

Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

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



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If a basketball season can be equated to a semester, it's about to become finals week for the Mount Marty College women's team. Not because there are only one or two games left — or because it's the post-season — but because the Lancers need a last-minute push to impress the "teacher," i.e., the pollsters, before the Great Plains Athletic Conference Tournament begins. Mount Marty (16-8, 7-8 GPAC) sits in seventh position in the GPAC. With five games left to play for most teams, the Lancers are a game up on eighth place Dakota Wesleyan (though they face off one more time) and three games up ninth place Midland. At the same time, they are a game behind sixth place Doane, and 2 1/2 back of the final two spots for a first-round home game, Briar Cliff and Hastings. Since there are three ways to make the NIAA Division II Tournament from the GPAC — win the regular season tie, win the tournament (or finish second to the regular season champ) or get an at-large berth. At-large berths in the NIAA are based solely on national ranking, making the organization the one place in the world where the polls actually matter. MMC did not get any votes last week, but the chance to impress votes is ahead of it. Top-ranked unbeaten Morningside comes to town on Wednesday, and MMC celebrates Homecoming against No. 17 Hastings on Saturday. On Feb. 11, 22nd-ranked Briar Cliff comes to town. If the Lancers can pick up some key home victories in the next 10 days, they will give themselves some leverage in the polls and an opportunity to make it to nationals without having to win the GPAC Tournament. Despite the league's gaudy non-league record (74-23 outside of league play), the NIAA's strongest women's basketball league will probably receive four, possibly five, national tournament berths. If the Lancers want to be among them, winning a couple of their next three games would be a step in the right direction. And it is possible: MMC has wins over top-five opponents in each of the past three seasons.

COLLEGE/YHS EVENTS

Table with 4 columns: Day, Time, Event, Location. Includes events for TODAY (Feb 3), WEDNESDAY (Feb 4), THURSDAY (Feb 5), FRIDAY (Feb 6), SATURDAY (Feb 7), SUNDAY (Feb 8), and MONDAY (Feb 9).

SCOREBOARD

Table with multiple columns: Sport, Team, Score. Includes BOWLING (Yankton Bowl, Sparteime Ladies, High Team Series), BASKETBALL (Yankton Parks & Rec, Men's Competitive League, SDSWA Poll), and CROFTON, NEB. (Women's American, High Team Series).

AREA CALENDAR

Table with multiple columns: Day, Event, Location. Includes basketball, volleyball, and other sports events for various teams like Yankton, Crofton, and others.

OTHER EVENTS

Table with multiple columns: Event, Location, Time. Includes Bowling, Hockey, Swimming, and other community events.

RADIO & TELEVISION

Table with multiple columns: Day, Time, Event, Broadcast Info. Lists radio and TV broadcasts for various sports events.

SPORTS DIGEST

Today 6:15 p.m. GIRLS B-BALL: Vermillion at Beresford... Wednesday 8 p.m. WOMEN'S B-BALL: Morningside at MMC... Saturday 2 p.m. WOMEN'S B-BALL: Hastings at MMC...

Young Bucks Night Tonight

The Yankton High School boys' basketball program will hold its "Young Bucks" night in conjunction with tonight's (Tuesday) boys' basketball game with Brookings.

Women: Mount Marty JV Beats Morningside

Brittini Bornmann and Kieran O'Malley each scored 18 points as the Mount Marty College junior varsity women's basketball team beat Morningside 72-71 on Monday night at Cimpr Arena.

Conference Tourneys Rescheduled

Due to poor weather conditions, changes were made to the Lewis & Clark Conference boys' and girls' basketball tournaments, as well as the Mid-State Conference girls' basketball tournament.

USD FB To Host Signing Day Socials

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota football program has announced three socials to introduce its 2015 recruiting class to fans. On Wednesday, Feb. 4, there will be events in both Vermillion and Yankton.

Larscheid 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 Augustana College athletic director Slade Larscheid.

We Want To Hear From You

If you have any sports-related story ideas, upcoming events or comments, feel free to contact us at sports@yankton.net or by mail at 319 Walnut, Yankton, S.D., 57078.

Fitzgerald

The addition of Fitzgerald to the list means the Yankton program will have six players sign with SDSU in the past three years. Kellen Soulek (2013 grad) was a redshirt freshman from the Jackrabbits last fall, while Lane Sawatzke (2014 grad) was a freshman. Two other former Yankton standouts also signed with SDSU but are no longer with the football program — J.J. Hejna is on the track team and Troy Hunhoff was last on the 2013 roster.

Fitzgerald, a defensive starter for Yankton's Class 11AA state championship team last fall, joins teammate Brady Hale to have committed to SDSU for the 2015 recruiting class. Evan Greenway, a 6-foot-7 all-state tight end, is still considering his options. A former wide receiver, Fitzgerald focused mostly on defense as a senior and produced 2.5 sacks with a team-best 12.5 tackles for loss.

He will likely be used as a defensive end or a linebacker in college, he said. "The main thing for me was the campus, it made me feel like home," Fitzgerald said.

Hoops

McCook Central-Mont.54, Parkston 40. SALEM — Levi Sabers had 14 points and two teammates also reached double figures as McCook Central-Montrose defeated Parkston 54-40 on Monday night in Salem. Isaac Anderson and Will Gottlob both added 11 points for MCM (8-5), while Cole Cheeseman grabbed seven rebounds and Tim Gassman dished out four assists.

Track

5,000-meters at the Jack Johnson Classic. Amber Eickhorn took home the win in 2014 and Brittini Waller was victorious in 2013. Next weekend, South Dakota competes at home for the first time this season. The Coyotes will host the Dakota Realty Alumni Meet, scheduled to begin Saturday at 11 a.m.

Wildcat Alumni Open

WAYNE, Neb. — Hartington, Nebraska, native Michaela Denderinger hit the NCAA Division II automatic qualifying standard in the shot put with a toss of 52-2 1/4 at the Wildcats Indoor Alumni Open track and field meet, held on Saturday in Wayne.

POSTPONEMENTS: Freeman 70, Marty Indian 30, Irene-Wakonda 71, Canistota 23. AP TOP TWENTY FIVE: The top 25 teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll...

USA TODAY TOP 25 POLL: The top 25 teams in the USA Today men's college basketball poll...

RECORD Pts Pvr: 1. South Carolina (26) 21-0 842 1, 2. UCorn (8) 20-1 824 2, 3. Baylor 20-1 776 3...

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL Major League Baseball OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BASEBALL — Named Frank Robinson senior adviser and the honorary president of the American League.