

Vermillion's Brett Bye Headed To SDSU

Standout Was An Undefeated Wrestling State Champ In 2013-14

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — A program on the rise is the way Vermillion High School senior-to-be Brett Bye described his college choice.

Bye, who will be a senior at Vermillion this fall, verbally committed Monday morning to wrestle at South Dakota State following an overnight visit to Brookings.

"I liked how it seems like everything is growing, they're getting a lot of nice things," he told the Press & Dakotan. "It just feels comfortable."

Bye capped a perfect junior season with a 48-0 record and a South Dakota

state title at 152 pounds.

He credited SDSU wrestling coach Chris Bono, who took over the program in 2012, for playing a key role in his decision to commit to the Jackrabbits.

"He's trying to find more guys around this area, to keep wrestling growing in South Dakota," Bye said, "and that's a big deal for me."

That's also been a similar sentiment for a number of other area wrestlers.

SDSU's roster for the 2014 season lists nine South Dakota natives, including three others from the area — Josh Casperson (Fr., Beresford), Alex Kocer (So., Wagner) and David Kocer (Fr., Wagner).

"It's a million times better now since

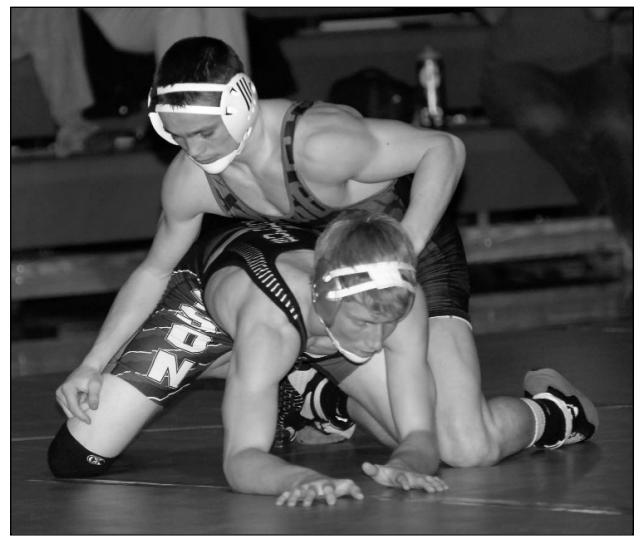
Bono took over," Bye said. "I like him as a coach, he's like me, an intense guy."

Bye said he has received scholarship offers from Nebraska, Wyoming, Cal Poly and Oregon State, but remains committed to the Jackrabbits.

Even this early in the process, with still another year of high school remaining.

"It definitely takes off some pressure," Bye said. "Now I can just focus on wrestling for my senior year."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.



P&D FILE PHOTO

Vermillion's Brett Bye, top, takes control of Madison's Wyatt Fender during their 145-pound match during a match this past season. Bye has verbally committed to attend and wrestle for South Dakota State University.

'Hybrid' Summit League Women's Hoops Schedule Announced

BY JEREMY HOECK

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The Summit League announced Monday its 2014-15 women's basketball schedule, and beyond the inclusion of newcomer Oral Roberts to the mix, the biggest item of note was a new hybrid format.

All that remains is how exactly that new slate will blend with the men's schedule, which will be released by the league Wednesday.

Gone is a true 'mirror' scheduling principle where men's and women's teams would play on the same night but in different locations. In place is more of a random draw, with still some mirror-looking weekends.

How will the change play out across the league?

"The variety is good, everybody probably has certain things they can do to help build their program," South Dakota State women's head coach Aaron Johnston said Monday.

"If you have a straight mirror format, that has some positives and some negatives."

The change to the schedules was prompted by the league's expansion to an odd number of members.

The addition — or re-addition, to be precise — of Oral Roberts brings the total number of Summit League members to nine, an uneven number that presents issues in scheduling.

The conference lineup now includes Denver, Fort Wayne, IUPUI, North Dakota State, Omaha, Oral Roberts, University of South Dakota, South Dakota State and Western Illinois.

Under the new schedule, teams will play league games on five days of the week — Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Last season, the majority of league games were played on Thursday and Saturday.

"Knowing that, I hope they took some of those under consideration to help programs build a fan base, play rival games, and overall improve their programs," Johnston said.

"I think they did, and you can see some of those things that are going to be good for us."

According to the league office, there was no set format when developing the schedules. Instead, schedules were created for the women and for the men, while some travel partner trips were mixed in.

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Bards Basher Nears End Of Career



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Avon Bards manager Dan Bures, pictured here prior to Sunday night's South Central League home game with Yankton, plans to retire from amateur baseball following the 2014 season. Bures, 35, has played for five different teams in his 18-year career.

Amateur Baseball | South Central League

Bures Hopes To End Career With Bang

BY JEREMY HOECK

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AVON — If Dan Bures has his way, his 'one last hurrah' will include a milestone home run for a team that makes a run toward a tournament berth.

Bures, the 35-year-old manager for the Avon Bards of the South Central League, plans to retire following the 2014 season.

After an 18-year career, including the past three summers running the team all while making the trip to and from his home in Mitchell, Bures decided to hang it up.

"It's tough to walk away," he said before Sunday night's home game with Yankton.

Particularly from the game he loves. The game he grew up playing in his native Ravinia and eventually

on to amateur teams in Lake Andes, Tabor, Redfield, Delmont and Avon.

"When you're driving down here in mid-July when you're tired, driving 70 miles for a home game, at that time it's pretty easy to decide, 'Well, I think it's time to give it up,'" Bures said.

"It's a situation where people might think, 'Just play with someone closer,' but if I'm going to quit, I'm really doing it."

Why not be a part-time player? Because he knows where that can leave a team.

"That frustrates me as a manager having guys that are part time, or they come and go, I don't want that to be me," Bures said.

Seeing their manager go isn't exactly something the Bards, 7-9 after Sunday night's win over Yankton, are looking forward to.

"He's super organized, and he's good about communicating with the guys about what's going on," said Jeff Sand, who car-pools from Mitchell with Bures and Nick Honke. "Not only that, he's a helluva player. It's sad to see him leave."

Even if Bures might still be in his 'prime,' Sand added, with a smile. "But I understand family comes before anything," he said.

Before Bures ventures off into retirement to spend time with his wife, children and his long-forgotten golf game, however, he wants to reach a baseball milestone.

One hundred career home runs. Bures, who said he figured out a couple years ago where his career figure was at, has been stuck on 99 homers since the beginning of last summer.

Amateur baseball doesn't exactly

keep the most up-to-date records.

"I kind of chuckle when people say they had a career batting average of .406 or something," he said. "I think, 'There's no way I could figure out what mine would be.'"

There is still time for Bures to reach the 100 home run mark.

The Bards have two regular season games remaining, Thursday at Wynot, Nebraska, and Sunday at home against Tabor. Then comes the District 6B Tournament, July 24-Aug. 2, in Freeman.

"I think he can do it," Sand said. "As long as he's not thinking about it all the time, eventually it'll happen."

It's hard not to think about it, though, when Bures consistently drives the ball to the warning track.

"If the fences were about five feet

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USD Announces Swimming & Diving Schedule

VERMILLION — Home and away duals with in-state rival South Dakota State and a home opener against Minnesota State highlight the 2014-15 swimming and diving schedule released Monday by head coach Jason Mahowald.

The men's and women's programs will look to improve upon their fifth- and fourth-place finishes, respectively, from a year ago. The women return All-Summit League performers Greysen Hertting in the dives and Sam Schutt in the 200-yard freestyle.

South Dakota will begin its season at home against Minnesota State on the Friday of Dakota Days, Oct. 10. The teams will spend the

rest of October on the road to North Dakota (Oct. 17-18), Iowa State (Oct. 24) and Northern Iowa (Oct. 25).

The Coyotes face off in a dual against Omaha at home on Nov. 6 before traveling to Brookings on Nov. 7 to dual against SDSU. They will also dual St. Cloud State in St. Cloud, Minn., on Nov. 21.

Two tournaments mark the end of 2014 with the Border Battle in Stevens Point, Wis., on Nov. 14-15 and the Rochester Invite in Rochester, Minn., on Dec. 5-7.

After returning from a training trip to Puerto Rico, the Coyotes will travel to Macomb, Ill., to face league members Western Illinois

(Jan. 16) and Eastern Illinois (Jan. 17).

South Dakota will return to the DakotaDome on Jan. 23 with a dual against South Dakota State, followed by a dual against North Dakota the next day. A trip to Minneapolis for the Minnesota Challenge on Feb. 6-7 will end the regular season for the programs.

The Summit League Championships will be held Feb. 18-21 in Indianapolis, Ind. Top performances could give USD a chance to send athletes to the NCAA Zone Diving Championships (March 9-11), Women's NCAA Championships (March 19-21) and Men's NCAA Championships (March 26-28).

Area Athletes Named To SDHSCA All-Star Games

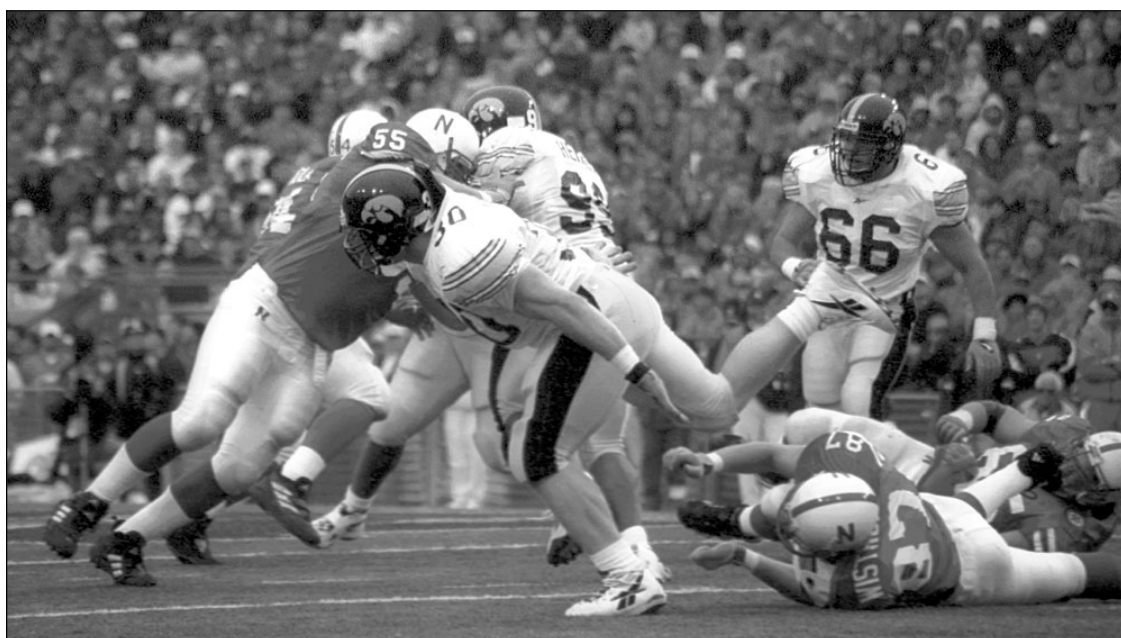
ABERDEEN — Several area athletes were named to the South Dakota High School Coaches Association's annual All-Star Games, which will be held today (Tuesday) and Wednesday in Aberdeen. The games are held in conjunction with the SDHSCA annual clinic, also being held in Aberdeen.

The all-star basketball games are being held today, with the girls' game at 6 p.m. and the boys' game at 8 p.m. at Wachs Arena on the Northern State University campus.

The South girls' roster features Yankton's Morgan Tessier, as well as Keely Bertram of Elk Point-Jefferson, Shenja Doering of Alcester-Hudson,

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Hartington's Hochstein Headed To Nebraska Football Hall



P&D FILE PHOTO

Former University of Nebraska lineman Russ Hochstein, 55, makes a block during a game against Iowa during his college career. Hochstein, a Hartington, Nebraska, native who spent 12 seasons in the National Football League, is one of four individuals who will be inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in September.

LINCOLN, Neb. — Hartington native Russ Hochstein, an All-American and a 12-year NFL player, is one of four individuals who will be inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in 2014.

Hochstein, a two-time first-team All-Big 12 choice as an offensive guard for the Huskers in 1999 and 2000, joins 1971 All-Big Eight offensive tackle Carl Johnson and 1982 All-Big Eight offensive guard Mike Mandelko in this year's Hall of Fame class. Nebraska's all-time leading tackler Barrett Ruud rounds out the class.

A three-year starter for Coach Frank Solich in Nebraska, Russ Hochstein was a first-team All-American by The Sporting News in 2000 and a two-time first-team All-Big 12 selection in 1999 and 2000. The 6-4, 290-pound offensive guard from Hartington, Neb., helped the Huskers claim the 2000 NCAA rushing title by averaging nearly 350 yards per game on the ground.

A team co-captain in 2000,

Hochstein was also chosen as the winner of the Cletus Fischer Native Son Award before being selected by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the fifth round of the 2001 NFL Draft (151st overall pick).

Hochstein went on to one of the longest and most successful NFL careers of any Husker in history. The Cedar Catholic High School graduate spent 12 seasons with the Buccaneers, Patriots, Broncos and Chiefs. He won back-to-back Super Bowls with the Patriots in 2003 and 2004. In his 12-year career he played in 149 NFL games with 37 starts.

As a Husker, Hochstein started the final 29 games of his career, including every game of the 1999 and 2000 seasons. In Nebraska's memorable 27-24 overtime win over Notre Dame, Hochstein was credited with a school-record tying 23 pancakes (knock-down blocks).

The Nebraska Football Hall of Fame also will honor legendary

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