

SPORTS DIGEST

Three From USD Earn CoSIDA Honor

VERMILLION — South Dakota women's track and field athletes Bethany Buehl and Alexa Duling were recently named to the Capital One Academic All-America Division I women's track and field/cross country first team...

Buehl, a psychology major with a 3.97 GPA, won the pole vault at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships last month to become USD's first champion at the Division I level.

Buehl also earned first team All-America honors during the indoor season after placing sixth at the NCAA Indoor Championships in March. Duling, who graduated with a 4.0 GPA from the business administration graduate program...

America honors in the 400-meter hurdles in 2012 and was the 2013 Summit League champion in the event. She qualified for the Olympic Trials in the event a year ago and competed at the NCAA West Region Preliminary Round this year.

Mettler, a junior with a 4.0 GPA in USD's kinesiology and sports sciences program, won Summit League track titles this season in the indoor mile, the indoor 3,000-meters and the outdoor 3,000-meter steeplechase.

To be eligible for Capital One Academic All-America honors, a student athlete must be a varsity starter or a key reserve, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at the nominating institution and be nominated by his/her sports information director.

Former USD Assistant Named To Raptors Staff

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors announced Tuesday they have added Nick Nurse to Dwane Casey's coaching staff. Nurse joins the Raptors from the NBA D-League's Rio Grande Valley Vipers.

Nurse, 45, coached the Valley Vipers to a 59-41 mark the past two seasons and the 2012-13 NBA D-League championship. Prior to taking the reins in Rio Grande, Nurse coached the Iowa Energy to an overall regular season mark of 124-76 (620) and the 2010-11 NBA Development League championship.

A three-time NBA Development League All-Star

head coach, Nurse led the Energy to back-to-back 37-13 finishes in 2009-10 and 2010-11, setting and then tying the league record for wins in a single season. Nurse led the Energy to two Eastern Conference championships and one Central Division championship.

A graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, Nurse began his coaching career at the age of 23 when he became the head coach of Grand View College, making him the youngest college basketball coach in the United States.

Nurse coached in Europe for 11 years starting in 1996, winning nine championships and two Coach of the Year awards while earning six All-Star head coach selections in the British Basketball League. During that time, he also gained coaching experience in Italy, Belgium and the USBL.

Nurse holds a career professional coaching record of 459-220 (676) during the regular season and 76-54 (.585) in the postseason.

Entries Sought For Hillcrest Pro-Am, Ladies Pro-Am

Hillcrest Golf and Country Club is looking for entries for its 40th annual Invitational Pro-Am, Aug. 1-4, and its 13th annual Ladies Pro-Am on Tuesday, July 30.

To download an entry form visit the website at www.hillcrestyankton.com/golf/pro-am-results.html or call the golf shop at 605-665-4621 for more information.

YUSA Summer Soccer Clinic July 15-17

The Yankton Youth Soccer Association will be holding a Free Soccer Clinic July 15-17, from 6-8 p.m. each night, at the Lewis & Clark Soccer Complex. The clinic is open to boys and girls in age groups U10 to U14.

The clinic is free to participants, and coaches are welcome to attend. Free will donations will be accepted and will go towards the YHS soccer program.

For more information or to register for the clinic contact Deb Lillie at 605-661-1296 or email at lilliepad@iwi.net.

YHS Girls' Soccer Clinic July 22-31

The Yankton club high school girls' soccer program will hold a free clinic on Field 4 of the Lewis & Clark Soccer Clinic.

Sessions will run from 6-8 p.m., July 22 through July 31. For more information, contact Dave LaCombe at 661-6834 or soccerdave@vyn.midco.net.

Yankton Girls' Soccer Try-outs Aug. 5-7

The Yankton club high school girls' soccer program will hold tryouts for the 2013 season, Aug. 5-7 from 6-8 p.m. each day, at Field 4 of Lewis & Clark Soccer Complex.

Participants must register with Yankton Youth Soccer and comply with the requirements for participating in a high school activity. A registration

packet must be completed prior to the tryout, and will be available at the free clinic July 22-31, or by contacting Deb Lillie at lilliepad@iwi.net or 260-2311.

Practices will begin on Aug. 8, with the first game set for Aug. 16. For more information, contact Dave LaCombe at 661-6834 or soccerdave@vyn.midco.net.

Youth Wrestling Camp July 20

The Yankton Youth Wrestling program will host a one-day camp featuring Terry Pack of the "Legends of Gold" program on Saturday, July 20, at the north end of Yankton Mall. The camp will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Camp participants must have a guardian present to sign a waiver form at time of drop-off on the day of the camp.

There is a cost to participate, which includes lunch. Camp participants must be registered by July 12 in order to receive a camp t-shirt.

For more information or to register, contact Paula Bahm at 605-660-8105 or pbahm27@hotmail.com. Registration information includes name, age, weight, date-of-birth, shirt size and contact number for the participant.

Yankton JOAD Fun Shoot July 19

The Yankton Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) club will hold a bingo fun shoot on Friday, July 19, at 7 p.m. to raise money for its upcoming trips to the Eastern JOAD Nationals and the U.S. National Target Championships in Hamilton, Ohio.

Bingo cards can be purchased and arrows will be shot at targets for a certain price per arrow. For more information, contact Meredith Hunchoff at meredithhunchoff@hotmail.com.

SCOREBOARD

GOLF. FOX RUN GOLF COURSE. MONDAY MEN'S LEAGUE. RESULTS: Spanky's 68, R2G2 66, Stefan Const. 61.5...

HILLCREST GOLF & CC. LADIES DAY ZNET OF 4. FIRST: Deb Gubbels, Carla Ewald, Tracey Grothenius 124...

LADIES NET SKINS. FLIGHT 1: No. 3, Carla Ewald 3; No. 6, Judy Gregg 2; No. 7, Pegge Frank 3...

LAKEVIEW GOLF COURSE. LADIES LEAGUE. LOW GROSS: Katie Paulson 46, LOW NET: Michelle Townsend 28...

NATIONAL LEAGUE. East Division. W L Pct GB. Atlanta 52 38 578 — Washington 46 44 511 6 Philadelphia 45 46 495 7 1/2 New York 36 48 442 12 Miami 32 57 390 19 1/2

BASEBALL. AMERICAN LEAGUE. East Division. W L Pct GB. Boston 54 37 593 — Tampa Bay 51 40 560 3 Baltimore 49 42 538 5 New York 48 42 533 5 1/2 Toronto 43 46 483 10

Baseball

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RBI. Colin Muth had two hits and a RBI. Hunter Ryan added a double in the win. Muth struck out three batters over four innings for the win.

Reid Sawatzke picked up the victory in relief in the nightcap as Yankton rallied to a 3-2 win. Sawatzke, Muth and Townsend had

Brandon Valley 7-8, Lakers 5-6

Brandon Valley scored a pair of two-run victories over Yankton in VFW Teener baseball action on Monday, winning 7-5 and 8-6 at Riverside Field.

In the opener, Michael Heine had two hits and two runs scored to lead Yankton. Kade Larsen had a hit and a run scored. Nate Stephenson and Nathan Hein each had hits. Tyler Strahl drove in a run, and Chase Vogt and Jordan Payer each

scored runs for the Lakers. Hunter Cameron started and took the loss in the opener.

In the nightcap, Jordan Kathol and Payer each had two hits and a run scored to lead Yankton. Hein had a hit, a run scored and a RBI. Stephenson had one hit and two runs scored, Vogt had a hit and a run scored, and Larsen had a hit and a RBI for the Lakers.

The Lakers, 17-10, open the Sioux Falls Classic on Friday at 5 p.m., facing Sioux Falls Central.

AREA CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 10. BASEBALL, LEON. Brandon Valley at Yankton (6:30 p.m.). KYNT-AM; Yankton Juniors at S.F. East (DH, 5 p.m.). GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR. Hills CC. Foster Pro-Am at Emerald Hill Camp...

TRANSACTIONS. BASEBALL. American League. BOSTON RED SOX—Placed RHP Alex Wilson was placed on the 15-day DL. Recalled OF Jackie Bradley Jr. from Pawtucket (IL). Optioned RHP Jose De La Torre to Pawtucket. Selected RHP Brandon Workman from Pawtucket...

Bat-Retrieving Dog For Yankees Affiliate Dies

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — He doggedly did his work, this pinstriped pooch who faithfully served minor leaguers of the New York Yankees while providing big league entertainment. Chase, the bat-retrieving golden retriever for the Double-A Trenton Thunder who made highlight reels all across baseball for a decade, has died at 13.

"Chase was there a long time. He put a lot of smiles on people's faces," Yankees pitcher Joba Chamberlain, who played in Trenton, said Tuesday night. "You know it's going to be sad, but his lineage is carried on. You know it's something that people are going to miss, but it was fun to me around Chase," he said.

Chase lived just long enough to be thrown a retirement party by the Thunder last Friday night — featuring Chase bobbleheads, no less. The team said he died Monday.

Chase had been diagnosed in February with a form of lymphoma and had arthritis. The Thunder's website Tuesday featured a photo of their late mascot with a bat in his mouth and the caption, "In Loving Memory, Chase That Golden Thunder."

His bat-retrieving legacy will live on with his son Derby, who continues to be part of the Thunder's home game entertainment. Another son, Ollie, performs with the New Hampshire Fisher Cats.

Bluebirds Bounce 'Jays

TABOR — The Tabor Bluebirds jumped out to a 7-0 lead and held off South Central League-leading Crofton 7-6 in amateur baseball action on Tuesday in Tabor.

Tabor's Doug Vanecek pitched into the sixth and helped his cause with a home run and three RBI. Nathan Kloucek had a team-high two hits. Jason Humpal, Rob Keppen and Ross Kortan also had hits in the victory.

Vanecek leads the regulars in hitting with a .632 average, while Rob Keppen is batting .404 and four other starters are well over .300. For good measure, 37-year-old Joe Vavruska is 5-of-7 at the plate. Tabor has also benefited from the return of starting shortstop Jason Humpal. Out for the first half of the season with a broken finger, Humpal is batting .529 since his return to the lineup.

Tabor's only loss in the past nine games was a 7-5 defeat to Irene on June 28, and the story in that stretch — including that loss — has been defense, Vavruska said. "We were averaging about seven or eight errors a game the first few weeks, but now we're down to maybe one or two," he said.

With still two weeks remaining in the regular season before the District 6B Tournament in Scotland, the Bluebirds say they are staying cautiously optimistic about their post-season chances. Of the nine Class B teams in the SCL, five will advance to the State Class B Tournament in Sioux Falls. Yankton is a Class A squad. "I think we're hitting our peak; getting close to where we want to be," Vavruska said. "We have guys who are getting comfortable. Going into districts, we just want to ride our hot streak. "Young guys are pretty fearless when it comes to big games, hopefully that doesn't get to them."

Following suit with their place in the standings, the Cardinals also rank fourth in the league in runs allowed per game at 4.71. Pitching has been rather consistent for Irene, Johnke said. "To be honest, yes, it's been nice," he said. "I've been pretty satisfied with that. Josh Homme has eaten up a lot of innings, plus we have (Ben) Sees and (Simon) Healy. Even Mike King has thrown some lately."

The Cardinals have a tough stretch coming up, as they play Yankton, Wynot and Crofton in consecutive games, followed by the regular season finale at home against Menno. "At this moment, we could probably win out," Johnke said. "We're capable of beating all three, we just have to show up and keep driving guys in."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Elliott

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At Dover, he got a speeding penalty and didn't get rattled. He went back out there and drove it back to the front and finished fourth. And I've really been impressed with how buttoned up he's been, how polished he is and how respectful he is of the team and the equipment." Hendrick credits Bill and Cindy Elliott with raising their son correctly, and Bill's coaching helps Chase understand the importance of preserving his equipment. In typical Bill Elliott style, he downplays his role. "He's a teenager. You can't tell him anything — he listens to a little bit, maybe with half an ear," said Elliott, before softening his stance. "For the most part, he gets it. He's got

a pretty good head on his shoulders. This is all up to him. If he wants to race, that's fine. If he don't, that's fine, too. But he's got to go on and make it for himself. "You get him to a point and then from then on, performance and driving, has to continue on its own. It's up to him and circumstances."

Getting to this point has come from hard work and the lessons Chase has learned alongside his father and small crew in their Georgia shop. He understands the hours of labor it requires to get him to the track, and in having grown up inside the sport, Chase has had his fair share of role models. He considers himself a fan of Jimmie Johnson and Tony Stewart, and has paid attention to the way media-savvy Carl Edwards carries himself. "More than anything, just being around the sport, you see guys come and go,"

Chase said. "I see some guys who go about it in an awesome way and couldn't do a better job, and I try to take from that. There's a lot to be learned from watching it looking inside." Bill Elliott said his son is something of a NASCAR junkie and watches every minute of television coverage possible, from the pre-race show all the way through Victory Lane celebrations. He sees his son emulating five-time NASCAR champion Johnson in how he presents himself. "All his life he's been around grown-up people, and he seems very mature in what he does," Bill said. "He seems to have a good drive about him as far as motivation to get him where he needs to be, and he looks up to Tony Stewart and Jimmie Johnson — he idolizes those guys. After I've gotten to know Jimmie and how fo-

cused he is, he's one hell of a focused individual. He's able to sift through it and stay focused on it all, and put it all together. I think Chase has looked at it that and is learning from that." So now Chase sits and watches the calendar, waiting for his Nov. 28 birthday, when he'll be clear to race anything he wants. The plan is to continue juggling his final year at Kings Ridge Christian School in Atlanta, where educators are already working with the family to front-load his schedule so he'll have an easier time pursuing a full-time ride in 2014. Chase is anxious to turn 18, and although he's grateful

for the opportunity to run on the small tracks in trucks, he can't help but wonder why NASCAR can't consider drivers on a case-by-case basis for other events. As his dad watches from the sidelines, he thinks his kid has got a shot at doing big things in NASCAR. "Even if I try to look at it as objectively as I possibly can, for all the stuff he's run, and now, aligning everything right and getting him with Rick and getting the right crew chief around him, he does real well for himself," Bill said. "He's still got a lot to learn. But on the flipside of that, at this point, he's got a hell of a resume."

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KYNT AM 1450 MORNING COFFEE WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY. Wednesday, July 10. 7:40 am YC Observer (Kathy Church, Kristy Wyland) 8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci) Thursday, July 11. 7:40 am Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm) 8:20 am Habitat For Humanity (Julie Dijkstra)