to learn how to correct the little flaws in your technique. Sprinkle in positive reinforcement and a little bit of

sician or an artist, for that matter - becoming great is developing one's own love for something. Forcing a kid

to work too much on a sport or activity will only breed resentment - for the activity, and maybe even for the

The best thing a parent can do is give children opportunities, and let them explore them. Odds are that your child won't become a five-time state champion or play Carnegie Hall but, he or she might just find something

While Kocer — and many kids who go on to be great something — started small, I'm not telling parents to force a basketball or a football in a kid's hands at the earliest opportunity. A big part of an athlete - or a mu-

Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.

YANKTON EVENTS

FRIDAY

District 2AA

TBD

SATURDAY

Region 1AA

TBB

3. Dell Rapids

Others

. Faith . Rosholt

Canistota

Missouri

9. Baylor 10. Ohio St.

Marquette

Georaetow

Murray St

Michigan

15. Wichita St.

16. Florida

5 Madisor

berlain.

MARCH 6

Region 1AA TBD

MARCH 8-10

State Tourn

at Brooking

TODAY

District 2AA

at Lincoln

7 p.m.

THURSDAY

District 2AA

TBD

YANKTON: Friday-Sunday, S.D. State Meet at Rapid City

OTHER EVENTS

SOUTH DAKOTA: March 2-8, at Rebel Spring Games at Kissimmee, Fla.

MOUNT MARTY: Thursday-Saturday, NAIA Indoor Champ. at Geneva, Ohio

MOUNT MARTY: Friday-Saturday, Friends Tournament at Wichita, Kan

Kocer's Journey To Five State Titles Began Long Ago

parent

luck, and there you have it.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK james.cimburek@yankton.net

COLLEGE EVENTS

RADIO & TELEVISION

Girls' BB: Region 4A, Vermillion vs. Harrisburg

Girls' BB: Neb. State: Crofton vs. S-Rising City

Girls' BB: Neb. State: Wynot vs. Falls City SH KVTK-AM

Girls' BB: District 8A, EPJ vs. Vermillion Women's BB: SIU-Edwardsville at USD

Girls' BB: Neb. State: Crofton and Wynot

POST-

SEASON

TBD

THURSDAY

So. Illinois

Edwardsville

7 p.m.

Boys' BB: YHS at S.F. Lincoln

Girls' BB: District 2AA (TBD)

Boys' BB: District 2AA (TBD)

Alex Kocer's journey to a fifth state wrestling title didn't begin last Friday

SEASON

COMPLETE

KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM

KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM

KVTK-AM

KVTK-AM

KYTK-AM

KKYA-FM

KVTK-AM

BASEBALL

Record Pvs

7-0

6-0 7-1

8-0

6-2 5-2

7-0 5-1

6-2 5-1 7-0

6-1 5-2 18

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7-1 5-2

3-3

2-4 4-2 6-1

6-2 25

Record

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7-1 482 479

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7-0 477

6-1 473 471

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6-2 5-2

7-1 4-2 462 24

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Ottawa

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Carolina

Detroit

St. Louis

Nashville

Chicago Columbu

Vancouver

Colorado

Calgary Minnesota

Edmonton

Phoenix

Dallas

Anaheim

13

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25

20

San Jose

Or in November. Or five years ago. The Wagner senior began his road to elite status as a 4-year-old wrestling in AAU competitions. He kept it going with continued hard work, not just from November to February, when the high school season was going on, but all year around.

But it is not work alone that can make an athlete special.

It starts with work, and the desire to work at becoming better. Add in "love of the game" and the willingness

Coyote Fans Invited To Wear Pink To

VERMILLION — Fans are invited to show their support for South Dakota women's basketball and more importantly Breast Cancer

Awareness by wearing pink to the Coyotes' game vs. SIU Edwardsville at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 1 at the DakotaDome. All fans wearing

pink to the game will be invited to be in a group photo to form the Cov-

otes "PINK ZONF" at halftime that will be later displayed on the usd

coyotes.com website as we strive to raise awareness and find a cure

ond consecutive 20-win season, will be wearing their special adidas

pink shirts during the game to support the program during the game.

USD Students will be admitted free the game with their student ID and 50 free tickets (first come, first serve) will be available to USD employ-

ees, staff and friends in the south lobby of the DakotaDome starting

one hour before the game for fans that wear pink to the game. Employ

ees and staff can also pick-up a voucher for up to two free tickets from

a special table in the Muenster University Center from 11 a.m. to 1

p.m. on both Wednesday, Feb. 29 and Thursday, March 1. For more details, contact Neal Bendesky at the USD Sports Mar-keting Office at 305-778-6325 or via email at neal.bendesky@usd.edu.

The Coyotes' coaching staff and team, which just earned their sec-

Thursday's USD Women's Game

of the Augustana women's track and field and cross country teams, has been named a 2012 Peace Prize Forum Scholar. The program is sponsored by the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, a consortium comprised of Augustana, Augsburg College, Concordia

they want to do for the rest of their lives. And that, is worth it.

College (Moorhead, Minn), Luther College and St. Olaf College. Kokesh will spend seven weeks at the University of Oslo's Interna-tional Summer School deepening her understanding of issues related to peace, justice, democracy and human rights. Kokesh, a junior, was Augustana's 2012 Truman Scholarship nom-

inee, a honor designed for those who intend to pursue a career in gov ernmental and non-governmental public service. She was named to the Academic All-NSIC for the 2011 fall athletic season. She is majoring in German and government/international affairs

and spent the 2011 fall semester studying in Austria. Kokesh will be introduced at the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize Forum, set for March 1 to 3 at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn. She is the daughter of Marilyn and the late Dennis Kokesh

Hansman Selected to WIAC Men's

Swimming And Diving All-Time Team MADISON, Wis. — South Dakota swimming and diving assistan coach Chris Hansman has been named to the Wisconsin Intercolle giate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Men's Swimming and Diving All-Time Team, the league announced. The team is being recognized in conjunction with the conference's upcoming Centennial Celebration. Hansman, who just completed his first season as a full-time as sistant coach for the Coyote program, swam for Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2001 and starred at Wisconsin-Oshkosh from 2002-04. At UW-

Oshkosh, Hansman was a four-time All-American diver at UW-Oshkosh and a two-time WIAC Diver of the Meet during his career. He was a four-time three-meter diving champion and a three-time onemeter champion during his career.

Stiegelmeier At QB Club The Yankton Quarterback Club will meet Wednesday at noon at the Elks Lodge, 504 West 27th Street, Yankton. This week's speaker is South Dakota State football coach John Stiegelmeier, who will talk about the Jackrabbits, their 2012 recruiting class and other topics of interest.

The public is invited to attend

Yankton Softball Competitive Team Workouts Set

The Yankton Girls' Softball Association will hold competitive team workouts on March 4 and 25.

Both workouts will be held at the Yankton Middle School gym. Sessions for players in U-10 and U-12 divisions will be held from 3-4:30 p.m., with players in U-14, U-16 and U-18 divisions held from 5-6:30 p.m. Ages as of Dec. 31, 2011, will determine a player's division for the 2012 season.

All competitive team coaches are required to attend both work-Anyone interested in playing on a competitive travel team in the

2012 season must attend one of these workouts. For more information go online to www.yanktongirlssoftball.com.

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE INDOOR NAIA Championships at

Saturday, March 3 BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. Districts — 8A (Championship — 7

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Sunday, March 4 SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Rebel Spring Games at Kissimmee, Fla. SWIMMING-DIVING, YOUTH S.D. State Meet at Rapid City

Monday, March 5 SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Rebel Spring Games at Kissimmee, Fla.

(ECHL).

nds Tourn. at Wichita, Kan. (MMC) SWIMMING-DIVING, YOUTH S.D. State Meet at Rapid City

TRACK & FIELD. COLLEGE INDOOR NAIA Champion

): 11B at Mitchell (Championship — 4:30 p.m.)

Report a score: Call 605-665-7811, ext. 106 or <u>800-743-2968 after 4 p.m. ■ Fax: 605-665-1721 ■ E-mail: sports@yankton.net</u>

Augustana's Kokesh Named Peace KYNT-AM. KVHT-FM Prize Forum Scholar SIOUX FALLS - Molly Kokesh, a Scotland native and member Girls' BB: Neb. State: Crofton and Wynot KVTK-AM

for Breast Cancer.

Home Games Appear In White, Road / Neutral Site Games Appear In Grav

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Today

7 p.m.

Thursday

3:45 p.m

7 p.m.

7 p.m.

7 p.m.

TRD

Saturday

8:45 p.m.

Friday TBD

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

Swimming & Diving

Softball

Track & Field

CROFTON, NEB.

MEN'S COMMERCIAL HIGH TEAM GAME: Crofton Elevator 943 HIGH TEAM SERIES: Goeden Steele 2611 HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Steve Honeywell 300, Mike Johnson 257, Brad Ronke 237 HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Steve Honeywell 724, Mike Johnson 650, Aaron Kuehler 643 A STANDINGS: Coor's Light 25-15, Wiebelhaus Rec 21-19. Dean's Cab 21-19, Goeden Steele 19-21 B STANDINGS: Crofton Elevator 23-17, Don's Auto 19-21, Leader Angus 19-21, DSM Apts 13-27 HIGHLIGHTS: Steve Honeywell 116 over game avg., 72 over series avg.; Brad Schieffer 2-7-10; Mark Mackeprang 3-6-7-10

BASKETBALL

SOUTH DAKOTA BOYS District 1A Semifinals Groton Area 39, Britton-Hecla 37 District 15A Semifinals Red Cloud 76, Hill City 32 District 2B First Round Hitchcock-Tulare 46, Aberdeen Chrisian 40 District 3B First Round Estelline 52, Lake Preston 5 Great Plains Lutheran 64, DeSmet 37 District 4B First Round Howard 49, Dell Rapids St. Mary 42

District 6B First Round ven/Edmunds Central 61, Ipswich Hove

District 8B First Round Alcester-Hudson 71, Gayville-Volin District 13B First Round Kadoka Area 51, Crazy Horse 38

50

SOUTH DAKOTA GIRLS District 2AA Semifinal Brandon Valley 48, Yankton 45 Sioux Falls Washington 55, Sioux alls Lincoln 48 District 3AA Semifinal Mitchell 70, Huron 38 ranking: District 9A Championship West Central 52, Tri-Valley 41 NEBRASKA BOYS B-4 Tournament Semifinal Beatrice 64. Schuvler 23

Crete 66. Seward 56 District C1-2 Final Bishop Neumann 68, Columbu District C1-4 Final Norfolk Catholic 64, Boone Central

3. Mitchell (3) 17-3 4 (tie) S.F. Washington 12-7 10 Web Brookings 13-7 VCU 9, Long Beach St. 8, BYU 6, Harvard 5, Memphis 5, California 3, Purdue 3, Kansas St. 2, Southern Miss. 2, Alabama 35 3 13 NR 13 5 resno St. 2, Oklahoma 2 4 (tie) Brookings Others — Pierre. Class A 1. St. Thomas More (9) 18-2 **BASEBALL AMERICA TOP 25** 45 USA TODAY/ESPN TOP 25 POLL 2. McCook Central-Montrose 17-3 29 DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — The top 25 teams in the Baseball America poll with The top 25 teams in the USA Today ESPN men's college basketball poll, with 3 16-4 26 **17-3 17** 17-3 7 records through Feb. 26 and previous first-place votes in parentheses, records 4. Dakota Valley 4 through Feb. 26, points based on 25 ranking (voting by the staff of Baseball 17-3 points for a first-place vote through one America Flandreau, Miller, Champoint for a 25th-place vote and previous Class B 19-1 Florida ranking: Pts Pvs 2. Stanford Record 1. White River (9) 45 1. Kentucky (31) 3. South Carolina 28-1 29-1 775 744 **18-2** 20-0 1 32 28 17 8 2. Viborg-Hurley **2** 3 4 5 2. Svracuse 4. Arkansas 3. Duke 25-4 690 5. Rice 4. Kansas 5. Michigan State 19-1 683 6. Texas A&M 17-3 24-5 650 7. Arizona Others - Lower Brule, Oelrichs, 6. North Carolina 25-4 627 Georgia North Carolina . Marquette 24-5 568 10 10. Georgia Tech 11. Arizona State 12. Miami **GPAC WOMEN'S TOURN** 8 Missouri 25-4 566 3 28-1 24-5 480 475 Murray State First Round, Feb. 22 Hastings 85, Briar Cliff 74 14 Baylor 11. Ohio State 13. Florida State Northwestern 78, Doane 44 23-6 21-6 470 9 8 Morningside 83. Mount Marty 77 12. Georgetown 13. Florida 439 14. Louisiana State Concordia 93. Dakota Wesleyan 63 15. Clemson 16. Mississippi 22-7 354 11 14. Wichita State 26-4 352 19 15 Semifinals, Feb. 25 Concordia 86, Hastings 48 341 17. UCLA 15. Wisconsin 21-8 Morningside 90, Northwestern 83 16. Michigan 21-8 24-6 306 281 13 18. Oregon 19. Central Florida Championship, Feb. 28 No. 2 Morningside (25-7) at No. 1 Concordia (30-2), 7 p.m. 17. UNLV 20 18. Louisville 19. Notre Dame 20. Indiana 202 184 178 22-7 20-9 17 18 20. Cal State Fullerton 20. Cal State Fuller 21. Texas 22. Texas Christian 22-7 24 21. Saint Mary's 25-5 163 119 23 16 23. Oklahoma GPAC MEN'S TOURN. 22. Florida State 19-9 24. Louisville First Round, Feb. 22 Dordt 78, Concordia 57 22-6 25-5 111 25 25. Baylor 80 -53 22 COLLEG 23. San Diego State Midland 58, Morningside 57 Briar Cliff 51, Nebraska Wesleyan 41 . Creighton 22-6 25. Temple COLLEGIATE BASEBALL POLL Others receiving votes: Gonzaga 48 Northwestern 85, Mount Marty 56 TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — The Colle-giate Baseball poll with records through Drexel 30, Virginia 30, New Mexico 23, Vanderbilt 13, Iowa State 8, Middle Ten-Semifinals, Feb. 25 Dordt 68, Midland 61 Feb. 26, points and previous rank. Voting is done by coaches, sports writers and nessee 8, Long Beach State 6, Kansas State 5, Mississippi State 5, Washington Northwestern 95, Briar Cliff 50 sports information directors Championship, Feb. 28 No. 2 Northwestern (24-6) at No. 1 2, California 1, Harvard 1, Memphis 1, Nevada 1, VCU 1, Weber State 1. Dordt (28-3), 7 p.m. 1. Florida . South Carolina THE WOMEN'S TOP TWENTY 3. Stanford THE AP TOP TWENTY FIVE . Rice FIVE The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-5. Texas A&M The top 25 teams in the The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, 6. North Carolina place votes in parentheses, records Arkansas through Feb. 26, total points based on 25 8. Miami, Fla. records through Feb. 26, total points points for a first-place vote through one . Georgia int for a 25th-place vote and previous based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote 10. Florida St. . Arizona St. Pts Prv and previous ranking Record 12. Georgia Tech 13. Louisiana St. Record Pts Prv 1. Kentucky (63) 28-1 1.623 1. Baylor (40) 2. Syracuse (2) 3. Kansas 4. Duke 29-1 1.562 1,000 29-0 14. Louisville 1,459 2. Stanford 26-1 946 3. Notre Dame 27-2 927 15. Oregon 4. UConn 26-3 887 16. Oklahoma 5. Michigan St 24-5 1,372 24-4 25-4 17. Cal St. Fullerton 5. Duke 813 6 North Carolina 25-4 1.314 18 Arizona 6. Maryland 25-4 1,253 808 19. Stetson 1,150 1,055 7. Miami 25-4 26-1 757 13 8. Delaware 688 20. Clemson 9 Penn St 23-5 658 21. Southern California 23-6 1,036 8 23-3 24-5 25-1 22. Cal Poly 10. Kentucky 624 597 21-6 906 23. Mississipp 28-1 885 14 11. Green Bay 12 24. Texas Tech 766 764 754 12. Georgetown 13. Tennessee 22-6 21-8 521 505 15 10 California 14. Ohio St. 24-5 485 367 8 17 18 26. Oregon St 26-4 19 27. Maryland 22-7 15. Georgia Tech 22-7 638 12 28. UCLA 16. Geo 355 22-7

AREA CALENDAR Florida Gulf Coast 8, Vanderbilt 6, Iowa 3,

Tuesday, February 28 BASKETFALL, BOYS' S.D. Districts — 2AA (YHS at S.F. Lincoln, 7 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM); 10A (Bon Homme at Platte-Geddes, 7 p.m., Parkston at Wagner, 7 p.m.); 7B at Tea (Freeman vs. Canistota, 6:30 p.m.: Parker vs. Bridgewater-Emerv. 8 p.m.): 8B at Centerville (Vibog-hurley vs. Gaynile-Volin/Alcester-Hudson winner, 6 p.m.; Center-ville vs. Irene-Wakonda, 7:30 p.m.); 11B at Mitchell (Menno vs. Hanson, 715 p.m.; Avon vs. Ethan, 8:45 p.m.); Neb. Districts — D13 at Battle Creek (Randolph vs. O'Neill St. Mary's, 7 p.m.; D2-3 at Plainview

(Wynot vs. Stuart, 7 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRLS' S.D. Regions - 4A (Vermillion vs. Harrisburg at Beresford, 7 p.m., KVTK-AM)

Wednesday, February 29 No activities scheduled

Thursday, March 1

Philadelphia 61 34 20 7 75 203 187

New Jersey 62 35 23 4 74 172 170 N.Y. Islanders 62 26 28 8 60 146 184

Northeast Division

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Southeast Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA

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Northwest Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA

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Pacific Division

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Sunday's Games Tampa Bay 4, New Jersey 3

Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 2

Dallas 3, Vancouver 2, OT

Ottawa 5, N.Y. Islanders 2

Minnesota 4, San Jose 3

Monday's Games N.Y. Rangers 2, New Jersey 0

Los Angeles at Nashville, 8 p.m.

Edmonton at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.

Florida 4, Montreal 2

Anaheim 3, Chicago 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S SIU-Edwardsville at USD (7 p.m.,

BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. Districts — 8A at North Sioux City

(Elk Point-Jefferson vs. Vermillion, 6 p.m., KVTK-AM; Dakota Valley

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' S.D. Districts — 2AA (YHS, 7 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM); Nebraska State Tourn. at Lincoln (Class C2 - Crofton vs. Shelby-Rising City. 3:45 p.m., KVTK-AM: Class D2 - Wynot vs. Sacred Heart, 8:45 p.m., KVTK-AM); S.D. Regions — 5A (7 Falls City); 4B at Harrisburg (Parker vs. Viborg-Hurley, 8 p.m.) TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE INDOOR NAIA Championships at

Friday, March 2 BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. Districts — 2AA (YHS, 7 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM); 10A (Championship — 7 p.m.); 7B at Tea (Championship onship — 7:30 p.m.); 8B at Tea (Championship — 6 p.m.); 12B at Mitchell (Championship — 6:30 p.m.)

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Nebraska State Tourn, at Lincoln SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Robel Spring Games at Kissimmee, Fla., ands Tourn. at Wichita, Kan. (MMC) SWIMMING-DIVING, YOUTH S.D. State Meet at Rapid City Frie

ald Green to a 10-day contract PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS-Signed C Joel Przybilla. Waived G Armon lohnson Women's National Basketball Associa-

tion SEATTLE STORM—Signed F Tina Thompson.

American League KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Agreed to terms with RHP Vin Mazzaro on a one-

year contract and C Salvador Perez on a extension. NFW YORK YANKEES-Agreed to

terms with 3B Eric Chavez on a one-year contract. Placed RHP David Aardsma or

TFXAS RANGERS—Agreed to terms with OF Engel Beltre, OF Julio Borbon, RHP Jacob Brigham, LHP Miguel De Los Santos, RHP Neftali Feliz, RHP Wilmer

Andrew Gordon. Traded D Mark Fraser to

Alexi Ogando and LHP Martin Perez on one-year contracts. National League CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to ms with LHP Sean Marshall on a fourdeau and D Marc Cantin. Acquired D

year contract. HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with INF Marwin Gonzalez on a

GP W L OT Pts GF GA 62 32 21 9 73 164 155 61 32 22 7 71 177 159 one-year contract. American Association KANSAS CITY T-BONES—Signed LHP Ben Baker and OF Gus Milner. SIOUX FALLS PHEASANTS—Re 63 33 26 4 70 165 171 Los Angeles 62 28 22 12 68 133 135 62 27 25 10 64 160 174 leased RHP Dan McDaniel, RHP Aaron

Wednesday's Games Pittsburgh at Dallas, 6:30 p.m. Toronto at Chicago, 7 p.m.

Buffalo at Anaheim 9 n r

five year contract.

the 60-day DL.

St. Louis at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

Cotter and RHP Matt Litzinger. Signed RHP Bo Schultz. ST. PAUL SAINTS—Signed RHP

Reid Mahon. Traded OF Sean M. Smith to Bridgeport (Atlantic) for a player to be WICHITA WINGNUTS—Traded LHP Logan Hoch to Kansas City for future con-

WINNIPEG GOLDEYES—Signed LHP Barrett Phillips, RHP Chris Ka INF Danny Barbero and RHP Craig Rapids (AHL).

Can-Am League

ROCKLAND BOULDERS-Signe

FOOTBALL National Football League CLEVELAND BROWNS—Signed LB D'Qwell Jackson to a multiyear contract

WASHINGTON REDSKINS-Resigned C Will Montgomery and DE Darrion Scott.

Canadian Football League WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS—Released RB Fred Reid. HOCKEY

National Hockey League ANAHEIM DUCKS—Acquired D Sebastian Erixon from Vancouver for RW

Font, RHP Mark Hamburger, LHP Derek Holland, LHP Michael Kirkman, RHP Roman Mendez, RHP Justin Miller, RHP Toronto for RW Dale Mitchell BOSTON BRUINS—Acquired F Brian Rolston and D Mike Mottau from the New York Islanders for F Yannick Rien-

> Greg Zanon from Minnesota for D Stev Kampfer. Assigned F Carter Camper, D Andrew Bodnarchuk and F Max Sauve to Providence (AHL).

BUFFALO SABRES-Acquired C Cody Hodgson and D Alexander Sulzer from Vancouver for F Zack Kassian and

D Marc-Andre Gragnani. CALGARY FLAMES—Signed RW Tim Jackman to a two-year contract. CAROLINA HURRICANES—Recalled F Zach Boychuk from Charlotte

(AHL). CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Traded D-F John Scott to the New York Rangers for a 2012 fifth-round draft pick. Recalled F Andrew Shaw from Rockford (AHL). DETROIT RED WINGS—Traded D 2013 second- and third-round draft pick

Mike Commodore to Tampa Bay for a conditional 2013 seventh-round draft nick Recalled D Brendan Smith from Grand

Toledo. Released G Dustin Carlson. HAMILTON BULLDOGS—Reas

a result of their actions in Feb. 26 game. Fined Chicago's Devin DiDiomete an undisclosed amount as a result of his actions in a Feb. 26 game against Florida. Fined Kalamazoo's Riley Gill an undisclosed amount as a result of his actions in a Feb. 26 game against Wheeling. READING ROYALS—Announced G

Jussi Rynnas has been assigned to Toronto (AHL). Released F Justin Kemmerer.

signed D Olivier Malka to Wheeling

Central Hockey League DAYTON GEMS—Suspended D Nick

MISSOURI MAVERICKS—Sus-D Keith Aulie from Toronto for F Carter Ashton. Recalled F Brandon Segal from Norfolk (AHL). Reassigned F Mike Angepended G Levente Szuper. TEXAS BRAHMAS—Announced F Ryan Hand was activated from league

SOCCER

round draft picks. WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Placed lan Westlake. C Nicklas Backstrom on the long-term in-jured list, retroactive to Jan. 4. WINNIPEG JETS—Claimed D Grant Clitsome off waivers from Columbus.

COLLEGE EASTERN ILLINOIS—Fired men's basketball coach Mike Miller. IOWA-Named Greg Davis offensive Traded D Johnny Oduva to Chicago for a coordinator and guarterbacks coach.

American Hockey League GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS—Announced G Jordan Pearce was reassigned to the team from Toledo (ECHL) and G Tom McCollum to reassigned to

ECHL ECHL—Suspended Colorado coach Chris Stewart one game and fined him an undisclosed amount as a result of his ac-MONTREAL CANADIENS—Traded F Andrei Kostitsyn to Nashville for a 2013 second-round draft pick and a conditional 2013 fifth-round draft pick. Claimed F tions in a Feb. 24 game against Ontario. Brad Staubitz off waivers from Minnesota Suspended Toledo coach Nick Vitucci one Recalled F Blake Geoffrion from Hamilton game and fined him an undisclosed AHL). Reassigned C Louis Leblanc to mount as a result of his actions in a Feb. 25 game against Wheeling. Fined Toledo's Todd Griffith and Cincinnati's NASHVILLE PREDATORS-Acquired C Paul Gaustad and a 2013 fourth-Michael Pelech undisclosed amounts as

EDMONTON OILERS-Acquired D

Nick Schultz from Minnesota for D Tom

Gilbert

Norfolk.

round draft pick from Buffalo for a 2012 first- and a 2013 fourth-round draft pick. NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Activated D Mark Katic from injured reserve and loaned him to Bridgeport (AHL).

OTTAWA SEANTORS—Acquired D Matt Gilroy from Tampa Bay for D Brian Lee. Assigned G Ben Bishop to Binghamton (AHL). SAN JOSE SHARKS-Acquired F

VANCOUVER CANUCKS—Acquired

Daniel Winnik, F T.J. Galiardi and a 2013 seventh-round draft pick from Colorado for F Jamie McGinn, F Mike Connelly and

F Michael Sgarbossa. TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Acquired

lidis, F Trevor Smith and D Evan Oberg to suspension.

Major League Soccer DC UNITED—Signed G Andrew Dyk-

F Sammy Pahlsson from Columbus for D Taylor Ellington and two 2012 fourth-. MONTREAL IMPACT—Waived MF

Distict C2-2 Final Ravenna 53, Sutton 29 District C2-4 Final	16. Florida 17. UNLV 18. Indiana 19. Louisville	22-7 24-6 22-7 22-7	531	12 21 23	16. Georgia 17. Texas A&M 18. St. John's	22-7 22-7 20-7 20-8	351	18 14 20	28. UCLA 29. Baylor 30. Coll. of Charleston	4-3 6-2 5-1	427 426 424	 26 29	Edmonton at Anaheim at C St. Louis at C
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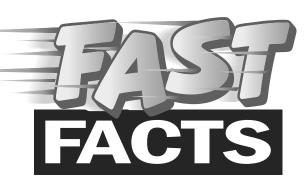
Colorado, 9 p.m Calgary, 9 p.m **les** Boston, 6 p.m. oronto, 6 p.m. ers at Washington, 6 p.m

Signed RHP Bryan Leigh t Carolina, 6 p.m. Columbus, 6 p.m. t Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m. Signed RHP Cody Hallahan es at Minnesota, 6:30 p.m BASKETBALL at Phoenix, 8 p.m. a at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

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James.

INF Ryan Mollica. WORCESTER TORNADOES-Frontier League ROCKFORD RIVERHAWKS— Signed LHP Kevin Patterson and RHP Brett Scarpetta to contract extensions. National Basketball Association NEW JERSEY NETS—Signed F Ger-



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AP Source: Red Sox C Varitek To Retire Thursday

BY RONALD BLUM AP Sports Writer

The Boston Red Sox are going

o need a new captain. Catcher Jason Varitek has decided to retire after 15 seasons with the Red Sox, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Monday night. The person requested anonymity because Varitek had not made an announcement.

The Boston Globe first reported Varitek's decision. Varitek is expected to make it

official Thursday at Boston's spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla.

A first round draft pick in 1994, Varitek came to Boston in a trade from Seattle in 1997 and spent his entire big league career with the Red Sox. He caught four no-hitters, made three All-Star teams won two World Series titles, all the while endearing himself to the team's demanding, blue-collar fan base with his unyielding work ethic and a refusal to back down.

Varitek surpassed Carlton Fisk for most games caught in a Red Sox uniform back in 2006 and finished with 1,488 games behind the plate. He has a ca-

.256 with 193 home runs and 757 RBIs. His best statistical season came in 2003, when he

homers and 85 Varitek RBIs, giving the Red Sox the lux-

ury of having some offensive punch from the catcher position

But it was always about more than numbers with Varitek.

His icy stare, rugged beard and crew cut hairstyle was the perfect look for a rag-tag group that helped end decades of inferiority to the hated Yankees with a magical run to the World Series title in 2004. He caught nohitters from Hideo Nomo in 2001, Derek Lowe in 2002, Clay Bucholz in 2007 and Jon Lester in 2008.

He was chosen captain two months after they won the World Series in '04, becoming just the third Red Sox captain in since 1923 — joining Hall of Famers Carl Yastrzemski and Jim Rice and cementing his status as a cornerstone of the franchise.

"I don't think you're going to find anybody in there who has plaved with him who says they're not going to miss him, Red Sox ace Josh Beckett said last week when asked about the possibility of Varitek hanging it up. "If 'Tek doesn't come back, he's going to be missed, severely, both in the clubhouse and out in the field.

The news of his retirement should come as little surprise. Varitek's production dipped in recent seasons, and he was supplanted as the everyday catcher, first by Victor Martinez and then by Jarrod Saltalamacchia last season. He hit .221 with 11 homers and 36 RBIs in 68 games.

GM Ben Cherington put the writing on the wall when he signed Saltalamacchia and Kelly Shoppach to one-year deals this winter to do the catching. As a show of respect for all that Varitek has accomplished with the franchise, Cherington offered him an invitation to camp to try and win a job. But the Red Sox had been practicing for more than a week without him.

"He was one of the greatest players in this organization, in my opinion," Shoppach, who got his start in Boston in 2005, said

last week. "I think that everybody learned from him. The brief time that I was with him years ago, there are still some things that I do in my everyday routine and my preparation that you know can't help but rub off from him."

It truly is the end of an era for the Red Sox, who also saw knuckleballer Tim Wakefield retire after 17 seasons with the team just before spring training started.







