SPORTS DIGEST

Heritage Classic Set For Jan. 16 SIOUX FALLS – Pairings have been announced for the Sanford Pentagon Heritage Classic, set for Jan. 16 at the

Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls. Four girls' games and five boys' games are scheduled in the event, beginning with the Irene-Wakonda girls against Colman-Egan at 9 a.m. Dakota Valley's girls and boys both face Rock Valley, with the girls' game at 3 p.m. and the boys'

game at 4:30 p.m. In other games, the Colman-Egan boys face Waverly-South Shore at 10:30 a.m., the Sisseton girls play Sioux Falls Christian at noon, the Fergus Falls, Minnesota, boys play Sisseton at 1:30 p.m., the Winner girls play Clark-Willow Lake at 6 p.m., the Winner boys face Aberdeen Roncalli at 7:30 p.m. and the St. Thomas More boys play Clark-Willow Lake

Yankton Football Championship **Banner Reveal Set**

Yankton High School will unveil the championship banner for its 2015 Class 11AA football title prior to the boys' game of the Huron at Yankton basketball doubleheader, Jan. 23 at the

The event will be immediately before the boys' game, approximately at 6 p.m.

YAIA Learn To Skate Program Coming Up

The Yankton Area Ice Association will hold a "learn to skate" program on Saturdays and Wednesdays, Jan. 6-March 6. The program is designed to teach the fundamentals of skating so individuals can continue as a hockey player, figure skater or recreational skater.

There is a cost to participate, which includes skate rental and helmet. Contact Terry Pedersen at 605-660-3118 for more information. Registrations are available online at yanktonice.

Lancer Baseball Camps Set

The Mount Marty College baseball team has announced the schedule for its preseason hitting camps. Both will offer instruction from MMC coaches and players.

The preseason hitting camp will run Tuesdays from Jan. 26-March 1. Sessions for grades 2-3 will run from 6:15-7 p.m. with grades 4-5 from 7-7:45 p.m., middle school (grades 6-8) from 7:45-8:30 p.m. and high school from 8:30-9:15 p.m. Participants will need to bring running shoes (no cleats)

and bats, if available. Batting gloves are recommended. There is a cost to participate. For more information or to register, go online to www.mmcbaseball.com.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

COLLEGE BOWLS Saturday, Dec. 19 CELEBRATION BOWL: NC A&T 41,

NEW MEXICO BOWL: Arizona 45. (ESPN

LAS VEGAS BOWL: Utah 35, BYU Mis CAMELIA BOWL: Appalachian

CURE BOWL: San Jose State 27, Georgia State 16 NEW ORLEANS BOWL: Louisiana

MIAMI BEACH BOWL: Western Kentucky 45, South Florida 35 Tuesday, Dec. 22 FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL:

BOCA RATON (FLA.) BOWL: To-ledo 32, Temple 17 Wednesday, Dec. 23 POINSETTIA BOWL: Boise State

GODADDY BOWL: Georgia South-

BAHAMAS BOWL: Western Michi-HAWAII BOWL: San Diego State 42,

SUN BOWL: Miami (8-4) vs. Washington State (8-4), 1 p.m. (CBS)
HEART OF DALLAS BOWL: Wash-

Ington (6-6) vs. Southern Mississippi (9-4), 2:20 p.m. (ESPN) PINSTRIPE BOWL: Duke (7-5) vs. Indiana (6-6), 2:30 p.m. (ABC) INDEPENDENCE BOWL: Virginia Tech (6-6) vs. Tulsa (6-6), 4:45 p.m.

FOSTER FARMS BOWL: Nebraska (5-7) vs. UCLA (8-4), 8:15 p.m. (ESPN) MILITARY BOWL: Navy (9-2) vs Pittsburgh (8-4), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)

QUICK LANE BOWL: Central Michigan (7-5) vs. Minnesota (5-7), 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 29 ARMED FORCES BOWL: Air Force (8-5) vs. California (7-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN) RUSSELL ATHLETIC BOWL: North

Carolina (11-2) vs. Baylor (9-3), 4:30 ARIZONA BOWL: Nevada (6-6) vs. Colorado State (7-5), 6:30 p.m. (TBA) TEXAS BOWL: Texas Tech (7-5) vs. LSU (8-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

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

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

MUSIC CITY BOWL: Louisville (7-5)

Texas A&M (8-4), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

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

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

CITRUS BOWL: Michigan (9-3) vs. FIESTA BOWL: Notre Dame (10-2)

vs. Ohio State (11-1), noon (ESPN)

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

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

TAXSLAYER BOWL: Penn St. (7-5) vs. Georgia (9-3), 11 a.m. (ESPN) LIBERTY BOWL: Kansas St. (6-6) | Cincinnati 7 | Cincinnati 7 | Cincinnati 7 | Cincinnati 7 | Saturday, Dec. 26 | ST. PETERSBURG (FLA.) BOWL: CTU (10-2), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN) | CACTUS BOWL: West Virginia (FSPN) (7-5) vs. Arizona State (6-6), 9:15 p.m.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	AMERI	CAP	A C	JN	FERENCE						
			Ea	st							
ò.		W	L	Т	Pct PF	PA					
	y-N. England	12	2	0	.857 435	269					
a	N.Y. Jets	9	5	0	.643 344	272					
١.	Buffalo	6	8	0	.429 341	336					
	Miami	5	9	0	.357 278	361					
а	South										
		W	L	Τ	Pct PF	PA					
	Houston	7	7	0	.500 275	301					
š.	Indianapolis	6	8	0	.429 285	372					
	Jacksonville	5	9	0	.357 343	380					
i-	Tennessee	3	11	0	.214 269	359					
١.			Nor	th							
		W	L	Т	Pct PF	PA					
	x-Cincinnati	11	3	0	.786 378	243					
е	Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643 378	287					
h	Baltimore	4	10	0	.286 292	360					
	Cleveland	3	11	0	.214 253	387					
0			We	st	0 857 435 269 0 643 344 272 0 429 341 336 0 357 278 361 th T Pct PF PA 0 500 275 301 0 429 285 372 0 357 343 380 0 214 269 359 th T Pct PF PA 0 766 378 237 0 643 378 287 0 663 378 287 0 266 292 360 0 214 253 387						
		W	L	Т	Pct PF	PA					

AREA CALENDAR

Sunday, December 29 No activities scheduled
Monday, December 28
BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD Falls (7 p.m., KVHT-FM, ESPN3.

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 Wiscons (Platter) (Platter) ner (Ponca); Verdigre Booster Club Holiday Tourn. (Osmond vs. Club Holiday (10th) (Ostholid vs. Bloomfield, 4:30 p.m.; Niobrara-Verdigre vs. Allen, 8 p.m.); Wayne Holiday Tourn. (Laurel-Concord-Coleridge vs. West Point-Beemer, 11 a.m.; Hartington Cedar Catholic vs. Pender, 5:30 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRI S'

ner vs. Tri-Valley, noon; Webster Area vs. Winner, 1:30 p.m.; San-born Central-Woonsocket vs. Gay-ville-Volin, 3 p.m.; Ethan vs. Dell Rapids, 4:30 p.m.; Sully Buttes vs. Hanson, 6 p.m.; Parkston vs. Red-field-Doland, 7:30 p.m.); Shootout On The Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca); Verdigre Booster Club Holiday Tourn. (Osmond vs. Bloomfield,

Vermillion, Wagner, 11 a.m.)

Denver				.714						
Kansas City	9	5	0	.643	365	257				
Oakland	7	8	0	.467	342	376				
San Diego	4	11	0	.267	300	371				
NATIONAL CONFERENCE										
East										
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA				
AAI Indian - Anna	7	7	^	E00	240	220				

Pct PF PA 14 0 0 1.000 449 278 .357 350 432 Pct PF PA .714 347 265 .643 296 272 .357 302 363 .357 289 352

 Pct
 PF
 PA

 .857
 445
 269

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 370
 248

 .429
 241
 294
 St. Louis San Francisco 4 10 0 .286 202 339 Thursday, Dec. 24

Oakland 23, San Diego 20, OT Saturday, Dec. 26

Washington at Philadelphia, 7:25

Parkston Classic (Chester Area vs. Irene-Wakonda, 10:30 a.m.; Wag-

Tourn. (Osmond vs. Bloomfield, 2:45 p.m.; Niobrara-Verdigre vs. Allen, 6:15 p.m.); Wayne Holiday Tourn. (Laurel-Concord-Coleridge vs. West Point-Beemer, 9:30 a.m.; Hartington Cedar Catholic vs. Pender, 4 p.m.); Lennox at Dakota Valley; Scotland vs. Corsica-Stickney at Stickney
WRESTLING, PREP Floyd Farand Inv. at Sjoux Falls (Parkston rand Inv. at Sioux Falls (Parkston

Sunday, Dec. 27 Houston at Tennessee, noon Cleveland at Kansas City, noon New England at N.Y. Jets, noon Indianapolis at Miami, noon San Francisco at Detroit, noon Chicago at Tampa Bay, noon Carolina at Atlanta, noon
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, noon
Jacksonville at New Orleans, 3:05

> St. Louis at Seattle, 3:25 p.m. Green Bay at Arizona, 3:25 p.m. N.Y. Giants at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m Monday, Dec. 28 Cincinnati at Denver, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 3 nday, Jan. 3 Jacksonville at Houston, noon Oakland at Kansas City, noon Washington at Dallas, noon Detroit at Chicago, noon Minnesota at Green Bay, noon N.Y. Jets at Buffalo,noon New England at Miami, noon Tampa Bay at Carolina, noon New Orleans at Atlanta, noon Baltimore at Cincinnati, noon Pittsburgh at Cleveland, noon Tennessee at Indianapolis, noor St. Louis at San Francisco, 3:25

San Diego at Denver, 3:25 p.m Seattle at Arizona, 3:25 p.m.

Sports Deaths 2015: Banks, Gifford, Smith, Tarkanian, Berra

BY FRED LIEF AP Sports Writer

The loss column is where to look in the standings. Those are the ones that can never be

And losses, of a different kind, hit Philadelphia in 2015 with the deaths of two 76ers centers — backboard-busting Darryl Dawkins and Moses Malone, who gave basketball a math lesson with his playoff sweep prediction of "Fo', Fo', Fo" that fell just short. Joining them was Dolph Schayes, the Syracuse Nationals center who briefly played for and coached Philadelphia in its Wilt Chamberlain days.

There were losses in baseball of Joaquin Andujar, Dean Chance, Darryl Hamilton, Tommy Hanson, Bill Monbouquette, Al Rosen. In hockey, the Islander coach Al Arbour and the great Canadiens winger Dickie Moore.

Losses of boxing champions Gene Fullmer and Bob Foster. And in football of Ken Stabler, quarterback of the renegade Raiders, and Garo Yepremian, whose slapstick field-goal attempt lives in Super Bowl lore.

Losses of those who cut a path for black players to follow: Minnie Minoso (baseball) Earl Lloyd (basketball), Pete Brown, Calvin Peete, Charlie Sifford (golf); and Mal Whitfield (track). And those while on the job: IndyCar driver Justin Wilson, struck by debris at Pocono and gone the next day

Other losses, lives that soared across the games:

Ernie Banks

Lots of players are in the Hall of Fame. How many bring a credo, a way of life, with them? "It's a great day for baseball. Let's play two." Ernie Banks wouldn't have it any

Ernie Banks, with a whip-fast swing and sinewy wrists, played 19 seasons

and hit 512 homers. He made 11 All-Star teams and was MVP in 1958 and 1959. He was a Gold Glove shortstop before switching to first base. And all this for the Chicago Cubs, who have long crafted the

art of defeat. But the stats don't account for the statue of "Mr. Cub" outside Wrigley Field Banks, who died at 83, spoke to the transcendent joys of sports. He never was ejected and never argued with umpires.

Why stoop to such pettiness? Banks also never made it to the postseason, but Hall of Famer Al Kaline reminds Cubs fans of this: "They can always say they got to see the great Ernie

Frank Gifford

The All-American USC running back with chiseled looks who became the face of the great New York Giant teams of the 1950s and '60s and then rode another wave of celebrity in the "Monday Night Football" booth and as husband of TV host

Kathie Lee Gifford. Frank Gifford played in five NFL title games and was league MVP in 1956. Giants co-owner John Mara called him "the ultimate Giant." In 1960, a pulverizing hit by the Eagles' Chuck Bednarik (who also died this year, at 89) left Gifford with a head injury so severe he didn't return

For many, though, Gifford was the calming center of "Monday Night Football On one side of Gifford was Howard Cosell all bombast and grandiloquence. On the other was Don Meredith, ladling out heaping servings of country corn. It was left to Gifford to return everyone to Planet

Gifford died at 84 and his family said he showed signs of degenerative brain disease and hoped he "might be an inspiration for others suffering from this

Dean Smith

If college basketball had a Mount Rushmore, a place in the mountainside would be carved for Dean Smith.

He was the soul of basketball at North Carolina and he died at 83. He led the Tar Heels to 11 Final Fours, won national titles in 1982 and 1993. He created the Four Corners offense, earned an Olympic title in 1976 and coached some of the best. Michael Jordan said he loved Smith for always being there when he needed him.

Smith would surpass Adolph Rupp for the most coaching victories in men's Division I, a mark now held by Duke's Mike Krzyzewski. Smith was among the first to recruit blacks in the South and helped spur

Roy Williams, the current Tar Heels coach, called Smith the "perfect picture of what a college coach should have been.

Jerry Tarkanian

the civil rights movement.

He was a sketch artist's dream: the basset-hound eyes, the bald head, the forlorn look and, of course, the towel clamped between his teeth.

Jerry Tarkanian built a basketball power at UNLV. a dazzling piece of the Strip's high wattage. His legal entanglements with the NCAA spanned his career at Long Beach State, UNLV and Fresno State. Tarkanian long felt the NCAA pounced on small schools and let the big boys off easy. He drew respect from coaches and

love from players. But the NCAA sang no songs for "Tark the Shark." He won a \$2.5 million settlement in a lawsuit, but the sting Tarkanian preached fierce defense and an amped-up offense that at UNLV

featured Larry Johnson, Stacey Augmon and Greg Anthony. The Rebels played in four Final Fours and won the 1990 title. Tarkanian died at 84, three days after

Dean Smith, and Vegas dimmed its lights for a headline act.

Yogi Berra After all the tributes — his decency, his dignity, his wit (intentional or otherwise) it's important to never lose sight of this What a player he was.

Yogi Berra played 19 seasons and was the American League MVP in 1951, 1954 and 1955. He played on 10 World Series winners and made 18 straight All-Star teams. His leap into Don Larsen's arms after the perfect game in the 1956 World Series is a moment frozen in baseball

Berra, No. 8, with that welcoming mug of a face, died at 90. He managed for the whirlwind that was George Steinbrenner. and Berra always had the right thing philosopher, a pinch hitter for Mark Twain and Will Rogers: "You can observe a lot by watching"; "When you come to a fork in the road, take it"; "I really didn't say everything

Said Hall of Famer Cal Ripken: "When Yogi spoke, everyone was quiet and hung on every word. He owned the room."

Contributing to this report were AP sports writers Aaron Beard, Tim Dahlberg, Mike Fitzpatrick, Ben Walker, Barry Wilner and AP writer Mike Stewart.

Nebraska Hopes To Cap A Down Season With Bowl Win Over UCLA

BY JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) With four losses in the final 10 seconds of regulation or overtime sending Nebraska to a losing record, Mike Riley's first year as the Cornhuskers' coach didn't quite go as planned.

But with Nebraska (5-7) getting a chance to play in a bowl despite winning just five games, Riley has a head start on Year 2.

With not enough six-win teams to fill all the bowl slots, the Cornhuskers got a reprieve based on their high graduation rate and received a spot in the Foster Farms Bowl on Saturday night against UCLA (8-4).

While the opportunity to end a down season on a high note is nice, the biggest benefit of playing in a bowl, according to Riley, is the extra practice time.

"I always contend if you get the chance to play in a bowl game, it's the end of one season and the beginning of another," he said.

Riley spent the first two bowl practices working on the basics instead of planning for the Bruins. The first-string defense faced the first-team offense and the younger players got their own sessions.

Even when practices shifted to game preparation mode, Riley still took time for extra workouts for underclassmen expected to fill roles next season.

"It's a learning experience for us and the coaches," quarterback Tommy Armstrong said. "We had a lot of ups and downs. It was more just finding out what we were good at this year. It was about putting things together with the coaching staff."

The Bruins learned plenty about their team too that can carry over to 2016. The most notable development was the emergence of freshman quarterback Josh Rosen. He stepped in right away and proved he was up to the tough task.

Rosen threw for 3,349 yards and 20 touchdowns and most importantly remained steady during the ups and downs of the season.

Nebraska (5-7) vs. UCLA (8-4), 8:15 p.m. (ESPN) Line: UCLA by 6 1/2

Series Record: Tied 6-6.

The Cornhuskers made a bowl in coach Mike Riley's first season despite a losing record and look to end the year on a positive note. The Bruins had hoped to play at Levi's Stadium earlier this month in the Pac-12 title game but fell short and are settling for a trip here for the bowl **KEY MATCHUP**

UCLA RB Paul Perkins vs. Nebraska run D. Perkins became the first UCLA player to lead the Pac-12 in rushing since DeShaun Foster in 2001. Perkins ran for 1,275 yards and ranks third in school history with 3,423 in his career. The Huskers allowed just 113.4 yards rushing per game his season, third best in the Big Ten and eighth best in the nation.

Nebraska: QB Tommy Armstrong Jr. Armstrong became the third Nebraska quarterback to pass for at least 2,000 yards in two separate seasons and needs just 144 yards to join Zac Taylor and Joe Ganz as the only 3,000-yard passers in school history.

UCLA: QB Josh Rosen. Rosen had one of the most prolific seasons for a Bruins quarterback as a freshman. His 3,349 yards passing and 266 completions rank third in school history. He also is tied for ninth with 20 TD passes. FACTS & FIGURES

UCLA swept a home-and-home between the teams in 2012-13. ... The Huskers got a bowl bid despite a losing record when all 80 slots couldn't be filled by six-win teams. ... Nebraska is playing in its 52nd bowl, third most of any school. The Comhuskers are 25-26. ... Comhuskers have lost four of their past five bowl games. ... Nebraska's seven losses were by a combined 31 points. The first five were decided by 13 points. ... UCLA is looking for its third straight bowl win, which would be team's longest streak since eight-gamer from the 1983 Rose Bowl to 1991 John Hancock Bowl. ... Bruins have won 11 straight nonconference games. ... UCLA WR Jordan Payton needs two catches to become first Bruin with 200 career receptions.

"We all know when you're young, there's going to be some setbacks," coach Jim Mora said. "But I did see him learn lessons and apply

Here are some other things to watch when Nebraska takes on UCLA:

EMOTIONAL MEMORIES: Mora has great respect for Nebraska, especially after an emotional trip there for the Bruins in 2013 just six days after receiver Nick Pasquale was killed when he was struck by a vehicle while he was walking in his hometown The Huskers wore No. 36 decals on their helmets in honor of Pasquale and the student section let out blue and gold balloons before UCLÁ's 41-21 win.

'There were signs everywhere honoring Nick," Mora said. "It's something I'll never forget. To be able to play this team again and the young men and a program with so much class, is an honor for

HEALTH REPORT: The Bruins have been dealing with a health scare that could force offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone to reduce his role. Mazzone was recently hospitalized for a blood clot in his lung. He is feeling bet-

ter, but Mora does not know if he will be able to stand on the sideline or even coach at all from the booth during the

'That's a serious medical condition he has," Mora said. "We want to make sure he's safe.

TRENCH BATTLE: While both teams have prolific quarterbacks, the key to the game might be how Nebraska's stout run defense fares against UCLA's running game led by Paul Perkins. Perkins became the first UCLA player to lead the Pac-12 in rushing since DeShaun Foster in 2001. Perkins ran for 1,275 yards and ranks third in school history with 3,423 in his career. The Huskers allowed just 113.4 yards rushing per game his season, eighth best in the nation.

"Their run defense is probably the best we've seen," UCLA center Jake Brendel said.

STALWART IN THE MIDDLE: Brendel is concluding a stellar career with the Bruins. He will be starting his school-record 52nd game, having missed just one the past four years. UCLA has won 37 times in that span, with Brendel a big reason for

UCLA Seniors Who Began Jim Mora Era Look To Go Out With A Bowl Victory

BY ZACH HELFAND © 2015 Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO (TNS) — All the way into the morning hours of Feb. 1, 2012, national signing day, Jordan Payton spoke on the phone with ÚCLA football Coach Jim Mora, discussing Payton's

About five and a half weeks earlier, when Mora had become UCLA's coach, he said the staff made a choice The coaches could accept a class hardly ranked in the top 50 nationally and focus their efforts on 2013. Or they could concentrate their resources

on a last-minute surge. "Our option, our only option was we were going to attack 2012," Mora said at the time. "We were going to go after players all over the country that we thought could come in here and help us win

football games. By the morning of national signing day, the surge was working. UCLA had procured a class ranked in the top 15. a solid foundation for Mora's tenure. It already had secured commitments from Paul Perkins, Devin Fuller, Ishmael Adams, Randall Goforth, Fabian Moreau and Ka'imi Fairbairn.

Payton was the last piece. Mora had pitched him on building a program from the ground up. But his head was

spinning.

He already had committed to the USC, California and Washington. Twice, he had announced his decision on national television. Now, when he went to bed, he didn't know where he would sign. Mora left him with one piece

noise and follow his heart," Mora said.

At 6:50 a.m., Payton had just gotten out of the shower when he made up his mind. He called Mora.

recruiting class was all but Nearly four years later, most of that 26-player class will play its final game for UCLA on Saturday, against Nebraska in the Foster Farms

With that, Mora's first

Mora's gamble has paid off. That recruiting class, he said, was essential to building the program. Ānd he says that adds a

nugget of motivation to this second-tier bowl game: With a victory, UCLA seniors would finish with 38 victories, the most of any UCLA class. "Which is, to me, a great tribute to those young men and the way they came in here

and applied themselves and

bought into what we're trying

to become," Mora said. "It set

the foundation for the culture that we're trying to build." The seniors' final game will be an unconventional one. Nebraska (5-7) became bowl eligible only when there were not enough teams above .500

to fill out the bowl schedule. But Nebraska is more dangerous than its schedule would suggest. It lost one game by one point, three games by two points and one game by three. Its first four losses came in the last minute. It was the only team this season to beat Michigan State,

a playoff team. "Just playing Nebraska and

"I told him to block out the just what that team stands for, that alone will push us and give us the motivation that we need." said center Jake Brendel, who is expected to make his 52nd start to extend a UCLA record. "I really don't "Coach," he said. "I'm gofeel like we're going to be flat.' ing to follow my heart."

Mora said he doesn't know how he'll react when the game arrives. This will be the first time he will say goodbye to a class that he recruited. Payton said Mora has kept

his usual distance this week.

But the game, Mora said, will be emotional. He began assembling it the very moment he took the job. Immediately after his introductory news conference, he walked to his office, where director of player personnel

Patrick Girardi was waiting. Girardi handed him a phone. "Start recruiting right

now," Girardi said. When the freshmen arrived on campus that summer, Payton recalled, it brought a tenacious work ethic. They broke traditions. All that mattered, he said, was winning. That set an example, he said, and validated his choice on

that February morning. This week, Payton said he is focused on Nebraska, and earning his 38th victory at UCLA. But in spare moments, he said, he has reflected on the last four years.

"A lot of people pick storied programs and they go in and just kind of filter through," Payton said. "When you get to join a whole 'revolution' as we call it, it's cool to see where we're at.'

King

FROM PAGE 8

When you play all three of those sports, plus baseball in the summer, that doesn't' leave much time for other things. But not once has Gabe, or his brother Trey - a freshman at Irene-Wakonda complained.

"They're both like me," Mike said. "They can't sit around and be inactive; they've always got to be doing something. I really think they like competing." Particularly on the basket-

ball court. Yes, when you're in the middle of a football season, you're focused on that sport, but make no mistake, Gabe admits, basketball was always on his mind.

"Every weekend we still had open gym, so we knew the ultimate goal," Gabe said. 'We all know football is fun, but it's basketball where we really want to do something The 'we' he talks about?

ball team, which is 2-1 heading into Tuesday's game at the Parkston Classic. "We want to win," Gabe said. "This is a special group,

The Irene-Wakonda basket-

The expectations heading into last season weren't all

that high for the Eagles. They had the pieces in place to be a competitive team, but a District 10B title? That wasn't even on the radar. Until, of course, until

Irene-Wakonda won the District 10B title. It then lost to Parker in the region final, coming up one victory short of the state tournament. With all five starters – and

four double-digit scorers -

back, the Eagles are thinking

big.
"Now those expectations are really high," said Gabe, who will play college basketball at Northern State University in Aberdeen.

Follow @jhoeck on Twitter



