

# Jeter's Decision To Retire Signals End Of An Era

Baseball: Yankee Great To Hang It Up After 2014 Season

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK  
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — One by one, Derek Jeter watched them walk away.

His baseball brothers in pinstripes, the gang that grew up champions.

Bernie Williams was the first to go. Then, best buddy Jorge Posada. Mariano Rivera and Andy Pettitte said goodbye together just a few months ago.

And now, the last link to the latest run of New York Yankees dominance is ready to retire.

When the captain revealed Wednesday that 2014 will be his final season, it signaled the end of an era not only for the game's most successful franchise, but all of

Major League Baseball.

Jeter and pals from Jimmy Key to Alex Rodriguez produced a generation of sustained success, nearly two decades worth of winning by one special group of players.

We may never see the likes of it again — in any sport.

"It has been an incredible honor having a front row seat for one of the great players of all time," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said in a statement. "Derek has been a winner every step of the way."

Jeter has led the Yankees to five World Series titles and seven American League pennants in 19 seasons. They won four championships in five years from 1996-2000, the last three in a row to become baseball's most recent dynasty.

general partner. "He has meant so much to fans, the organization, my father and our family. I'm glad we have this year to celebrate everything he has meant to us and all the great things he still stands to accomplish."

Of course, Jeter has racked up more than his share of individual achievements.

He ranks ninth on the career list with 3,316 hits, most in Yankees history. He owns a .312 lifetime batting average to go with 1,876 runs and 13 All-Star selections.

And then there are all those unforgettable moments he authored: The postseason homer aided by youngster Jeffrey Maier. The World Series shot that made him Mr. November. The home run for his 3,000th hit. The dive into the stands, the backhand flip in the

playoffs, the eloquent speech to close old Yankee Stadium.

Few players have ever embraced the spotlight like Jeter. Few players have risen to the occasion so often.

He made it look so easy sometimes, especially under pressure.

"It was an honor and privilege to have Derek next to me for all those years. He made me a better player and a better person," Posada said in a statement. "I'm so proud of our friendship and I love him like a brother. Derek was a true champion and the greatest teammate I ever had."

But it's all that winning — with grace and dignity — that puts Jeter in the pantheon of Yankees greats. He's the 21st-century piece of a remarkable thread that stretches

JETER | PAGE 9

Basketball | State's All-Time Winningest Coach Stepping Down

# Van Laecken To Retire

Longtime Coach Stepping Down After Season

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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PARKSTON — The winningest coach in South Dakota girls' basketball history is calling it a career.

Rob Van Laecken, who has coached for 37 seasons at Parkston High School, will retire from both teaching and coaching at the end of the school year. The announcement was by an email from longtime assistant coach Jim Akre.

Van Laecken became the state's all-time coaching leader early in the 2011-12 season. That season, the Lady Trojans advanced to the state championship game, the 10th state tournament appearance with Van Laecken at the helm.

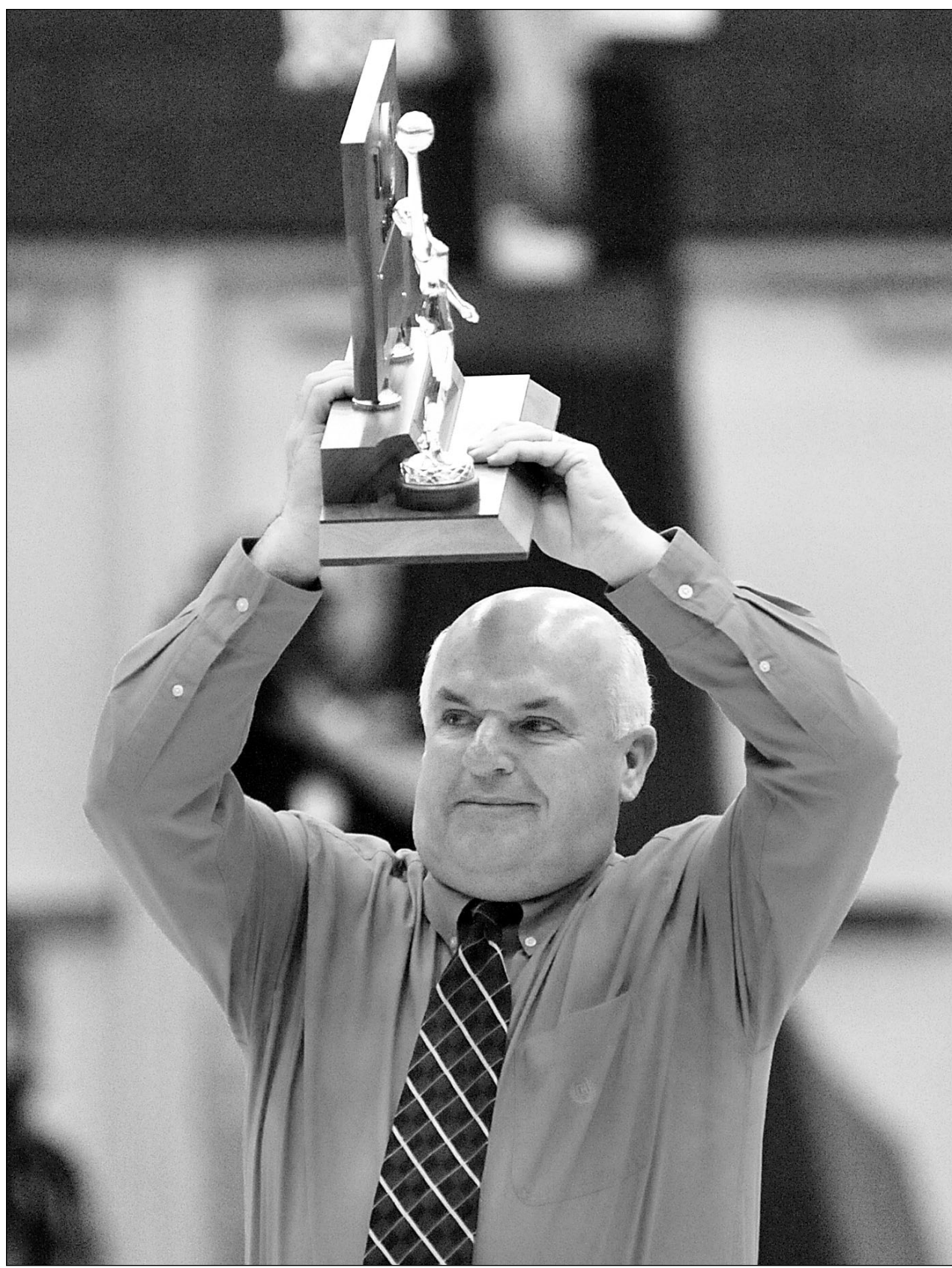
"When you think of Parkston basketball, you think of him," said Dawn (Sudbeck) Reuvers, a 1999 Parkston grad, in an interview with the Press & Dakotan in 2011. She went on to play collegiately at the University of South Dakota.

Van Laecken, a Letcher native, coached junior high basketball in the now-defunct Corona district for one season in 1975 before coming to Parkston in 1976. He took over the Lady Trojans in 1977 and took the squad to 24 district championships.

Facing the Lady Trojans was never an easy task, according to Avon head coach Brad Poppe.

"The one thing we always knew we had to prepare for was their defensive intensity. We knew we would have to take care of the basketball," said the longtime Avon coach. "Year in, year out, they always had very solid teams. We knew that in order to play with them, we had to play one of our best games possible."

That work ethic was in-



Parkston's Rob Van Laecken holds up the state runner-up trophy after the South Dakota State Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament championship game in 2012. Van Laecken, the state's all-time winningest girls' basketball coach with 593 victories to date, will retire at the end of the school year, ending his 37-year stint at the helm of the Lady Trojans.

P&D FILE PHOTO

# Lancers Upend BC 88-77

SIoux CITY, Iowa — The Mount Marty College women made the most of their final Great Plains Athletic Conference road game of the season, taking down Briar Cliff 88-77 on Wednesday in Sioux City, Iowa.

Logan Wagner scored a game-high 25 points and Raquel Sutera netted 23 points, including 16 in the second half,



Wagner

as the Lancers improved to 11-16 overall, 3-15 in the GPAC. Holly Hegge scored 12 points and Cheyenne Lambley netted 10 points for the Lancer offense. Allison De Kam posted 13 rebounds and four assists. Cassidy Gebhart had five assists and Hegge had four steals in the victory.

For Briar Cliff (14-13, 7-10 GPAC), Jessi Corrick scored 21 points and Morgan Hansen had 19 points to lead the way. Lexi Henschke netted 10 points. Kaylee Blake grabbed 10 rebounds.

Briar Cliff scored the game's first four points, but MMC scored the next eight to take an early 8-4 lead. From there, the Chargers never led by more than two as the Lancers pushed out to a 35-24 lead with 3:20 to play in the first half.

The Chargers briefly took the lead with 8:29 to play, but Hegge's basket with 7:44 left in the game gave MMC the advantage for good.

Mount Marty plays its final non-conference game of the season on Friday, traveling to Omaha, Neb., to face Grace University. The Lancers opened the season at home against the Royals, scoring a 107-31 victory on Nov. 1.

MMC finishes the regular season at home next week, hosting Dakota Wesleyan on Feb. 19 and Nebraska Wesleyan on Feb. 22.

**MOUNT MARTY (11-16, 3-15 GPAC)**  
Cassidy Gebhart 14 4-6 7 Logan Wagner 8 21 4-4 25 Holly Hegge 3-5 6-7 12 Raquel Sutera 6-13 9-13 23 Allison De Kam 1-6 3-4 5 Denaee Veldkamp 1-2 0-0 3 Cheyenne Lambley 5-7 0-1 10 Kellie Winckler 0-2 3-4 3 TOTALS: 25-57 29-39 88

**BRIAR CLIFF (14-13, 7-10 GPAC)**  
Lexi Henschke 3-10 4-4 10 McKenzie Shipley 1-8 0-2 2 Stone Masters 4-8 1-4 9 Regan Cooper 0-0 1-3 1 Kaylee Blake 5-13 0-0 6 Paige Herbold 0-1 1-2 1 Jesse Corrick 7-14 6-6 21 Kallin Meister 0-1 2-2 2 Beccy Dodunski 1-1 0-0 2 Heather Haber 0-0 0-0 0 Morgan Hansen 7-12 2-3 19 Kyra Stark 2-9 0-0 4 TOTALS: 28-77 17-24 77

At the half: MMC 37, BC 30. Three-Pointers: MMC 9-21 (Wagner 5-12, Sutera 2-5, Gebhart 1-1, Veldkamp 1-2, Hegge 0-1), BC 4-20 (Hansen 3-5, Corrick 1-3, Blake 0-1, Meister 0-1, Stark 0-2, Masters 0-2, Henschke 0-3, Shipley 0-3). Rebounds: BC 49 (Blake 10), MMC 41 (De Kam 13). Personal Fouls: BC 30, MMC 21. Fouled Out: None. Technical Fouls: BC Team. Assists: MMC 16 (Gebhart 6), BC 15 (three with 3). Turnovers: MMC 24, BC 23. Blocked Shots: MMC 6 (Hegge 2, De Kam 2), BC 3 (Haber 2). Steals: BC 16 (Henschke 3, Hansen 3), MMC 12 (Hegge 4).

# Amateur Baseball Hall To Induct Cutler, Dimock's Sudbeck Brothers

WATERTOWN — Six men, include three brothers and two former Canova teammates, will be inducted into the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame in 2014.

The new inductees include brothers Bill, Tom and Jim Sudbeck of Dimock; former Canova teammates Jerry Kampshoff and Ted Gosmire and Frank Cutler of Platte. Cutler played much of his amateur career in Claremont.

The former standouts will be honored during the 82nd state amateur baseball tournament Aug. 6-17 at Mitchell and will be inducted into the SDABA Hall of Fame during a banquet on Saturday, Sept. 27 at Canova.

More details on the inductees and the banquet will be sent out this summer.

# Davis Looks Ahead After Surprising Olympic Loss

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Shani Davis went from sure thing to nothing in 2 1/2 laps.

The two-time defending Olympic champion in the 1,000 meters got shut out of a medal on Wednesday, finishing eighth in a race he has dominated in recent years.

Now, the 31-year-old from Chicago has three days to clear his mind and make adjustments before he skates in the 1,500 on Saturday at Adler Arena.

Davis was one of the U.S. speed-skating team's best hopes for a gold medal. The Americans have yet to make the podium through the first five days of competition.

"It's unfortunate for us," he said. "Now we move forward and try to figure out what we can possibly do to fix it."

Davis has never won the 1,500 at the Olympics, earning silver medals in 2006 and 2010. But it's his other strong event, one of his "babies" as he calls the two sprint races.

Davis planned to study video of the loss to "see what these guys were doing that I wasn't doing."

"I just got to try to piece it together and figure it out for myself so I can possibly fix it for the 1,500," he said.

In the 1,000, Davis had a slower opening than gold medalist Stefan Groothuis of the Netherlands, and

then lost 0.35 in the first full lap. He slowed in the final lap and finished in 1 minute, 9.12 seconds. Racing against Davis, Dutchman Koen Verweij overtook the American at the finish line in the next-to-last pairing.

"Watching it was agonizing," said Canadian Gilmore Junio, who gave up his spot in the race to teammate Denny Morrison, who took the silver.

Groothuis won in 1:08.39, more than seven-tenths of a second ahead of Davis. Michel Mulder of the Netherlands earned the bronze to go with his gold from the 500.

"I think a lot of people were shocked with how fast the times were," Brian Hansen said.

He and the other Americans fared worse than Davis.

Hansen of Glenview, Ill., finished ninth, Joey Mantia of Ocala, Fla., was 15th and Jonathan Garcia of Houston was 28th.

"We have a lot of depth in this race," said Hansen, who became nauseous after his race. "We didn't show it out there, but we do."

Besides Davis, Hansen and Mantia, Jonathan Kuck of Champaign, Ill., will skate in the 1,500.

"I can't let it get me down because I have other races to skate," Davis said, "but I'm pretty sad about it."

# Hoops: Cougars Edge Past Cavaliers

BONESTEEL — Both Burke-South Central and Bon Homme each had four players in double-digits for scoring. Burke-South Central took down Bon Homme 61-58 in Bonesteel Tuesday night.

Dell Drey led Burke-South Central with 17 points. Sam Henzen cashed in 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Both Ethan Fernau and Tyson Vogt added 10 points to the win.

For Bon Homme, Mike Mesman put up 17 points. Scott Van Winkle tallied 13, and Scott Wieseler totaled 12 points. Hunter Young netted 10.

Burke-South Central hosts Andes

Central on Thursday, and Bon Homme heads to Platte-Geddes on Friday.

## Girls

### Chester 51, Alcester-Hudson 40

CHESTER — Elena Borah just missed a double-double, posting 16 points and nine rebounds, to lead Chester to a 51-40 victory over Alcester-Hudson in girls' basketball action on Tuesday.

Erin Benson had 12 points and eight assists, and Sara Heyn had 10 points for Chester. Borah also had four steals and Jenna Reiff blocked three shots for the Fliers.

No statistics were reported for Alcester-Hudson. Chester, 10-7, travels to Sioux Falls Christian on Friday. Alcester-Hudson, 11-6, hosts Baltic on Friday. ALCESTER-HUDSON (11-6) 16 32 40 CHESTER (10-7) 12 21 35 51

# Ricketts Optimistic About Wrigley Work

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — The Chicago Cubs unveiled their state-of-the-art spring training facility in the desert Wednesday as chairman Tom Ricketts remained hopeful that work on their historic home back in Chicago will begin soon.

"We're working toward a point that it can get done," Ricketts said Wednesday. "Everybody's talking. Everyone has incentives to see us get to that point. And we're optimistic that we'll get to the finish line on that pretty soon. But it's a process. We just got to play through it."

Ricketts spoke at the ribbon-cutting for Cubs Park in Mesa, Ariz., their new publicly funded stadium and training complex. Pitchers and catchers report Thursday, and players will be greeted by a sparkling new facility.

In Chicago, not much has changed. The \$500 million overhaul to Wrigley

Field remains on hold. The Cubs want to install a 650-square-foot sign in right field with a guarantee that the neighboring rooftop owners won't slow construction with a lawsuit. The project funded by the team would also include a Jumbotron in left field and upgrades throughout the stadium for players and fans along with a hotel across the street.

The rooftop owners, who hand over a percentage of their revenue to the team, are balking amid concerns about blocked views. At the Cubs' annual fan convention last month, Ricketts said there was progress but also compared the owners to neighbors peering through the living room window to watch Showtime and then charging others to get a look. That didn't sit well with the rooftop owners and negotiations stalled.

COACH | PAGE 9