, Fogi & BooBoo 18-5, 13.5, Vikes 18-13, Country Bumpkins 17.5-14.5, Missfits 17-14, 2 Broke Girls 16-16, Livin' On A Spare 15.5-15.5, Bohemians 12.5-19.5, Split Happens 11-21, The Flintstones 11-21, S&L Date Nite 9-23, Allyn Kats 7-25

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Todd Moody — errorless 325, Audrey Mear 5-8, Vamella Guttmiller 2-7, 4.5, Tiffany Pommerville 5-10

**CLASSIC LEAGUE**

HIGH TEAM GAME: Kruse's Pro Shop 949

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Manitou 2628

**HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME:** Ryan Weverstad 279, Terry Norton 279, Kelly Merrin 278, JJ Peterson 276, Tom Grass 265

**HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES:** Terry Norton 752, Chuck Turner 725, Matt Hoels 724, JJ Peterson 724, Ryan Weverstad 703

**STANDINGS:** Manitou 112.5, Coca-Cola 89, Eisenbraun & Associates 85, Plath Chiropractic 84.5, Kruse's Pro Shop 81.5, Osborn Entertainment 81.5, Barta Electric 80, Rotten Apples 74, Smith Captain & Crew 65, The Alcorn Pub 57

**SATURDAY NIGHT MIXED**

HIGH TEAM GAME: Ups & Downs 1020

**HIGH TEAM SERIES:** Bowlers Under The Influence 2900

**HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME:** Terry Norton 275-268, Jamie Strike 269 (errorless), Sam Sully 266, Judy Barta 228, Lennie Remington 198, Melissa Svanda 193

**HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES:** Terry Norton 768, Matt Kruse 712, Chuck Turner 658, Judy Barta 610, Melissa Svanda 521, Tonya Chah 509

**STANDINGS:** Krazy Kidz 20-4, Beer 4 Breakfast 18-6, Them 4 18-6, Titans 18-6, Lickety Splitz 18-8, JMWVH Pin Pals 16-8, XXX-Rated 14-10, Bowlers Under The Influence 14-10, Ups & Downs 12-12, Turkey Hunters 12-12, 3 Fingers Deep 10-14, Fearsome 4 8-16, Hazzards 8-16, S. O. S. 6-18, Great Balls of Fire 2-22

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Frank Osborn, Jr. — errorless 212, Jim Murphy — errorless 235-214, 5-7, Jason Rempler — errorless 248, Jeremy Washburn — errorless 206, 3-4-6-7-10, Chuck Turner — errorless 234, Raymond S. Houfek — errorless 226, 3-10, Mike Palu — errorless 218, Ray W. Houfek — errorless 236, 3-10, Jan Pulnam 4-7-10, Melissa Svanda

**AREA CALENDAR**

**Thursday, December 24**  
No activities scheduled

**Friday, December 25**  
No activities scheduled

**Saturday, December 27**  
No activities scheduled

**Sunday, December 29**  
No activities scheduled

**Monday, December 28**

**BASKETBALL MEN'S USD**  
vs. Florida Gulf Coast at Sioux Falls 7 p.m., KVHT-FM, ESPN3.com, MidoSN

**BASKETBALL BOYS'**  
Aberdeen Classic (Elk Point-Jefferson vs. Aberdeen Roncalli, 8 p.m.); Langford Classic (Platte-Geddes vs. Langford Area, 5:30 p.m.); Shootout On The Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Verdigre Booster Club Holiday Tour (Osmond vs. Bloomfield, 4:30 p.m.); Niobrara-Verdigre vs. Allen, 8 p.m.; Wayne Holiday Tour (Laurel-Concord-Cole ridge vs. West Point-Beemer, 11 a.m.; Hartington Cedar Catholic vs. Pender, 5:30 p.m.)

**ARIZONA BOWL:** Nevada (6-6) vs. Colorado State (7-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**TEXAS BOWL:** Texas Tech (7-5) vs. LSU (8-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30**

**ALABAMA (ALA) BOWL:** Auburn (6-6) vs. Memphis (9-3), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

**BELK BOWL:** NC State (7-5) vs. Mississippi St. (8-4), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**MUSIC CITY BOWL:** Iowa (12-1) vs. Texas A&M (8-4), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

**HOLIDAY BOWL:** Wisconsin (9-3) vs. Southern Cal (8-5), 9:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Thursday, Dec. 31**

**PEACH BOWL:** Houston (12-1) vs. Florida State (10-2), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

**Friday, Jan. 1**

**OUTBACK BOWL:** Northwestern (10-2) vs. Tennessee (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

**CITRUS BOWL:** Michigan (9-3) vs. Florida (10-3), noon (ABC)

**FIESTA BOWL:** Notre Dame (10-2) vs. Ohio State (11-1), noon (ESPN)

**ROSE BOWL:** Iowa (12-1) vs. Stanford (11-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

**SUGAR BOWL:** Oklahoma State (10-2) vs. Mississippi (9-3), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. England	12	2	0	.857	435	269
N.Y. Jets	9	5	0	.643	344	272
Buffalo	6	8	0	.429	341	336
Miami	5	9	0	.357	278	361

**South**

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	7	7	0	.500	275	301
Indianapolis	6	8	0	.429	285	372
Jacksonville	5	9	0	.357	343	380
Tennessee	3	11	0	.214	269	359

**North**

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Cincinnati	11	3	0	.786	378	243
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	376	287
Baltimore	4	10	0	.286	292	360
Cleveland	3	11	0	.214	253	387

**West**

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Diego at Oakland	7	25	0	.217	245	325
Washington at Philadelphia	7	25	0	.217	245	325

**Awards**

FROM PAGE 5A

Iowa, Nebraska, Michigan State and Florida State.

**Prep Boys' Team**

**Winner Football**

The Winner Warriors dominated Class 11B football en route to a 12-0 season and the state championship. Winner crushed Tri-Valley 45-6 in the championship game.

Winning 12 games is a tough accomplishment for any team, but the matter in which the Warriors beat teams proved just as impressive. Winner cruised past every opponent and forced a running clock — leading by more than 35 points — to be used in each of its 12 wins. The Warriors outscored opponents 594-26 and won their sixth state championship in football and first state title since 2012.

Winner's defensive unit held opponents scoreless for six straight games and recorded eight shutouts. The team landed six players on the Class 11B all-state football team.

The team graduated six seniors and will look to repeat as state champions in Class 11B in 2016.

**Last 5 Honorees**

2014, Aberdeen Central Wrestling  
2013, Pierre Basketball  
2012, Pierre Wrestling  
2011, Waverly-South Shore Football  
2010, Canistota Football

**Girls' Prep Athlete**

**Macy Heinz, Ipswich**

Heinz continued to dominate the track and field scene last spring, adding four more championships to her already impressive resume.

Heinz won the Class B 200-meter dash (:25.10), 400-meter dash (:57.87), 800-meter run (2:15.17), and 1,600-meter run (5:18.02) at the state track and field meet in Rapid City.

She has now won 15 out of a possible 16 state titles in the sport. Heinz won state championships in the 800, 1,600 and 1,600-meter relay as a seventh grader and was second in the 400; claimed state titles in the 400, 800, 1,600 and 3,200-meter relay as an eighth-grader, won the 100, 400, 800 and the 1,600 as a freshman (and was also the Class B state cross country champion that season),

**Last 5 Honorees**

2014, Macy Miller  
2013, Hannah Kastigar  
2012, Kari Heck  
2011, Kelsey Barrett  
2010, Jasmynne King

and then added her most recent titles as a sophomore this past spring.

Before Heinz got to the state meet, she clocked the third fastest time in state history on the way to winning the Special 800-Meter Run at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays in Sioux Falls in a time of 2:11.19. Heinz was chosen as the 2015 Gatorade South Dakota Girls' Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

**Prep Girls' Coach**

**Dennis Northrup, Aberdeen Central Volleyball**

Northrup was not afraid to make a few changes during Aberdeen Central's run to its first state volleyball title since 2009.

The Golden Eagles had lost twice in four matches midway through the season, a stretch that prompted Northrup to scrap the team's offense and revamp its blocking techniques.

The result was an unbeatable squad that dropped just one set through the remainder of the regular season and swept its way through the Class AA state tournament in November.

Central entered the tournament as the number one seed and backed it up with three straight sweeps, including a 25-13, 25-17, 25-23 title match victory over Brandon Valley. That win avenged one of the two regular-season losses for the Golden Eagles.

Northrup put three players on the All-Tournament team, including the Class AA Miss Volleyball recipient Brianna Kusler, who recorded both her 1,000th career kill and 250th career service ace during the season.

**Last 5 Honorees**

2014, Rob Van Laecken  
2013, Lyle Pearson  
2012, Todd Thorson  
2011, Rob Van Laecken  
2010, Anita Boeck

**Prep Girls' Team**

**St. Thomas More Basketball**

If there was any doubt for the St. Thomas More girls' basketball team, and essentially there wasn't, it was erased early in the Class A girls state basketball championship game.

St. Thomas More continued its state-wide dominance for the last two years, winning its second straight state title and third in the last four years, thumping Elk Point-Jefferson 54-24 in the title game in Watertown. The Cavaliers finished 24-1 on the season and 47-2 in the last two years, with both losses coming

**Last 5 Honorees**

2014, Warner Volleyball  
2013, Ipswich Cross Country  
2012, Warner Volleyball  
2011, Deuel Gymnastics  
2010, Sturgis Cross Country

from Nebraska power Crofton. In the last four seasons, St. Thomas More was 90-7.

"To win one state title and have a chance to defend, you put all of that time and effort in and I couldn't be more proud of what those girls have done and their dedication to the program and to each other," STM head coach Brandon Kandolin said after the season.

Senior guard Alexis Swedlund and junior forward Ciara Duffy were both named to the all-state team following the season.

**Independent Female Athlete**

**Tevyn Waddell, Mitchell**

A senior at Mitchell High School, Tevyn Waddell — swimming for the Mitchell Aquatic Club — has qualified for three events at the U.S. Olympic Team Swimming Trials set for summer 2016 in Omaha.

She has qualified in the 200-meter backstroke (2:15.87), 100-meter butterfly (1:00.34) and the 100-meter backstroke (1:02.57).

She posted top eight finishes in both events this past summer at the junior nationals in San Antonio, Texas. Waddell joins Katie (Budahl) Price as the only MAC swimmers to qualify for the Olympic Trials, but Waddell is the only swimmer to accomplish it while still on the team.

In South Dakota, Waddell set six state records in the indoor state championships in March in Pierre. Waddell won seven events and set records in the 200 freestyle, 200 medley, 100 butterfly, 200 backstroke, 100 backstroke and 1,000 freestyle.

**Last 5 Honorees**

2014, Kim Kaufman  
2013, Sam Ostarello  
2012, Kim Kaufman  
2011, Abby Plucker  
2010, Jill Moody

She committed to swim at Minnesota this fall.

**Independent Team**

**Parkston Mudcats Baseball**

The winners of the Class B state amateur baseball title, the Parkston Mudcats, rattled off five wins in a row after qualifying for the state tournament with a record of 12-13.

Facing Mound Vernon in a District 5B elimination game, the Mudcats squeaked past the Mustangs 1-0 to earn a berth into the state tournament. Brady Nolz pitched a complete game, two-hit shutout as the Mudcats were just getting started.

Once in the state tournament and bolstered by Nolz's performances on the mound, Parkston cruised past Redfield (3-0), Flandreau (6-2), Plankinton (3-0), Larchwood (12-2) and outlasted Alexandria 4-3 in the championship game. It was the Mudcats' second championship in four years.

Nolz was named the Class B Most Valuable Player as he picked up four wins and a save in 38 innings pitched, including a complete game in Parkston's win over Alexandria in the championship game.

The Mudcats' had four players named to the all-tournament team with Nolz, Jeff Harris, Spencer Freudenthal and Justin Downes, a pick-up player from Corsica/Stickney being selected.

**Last 5 Honorees**

2014, Aberdeen Swim Club  
2013, Alexandria Angels Amateur Baseball  
2012, Brookings Bandits Legion Baseball  
2011, Harney Little League Baseball  
2010, Rapid City Rush Hockey

**REDUCED FOR FINAL CLOSEOUT**

Oreck Vacuum • Weber Grills  
Over-The-Range Microwaves  
LG Gas Ranges  
Frigidaire Electric Ranges  
Frigidaire, Maytag, & LG Dishwashers

**We Service What We Sell or Have Sold!**

*Larry's* APPLIANCE  
920 Broadway • 665-9461

**KYNT**  
AM 1450

**MORNING COFFEE**  
**WEEKDAYS 7:40AM MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

Yankton's Home Team!