

Senate Committee Approves USD Sports Facilities

BY JEREMY HOECK

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The University of South Dakota received a final approval Thursday to pursue the construction phase of a proposed sports performance facility arena and outdoor track/soccer complex in Vermillion.

Senate Bill 8 — which would authorize the South Dakota Building Authority and Board of Regents (BOR) to “finance and “construct” — was approved 8-0, with one senator excused, on Thursday morning by the Senate Appropriations Committee in Pierre.

Among those who voted to pass the bill were District 19 Sen. Bill Van Gerpen (R-Tyndall) and District 17 Sen. Tom Jones (D-Viborg).

“I think it’ll greatly enhance the school,” Van Gerpen said following the early afternoon session. “I’m excited they’re moving forward at the fast pace they are.”

According to the bill, introduced at the request of the BOR, the South Dakota Building Authority may finance up to \$22.7 million of the construction through revenue bonds.

According to USD officials, as of last week, approximately \$10 million is left

to be raised to reach the \$48.2 million price tag for the two projects — funded separately.

“I was absolutely encouraged by where they are,” Van Gerpen said. “It’s great that people out there are willing to invest in the future of South Dakota students; in something that will keep them here and will be an attraction to students from other states.”

The next step will be eventually breaking ground in Vermillion. USD interim athletic director David Herbst said last week that he believes a shovel could be in the dirt by the end of the

year, given pledges continue to come in.

The construction of the two facility projects would mark the biggest such athletic endeavor at USD since the DakotaDome opened in 1979 (and later required a new steel roof in 2001). Van Gerpen said he realized from the presentation that additional space and enhancements were needed.

“I think the university is really doing great; expanding with new projects,” he said. “As I understand with the Dome, it makes it difficult for them with the lack of space for activities.”

All in all, the presentation — by USD

president Jim Abbott and Vice President of Finance Sheila Gestring — was rather short and “to the point,” Van Gerpen said, and included plenty of necessary information to move forward.

“Since they’re looking for donations, that helps a lot toward getting approval,” Van Gerpen said. “They wanted the OK from the spending authority from the money they will be receiving.

“It’s much easier than coming to request money for a project.”

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Jacks Outgun South Dakota

SDSU Rolls 67-54 For 27th Straight Home Win

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BROOKINGS — It wasn’t a 30-point difference, but it was still rather one-sided at Frost Arena.

That’s the way this series has gone at the Division I level between South Dakota State and the University of South Dakota, home teams have ruled the day.

It was no different Thursday night in front of a sellout crowd at Frost Arena, as SDSU won its 27th straight at home thanks to a 67-54 Summit League men’s victory over the rival Coyotes.

“It’s definitely a good feeling to just get the win. We laid an egg the last time we played them,” said SDSU junior Jordan Dykstra, who had a double-double with 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Jacks (17-6, 8-2).

The last time the Coyotes (8-14, 4-6) played in Brookings, however, they were handed an 86-56 drubbing at the hands of the future conference champions.

Each of the previous meetings, both in Vermillion, were won by the Coyotes, and each of the past seven games in the series have been won by the home team.

“Obviously it helps being at home,” SDSU senior Nate Wolters, who finished with 19 points and seven rebounds, said. “We came out with energy, started strong, but had to withstand their runs.”

There was an early sign Thursday that it could be another long night for the visitors in red, but the Coyotes survived a slow start and made incremental improvements — namely, a new wrinkle in the matchup zone defense — in this South Dakota Show-down Series.

“We handled it a lot better than last year,” USD senior Jordan Boos said. “Having that new defense really helped us a little bit with (Nate) Wolters on the top. They hit some shots right away, but our defense shored up after a while.”

Where as last year’s meeting in Brookings was more of a collective, all-around frustration, the Coyotes were hurt most Thursday by 17 turnovers that led directly to 15 Jackrabbit points.

In short, if not for those, the 13-point margin of defeat could have been a lot different.

“That was a combination of mental errors on our part, and they played some really good defense, you have to give them a lot of credit,” USD freshman Casey Kasperbauer said. “On the other hand, we can definitely cut down on our turnovers.”

The opening seven minutes were a direct copy of last season’s meeting in Brookings, with the Jacks jumping out in front 21-7 with a string of 3’s.

SDSU’s margin — thanks to seven 3’s in the first half — again reached 14 before the Coyotes surged to a 13-4 run to get within 32-27 at the 2:38 mark.

Up 36-27 at halftime, the Jackrabbits started the second half with an 18-6 run to pull in front 50-33.

The Coyotes later reeled off six straight points to climb within 55-44 — the closest they would get — before the hosts eventually built a 22-point cushion.

“We certainly played better than we did a year ago,” USD coach Dave Boots said. “I was proud of the way our guys played. They’re very good; they’re hard to guard, and they can all shoot it.”

Even though the Jackrabbits had edges in made three-pointers (9-5), rebounds (36-31) and second-



TROY MARONEY/BROOKINGS REGISTER

South Dakota's Brandon Bos gets off a shot in traffic over South Dakota State's Jordan Dykstra (left), Marcus Heemstra (32) and Nate Wolters (3) during the first half of the Coyotes' 67-54 Summit League loss to the Jackrabbits on Thursday at Frost Arena.

STATE-U | PAGE 8A

Crofton Girls Advance To Mid-State Final; Bears Win NENAC

NORFOLK, Neb. — Bridget Arens scored 18 points Thursday night in a 68-35 win against Guardian Angel Central Catholic in Norfolk in the Mid-State Conference Tournament.

Quinn Wragge added 15 points, nine rebounds and four rebounds in the win, while Allison Arens added nine points and eight assists. Tiffany Tramp had nine points and four assists, and Maria Wortmann recorded eight points and 10 rebounds.

Abby Ortmeier scored eight points for Guardian Angel, while Jamie Petz added six points. Krista Fischer also contributed eight rebounds.

Crofton will face Pierce in the championship round on Saturday, with Guardian Angel facing Norfolk Catholic for third place.

CROFTON (18-0).....6 28 50 68
GUARDIAN ANGEL CENTRAL CATHOLIC (18-212) 17 28 35

NENAC

Laurel-Concord-Col. 37, Randolph 33

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Audra

Corbit scored 11 points Thursday night in Creighton to lead Laurel-Concord-Coleridge in the 37-33 win against Randolph, claiming the championship in the Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference.

Kiley Thompson added eight points in the win, with Cameron Eddie recording seven points and Katie Gubbels contributing six points.

Emily Schnoor scored 14 points for Randolph, while Michaela Strathman put up 11 points on the night.

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge hosts Wisner-Pilgner on Thursday, and Randolph, second place in the Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference, will face Emerson-Hubbard at home on Tuesday.

RANDOLPH (13-5).....6 17 23 33
LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE (13-6).....0 11 22 37

West Holt 50, Neligh-Oakdale 43

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Megan Wenner put up 20 points Thursday night to lead West Holt in the 50-43 win against Neligh-Oakdale,

taking third place in the Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference in Creighton.

Blake Butterfield added had a total of 13 points in the win, with April Everett adding 12 points.

Erin Keetle scored 18 points for Neligh-Oakdale, fourth place overall. Kelley Carden recorded 14 points and Joselyn Lamm also had seven points.

Neligh-Oakdale faces Aisworth at home on Saturday, while West Holt hits the road to play against Niobrara-Verdigre on Tuesday.

NELIGH-OAKDALE (8-12).....8 20 24 43
WEST HOLT (14-7).....6 18 32 50

Creighton 40, Plainview 32

CREIGHTON, Neb. — With 18 total points Thursday night, Rebecca Eggerling led the Creighton Lady Bulldogs to a 40-32 win against Plainview in Creighton, placing fifth overall in the Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference.

Eggerling also recorded 12 rebounds. Paige Mitteis and Maddi Oltjenbruns each scored six points, with Mitteis adding four rebounds.

Kami Johnson had 15 points and nine rebounds for Plainview, with Abby Krueger adding seven points and four rebounds.

Creighton hosts Pierce on Tuesday, while Plainview travels to O'Neill.

PLAINVIEW (5-14).....8 10 25 32
CREIGHTON (8-12).....10 22 33 40

Other Games

Elk Point-Jefferson 53, Lennox 38

ELK POINT — Keely Bertram posted game-highs of 25 points and 11 rebounds to lead Elk Point-Jefferson to a 53-38 rout of Lennox in girls' basketball action on Thursday.

Bertram also had four assists and four steals for the Huskies. Haylee Erickson had eight points and Hope Erickson had five steals in the victory.

For Lennox, Kayla Kruse scored 11 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

Both teams are in action

GIRLS | PAGE 8A

Wausa Boys Top Homer To Make L&C Semifinals

WAUSA, Neb. — Top-seeded Wausa jumped out to a 28-20 half-time lead and claimed a 59-48 victory over Homer in the quarterfinals of the Lewis & Clark Conference boys' basketball Tournament on Thursday.

Reid Friedrich scored 15 points and Austin Conn had 14 points to lead Wausa. Trevor Wakeley added 10 points in the win.

Tanner Olson led Homer with 17 points. Chase Dahl netted 11 points.

Wausa, 16-1, advances to the semifinals on Saturday in Wakefield, Neb. Homer, 7-11, crosses the border to play Elk Point-Jefferson (S.D.) on Tuesday.

HOMER (7-11).....9 20 31 48
WAUSA (16-1).....10 28 39 59

Wagner 60, Andes Central 41

WAGNER — Noah St. Pierre led the Wagner Red Raiders to a 60-41 win Thursday night by scoring 17 points against the Andes Central Eagles in Wagner.

St. Pierre also had 11 rebounds and two assists, with Will Hollman adding 13 points and 12 rebounds. Chris Kuca contributed 11 points and three rebounds.

For the Eagles, Gabe Cournoyer scored 12 points and had two rebounds, while Neulan Dion had 11 points and two steals.

Wagner hosts McCook Central-Montrose on Saturday, while the Eagles host Scotland.

ANDER CENTRAL (4-8).....13 23 30 41
WAGNER (7-7).....6 23 43 60