

Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

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



BY JEREMY HOECK
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(First, yes, that is a new mug shot of me. For those of you reading this online, sorry.) You might remember reading last summer a series of stories the *Press & Dakotan* wrote — actually, that I wrote — on recruiting, and how various local and area high school athletes promote themselves and go about choosing a potential college. From selecting a level (NAIA to NCAA), to overcoming injuries, to utilizing summer sports, we tried to cover every possible angle in the recruitment process for kids. Today, as you read this, it is National Signing Day for sports like football, soccer and track & field. Football, of course, is what garners most of the regional and national attention, because it's the money-mayor sport.

Months And Months Of Preparation Brings Us To Signing Day

It's the day when coaches at the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State, for example, can officially unveil the list of kids they believe can take them to the next level. In the case of the Jackrabbits, kids who can take SDSU back to the Division I football playoffs. And for the Coyotes, kids who can help that program dig out of 1-10 memories from last fall. Today is the day when outside fans will compare classes (each year, I inevitably get asked where I think USD's recruiting class ranks), and the day when those fans will keep some of those names in mind to look out for down the road.

That's the thing about Signing Day, though. The bulk of the names you see listed for USD and SDSU will not see the field in 2013, and most probably won't even get on the field in 2014. For true impact, you have to wait at least 2-3 years to see how those kids truly impact a program.

For now, that doesn't take away from the excitement of Signing Day. Hopefully you're excited as well.

Three Coyotes Rank In Top-15 Nationally

VERMILION — South Dakota pole vaulters Bethany Buell and Madison Mills and distance runner Jeff Mettler are all ranked in the top-15 on the national performance list after their performances at the Frank Sevigne-Nebraska Invitational last weekend.

Buell's winning vault of 13-11 3/4 places her fifth in the country, while Mills' vault of 13-5 1/4 is 15th-best in the event. The duo ranks first and second in the Summit League.

Mettler has the 10th-best time in the 5,000-meters after winning with a time of 14:08.74. He ranks first on the Summit League performance list as well.

Mettler and Buell were each named the Summit League track and field Athletes of the

Week for their efforts this past week. It was Buell's second straight honor, and Mettler's second in three weeks.

USD will host the Summit League Indoor Track and Field Championships, Feb. 24-25 at the DakotaDome.

The top-16 athletes in each event will qualify for the NCAA Indoor National Championships held Mar. 8 and 9 in Fayetteville, Ark.

Area Golfer Cards Hole-In-One In Arizona

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Janet Hoff, a member at The Bluffs Golf Course in Vermillion, shot a hole-in-one while golfing at Pebble El Mirage in Phoenix, Ariz.

She made the 106-yard shot with a 7-iron.

Bendesky 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 Neal Bendesky, Director of Athletic Marketing and Promotions at the University of South Dakota.

The public is invited to attend.

Winckler Joins Older Sister On DWU Golf Team

MITCHELL — Dakota Wesleyan head golf coach Adam Anderson announced Tuesday that Krista Winckler, sister of current Tiger golfer Jenna Winckler, committed to golf DWU Wesleyan earlier this week, Anderson announced. Krista Winckler is the Tiger women's first com-

mitment for the upcoming season.

Winckler joins the DWU golf program after a three-year varsity career at Andes Central High School in Lake Andes. She has qualified for the Class B state tournament twice in her varsity career, and helped the Eagles to a fifth-place team finish as a sophomore. She was also part of an Andes Central team that won the region tournament her sophomore season and took fourth her junior year.

Winckler also lettered six times in basketball and five in volleyball at Andes Central. She earned all-conference and Class B All-State honorable mention honors in volleyball and was named to the Class B All-Tournament team after helping the Eagles to a fifth-place finish this season. She also earned all-conference honors in basketball.

AREA CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 6 BASKETBALL, MEN'S MMC at Northwestern (8 p.m., KYNT-AM) BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S MMC at Northwestern (6 p.m., KYNT-AM)	Thursday, February 7 BASKETBALL, BOYS' Dakota Plains Inv. at Santee (Mary, Santee); Bloomfield at Allen; Freeman Academy at Flandreau; Freeman vs. Corsica-Stickney at Corsica; Gayville-Vol in Marion; Hartington Cedar Catholic at Battle Creek; Menno at Canistota; South Central at Andes Central; Wisner-Pligier at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge BASKETBALL, GIRLS' JV YHS at Huron (4 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRLS' SOPH YHS at Huron (5:45 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRLS' 9TH YHS at Huron (4 p.m.) WRESTLING, PREP Madison Quad. (Dakota Valley, 5:30 p.m.)
Friday, February 8 BASKETBALL, BOYS' Huron at YHS (7:30 p.m.); Dakota Plains Inv. at Santee (Mary, Santee); Alcester-Hudson at Battle Creek; Avon vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Armour; Beresford at Elk Point-Jefferson; Bon Homme at Platte-Geddes; Centerville at Gayville-Vol in Marion; Hartington Cedar Catholic at Battle Creek; Norfolk Catholic at Croton; Parkston at Lennox; Vermillion at West Central (6:30 p.m., KVTX-AM); Winner at Platte-Geddes; Wisner-Pligier at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge BASKETBALL, GIRLS' JV YHS at Huron (4 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRLS' SOPH YHS at Huron (5:45 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRLS' 9TH YHS at Huron (4 p.m.) WRESTLING, PREP Madison Quad. (Dakota Valley, 5:30 p.m.)	Friday, February 8 BASKETBALL, BOYS' Huron at YHS (7:30 p.m.); Dakota Plains Inv. at Santee (Mary, Santee); Alcester-Hudson at Battle Creek; Avon vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Armour; Beresford at Elk Point-Jefferson; Bon Homme at Platte-Geddes; Centerville at Gayville-Vol in Marion; Hartington Cedar Catholic at Battle Creek; Norfolk Catholic at Croton; Parkston at Lennox; Vermillion at West Central (6:30 p.m., KVTX-AM); Winner at Platte-Geddes; Wisner-Pligier at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge BASKETBALL, GIRLS' JV YHS at Huron (4 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRLS' SOPH YHS at Huron (5:45 p.m.) BASKETBALL, GIRLS' 9TH YHS at Huron (4 p.m.) WRESTLING, PREP Madison Quad. (Dakota Valley, 5:30 p.m.)

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL	Elgin Public/Pope John 45, CWC 42 Elk Point-Jefferson, S.D. 56, Homer 51 Elkhorn Mount Michael 69, Omaha Concordia 55 Exeter/Milligan 60, McCool Junction 49	Herrington 35, Morrill 24 Homer 57, Elk Point-Jefferson, S.D. 49 Howells/Dodge 61, Bancroft-Rosalie 49 Kearney Catholic 75, Centura 30 Kensaw 44, Red Cloud 34 Kimball 63, Mitchell 61, OT Lawrence-Nelson 43, Harvard 24 Lincoln Christian 61, Johnson County Central 28 Lincoln Southwest 59, Papillion-LaV-ista 20 Lincoln 48, Deshler 24 Loomis 49, Eustis-Farnam 47 Lutheran High Northeast 64, David City 45 Lyons-Decatur Northeast 45, Wisner-Pligier 37 Maywood 48, South Platte 43 Meridian 65, High Plains Community Central 49 Nebraska Christian 52, Nebraska Lutheran 25 Nebraska Oak 40, Falls City 29 Neligh-Oakdale 44, Battle Creek 33 Northwestern Valley, Kan. 43, Franklin 38 O'Neill 57, Plainview 53 Oakland-Craig 46, Archbishop Bergan Academy 34 Seward 69, Fairbury 44 Silver Lake 48, Shelton 14 Sioux County 55, Crawford 54 SMC 46, Arthur County 30 Southern 55, Lewistown 30 Southern Valley 82, Southview 44 St. Mary's 62, Boyd County 37 Stanton 39, Logan View 37 Sutherland 75, Maxwell 27 Sutton 65, Tri County 24 Syrause 56, Auburn 47 Thayer Central 49, Wilber-Eaton 22 Twin Loop 40, Summer-Clidonia-Miller 38 Wauneta-Palisade 42, Chase County 28 West Holt 53, Niobrara/Verdigre 35 West Point-Beemer 36, Madison 34 Wynot 71, Irene-Wakonda, S.D. 43 Yutan 57, Centennial 46
TUESDAY'S S.D. BOYS	Aberdeen Christian 59, Wauabau 33 Brookings 56, Yankton 48 Chester 57, Alcester-Hudson 47 Dee 62, Sioux Valley 50 Dupree 95, Wakpala 52 Edgemont 46, Rapid City Christian 44 Elk Point-Jefferson 56, Homer, Neb. 51	Falls City 53, Nebraska City 38 Fort Calhoun 66, Takamah-Herman 46 Franklin 46, Northern Valley, Kan. 35 Fullerton 63, St. Edward 51 Gibbon 70, Cozad 63, OT Gretna 48, Blair 47 Hearthland 47, Deshler 24 Hickox County 48, Cheylin, Kan. 44 Howells/Dodge 57, Bancroft-Rosalie 49 Kearney Catholic 75, Centura 45 Kensaw 71, Red Cloud 28 Lincoln Christian 76, Johnson County Central 49 Lincoln Southeast 50, Lincoln Plus X 39 Lincoln Southwest 60, Papillion-LaV-ista 20 Lindsay Holy Family 69, Elkhorn Valley 41 Lyons-Decatur Northeast 65, Wisner-Pligier 63 Maywood 41, South Platte 33 Nebraska Christian 48, Nebraska Lutheran 41 Nebraska City Lourdes 55, Omaha Brownell-Tabbot 41 O'Neill 80, Plainview 44 Omaha Benson 70, Omaha Bryan 49 Omaha Roswell 68, Schayler 45 Overton 68, Wilcox-Hildreth 34 Pawnee City 75, Axtell, Kan. 67 Perkins County 60, Creek Valley 25 Randolph 44, South Sioux City 41 Randolph 55, Emerson-Hubbard 24 Sandy Creek 72, Filmore Central 42 Seward 63, Fairbury 45 Sioux County 47, Crawford 40 Southern 40, Lewiston 39 Southern Valley 94, Southwest 36 St. Mary's 45, Boyd County 37 St. Paul 57, Ravenna 48 Wahota 75, Columbus Scotus 46 Walhall 70, Gayville-Vol in, S.D. 42 Wauneta-Palisade 55, Chase County 51 Wausa 53, Hartington 39 Winnebago 70, Wakefield 52 Yutan 71, Omaha Nation 66
TUESDAY'S S.D. GIRLS	Alcester-Hudson 45, Chester 42 Avon 54, Viborg-Hurley 46 Ballistic 57, Howard 48 Beresford 52, West Central 41 Castlewold 61, Colman-Egan 43 Corsica/Stickney 67, Andes Central 51 Dakota Christian 41, Freeman Academy 27 DeSmet 55, Flandreau 24 Deurook 55, Hamlin 22 Dewal 42, Sioux Valley 32 Elkton-Lake Benton 42, Garretson 25 Ethan 42, Marion 28 Gayville-Vol in 56, Walhall, Neb. 37 Great Plains Lutheran 56, Tiopsa Zina Tribal 52 Grolton Area 36, Langford 31 Homer, Neb. 57, Elk Point-Jefferson 49	TUESDAY'S NEB. GIRLS Ainsworth 53, Stuart 30 Allen 51, Winside 29 Amherst 63, Alma 59 Aquinas 46, Humphrey St. Francis 30 Arapahoe 52, Cambridge 47 Ashland-Greenwood 56, Conestoga 28 Bellevue East 60, Omaha Northwest 44 Bishop Neumann 59, Plattview 37 Brining-Davenport/Shidley 51, Osceola 0 Burns, Wyo. 61, Banner County 20 Clearwater/Orchard 51, Ewing 34 Columbus Scotus 41, Columbus Lakeview 35 Cozad 40, Gibbon 21 Crete 53, Hastings 29 Diller-Ordell 62, College View Academy 17 East Butler 45, Cross County 36 Elgin Public/Pope John 48, CWC 38 Elkhorn South 58, Omaha Mercy 36 Elwood 61, Elm Creek 56 Emerson-Hubbard 54, Randolph 47 Exeter/Milligan 64, McCool Junction 17 Falls City Sacred Heart 57, North Andrew, Mo. 44 Fillmore Central 61, Sandy Creek 34 Freeman 52, Sterling 44, OT Fullerton 41, St. Edward 28 Gayville-Vol in, S.D. 56, Walhall 37 Gothenburg 48, Ogallala 36 Grand Island Central Catholic 49, Wood River 46 Gretna 70, Blair 30 Hampton 60, Dorchester 35 Hartington 45, Wausa 23 Hastings St. Cecilia 57, Adams Central 39 Hearthland 43, Deshler 34
TUESDAY'S S.D. BOYS	Adams Central 58, Hastings St. Cecilia 49 Ainsworth 66, Stuart 48 Amherst 67, Alma 57 Anselmo-Merna 73, North Loup 64 Arapahoe 73, Cambridge 40 Battle Creek 54, Neligh-Oakdale 36 Boone Central/Newman Grove 61, Doniphan-Trumbull 32 Boys Town 74, St. Albert, Council Bluffs, Iowa 37 Clearwater/Orchard 55, Ewing 45 Cross County 65, East Butler 34 Diller-Ordell 45, College View Academy 38	TUESDAY'S NEB. BOYS Ainsworth 66, Stuart 48 Amherst 67, Alma 57 Anselmo-Merna 73, North Loup 64 Arapahoe 73, Cambridge 40 Battle Creek 54, Neligh-Oakdale 36 Boone Central/Newman Grove 61, Doniphan-Trumbull 32 Boys Town 74, St. Albert, Council Bluffs, Iowa 37 Clearwater/Orchard 55, Ewing 45 Cross County 65, East Butler 34 Diller-Ordell 45, College View Academy 38

Girls

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Wynot 71, Irene-Wak. 43

WAKONDA — Wynot traveled north of the border on Tuesday night and defeated Irene-Wakonda 71-43 in girls' basketball action in Wakonda.

Maggie Schulte led the Blue Devils with 14 points and five assists. Ashley Heine, Kelsie Higgins and Erica Burbach added 10 points apiece as Wynot improves to 19-3 this season. The Blue Devils' only losses this year have come against undefeated Crofton (Dec. 29) and 19-2 Homer (Dec. 11 & Feb. 4).

Freshman Caitlin Hinsett scored 16 points to lead the Eagles. Makayla Mohr added eight points while Andrea Sokolowski grabbed six rebounds.

Wynot wraps up their regular season at Hartington on Friday while Irene-Wakonda (4-12) travels to Canton on Friday before wrapping up their regular season with a pair of home games on February 11-12.

WYNOT (19-3).....17 38 63 71
IRENE-WAKONDA (4-12).....12 22 35 43

Both teams play on Friday as Canistota hosts Ethan while Menno hosts Andes Central. **CANISTOTA (5-12)**.....11 24 37 60
MENNO (2-15).....12 21 32 48

Hanson 66, Freeman 54

FREEMAN — Hanson defeated Freeman 66-54 in South Dakota 'B' girls basketball action Tuesday night.

Hannah Doyle led Hanson (16-2) with 19 points and five rebounds. Kelsey Cheeseman added 13 points and five rebounds in the victory.

Erika Sage and Dina Soulek had 16 points a piece to lead Freeman (8-9). Nicole Saarie tallied 12 points in the loss.

Hanson will travel to Corsica-Stickney on Friday. Freeman will travel to Mary next Monday. **HANSON (16-2)**.....17 34 51 66
FREEMAN (8-9).....8 23 30 54

Hartington 45, Wausa 23

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Hartington held Wausa to just 11 points combined over the first three quarters to defeat the Vikings by a final of 45-23 on Tuesday night in Hartington.

Myranda Fischer led the Wildcats with 24 points, going 5-for-6 on three pointers. Michaela Dendinger added eight points and 10 rebounds.

Hartington, 9-10, finishes their regular season on Friday against Wynot.

Wausa, 7-13, hosts Osmond on Friday in their regular season finale.

WAUSA (7-13).....4 8 11 23
HARTINGTON (9-10).....14 26 35 45

Beresford 52, West Cent. 41

BERESFORD — Beresford improved to 14-3 this year with a 52-41 victory over West Central on Tuesday night. Tamy Twite led the Watchdogs with 17 points and eight rebounds. Alyson Johnson added 14 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

For West Central (12-5), Hunter Mathieu and McKenna Macdonald scored eight points apiece.

Beresford plays at Elk Point-Jefferson on Friday while West Central hosts Vermillion on Thursday.

WEST CENTRAL (12-5).....10 23 34 41
BERESFORD (14-3).....13 21 35 52

Canistota 60, Menno 48

MENNO — Canistota improved to 5-12 with a 60-48 victory over Menno in Class B girls' basketball action on Tuesday night in Menno.

Junior Chloe Nielsen's double-double (17 points, 17 rebounds) led the Hawks while senior Natasha Letcher added 16 points and eight boards.

For the Wolves (2-15), sophomore Abby Herboldt scored 15 points while junior Christina Herboldt added 11 points and 14 rebounds. Canistota also won the JV game, 33-31.

Boys

From Page 8

could not hold on as they were outscored 63-28 over the final three quarters.

For Walhall, Dwight Parker scored 31 points while Kobe Smith added 13.

Brandon VanOsdell led the Raiders as the sophomore scored 29 points and added eight rebounds.

Walhall, 3-12, plays at Emerson-Hubbard on Friday while Gayville-Vol in (0-15) plays at Marion on Thursday.

WALTHILL (3-12).....7 35 51 70
GAYVILLE-VOL IN (0-15).....14 24 33 42

South Central 67, Bon Homme 47

TYNDALL — The South Central Cougars improved to 15-1 this year with a 67-47 victory over Bon Homme on Tuesday night in Tyndall. Senior Tyr Frank recorded a double-double for the Cougars with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Sam Hazen added 17 points while

Monday

Centerville 61, Freeman Academy 45

FREEMAN — Logan Hunter scored 13 points and Centerville led 20-0 after one quarter on the way to a 61-45 boys' win Monday night in Freeman.

Seamus O'Malley added 11 points for the Tomatoes (12-3), who led 35-10 at halftime. Ty Knutson grabbed nine rebounds.

For the Bobcats (1-15), Noah Yoder scored 17 points.

Freeman Academy hosts Flandreau on Thursday and Centerville visits Gayville-Vol in on Friday night in Gayville.

CENTERVILLE (12-3).....20 35 44 61
FREEMAN ACADEMY (1-15).....0 10 21 45

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Congratulations

Aaron's Sales & Leasing Ribbon Cutting

The Yankton Chamber of Commerce Ambassador committee welcomed Aaron's Sales & Leasing with a ribbon cutting at 2101 Broadway Ave. Jerry Peterson, manager of Aaron's welcomes everyone to come in and check out their name brand appliances, televisions, computers and USA made furniture. They are open M-Thurs. 10-7, Fri. 10-8, Sat. 10-5p.m. You can go to their website at www.aaron's.com or call them at (605)665-0702.

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Recruits

From Page 8

cluding current players Tyler Starr (LB) and Matt Nagel (DE), due in part to Beschornor himself being a former Northwest Iowa product. CL/GLR will have another recruit sign with USD today, as Josh Hunt (LB-DB) will ink his letter of intent.

"We feel good about the USD program, they've treated us very well," Central Lyon/George-Little Rock coach Toby Lorenzen said Tuesday. "The kids know that the Missouri Valley is an unbelievable conference, and they know what it takes to play at that high level."

Hunt, who rushed for 1,300 yards as an all-state running back last fall, will join former CL/GLR standouts Cory Kuehl and Joel DeJong to Vermillion.

"We try to make the most of signing day for them," Lorenzen said. "We've got a history at our

small school, and it's fun to see those kids want to aim for that level."

Once those freshmen get to Vermillion, many will likely sit out their first year to learn the Division I ropes, Beschornor said.

"We feel good about the class, as far as our quota for position groups; what we wanted to shoot for," he said. "Most will be reshirting, but there's a couple that could come in and help us right away."

Sure, some positions vacated by seniors will need to be filled, but the competition for those spots will come from returning players as well as incoming freshmen. Petrino pointed to line-backer Keyen Lage, a true freshman last season who played in every game, as an example of a kid who worked his way into the depth chart.

"You just never know," Petrino said. "We always tell kids, 'Prepare yourself as if you're going to start.' From there, it's all about putting in the work."

Of course, as the names are

released today, many — if not all — will not be recognizable to people outside the football circle. So, how do you evaluate the class on first glance?

"The strength is in numbers, for sure," Petrino said. "We're bringing in great kids first of all, and it just so happens they can play football."

And a handful of those kids have earned national recognition from various recruiting sites.

For example, two kids earned a 3-star ranking: Sean Finley (OLB, Fountain Valley, Calif.) and Khalid Kornegay (WR, Tulsa, Okla., originally committed to Tulsa). Five other likely recruits earned 2-star rankings — Fred Beaugard (DE, Lombard, Ill.),

Tevin Foster (WR, Lawton, Okla.), Miles Bergner (K, Longmont, Colo.), Courtney Wright (DE, Coral Springs, Fla.) and Kyle Staples (LB, Fresno City CC, already on campus).

Petrino talked about evaluating recruiting classes against "like" schools, which would include regional Missouri Valley Football Conference counterparts South Dakota State, North Dakota State and Northern Iowa.

At the end of the day, though, it's all about improving from a 1-10 record last fall, Petrino said.

"It's going to happen for us, it's just a matter of time."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

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