

USD Athletic Facilities Plan Gets Final Approval

Project Could Break Ground This Year

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — With the final legislative approval in the rearview mirror, construction on new athletic facilities at the University of South Dakota could begin by the end of the year, according to one department official.

Among the legislative bills signed Tuesday by Gov. Dennis Daugaard was Senate Bill 8, which would authorize the South Dakota Building Authority and the Board of Regents to finance the \$48.2 million projects for a new sports performance enhancement facility and an outdoor track/soccer complex. The next — and at the same

time, ongoing — step is to raise the necessary money to break ground.

"For us, internally, knowing that we've leaped over these steps is a huge step for us," said Jon Schemmel, associate athletic director for Development with the USD Foundation. "We're really happy about that."

"The support has been great. When we've met with our donors

and other alums, we've had a lot of positive feedback."

The bill, first read in the Senate on Jan. 9, passed the House on Feb. 14 by a vote of 57-10. It was then delivered to the governor last week.

On the issue of how much money is left to be raised, Schemmel said he is confident that the remaining \$10 million or so is out there, close at hand. Asked about

potentially breaking ground in 2013, he said, "It's absolutely feasible, but not a certainty."

"We need a lot of help still, but the stars are aligning a little bit for us," Schemmel said. "We can see the end in sight."

Whether or not that means USD can hold a groundbreaking ceremony by the end of the year is left up to continued fundraising efforts, Schemmel said.

"The only thing that makes that happen is if people step up and sign pledges," he said. "We've got to raise all the money before we go; have to make sure we dot our 'i's.'"

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Wynot, Crofton Begin State Today



The Wynot Lady Blue Devils celebrate after winning the 2012 Nebraska State Class D2 Girls' Basketball Tournament. Wynot will go for a third consecutive title when it begins play in the state tournament today (Thursday) against Giltner, an 8:45 p.m. start time.

P&D FILE PHOTO

Lady Blue Devils Looking For Three-Peat

BY JEREMY HOECK
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WYNOT, Neb. — Thanks to the wild card system in their state, the Wynot Lady Blue Devils are headed back to Lincoln in a bid for a third consecutive championship.

Sure, Wynot lost in last week's district final, but it still earned an at-large bid to the Nebraska State Girls Class D2 Basketball Tournament. And tonight (Thursday) at 8:45 p.m., the third-seeded Lady Blue Devils will play No. 6 Giltner at Lincoln East High School.

This is one of those situations where a loss — like the one to Osmond in the district final — might actually produce positives, according to Wynot head coach Steve Wieseler.

"You never like getting in through the back door, but getting in is still a great accomplishment," Wieseler said. "We're not feeling sorry for ourselves."

"We didn't play a great game, but we get a second chance, so we're thankful."

The Lady Blue Devils (22-4) have won the last two Class D2 state titles and have won three championships since 2005. A fourth, just like every other year, will be just as tough, Wieseler said.

"Last year is last year, and this year is this year. We don't really talk about it," he said.

"We're definitely proud of what we've accomplished, but that's not a big topic around here. The girls just want to go down there and try to do it again."

To do so, Wynot will again rely on its depth and pressure defense. The Lady Blue Devils average 59 points a game, but surrender just 36 to their opponents — keyed by 16.3 steals per game.

Junior post Maggie Schulte leads the team in scoring (13.5 ppg) and rebounding (6.7), and also adds 2.3 assists and 2.3 steals per game. Also among the starters are junior Kelsie Higgins (7.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg), senior Ashley Heine (7.3 ppg), senior Samantha Wieseler (6.8 ppg, 2.9 rpg) and senior Erica Burbach (5.4 ppg, 2.4 rpg).

Off the bench have been seniors Shelby Hochstein (5.8 ppg), Devin Jacobs (4.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg), Megan Koch (2.3 ppg) and Zoey Heimes (2.3).

"Our balance has been pretty good, with a lot of girls who can score," coach Wieseler said. "When we're playing our best, we're sharing the ball. When you have a number of different ways to score, that's really helped when we've played good teams."

Wynot's four losses are to Class C2 powers Crofton and Homer (twice), as well as the district final to Osmond. In those losses, the Blue Devils scored 35, 43, 37 and 34 points.

The strength of the Blue Devils during the championship seasons was their chaos on defense. And although this year's team might not be as fast, Wieseler lauded their height and length — Schulte is 6-foot, Koch is 5-foot-11 and Jacobs is 5-foot-10.

That will be the key tonight against Giltner (19-6), which is making its second-ever state tournament appearance. The Hornets return everybody from last year's squad that lost in the first round in Lincoln.

"They have a couple really good players, with some outside shooting and a good inside presence," Wieseler said. "They're all about 5-7 to 5-10, so they're strong on the boards. It'll definitely be a challenge to defend them inside and to keep an eye on their shooters."

Losing last week helped refocus Wynot on those challenges, Wieseler said, as the Blue Devils prepare for Lincoln.

"It's definitely a positive to win just before state, but I will say, by the way we played, we got exploited with our weaknesses," he said. "By losing, it made us pay more attention to certain parts of our game."

"I think we'll get better because of that, because we know we're not quite where we need to be."

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Crofton's Bridget Arens, right, puts up a shot over Laurel-Concord-Corlidge defenders Erin Gubbels, 34, and Cameron Eddie during their matchup earlier this season. Arens, who is headed to the University of South Dakota this fall, will look to lead the Lady Warriors to a defense of their Class C2 state title.

P&D FILE PHOTO

Crofton Takes 31-Game Win Streak Into C2 Title Defense

BY JEREMY HOECK
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CROFTON, Neb. — On paper, the Crofton Lady Warriors look young. In reality, though, they're a playoff-tested, proven squad on the state's biggest stage.

Now comes the challenge of continuing their momentum.

With only three seniors among a balanced attack, the top-ranked Lady Warriors begin their championship defense today (Thursday) at 2 p.m. against

eighth-seeded North Bend Central at the Nebraska State Girls Class C2 Basketball Tournament in Lincoln, Neb.

Crofton (24-0) has also boasted a stingy defense this season, especially lately — its closest margin of victory down the stretch was a 9-point win on Jan. 24.

"The last three or four weeks, we've kind of been playing about

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State Meet Trips To Kearney Drew Riesberg To Lopers

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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CROFTON, Neb. — Her annual trips to Kearney, Neb., proved to be a factor in Crofton's Danielle Riesberg wanting to continue her athletic and academic career there.

Riesberg will attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney and run track for the Lopers, announced earlier this week.

Riesberg, who is the defending Class C champion in the 400-meter dash, was drawn to UNK by frequent trips to Kearney as a key member of Crofton's seven-time defending Class D champion cross country team. She finished second individually last October, and has three other top-10 finishes to her credit.

"What first turned me on to Kearney was making all those trips to state cross country," Riesberg said. The Nebraska State Cross Country Meet is held in Kearney annually. "Something about Kearney drew me there."

Besides winning the 400 last spring, Riesberg also placed fourth in the 200 and helped the Lady Warriors to two relay medals. She placed sixth in the 400 as a sophomore, and has five career relay medals on her resume.

"She has an outstanding work ethic," said Crofton cross country coach Jayne Arens. "If she wants something, she knows it takes hard work to get it. She's very good at doing the little things it takes to succeed."

Riesberg also provides a great role model for the rest of the team, said Crofton assistant track coach Justin Bossman.

"My saying with the kids is 'attitude is contagious,'" he said. "She is willing to do the work and loves the sport."

While Riesberg has shown tremendous versatility in her CHS career, the Lopers plan to use her as a 400-meter specialist, at least at the start.

"We see her as a 400 runner, but



Crofton's Danielle Riesberg will attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney this fall, and will run track for the Lopers.

P&D FILE PHOTO

who knows," said UNK head coach Brady Bonsall. "She is a very good 400 runner, but she has the potential to do other things."

But Riesberg's versatility is not her only positive trait, Bonsall said. "She's a good student and she's shown her toughness," he said. "We want good students on the team because we know they're willing to do the work."

Having the next stage of her academic and athletic career decided will help her focus on the spring, Riesberg said.

"It's definitely a relief to have this out of the way," she said. "I'm not worried about it while I'm competing. I'm going to be more relaxed."

Riesberg's college choice is out of the way, but her major is not. "I plan to get my generals out of the way," she said. "Most people who go in with a major end up changing it anyway."

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MMC's Winne Earns First-Team Honors

GPAC Women: Forsch Named To Second Team, Little, De Kam On Honor. Mention

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Mount Marty College women's basketball team had four starters honored by the Great Plains Athletic Conference, as the league announced its all-conference honors on Wednesday.

Junior guard April Winne earned first-team honors. Senior guard Taylor Forsch, the NAIA Division II leader in three-pointers made per game, earned second-team honors. Senior Brittany Little and junior Allison De Kam were honorable mention selections for the Lancers.

Winne's aggressive play made her one of the nation's leaders in free throw attempts with 233, and helped her lead the conference in assists per game (3.77). She averaged 12.7 points per game, and had 3.1 rebounds per game and a team-high 37 steals.

"It didn't surprise me that she made first team," said Mount Marty head coach Tom Schlimgen. "She had a solid year, and I'm glad we've got her back for another season." Winne, a Scotland native, was surprised, however.

"It's a really, really hard conference with a lot of great players," she said. "Being first team in this



Mount Marty's April Winne, left, drives to the basket during a home game this past season. Winne, who led the Great Plains Athletic Conference in assists per game, was named first-team all-GPAC as the league announced its post-season honors on Wednesday.

P&D FILE PHOTO

conference is a really big honor."

Besides being adept at attacking the basket, Winne also improved her range. She hit a career-high 30 three-points this season, ranking second on the team in that category.

"She's got to make people honor her outside shooting for her to be able to drive," Schlimgen said. "She's hard to stop one-on-one."

Her senior season will pose a new challenge for Winne, adjusting to a new backcourt. Forsch and fellow guard Alexa Berg both gradu-

ate this season, leaving sophomore Kelli Norrid as the only other experienced guard.

"We're going to have a young team next year, but we have a lot of talent and a lot of heart coming up," Winne said. "It's almost going to be like a new team. We're going to have to play over the summer to get used to each other. It's something we'll have to adapt to."

Forsch set nearly every three-point record in her career at

Hieb Named HM All-GPAC

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Despite his team not having the greatest of seasons, Joe Hieb had himself quite an end.

The leading scorer for the Mount Marty College men's basketball team ended his career with a 43-point outburst in the season finale two weeks ago, and Wednesday, added another positive.

Hieb, a 6-foot-3 shooting guard from Chamberlain, earned his second consecutive Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Honorable Mention accolades on Wednesday from the league office.

"I had no idea until I saw it on Twitter; it's pretty cool and a little surprising," Hieb said. "We all put in a lot of work, so it's definitely a credit to our team."

Though the Lancers went 8-21 this season and didn't make the GPAC tournament, Hieb averaged 10.8 points as a starter and led the team in three-pointers with 39.

"It's always nice to get recognized, especially when your season isn't all that great," head coach Jim Thorson said. "To get the performance and consistency you need to make it, speaks to what kind of a player you are."

Hieb's offensive production remained consistent throughout his career. He shot 44 percent from the field and 36 percent on three-pointers as a sophomore, followed by 42 and 30 percent, respectively, as a junior.

Then as a senior starter this



Hieb