

# Former Yankton Teener Coach Kjenstad Honored As NWI Illinois College Coach Of Year

BY MIKE NIETO  
Northwest Indiana Times

CRETE, Illinois — While many ex-ballplayers and managers make a move to the broadcast booth, Illinois Lutheran's Mark Kjenstad did just the opposite.

The Aberdeen, S.D., native grew up listening to Herb Carneal on Minnesota Twins broadcasts and wanted to be a sportscaster. After he studied broadcasting and graduated from Brown Institute in Minneapolis, Kjenstad worked at WNAV in Yankton, S.D., doing play-by-play of high school sports.

He got the coaching bug while lead-

ing a VFW baseball team in Yankton, which coincided with his working at the radio station. Kjenstad said that is why he enrolled in Martin Luther (Minn.) College — to study to become a teacher and full-time coach.

"Illinois Lutheran contacted Martin Luther and said it needed a teacher and a baseball coach, so it was a perfect fit," Kjenstad said. "I have really been very, very blessed to have a passion for baseball and to coach at a school like Illinois Lutheran."

That it has, as Kjenstad has led the Chargers for the past 11 years. He guided the program to a school-record 17 wins and second straight regional title

in 2010, a dual accomplishment that earned Kjenstad Times Coach of the Year honors.

Perhaps his broadcast background is one reason Kjenstad has great communication with his players.

"He knows how to get his point across and how to talk to people," catcher Zach Sager said. "Coach Kjenstad reads people real well, and I think that is important."

"He worked me real hard and got me to be a better player. You really respect a coach who wants you to perform at your best."

Kjenstad's other quality is his competitiveness.

"Oh, he sure is (competitive)," said shortstop Jason Kotecki, who is The Times Player of the Year.

"He's been my coach for four years, and he is one of the most competitive people I know. He will go over and over the little things with us in practice so we are in a good position to be successful."

Kjenstad said that quality comes from having four brothers.

"We were even competitive when we went fishing," said Kjenstad, who just returned from a fishing trip to South Dakota. "We always would see who caught the most and the biggest fish."

"Playing baseball, basketball or hock-

ey, we all competed with each other."

Coaching at a small school has been a joy for Kjenstad, even though Illinois Lutheran does not have its own field. The Chargers play their home games at Veterans Field in Steger.

"The village has been great to us," said Kjenstad, who has a wife and 2-year-old son. "A lot of it is the kids — they will play anywhere."

"I have been fortunate in that my players really push themselves and work hard. That makes your job as a coach that much easier when you have good kids who understand what it takes to be successful and then go out and do it."

# MLB Roundup: Injury-Depleted Red Sox Edge Boston

BOSTON (AP) — Pinch-hitter Daniel Nava sliced a bloop single down the right-field line to break an eighth-inning tie and give injury-depleted Boston a 3-2 victory over Baltimore on Friday night.

Nava, a switch-hitter best known for hitting a grand slam on the first major league pitch he saw on June 12, batted for Eric Patterson when lefty Will Ohman replaced Brad Bergesen (3-5) with two outs and Marco Scutaro on second with a double.

Nava popped a 2-1 pitch down the line and Scutaro scored easily.

Tim Wakefield (3-6) got the win, allowed two runs and seven hits in eight innings for his second win in his last six decisions.

Jonathan Papelbon had two strikeouts in a perfect ninth inning for his 19th save in 22 opportunities.

J.D. Drew hit two solo homers for the Red Sox.

Before the game, the Red Sox placed catcher Jason Varitek and reliever Manny Delcarmen on the disabled list. There are 10 Red Sox on it, including Josh Beckett, Dustin Pedroia and Victor Martinez.

The Orioles lost for the third time in eight games but scored three runs or less for the 45th time in their 79 games.

**BLUE JAYS 6, YANKEES 1, 11 innings:** NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Gonzalez hit a go-ahead single in the 11th inning and Toronto snapped a five-game losing streak.

Gonzalez singled for a 2-1 lead and Dewayne Wise's bases-loaded triple capped a five-run burst for the Blue Jays.

Lyle Overbay and John Buck opened the Toronto 11th with singles. A sacrifice and an intentional walk loaded the bases for Gonzalez, who lined his single over leaping third baseman Alex Rodriguez. After another out, Vernon Wells walked and Wise tripled.

Jason Frasor (3-1) pitched the 10th for the win. David Robertson (0-3) took the loss.

The Blue Jays tied it at 1 in the eighth on Aaron Hill's RBI single with two outs off Jobs Chamberlain.

**TIGERS 7, MARINERS 1; DETROIT (AP) —** Max Scherzer allowed three hits in a season-high eight innings and late substitute Don Kelly got Detroit's offense going. Johnny Damon hit a two-run homer and the Tigers opened their homestand with a win despite playing without star slugger Miguel Cabrera, a late scratch from the lineup due to lower back pain. Cabrera began the day tied for the major league lead with 20 homers and 68 RBIs.

Kelly, filling in at first base for Cabrera, doubled in Detroit's first two runs in the second and Austin Jackson followed with a two-run single. Brennan Boesch added an RBI single in the fifth to chase Mariners starter Doug Fister (3-4), and Damon hit his fourth homer of the season off Sean White in the seventh.

Scherzer (5-6) struck out seven and walked two. The only run he allowed came on Franklin Gutierrez's homer in the second.

Scherzer hadn't gone longer than 7 1-3 innings this season. Phil Coke worked a scoreless ninth.

**ATHLETICS 3, INDIANS 0; CLEVELAND (AP) —** Gio Gonzalez pitched five-hit ball into the seventh inning and Mark Ellis drove in two runs with a bases-loaded double for Oakland.

The loss snapped Cleveland's season-high five-game winning streak. Oakland has won six of seven.

Gonzalez (7-5), who won for the first time since June 6, walked four and struck out five in 6 2-3 innings. The left-hander

has beaten Cleveland twice this season, holding the Indians scoreless for 13 2-3 innings. He's 3-0 in four starts against Cleveland since 2009.

Andrew Bailey pitched the ninth for his 16th save in 19 opportunities.

Mitch Talbot (8-7) allowed three runs — two earned — and five hits in 5 1-3 innings.

**TWINS 2, RAYS 1; MINNEAPOLIS (AP) —** Danny Valencia had two hits and the go-ahead RBI in the seventh inning and Minnesota outlasted David Price and Tampa Bay.

Scott Baker (7-7) gave up one run and six hits and struck out eight in seven innings.

Price (11-4), who entered the game leading the AL in wins and ERA, allowed two runs and four hits with six strikeouts in eight innings. The Twins tagged him for two runs in the seventh and Jon Rauch stranded the tying run at second base for his 18th save in 22 chances.

Price had a one-hitter going with two outs in the seventh before the Twins put together three straight hits.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**REDS 12, CUBS 0; CHICAGO (AP) —** Bronson Arroyo pitched six sharp innings and the Cincinnati Reds took advantage of Chicago's wildness on the mound and defensive incompetence to score nine runs in the seventh inning during a 12-0 victory over the collapsing Cubs on Friday.

Scott Rolen, Jonny Gomes and Ramon Hernandez drove in two runs each during Cincinnati's biggest inning this year. The Cubs had six walks, an error and a run-scoring passed ball as 13 Reds came to the plate.

Brandon Phillips and Joey Votto added homers for the NL Central leaders, who won for the ninth time in 11 games to move 11 games over .500 for the first time since June 9, 2006. They won their fifth consecutive road game and are one of only two NL teams with a winning record.

The Cubs fell to 34-46 and 11 1/2 games behind Cincinnati. They have lost 10



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT  
Chicago Cubs manager Lou Piniella took a dim view of a 12-0 loss to the Cincinnati Reds at Wrigley Field in Chicago, Illinois, on Friday. The setback dropped the Cubs to 34-46 overall, 11 1/2 games behind the NL Central leading Reds.

# Nadal To Face Berdych In Wimbledon Final

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Rafael Nadal knows exactly where he was, of course, on the first Sunday of July 2009, the only time in the past five years that the Wimbledon men's final went on without him.

"I watched at home," Nadal said. "On the sofa."

Yes, a year ago this time, he was in front of a TV in Spain, resting his aching knees, instead of wielding his racket on Centre Court, only the fifth player in the history of a tournament that began in 1877 unable to defend his title because of injury.

He's here now — once again in the Wimbledon final, once again on top of his forehead-whipping, every-shot-retrieving, foe-demoralizing game. The No. 1-ranked Nadal picked apart No. 4 Andy Murray of Britain 6-4, 7-6 (6), 6-4 in the semifinals Friday to close in on a second trophy at the All England Club and eighth Grand Slam championship overall.

"For sure, that makes (it) more special," Nadal said, "because I worked a lot to be back, playing my best tennis. I did, so that's very important. Personal satisfaction, no?"

Nadal's wait to return to the Wimbledon final lasted 24 months, which probably seems like the blink of an eye to local fans. Their wait for a homegrown champion drags on: A British man hasn't won the title since Fred Perry in 1936; one hasn't even reached the final since Henry "Bunny" Austin in 1938.

# DANA

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know there are some colleges in the country that have been successful in a for-profit situation."

Both St Tanka (Huron) University and Westmar University, in LeMars, Iowa, had been privately owned before they closed in the last 20 years. Both were formerly in the SDIC, along with Mount Marty.

Had the purchase agreement for Dana been completed, their days in the GPAC were likely numbered. No formal vote was to be made until after the purchase was complete, but the handwriting was on the wall, according to Iverson.

"They basically took themselves out of being a GPAC member, since our constitution reads almost the complete opposite, that we're non-profit and faith-based," he said. "We hate losing a good member, and they were a good member. I didn't see that the constitution was going to be changed. I feel bad for them."

Iverson also felt for the faculty and staff, who are now unemployed, comparing their plight to that of the Yankton College faculty when that school closed in 1984.

"Obviously the students are going to find a place to go, but the employees..." Iverson said. "We've experienced that in our town here. It's not a pleasant situation to have."

**'I Thought It Was A Really Bad Joke'**

Creighton, Neb., native April Fitch, a junior on the Vikings' volleyball team this past season, couldn't believe the news when she received an e-mail from school officials say they were closing.

# ATHLETES

From Page 6A

- All-America Scholar-Athlete  
**Chris Hicks, RB, Jr., Bellevue, Neb.** — 1st-team all-GPAC
- All-America Scholar-Athlete  
**Ben Mezack, DL, Fr., Sugarland, Texas** — Honorable Mention all-GPAC
- All-America Scholar-Athlete  
**Shea Scalise, OL, Jr., Columbus, Neb.** — Honorable Mention all-GPAC
- All-America Scholar-Athlete  
**Mark Schuster, REC, Jr., Omaha, Neb.** — 1st-team all-GPAC
- All-America Scholar-Athlete  
**Andy Schneider, OL, So., Omaha, Neb.** — Honorable Mention all-GPAC
- Women's Golf**  
**Alex Durry, Fr., Shenandoah, Iowa** — 1st-team all-GPAC  
**Sam Pinkel, Jr., Fort Dodge, Iowa** — 1st-team all-GPAC
- Men's Soccer**  
**Artko Kaziboni, D, Jr., Omaha, Neb.** — 2nd-team all-GPAC  
**Luke Zabawa, Fr., Omaha, Neb.** — Honorable Mention all-GPAC  
**John Podraza, Jr., Elkhorn, Neb.** — Honorable Mention all-GPAC

"At first I thought it was a really bad joke. I had six underclassmen call me in five minutes, and then my coach called and confirmed it," she said. "I'm still in shock. I haven't applied anywhere because I don't know what to do."

"Some people saw it coming, I did not."

The Dana Education Corporation and Nebraska Higher Education Corporation had brought students together in March when the purchase agreement was announced, and filled them in on their plans to not only keep the school open, but help grow the school.

"Everything they said in the assembly sounded great. Although it wasn't going to change much for the students, it was going to bring a lot more students to the school, and bring

- Women's Soccer**  
**Michelle Mullen, MF, Jr., Omaha, Neb.** — 1st-team all-GPAC  
**Shella Mullen, Jr., Omaha, Neb.** — All-America Scholar-Athlete, Honorable Mention all-GPAC  
**Brittney Naseman, Jr., MF, Colorado Springs, Colo.** — All-America Scholar-Athlete  
**Jamie Queen, Fr., Omaha, Neb.** — Honorable Mention all-GPAC
- Softball**  
**Lenae Kryszak, C, Jr., Omaha, Neb.** — 1st-team all-GPAC  
**Paige Lager, DP, So., Missouri Valley, Iowa** — 2nd-team all-GPAC  
**Taylor Morrow, SS, Fr., Omaha, Neb.** — Honorable Mention all-GPAC
- Men's Track & Field**  
**Chris Creal, Jr., Omaha, Neb.** — All-America Scholar Athlete  
**Richard Eads, So., Bellevue, Neb.** — GPAC Indoor 2nd in 600  
**Andrew Knebel, Fr., Pilager, Minn.** — GPAC Outdoor 6th, 110H  
**Derek Hoffman, Jr., Edgar, Neb.** — All-America Scholar Athlete  
**B.J. Lawrence, Fr., Omaha, Neb.** — Outdoor NAAIA Champ in 100, 6th in 200; GPAC Indoor 60 champion; 2nd in 200; GPAC champ in 100, 200  
**Philip Lewis, So., Denver, Colo.** — GPAC Indoor 60H 8th; Outdoor 110H 5th;

a lot more money to it," said Crofton, Neb., native Patrick Magorian, a junior on the Dana football team this past season. "It all sounded like Dana was going to come out on top on this whole thing."

"Then yesterday we all get an e-mail saying, surprise, Dana's closed."

Springfield native Raychel Genant, who was a sophomore on the Dana women's basketball team, was also taken by surprise.

"When I heard about it, I thought, 'My basketball career's over now. What am I supposed

- Kipp Schuler, Jr., Haviland, Kan.** — GPAC Outdoor 7th in Steeplechase  
**Chase Trecek, Jr., Bellevue, Neb.** — GPAC Indoor 3rd shot put
- Women's Track & Field**  
**Sadie Fischer, Jr., Lehigh, Iowa** — All-America Scholar Athlete  
**Christina Hanson, So., Spirit Lake, Iowa** — All-American in Marathon; GPAC Outdoor 10K 6th  
**Allison Hartnett, So., Omaha, Neb.** — GPAC Indoor 500 Champ  
**Megan Higgins, Jr., Council Bluffs, Iowa** — GPAC Indoor 7th, Shot  
**Alycia Myers, Fr., Merna, Neb.** — GPAC Outdoor 7th, Triple
- Volleyball**  
**Megan Higgins, OH, Jr., Council Bluffs, Iowa** — Honorable Mention all-GPAC  
**Erin Shanahan, L, Jr., Omaha, Neb.** — 2nd-team all-GPAC
- Wrestling**  
**Kyle Conley, So., 165, Parsons, Kan.** — 2nd-team all-GPAC  
**Aaron Ely, Jr., 133, Leavenworth, Kan.** — 2nd-team all-GPAC  
**Eddie McCray, Jr., 149, Plainfield, N.J.** — 2nd-team all-GPAC  
**Clayden McKim, So., 125, Omaha, Neb.** — 2nd-team all-GPAC  
**Aaron Wilcox, Jr., 125, Pitts Grove, N.J.** — 1st-team all-GPAC

to do?" she said. "I am looking into some schools, and I think I'm going to be more concerned about where I want to go for my education rather than where I want to go for basketball now."

Magorian, who suffered an injury this past season, had not planned to play out his eligibility but was scheduled to graduate in December, cannot see herself continuing her playing career elsewhere.

"You spend three years helping build a team into what we became. You look at our record over the last three years. We've

done nothing but rise," she said. "To have it ripped out from under you like a dirty rug... I don't have any desire to play anywhere else, just for one year. If I had more than one year left, I might consider it."

**Moving On**

A number of other student-athletes will be making many of those same decisions in the coming weeks. The list of Dana student-athletes with remaining eligibility is long, including 37 who received GPAC recognition this past season. One of those, B.J. Lawrence, was a NAAIA champion in the 100-meter dash in men's outdoor track and field.

Each one of those student-athletes is eligible to transfer to another college, including any GPAC school, without having to sit out a year due to transfer rules.

"The NAAIA rule is, if a school ceases operation, their residency rule also comes off," Westra noted. "They do have to transfer within one year for that to happen, or they would need to be released."

Dana has also generated a

blanket waiver, which means that, even if a student-athlete waits a year or more to enroll in a new college, they will be eligible to play immediately.

Some of those student-athletes could end up at Mount Marty.

"I had several calls from our coaches (Wednesday) when it was first announced," Iverson said. "Some of those are athletes that we recruited and came in second to, so we know some of those people really well. And I know we've had contact from some of their athletes already, where they made the initial contact. We will be contacting if there are things we can do to help these student-athletes; we're going to do everything we can."

Each student — and student-athlete — will be on his or her own to find a new place to complete his or her education. But, to keep their graduation on track, they will need to move quickly.

"I haven't quite decided," Genant said. "But I know I'll have to decide in the next few weeks because I won't have much time."

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