USD, SDSU Renew Rivalry Today

3 Big Things To Watch In The Men's Game

The Frost Arena Effect

Although the University of South Dakota men's basketball team has won two of the three Division I meetings with rival South Dakota State in Vermillion, the Coyotes have struggled mightily in Brookings. And those issues go well beyond the D-

Craig Smith, of all people, realizes what it would mean to the rivalry to even out those

"To be a great rivalry, both teams have to win consistently," the first-year Coyote coach said after Wednesday night's home win over North Dakota State. "We've got to

The Coyotes checked off one goal in beating NDSU for the first time in that D-I series, but USD has not won at Frost Arena in Brookings since 2000 — back when Dave Boots was coaching the Coyotes in the old North Central Conference.

In short, it's been a long time. The Jackrabbits have beaten USD by 30, 13 and 14 points in Brookings in the last three meet-

Tyler Larson

Finally 100 percent healthy and in a starting role, USD senior Tyler Larson (pictured, No. 55) has been one of the Summit League's biggest surprises through the

early stages. Those in Vermillion would tell you, though, it's not a surprise; Larson is just getting his chance. The Las Vegas native ranks fourth in the conference in scoring (15.9), leads the league in rebounding (8.2), averages 3.2 assists and has a league-high eight double-doubles. In short, he's a triple-double threat every time he takes the floor.



The Marshall Plan

A transfer from Wisconsin, guard George Marshall joined the Jackrabbits following the fall semester. And through 10 games, the Chicago native has already made his presence felt. Marshall leads SDSU in scoring (13.9) and has

scored 17, 25 and 15 points in the team's 3game conference winning streak. Marshall isn't yet eligible for the conference leaderboard, as he needs to play in 75 percent of his team's games — which he'll reach in

By Jeremy Hoeck/P&D

3 Big Things To Watch In The Women's Game

The Revenge Factor

It was Monday afternoon, March 10, 2014, in Sioux Falls. South Dakota State women's basketball fans will remember that day very well, as will fans of the University of South Dakota. That was the day the Coyotes dominated the Jackrabbits in the semifinals of the Summit League tourna-

Ten months later, the Coyotes and Jackrabbits will meet again, this time today (Saturday) in Vermillion.

The Jackrabbits have won the last four regular season meetings, scoring 88 and 99 points a season ago, but the Coyotes exacted some revenge in the post-season — on the way to a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

'Usually you don't have to get either one of these teams ready for that game," USD head coach Amy Williams said. "It'll be a fun, intense battle."

Bench Prowess

In winning five consecutive Summit League tournament titles from 2009-13, the SDSU women's basketball program used a balanced attack to wear teams down.

The Jackrabbits haven't exactly slowed down in that area, but USD has suddenly become the deeper team. And the stats would bear that out.

Through 18 games this season, SDSU gets an average of 16.7 points from its reserves. And through 17 games, USD gets 24.3 points from its players off the bench.

It's not as though each team's starting lineups are weak (each has three starters averaging double figures), but it's that the Coyotes have a little bit more firepower on the

"It just makes things easier, because the



defense has to respect that," senior Raeshel Contreras said after Thursday's home win over North Dakota State.

The top reserves for the Jackrabbits have been Ellie Thompson (5.6 ppg, 4.1 rpg) and Clarissa Ober (3.9 ppg, 4.0 rpg), while the Coyotes boast Kelly Stewart (7.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg) and Bridget Arens (6.2 ppg, 4.3 rpg).

Macy Miller

There was a lot of pressure facing Macy Miller (above, left) coming into her freshman season at South Dakota State. The 6-foot guard from Mitchell was a household name

after scoring nearly 2,000 points in her standout high school career. And she hasn't disappointed SDSU fans through the midway point of her

freshman season in Brookings. In a starting role, Miller is averaging 11.9 points (second on the team), 4.2 rebounds and 2.7 assists per game, while shooting 84 percent at the free throw line. She has eclipsed 20 points three times, with a careerhigh 25 against Northern Iowa.

Through five Summit League games, Miller is 16-of-44 with 41 total points, but will have a challenge in front of her today (Saturday) against an experienced USD backcourt.

By Jeremy Hoeck/P&D



JOHN DAVIS/ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS

Yankton's Spencer Huber, top, works to turn Aberdeen Central's Josh Moore during their 126 pound match Friday at the Aberdeen Civic Arena, Huber went on to win the match 8-0.

Bucks Drop Two In Aberdeen

ton Bucks dropped a pair of Eastern South Dakota Conference wrestling matches on

Friday in Aberdeen. Against Aberdeen Central, a 65-10 Golden Eagle victory, Cody Vornhagen (113) won by pin and Spencer Huber (126) won by major decision. The Bucks were hampered by four open weight classes.

Against Brandon Valley, a 62-18 decision, Vornhagen and Huber each won by pin. Luke Lammers picked up a win by forfeit.

Yankton is back on the mat today (Saturday) at the Harrisburg Invitational. Start time is set for 10 a.m. Aberdeen Central and Brandon Valley are also at the event, as are Beresford, Crofton-Bloomfield and Dakota Valley.

Aberdeen Central easily won the other match of the triangular, 58-18.

Brandon Valley went 2-0 in JV action, beating Yankton 58-12 and Aberdeen Central 45-30. Aberdeen Central topped Yankton 54-24 in the other dual.

Reese Andersen (220) went 2-0 for the Bucks in JV action. Hiram Alvarez (138) also earned a win for Yank-

ABERDEEN CENTRAL 65, YANKTON 10: 106 -Chauncey Goethals AC by forfeit; 113 — Cody Vornhagen Y pin. Austin Cihak 4:49; 120 — Victor Padilla AC maj. dec. Bashir Abd-Al-Kreem 14-4; 126 AC maj. dec. Bashir ADG-Al-Kreem 14-4; 1zo — Spencer Huber Y maj. dec. Josh Moore 8-0; 132 — Madison Peterson AC dec. Skylar Elle 6-3; 138 — Trevor Larson AC maj. dec. Luke Lammers 12-0; 145 — Collin Haar AC pin. Jamee Bruegman 1:46; 152 — Shea Krause AC pin. Jordan Lucht 3:43; 160 — Bradley Netter AC pin. Jamee 3:00:170. Beatles Net. Nelson AC pin. Ray Wermers 3:00: 170 — Braiden Nel son AC pin. Kyle Schmidt 0:41; 182 — Brian Reise-nauer AC by forfeit; 195 — John Frisco AC by forfeit; 220 — Jake Flakus AC pin. Cole Diedrichsen 0:59; 285

 Sam Schaunaman AC by forfeit
 BRANDON VALLEY 62, YANKTON 18: 106 — Creighton Klinkhammer BV win by forfeit; 113 — Cody Vornhagen Y pinned Jorey Sorenson, :50; 120 — Daw-son Kremlacek BV over Bashir Abd-Al-Kreem, 15-9; 126 - Spencer Huber Y pinned Matt Eigenberg, 1:01; 132 - Jackson Pletten BV over Skylar Elle, 15-0; 138 — Luke Lammers Y win by forfeit; 145 — Connor Smith BV pinned James Bruegman, 1:19; 152 — Wyatt Win-ter BV pinned Jordan Lucht, 2:22; 160 — Dylan Bludorn BV pinned Kyle Schmidt, 3:23; 182 — Lincoln Ode BV win by forfeit; 195 — Hunter Shamatt BV win by forfeit; 220 — Andrew Sorenson BV pinned Cole Diedrichsen, :28; 285 — Clayton Ebright BV win by forfeit. ABERDEEN CENTRAL 58, BRANDON VALLEY

ABENDEEN CENTRAL 36, DRAINDON VALLET 18: 106 — Chauncey Goethals AC over Creighton Klinkhammer, 8-4; 113 — Austin Cihak AC, pinned Payton Braun; 44; 120 — Victor Padilla AC over Dawson Kremlacek, 10-5; 126 — Josh Moore AC pinned Matt Eigenberg, 41; 132 — Jackson Pletten BV pinned Madison Peterson, 1:36; 138 — Trevor Larson AC win by forfeit, 145 — Collin Haar AC over Connor Smith, 11-2; 152 — Wyatt Winter BV pinned Shea Krause, :25; 160 — Bradley Nelson AC pinned Dylan Bludorn, 1:43; 170 — Braiden Nelson AC pinned Levi Sternberg, 1:44; 182 — John Frisco AC pinned Lincoln Ode, 4:06; 195 — Jake Flakus AC pinned Hunter Shamatt, 2:55; 220 — Andrew Sorenson BV win by forfeit; 285 — Sam Schau-

Wakefield 36,

Ponca 27

WAKEFIELD, Neb. — The Wakefield Trojans used six pins to beat Ponca 36-27 in prep wrestling action on Thursday.

Juan Ğonzalez (120), Nick Gonzalez (132), Alex Nunez (138), Jonathan Romero (152), Efren Godinez (170) and Moises Barboza (220) each won by pin for Wakefield. For Ponca, Michael Brewer (145) and Brady

Krusemark (195) won by pin. 106 — Open; 113 — Open; 120 — Juan Gonzalez W pin. Walter Messerlie 0:45; 126 — Cullen Cook P by forfeit; 132 — Nick Gonzalez W pin. Jared Ludwig 3:57; forfeit, 132 — Nick Gonzalez W pin. Jared Ludwig 3:57;
138 — Alex Nunez W pin. Tristan Bostwick 4:37; 145

— Michael Brewer P pin. Luke Walsh 5:04; 152

Jonathan Romero W pin. Jordan Walker 2:42; 160

Hudson Schweers P by forfeit, 170 — Efren Godinez W
pin. Sean Uhl 2:53; 182 — Open; 195 — Brady Krusemark P pin. Carlos Chavez 1:14; 220 — Moises Barboza W pin. Nate Brockhaus 0:42; 285 — Colton
Oswald P dec. Manuel Grimaldo 8-3

College: SDSU 19,

Boise State 12

BROOKINGS — Alex Kocer won by major decision at 149 pounds to help South Dakota State to a 19-12 victory over Boise State in college wrestling action on Friday.

Kocer, a sophomore from Wagner, beat Boise State's Travis Himmelman 12-4. At 174, David Kocer dropped a 4-2 decision to Boise State's Austin Dewey on a late takedown

SDSU, 6-5, opens Western Wrestling Conference play at home against Northern Colorado on Sunday. Start time at

King, Eagles Beginning To Soar

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK ames.cimburek@yankton.net

IRENE — A season ago Gabe King led Irene-Wakonda in scoring as the Eagles finished 9-12. Entering his junior year, he told his head coach – who is also his father — that

he'd rather win than score. King is still scoring — averaging 21.5 points per game but he has the Eagles ready to take flight at 7-2 entering today's (Saturday) game with Dakota Christian.

King broke into the Eagle rotation as an eighth grader, but a broken arm sidelined his season just four games in. He came back as a freshman and was the Eagles' second-leading scorer behind current Dakota Weslevan football player Dustin Livingston. King led the Eagles in scoring a year ago, and again leads the team this season.

"He said coming into the season. 'I don't care if I score as long as we win," said Mike King, Gabe's coach and father. King played baseball and basketball at Mount Marty College, where today's game with Dakota Christian is being held. "He knows there are times, if we need a basket, we go to him, but we have three other kids scoring in double figures.

Besides Gabe, who plays guard despite being the tallest player on the team at 6-5, sophomore Levi, freshman Tate Gale and eighth grader Trey King, Gabe's little brother, have all had big

games this season. "It helps a lot," Gabe said of the balanced attack. "Defenses can't focus right on me because, if they do, everyone else will have a good game.

"That's fine by me as long as we are winning.

The Eagles have done just that so far this season. After closes losses to Ponca, Nebraska, and Canistota to open the season. Irene-Wakonda has reeled off seven straight

Besides being a leading scorer, Gabe has filled up the stat sheet, averaging 12.5 rebounds and 6.8 blocked shots per game. He credits those numbers to experience.

"I'm getting better at reading shots," he said. "I try to contest every shot I can. Eventually they (opponents) will get nervous and it affects their shot."

The extra work Gabe has put in off the court has not gone unnoticed.

TVC Classic

Today At Cimpl Arena a.m. — Viborg-Hurley vs Marty Indian

1 p.m. — Centerville vs. Ethan 2:30 p.m. — Freeman Academy vs. Scotland 4 p.m. — Gayville-Volin vs. Dell

Rapids St. Mary 5:30 p.m. — Irene-Wakonda vs. Dakota Christian Alcester-Hudson vs. Burke-South Central

Start Times Are Approximate

"He put a lot more time into basketball than I ever did," said Coach King, who was recruited to MMC for baseball, then played basketball after his baseball eligibility was exhausted. "Before the Avon game (on Jan. 10), he was up at the gym for an

hour. Gabe's work has also been noticed by regional college

basketball coahces. "He's had a number of local schools interested in home, some NAIA and Division II programs," Coach King said. "Not that going to those places would be a bad thing, but I think his aspirations are to aim higher."

Gabe knows he still has work to do in order to give himself a shot to play at the collegiate level.

"Overall, my shot can improve a lot more. My free throws are starting to decline, so I need to work on those, he said. "And rebounding, there can always be improvement on that.'

For now, though, Gabe is focused on the season at hand.

"Hopefully we can get a win in districts, see where we go from there," he said.

The game between Irene-Wakonda and Dakota Christian today at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena is the fifth of six games in the Tri-Valley Conference Classic, a 5:30 p.m. start. Play begins at 11:30 a.m. with Viborg-Hurley against Marty Indian, followed by Centerville against Ethan at 1 p.m. Freeman Academy plays Scotland at 2:30 p.m., followed by Gayville-Volin against Dell Rapids St. Mary at 4 p.m. The final game of the night features Alcester-Hudson against

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

Burke-South Central at 7 p.m.



Irene-Wakonda junior Gabe King, left, tips in a missed shot over Bon Homme defender Hunter Young during their game earlier this season. King averages 22.5 points, 12.5 rebounds and 6.8 blocks per game for the Eagles, who take a 7-2 record into today's (Saturday) matchup with Dakota Christian in the Tri-Valley Conference Classic. The six-game event is being held at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena on the Mount Marty College campus.

ELECTRO-MECHANICAL

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