

Press&Dakotan

DAILY DOSE

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



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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When I saw the press release on Friday regarding Alex Kocer's decision to return to the wrestling mat and compete for South Dakota State, where he was already a student, I couldn't help but crack a smile. Having seen the Wagner native win five consecutive state championships, one of five in South Dakota to accomplish such a feat, I knew he could be competitive at the collegiate level. He was not just a hard worker but a solid tactician and a fierce competitor. But I understood his decision to get away from wrestling. Wrestling had been his life since he first stepped onto the mat in kindergarten, and the pressure of going for that fifth title took its toll, even if he wouldn't admit it.

### It's Good To See Wagner's Alex Kocer Back On The Mat

The itch to get back on the mat didn't hit until he saw his little brother getting after it for Wagner this winter. But once it did, Kocer was ready to don the blue-and-gold. Kocer, who is projected to wrestle at 149 or 157 pounds (he won his last two prep titles at 152 pounds), will join one of the most highly-touted wrestling recruiting classes in the nation. The eight student-athletes SDSU signed in November, including Tri-Valley's Austin Oyen, are ranked sixth in NCAA Division I by the publications that produce such rankings. And, no surprise, Kocer is already excited for the chance to add to his trophy case. "All I know is I want to make it to the NCAA Championships, both individually and as a team," he said in the SDSU press release. Don't be surprised if he does just that.

### Wagner's Kocer Returns To Mat, Will Wrestle For SDSU

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State and the wrestling coaching staff announced the addition of Alex Kocer to the Jackrabbit wrestling team. Kocer is a South Dakota five-time state champion from Wagner. As a student at SDSU, Kocer was undecided about wrestling at the collegiate level, which changed with the seasons. "I was not even sure I wanted to wrestle when I first came to school," Kocer said. "Wrestling season came around and I was watching my brother wrestle and I wanted to do it. I talked to Coach Bono, attended a couple duals and Coach Bono lined everything up. He was very helpful throughout the entire process. It was no time and

I was practicing again." Kocer won the 152-pound Class B state title as a senior in 2012 en route to an undefeated season (44-0). He first climbed the championship ladder in 2008 at 103 pounds and won three titles between his first and last (2009 at 118 pounds, 2010 at 130 and 2011 at 152). "Success ran in the family," said Kocer. "My older brother was a (three-time state champion) and I was raised with state champions. It was a dynasty of sorts. I hated losing, worked hard, tried my best and was able to win." Kocer finished his career as one of three five-time state champions, one title behind Kirk Wallman and Logan Storey for most in a prep career. And while success is one reason for his return, the coaching staff provided another reason. "Coach Bono) is a great guy," Kocer said. "You know

you are going to work hard because he wants you to be on the winning side. He is a good coach and very relational. The entire coaching staff is a positive." In effect, Kocer joins next year's recruiting class, already touted as one of the best in the nation (The Open Mat, Amateur Wrestling News). Eight student-athletes joined the Jackrabbit wrestling team on signing day in November, including three ranked by Amateur Wrestling News. Brandon Brunner, Hank Goettl, Colin Holler, Coltan Laganiere, Paul Mascarenas, Austin Oyen, Nathan Rotert and Matt Seabold make up the best recruiting class in SDSU history. The No. 6 ranking is the best recruiting class for any sport in the history of Jackrabbit athletics. "I started recently and do not know everyone on the team, so I am not sure what to expect," said Kocer. "All I know is I want to make it to the NCAA Championships,

both individually and as a team." Kocer is projected to wrestle at 149 or 157 pounds.

Center meeting room from 2-4 p.m. For more information, go online to [www.yanktongirlsoftball.com](http://www.yanktongirlsoftball.com)

**YISA Accepting High School Coaching Applications**  
The Yankton Youth Soccer Association is now accepting applications for High School Coaches. Applications are available online at [www.yanktonsoccer.com](http://www.yanktonsoccer.com) under "forms". Completed applications can be mailed to Yankton Youth Soccer Association, PO Box 82, Utica, SD 57067. The deadline to apply is Feb. 8. For more information or questions, Contact Jason at 605-760-4828.

## SCOREBOARD

### BOWLING

#### CROFTON

##### MEN'S COMMERCIAL

HIGH TEAM GAME: Wiebelhaus Rec. 890

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Wiebelhaus Rec. 2537

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Todd Moody 258, Aaron Kuehler 221, Brian Wiebelhaus 216, Dennis Merkel 216

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Todd Moody 748, Brian Wiebelhaus 606, Dennis Merkel 596

A STANDINGS: Merkel Insulation 73-54-6.5, Wiebelhaus Rec. 66-53-5, Crofton Elevator 62-5-57.5, Don's Auto 59-61

B STANDINGS: Goeden Steel 67-53, Hilti 59-61, DSM Affs. 36-53-5, Leader Angus 36-84

HIGHLIGHTS: Todd Moody - 60 over game avg., 154 over series avg.

### VOLLEYBALL

#### YANKTON PARKS & REC.

##### WOMEN'S POWER LEAGUE

RESULTS: Hanson Briggs def. Drotzmann Construction 21-16, 20-22, 21-17, Team Wortmann def. Skerns 15-21, 21-17, 21-19

STANDINGS: Hanson Briggs 7-1, Drotzmann Const. 4-4, Team Wortmann 3-5, Skerns 2-6

##### WOMEN'S COMPETITIVE LEAGUE I

RESULTS: Don't Bump to Strangers def. Subway Girls forfeit, Jo Deans def. Becker Body/JJ Benji's (forfeit), Cork'n Bottle def. O'Malley's 21-19, 21-11, 21-11; Walnut def. Lewis & Clark Specialty 8-21, 21-15, 21-11; Bud Bumpers def. The Associates 21-12, 21-15, 21-8

STANDINGS: Bud Bumpers 6-1, Don't Bump to Strangers 5-2, Jo Deans 5-2, Walnut 5-2, Associates 4-3, Cork'n Bottle 4-3, Becker Body/JJ Benji's 2-3, Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital 2-5, O'Malley's 2-5, Subway Girls 0-7

##### WOMEN'S COMPETITIVE LEAGUE II

RESULTS: Slammion Hot def. First Dakota 18-21, 21-16, 25-23, JJ Benji's def. In It 4 Fun 21-15, 13-21, 21-18, Rounding 3rd, Mad Dashers 21-13, 21-19, 21-16; Ear, Nose & Throat def. TNT 21-18, 21-16, 21-15

STANDINGS: Full House Property 8-0, Ear, Nose & Throat Assoc. 7-1, Slammion Hot 5-3, TNT 4-4, Rounding 3rd 4-4, In It 4 Fun 3-5, J.J. Benji's 3-6, First Dakota 1-6, Mad Dashers 1-7

### WRESTLING

#### YANKTON YOUTH WRESTLING

#### TEA TOURN.

Jan. 20 at Tea

FIRST: Alana Bahrn, Tucker Bahrn, Cayden Benson, Jake Cunningham, Ray Warmers

SECOND: Taten Bahrn, Lance Donner, Gerald Gerger, Ocean Hawk, Ashton Keller, Evan Nelson, Shayce Platt, Jack Schaa, Craigie Strub

THIRD: Jordan Dahl, Kyril Lillie, Brennan Mettser, Colten Patrick

FOURTH: Kyleen O'Conner, Shaylor Platt, Nikolas Sasse, Crew Strub

FIFTH: Damian Janish, Justin Pavel, Parker Pooler, Joe Smith

PIERRE 49, Brandon Valley 18

#### FRIDAY'S S.D. SCORES

Pierre 49, Brandon Valley 18

#### BASKETBALL

##### FRIDAY'S S.D. BOYS

Bison 70, Kadoka Area 38

Brandon Valley 60, Sioux Falls Lincoln 53

Britton-Hecia 45, Redfield/Doland 35

Great Plains Lutheran 49, Waverly-South Shore 39

Groton Area 47, Webster 32

Hickcock-Tulare 69, Faulkton 46

Highmore-Harold 62, Iroquois 32

James Valley Christian 71, Sully Buttes 40

Langford 56, Northwestern 30

Miller 63, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 53

Molberg-Pollock 63, Chamberlain 47

New Underwood 62, Edgemont 38

Phillip 55, Lemmon 28

Pierre 82, Rapid City Central 58

Sarnom Central/Woonsocket 86, Westington Springs 36

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 60, Yankton 49

South Central 51, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 35

Tri-Valley 55, Elk Point-Jefferson 48

Waterloo 70, Huron 51

Waubay 52, Grant-Deuel 39

White River 84, Pine Ridge 67

Wolsley-Westington 75, Kimball/White Lake 44

Yellowstone Trail Conference Tourn.

Herried/Selby Area 70, Eureka/Bowdle 58

Potter County 85, Edmunds Central 22

##### FRIDAY'S S.D. GIRLS

Aberdeen Central 62, Sturgis 53

Arlington 56, Colman-Egan 52

Avon 58, Parkston 48

Beresford 43, Lennox 30

Clark/Willow Lake 64, Deuel 44

Dakota Valley 64, Sioux Falls Christian 54

Deil Rapids St. Mary 41, Elkton-Lake Benton 31

DeSmet 54, Deubrock 45

Elk Point-Jefferson 45, Tri-Valley 40

Faith 47, Newell 41

Great Plains Lutheran 45, Waverly-South Shore 39

Groton Area 42, Webster 35

Kadoka Area 71, Bison 23

Lemmon 70, Philip 26

Marion 47, Menno 44, OT

Miller 48, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 46

New Underwood 56, Edgemont 27

Northwestern 60, Langford 49

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 46, Lake Preston 32

Platte-Geddes 69, Colome 21

Rapid City Christian 39, Custer 35

Redfield/Doland 31, Britton-Hecia 20

Rosholt 63, Florence/Henry 57

Sioux Falls Washington 53, Sioux Falls Spalding/Spalding Academy 83

Fullerton 48

Madison 42

Thayer Central 58, Centennial 44

Wilber-Clatonia 53, Lincoln East 53

Centennial Conference Tournament

Semifinal

Bishop Neumann 62, Columbus Scotus 49

Republican Plains Activity Conf. Tourn.

Consolation

Cambridge 51, Bertrand 47

Hayes Center 54, Wauneta-Palsade 42

Medicine Valley 72, Alma 36

Semifinal

Southern Valley 54, Arapahoe 40

Sand Hills Conference Tournament

Third Place

SMC 47, Brady 43

Summit West 36, Lincoln East 39

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# Games With Oregon, Northern Arizona Coming Up For USD Football

#### BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — While home-and-home football series are quite routine at Division I schools across the country, they haven't been as frequent for the University of South Dakota.

Interim athletic director David Herbster said this week he would like to change that trend, and a potential series with Northern Arizona of the Big Sky Conference could be in the works.

"It provides the most stability in scheduling," he said Thursday from his office in the DakotaDome. "It's easier sometimes, I think, to do that rather than playing one team one time. You don't know what you're getting."

The 2012 schedule, with eight conference and three non-conference games, did not feature any end of a home-and-home series for the Coyotes, who finished 1-10.

The home game with Colgate (the lone win) was a one-time "anomaly" — as Herbster put it — and the opener at Montana was technically a guarantee game, but the schools are set to kick-start such a series in 2013.

Going back even further, the 2011 schedule featured a one-time home game with Eastern Washington and Lamar backed out late of a return trip to Vermillion. Before that, the last home-and-home series was with Northern Colorado in 2009 and 2010.

This coming season, however, is another story.

The Coyotes begin a home-and-home series this season with UC Davis — USD hosts the Aggies in the season opener Aug. 31 and will return to California in 2015.

Another such series, with Montana, brings the Coyotes back out to Missoula in 2014.

"We're pretty much buttoned up, I just have to get everything fi-

nalized," Herbster said. "I have our schedule full for this fall, I just have to get the dates secured."

USD had already finalized its 11-game schedule for 2013, but has two open dates — Sept. 14 and Sept. 21 — that could possibly be filled with a 12th game.

There had been some talk of potentially adding a seventh home game for the upcoming season, a rarity in college football. But Herbster said he would prefer starting a home-and-home series on the road in 2013 to ensure that the following season would feature a notable non-conference game in the DakotaDome.

To that end, Northern Arizona is a potential option, Herbster said. In that possible contract, the Coyotes would likely travel to Flagstaff, Ariz., this fall, Herbster added.

Beyond trying to find a home-and-home series for the coming seasons, USD is also in the market

for a Bowl Championship Subdivision (BCS) game for 2014. The Coyotes are scheduled to play at Kansas this season and at Kansas State in 2015, but nothing in the year between.

"You're trying to find someone who is willing to play and travel to South Dakota, especially in football where there aren't many schools around us to choose from," Herbster said, pointing to a FCS map on the wall in his office.

"We're already playing a majority of them in the Missouri Valley; you're already playing all the close ones."

And that's why Missouri Valley Football Conference teams, for example, tend to schedule regional BCS contests.

Among other BCS games in 2013 for Valley teams, North Dakota State travels to Kansas State, Northern Iowa visits Iowa State and South Dakota State returns to Lincoln, Neb., for a

matchup with the Cornhuskers.

The Coyotes, on other hand, could potentially find themselves playing at the University of Oregon in 2014, Herbster said.

"That's the problem from a scheduling standpoint, right now, there's nobody out there that needs a game," he added. "Nobody that's in our wheel-house, that doesn't already have an FCS opponent."

"Otherwise, you'll drop down a

whole other tier in the pay scale."

With 10 teams in the Missouri Valley, there is an uneven number of league games, so one school is left out of the rotation. For example, USD will not play Southern Illinois in 2012 and 2013, while South Dakota State does not face Illinois State.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](http://twitter.com/jhoeck)

## Boys

From Page 9

South Central hits the road to play against Marty on Thursday, while the Nighthawks face Wagner in Tripp.

TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (5-7).....5 15 24 35

SOUTH CENTRAL (13-1).....14 28 37 53

Br. Valley 60, Lincoln 53

SIoux FALLS — Lincoln High School continued their recent slide as they were upended by Brandon Valley on Friday night in Class AA boys' basketball action by a final of 60-53.

After a 5-0 start to their season, the Patriots are now 6-5 after dropping five of their past six games and four in a row.

Jacob Adams led the Lynx with 27 points and eight rebounds. Chase Marso and Nic Peterson added 12 points apiece as Brandon Valley improves to 8-5 on the year.

For Lincoln, Calvin Krause and Nermin Krdzalich each scored 14 points. Addison Park added nine points and seven rebounds in the loss.

Brandon hosts Brookings on Friday while Lincoln hosts city rival Washington today (Saturday).

BRANDON VALLEY (8-5).....12 22 44 60

LINCOLN (6-5).....9 21 33 53

### Dakota Oyate Chall.

#### Flandreau Indian 66, Tiospaye Topa 65

HURON — Tanner Drappeau scored