

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

COLLEGE BOWLS

Saturday, Dec. 19

CELEBRATION BOWL: NC A&T 41, Alcorn State 34

NEW MEXICO BOWL: Arizona 45, New Mexico 37

LAS VEGAS BOWL: Utah 35, BYU 28

CAMELIA BOWL: Appalachian State 31, Ohio 29

CURE BOWL: San Jose State 27, Georgia State 16

NEW ORLEANS BOWL: Louisiana Tech 47, Arkansas State 28

Monday, Dec. 21

MIAMI BEACH BOWL: Western Kentucky 45, South Florida 35

Tuesday, Dec. 22

FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL: Akron 23, Utah State 21

BOCCA RATON (FLA.) BOWL: Toledo 32, Temple 17

Wednesday, Dec. 23

POINSETTIA BOWL: Boise State 55, Northern Illinois 7

GODDADDY BOWL: Georgia Southern 58, Bowling Green 27

Thursday, Dec. 24

BAHAMAS BOWL: Western Michigan 45, Middle Tennessee 31

HAWAII BOWL: San Diego State 42, Cincinnati 7

Saturday, Dec. 26

ST. PETERSBURG (FLA.) BOWL: Miami 16, UConn 10

SUN BOWL: Washington State 20, Miami 14

HEART OF DALLAS BOWL: Washington 44, Southern Mississippi 31

PINSTRIPES BOWL: Duke 44, Indiana 41, OT

INDEPENDENCE BOWL: Virginia Tech 55, Tulsa 52

FOSTER FARMS BOWL: Nebraska 37, UCLA 29

Monday, Dec. 28

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. (ESPN)

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 p.m. (ESPN)

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)

Wednesday, Dec. 30

BIRMINGHAM (ALA.) BOWL: Auburn (9-6) 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: Louisville (7-5) 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)

AREA CALENDAR

Monday, December 28

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

BASKETBALL, BOYS' Aberdeen Classic (Elk Point-Jefferson vs. Aberdeen Roncalli, 8 p.m.); Langford Classic (Platte-Geddes vs. Langford Area, 5:30 p.m.); Verdigris Booster Club Holiday Tour. (Osmond vs. Bloomfield, 4:30 p.m.); Niobrara-Verdigris vs. Allen, 6 p.m.)

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Parkston Classic (Chester Area vs. Irene-Wakonda, 10:30 a.m.); Wagner vs. Tri-Valley, noon; Webster Area vs. Winner, 1:30 p.m.; Sanborn Central-Woonscock vs. Gayville-Volin, 3 p.m.; Ethan vs. Dell Rapids, 4:30 p.m.; Sully Buttes vs. Hanson, 6 p.m.; Parkston vs. Redfield-Doland, 7:30 p.m.; Verdigris Booster Club Holiday Tour. (Osmond vs. Bloomfield, 2:45 p.m.); Niobrara-Verdigris vs. Allen, 6:15 p.m.); Lennox at Dakota Valley; Scotland vs. Corsica-Stickney at Stickney

WRESTLING, PREP Floyd Farland Inv. at Sioux Falls (Parkston, Vermillion, Wagner, 11 a.m.)

Tuesday, December 29

BASKETBALL, MEN'S Kansas Wesleyan Classic (MMC vs. Kansas Wesleyan, 8 p.m., KYNT-AM)

BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Kansas Wesleyan Classic (MMC, KYNT-AM)

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USD Men Continue 'Gauntlet' With Game In Sioux Falls

BY JEREMY HOECK
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P&D FILE PHOTO

South Dakota's D.J. Davis, 32, goes in for a layup during a home game earlier this season. USD continues its 'gauntlet' of games around the Christmas break tonight (Monday) with a neutral site game against Florida Gulf Coast at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls.

The 'gauntlet.' That was the way Craig Smith described his University of South Dakota men's basketball team's stretch of games heading into and immediately following the Christmas break.

At Milwaukee. At Illinois. At UNLV. Neutral site game tonight (Monday) with Florida Gulf Coast at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls.

"You get done with those four games, and then you've got to prepare for the eighth-best league in the country," Smith joked Sunday, referring to the Summit League's ranking as No. 8 in all of Division I.

Such a non-conference schedule for the Coyotes (7-6) is, however, no joke. It's been one filled with big names – two Big Ten, one Big 12 – and plenty of opportunities for marquee victories (as was the case in the win over Minnesota).

"It might be one of the hardest in the Summit League, for sure," senior guard Casey Kasperbauer said Sunday.

As the Coyotes prepare for tonight's 7 p.m. game – a home contest for USD – against Florida Gulf Coast, they've again adjusted to life away from home.

Of USD's first 14 games of the season, 11 will have been played away from Vermillion. It's a trend that will end next season when USD moves to its new arena, but for the present, it's a way of life.

"Some people say we play better on the road, and I'm not sure I disagree with that," Kasperbauer said.

As it pertains to the current situation, the Coyotes are more concerned with playing better, rather than where they take the court.

Following a double-overtime win at Milwaukee on Dec. 17, USD saw a rally come up short in a 12-point loss at Illinois and then saw UNLV make 18 three-pointers in a 35-point win last week.

Still, as Smith would tell you, it's early in the season. "We've had some ups and downs, but the sky's not falling in," he said. "Part of it is, you look at who we played, but certainly losing the last couple, you have to learn from that."

Sure, the Coyotes would like more momentum heading into the Summit League season, but the big picture is still most important, Smith added.

"That's the bottom line. From day one we said we have to play our best at the end of the year," he said. "You have to move forward and grow and develop."

Part of that message was the same one USD had coming into the season: That it was going to need new faces to develop.

Seniors Tre Burnette (14.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg), Eric Robertson (9.4 ppg, 3.4 rpg) and Kasperbauer (13.0 ppg) are leading the way, but newcomers like Shy McClelland (11.2 ppg, 4.2 rpg), Dan Jech (9.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg) and Tyler Hagedorn (4.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg) have also

played key roles through the early stages of the season.

When you're trying to work in transfers and freshmen, there are going to be some learning curves, as Kasperbauer pointed out.

"We've stuck together through all the ups and downs so far," he said. "We've got a lot of confidence in each other."

"We still have a lot of new guys working their way in, so we're still trying to get a feel for each other."

One additional boost for the Coyotes as they wrap up non-conference play and get ready for the conference schedule is the return of junior forward Tyler Flack.

Prior to a 12-minute appearance in the loss to UNLV, Flack had yet to take the court for Smith. He missed all of last season and the first 12 games of this season – a stretch of 45 games.

It's not as easy as simply jumping right back into action without missing a beat. Flack wasn't exactly out of action that whole time, but had practiced live maybe 15 times in the 20 months since Smith and his staff took over.

"That takes time," Smith said. "That takes time to fully trust his knee, to trust himself and to learn a new system."

Flack, who recorded four rebounds and two blocks in the UNLV game, will no doubt add length and athleticism in the post for a Coyote team that already has depth down low. The key, Smith said, is finding a way to best utilize the 6-foot-7 forward.

"We as a staff have to figure out a way to help him so he can help our team," Smith said.

And that 'gauntlet' doesn't exactly allow an easy way for a player like Flack to pick up where he left off.

Florida Gulf Coast, despite

its 6-6 record, presents another significant challenge for USD.

The Eagles, picked to finish second in the Atlantic Sun Conference, lead the country in three-point defense (23.7) thanks to their length and athleticism, according to Smith. USD, on the other hand, ranks No. 28 nationally in three-point shooting (39.4).

Nationally known for its 'Dunk City' label, Florida Gulf Coast – led by former Kansas assistant Joe Dooley – has a pair of NAIA wins this season, but also played close with top-25 Texas A&M (losing by 10).

"They're big, they're long, and they're super athletic," Smith said. "It's hard to get easy buckets against them."

It was much the same story a year ago when USD was getting ready to play a long and athletic UNLV squad in the Pentagon. The Rebels beat the Coyotes by 14 points that night in Sioux Falls.

"It's another opportunity against a program with great name recognition to see if we can get a nice win," Smith said.

In order to do that, though, USD has to return to the style that resulted in wins over Eastern Washington, Minnesota and Milwaukee.

"I thought we got away from playing Coyote basketball a little bit," Kasperbauer said, referring to the back-to-back losses to Illinois and UNLV. "We stopped remembering what got us those really good wins early on."

What was different? "We've got to play together," Kasperbauer said. "We've got zero guys on any of the pre-season all-conference teams. So the only way we can win is if we do it together."

Follow @jhoeck on Twitter

Nebraska Caps Losing Season With Bowl Win

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — After a year marred by a string of close losses, Nebraska found a way to put a happy cap on a losing season.

Tommy Armstrong Jr. threw a touchdown pass and ran for another score to help Nebraska close a disappointing year by beating UCLA 37-29 in the Foster Farms Bowl on Saturday night.

"Like I always said, our 5-7 record doesn't speak about this team," Armstrong said. "We were just blessed enough to get another opportunity to prove to everybody why we should be in a bowl game."

The Cornhuskers (6-7) scored 30 straight points after falling behind 21-7 early to overpower the Bruins (8-5) and give Nebraska something to build on heading into coach Mike Riley's second season.

Stanley Morgan Jr. gave Nebraska the lead for good with a one-handed, 22-yard catch in the third quarter and Imani Cross, Terrell Newby and Andy Janovich all ran for scores for the Cornhuskers.

Armstrong completed 12 of 19 passes for 174 yards and ran for 76 more to lead the way for Nebraska, which had a season high with 326 yards rushing.

"Football goes better generally when you run the ball well and you can physically impose yourself on the other team," Riley said. "I thought our guys did a good job of that tonight."

Josh Rosen threw for 319 yards and three touchdowns for the Bruins. They ended what had once been a promising season with losses to Southern California and in the bowl game.

Nebraska only got the chance to play in a bowl because there were not enough six-win teams to fill all 80 slots and the Cornhuskers made the most of the opportunity by taking the game over in the third quarter.

After tying the game with two late touchdowns in the



JOHN GREEN/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/TNS
Nebraska quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. (4) runs for a huge gain in the second quarter to set up a touchdown before half time against UCLA in the Foster Farms Bowl at Levi's Stadium on Saturday in Santa Clara, Calif.

second quarter, Nebraska outgained UCLA 196 to 1 in the third quarter behind a dominant running game.

"Our defense got the ball ran on them 62 times but I feel it's kind of our responsibility as an offense to hold that ball a little bit longer to give them a break," Rosen said. "The stats probably aren't looking too pretty on defense but that's a very, very large responsibility of the offense."

The Cornhuskers gained 151 yards on the ground alone in the third quarter with the run game setting up Morgan's touchdown catch that made it 27-21 and then leading the way on two more scoring drives that ended in a Drew Brown's field goal and Armstrong's 3-yard run in the opening minute of the fourth to make it 37-21.

UCLA responded with a 9-yard TD pass from Rosen to Jordan Payton and a 2-point conversion to get within eight. Ka'imi Fairbairn missed a 46-yard field goal after a botched shotgun snap by the Bruins and Rosen threw an interception in the end zone on fourth down from the 32 with 2:54 to play to end UCLA's chances at a comeback.

After losing four games this season in the final 10 seconds of regulation or overtime, the Huskers were happy to be able to get that

late stop to seal a victory.

"We had a lot of those same situations where it came down to the last second and it didn't come out how we wanted it to," linebacker Josh Banderas said. "It was good for us to put that statement out that we can finish games."

The Bruins broke out to a 21-7 lead when Rosen threw a 60-yard touchdown to Kenneth Walker III and a 26-yarder to Nate Starks. The other UCLA touchdown came when Paul Perkins ran it in from the 1 play after Rosen completed a 22-yard pass to Thomas Duarte on fourth-and-1.

Nebraska got back-to-back TD drives to tie it 21 at the half.

Cornhuskers safety Gerry was ejected late in the second quarter for targeting on a swing pass to Perkins. It was the second straight game that Gerry was ejected for targeting.

"I've seen a lot of good football plays and I thought that was a very good football play," UCLA coach Jim Mora said. "I was stunned that he got thrown out of the game, quite frankly."

After the game, Nebraska defensive tackle Maliek Collins announced he will skip his senior season to enter the NFL draft.

Woods

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(in the 1600). I'm 16 seconds away from that."

Entering her senior season, Woods ranks sixth in Gazette history for 3200 meters with a 11:08.32. Breaking the 11-minute barrier would put her in the top four.

In the 1600, Woods currently ranks 13th in Yankton history with a 5:16.8 she clocked in 2014. A clocking of under five minutes would put her in the top five in team history.

"She's coming off a great fall of cross country. She's probably in the best shape she's been in for any period of time in our program," Youmans said. "We've already had a couple of conversa-

tions about what we want to do this winter and where she needs to be at. She's excited about the spring. It's got me

excited about this spring."

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HOLIDAY GARBAGE & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Friday, January 1st
NO COLLECTION
Thursday & Friday routes will be picked up on Thursday, December 31st. All other routes as scheduled.

Friday, January 1st
TRANSFER STATION CLOSED

PLEASE HAVE YOUR GARBAGE & RECYCLABLES PLACED BY 7 A.M.
Reminder ~ Garbage containers need to be accessible to the crew, two 33 gal. containers with handles & lids, under 50 lbs., free of water, snow & ice.