

Press&Dakotan  
DAILY DOSE**Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.****Coyote Football Signing Day Socials Set For Feb. 1-2**

VERMILLION — The South Dakota football staff will hold its annual Signing Day Events on Feb. 1 and 2 to announce the Coyotes' 2012 recruiting class. Both events are free and open to the public.

The first Signing Day Social will be held at Leo's Sport Bar & Grill in Vermillion on Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. to 7 p.m. to the second event will be held Thursday, Feb. 2, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Callaway's Event Center in Sioux Falls.

Head Coach Joe Glenn and the Coyote football coaching staff will be on hand to introduce the incoming 2012 class. Wednesday's event will be broadcast live on ESPN 99.1 FM from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Fans and media are invited to attend to visit with Coach Glenn and the staff to get a first in-depth look at the newest Coyote football recruits. Video highlights of the new signees will also be shown and biographical information will also be available.

National signing day for college football is Wednesday, Feb. 1.

**Munsen Farewell Set For Feb. 14**

MITCHELL — The Mitchell School district activities office invites the Mitchell community, the S.D. Basketball

**BY JEREMY HOECK**

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You know the term "crunch time"?

That's what is facing the Mount Marty College women's basketball team and its bid for another appearance in the NAIA National Tournament.

Including today's (Saturday) home game against Nebraska Wesleyan, the Lancers have six Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) games remaining in the regular season.

If Mount Marty (13-9, 8-6) is to qualify for nationals, it will have to remain among the top five teams in the conference standings.

community, and specifically all boys' and girls' basketball alumni of MHS who have played for Coach Munsen to join him in celebrating his last regular season home game to be played versus the Watertown Arrows on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

All basketball alumni are encouraged to contact Activities Director Geoff Gross at geoffgross@k12.sd.us to RSVP that they will be attending. All basketball alumni who RSVP will receive free admission to the game. There will be a time at halftime of the Varsity game where all former players will be recognized, both boys and girls, we also invite anyone who has coached with or against Coach Munsen to attend and RSVP.

Following the game all in attendance are invited to attend a social to be held on the Corn Palace floor. This same evening will be used to recognize this year's senior class and their parents. There will be a T-shirt available commemorating Coach Munsen's career and final season.

If you have questions, contact Geoff Gross at the MHS office at 995-3034.

**USD Places 47 On Fall Academic All-Summit League Team**

VERMILLION — The South Dakota athletic department has placed 47 student-athletes on the Academic All-Summit League team for the fall season, it was announced on Thursday. Coyote athletes in men's and women's cross

country, women's soccer and volleyball earned honors.

In order to be selected to the Academic All-Summit League Team, a student-athlete must have a 3.0 or better grade-point average (GPA) in the semester in which they compete and must use a year of eligibility. In order to be named a Distinguished Scholar, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.60 GPA. The Distinguished Scholar list was released on Wednesday.

South Dakota women's soccer led the way with 17 selections, followed by women's cross country with 14, men's cross country and volleyball with eight apiece.

Including previous honorees from the Great West Conference (which South Dakota was a member of from 2009-11), a pair of Coyotes earned their third straight academic all-beanef section: Men's cross country senior Nick Beare (Sioux Falls) and women's soccer junior Erin Bello (Fort Collins, Colo.).

Five student-athletes earned their second straight honors (including previous Great West accolades), including four women's cross country athletes: senior Kasey Hohl (Sioux City, Iowa), junior Carol Miller (Mead, Neb.), junior Ali Gress (Papillion, Neb.) and junior Signorie Pfefferle (Grand Island, Neb.). Women's soccer junior Rachel Greene (Onalaska, Wis.) also earned her second straight honor.

**MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY:** Nick Beare, Sr., Chemistry, Sioux Falls; Travis Brenner, So., Biology, Yankton; Jordan Gjestad, Jr., Health Sciences, Sioux Falls; Brant Haase, Jr., Undeclared, Lemmon; Alex Hohenhaner, So., Undeclared, Yankton; Ethan Marquardt, Jr.,

Social Work, Albert Lea, Minn.; Jeff Mettler, So., Biology, Eureka;

\*Stephen Nielson, Fr., Undeclared, Pierre

**WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY:** Jessica Brandt, Jr., Physical Education, Rapid City; Jillanne Doorn, Fr., Contemporary Media/Journalism, Wagner; Shannon Fitzsimmons, Jr., History Education, Yankton; Ashley Giese, So., Criminal Justice, Marshall, Wis.; Ali Gress, Jr., Pre-Physical Therapy, Papillion, Neb.; Kasey Hohl, Jr., Health Sciences, Sioux City, Iowa; Josee Jensen, Fr., Physical Therapy, Sioux City, Iowa; Emma Ladwig, Sr., Psychology, Gayville; Kelly Miller, Jr., Health Sciences, Mead, Neb.; Signorie Pfefferle, Jr., Chemistry, Grand Island, Neb.; Kasey Presler, Fr., Nursing, Sioux Falls; Kelsey Robish, Sr., Psychology, Huron; Kristin Steffen, So., Pre-Physical Therapy, Crofton, Neb.; Britni Waller, So., Contemporary Media/Journalism, Lincoln, Neb.

**WOMEN'S SOCCER:** Erin Bello, Jr., Art, Fort Collins, Colo.; Lauren Bennett, Fr., Spanish, Walton, Ky.; Laura Buckman, Fr., Undeclared, Yankton; Brittlyn Dillow, Fr., Health Sciences, Dixon, Ill.; Rachel Greene, Jr., Marketing, Onalaska, Wis.; Sam Harvey, Fr., Contemporary Media/Journalism, Grand Island, Neb.; Morgan Kayvan, Fr., Pre-Physical Therapy, Keokuk, Iowa; Afton Keiser, So., Pre-Medicine, Sioux Falls; Madi Myers, Fr., Psychology, Anoka, Minn.; Jessica Nieman, Fr., Undeclared, Rochester Hills, Mich.; Alex Pantze, Fr., Spanish/psychology, Fairbault, Minn.; Rebecca Pederson, Fr., Undeclared, Waconda, Minn.; Kaiti Porter, Fr., Biology, Prior Lake, Minn.; \*Colleen Reeves, Fr., Psychology, Rogers, Minn.; Jenny Teslow, So., Health Sciences, Sioux Falls; Mackenzie Viktor, Fr., Elementary Education, Sioux Falls; Kylee Weller, Fr., Nursing, Fort Collins, Colo.

**VOLEYBALL:** Amber Ashcroft, So., Elementary Education, Ankeny, Iowa; Kimi Bulaga, Jr., Education, Crystal Lake, Ill.; Katie Bunkers, Fr., Biology, Columbia, Neb.; Riley Haug, Fr., Elementary Education, Gretna, Neb.; Tori Kroll, So., Undeclared, Germantown, Wis.; Carol Logato, Sr., Business, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Bailey Lupardus, Jr., Physical Education, Camdenton, Mo.; Natalie Waiseth, So., Undeclared, Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

**AREA CALENDAR****Saturday, January 28****BASKETBALL, MEN'S** USD at Southern Utah (8:30 a.m., KYBB-FM); Nebraska Wesleyan at MMC (4 p.m., KVTX-AM)**BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S** USD at Southern Utah 6 p.m., KYBB-FM); Nebraska Wesleyan at MMC (2 p.m., KVTX-AM)**BASKETBALL, BOYS'** Combelt Classic at Freeman (Menno vs. Marion, 12:30 p.m.; Bridgewater-Emery vs. Freeman, 3:30 p.m.; Canisota vs. Hanson, 6:30 p.m.); Dakota Oyat Challenge at Huron (Marty); Niobrara-Valley Conf. Tour at Niobrara (Clearwater-Orchard vs. Lynch, noon; Elgin Public-Pope John vs. Santee, 3:30 p.m.; North Central vs. Niobrara-Verdigris vs. Santee, 3:30 p.m.; Activities Conf. Tour at Crofton (Laurel-Concord-Coleridge vs. Randolph, 2 p.m.; Elkhorn Valley vs. West Holt, 4 p.m.; Crofton vs. Plainview, 6 p.m.; Creighton vs. Neigh-Oakdale, 8 p.m.)**BASKETBALL, GIRLS'** Big East Conf. Tour. at Volga (Parker); Combelt Classic at Freeman (Menno vs. Marion, 11 a.m.; Canisota vs. Bridgewater-Emery, 2 p.m.; Freeman vs. Hanson, 5 p.m.); Dakota Oyat Challenge at Huron (Marty); Lewis & Clark Conf. Tour. (At Wakefield — Hartington vs. Wakefield, 7 p.m.; At Bancroft — Allen vs. Winnebago, 6 p.m.; Walhalla vs. Bancroft-Rosalia, 7:45 p.m.; At Osmond — Ponca vs. Emerson-Hubbard, 8 p.m.; Winside vs. Osmond, 7:45 p.m.; At Wynot — Bloomfield vs. Newcastle, 6 p.m.; Wausau vs. Wynot, 7:45 p.m.); Niobrara-Valley Conf. Tour. at Niobrara (Chambers-Wheeler Central vs. Lynch, 1:45 p.m.; Niobrara-Verdigris vs. Stuart, 5:15 p.m.); Northeast Neb. Activities Conf. Tour. at Atkinson (Creighton vs. Crofton, 2 p.m.; Laurel-Con-

cord-Coleridge vs. Randolph, 4 p.m.; Elkhorn Valley vs. Neigh-Oakdale, 6 p.m.; Plainview vs. West Holt, 8 p.m.); Tri-Valley Classic at Freeman (Mount Vernon vs. Gayville-Volin, 11:30 a.m.; Irene-Wakonda vs. Colman-Egan, 1 p.m.; Scotland vs. Alcester-Hudson, 2:30 p.m.; Centerville vs. Kimball-White Lake, 4 p.m.; West Sioux vs. Viborg-Hurley, 5:30 p.m.; Dell Rapids St. Mary vs. Freeman Academy, 7 p.m.); Lennox at Dakota Valley; Platte-Geddes at West Central

**HOCKEY BOYS'** Yankton at Rushmore (8 p.m.)**HOCKEY, PEEWEE** Yankton B at Sioux Center (3 p.m.)**SWIMMING-DIVING, COLLEGE** USD at North Dakota (1 p.m.)**SWIMMING-DIVING, YOUTH** Sioux City Mariners Meet (Yankton)**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE INDOOR** Bill Bergan Inv. at Ames, Iowa (USD); Dennis Young Classic at Storm Lake, Iowa (MMC)**WRESTLING, PREP** Brookings Inv. (YHS, 9 a.m.); Lawton-Bronson Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, 9:30 a.m.); Parker Inv. (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Parker, Scotland, 10 a.m.); Plainview Tour. (Creighton-Verdigris, Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ponca, Randolph, 10 a.m.); Wagner Tour. (Bon Homme, Elk Point-Jefferson, Marion-Freeman, Parkston, Sunday, 9 a.m.)**HOCKEY BOYS'** Yankton at Rushmore (3 p.m.)**HOCKEY BOYS'** JY Yankton at Rushmore (12:45 p.m.)

Monday, January 30

**WESTERN CONFERENCE****Southwest Division**

Cleveland 7 11 389 8 1/2

Detroit 4 16 200 12 1/2

San Antonio 12 8 600 GB

Dallas 12 8 509

Houston 11 8 576 1/2

Memphis 10 8 558 1

New Orleans 4 15 211 7 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City 15 3 833 GB

Denver 13 5 722 2

Utah 10 7 588 4 1/2

Portland 11 8 579 4 1/2

Minnesota 9 10 474 6 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers 10 6 625 GB

L.A. Lakers 11 8 559 1/2

Phoenix 6 11 373 4 1/2

Golden State 6 11 353 4 1/2

Sacramento 6 13 316 5 1/2

Thursday's Games

Boston 91, Orlando 83

L.A. Clippers 98, Memphis 91

Friday's Games

Philadelphia 89, Charlotte 72

Boston 94, Indiana 87

New Jersey 99, Cleveland 96

Atlanta 107, Detroit 101, OT

Chicago 107, Milwaukee 100

Houston 103, Washington 76

New Orleans 93, Orlando 67

Minnesota 87, San Antonio 79

Miami 99, New York 89

Dallas 116, Utah 101

Toronto at Denver, 9 p.m.

Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.

Oklahoma City at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Washington at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

Detroit at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

New York at Houston, 8 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.

Memphis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Sacramento at Utah, 9 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Chicago at Miami, 2:30 p.m.

Cleveland at Boston, 5 p.m.

Toronto at New Jersey, 5 p.m.

Indiana at Orlando, 5 p.m.

San Antonio at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.

Atlanta at New Orleans, 6 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 6 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Denver, 7 p.m.

**HOCKEY****NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE****EASTERN CONFERENCE****Atlantic Division**

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

N.Y. Rangers 47 31 12 4 66 132 96

Philadelphia 48 29 14 5 63 162 142

Pittsburgh 48 28 17 4 60 152 127

New Jersey 48 26 13 5 55 129 136

N.Y. Islanders 48 19 22 7 45 115 143

**Northwest Division**

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Boston 47 31 14 2 64 171 102

Ottawa 52 27 19 6 60 157 160

Toronto 49 25 19 5 55 151 147

Montreal 49 19 21 9 47 130 134

Buffalo 49 20 24 5 45 119 149

**Southwest Division**

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Florida 48 22 15 11 55 122 136

Washington 50 22 19 3 55 136 137

Winnipeg 50 22 16 5 50 124 143

Calgary 48 21 23 4 46 136 165

Tampa Bay 48 19 24 5 45 130 159

**WESTERN CONFERENCE****Central Division**

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Detroit 50 33 16 1 67 160 117

St. Louis 49 23 13 7 65 124 102

Chicago 50 29 15 6 64 162 144

Nashville 50 30 14 6 64 142 127

Columbus 49 13 30 6 52 115 163

**Northwest Division**

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Vancouver 49 30 15 4 64 158 122

Minnesota 49 24 18 7 55 115 126

Colorado 51 26 23 2 54 131 144

Calgary 50 23 21 6 52 120 137

Edmonton 48 18 26 5 41 122 142

**Pacific Division**

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

San Jose 47 27 14 6 60 131 110

Los Angeles 50 24 16 10 58 111 111

Dallas 48 25 21 2 52 126 136

Phoenix 50 22 20 8 52 130 134

Anaheim 48 18 23 7 43 124 144

NOTE: Tie points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

**Sunday's Games**

Team Chara vs. Team Alfredsson, 3 p.m.

**'Morneau 'Hopeful' He'll Be Fully Healthy In 2012**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Justin Morneau's latest recovery is "right on schedule" for him to start this season at first base for the Minnesota Twins.

The former American League MVP, been beset by all kinds of injuries the last two years, said on Friday night he's "hopeful" he'll be fully healthy in 2012. Last year, he had four surgeries and a concussion and hit only four home runs in 69 games.

"It's impossible to know what the future's going to hold, but I've just got to listen to what my body's saying," Morneau said at the team's annual fan festival. "So far everything's gone good."

He had operations on his neck, left knee and right foot during the season and his left wrist right after it. After returning from the concussion that knocked him out of action for the last half of the 2010 season, he suffered a recurrence diving for a ball late in the year.

He said he still has headaches "once in a while" but that he's felt "great since 2012 began. His wrist is still tight when he swings, but he said it shouldn't limit him once spring training starts next month. Morneau was so determined to come back healthier this year that he changed his diet after discovering his body doesn't handle gluten well. He dropped 20 pounds.

Before July 7, 2010, when a knee-to-the-head collision at second base spawned the concussion that kept him out until the following year, Morneau was hitting as well as he ever has, producing at a similar rate as he did during his MVP season in 2006.

Since then he's been a shell of his old self, and he doesn't shy from thinking back to his pre-concussion form.

"There were a lot of things going right so when I kind of need to remind myself that it can be good again and it will be good again, I think back to that and when stuff was good," Morneau said. "I'm not 38 going on 39, I'm 30 going on 31. So it's not like I'm in that danger zone where everything slows down. There's still a lot of time for me to become that player that I expect out of myself."

Proper perspective helps. He and some of his Twins teammates on Friday visited Jack Jablonski, the 16-year-old hockey player who was paralyzed by a hit into the boards last month.

"They said he'd never move his left arm, but we were in there watching him do rehab and he's moving his left arm and shaking our hands with his right hand. ... I think a lot of guys left there speechless just seeing everything he's gone through and how powerful he was," Morneau said.

Morneau is by far from the only Twins player entering the spring who's eager to put a painful season behind him. Their 63-99 finish was caused by a number of factors, but the training room was crowded by the end of the summer.

"It was like we should've moved our lockers in there. Just make that the locker room," said right-hander Nick Blackburn, who had a post-season operation on his forearm to fix a nerve problem.

He added: "It obviously wasn't pretty, but I think everybody knows we have more talent than that. If we keep everybody healthy it should be a different story."

Catcher Joe Mauer, of course, will be watched closely after confounding soreness and weakness in his legs plus a couple of illnesses ruined

his 2011 season. He looked as fit and lean as ever on Friday, and general manager Terry Ryan said Mauer is in good shape to start the spring. Ryan spoke of an ideal scenario for 140 games apiece from Morneau and Mauer, the franchise cornerstones.

Then there's center fielder Denard Span, who also dealt last season with concussion symptoms and migraine problems, albeit on a slightly less-publicized basis than Morneau. Span played in only 70 games last year, but he gave an upbeat update on his condition on the heels of what he called "one of the most depressing" seasons he's had.

"This is probably the best that I've felt in two years," Span said.

He started seeing a chiropractor, started a caffeine-free and supplement-free diet and has been participating in an eye therapy program on his laptop to strengthen his focus.



**AM 1450**

**MORNING COFFEE WEEKDAYS 7:40 AM AM 1450 THRU FRIDAY**

*Yankton's Home Team!*

**Augustana Men Outgun CSP**

ST. CLOUD STATE — Drae Murray and Cody Schilling each scored 18 points as the Augustana men got back on track with an 89-70 home win over Concordia-St. Paul.

Cameron McCaffrey added 13 points for the Vikings, who improve to 11-7 overall and 8-6 in the Northern Sun.

Peter Olafeso scored 20 points to lead Concordia-St. Paul (8-10, 5-9).

**Women**

WAYNE STATE 63, ST. CLOUD STATE 41: WAYNE, Neb. — Sev-

enth-ranked Wayne State held visiting St. Cloud State to 25 percent shooting on the way to its 38th straight victory at Rice Auditorium, 63-41, in Northern Sun action Friday night.

Ashton Yossi scored 11 points to lead the Wildcats (18-2, 12-2), while Ellen Hansen added 10 points. Ashley Arlen chipped in with eight points and Ali Schwartzwald dished out seven assists.

The Huskies (9-9, 6-8) got eight points from Jordin Gerking and Carley Jeffery, but saw their five starters shoot a combined 4-of-35 from the field.

ST. CLOUD STATE 66, MINOT ST. 62: MINOT, N.D. — The University of Sioux Falls improved to 14-2 on the year with a 66-62 win over Minot State on Friday evening in Minot.

Jamey Hofer led the Cougars with 15 points and seven rebounds. Alyssa Rushton added 13 points and six rebounds.

Minot had three players score in double figures. April Nakatani had 14 points while Carly Boag and Morgan Klose each scored 12.

Sioux Falls will battle Minot State (10-9) once again today (Saturday) in Minot at 4 p.m.

**SDSU Signing Day Party Wednesday**

BROOKINGS — Jackrabbit fans are invited to attend the annual Signing Day Party hosted by South Dakota State University Athletics on Wednesday (Feb. 1) evening.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at Cubby's Sports Bar and Grill in downtown Brookings. Women's soccer coach Lang Wedemeyer will discuss his 2012 recruiting class at 5:45 p.m., followed by Jackrabbit football coach John Stiegelmeier at 6 p.m.

Happy Hour specials will be available throughout the event, which will take the place of the Jacks After Hours event for the month of February.

Updates on the latest additions to Jackrabbit rosters will be posted throughout Signing Day at GoJacks.com.

**Women's Basketball League Forming**

The Yankton Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for Women's Basketball Leagues.

Deadline for team registrations, rosters, and fees is Friday, March 9. League will be played on Wednesday evenings, beginning April 4.

Team registration forms and rules are available at the Summit Activities Center at 1801 Summit Street or on the City of Yankton web site at [www.cityofyankton.org](http://www.cityofyankton.org).

For further information, please stop by the Summit Activities Center at 1801 Summit or call 668-5234.

**TRANSACTIONS****BASEBALL****American League**

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Named Court Berry-Trip coordinator, baseball information.

TAMPA BAY RAYS—Agreed to terms with INF Jeff Keppinger on a one-year contract.

**National League**

HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with LHP Zach Duke on a minor league contract.

NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with INF Matt Tuasiosso on a minor league contract.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Ag