

Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE

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



BY JEREMY HOECK
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For the first time in my 12 years covering the University of South Dakota, I was in the so-called 'war room' on National Signing Day on Wednesday morning. My general synopsis? Not at all what I pictured. I've always aggressively covered Signing Day, particularly since USD joined the Division I ranks, but had never gone over to the Vermillion bright and early on that annual Wednesday morning gathering with the coaches. This year, though, a couple different coaches extended an invitation, and that with the idea that USD could be a cross-roads (coming off another winless season in the Missouri Valley), I decided to join the fun. With Signing Day, you'd expect coaches gathered around a table, phones buzzing, the fax machine constantly spewing out paper and maybe some nail-biting moments, right?

Iowa Announces Signing Of Parkston's Reiff

IOWA CITY, Iowa — The University of Iowa football program officially announced Parkston's Brady Reiff as a member of its 2015 recruiting class. Reiff graduated from Parkston High School in December and is already enrolled at Iowa. He will be able to participate in spring practices for the Hawkeyes. A two-time first-team All-State selection, the 6-4, 235-pound defensive end helped lead the Trojans to a Class 11B championship game in 2014 after leading the Trojans to a runner-up finish in 2013. Besides his success on the football field, Reiff was also a two-time state wrestling champion, winning the 220-pound title each of the past two seasons in helping the Trojans to team titles the past two years. He was also a state track qualifier in the 200-meter dash, as well as in the 400, 800 and medley relays.

DWU, Morningside Each Sign Four Area Recruits

MITCHHELL — Dakota Wesleyan head football coach Ross Cimpl signed his largest recruiting class to date Wednesday, a group of 41 that included four student-athletes

with area ties and a transfer from the University of South Dakota.

Viborg native Matt Jensen will join the Tigers after previously attending Morningside. The 5-11, 170-pound defensive back will have one year of eligibility remaining. Charles LaRoche, a 5-10, 190-pound defensive back from Lower Brule, transfers from USD with three years remaining.

Joining them with the Tigers are Bon Homme wide receiver Tanner Van Winkle (6-2, 190), Viborg-Hurley wide receiver Rusten Anderson (6-0, 185) and Menno-Marion offensive lineman Zakk Ryherd (6-2, 270).

Morningside College also signed four area student-athletes for football. Wes Dvorak of Parkston, Oliver Dooden of Beresford, Dylan Loberg of Randolph, Nebraska and Chase Kelley of Hartington (Nebraska) Cedar Catholic. Dakota State picked up Beresford wide receiver Austin Meester, a transfer from Northern State.

Reminder: Gazelles Game At Harrisburg Tonight

The Yankton High School Activities office would like to remind Yankton girls' basketball fans that today's (Thursday) game with Harrisburg will be played in Harrisburg, not in Yankton as was originally scheduled. The first meeting between the teams, scheduled for Jan.

Inside A 'War Room' On National Signing Day

As I found out in my nearly four hours at the DakotaDome on Wednesday, that's entirely true. First of all, the jokes about fax machines being used — it's 2015, right?! — are a little off. The coaches don't use a fax machine to await National Letters of Intent. No, it's the compliance office that gets faxes. From there, the go-ahead is passed on to the coaches and they can check off the names — as USD does on a big marker board in the coaches office. That's another difference from what I expected. The coaches, of course, have their own offices, so they're usually in there checking email or Twitter, or wandering between offices or checking the big board. They're not all huddled around a conference room table staring at the phone. Life at a small D-I college like USD, naturally, is certainly less stressful than what you'd see at Alabama or Ohio State. By the time Signing Day rolls around, coaches at USD are pretty sure who's signing — though there are always the occasional situations where they sit and wait. All in all, it was an interesting experience inside the 'war room.' Or, as USD coach Joe Glenn joked, "If we don't get the rest of these recruits, it'll really be a war room."

into the SDHSCA Hall of Fame this past summer. His teams won six state golf titles and 10 region championships, while his basketball teams went 203-80 including a 52-1 conference record during an eight-year run.

There will also be a celebration and gathering for Fletcher at the Point Golf and Event Center in Elk Point on Friday following the games.

Dakota Valley's Smith Named Class A Miss Volleyball

ABERDEEN — Dakota Valley setter Lindsey Smith has been named the Class A Miss Volleyball award winner, according to a release by the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association on Wednesday.

Smith, a Nebraska-Kearney recruit, led the Panthers to a third place finish at the state tournament this past season. She also anchored the Panthers' 2013 championship run.

Taryn Kloth of O'Gorman and Ashley Rozell of Warner were honored in Class AA and Class B. All three will be presented their awards during the South Dakota High School Coaches Association all-star volleyball match in July at Aberdeen.

Dakota XII Boys' Classic Set

HARTFORD — Pairings for the Dakota XII Conference

boys' basketball Classic, scheduled for Saturday in Hartford, have been announced.

Play begins at 10 a.m. with Beresford against Canton, followed by Elk Point-Jefferson against Dakota Valley at 11:45 a.m. Vermillion draws Tea Area at 1:30 p.m., followed by West Central against Lennox at 3:15 p.m. At 5 p.m., third-seeded Madison draws Tri-Valley, followed by top-seeded Sioux Falls Christian against second-seeded Dell Rapids at 6:45 p.m.

Pairings were based on SDHSCAA power points after Tuesday's action.

USD Picked Fifth In Summit League In Women's Golf

ELMHURST, Ill. — The University of South Dakota was picked fifth in the Summit League women's golf preseason poll, announced on Wednesday.

Denver was picked to repeat as league champions, receiving eight of nine first-place votes. Oral Roberts was second, followed by North Dakota State and Omaha State. IUPUI, Western Illinois, Fort Wayne and South Dakota State were tied for fifth.

The 2015 Summit League Women's Golf Championships will be played April 20-22 at Bayonet Black Horse Golf Course in Seaside, Calif.

MMC Men

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Seitzinger and Patrick Ciganovich, but Morningside took a 39-37 lead to the locker room after Bryce Koch cut to the rack for a bucket.

Smith, who became the 20th Lancer to score 1,000 points for his career Friday, shot four of seven for the half and scored 12 points.

Morningside's 6-6 center, Nikkel, had his way inside with 11 1st-half points.

The Lancers committed 12 turnovers, and Morningside capitalized to aid their 1st-half advantage.

"We've had a lot of great first halves this season," Baker said.

Morningside second half

surge was sparked by senior guard Steve O'Neill's 3-point play, giving the Mustangs a 48-37 lead.

Smith, who was 4-5 from downtown, trimmed the Lancer deficit to single digits at 62-53, but Andrew Christen drained a pair of 3-pointers to keep Mount Marty at bay with a late 70-57 lead and eventually the 79-63 final.

"We've got to do more game-winning things; we got a little sloppy at times with our passes and with our hands," Baker said. "I am proud of our effort and proud of our fight, but the number-ten team made the plays."

Smith led the Lancers with 24 points and six rebounds.

Ciganovich scored seven points and Bartscher had six points and three assists.

Nikkel finished with 17 points to pace the Mustangs as Christen scored 16 and

Ryan Tegtmeier added 12 points.

O'Neill, the league's player of the week, scored 13 points and had five assists.

Mount Marty will host Hastings Saturday at 4 p.m. as they continue a 5-game homestand.

The Mustangs, now 20-3 and 12-3 in the GPAC, will play at Midland Saturday.

MORNINGSIDE (28-3)

Steve O'Neill 4-13, 4-4 13, Ryan Tegtmeier 4-7 3-4, Tanner Miller 3-8 1-3 9, Andrew Christen 5-14 4-16, Kyle Nikkel 7-11 3-4 17, Blake Van Ginkel 2-2 0-0 4, Brody Van Ginkel 0-1 0-0 0, Jared Kolbusch 0-1 1-2 1, Bryce Koch 3-4 1-1 7, Shane Hennen 0-1 0-0 0, James Wright 0-1 0-0 0, TOTALS: 28-63 17-27 79.

MOUNT MARTY (2-21)

Blake Bartscher 3-5 0-0 6, Bud Smith 8-14 4-4 24, Jake Anderson 2-9 2-2 7, Alex Irvine 2-4 0-1 4, Cody Willet 2-4 0-0 6, Deric Denning 0-0 0-0 0, Lorenzo Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Jackson Seitzinger 1-5 0-0 2, K.J. DeChristo 2-5 0-0 5, Jalen Hurley 0-3 2-2 2, Patrick Ciganovich 3-4 0-0 7, TOTALS: 23-53 8-11 63.

At the Half: MMC 37, 3-Point Goals: MMC 9-24 (Bartscher 0-1, Smith 4-5, Anderson 1-6, Willet 2-3, Seitzinger 0-3, DeChristo 1-4, Ciganovich 1-2), MMC 6-21 (O'Neill 1-5, Tegtmeier 1-2, Miller 2-4, Christen 4-6, Brody Van Ginkel 0-1, Kolbusch 0-1, Hennen 0-1, Wright 0-1); Rebounds: MMC 37 (Smith 6), MC 32 (Christen 6); Personal Fouls: MMC 18, MC 12; Fouled Out: None; Assists: MC 20 (O'Neill 5), MMC 8 (Bartscher 3); Turnovers: MMC 22, MC 9; Blocked Shots: MC 6, MMC 1; Steals: MC 6, MMC 1.

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday February 5

BASKETBALL, MEN'S Western Illinois at USD (7 p.m., KVHT-FM, Midco SN)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' YHS at Harrisburg (8 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVHT.com); Lewis & Clark Conf. Tour. (At Winside — Winnebago vs. Bloomfield, 6 p.m.; Hartington-Newcastle vs. Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, 7:45 p.m.; At Wausa — Osmond vs. Wynot, 8 p.m.; Randolph vs. Creighton, 7:45 p.m.; Consolation at Laurel — Hartington-Newcastle vs. Winside, 6 p.m.; Allen vs. Wausa, 7:45 p.m.; at Osmond — Plainview vs. Bloomfield, 6 p.m.; Osmond vs. Wakefield, 7:45 p.m.); Niobrara Valley Conf. Tour. at Stuart (Semifinals — Clearwater-Orchard vs. Neigh-Dakota, 6:15 p.m.; Stuart vs. Boyd County, 8 p.m.); Andes Central at Wagner; Burke-South Central at Marty Indian; Canistota-Marion at Parker; Centerville at Hanson; Ethan at Scotland; Freeman Academy at Gayville-Volm; Mitchell Christian at West Central (7:45 p.m., KVTK-AM)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' JV YHS at Harrisburg (4:45 p.m.)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' SOPH YHS at Harrisburg (3:30 p.m.)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' 9TH YHS at Harrisburg (3:30 p.m. at South MS)

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' YHS at Harrisburg (6:15 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVTK-AM, KVHT.com); Mid-State

Conf. at Norfolk (Semifinals at NECC — Crofton vs. Norfolk Catholic, 6:15 p.m.; Guardian Angels vs. Pierce-Battle Creek winner, 7:45 p.m.; Consolation at Norfolk Catholic — Boone Central-Newman Grove vs. Wayne, 6:15 p.m.; Hartington Cedar Catholic vs. Pierce-Battle Creek loser, 7:45 p.m.); Niobrara Valley Conf. at Stuart (Semifinals — 2-45 vs. 4-30 p.m.); Andes Central at Wagner; Avon at Bon Homme; Freeman Academy at Gayville-Volm; Irene-Wakonda at Freeman; Lennox at Elk Point-Jefferson; Mitchell Christian at Menno; Scotland at Marion

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' JV YHS at Harrisburg (3:30 p.m.)

WRESTLING, PREP Niobrara Valley Conf. at Tilden (Niobrara-Verdigris, 6:30 p.m.); Burke-Gregory at Parkston; Creighton at Lutheran High Northeast; Crofton-Bloomfield/Wagner at Vermillion (5:30 p.m.)

Friday, February 6

BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Fort Wayne at USD (7 p.m., KVHT-FM, Midco SN)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' Mid-State Conf. at Norfolk (Semifinals at NECC — Battle Creek-Norfolk Catholic-Crofton winner vs. Wayne-BCNG winner, 6:15 p.m.; Cedar Catholic-Guardian Angels winner vs. Pierce-O'Neill winner, 7:45 p.m.; Consolation at Norfolk Catholic — Battle Creek-Norfolk Catholic-Crofton loser vs. Wayne-BCNG loser, 6:15 p.m.; Cedar Catholic-Guardian Angels loser vs. Pierce-O'Neill loser, 7:45

p.m.); Avon at Bon Homme; Baltic vs. Irene-Wakonda at Irene; Beresford at Alcester-Hudson; Dakota Valley at Elk Point-Jefferson; Freeman Academy vs. Viborg-Hurley at Viborg; Freeman at Howard; Marty Indian vs. Trippe-Delmont-Armour at Trippe; Parkston at Gregory

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Lewis & Clark Conf. Tour. at Wakefield (Semifinals — 6-7:45 p.m.); Baltic vs. Irene-Wakonda at Wakonda; Beresford at Alcester-Hudson; Dakota Valley at Elk Point-Jefferson; Freeman Academy vs. Viborg-Hurley at Viborg; Marty Indian vs. Trippe-Delmont-Armour at Trippe; Parker at Centerville; Parkston at Gregory; Vermillion at S.C. North (7:30 p.m., KVTK-AM)

BOWLING, CLUB HS Yankton at West Central; S.F. Washington vs. Vermillion at Yankton

GYMNASTICS, PREP S.D. Regions — 2A at Wagner (Parkston-Ethan-Hanson, Vermillion, Wagner-Bon Homme, 6 p.m.)

HOCKEY, BANTAM Sioux Center at Yankton (7 p.m.)

SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE Minnesota Challenge (USD)

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE INDOOR Frank Seavigne Inv. at Lincoln (USD)

WRESTLING, PREP Pierre/Tea Area at YHS (5 p.m.)

Clearwater-Orchard Inv. (Niobrara-Verdigris, 1, 4:45 p.m.)

Coyotes

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added Marqu Simpson (Oklahoma) and Nate Gunn (Illinois) to its stable of running backs.

"They're good enough to play somewhere else on the field," Glenn of the group. "That's what we want. Those guys only make us better."

Stung, a highly-touted back from Omaha North, set the Nebraska state rushing record with 7,472 career yards, along with 104 touchdowns in guiding North to a pair of Class A state championships.

In the case of Jackson, his highlight film wowed the coaches — and the crowd Wednesday night — with his speed. The 5-foot-8 athlete ran for 930 yards and made six interceptions on defense as a senior.

His biggest strength? Speed.

"I think if I can get in the open field, that's when I know nobody can catch me," Jackson said.

By numbers, Florida and Iowa were the hot spots, with five players from each, while Illinois, Nebraska and South Dakota produced three recruits each.

In the effort to recruit Florida, Glenn was impressed with the way his assistant, Middleton, criss-crossed that state.

"For our first shot, I'm very happy with how we did," Glenn said. "Matthew did a terrific job down there."

The three South Dakota players include Nickel Meyer (WR, Sioux Falls Lincoln), Dylan Arntz (LB, Sioux Falls Lincoln) and Nathan Byrd (OL, Sioux Falls O'Gorman).

The second-most sought after position was offensive line, with four signees: Brock Brandt (Clear Lake, Iowa), Michael Bianchi (Island Lake, Illinois), Tyler Johnson (Peosta, Iowa) and Byrd.

Wide receiver was also a focus this year, and the staff signed Danny Rambo (Highlands Ranch, Colorado), Eric Saintil (Homestead, Florida) and Meyer — all of whom would fit into that speedy, versatile mold.

There were also three defensive backs, including Markale Moses (Tulsa, Oklahoma), Dale Williamson Jr. (Texarkana, Texas) and Jovane Parkinson (St. Cloud, Florida).

Though the USD coaches won't know who can play as true freshmen until fall camp, their message of improvement was received loud and clear.

"We'll keep building and keep getting better, and maybe by the time I'm a junior or senior, we'll be doing some special things," Simmons said.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

Hoops

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quarter but the Knights outscored the Blue Devils 12-7 in the second quarter to claim a one-point halftime advantage. A 16-5 edge in the third quarter helped Norfolk Catholic pull away.

Geena Piper had 13 points and 20 rebounds to lead Norfolk Catholic. Bailey Ehlers and Maddie Love each had 11 points in the win.

No statistics were reported for Wayne, 11-8, which faces Boone Central-Newman Grove in consolation action tonight (Thursday).

Norfolk Catholic, 11-10, faces unbeaten Crofton in the semifinals tonight.

NORFOLK CATHOLIC (11-10).....11 23 39 50

WAYNE (11-8).....15 22 27 35

Lewis & Clark Conf.

Wynot 45, Laurel-Concord-Col. 34

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Wynot outscored Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 32-14 in the second half to claim a 45-34 victory over the Bears in the quarterfinals of the Lewis & Clark Conference Girls' Basketball Tournament on Wednesday in Hartington, Nebraska.

Wynot (15-4), which trailed 14-6 after one quarter, will face either Emerson-Hubbard or Winnebago in the semifinals on Friday in Wakefield, Nebraska.

For LCC, Ellie Arduser led the way with 18 points and eight rebounds. Audra Corbit had 10 points and four blocked shots. Katie Leapley also blocked four shots for the Bears.

LCC hosts Wisner-Pilger on Feb. 12.

WYNOT (15-4).....6 13 30 45

LAUREL-CONCORD-COL (6-13).....14 20 26 34

Allen 45, Wausa 39

LAUREL, Neb. — Allen outscored Wausa 24-12 in the middle two periods and held on for a 45-39 victory over the Vikings in consolation action of the Lewis & Clark Conference Girls' Basketball Tournament on Wednesday in Laurel, Nebraska.

Gabby Sullivan had 20 points, 10 rebounds and nine steals for Allen. Lindsey Sullivan added nine points in the victory.

No statistics were reported for Wausa, which travels to Hartington-Newcastle on Feb. 10.

Allen travels to Winside on Feb. 10.

WAUSA (8-12).....13 19 25 39

ALLEN (9-11).....13 28 37 45

Tuesday

Chester 52, Parker 44

PARKER — Jenna Reiff scored 18 points and had seven rebounds and four steals to lead Chester to a 52-44 victory over Parker in Big East Conference girls' basketball action on Tuesday.

Sierra Van Liere added 10 points in the victory.

For Parker, Rylie Christensen led the way with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

Chester, 12-5, is off until a Feb. 13 home matchup with Sioux Falls Christian.

Parker travels to Centerville on Friday.

CHESTER (12-5).....16 26 38 52

PARKER (7-9).....14 26 36 44

Centerville 67, Alcester-Hudson 30

CENTERVILLE — Centerville's Shannon O'Malley continued her torrid scoring streak, notching 37 points in a 67-30 victory over Alcester-Hudson in Tri-Valley Conference girls' basketball action on

Tuesday.

O'Malley scored 31 and 42 in games a week ago.

Valerie Sunderland had 11 points and Rebecca Hybertson had six assists and four steals for Centerville. Kristina Laska added nine rebounds in the victory.

For Alcester-Hudson, Sierra McConnell and Amelia Stene each had 11 points. McConnell also had eight rebounds.

Centerville (12-3) hosts Parker and Alcester-Hudson hosts Beresford on Friday.

Tuesday Boys

Laurel-Concord-Col. 71, Walthill 68

WALTHILL, Neb. — Dillan Wolfgram scored a game-high 33 points to lead Laurel-Concord-Coleridge to a 71-68 upset of fourth-seeded Walthill in the opening round of the Lewis & Clark Conference Boys' Basketball Tournament on Tuesday in Walthill, Neb.

Brant Eddie scored 11 points and Jordan Jansen had 10 points for LCC, which advances to face Hartington-Newcastle in the quarterfinals today (Thursday) in Winside. Jayden Reifernath added eight rebounds in the victory.

For Walthill, Kaycee Porter scored 20 points and Jayden Sheridan had 18 points to lead the way. Orion Lamotte added 10 points.

LAUREL-CONCORD-COL (7-11).....19 32 48 71

WALTHILL (11-5).....12 29 51 68

Creighton 54, Wausa 31

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Creighton jumped out to a 29-10 halftime lead and claimed a 54-31 victory over Wausa in the opening round of the Lewis & Clark Conference boys' basketball tournament on Tuesday in Randolph, Nebraska.

No statistics were reported for Creighton, which travels to Wausa to face Randolph in the quarterfinals today (Thursday).

For Wausa, Jordan Burns led the way with eight points and six rebounds.

Wausa travels to Emerson tonight for a consolation matchup with Emerson-Hubbard. Start time is set for 7:45 p.m.

WAUSA (6-12).....6 10 21 31

CREIGHTON (8-10).....17 29 40 54

Alex Kneeland 6-17 4-6 20, Cassidy Gebhart 0-2 0-0 0, April Winne 4-11 6-7 17, Holly Hegge 1-3 0-0 2, Raquel Sutura 2-7 2-2 7, Logan Wagner 1-5 0-2 3, Kieran O'Malley 1-3 2-2 5, Denae Veldkamp 0-0 0-0 0, Cheyenne Lambley 1-1 1-2 3, Kellie Winckler 2-2 0-0 4, TOTALS: 18-51 15-21 61.

At the half: MC 34, MMC 30. Three-Pointers: MMC 10-31 (Kneeland 4-10, Winne 3-7, Sutura 1-4, Wagner 1-5, O'Malley 1-3, Gebhart 0-1, Hegge 0-1), MC 6-20 (Brian 2-6, Ackerman 1-3, Bahensky 1-3, Wollenberg 1-2, Heywood 1-1, Tighe 0-3, Osborne 0-2). Rebounds: MC 41 (Muhi 12), MMC 32 (Sutura 6). Personal Fouls: MC 22, MMC 22. Fouled Out: Tietz, Hegge. Assists: MMC 12 (Gebhart 4), MC 12 (Wollenberg 5). Turnovers: MMC 13, MC 12. Blocked Shots: MC 3 (Tietz 2), MMC 1 (Sutura). Steals: MC 4, MMC 3. Attendance: 612.

Lancers

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said, 'Quit feeling sorry for yourselves. What if you win 10 in a row?' Schlimgen said. MMC won nine of 10 after that 7-6 start. "Tonight we said, 'Quit feeling sorry for yourselves. What if you win five in a row?'"

Saturday's game marks Homecoming for the Lancers. Start time is set for 2 p.m.

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

AM 1450

Thursday, February 5

7:40 am Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm, Renee Strong)

8:20 am Yankton Conv/Vis Bureau (Stephanie Moser)

Friday, February 6