

MMC Soccer Wins California Forward

Mount Marty College announced Monday that Levi Gomez of Hacienda Heights, Calif., will enroll at the institution this fall and play soccer as a left forward.

"Levi is a great addition to our soccer program. He is quick, very good on the ball, and has a great understanding of the game. He will be a big part of our offensive improvements we are making," MMC head soccer coach Nathan Epp said.

"Levi is a great addition to our student body here at Mount Marty. He is a solid student and type of person that likes to be involved in activities on campus. Mount Marty is not only getting a great athlete, but also a quality individual."

A 5-foot-7 Los Alto High School graduate, Gomez received recognition for his playing ability and was named San Gabriel Valley First Team All-League, Offensive Player of the Year, was the varsity team captain and named most valuable player. Gomez also manages to excel in the classroom as an Honors/AP student, student of the month, and honor roll participant.

Gomez, the son of Valentín and Leandra



Gomez

Gomez, plans to major in criminal justice at Mount Marty and will be receiving an academic achievement scholarship in addition to his soccer award.

Region 2A Legion Tourney Starts Today

MITCHELL — Yankton Post 12 opens Region 2A American Legion Baseball Tournament action today (Tuesday) in Mitchell.

Fourth-seeded Yankton plays No. 5 Valley Springs at 11 a.m., with the winner moving on to play No. 1 Sioux Falls West at 5 p.m. The loser plays at 8 p.m. tonight.

In other action today, Mitchell plays Sioux Falls East at 2 p.m.

L&C Soccer Fields Closed

Due to a replacement of the irrigation pump, people are asked not to use the Lewis & Clark Soccer Complex fields until further notice.

YHS Bucks Golf Signup

Signup for the Yankton High School Bucks boys' golf team will be held Wednesday, July 25 at 10 a.m. in Room 235 at YHS.

Boys in grades 7-12 and interested in playing golf can sign up. If you cannot attend, please contact coach Brett Sime at 661-8720. Practice will begin on Monday, Aug. 6.

Gayville-Volin 5K, 1K Run/Walk July 28

GAYVILLE — The Gayville-Volin 5K Run/Walk and 1K Fun Run/Walk will be held Saturday, July 28, in Gayville. The event is a fundraiser for a new track for the Gayville-Volin school and the community.

The 5K run/walk begins at 8 a.m., with the 1K beginning at 9 a.m. The courses run through the city of Gayville.

Registration forms are available at several businesses in Gayville, Volin, Yankton and Vermillion. Registrations may also be placed online at allsportcentral.com. There is a discount for registrations made prior to July 14. All entrants receive a t-shirt.

For more information, call 660-0691 or 661-3122.

Lions Sign Parkston's Reiff

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — The Detroit Lions have signed first-round draft pick Riley Reiff.

The team did not announce terms of the deal. Reiff, an offensive tackle at Iowa and native of Parkston, said Monday he was happy to have the contract done.

The Lions took Reiff with the 23rd pick in the draft. He will join an explosive offense led by quarterback Matthew Stafford and wide receiver Calvin Johnson, but the Lions weren't consistently effective running the ball last season.

G Hinrich Returns To Bulls

CHICAGO (AP) — Kirk Hinrich is back with the Chicago Bulls.

The team announced the move Monday, bringing back a player they drafted in the first round nine years ago and giving themselves a reliable point guard while Derrick Rose recovers from knee surgery.

Hinrich played his first seven seasons with the Bulls before being traded to the Washington Wizards in 2010 and later being sent to the Atlanta Hawks. The 6-4 guard averaged 6.6 points for the Hawks last season in 48 games and has career averages of 12.5 points and five assists.

Big 12 Commish Says League's Best Days Ahead

DALLAS (AP) — New Big 12 commissioner Bob Bowlsby believes the best days are ahead for the conference.

Bowlsby spoke Monday to open the Big 12 football media days. He says he was admittedly skeptical when he was first approached about leading the league that seemed on the brink of collapse each of the past two summers.

After a month on the job, Bowlsby says there is a strength and stability with the current 10 members, including newcomers TCU and West Virginia after the departures of Texas A&M and Missouri for the SEC.

Smith Agrees To Extension

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota coach Tubby Smith agreed to terms Monday on a contract extension with the university through the 2016-17 season by adding three more years to his original deal.

Talks first began between Smith's agent and school officials during the 2010-11 season. After roughly a year and a half, the two sides finally reached a point where they were comfortable with both the language and the timing of the contract.

Terms of the deal weren't immediately available. Smith's original contract was signed for seven years and about \$1.8 million annually.

Entering his sixth season with the Gophers, Smith has yet to win an NCAA tournament game since leaving Kentucky and coming to Minnesota. But the Gophers rallied in March after another below-average performance in Big Ten play to reach the NIT championship game and finish with 23 victories. Smith was unavailable for comment, but in a statement distributed by the university, he said, "I believe that we can get the job done here. The commitment from the university is there to continue to grow the program, and I am looking forward to being a part of that."

The most significant part of that commitment is the construction of a practice facility to bring the Gophers up to speed with the rest of the Big Ten and around the country. Smith's agent, Ricky Leff, said no specific timetable was spelled out but that a "mutual agreement" has been forged between the university and the coach that the new building is imminent.

"We needed to make sure there was a commitment to make that investment at the university," Leff said in a phone interview. "It's been accepted by the institution, and certainly by Coach, that this is necessary to advance the program."

SCOREBOARD

GOLF

SOUTH DAKOTA GOLF ASSN.
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP
 Day One Results, July 23 at Bakker Crossing GC

NOTE: Top-10 Finishes

11-UNDER BOYS: Jack Lindin 97, Lane Jensen 41, Karter Lein 48, Jonah Swartz 44, Tice McVay 45, Austin Swenson 47, Jackson Schroepel 49, Cole Sawatzke 52, Kyle Meyer 53, Jack Hilgenberg 55

12-13 BOYS: Will Grevious 72, Zane Swenson 74, Bryce Hammer 79, Sam Sultafie 81, Brennan Coust 84, Brad Lawrence 86, Tyler Westra 87, Jacob Lee 87, Justin Kolb 88, Hank Eggstraaten 89

14-15 BOYS: Cal Robertson 73, Ben Priske 74, JJ Cooney 77, Riley Duncan 77, Colton Hanson 77, Drew Seubert 77, Adam Karst 78, Greg Koehn 79, Keaton Dettler 81, Luke Rozc 82, Alec Johnson 85, Griffin Metzke 86, Brett Matt 86, Taylor Schutz 86, Jonathan Newick 87, Ben Clarke 88, Nick Mahowald 89, Dayton Schumacher 89, Noah Brownell 91, Zach Steen 94, Jason Shindler 95, Ethan Lambert 102, Zach Streier 104

BASEBALL

DISTRICT 6B TOURNAMENT
 July 17-22 at Menno

Saturday, July 21
 GAME 4: Menno 5, Scotland 1; Scotland eliminated
 GAME 5: Crofton 8, Freeman 3
 GAME 6: Avon 4, Irene 1

Sunday, July 22
 GAME 7: Irene 5, McMahon 1; Freeman eliminated
 GAME 8: Lesterville 6, Menno 5, 11 innings; Menno eliminated

Tuesday, July 24
 GAME 9: Crofton vs. Avon, 6 p.m.
 GAME 10: Taber vs. Wynot, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 26
 GAME 11: Game 10 loser vs. Irene, 6 p.m., winner is Rep #2 or 3
 GAME 12: Game 9 loser vs. Lesterville, 8 p.m., winner is Rep #2 or 3

NOTE: The higher seed of these winners will be Rep #2, the other Rep #3.

Saturday, July 28
 GAME 13: Game 11 loser vs. Game 12 loser, 5 p.m., winner is Rep #4
 CHAMPIONSHIP: Game 9 winner vs. Game 10 winner, 7:30 p.m., winner is champion, loser is Rep #1

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
New York	57	.600	—
Baltimore	51	.531	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	49	.510	8 1/2
Toronto	47	.505	9
Boston	48	.495	10

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	52	.542	—
Chicago	51	.531	1
Cleveland	48	.500	4
Kansas City	40	.426	11
Minnesota	40	.426	11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	56	.589	—
Atlanta	52	.542	4 1/2
New York	47	.490	9 1/2
Miami	45	.511	11 1/2
Philadelphia	43	.443	14

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	53	.558	—
San Francisco	52	.542	1
Arizona	47	.495	6
San Diego	41	.562	13

AREA CALENDAR

<p>Tuesday, July 24</p> <p>BASEBALL, AMATEUR District 6B Tour. at Menno; District 7B Tour. at Akron (Game 10 — Vermillion Grey Sox vs. Akron 7:30 p.m.)</p> <p>BASEBALL, LEGION Region 2A Tour. at Mitchell (Yankton vs. Valley Springs, 11 a.m.)</p> <p>BASEBALL, VFW TEENER Brookings 15s at Yankton Black Sox (DH, 4 p.m.); Yankton Lakers at S.F. East (DH, 5 p.m.); Yankton Reds at S.F. Central (DH, 5 p.m.)</p> <p>Baseball, VFW Teener S.F. West at Yankton Lakers (DH, 5 p.m.)</p> <p>BASEBALL, AMATEUR District 6B Tour. at Menno (District 7B Tour. at Akron (Game 11 — Game 8 winner vs. Game 5 loser, 7:30 p.m.))</p> <p>BASEBALL, LEGION Region 2A Tour.; S.D. State Class B Tour. at Webster</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 25</p> <p>BASEBALL, AMATEUR District 6B Tour. at Menno; District 7B Tour. at Akron (Game 11 — Game 8 winner vs. Game 5 loser, 7:30 p.m.)</p> <p>BASEBALL, LEGION Region 2A Tour.; S.D. State Class B Tour. at Webster</p>	<p>Thursday, July 26</p> <p>BASEBALL, AMATEUR District 6B Tour. at Menno; District 7B Tour. at Akron (Game 11 — Game 8 winner vs. Game 5 loser, 7:30 p.m.)</p> <p>BASEBALL, LEGION Region 2A Tour.; S.D. State Class B Tour. at Webster</p>
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Recruit

From Page 8

Mount Marty, Dakota Wesleyan (Madison) and Dakota Wesleyan (Mitchell).

Of the 10 colleges that sponsor baseball in South Dakota, Mount Marty boasts the most in-state recruits. Of the 42 players on this spring's roster, 26 hailed from South Dakota and eight were from Nebraska. The player with the furthest journey was Cassidy Key-Darlington from Washington.

Connections to former players coaching within the state certainly helps MMC, as does the annual Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic tournament that brings in high-quality American Legion players from around the area.

Yet, the commitment to staying regional is just as strong, according to Schmidt.

"In my four years, we've only had a few guys from outside the four-state area. So obviously it's been working for us," he said.

"Coach (Bernatow) says all the time that the talent is here in the Midwest, but people overlook it. That's true, if you look at it. Those are the kids who are playing here and making a difference."

Since 2009, the Lancers have a 115-95 overall record with two NAIA National Tournament appearances, a conference regular season title and a conference post-season championship.

Despite back-to-back losing seasons, the program is at an all-time high. This spring, Mount Marty — as the No. 7 seed — ran the table to win the GPAC tournament title and won a game at the NAIA Opening Round Tournament in Oklahoma City.

"We caught everyone by surprise making it to nationals this year," Schmidt said. "The coach from Oklahoma City was saying they have 11 scholarships, so obviously that makes a big difference."

Mount Marty has found success while only having 3-3.5 scholarships to work with. NAIA

schools base their recruiting pitches on financial aid packages for potential athletes, in addition to the academic awards they can receive. NCAA schools have a limit of nine scholarships, but NAIA programs have three more.

"I think back to when we started. In 2007, we played for a (GPAC) championship and that next year the recruiting class was really excited," Bernatow said. "It helps you in terms of the player you can get." That next recruiting class, as it turns out, included four-year starters Schmidt, Jason Livermont and Justin Kemp.

"The mindset for a lot of kids is wanting to play for championships," the coach added.

"When you have success like that, it allows you to talk to more kids."

When Schmidt was a senior at Mitchell High School in 2009, the NCAA implemented roster limitations for Division I programs. Coaches can have more than 35 players during practice sessions during the fall and winter, but can have no more than 35 by the time the season starts in the spring.

The trickle down effect may have actually helped Mount Marty in its pursuit of Schmidt.

"It didn't allow for an NCAA school to get out of their box," Bernatow said. "They had to be careful, for a few reasons. If they had a kid 30 miles from home, they were probably going to grab them over a kid from a thousand miles away."

Closer to home, Mount Marty doesn't necessarily recruit against Division I programs, but Bernatow said in addition to the NAIA level, his program does occasionally bump up against D-II

"We're not D2, but our caliber of basketball is at that level."

TOM SCHLIMGEN

the country for women's basketball.

"We play basically Division II basketball even though we're in the NAIA."

Jason Christensen, entering his third year at Dakota Wesleyan, has his program on an upward trend after a 16-15 record last season — the program's first winning campaign since 2007-08. Naturally, sights are set high on the recruiting trail, as well.

"We try to recruit like a D2 school," Christensen said. Dakota Wesleyan's start to the 2012 recruiting class got off to a rocky start — 0-6, in Christensen's words. Five of the recruits offered chose a Division II school and the other went the D-I route.

"We'll try to find kids that we think are D2 players. Hopefully we can get lucky on maybe one or two. We're just hoping our offer is a little bit better or that we're closer to home for them."

In the sense that both programs recruit regionally and are 90 miles apart, yes, they frequently go after the same recruits. On the other hand, Schlimgen and his Lancers have found success closer to Yankton — along the Highway 50 corridor, in places like Tyndall, Scotland — and south into Nebraska.

"We're trying to get the best South Dakota girls we can get," Schlimgen said. "We've tried to

bring in local girls we think we can help the program; who can be a good fit. As long as we think we can win with them, we'll continue to do that."

Two years ago, when Mount Marty went 22-9 and qualified for the NAIA National Tournament, 15 of the 17 players who saw action were South Dakotans. Last season, the number was 16 of 18.

The 2012 recruiting class is made up of seven players, including four from South Dakota — Kelly Amundson (Vermillion), Jill Andreau (Kimball-White Lake), Sam Blake (Centerville) and Raquel Sutura (Bon Homme). Two more hail from Iowa and another comes from Cottage Grove, Minn.

Meanwhile, Christensen's recruits for the 2012-13 season include South Dakota players Ashley Robinson (Hanson), Sarah Zirpel (Sioux Falls Washington), Katie Keefe (DeSmet), Meghan Paul (Kell Rapids), Katelynn Runge (Brookings), Heather Willett (Canton), Jessika Simon (Gettysburg), LaShawn Medicine Horn (Wagner) and Kristen Binger (Hitchcock-Tulare).

When Dakota Wesleyan, or Mount Marty for that matter, sets out to pursue a recruit, they have to battle the tuition differences between themselves and a Division II school like Augustana or Northern State.

"It's tough to compete with them because of how cheap their schooling is," Christensen said. "With our scholarship model, we have to find smart kids. The best kid you can get is one who is re-

ally smart and needs the academic help."

At Mount Marty, Schlimgen said because of the school's tough academic requirements, he has to zero in on athletes with high grade point averages (GPA), so they can get more from academic scholarships. There are other financial aid opportunities available to prospective recruits, but a lot of the sales pitch revolves around what else is available on campus — from smaller class sizes, to student groups and on to athletics.

"We talk tradition a lot and encourage them to check out our website," Schlimgen said. "We're hidden in the southeast corner of our state, but we like to talk about the successes we've had. It's all about getting your name out there."

To that end, Dakota Wesleyan and Mount Marty suddenly find themselves selling their schools to kids with increased Division II options. With Black Hills State and South Dakota School of Mines now at that level, the key is to find that one kid who slips through the cracks, both coaches said.

"Maybe now we have a better shot at some of those West River kids," Christensen said. "The way I look at it is, in the early summer we're competing with D2 schools, and later in the year, we're after the same kids as Mount Marty or even Dakota State. Those are the two we go up against the most."

You can follow Jeremy Hoek on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoek

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