

**SPORTS DIGEST**

**Las Vegas Prospect Signs With MMC Baseball**

Arthur 'Artie' Gallegos of Las Vegas will attend Mount Marty College and play baseball for the Lancers, according to a release from MMC on Thursday.

Gallegos, a senior outfielder at Durango High School, batted .316 with seven doubles, five triples and 23 runs scored as a junior. The left-hander has also lettered in football and wrestling during his high school athletic career and has been named a Scholar Athlete for Nevada.

Gallegos continues a pipeline from Durango High School to MMC, which includes current Lancer Zac Hollenback and former Lancer Mike Hammonds. The Lancers have also recruited several other Las Vegas natives for baseball over the years.

"Over the years we have been able to bring in



Gallegos

some outstanding players from the Durango program and they are progressed players due to fact they play against tough competition, get to play a good amount of baseball, and receive quality coaching," said MMC head baseball coach Andy Bernatow. "I am excited to continue the relationship with another quality player and person in Artie."

Gallegos also fills an immediate need for the Lancers, who will graduate 15 seniors — including five outfielders — after the upcoming season.

"We have a huge graduating class this year and bringing a quality outfielder like Artie with a high ceiling should help the future of Mount Marty baseball," Bernatow said. "He is a speedy outfielder that has one of those pretty left-handed swings. I am anxious to get him to campus; he has the potential to make an immediate impact."

Gallegos, the son of Artie and Karna Gallegos, plans on a pre-professional major at MMC. He will receive the MMC Merit and Scholastica Scholarships for his academic achievement in addition to a baseball scholarship.

**Spearfish Standout To Play Baseball At MMC**

Spearfish's Evan Steiner will attend Mount Marty College and play baseball for the Lancers, according to an announcement from MMC on Thursday.

Steiner, a left-handed pitcher, has been on the Spearfish Post 164 varsity team, coached by former Lancer Matt Kemp, since his freshman season. He went 7-5 with a 3.25 earned run average and 76 strikeouts in 72 innings pitched a season ago, throwing seven complete games in the campaign. He also helped lead Spearfish to a region title and a state tournament berth two years ago.

"Currently we have a need for left-handed pitching and Evan has had a very productive career for Spearfish," said MMC head baseball coach Andy Bernatow. "Over the years we have developed a strong relationship with Spearfish and



Steiner

their legion baseball program and I am excited to continue the relationship with another quality player — and person — in Evan. I am anxious to get him to campus."

Steiner, the son of Debra Wilson and Scott Steiner, plans to major in elementary education at MMC. He will receive a MMC Incentive Scholarship and a Catholic Leadership award in addition to his baseball scholarship at MMC.

**SDSU Baseball Trip Called Off**

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota State baseball team has announced that it will not make its scheduled trip to North Carolina for the Elon Invitational this weekend.

Next up for SDSU is a three-game series at Stephen F. Austin, beginning Feb. 27.

**Kersey's Death Linked To Clot That Traveled To Lungs**

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The state medical examiner says former Portland Trail Blazers player Jerome Kersey died from a blood clot that traveled from his left calf to his lungs.

The determination by the medical examiner Thursday came a day after Kersey died at 52. Kersey had minor surgery on his knee last Friday.

He appeared Tuesday with fellow former Blazers Terry Porter Brian Grant at a Portland high school in celebration of African American History Month. He visited the team offices hours before his death.

Kersey helped the Trail Blazers twice reach the NBA Finals before he won a title with the San Antonio Spurs in 1999.

Kersey averaged 10.3 points and 5.5 rebounds in 17 seasons in the NBA with Portland, Golden State, the Los Angeles Lakers, Seattle, San Antonio and Milwaukee.

**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.

Be sure to include all pertinent information, including your name, phone number and your story idea or comment.

**SCOREBOARD**

BASKETBALL	
<b>THURSDAY'S S.D. BOYS</b>	<p><b>Sub-District C-1</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Falls City 36, Auburn 26</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Omaha Concor dia 48, Louisville 46, OT</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-3</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Lincoln Christian 74, Malcolm 46</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-4</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Fairbury 56, Wilber-Clatonia 38</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-5</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Bishop Neumann 59, Wahoo 45</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-6</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: North Bend Central 39, Columbus Lakeview 25</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-7</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Wayne 47, West Point-Beemer 38</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-8</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Norfolk Catholic 27, Pierce 24</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-9</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Central City 46, Adams Central 40</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-10</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Kearney Catholic 49, Minden 38</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-11</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Ainsworth 57, Ord 34</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-12</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Chadron 45, Mitchell 37</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-1</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Freeman 62, Elmwood-Murdock 54</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-2</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Yutan 54, Archbishop Bergan</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-3</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Sulton 61, Fillmore Central 24</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-4</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Guardian Angels 52, Oakland-Craig 13</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-5</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Twin River 54, Humphrey-Lindsay Holy Family 51, OT</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-6</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Crofton 55, Ponca 16</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-7</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Plainview 39, Elgin Public-Pope John 36</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-8</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Centura 46, Ravenna 21</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-9</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: North Platte St. Patrick's 46, Cambridge 37</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-10</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Hemmingford 49, Kimball 43</p> <p><b>Sub-District C-2-11</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Friend 58, Sterling 47</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-1</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Bruning-Davenport/Shickley 51, Heartland 25</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-2</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Howells/Dodge 51, Mead 29</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-3</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Humphrey St. Francis 36, Fullerton 29</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-4</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Emerson-Hubbard 56, Pender 42</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-5</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Creighton 51, Laurel-Concord/Coleridge 39</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-6</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: CWC 66, St. Mary's 53</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-7</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: South Loup 48, Central Valley 29</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-8</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Blue Hill 49, Red Cloud 21</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-9</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Brady 34, Maxwell 28</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-10</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Dundy County-Stratton 78, Sutherland 52</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-11</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Falls City Sacred Heart 55, Johnson-Brock 21</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-12</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Hampton 59, Meridian 42</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-13</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Wymot 65, Lyons-Decatur Northeast 49</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-14</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Stuart 51, Ewing 31</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-15</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Spalding Academy 39, Osceola 34</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-16</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Gilmer 57, Silver Lake 47</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-17</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Sandhills/Theodorf 47, Pleasanton 27</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-18</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Bertrand 62, Loomis 27</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-19</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Mullen 38, Arthur County 29</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-20</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Wauwata-Pal-isade 41, Hayes Center 38</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-21</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Leyton 40, South Platte 37</p> <p><b>Sub-District D-22</b> CHAMPIONSHIP: Crawford 54, Hay Springs 31</p>
<b>THURSDAY'S S.D. GIRLS</b>	<p>Aberdeen Central 64, Watertown 41 Brookings 54, Sioux Falls Lincoln 49 Burke/South Central 56, Gregory 29 Canton 56, Alcester-Hudson 50 Castlewood 65, Estelline 24 Chester 54, Arlington 30 Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 51, Timber Lake 46, OT</p> <p>Clark/Willow Lake 49, Webster 31 Dell Rapids 60, Madison 52 DeSmet 71, Lake Preston 31 Faulkton 53, Edmunds Central 13 Hamlin 45, Aberdeen Roncalli 32 Herreid/Selby Area 49, Northwestern 44</p> <p>Highmore-Harold 70, Miller 45 Hill City 49, Hot Springs 42 Ipswich 57, Potter County 54 Jones County 61, Lyman 27 Leola/Frederick 57, Eureka/Bowdle 45 Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 49, Parkston 32</p> <p>Oelrichs 83, Crazy Horse 34 Sioux Valley 65, Garretson 28 Sisason 47, Britton-Hicks 29 Spearfish 73, Douglas 50 Viborg-Hurley 70, Marion 37 Wagner 59, Platte-Geddes 43 Wall 56, Stanley County 35 Waverly-South Shore 58, Great Plains Lutheran 52</p> <p>West Central 61, Lennox 36 Yankton 44, Brandon Valley 39</p> <p><b>THURSDAY'S NEB. BOYS</b></p> <p>Cedar Bluffs 68, Winslow 36 Lexington 64, Phillipsburg, Kan. 62 South Sioux City 66, Sergeant Bluff-Luton, Iowa 60</p> <p><b>THURSDAY'S NEB. GIRLS</b></p> <p>Lexington 42, Phillipsburg, Kan. 39 Norfolk 57, Omaha Bryan 16</p>

**AREA CALENDAR**

<p><b>Friday, February 20</b></p> <p><b>BASEBALL, COLLEGE</b> Presentation at MMC (3 games, noon)</p> <p><b>BASKETBALL, BOYS'</b> Alcester-Hudson at Canton; Allen at Omaha Nation; Avon at Freeman; Bloomfield at Wausa; Centerville at Canistota-Marion; Creighton at Ponca; Crofton at Boone Central; Dakota Valley at Madison; Ethan vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Tripp; Gregory at Bon Homme; Hartington Cedar Catholic at Norfolk Catholic; Laurel-Concord-Coleridge at Wymot; Neligh-Oakdale vs. Niobrara-Vermillion at Niobrara; Randolph at Hartington-Newcastle; Scotland at Menno (Senior Night)</p> <p><b>BASKETBALL, GIRLS'</b> Bon Homme at Gaylesville-Volin; Dakota Valley at Madison</p> <p><b>BOWLING, CLUB HS</b> Harrisburg at Yankton (4 p.m.); Vermillion at Brookings</p> <p><b>HOCKEY, PEEVEE</b> S.D. State 'B' Tour. at Sioux Center</p> <p><b>SWIMMING &amp; DIVING, COLLEGE</b> Summit League Championships at Indianapolis (USD, 11 a.m.)</p> <p><b>TRACK &amp; FIELD, COLLEGE INDOOR</b> Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championships at Seward (MMS); USD Open (USD)</p>	<p><b>WRESTLING, PREP</b> S.D. Regions — 2A at Tea (YHS, Dakota Valley, Vermillion, 6 p.m.); Neb. State Tour. at Omaha</p> <p><b>Saturday, February 21</b></p> <p><b>BASKETBALL, MEN'S</b> LUPUI at USD (2 p.m., KVHT-FM); MMC at Nebraska Wesleyan (4 p.m., KYNT-AM)</p> <p><b>BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S</b> MMC at Nebraska Wesleyan (2 p.m., KYNT-AM); USD at South Dakota State (4:30 p.m., KVHT-FM, MidcoSN)</p> <p><b>BASKETBALL, BOYS'</b> YHS at Pierre (7 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM); Elk Point-Jefferson at Tea Area</p> <p><b>BASKETBALL, BOYS' JV</b> YHS at Pierre (2:30 p.m.)</p> <p><b>BASKETBALL, BOYS' SOPH</b> YHS at Pierre (4 p.m.)</p> <p><b>BASKETBALL, BOYS' 9TH</b> YHS at Pierre (4 p.m.)</p> <p><b>BASKETBALL, GIRLS'</b> YHS at Pierre (5:30 p.m., KYNT-AM, KVTK-AM); Elk Point-Jefferson at Tea Area</p> <p><b>BASKETBALL, GIRLS' JV</b> YHS at Pierre (2:30 p.m.)</p> <p><b>HOCKEY, BOYS'</b> Yankton at Brookings (3:30 p.m.)</p> <p><b>HOCKEY, BOYS' JV</b> Yankton at Brookings (1:45 p.m.)</p> <p><b>HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV</b> Yankton at Brookings (noon)</p> <p><b>HOCKEY, BANTAM</b> Yankton at Brookings (10:15 a.m.)</p> <p><b>HOCKEY, PEEVEE</b> S.D. State 'B' Tour. at Sioux Center; S.D. State 'C' Tour. at Mitchell</p> <p><b>SWIMMING &amp; DIVING, COLLEGE</b> Summit League Championships at Indianapolis (USD, 11 a.m.)</p> <p><b>TRACK &amp; FIELD, COLLEGE INDOOR</b> Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championships at Seward (MMC)</p> <p><b>WRESTLING, PREP</b> Neb. State Tour. at Omaha; S.D. Regions — 2B at Salem (Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Elk Point-Jefferson, Marion-Freeman, Parker, 10 a.m.); 3B at Parkston (Andes Central, Bon Homme-Scotland, Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes, Parkston, Wagner)</p> <p><b>Sunday, February 22</b></p> <p><b>HOCKEY, PEEVEE</b> S.D. State 'B' Tour. at Sioux Center; S.D. State 'C' Tour. at Mitchell</p>
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**National Football League**  
DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed P Tom Hinesey.

**NEW YORK GIANTS** — Re-signed OL Dallas Reynolds.

**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** — Named David Young vice president of operations/general manager of CenturyLink Field.

**TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** — Named Duke Preston director of player development.

**Crofton, Wynot Earn Sub-District Titles**

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Crofton's Allison Arens and Monica Arens each scored 13 points Thursday night in the 55-16 win against Ponca, clinching the Sub-District C-2-7 girls' basketball tournament title.

Allison Arens also had nine rebounds in the win, while Monica Arens had four steals. Kelsey Sanger scored nine points, and Maria Wortmann had six rebounds.

Rachel Bentz had six points for Ponca, and Kianna Kramper added five points. Ponca ends its season 18-6.

Wynot will face Plainview in the District C-2-4 final on Feb. 27, at a site to be determined.

CROFTON (25-0).....	16	37	49	55
PONCA (18-6).....	0	6	8	16

**Wynot 65, Lyons-Decatur Northeast 49**

PONCA, Neb. — Jenna Heine scored 20 points to lead Wynot to a 65-49 win against Lyons-Decatur Northeast in the Sub-District D2-3 girls' basketball tournament championship game Thursday night in Ponca.

Courtney Arkfeld added 14 points to the win, with teammate Danielle Wiesler recording 10 points.

Lexie Bacon had a total of 17 points for Lyons-Decatur Northeast, while Brianna Haskell had 12 points. Darcey Simonsen added another 10 points.

Wynot advances to play Stuart on Feb. 27, at a site to be determined.

WYNOT (18-5).....	17	37	51	65
LYONS-DECATUR NORTHEAST (14-9).....	8	24	35	49

**Norfolk Cath. 27, Pierce 24**

NORFOLK, Neb. — Norfolk Catholic defeated Pierce 27-24 Thursday night in the championship of the Sub-District C1-8 girls' basketball tournament.

Bailey Ehlers led the way for Norfolk Catholic with 11 points and Joeli Heng added six.

For Pierce, Sydney Siltrac recorded nine points and Rachelle Tucker added eight.

Norfolk Catholic will face Wayne in the District C1-4 final on Feb. 27, at a site to be determined.

PIERCE (19-6).....	7	15	21	24
NORFOLK CATHOLIC (19-5).....	13	15	22	27

**Region 2A**

**From Page 6A**

ton (80.5), Sioux Falls Lincoln (67), Yankton (60), Lennox (57), Dakota Valley (15) and Tea Area (15).

For those 11 Bucks wrestlers remaining for tonight's action at Tea High School, they know what they need to do, their coach said.

"Especially for those guys who haven't been here before, we told them to get home and dream about a win," Hage said. "And if they can do that, good things can happen."

**Vermillion In First**

Although the Vermillion

Tanagers saw two wrestlers not advance out of Thursday's first day, they have seven of their remaining 10 wrestlers alive for a region championship.

"That's about as good as we can expect," head coach Hazen Bye said. "We had a lot of close ones (matches), and you can't win them all."

Of those who moved on to the finals of their respective classes include Jacob Husby (113), Trey Hage (120), Kyle Seibel (126), Carter Kratz (145), Regan Bye (160), Brett (170) and Brandon Hertz (182).

Three others, Riley Beach (106), Noah Walker (138) and Noah Westergaard (195), moved to the consolation semifinals — still with a chance to qualify for the state tournament.

The Tanagers have relied all season on their experience, despite still having four sophomores and a pair of freshmen in the region mix.

"Pretty much all our guys have been here before," coach Bye said. "They're not so stressed, they're more at ease out there."

According to Bye, that kind of leadership, with four seniors, is exactly why Vermillion brought seventh-grader Kobe Culver — who lost twice at 132 pounds.

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

**Boys**

**From Page 6A**

Huskies, while Cole Gassman scored 19 points. Colton Plagmann also added 15 points.

Bridgewater-Emery faces Oldham-Ramona-Rutland in Madison Saturday to finish out the regular season, while the Eagles face Viborg-Hurley in Centerville March 3.

IRENE-WAKONDA (14-5).....	22	38	55	70
BRIDGEWATER-EMERY (9-10).....	14	28	53	68

**Sioux Falls Christian 91, Beresford 71**

BERESFORD — Chad Barkema pulled off a double-double Thursday night

with 26 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Sioux Falls Christians Chargers in a 91-71 victory against the Beresford Watchdogs.

Keegan Van Egdorn added another 24 points in the win, with Lee Wynja and Paul Eide each contributing nine points.

Logan Busch scored 28 points for the Watchdogs, with Chris Kropuenske adding 13 points. Oliver Doeden had 12 points, and Hunter Bergland added nine points.

The Chargers, now 14-4, host Garretson Monday, while Beresford (4-15) hits the road to face Tea Area Feb. 27.

**Washington 52, Roosevelt 51**

SIoux FALLS — Deng Geu recorded 24 points for Sioux Falls Washington as they edged passed Sioux Falls Roosevelt 52-51 in Thursday night boys' basketball action.

Apart from his 24 points, Geu also recorded eight rebounds and two assists. Ty Smith added 10 points for Washington.

Taryn Christian put 19 points for Roosevelt and Pierce Minden added 14.

Both teams will end their regular season schedule at home on Tuesday night as Washington hosts O'Gorman and Roosevelt welcomes Lincoln High School.

SIoux FALLS WASHINGTON (17-2).....	9	21	37	52
SIoux FALLS ROOSEVELT (12-8).....	8	22	41	51

**Lincoln 89, Brookings 64**

BROOKINGS — Sioux Falls Lincoln was victorious on the road 89-64 over Brookings in Thursday night boys' basketball action.

Kalen Johnson recorded 18 points to lead Lincoln. Nickel Meyers and Addison Park each added 14 points for the visitors.

Jared Tschetter put 15 points for Brookings and Issac Brandt added 11.

Both teams will be in action on Saturday night as Lincoln hosts Brandon Valley and Brookings hosts Huron.

SIoux FALLS LINCOLN (14-4).....	31	59	70	89
BROOKINGS (5-13).....	14	32	48	64

**FOOTBALL**

**Lancers**

**From Page 6A**

3.55 ERA, 29 K in 58 1/3 IP) all return with conference starting experience.

"Kyle had a really good year last season, as did Alex," Bernatow said. "Dustin started at the end of the year last season. A.J. received a medical redshirt — he was at the allowable limit, so we're fortunate to have him."

The Lancers return solid pitchers for middle relief and non-conference starts, and have a pair of seniors at the back end. Senior Dakota Kirkman (1-2, 5.23 ERA, 9 K in 20 2/3 IP), junior Josh Teichroew (0-0, 6.06 ERA, 5 K in 16 1/3 IP) and sophomore Michael Sadler (1-1, 2.84 ERA, 11 K in 19 IP) all return in the bullpen. Seniors Brynton Carlson (1-0, 1 save, 0.00 ERA, 5 K in 3 2/3 IP) and Derrick Nelson (1-2, 5.20 ERA, 16 K in 27 2/3 IP in 2012) could both be utilized in the closer role.

"At the back end we'll be in a better situation, being able to use Carlson and Nelson in close games," Bernatow said. "They both have high-end velocity and the right mentality. They both can suit the role just fine."

Bernatow also said that several others could emerge in pitching roles during the season, including Derek Miller (Fr., Mitchell), Tanner Termansen (Fr., Yankton) and Hunter Hallock (Fr., Chamberlain).

**Infield**

The graduation of two quality corner infielders will pose challenges for the Lancers.



P&D FILE PHOTO  
**Mount Marty's Brandon Nickolite sends the ball home during the 2014 Great Plains Athletic Conference baseball tournament. The senior is one of four starting pitchers with conference experience back for the Lancers.**

"We lost a couple of strong corners with Jared Miller and Mike O'Connell. Both received all-conference recognition. Both were (conference) Gold Glovers," Bernatow said. "Are we going to be as strong as we were there? Probably not, but we can be stronger everywhere else."

Nelson (.331, 4 HR, 32 RBI) returns at shortstop, though he will be battling injury as the season begins. Another Yankton grad, junior Alex Mueller (.281, 6 RBI) has been a solid replacement when Nelson has been out of the lineup the past two seasons. Seniors Riley Stack (.282, 15 runs) and Ryan Buck (.283, 11 runs) will battle for the second base job.

"Derrick has worked hard and is ahead of schedule. When he's healthy, he's able

to be a difference-maker for us. Mueller has played a lot for us and has done a good job," Bernatow said. "Riley and Ryan have helped out at the varsity level. I like the element that they bring with the new turf."

Sophomore Jared Schmidt (.429, 2 RBI) will have a chance to win the third base job, with Hallock and fellow freshman Trevor Jutting (Watertown) waiting in the wings.

A number of players will get their chance at first, including seniors Collin Peterson (.250) and Nik Davis (.237, 2 HR, 19 RBI), as well as Nickolite, Griffith and Mogens. Freshman Ethan Lynn (Sioux Falls, prepped at Washington) has been a pleasant surprise.

With junior Nick Sehr (.148, 1 RBI) returning from an early-season injury a year

ago, the Lancers have solid catching depth. Seniors Kory Bromley (.200, 1 RBI) and Julian Cutolo (.193, 11 RBI) are also back. Junior transfer Jared Nelson (Itasca CC), a junior college All-American, and freshmen Caden Skinner (Rapid City, prepped at St. Thomas More) have also competed well this spring.

"We probably have the deepest catching corps that we've had in my 11 years," Bernatow said. "Once we get into the season, we feel Sehr will settle into the position, but we will look to protect him. We don't want him to get worn down."

**Outfield**

The Lancers return five senior outfielders, three of which have previously earned all-conference recognition.

Bernatow expects Zac Hollenback (.282, 17 RBI, 10 SB) back in center and Derek Blumenstock (.319, 19 RBI) back in left, but could transition both Davis and Carlson out of the outfield because of the team's depth. Davis is getting looks at first, while Carlson may play more at designated hitter to help him keep his legs for late-inning work.

The emergence of Yankton native senior Cody Ulmer (.211, 2 RBI) and some of the younger outfielders gives the team that flexibility.

"Cody is progressing well," Bernatow said. "Justin Miller (Fr., Sioux Falls, prepped at Washington) and Mason Kaitfors (Fr., Spearfish) are coming around and can provide depth."

**GPAC Play**

The four teams picked ahead of the Lancers in the GPAC preseason poll all de-

serve recognition, according to Bernatow.

"Doane had a tremendous season last year. They graduated some arms, but the level of play they've created will allow them to bring in kids to fill in at that level," he said. "Midland has a lot of guys returning and they brought in a good coach. Northwestern is always in the mix. Morning-side is talented as well."

But that does not mean Bernatow and his coaching staff will lower the bar.

"Our biggest goal is to win a championship, and we don't care of it's regular season or conference tournament," he said. "We would love to bring the conference tournament here. That's one of the goals we are shooting for."

This season marks the

first of a new post-season format, where the eight qualifiers are split into two four-team brackets, hosted by the top two regular season finishers. The winners of those brackets will play a one-game final at the site of the higher seed.

"We had really handcuffed ourselves as a conference as to who could host," Bernatow said. The prior format required a host site to have two available fields, something most of the league could not provide. "With this, it can add life to our conference tournament, make it a more enjoyable experience for the kids."

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

**Registration Now Open for Calvary Kids Summer Program**  
For Children Entering Kindergarten through 5th Grade (must be 5 years old by May 26, 2015)

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SUMMER PROGRAM

Kid's church based summer program full of fun activities including games, crafts, swimming and field trips.  
**Our program is small and spots are limited!**

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