

Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE

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



BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The knock on the University of South Dakota men's basketball team last season? An inability to win road games. Well, not an inability, but wins away from Vermillion were pretty rare. In year one under new head coach Craig Smith, however, the Coyotes have reversed that trend to suddenly become one of the league's best teams — nearing the midway point of the Summit League schedule.

What's going on? If you ask the coaches and players that very question (and trust me, I have), you'll hear: "Learning how to win."

After Thursday night's 10-point victory at Western Illinois, the Coyotes have a Summit League-best six road wins this season — three in conference games. And keep in mind, you constantly hear how tough it is to win conference games on the road. But

USD Men Finding Formula To Winning On The Road

yet, this group is getting it done?

The only league losses for USD this season have been when it had a big lead, at home against Omaha and of course last Saturday at South Dakota State.

By comparison, a season ago, the Coyote men were 2-13 in true road games, along with a pair of neutral site losses.

If USD was to become a serious threat in men's basketball, it was going to need to start winning some of those games in which it wasn't favored — which, to be fair, is quite frequently when you're the preseason second-to-last selection.

But yet, here the Coyotes are, 4-2 in the Summit League, fourth place behind North Dakota State (5-1), South Dakota State (5-2) and tied with Oral Roberts (4-2).

I'm not exactly sure what it is — beyond "learning how to win" — that's keeping the Coyote men, but you could make a strong case for two key areas: 1) experience, and 2) the attitude of their coach. Whatever it is, the final half of the conference season is bound to be pretty nutty.

MMC Named NAIA Champions Of Character Five-Star Institution

For the tenth consecutive year, the Mount Marty College Athletic Department has been named a Champions of Character Five-Star Institution by the NAIA. MMC was among 168 institutions named to the Five-Star list.

The Mount Marty College Athletic Department is a charter member of the NAIA's Champions of Character, and initiative started in 2000 to develop character among its membership. The NAIA identified five core character values that an institution would need to address with its athletes and staff in order to be a member, with the idea that the NAIA and its members are in unique position to make a change in the culture of sport. The five core character values are respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership, and sportsmanship. Each year the athletic department selects an individual that best represents these core character values.

"These core values aren't just values we have instilled in us by the NAIA Champions of Character, but values we live by every day at Mount Marty College," said MMC Athletic Director Chuck Iver-

son. "We feel it's an important part of being a competitive athlete at MMC. Having been named a Five-Star Institution for ten consecutive years is a big deal for us. It validates the efforts that the athletes, coaches, programs and supporters put forward. We look forward to continuing this for years to come."

Institutions are measured on a demonstrated commitment to Champions of Character and earned points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. Institutions earn points based on exceptional student-athlete grade point averages and by having minimal to no ejections during competition throughout the course of the academic year.

Kokesh First In Coaches Panel Rankings

LINCOLN, Neb. — All-American Robert Kokesh was one of eight University of Nebraska wrestlers ranked in the first Coaches Panel Rankings of the 2014-15 season, announced on Thursday.

Kokesh, a senior from Wagner, is undefeated (22-0) at 174 pounds this season headed into this

weekend's duals against Illinois and Rutgers. He finished fourth in the NCAA championships in 2014 after placing third in 2013.

Also appearing in the rankings are South Dakota State's Cody Pack, 7th at 157 pounds; Nathan Rolert, 20th at 197 pounds; and J.J. Everard, 30th at 285 pounds; and Minnesota's Logan Storley, a Webster native, ranked third at 174 pounds.

The final rankings of the season will be used to determine qualifiers for the NCAA Championships, March 19-21 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Huskers Baseball Hosts Free Fan Fest

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska baseball team will host a free Fan Fest on Friday, Feb. 6 at the Hawks Championship Center. The event is free to the public and is scheduled to run from 6 to 8 p.m. Fans also do not need to pre-register for the event and the first 1,000 fans will receive a free hot dog, chips and water.

There will be multiple family activities, including a pitching station with a radar gun, home run derby, face painting, balloons, and inflatables. Starting at 7 p.m. there will be a formal program

where the 2015 team will be introduced. Head Coach Darin Erstad and players will also discuss the upcoming season.

The Huskers open the 2015 season on Friday, Feb. 13 in Las Vegas with a three-game series against UNLV. The 2015 home slate starts on Tuesday, March 10 when the Huskers host Northern Colorado starting at 1:35 p.m.

Season tickets are currently available at huskers.com/tickets or by calling the Nebraska Athletic Ticket Office at 1-800-8-BIGRED.

Amateur Baseball Meeting Feb. 8

MITCHELL — The South Dakota Amateur Baseball Association will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Highland Conference Center in Mitchell.

A noon meal will be provided free of charge to all league officers, team managers, umpires, fans and media personnel. The annual meeting will follow.

Tommy Mason, Minnesota Vikings 1st Draft Pick, Dies At 75

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Running back Tommy Mason,

the first draft pick in Minnesota Vikings history, has died. He was 75.

Mason's sister-in-law, Suzanne MacNeil, told The Associated Press that Mason died peacefully Thursday at his home in Newport Beach, California, with his wife, Karen, by his side.

"We just adored him, and he adored my sister," MacNeil said.

No cause of death was given, but Mason sustained multiple concussions during his playing career, MacNeil said, and was part of the "88 Plan." That's the program created in the honor of former NFL player John Mackey, who wore No. 88 for the Baltimore Colts and died in 2011 after a long fight with dementia. The "88 Plan," part of the NFL labor agreement in 2006, was devised to provide up to \$88,000 annually for care for former players with dementia or Alzheimer's.

The Vikings took Mason out of Tulane with the first overall selection in 1961. The native of Lake Charles, Louisiana, played six of his 11 NFL seasons with the Vikings and became their first All-Pro player in 1963. He also was picked for three Pro Bowls.

Mason is eighth on the team's all-time rushing list with 3,252 yards and ninth with 39 touchdowns. He also was a kickoff and punt returner.

"Tommy was an enormous talent. He was a great player, a humble man and an outstanding teammate. I will always cherish the years I spent with Tommy," former quarterback Fran Tarkenton said in a statement distributed by the Vikings.

Mason went on to play four years with the Los Angeles Rams and his final season with the Washington Redskins. He finished his NFL career with 4,203 yards rushing and 2,324 yards receiving with 45 total touchdowns. He earned a law degree after his career was over.

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

YANKTON BOWL
CLASSIC
HIGH TEAM GAME: Manitou 992
HIGH TEAM SERIES: Eisenbraun & Associates 2779
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Jerry Peterson 299, Don Casey 289, Ryan Barta 288, Tim Dooley 279, Frank Ostborn Jr. 289
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Don Casey 783, Tim Dooley 750, Ryan Barta 732, Chuck Turner 730, Robin Hoeck 710
STANDINGS: The Varsity Pub 22, Barta Electric 20, Kruse's Pro Shop 19, Manitou 17, Eisenbraun & Associates 14.5, Phi Chi Chapter 12.5, Coke Zero 10, Rotten Apples 8, Janzen's Garbage Service 7, Smitt Captain & Crew 5
SPARETIME
HIGH TEAM GAME: Huether Seamless Gutters 839
HIGH TEAM SERIES: Huether Seamless Gutters 2405
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Stacy Barta 267-246-227, Judy Barta 257, Barb Dooley 203, Jane Rhoades 202
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Stacy Barta 7-4, Eddie Turner 6:11, Hillary Barta 5:52, Sue Murphy 5:52, Sharon Merrin 5:14
STANDINGS: Huether Seamless Gutters 12-0, First National SC 7-5, Vogt Cleaners 7-5, ASP5 6-6, The Dam Girls 5-7, Lewis & Clark Marina 5-7, First Dakota 4-8, Class Cutters 2-10
HIGHLIGHTS: Annie Bruening 2-7, Elaine List 2-7, Anne Mello 5-7
MOONSHINERS
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Bruce Myers 238, Kevin White 216, Elaine Lane 171, Wendy Wiebelhaus 159
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Kevin White 833, Mark Branen 597, Wendy Wiebelhaus 461, Elaine Lane 443
STANDINGS: JB Auto 47-15-2, Westy's 37-23, Steamway 35-25, Flynn Great Whites 26-53-33, L&S 26-34

VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S JUST FOR FUN LEAGUE
RESULTS: Riverside Autobody def. Itsy Bitsy Spikers 21-11, 21-17, 21-9; Mojo's def. Budlight Spikaholics 17-21, 21-18, 21-12; Ice House def. Larry's Heating & Cooling 25-23, 21-16, 2-21; Phinney's def. Just For Kicks (forfeit).
STANDINGS: Mojo's 9-0, Phinney's 6-3, Ice House 6-3, Riverside Auto Body 6-3, Larry's Heating & Cooling 4-5, Itsy Bitsy Spikers 3-6, Bud Light Spikaholics 2-7, Just For Kicks 0-9

WRESTLING

MITCHELL TOURN.
FIRST: Bentley Klinkhammer, Langdon Klinkhammer, Shayce Platt, JoEllon Rainette-Hahn, Ashton Keller, Connor Warren-Slaba, Bode Thurman, Paul McCrone, Collin Patrick, Joe Smith
SECOND: Damian Janish, Payton Johnson, Josh Ribbe
THIRD: Kyle Kozak, Connor Svatos, Dylan Sloan, Cameron Svatos, Shaylor Platt, Triston Sparyns, Ty Eichenberger, Parker Pooler, Gerald Greger, Robert Hahn, Ocean Hawk
FOURTH: Kyle Greger, Connor Bain, Corbyn Plasma, Ira Greger
HARRISBURG TOURN.
SECOND: Devon Coke
O'GORMAN TOURN.

Boys

From Page 6A

bounds in the win, with Devin Tolsma adding 15 points, six rebounds and three assists. Dylan Rasby also recorded seven rebounds and three assists.

Jason Drapeaux scored 16 points for the Eagles and had three steals, while Leo Hopkins scored eight points and had two assists. Tyrone Flying Hawk added six rebounds.

Andes Central hosts Westington Springs Monday, while the Pirates host Wagner Saturday.

ANDES CENTRAL (1-8).....11 19 32 39
AVON (2-7).....17 27 48 64

Winner 69, Wagner 52

WAGNER — Brendan Harter scored 21 points and had eight rebounds Thursday night to keep the Winner Warriors undefeated with a 69-52 win against the Wagner Red Raiders in Wagner.

Nick Hossle added 11 points to the Warriors' win, with Nathan Galbraith scoring 10 points and four rebounds.

Derek Soukup scored 16 points and had eight rebounds for Wagner, while Jubal Grant put up 11 points and six rebounds. Lukas Young added nine points.

The Raiders travel to play against Avon Saturday, while Winner hosts Todd County

Tuesday.
WINNER (11-0).....23 35 49 69
WAGNER (3-6).....16 26 36 52

Bloomfield 63, Ewing 16
BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Bloomfield hosted Ewing on Thursday night and defeated the visitors with a 63-16 victory.

Quinn O'Brian and Cody Beckmann led their team with by scoring 12 points each. Wilson Wagner led with five rebounds.

At this time there are no stats available for Ewing High School.

Ewing will travel to Elgin-Pope John on Friday night and Bloomfield will be on the road against Hartington-Newcastle.

EWING (0-14).....4 7 12 16
BLOOMFIELD (9-7).....24 37 50 63

S.F. Christian 71, Vermillion 42

VERMILLION — Keegan VanEgeom led Sioux Falls Christian to a 71-42 win Thursday night against Vermillion in Vermillion.

Teammate Chad Barkman added nine points to the win. Vermillion's Cooper Williams and Jacob Manger each scored seven points for the Tangers.

Vermillion hosts West Central Tuesday, while Sioux Falls Christian hosts Madison today (Friday).

SIoux FALLS CHRISTIAN (8-2).....17 36 55 71
VERMILLION (4-7).....12 15 25 42

Battle Creek 68, Laurel-Concord-Col. 45

LAUREL, Neb. — Dillan Wolfgram, a junior for Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, scored 27 points for the home side on Thursday night. Unfortunately, it was not enough as they fell to Battle Creek by a score of 68-45.

Leading Battle Creek was Jared Bellar who scored 24 points for the visitors.

Battle Creek will travel to Pierce tonight (Friday) while Laurel-Concord-Coleridge will host Osmond on Tuesday.

BATTLE CREEK (14-2).....11 27 45 68
LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE (5-11)10 24 36 45

Mitchell 72, Pierre 68

PIERRE — Beau Brown scored 23 points and six Mitchell Kernels hit a three-pointers in a 72-68 Eastern South Dakota Conference road win Thursday night in Pierre.

Jaron Weich and Gray Determan both added 10 points for the Kernels (6-7), who led 31-27 at halftime.

In the loss for the Governors (6-4), Brevin Kaiser scored 27 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Charlie Anderson added 19 points and Nick Rabern had 11 points.

Pierre also had six different players hit a three-pointer.

Pierre visits Rapid City Stevens next Tuesday and Mitchell hosts Harrisburg next Thursday.

MITCHELL (6-7, 4-5).....8 31 47 72
PIERRE (6-4, 6-3).....7 27 39 68

AREA CALENDAR

Friday, January 23
BASKETBALL, BOYS' WATERTOWN at YHS (8 p.m., KNTV-AM, KVHT-FM); Baltic vs. Viborg-Hurley at Hurley; Bloomfield at Hartington-Newcastle; Canton at Beresford; Centerville at Freeman Academy (PN); Creighton at Elkhorn Valley; Crofton at Woodbury Central; Hartington Cedar Catholic at Wayne; Lennox at Platte-Geddes; Ponca at Bancroft-Rosalie; Randolph at Neligh-Oakdale; Santee at Stuart; Tri-Valley at Dakota Valley; Wausa at Winside
BASKETBALL, BOYS' JVD Watertown at YHS (3:30 p.m.)
BASKETBALL, BOYS' SOPH Watertown at YHS (3:30 p.m.)
BASKETBALL, BOYS' 9TH Watertown at YHS (4:45 p.m.)
BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Watertown at YHS (6:15 p.m., KNTV-AM, KVHT-FM); Baltic vs. Viborg-Hurley at Hurley; Bloomfield at Hartington-Newcastle; Canton at Beresford; Centerville at Freeman Academy (Parents Night); Creighton at Elkhorn Valley; Crofton at Woodbury Central; Menno at Freeman; Ponca at Bancroft-Rosalie; Randolph at Neligh-Oakdale; Santee at Stuart; Scotland at Platte-Geddes; Tri-Valley at Dakota Valley; Vermillion at Lennox (7:45 p.m., KVTV-AM, Wausa at Winside)
BASKETBALL, GIRLS' JV Watertown at YHS (3:30 p.m.)
BOWLING, CLUB HS Vermillion at Yankton (4 p.m.)
HOCKEY, BOYS' Yankton at Mitchell (8 p.m.)
HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV Brookings at Yankton (7 p.m.)

Swimming & Diving, College South Dakota State at USD (4 p.m.)
TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE INDOOR Minn. State-Madison Open (4 p.m., KNTV-AM)
WRESTLING, PREP Sanford Pentagon Town. (YHS, 2 p.m.); Madison, Neb., Inv. (Crofton-Bloomfield, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Wakefield-Allen); Sioux Valley Quad (Alcester-Hudson)

Saturday, January 24
BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD at IJUPUI (noon, KVHT-FM); MMA at Doane (4 p.m., KNTV-AM)
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S MMA at Doane (2 p.m., KNTV-AM); USD at IJUPUI (6 p.m., KVHT-FM)
BASKETBALL, BOYS' Aberdeen Central at YHS (5 p.m.); Dairy Queen Shootout at Madison (Viborg-Hurley vs. Lower Brule, 11:30 a.m.; Bon Homme vs. West Central, 1 p.m.; Menno vs. Highmore-Harold, 4 p.m.; Freeman vs. Hills-Beaver Creek, 7 p.m.); Hanson Classic (Alcester-Hudson vs. Sully Buttes, 10 a.m.; Canistota-Marion vs. Warner, 1 p.m.; Parkston vs. St. Thomas More, 4 p.m.; Hanson vs. Platte-Geddes, 7 p.m.); Dakota Valley at Lawton-Bronson; Flansburg at Parker; Gayville-Volin vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Tripp; Hartington Cedar Catholic at Guardian Angels Central Catholic; Mary Indian at Flansburg Indian; Niobrara-Verdigré at Creighton; Wagner at Avon
BASKETBALL, BOYS' JV Aberdeen Central at YHS (2 p.m.)
BASKETBALL, BOYS' SOPH Aberdeen Central at YHS (3:30 p.m.)
BASKETBALL, GIRLS' JV Aberdeen Central at YHS (2 p.m.)
HOCKEY, BOYS' JV Brookings at Yankton (7 p.m.)

Patriots

From Page 6A

anything outside the rules of play."

With different approaches, Belichick and Brady sent a unified message: Both said they have no clue how the footballs were tampered with or switched during last Sunday night's 45-7 win over the Colts, and started learning about the issue along with fans and everyone else.

"I have no knowledge of anything, any wrongdoing," Brady said when asked who on the Patriots was responsible for the underinflated footballs. "I'm very comfortable saying, nobody did it as far as I know."

Asked if he should have tried harder to learn what happened, considering the possi-

ble effect on the team's reputation, Brady said, "I think there's a lot of people that have more information than me."

Brady said he picks the game balls he wants to use several hours before kickoff, then doesn't think about them at all. He said he didn't know the protocol for handling game balls after he chooses them.

"Once I approve the ball, that's the ball that I expect out there on the field," Brady said. "It wasn't even a thought, inkling or concern of mine that they weren't the same ball."

Belichick said that before this week, he didn't give air pressure in footballs much thought at all.

"I've learned a lot more about this process in the last three days than I knew or have talked about it in the last 40 years that I've coached in this league," Belichick said during an 8 1/2-minute opening state-

ment during an 11 1/2-minute news conference Thursday morning.

While neither Belichick nor Brady took responsibility for the underinflated balls, neither absolved anyone besides themselves of potential wrongdoing.

"I felt like we won the game fair and square," Brady said. "I feel like I've always played within the rules. I would never do anything to break the rules."

Softer balls are generally considered easier to throw and catch, and quarterbacks, specialists and equipment managers are known to have very individualized preferences in how footballs are readied for games. Belichick said he was unaware of the process for game balls until the accusations were raised.

Belichick said he sometimes hears quarterbacks, kickers and other specialists talk about their preferences.

Girls

From Page 6A

Creighton 67, Osmond 26

CREIGHTON, Neb. — With 20 total points Thursday night, Rebecca Eggerling led Creighton to a 67-26 win against Osmond in Creighton.

Eggerling also had nine steals and five rebounds, while Emily Sorensen added 13 points, five rebounds and two assists. Cassidy Moeller also recorded 13 points with three rebounds.

No stats were reported for Osmond.

Osmond will host Clearwater-Orchard today (Friday), while Creighton hits the road to play Elkhorn Valley OSMOND (0-12).....4 9 17 26
CREIGHTON (11-2).....15 28 51 67

Burke-South Cent. 67, Gregory 30

GREGORY — Sierra Votaw scored 15 points to lead the Burk-South Central Cougars to a 67-30 win against the Gregory Gorillas Thursday night in Gregory.

Grace Hazen had eight rebounds in the win, while Lexie Fernau added five assists and five steals.

Briana Lebar scored 10 points for the Gorillas, with Megan Preslicka had four steals.

Gregory faces Lyman today (Friday) in the Southern Plains Conference Tournament in Gregory, while the Cougars play against Colome in the tournament.

BURKE-SOUTH CENTRAL (6-3).....23 39 53 67
GREGORY (2-9).....7 10 15 30

High School hosted Brandon Valley on Monday night in a girls basketball match-up.

Winning the game were the Lady Bobcats with a score of 40-25.

Carley Keuter led her team with six points, Taylor Thorsen and Emily Anderson were each able to add four points for the visitors. Sydnie Buchheim led with six rebounds for the Lady Lynx.

Sydnie Berreth led the home side with 18 points and Lauren Coughlin followed with 10 more. Hailey Hale led with nine rebounds for Brookings.

Brandon Valley will travel to Aberdeen on Friday night and Brookings will also travel to Aberdeen on Thursday night.

BRANDON VALLEY (6-4).....3 9 16 25
BROOKINGS (9-3).....11 28 31 40

Lincoln 62, Washington 59

SIoux FALLS — Ellie Brecht scored 20 points and had six rebounds Thursday night to lead Sioux Falls Lincoln to a close 62-59 win against Sioux Falls Washington — a game that tied 67 times.

Sydnie Rosinsky added 16 points and five assists in the win, with Anna Brecht contributing 11 points. Sydney Miller also had seven rebounds.

Sydnie Arrington scored 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Sioux Falls Washington Warriors, while Jade Visker had 13 points and four rebounds. Anna Goodhope added 12 points.

The Patriots hit the road Saturday to face Sioux City East, while Sioux Falls Washington will host Sioux Falls Roosevelt Friday, Jan. 30.

SIoux FALLS WASHINGTON (6-5).....17 29 46 59
SIoux FALLS LINCOLN (7-2).....14 34 41 62