

Twins Caravan Stirs Excitement, Despite Tough Sell

coming up

■ The Twins Caravan will be in Yankton on Wednesday. The event is not open to the public, but the P&D will have coverage.
Thursday P&D

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — In the sunshine of spring training, fresh-start excitement emanates from all major leagues teams.
The Twins fire up the optimism earlier than that, even in the frozen dark of a January morning in Minnesota. Their annual winter caravan began on Monday, with manager Ron Gardenhire in the first group to go out.
“You start talking baseball and you get to see all the players, and it kind of gets you really pumped up

for it,” Gardenhire said. “And you get excited to get down there and get going again. We have a lot to prove and a lot to do.”
Gardenhire joined new bench coach Terry Steinbach, middle infielder Brian Dozier, television announcer Dick Bremer and a handful of other Twins employees at the K-TWIN radio station studio across the street from Target Field. With a cup of coffee in his hand, Gardenhire was his usual joking, jovial off-season self. He recounted his recent travels, including motor-home trips to Oklahoma and California with his wife and mother.

“I found out what DEF is: diesel exhaust fluid,” Gardenhire said. “And if you run out of it, your engine stops. I didn’t run out, but it was flashing. I’m going, ‘What ... is this?’”
The Twins, coming off consecutive finishes of 99 and 96 losses, are counting on a smoother ride in 2013. Gardenhire is in the final year of his contract, with notable improvement by the team likely necessary for him to be retained.
But as the 12th-year manager prepared to get on a luxury bus for a four-day journey around southern Minnesota, northern Iowa and eastern South Dakota, he said his enthusiasm wasn’t deterred by a club currently in developmental mode.

“You’re always teaching them, and it’s a constant. They’ll tell you, ‘You never stop learning the game,’” Gardenhire said.
This ritual of reconnecting with fans over five states is designed to stir interest in the upcoming season, and that’s a harder sell for the Twins these days. But with a revamped coaching staff, a rotation that will likely be 80 percent new and the probability of significant roles for some of the organization’s top prospects, there are plenty of potential reasons to follow this team,

even if the playoffs don’t appear to be a realistic goal.
Gardenhire lamented the loss of outfielders Denard Span and Ben Revere in separate trades, but that was the price required to fetch some front-line starting pitching. Alex Meyer and Trevor May aren’t part of the plans for this year, but Vance Worley, also acquired from Philadelphia for Revere, is. Free-agent signings Kevin Correia and Mike Pelfrey are also slotted in with Scott Diamond, their closest to a staff ace last season.

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Abuse Charge Dropped Against Iowa State’s Pal

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Prosecutors have dismissed a sexual abuse charge against Iowa State basketball player Bubba Palo, paving the way for him to rejoin the Cyclones.
Palo was suspended from the team in September after being charged with sexually abusing a woman he was driving home in May.
The Story County Attorney’s Office announced Monday that new forensic evidence found on the woman’s blouse clashed with her and her mother’s sworn testimony.
Iowa State said later Monday that Palo had been cleared to resume basketball-related activities.
Palo says he’s relieved and that he felt he’d never gotten a chance to defend himself. He says he was raised to do the right thing and “would never make a mistake to this level.”
Another man who’d been charged, Spencer Cruise, of Ames, also was cleared.

Nebraska LB Giving Up Football To Go To Med School

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska linebacker Sean Fisher has announced his plan to enroll in medical school next fall rather than petition the NCAA for a sixth season with the Cornhuskers.
Fisher broke his leg in preseason practice in 2010 and missed the entire season. He could have asked the NCAA for eligibility in 2013.
Fisher said Monday it’s “time to move on” and put all his energy into preparing for medical school. He said he appreciated the time coach Bo Pelini gave him to finalize his decision.
Fisher started five of 14 games this past season, and his 48 tackles ranked ninth on the team. He carries a perfect 4.0 grade-point average in business administration/pre-medicine.

Cavaliers Upend Winner



Bon Homme's Scott Van Winkle, right, drives to the basket against Winner's Nathan Galbraith during their boys' basketball game on Monday in Tyndall. Bon Homme jumped out to a 31-15 halftime lead and held on for a 63-56 victory.

TYNDALL — Mike Mesman scored a game-high 24 points to lead Bon Homme to a 63-56 victory over Winner in boys' basketball action on Monday.
Jon Barrett and Scott Van Winkle each had eight points for the victorious Cavaliers. Barrett had seven rebounds and Van Winkle recorded seven assists in the victory.
For Winner, Brendan Harter led the way with 17 points. Tanner Fritz and Sam Naasz each had 11 points.
Bon Homme, 3-6, hosts Tripp-Delmont-Armour today. Winner, 4-5, travels to Wagner on Thursday.
Winner won the JV game 43-35.
WINNER (4-5).....10 15 29 56
BON HOMME (3-6).....18 31 44 63

Parkston 88, Andes Central 52
PARKSTON — The Parkston Trojans used strong starts to each half to claim an 88-52 victory over Andes Central in boys' basketball action on Monday.
Spencer Lucas and Zachary Scott each had 19 points for Parkston, which scored 24 first-quarter points and 28 third-quarter points. Jalen Hurley posted 16 points and eight rebounds. Tanner Weber had 14 points and Kyle Hohn added five assists in the victory.
Neulan Dion scored 15 points and Aaron Swanson had 14 points for Andes Central. Darrin Hopkins grabbed eight rebounds.
Parkston, 6-4, hosts Bon Homme on Thursday. Andes Central, 2-5, travels to Colome today.
Parkston won the JV game 33-10.
ANDES CENTRAL (2-5).....21 28 41 52
PARKSTON (6-4).....24 37 69 88

South Central 53, Gregory 38
GREGORY — South Central outscored Gregory 20-5 in the second quarter on the way to a 53-38 victory over the Gorillas in boys' basketball action on Monday.
Dakota Votaw led South Central with 18 points. Tyler Frank added 12 points in the win.
For Gregory, which led 11-4 after one quarter, Gavin Thomas led the way with 13 points and eight rebounds.
SOUTH CENTRAL (9-1).....4 24 37 53
GREGORY (3-4).....11 16 24 38

Wausa 59, Randolph 51
RANDOLPH, Neb. — Marcus Clausen scored 25 points, hitting four three-pointers in the opening quarter and six in the game, to lead Wausa to a 59-51 victory over Randolph in boys' basketball action on Friday.
Randolph outscored the Vikings 33-22 in the second half to close the gap after trailing 37-18 at the break.
Trevor Wakeley netted 13 points and nine rebounds for Wausa. Clausen also had four assists in the victory.
Wausa hosts Allen in a Lewis & Clark Conference battle on Thursday.
WAUSA.....23 37 46 59
RANDOLPH.....5 18 34 51

Girls

Freeman 47, Viborg-Hurley 46
FREEMAN — Freeman outscored Viborg-Hurley 28-24 in the second half to rally to a 47-46 victory over the Cougars in girls' basketball action on Monday.
Viborg-Hurley led 15-8 after one quarter and 22-19 at the half.
Dina Soulek led Freeman with 19 points and five steals. Nicole Saarie and Taylor Hermesen each had eight points. Carli Lager added seven rebounds and four assists in the victory.
Abby Hora posted 14 points, seven rebounds, six assists and five steals. Val Sunderland had nine points and 12 rebounds. Katelyn Graber and Danielle Voss each had seven rebounds in the effort.
Freeman, 6-4, hosts Menno on Friday. Viborg-Hurley, 7-4, hosts Baltic in Hurley on Friday.
VIBORG-HURLEY (7-4).....15 22 31 46
FREEMAN (6-4).....8 19 34 47

Hanson 77, Howard 47
ALEXANDRIA — The Hanson Beaverettes bounced back from their first setback of the season.

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ZELLES WIN MMC TOURNEY



The Yankton Zelles claimed top honors in their fifth grade girls' division at the Mount Marty youth basketball tournament this past weekend. Team members include (front) Sadie Fedders, Payton Wolfgram, (middle) Brooklyn Bernatow, Lauren Eidsness, Ava Manning, Gabby Pietila, (back) Hannah Muth, Jaiden Boomsma, Madisen Wuebben and Mary Fanta.

NDSU Players Addressing Injuries

BY JEFF KOLPACK
The Forum

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota State University football team has played almost three seasons' worth of games, 30, in the last two years. It's a gauntlet the Bison attacked, and the back-to-back NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision titles did not come without a price.
Thirty games will be felt this month in the name of several injuries that will be addressed with either rest or some type of surgery. It's to the point that head coach Craig Bohl said he's not certain if the Bison will play their annual spring game.
“I told our marketing people, everybody thinks we're going to have a spring game,” Bohl said. “I'd like to think we are, but you never know.”
It's possible several starters will take up to a month off, while other players will get right into winter workouts. The fact NDSU returns a veteran team and 20 starters next year will put more of a premium on health and less on development.
“It's not like we look up on the board and go, ‘We're in a world of hurt, I don't know who's going to start here or there,’” Bohl said. “I think we have a plan to come up with our starting lineup. What we're looking for is to make sure we have depth.”
Bohl said junior defensive tackle Justin Juckem has given up the game after battling recurring knee issues. It got to the point where Juckem, who two years ago was on the verge of being one of the top linemen in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, practiced just once a week and saw five to six plays in a game.

“We'll miss his presence as far as determination,” Bohl said.
Sam Hahn, a redshirt offensive lineman, has transferred to the University of Nebraska, his home state. Otherwise, there appeared to be no surprises when the players came back for the second semester, Bohl said.
The two most pressing positions that will be addressed in the offseason are center and cornerback, where the Bison lose seniors Joe Lund and Andre Martin. Bohl said guards Josh Colville or Tyler Gimmestad could be moved to center to challenge for the top job along with backup Adam Schueller.
At cornerback, the starter will most likely come out of Brendin Pierre, Zach Colvin, C.J. Smith and Jordan Champion. Bohl said redshirt freshman safety Marcus Brantley could switch positions.
With Juckem gone, redshirt freshmen Brett Pierce and Austin Farnlof will get a serious look in the middle.
DeSean Warren, a redshirt freshman receiver who suffered an ACL injury in fall camp, is back running and could be ready for spring football. Safety Colten Heagle, who suffered the same injury the second game of the year, may participate in non-contact spring drills.
The jury appears still out on backup running back Matt Jones, who didn't make the title trip because of concussion issues.
Besides injuries, the playoff run was not a friend to the recruiting trail, either. Bohl said NDSU did not handle it as well as it should have two years ago when it reached the quarterfinals.

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LANCERS
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TOMORROW NIGHT!
MMC vs. Dordt

WOMEN'S TIP-OFF: 6 PM | MEN'S TIP-OFF: 8 PM | CIMPL ARENA

Live in Large with the Lancers!
MMC welcomes Mrs. Rokusek's 2nd grade class from Holy Trinity School in Hartington and their families as our VIP guests--winners of the Live in Large with the Lancers package!!

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