

USD, SDSU Renew Rivalry Today

3 Big Things To Watch In The Men's Game

The Frost Arena Effect

1 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-I series.

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

"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 figure it out."

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 meetings.

Tyler Larson

2 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

3 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 scored 17, 25 and 15 points in the team's 3-game 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 short order.

By Jeremy Hoek/P&D

3 Big Things To Watch In The Women's Game

The Revenge Factor

1 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 tournament.

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

2 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 bench.

"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

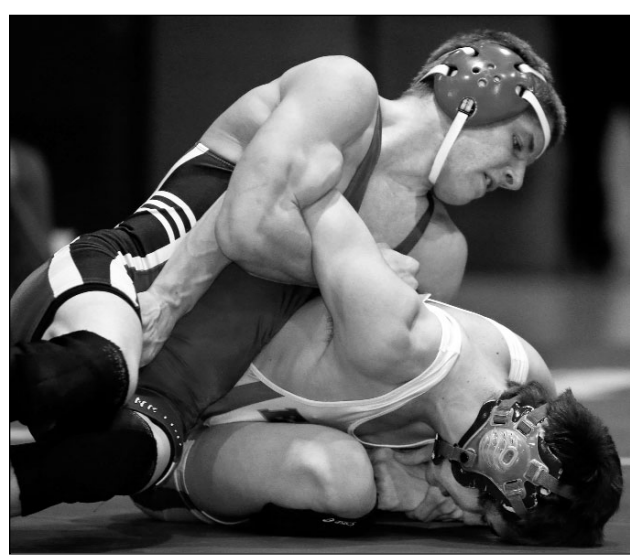
3 There was a lot of pressure facing Macy Miller (above, left) coming into her freshman season at South Dakota State.

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 career-high 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 Hoek/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

ABERDEEN — The Yankton 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 Yankton.

ABERDEEN CENTRAL 65, YANKTON 10: 106 — Chauncey Goethals AC by forfeit; 113 — Cody Vornhagen Y pin. Austin Chah 4:49; 120 — Victor Padilla AC maj. dec. Bashir Abd-Al-Kreem 14:4; 126 — Spencer Huber Y maj. dec. Josh Moore 8-0; 132 — Madison Peterson AC dec. Skylar Elle 8-3; 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 Nelson AC pin. Ray Wermers 3:00; 170 — Braden Nelson AC pin. Kyle Schmidt 0:41; 182 — Brian Reissner AC by forfeit; 195 — John Frisco AC by forfeit; 220 — Jake Flakus AC pin. Cole Diedrichsen 0:59; 285 — Sam Schaanman AC by forfeit.

BRANDON VALLEY 62, YANKTON 18: 106 — Creighton Klinkhammer BV win by forfeit; 113 — Cody Vornhagen Y pinned Jorey Sorenson, 50; 120 — Dawson Kremlacek BV over Bashir Abd-Al-Kreem, 15-9; 126 — Spencer Huber Y pinned Matt Eigenberg, 1:01; 132 — Jackson Plettner BV over Skylar Elle, 15-0; 138 — Luke Lammers Y win by forfeit; 145 — Connor Smith BV pinned James Bruegman, 1:18; 152 — Wyatt Winter BV pinned Jordan Lucht, 2:22; 160 — Dylan Bludorn

King, Eagles Beginning To Soar

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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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 Wesleyan 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 Canisota to open the season, Irene-Wakonda has reeled off seven straight victories.

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.

SDSU 6-5, opens Western Wrestling Conference play at home against Northern Colorado on Sunday. Start time at Frost Arena is 1 p.m.

TVC Classic

Today At Cimpr Arena

11:30 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
7 p.m. — Alcester-Hudson vs. Burke-South Central

Start Times Are Approximate



P&D FILE PHOTO
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. Cimpr Arena on the Mount Marty College campus.

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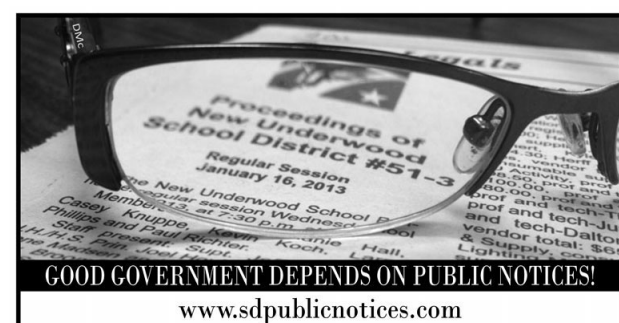
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