

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



BY JEREMY HOECK
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It was a Saturday morning in late May when I heard that awful screaming, in-pain kind of noise. I was out in Rapid City to cover the South Dakota state track meet, and I — like everyone else — was doing what I could to battle the rain, wet weather. Only a few feet away from where I was standing, the girls' triple jump was going on, and for some reason, I looked over to see Centerville's Kieran O'Malley running down the straight-away, about ready to start her first jump.

That's when I saw her land wrong on the wet track and tumble over, immediately letting out a loud scream, followed by a dead silence by the hoards of people watching the event.

Centerville Scoring Threat O'Malley Back From Scary Track Injury

Clearly, O'Malley had suffered a serious injury. I had no idea what it was at the time, because after she was carried away by trainers and coaches, I couldn't see what the injury was.

Seven weeks later, I was watching O'Malley — one of the most-heavily recruited Class B basketball players in the state — compete in an AAU girls' tournament in Tea. Not noticing a knee brace on her injured left leg, she looked completely healthy; back to her scoring ways.

In Tea to cover the tournament for our recruiting series, I interviewed O'Malley about her recruiting process, and the injury. (Turns out, she hyper-extended her knee and injured her PCL). Though some pain remains, she looked like the senior-to-be who could be in for a monster final season in Centerville. On the issue of where she will attend college, she laughed and talked about the pressure and stress.

As likely as it is that she will play college basketball, it's remarkable that she recovered at all from that injury.

YANKTON CITY CHAMPS



The Bombers won the 9-10 year-old division of the 2012 Yankton Sertoma rec baseball league tournament. Team members include (front) Brodey Peterson, Cooper Cornemann, Trevor Fitzgerald, Nick Gregoire, Brady Anthony, (back) Jakob McBride, coach Kary Gregoire, Jon Wenisch, Cody Larson, Reggie Bruner, coach Jay Fitzgerald and Austen Naber. Not pictured are Brady Smith and coach Dave Cornemann.

2007 and 2008.

The University of South Dakota women, meanwhile, finished fourth in the nation in grade point average (GPA) for the 2011-12 academic year. The Coyotes qualified for the WBCA Honor Roll for the fourth consecutive year.

The Coyote women finished with a GPA of 3.595 for the 2011-12 year to finish fourth in the country. It is the highest-finish ever by the USD women in the WBCA Honor Roll.

USD Recruit Hoff Leads South To All-Star Game Win, 90-67

ABERDEEN — University of South Dakota recruit Heidi Hoff posted 15 points and 10 rebounds to lead the South squad past the South 90-67 in the annual South Dakota girls' basketball All-Star Game in Aberdeen.

Also in the win for the South, Ashley Robinson had 16 points and 11 rebounds, while Chloe Cornemann of Yankton added five points and three steals.

Another USD recruit, Bailey Milne, scored 12 points for the North team. Kelsey Little added 14 points and Alexis Wright scored 11 points.

Mount Marty College had one recruit playing in the game, Sam Blake of Centerville, and she scored three points off the bench.

AAU

From Page 9

that. If every coach had 10 good kids, they'd run this style. But when you have two or three, you have to use something to make yourself successful.

"We (Schoolers) teach them how to run the fast break. After about the third pass, we just tell them, 'Be a good player.'"

That style suits Kieran O'Malley perfectly.

A first team Class B all-state selection the past two seasons, the upcoming senior guard from Centerville averaged 23.2 points and 4.9 assists as a junior, and already holds the school record for career points (1,887) and steals (284). Already on area college radar, O'Malley is able to work on other areas of her game as a member of the Dakota Schoolers' 17-under team.

"It helps me as a player, because I'm not the main person on the team now," she said after her team won convincingly last Saturday. "It helps me get better at other things instead of me just controlling the ball all the time like I'm used to."

Chief among those areas are defense and playing an off-guard, instead of her usual point guard.

"The competition is a lot better, so it makes you stronger."

And stronger is what she is shooting for. O'Malley hyper-extended her left knee and tore her PCL during a triple jump attempt at this spring's state track meet in Rapid City. She said the pain is slowly receding and only recently stopped wearing a knee brace.

On the issue of ultimately choosing a college, O'Malley admits to being a little overwhelmed. Originally, she said she wanted to make the decision before the school year started, but "the closer and closer it gets, I'm starting to freak out a little bit."

"I wanted to decide earlier, but it's a lot of pressure and a little bit," she said. "I'm trying to be stressed, but I want to stay in South Dakota or in the area; that'd be nice."

Though last weekend's tournament didn't feature the top-10 or national recruits other larger events boast, it certainly had enough talent to warrant Division I coaches — not to mention those from regional NAIA and D-II programs — showing up.

"In our pocket of the world, we're very fortunate to be in South Dakota. Even for being so small, girls' basketball is really good here," USD's Larsen said. "For us, even though we're trying to expand our recruiting areas, we shouldn't have to go far with the quality of basketball here."

Exposure Pays Off

The impact of AAU basketball can be significant in an athlete's progression, not to mention their getting opportunities to play in front of college coaches.

Emily Fedders knows all about such benefits.

The 2012 Yankton High School graduate saw her recruiting stock really take off during last summer's time with the South Dakota Stars — where she played alongside Gazelles teammate Kelsey Fitzgerald.

"I always knew I wanted to play basketball in college," Fedders said. "During my junior year (for the Gazelles), I had an OK season, but I started wondering, 'Why am I not getting any calls?'"

"After that, you could tell how

"If you make an effort, you'll get the results."

EMILY FEDDERS

much AAU played a role."

It also provided her with an awkward, yet comical run-in with an assistant coach from Dakota State University, a NAIA school located in Madison. While at an AAU tournament in Sioux Falls, Fedders turned the staged with the coach, resulting in her visiting the campus and eventually helping to play basketball for the Trojans this upcoming season.

"I could tell right away that I could relate to him," said Fedders, who is planning to join the school's respiratory therapy program. "They pursued me a lot, and when I visited, I loved it there."

When it came to deciding what colleges to consider, Fedders admits that she initially keyed in on NCAA Division II programs. She eventually made visits to Augustana and Southwest Minnesota State, but when she figured in academics, scholarships and finances, the final decision was fairly easy.

"I was kind of hoping I could go D2, but when I looked at the packages they (SMSU) offered me, it almost made me sense to go to the NAIA level," she said. "I would have more time for school work, and I don't have to be as focused on basketball. I'm still getting to play and I can focus on my studies."

Plus, yes, distance was a factor. An hour and a half drive from Yankton to Madison is far enough away, she said, but close enough where her parents and relatives can come watch her play. Location is a popular factor when looking at colleges, Fedders said.

Especially when it comes to potentially staying close to home, local AAU programs try to make it a point to keep players within those geographic bounds.

Like the South Dakota Stars, the Dakota Schoolers try to keep their kids playing in regional tournaments in places like Kansas City, Iowa and Minneapolis, in addition to the Schoolers Classic in Sioux Falls, according to Parish. He estimates that 85-90 percent of Schoolers players will end up going to colleges within a 5-6 hour drive of home.

However, as he said, "If you're good enough to play at Connecticut, they'll drive to Tea to see you. They will have heard of you."

One of the more recent examples of a player who saw their recruiting stock really take off after a summer of AAU basketball is Alyssa Wall from North Sioux City (a former Dakota Valley standout).

Though she averaged 16 points, 13 rebounds and 5.5 blocks per game as a senior, leading Dakota Valley to the state Class A tournament, Wall was getting very few phone calls from colleges, according to Parish. Part of that was because of the style she played with the Panthers.

"In order for the team to be successful, she had to play the guard, had to help break the press, had to do a lot of things that didn't show her strength," Parish said. When she joined the Schoolers, however, she was freed up to simply be a

SCOREBOARD

GOLF

THURSDAY MEN'S LEAGUE

LOW GROSS: Scott Brauer 40

LOW NET: Scott Brauer 28

LOW TEAM GROSS: One Holezr 181

LOW TEAM NET: One Holezr 130

STANDINGS: Wild Boar Enterprises 136, West-Hudson 130, Goeden Construction 122, Tom & Country Insurance 121, West Construction 118, Sacred Heart Monastery 116, Wankers 115, One Holezr 110, WCC-007 105, Duh Duffers 104, Hueher Seamless Siding 103, The Glass Court 102, Photography by Jerry Berg, Running 3rd 90, FISO 86, EZ Swingers 85

SOFTBALL

YANKTON PARKS & REC

COED POWER LEAGUE

RESULTS: Boys 9-8; Dakota Trailer/Cornfest def. Cork N Bottle 6-4; Westie's Electric def. Cork N Bottle 8-5

STANDINGS: Dakota Trailer-CornTrust 6-4, Cork N Bottle 5-4, Marquadt Transportation 5-4, Westie's Electric 4-5, Bad News Bears 3-6

COED COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

RESULTS: On the Edge/MaMa Mech's def. Bank of Hartington Ligers 8-2; James Law def. Special Day Limousine 14-1; American Family Insurance def. Cody's Lawn Care/Olson's Terminators 11-3

STANDINGS: On the Edge/MaMa Mech's 5-2, James Law 5-2, American Family Ins. 5-2, Cody's Lawn Care/Olson's Terminators 4-3, Special Day Limousine 1-6, Bank of Hartington Ligers 1-6

COED RECREATIONAL LEAGUE

RESULTS: Bentley Moving def. Kleinschmitt Hay/Kozys 8-4; Boomers def. SunHoff Hillbillys 14-4; Sacred Heart Church def. Southballz 3-2

STANDINGS: Bentley Moving 6-1, Boomers 6-1, Sacred Heart Church 4-3, Kleinschmitt Hay/Kozys 2-5, Southballz 2-5, SunHoff Hillbillys 1-6

COED JUST FOR FUN LEAGUE

RESULTS: Hoskins's Dental def. Lewis and Clark Specialty Hospital 8-6; Yankton Motor-sports def. St. John's Blaze 11-5; Un-sponsorables def. Out of Towners-Forfeit; Master Batters def. Skilled in Every Position 3-2; Ferdi-gio's Transmissions def. Choppers 10-6

STANDINGS: Ferdi-gio's Transmissions 6-1, Hoskins's Dental 6-1, Choppers 4-3, Out of Towners 4-3, Yankton Motorsports 4-3, Skilled in Every Position 3-4, St. John's Blaze 3-4, Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital 2-5, Un-sponsorables 2-5, Master Batters 1-6

BASKETBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	56	34	.618	—
Baltimore	45	43	.517	9
Tampa Bay	47	44	.516	9
Atlanta	46	44	.511	9 1/2
Toronto	45	45	.500	10 1/2

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Detroit	49	40	.551	—
Cleveland	46	44	.511	3 1/2
Kansas City	38	50	.432	10 1/2
Minnesota	37	52	.416	12

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	54	35	.607	—
Los Angeles	49	41	.544	5 1/2
Oakland	46	43	.517	8
Seattle	38	53	.418	17

Monday's Games

San Francisco 50, Atlanta 0

Miami at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

St. Louis at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.

Houston at San Diego, 10:05 p.m.

Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

St. Louis (Wainwright 7-9) at Milwaukee (Richard 6-10), 2:35 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Li Young 2-7) at Washington (Zimmerman 6-9), 6:05 p.m.

Arizona (Kershaw 7-5), 2:10 p.m.

Pittsburgh (J.McDonald 9-3) at Colorado (Guthrie 3-9), 2:10 p.m.

Houston (W.Rodriguez 7-7) at Washington (Richard 6-10), 2:35 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Li Young 2-7) at San Diego (Zimmerman 6-9), 6:05 p.m.

Arizona (Kershaw 7-5) at Cincinnati (Latos 7-2), 6:10 p.m.

San Francisco (Vogelsong 7-4) at Atlanta (Minor 5-6), 6:10 p.m.

Miami (Jo Johnson 5-6) at Chicago Cubs (Samarzija 6-8), 7:05 p.m.

AREA CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 18

BASEBALL, AMATEUR District 7B

Game 1 — Dakota Valley at Larchwood; Game 2 — Vanton at Akron; Game 3 — Renner Oldtimers at Vermilion Grey Sox; Game 4 — Beresford at Garrettsen

BASEBALL, LEGION Yankton at Brandon Valley (6 p.m.)

Class B Regional at Corsica (Game 1 — Irene vs. Corsica, 30 minutes after Game 1)

Class B Regional at Brookings (DH, 3 p.m.); Class B Regional at Corsica (Game 5 — Game 2 winner vs. Game 3 winner, 5 p.m.; Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 3 loser, 30 minutes after Game 5)

GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR Moccasin Creek Inv.

SWIMMING, YOUTH S.D. State Nocturnal Meet at Mitchell (Yankton)

Thursday, July 19

BASEBALL, AMATEUR District 6B

Toronto (R.Romero 8-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Kurda 8-7), 12:05 p.m.

Texas (D.Holland 6-4) at Oakland (Blackley 2-2), 2:35 p.m.

L.A. Angels (C.Wilson 9-5) at Detroit (Fister 3-6), 6:05 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Undecided) at Boston (Doubrnik 9-4), 6:10 p.m.

Cleveland (Masterson 6-8) at Tampa Bay (Hellickson 4-6), 7:10 p.m.

Baltimore (Tom.Hunter 3-4) at Minnesota (Liriano 3-8), 7:10 p.m.

Seattle (Millwood 3-7) at Kansas City (B.Chen 7-8), 7:10 p.m.

National League

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	52	36	.591	—
Atlanta	49	40	.551	3 1/2
New York	46	44	.511	7
Miami	43	46	.483	9 1/2
Philadelphia	40	51	.440	13 1/2

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Cincinnati	49	40	.551	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	47	40	.542	4
St. Louis	42	47	.472	8 1/2
Los Angeles	36	52	.409	14
Houston	34	56	.378	17

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
San Francisco	51	39	.568	—
Los Angeles	48	43	.527	2 1/2
Arizona	43	47	.478	7
San Diego	36	55	.396	14 1/2
Colorado	35	54	.393	14 1/2

Monday's Games

Arizona 5, Cincinnati 3

Miami 5, Washington 3

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2

Colorado 5, Pittsburgh 4

Houston 3, San Diego 0

Philadelphia 3, L.A. Dodgers 2

Tuesday's Games

Washington 5, N.Y. Mets 4, 10 innings

Cincinnati 4, Arizona 0

San Francisco 9, Atlanta 0

Miami at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

St. Louis at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.

Houston at San Diego, 10:05 p.m.

Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

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St. Louis (Wainwright 7-9) at Milwaukee (Richard 6-10), 2:35 p.m.

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National Basketball Association

BROOKLYN NETS—Agreed to terms with

F Kris Humphries on a two-year contract.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Waived F Andy Blatche.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CHICAGO BRONCOS—Placed RB Lester Alexander. Agreed to terms with RB Alvarez Booker on a one-year contract.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Waived PK Brandon Curtis.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Re-signed OT Max Starks to a one-year contract.

National Hockey League

ANAHEIM DUCKS—Signed G Marco Cusinato to a one-year contract.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Named Jamie Kompon assistant coach.

FLORIDA PANATHERS—Agreed to terms with C James Wainwright on a two-year contract and with D Mike Caruso and G Brian Bell on one-year contracts.

LOS ANGELES KINGS—Signed D Thomas Hickey, F Stefan Leggin, F David Meckler and D Jake Muzzo to one-year contracts.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Signed G Jeremy Smith to a one-year, two-way contract.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Named Scott Stevens and Matt Shaw assistant coaches.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Agreed to terms with F Jason Clark on a three-year, entry-level contract.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

MLS—Suspended Columbus F Tim Reiterer one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for his lead bid of Sporting Kansas City's Paulo Nagamura in a July 14 game.

College Soccer

EMORY & HENRY—Named Andrea Kendall women's assistant basketball coach.

FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON—Announced the retirement of her head bid of Sporting Kansas City's Paulo Nagamura in a July 14 game.

Lamar

LAMAR—Named Sheron Winkler men's assistant basketball coach.

MOUNT SAINT VINCENT—Named Kevin Clifford assistant director of athletics, women's basketball coach and men's and women's cross country coach.

NEW