Press & Dakotan 🖿 Thursday, July 12, 2012

tional high school, college

and professional sports.

The 'A' Division will be moved to Rapid City, with the 'B' and 'C' divisions remaining in Sioux Falls. While you might think that mean Yankton's teams will all get sent west, that will not be the case. If it were this year, only one Yankton and two Vermillion teams would be going to Rapid.

I understand the argument for putting part of the state tournament in the Black Hills. Of the 157 teams playing

making the trip east every year, since the tournament has been contained in Sioux Falls in recent years. But herein lies the problem.

The state has 10 collegiate softball programs, and all but three of them are within 90 minutes of Sioux Falls. (Several collegiate softball programs in Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota are also within 90 minutes.) Only one, Black Hills State, is out west.

While fastpitch softball in South Dakota is lagging behind that of some surrounding states, there are still plenty of kids who sign with collegiate programs. Wouldn't you want the state's best softball players — those

that would most likely be in the 'A' division — playing closest to the coaches who would recruit them? Splitting the tournament may make sense on some level, but taking the state's top players away from the coaches that would want to recruit them could end up hurting the sport more than it helps.

in this weekend's tournament, 27 are making the trip from the Mountain Time Zone. Those teams have ended up

#### South Dakota's Starr Named To TSN Preseason All-America FCS Team VERMILLION — South Dakota junior linebacker Tyler

Starr has been named to The Sports Network Preseason All-America FCS third-team, it has been announced. Starr is one of nine players from the Missouri Valley Football Conference to be selected to the team. Starr (Little Rock, Iowa) had a breakout sophomore

season in 2011 on the defensive line for the Covotes. He led the team and the Great West Conference with 14 sacks for 96 yards, while ranking in the top 10 nationally in sacks. He tallied a team-best seven forced fumbles to go along with two fumble recoveries for 12 yards. Starr had a team and conference high 19 tackles for loss for 106 vards. He ranked third on the team in solo tackles with 42 and was sixth in total tackles with 51.

In just one season, his 14 sacks ranks second all-time in school history in career sacks (27, A.J. Schable (2002-

06). Starr was named to the College Football Preseason

The Coyote football team opens the 2012 season on

## Wilken, Other Huskers Honored As Distinguished **Scholar Award Recipients**

LINCOLN, Neb. - The Big Ten Conference announced on Wednesday that 65 Nebraska student-athletes were selected as recipients of the Big Ten Distinguished Scholar Award. The list includes 587 Big Ten student-athletes from every institution and 36 different sports who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 or higher for the previous academic year.

Among the honorees was Nebraska track and field standout Morgan Wilken, a senior mathematics major from

Coach Gary Pepin's track and field squad led all Nebraska selections with 16 student-athletes on the list. The Nebraska football team added six student-athletes, while he women's soccer and cross country teams each had five student-athletes awarded.

In February of 2008, Big Ten Faculty Representatives established a conference academic recognition to supplement the Academic All-Big Ten program. Similar to the Academic All-Big Ten honor, Distinguished Scholar Award recipients must be letterwinners in at least their second academic year at their institution. However, the Distinguished Scholar Award encompasses only student-athletes with a minimum GPA of 3.7 or higher for the previous academic year, excluding summer school. The Academic All-Rig Ten threshold is a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for a student-athlete's academic career.

### **Gazelles Softball Meetings Coming Up**

The Yankton Gazelles fastpitch softball team will hold information meetings and registrations on Tuesday, July 17 and Thursday, July 19, at the Summit Activities Center meeting rooms. Meetings for girls entering grades 6-8 will be at 7:30 p.m., with meetings for girls entering grades 9-12 at 8:15 p.m.

In order to participate in the fall season, players must attend one of these meetings with her parents. For more information, contact Bernie at 665-8145 or Bob at 665-

### **Nebraska Men's Hoops To Play In Sun Bowl Invite**

LINCOLN, Neb. — Two of the Huskers' non-conference games for the upcoming season were announced Wednesday evening, as Nebraska will travel to El Paso, Texas, for the 2012 WestStar Bank Don Haskins Sun Bowl

Invitational.

**Splitting State Softball A Questionable Idea** 

The four-team tournament features host UTEP, Central Michigan and Arkansas Pine Bluff, and will take place on Dec. 22-23 at the Don Haskins Center in El Paso.

Nebraska will take on Central Michigan in one semifinal on Dec. 22, at 10 p.m. (central) following the conclusion of the UTEP- Arkansas Pine Bluff game set for 8 p.m. The two winners will meet the following night at 8 p.m. with the third-place game slated for 6 p.m. Nebraska will make its second appearance in the Sun

Bowl Invitational are the first Big Ten team to participate since Northwestern in 2003. This will be the Huskers' first appearance since a third-place showing in 1985. In that tournament, the Huskers dropped a 78-61 contest to Alabama in the semifinals before rebounding for a 69-66 win over Ohio State in the third-place game.

The Sun Bowl Invitational games are the second and third non-conference games announced, as Nebraska will travel to Wake Forest for the ACC/Big Ten Challenge on

### **Senior Games Aug 7-9**

The City of Yankton recreation department in coordination with the Yankton Area Senior Center is hosting the 2012 Yankton Senior Games for Seniors 50 years and older from any community on Aug. 7-9. Participants 49 years old who turn 50 on or before December 31, 2012

are eligible to participate

Events will include a 5k Road Race, Swimming, Shuffleboard. Bench Press Contest, Golf — Individual and Team Competitions, Bean Bag Toss, Table Tennis, Track & Field, Horseshoes, Disc Golf, Basketball Competitions, Jump Rope, Bowling and 8-Ball Pool. Medals will be awarded for first, second, and third place finishers in all

events per age and gender category.

Registration forms may be picked up at the Summit Activities Center and participants are encouraged to pre-register in order to prevent cancellation of events. For additional information, visit the SAC at 1801 Summit Street or call 668-5234.

#### **Girls' Soccer Clinic July 18-31**

The Yankton Youth Soccer Association will host a free girls' soccer clinic, running July 18-31 from 6-8 p.m. on scheduled nights at Field 4 of the Lewis & Clark Soccer Park. The clinic is for girls U-14 level and up. For more information and a detailed schedule, contact

LaCombe 661-6834 soccerdave@vyn.midco.net.

# SCOREBOARD

### **GOLF**

LAKEVIEW GOLF COURSE TUESDAY MEN'S LEAGUE LOW GROSS: Michael Kuchta 39, Dale

LOW NET: Don Edwards 31, Dale Trenhaile

STANDINGS: Baily-Kuchta 99. Zavadil-Wiebelhaus 87, Sprakel-Zavadil Kuchta-Merkel 76, Wieseler-Merkel 75, Kuehn-Edwards 75, Folkers-Romero 74, Nohr-Goeden 73, Tramp-Leader 72, Hysell-Brauer 72, Jack-son-Thunker 63, Wilken-Sprakel-Schurman 62, Murphey-Petersen 61. Pokorney-Trenhail 58 Haubrick-Van Essen 57. Bartles-Hoffart 56 Jannsen-Pautler 55, Tramp-Potts 53, Kaiser-Steffen 51, Anderson-Larson 48, Ferden-Johan-

#### **AUTO RACING** NASCAR SPRINT CUP

2012 Season Schedule x-non-points race

Feb. 18 — x-Budweiser Shootout, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Kyle Busch)
Feb. 23 — x-Gatorade Duel 1, Daytona
Beach, Fla. (Tony Stewart)

Feb. 23 — x-Gatorade Duel 2, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Matt Kenseth) Feb. 26 — Daytona 500, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Matt Kenseth)

March 4 — Subway Fresh Fit 500, Avon-

dale, Ariz. (Denny Hamlin) March 11 — Kobalt Tools 400, Las Vegas (Tony Stewart)

March 18 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. (Brad Keselowski) March 25 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif.

April 1 — Goody's Fast Relief 500, Ridgeway, Va. (Ryan Newman)
April 14 — Samsung Mobile 500, Fort Worth, Texas (Greg Biffle)
April 22 — STP 400, Kansas City, Kan.

(Denny Hamlin)
April 28 — Richmond 400, Richmond, Va.
(Kyle Busch) May 6 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala. (Brad

May 12 — Southern 500, Darlington, S.C. nmie Johnson) May 19 — x-Sprint Showdown, Concord, N.C. (Jimmie Johnson)

May 19 — x-Sprint All-Star, Concord, N.C. (Dale Earnhardt Jr.) May 27 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C. (Kasey Kahne)

June 3 — Dover 400, Dover, Del. (Jimmie Tommy Collaro and RHP Walker McKinven.
WICHITA WINGNUTS—Released OF Sean
M. Smith and C Taylor Freeman. June 10 — Pocono 400, Long Pond, Pa. (Joey Logano) June 17 — Quicken Loans 400, Brooklyn,

Mich. (Dale Earnhardt Jr.) June 24 — Toyota/Save Mart 350, Sonoma. Calif. (Clint Bowyer)

July 7 — Coke Zero 400, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Tony Stewart)

Fia. (Iony Stewart)
July 15 — Lenox Industrial Tools 301,
Loudon, N.H.
July 29 — "Your Hero's Name Here" 400 at the Brickyard, Indianapolis Aug. 5 — Pennsylvania 400, Long Pond,

Aug. 12 — NASCAR Sprint Cup Series at The Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y. Aug. 19 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

Aug. 25 — Irwin Tools Night Race, Bristol, Sept. 2 — AdvoCare 500, Hampton, Ga

Sept. 8 - Wonderful Pistachios 400, Rich-Sept. 16 — Geico 400, Joliet, III. Sept. 23 — Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H. Sept. 30 — AAA 400, Dover, Del. Oct. 7 — Good Sam Club 500, Talladega,

Oct. 13 - Bank of America 500, Concord,

Oct. 21 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan. Oct. 28 - Tums Fast Relief 500, Ridgeway, Rashard Lewis.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Signed G Doron

Nov. 4 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas Nov. 11 — Kobalt Tools 500, Avondale, Ariz. Nov. 18 — Ford 400, Homestead, Fla. Oriver Standings
1. Matt Kenseth, 676.

4. Jimmie Johnson, 618. 5. Tony Stewart, 592. 6. Kevin Harvick, 586. 7. Denny Hamlin, 584. 8. Martin Truex Jr., 584. 9. Brad Keselowski, 573. 10. Clint Bowyer, 572. 11. Carl Edwards, 541. 12. Kyle Busch, 516. 13. Paul Menard, 507. 14. Joey Logano, 503. 15. Ryan Newman, 502. 16. Kasey Kahne, 500. 17. Jeff Gordon, 485. 18. Jeff Burton, 470.

20. Jamie McMurray, 462.

### **BASEBALL**

SOUTH CENTRAL LEAGUE ers in the South Central League. Statistics are

George Sees, Irene. Simon Healy, Irene Matt Sees, Irene.... Adam Gale, Irene... Jesse Hajek, Avon. Jeremy Rempp, Irene... Doug Vanecek, Tabor...

HOME RUNS

Mike King, Irene

Dan Bures, Avon

Doug Vanecek Tahor

Rand Thygeson, Crofton

Jason Vaith Lesterville

Jon Vavruska, Tabor.

Brian Bartlett, Yankton

Nate Harrington, Avon Trevor Arens, Crofton.

Jake Weier, Freeman

Brett Wiehelhaus Wynot

Jordan Pravecek, Scotland

STRIKEOUTS
Joe Sees, Avon ......
Jon Vavruska, Tabor.....

**TRANSACTIONS** 

BASEBALL

RHP Tyler Thornburg from Nashville (PCL). Called up SS Jeff Bianchi from Nashville.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Agreed to terms with OF Michael DeLaCruz on a minor league

American Association
AMARILLO SOX—Released INF Van Pope.

LINCOLN SALTDOGS—Released OF

Can-Am League ROCKLAND BOULDERS—Traded C Or-

lando Mercado and RHP Julian Sampson to Newark for C Billy Alvino. Signed INF Melvin

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association ATLANTA HAWKS—Acquired G Anthony Morrow, G Jordan Farmar, F Jordan Williams, F DeShawn Stevenson and F Johan Petro and a

2017 second-round pick from Brooklyn for G Joe

Johnson. Traded G Marvin Williams to Utah for

BROOKLYN NETS—Re-signed G Deron Williams to a five-year contract and F Gerald

Wallace to a four-year contract. Agreed to a contract extension with C Brook Lopez. Signed F

Harangody to a one-year contract.

DETROIT PISTONS—Signed F Kyle Sin-

HOUSTON ROCKETS—Traded G Kyle Lowery to Toronto for F Gary Forbes and an un-specified first-round draft pick. Signed C Marcus

Camby and traded him to New York for G Toney

Douglas, C Josh Harrellson, C Jerome Jordan

and two unspecified second-round draft picks
LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Signed

Blake Griffin to a five-year contract extension

Signed F Reggie Evans and traded him to

Brooklyn for the right to swap 2016 secondpund draft picks. Signed G Jamal Crawford.

MIAMI HEAT—Signed G Ray Allen and F

NEW ORLEAND HORNETS—Traded G

Jarrett Jack to Golden State.

NEW YORK KNICKS—Signed G-F James

White. Re-signed G JR Smith.
OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER—Signed F

Hollis Thompson and C Hasheem Thabeet. ORLANDO MAGIC—Signed F Ryan Anderson and traded him to New Orleans for F Gus-

tavo Ayon.
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Re-signed F

Lavoy Allen. Acquired F Dorell Wright from Golden State. Acquired C Darryl Watkins from New Orleans for the rights to F Edin Bavcic.

PHOENIX SUNS—Signed G Steve Nash and traded him to the L.A. Lakers for 2013 and

2015 first-round draft picks and 2013 and 2014 second-round draft picks. Signed G Eric Gordon

to an offer sheet.
PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Signed F
Victor Claver. Agreed to terms with F J.J. Hick-

son on a one-year contract.

SACRAMENTO KINGS—Re-signed F

Jason Thompson. SAN ANTONIO SPURS—Re-signed F Tim

FOOTBALL Canadian Football League EDMONTON ESKIMOS—Signed OL Bel-

HOCKEY

BOSTON BRUINS—Signed D Garnet Exelby and F Lane MacDermid to one-year, two-

CAROLINA HURRICANES—Agreed to

dersen to a two-year, entry-level contract.

National Hockey League ANAHEIM DUCKS—Signed G Frederik An-

Fields to a three-year offer sheet.

TORONTO RAPTORS—Signed G Landry

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Signed F Luke

GARY SOUTHSHORE RAILCATS—Released INF Sergio Miranda. Signed LHP Jon

American League
OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Released LHP

Seth Erdmann, Crofton

Jesse Bailey, Yankton

Josh Engquist, Yankton.

Brett Scherschligt, Freema

Scot Donner, Crofton.

Doug Vanecek, Tabor.

Josh Engquist, Yankton

Jesse Haiek, Avon.

GOLF, SDGA Men's Match Play at

BASEBALL, VFW TEENER Sioux Falls

SOFTBALL, GIRLS' State Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton Spitfire, Yankton Light-ning, Yankton Yellowjackets, Yankton Xtreme, Yankton Shamrocks, Yankton Crush)
SWIMMING, YOUTH Brookings Invita-

Saturday, June 14 BASEBALL, LEGION Gopher Classic

and D Troy Vance to three-year, entry-level con-EDMONTON OILERS-Reached a one

NEW YORK RANGERS—Agreed to terms F Brandon Segal.
PHOENIX COYOTES—Agreed to terms

National League
CHICAGO CUBS—Agreed to terms with with F Joel Rechlicz on a one-year, two-way con-OF Albert Almora on a minor league contract.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Assigned RHP
Tim Dillard outright to Nashville (PCL). Recalled SAN JOSE SHARKS—Signed D Marc-Edouard Vlasic to a five-year contract extension through the 2017-18 season. WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Re-signed C

> **ECHL**BAKERSFIELD CONDORS—Agreed to terms with F Robby Dee and D Scott Enders. READING ROYALS—Agreed to terms with

ows men's Olympic team assistant coach.

SOCCER

letic trainer.

MONTREAL IMPACT—Signed D Dennis

Traded C luctin Braun to Real Salt Lake for a conditional 2014 draft pick

SOFTBALL, GIRLS' State Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton Spitfire, Yankton Light-

AREA CALENDAR

ning, Yankton Yellowjackets, Yankton Xtreme, Yankton Shamrocks, Yankton SWIMMING, YOUTH Brookings Invita-

GOLF, SDGA Women's Match Play a

Sunday, July 15
BASEBALL. AMATEUR Avon at Yank-

Freeman at Lesterville, Irene at Menno, or at Crofton, Wynot at Scotland

BASEBALL, LEGION Gopher Classic Minneapolis (Yankton); Yankton Split-quad at Watertown, Minn. (DH, 2 p.m.); BASEBALL, VFW TEENER Sioux Falls

GOI F SDGA Women's Match Play at Hillcrest Golf & CC; Men's Match Play at

Crush)
SWIMMING, YOUTH Brookings Invita-

r, two-way contract.

DALLAS STARS—Signed F Brett Richie

ton assistant football coach.
FORDHAM—Named Tom Parrotta men's

stant basketball coach.

immediately. NORTH CAROLINA A&T—Named Duane Ross director of track and field programs PENN STATE—Named Jeremy Fallis and

through the 2016-17 season.

beginning in the 2013 academic year.
TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN—Named Farrah Manthei assistant athletic director for adminis-

basketball director of player development/team

Nick Soolsma. VANCOUVER WHITECAPS—Sold the contract of M Davide Chiumiento to FC Zurich

(Swiss Super League). COLLEGE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE—Promoted

BRIDGEWATER (VA.)—Named lke Charl-

GEORGE WASHINGTON-Named Kristv

Tony Mancuso assistant directors of athletic OUINNIPIAC—Signed men's baskethall

Michael Kucharski assistant sports information SPRING HILL—Announced it will add men's and women's bowling as varsity sports

Kelly Reed racked up the attention. When Reed graduated and

But because Branson didn't step to the forefront until her senior year, she was overlooked by college coaches, including Mount Marty's Candice Climer.

fers, and they didn't have good versity of South Dakota). Accepted, registered and ready to

me if I knew of any," Kollbaum said. "I told her that I had an awesome one, but you'd need to talk her into playing." After watching some film of Branson in action, Climer invited

"She fit in so well," Climer said. "It was funny how it all

Climer called up Branson. Not

quickly," she said. "We talked on the phone, then I did a campus tour and played in an open gym. "It seemed like where I should

ing tip to Climer, her former ball program, Kollbaum stayed out of the process, according to Branson. Kollbaum, though, is happy to see one of her players follow her path from playing in Elk Point to playing at MMC.

# **EPJ's Branson To Play At MMC**

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: A portion of this story was inadvertently omitted from Wednesday's edition. We apologize for the error.

A bad turn of luck helped Mount Marty College find one of the top small-school blockers in South Dakota.



Elk Point-Jefferson standout Lexie Branson, who helped the Huskies to three straight state Class A Volleyball Tournament appearances and set state-tournament record with a 1.83 block per game average, will attend MMC and

play volleyball for the Lancers, the institution announced on Tuesday. Branson had been the "other" middle during her sophomore and junior seasons, as teammate

headed for NCAA Division III Concordia-Moorhead (Minn.), Branson stepped into the spotlight. recording 394 kills and 88 blocks to lead the Huskies to another state tournament appearance.

"I wanted to stay close, and (the offers I got) weren't good of nursing programs," Branson said. "I was accepted to USD (the Uni-

EPJ head volleyball coach Traci Bennett-Kollbaum, though, knew the 5-10 middle could play at that level.

"She was telling me about the fact that she was going to be short a middle, and was asking

her up to MMC to check out the school and play some with a few of the Lancer players who stayed around Yankton for the summer. From there, everything fell into

long after, Branson was on cam-"It all happened really

Other than giving the recruitteammate with the Lancer volley-

"It's always nice to see one of

differences the Saints and Brees

have can be resolved in less than

a day, so there remains plenty of



P&D FILE PHOTO

Elk Point-Jefferson's Lexie Branson. 2, goes up to block St. Thomas More's Mycalynn Osborne during the Class A consolation championship match, Saturday at Sioux Falls Arena. Branson, who set a Class A tournament record with 1.83 blocks per game, has signed to attend Mount Marty College and play volleyball for the Lancers.

your own go play there," she

For Branson, the opportunity to extend her playing career "feels like a second chance. "I really didn't want to give up

volleyball, but I had accepted it, she said. "I am really glad I get to continue playing." Branson's accolades include all-state, all-tournament, all-region and all-Big Sioux Conference

honors in 2011. She was also an

all-state tournament and honor-

able mention all-BSC honoree in

Branson, the daughter of Wes and Kim Branson of Elk Point, plans to major in nursing at MMC. She will receive an academic incentive scholarship in addition to her volleyball award.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904



8:15 am Yankton Chamber

(Carmen Schramm)

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their differences on the guarantees, the remaining portions of

the contract should be easier to figure out. The two sides are working

If the two sides can narrow

from a framework of five vears. The difference in the annual aver-

# Thursday, July 12 BASEBALL, AMATEUR Crofton at

BASEBALL, LEGION Elk Point at Tabor

Meadowbrook GC Friday, July 13 BASEBALL, LEGION Gopher Classic at Minneapolis (Yankton); Beresford at Yank-ton Split-Squad (5:30 p.m.)

GOLF. SDGA Women's Match Play at Hillcrest Golf & CC; Men's Match Play at

BASEBALL, VFW TEENER Sioux Falls Tourn. (Yankton Black Sox, Yankton Lakers, Yankton Reds)

year affiliation agreement with Stockton (ECHL). FLORIDA PANTHERS—Agreed to terms with G Michael Houser and D Josh McFadden

Zach Hammill to a one-year contract. Signed LW Wojtek Wolski to a one-year contract.

OLYMPIC SPORTS
USA GYMNASTICS—Named Tom Mead-

PORTLAND TIMBERS—Recalled F Bright Dike from loan from Los Angeles (USL-PRO). Loaned D Andrew Jean-Baptiste to Los Angeles

n't jeopardize those sponsors. "They said last year when they decided to put AJ in that car that I really wasn't considered because of our obligations on the Nationwide Series," Hornish said. "I can't say I wasn't disappointed at all, knowing there is an open ride at an organization you currently work for, that would have been good.

Racing) and they got someone else instead of giving Ricky the ride. But I do understand that we want to make sure we take care of all these people who have signed on for this Nationwide program. So Hornish has been content with his role at

a good investment. Hornish believes he's shown that his Nationwide team is a championship contender. And his time filling in for Allmendinger, however long it may be, won't hurt

"I want to be in the Cup Series, but I also want to take care of the Nationwide championship," he said. "I know we may not win it, but I know there is a possibility and I know we've got an opportunity. I left IndyCar because I did more than I ever thought I would ever do over there, and I wanted a challenge, and I'll be danged if this hasn't been a challenge. "But I've been committed to the Penske organiza-

tion, committed especially to Roger, and Roger is com-

wide programs and 3 Cup programs going. I'm commit-

mitted to me. We try to do the best we can, to bring

the sponsors along and get two fully funded Nation-

ted to doing whatever they need me to do to reach

season because of neck surgery. Meanwhile, teams have had a history of offering new contracts

annual multimillion dollar in-

Even major contracts can be negotiated quickly under deadline pressure, and the types of

adowbrook GC SOFTBALL, GIRLS' State Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton Spitfire, Yankton Light-ning, Yankton Yellowjackets, Yankton Yankton Shamrocks,

TORONTO FC—Terminated the contract of

Michelle Boone to associate commissioner and Kevin Sanchez to director of events and opera-

MIAMI—Granted F Melvin Johnson a release from his National Letter of Intent, effective

CAROLINA-AIKEN—Named

tration.
TULSA—Named Kelley Waters women's

**NASCAR** 

and said team officials told him it was because they had built a Nationwide program for Hornish and could-

'You know, I don't know what Ricky Stenhouse Jr. would have said if Matt Kenseth left (Roush Fenway

Penske, which until now has been to help develop a second full-time Nationwide program and ensure sponsors Alliance Truck Parts and Wurth that they've made

with the Saints' last offer at about \$19.25 million and Brees' last proposal at about \$20.5 million. However, it is not yet clear how much Brees is willing to

age pay is about \$1.25 million.

come down from a \$20.5 million annual figure that some in his camp have argued is low, based on past trends. Peyton Manning recently

than Brees and did not play last

signed a five-year, \$96 million deal, which averages \$19.2 million. Manning is three years older

to elite players which represent

creases over the previous top contract for a player at that position. Detroit receiver Calvin Johnson's last contract averages \$16.2 million a year, which exceeds Larry Fitzgerald's pay by more than \$1 million per year.

tag. Brees could also hold out

open market.

time to work out a deal. However, if the deadline passes without a long-term contract. Brees could still hold out for a one-year contract worth more than the current franchise

Friday, July 13 until the Saints put it in writing 7:40 am SD Magazine that they will not use the fran-(Bernie Hunhoff) chise tag on him again next sea-8:15 am Southeast CASA son, allowing him to test the (Sherri Rodgers-Conti)

Home sweet savings.

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