

# SDSU Finding It Tough To Draw Opponents To Brookings

## Nagy: Jacks' Recent Success Making Teams Unwilling To Go To Frost Arena

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

In the world of good-problems-to-have, the South Dakota State men's basketball program has found it challenging to lure bigger names to Frost Arena.

Put simply: Teams, especially of the mid-major variety, want to schedule road games they can win. And opponents have had a hard time leaving Brookings with a victory.

Dating back to the start of the 2010-11 season, the Jackrabbits are 48-8 at Frost Arena. And their 2014-15 schedule released Friday reflects those challenges, according to head coach Scott Nagy.

"At our level, we're just not positioned to have the number of home games some people do," he said Friday, while on the road recruiting. "It's tough to get people up here to play us."

The Jackrabbits, coming off a 19-win season, were able to lock in 13 home dates — five in non-conference action, with two of those coming against Division II opponents.

South Dakota State will host a pair of lower-level exhibitions with South Dakota Tech and Dakota Wesleyan before the season opener Nov. 14 at Buffalo.

The Jacks will also visit Idaho, Florida Gulf Coast (in Sioux Falls), Saint Louis and Northern Iowa.

Coming to Frost Arena will be

North Dakota, Chadron State (Nebraska), Wayne State (Nebraska), Kansas City and Idaho. The games with UND and Kansas City are both returns from last season, while Idaho is a home-and-home in the same season.

In many cases, those home-and-home contracts come against programs that are also finding it tough to schedule games, Nagy said.

"We've been successful the last couple years, and that makes it difficult," he said. "They're looking for games they can win, and it's tough win at our place."

Among the home games are two against lower-level opponents, D-II Chadron State and Wayne State. Last season, the Jacks hosted three non-D-I games, including Wayne State.

Typically, those are the last games to be scheduled, Nagy said. "Those games are difficult, but

it's also a chance for your team to get healthy and for players that don't play much to get a chance," he said.

Four other road games for the Jackrabbits will be played in the state of Utah.

They will compete in the World Vision Classic, Dec. 18-20 in Logan, Utah, where SDSU will play Idaho State, Cal State Bakersfield and Utah State. SDSU will then, three days later, face the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

The Jackrabbits will also get a second-half boost from transfer guard George Marshall, who will have to sit out the fall semester after coming to SDSU from Wisconsin.

And with that in mind, the SDSU staff wanted to push as many non-conference games as possible after fall term grades are due on Dec. 22. Thus, the Jacks will play Utah on

Dec. 23 and Northern Iowa on Dec. 28 before beginning Summit League action on Jan. 2.

The Jackrabbits, who host rival University of South Dakota on Jan. 17, would — like every other program in the country — prefer to play more games at home, Nagy said.

"You always wish you had more, but the way I look at it, they're all tough," he said. "Every Division I game is tough, and it's very difficult to win non-conference away games."

The Jackrabbits, who lost in the first round of the College Basketball Invitational last season, will be led in 2014-15 by senior posts Cody Larson and Zach Horstman.

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## Locking Up Second Place



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

ABOVE: Yankton second baseman Sheldon Gant runs down a pop-up during Post 12's American Legion baseball game with Brandon Valley on Friday at Riverside Field. BELOW: Yankton's Lane Sawatzke fires the ball home during Post 12's American Legion baseball matchup with Brandon Valley. Yankton won 5-4, securing the second seed in next week's Region 2A Tournament. The teams will face off again on Tuesday at 4 p.m. in Yankton.

## NFL Official 'Double Rookie' With Debut As Referee

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Brad Allen is one of 13 first-year NFL officials this season. Making his debut at football's highest level unique is also being one the league's three first-year referees.

"They're referring to me as a double rookie," Allen said Friday night at the NFL officiating clinic.

After being a referee in the Atlantic Coast Conference the past nine seasons, Allen will be the first official since Tommy Bell in 1962 to make his NFL debut as a referee leading his own crew.

"He's worked at the top college level, he's worked the biggest games, he's worked bowl games, he's worked championship games," said Dean Blandino, NFL vice president of officiating.

"And the difference between NFL officiating and college officiating, it's getting closer from a rules standpoint. ... And we've surrounded him with a veteran crew."

Allen was preparing to be an umpire this season after being in the NFL's officiating development program last year. That plan changed with the departure of veteran referee Mike Carey, who hired last month by CBS to provide rules analysis, interpretation and explanations of rules during broadcasts.

The other first-year referees are Craig Wroldstad, who is going into his 12th NFL season, and fifth-year official Rob Torbert.

All the NFL officials are at a Dallas-Fort Worth hotel this weekend for their annual clinic in advance of the season. Taking part are all 119 officials and participants in this year development program, including two women.

Among the games Allen worked during his time on the collegiate level were the 2012 Rose Bowl and the Sugar Bowl last January.

After getting his new assignment, Allen got a congratulatory call from former NFL referee Jerry Markbreit that also included a blunt reminder.

"He said, 'I really enjoyed your work the Rose Bowl in 2012,' and he said, 'But kid, every game is the Rose Bowl in the NFL,'" Allen said. "And he's right. So that's the perspective that you have to understand as you go into this."

Allen said the biggest adjustments for him on the NFL level will be the extra administrative duties and increased time commitment.

NFL referee Walt Coleman, the league's senior game official entering his 26th season, agreed that the biggest challenge for Allen won't be what happens after kickoff.

"All the things you have to deal with, the TV stuff, the security stuff and dealing with the crew and all the places you're going," Coleman said. "He'll be fine, but it's a challenge. I would have hated to think that I came into the National Football League as a referee. I was just happy I came in as a line judge and was above to survive that first year, because things happen really fast."

During a session with officials Friday afternoon, Blandino reviewed new rules and points of emphasis for the upcoming season, using video examples.

Among them: — Officials can now review recovery of a loose ball, something not allowed in the past. One of the examples

# Post 12 Tops BV, Claims Second In 2A

## Baseball: Teams Will Face Off Again On Tuesday

Yankton Post 12 secured the second seed in the Region 2A Tournament with a 5-4 victory over Brandon Valley in American Legion baseball action on Friday at Riverside Field.

The victory means that Yankton (27-12, 5-3 Region 2A) will be the home team when the teams meet on Tuesday, the first day of the region tourney. Start time is set for 4 p.m.

Yankton scored the game-winner in the bottom of the ninth, as Austin Johnson's sacrifice fly scored Mitch Gullikson. The score made a winner of Sheldon Gant, Post 12's sixth pitcher of the night.

Colin Muth had two hits, a run scored and a RBI, and Adam Walter had a double and two RBI to lead Yankton. Lane Sawatzke had a hit, a run scored and a RBI. Gullikson, Tanner Termansen and Will Steward also had hits in the victory.

Tuesday's opening day of

the Region 2A Tournament at Riverside Field will begin with fourth-seeded Mitchell against fifth-seeded Sioux Falls East at 1 p.m. Yankton and Brandon Valley will follow at 4 p.m. Top-seeded Sioux Falls West will face the Mitchell-East winner at 7 p.m.

The championship is set for Thursday, July 24, at 8 p.m. The "if" game would be played on Friday, July 25.

### Region 3B

ELK POINT — Tanner Anderson had three hits and four RBI as Vermillion rolled past Beresford 11-1 in the Region 3B American Legion baseball tournament on Friday at Todd Larson Field in Elk Point.

Joe Mazour also had three hits for Vermillion. Carter Kratz added two hits.

Ethan James struck out six batters over five innings for the victory.

Earlier on Friday, Dakota Valley eliminated Canton with a 15-5 decision. Dakota Valley also beat Elk Point-Jefferson

15-4 later on Friday.

Beresford will face Dakota Valley today (Saturday) at 3 p.m., with the winner playing Vermillion in the championship at 6 p.m.

The region champion will play in the S.D. State Class B Tournament, which begins July 25 in Tabor.

### VFW Teener

#### Reds 11, S.F. East 9

SIoux FALLS — The Yankton Reds opened the Sioux Falls VFW Teener baseball tournament with an 11-9 victory over Sioux Falls East on Friday.

Ethan Wishon had four hits, including a triple, and two RBI to lead Yankton. Michael Drotzmann had a triple, a double, a single and two RBI. Owen Feser and Levi Wiersma each doubled and singled, with Feser driving in two and Wiersma one. Rex Ryken and Sam Mooney each had two hits and a RBI. Cole Sawatzke had a hit and a RBI, and Michael Frick and Peyton Mueller added hits in the victory.

Wishon pitched four innings to pick up the win in relief of Ryken.

The Reds face Moorhead, Minnesota, and Pierre today (Saturday).



# Rory McIlroy Builds A Four-Shot Lead At British Open

HOYLAKE, England (AP) — Rory McIlroy only saw birdies at Royal Liverpool, mostly on his scorecard, and even one pheasant that trotted across the eighth green as he was lining up a putt. That was but a minor interruption in his command performance Friday in the British Open.

Once he made a birdie, and then another, nothing could stop McIlroy. Not another collapse in the second round. Not anyone in the field. And certainly not Tiger Woods.

After a bogey on his opening hole stirred memories of another "Black Friday," McIlroy looked more like the Boy Wonder who won two majors in a runaway. With three birdies in his last four holes, he posted a second straight 6-under 66 to build a four-shot lead over Dustin Johnson.

McIlroy spoke of an "inner peace," and the two secret words that triggered his powerful swing and set up birdie chances on just about every hole.

"People call it the zone, people call it whatever," he said. "It's just a state of mind where you think clearly. Everything seems to be on the right track. I've always said, whenever you play this well, you always wonder how

you've played so badly before. And whenever you've played so badly, you always wonder how you play so well. I'm happy where my game is at the minute. And hopefully, I can just keep up the solid play for another couple of days."

Woods is fortunate to even play for two more days.

He started the second round only three shots behind. He finished it on the 18th hole, standing over a 6-foot birdie putt just to avoid missing back-to-back cuts for the first time in his career. Woods made the putt for a 77, matching his second-worst round as a pro in the British Open.

Woods hit driver five times — four more than he hit all week when he won at Royal Liverpool in 2006. None found the fairway. Woods was 14 shots out of the lead and still thought he had a chance, referring to Paul Lawrie making up 10 shots in one round to win at Carnoustie in 1999.

That was against Jean Van de Velde. This is Rory McIlroy, who has won both his majors by eight shots.

"Two 66s from Rory is a bit special, but he is just that — he is a bit special," Graeme McDowell said. "So he's going to be tough to catch this week-

end if he keeps that up."

McIlroy was at 12-under 132 — the same 36-hole score of Woods in 2006.

Dustin Johnson birdied the last two holes for a 65, the low score of the week. That ordinarily would put him in the last group with McIlroy, except they will have company in a historic decision at golf's oldest championship. Because of a nasty storm approaching England, the Open will go to threesomes teeing off on both sides Saturday.

Francesco Molinari (70) will join them. He was part of a large group at 6-under 138 that included Rickie Fowler (69), Sergio Garcia (70), Charl Schwartzel (67), Louis Oosthuizen (68) and Ryan Moore (68).

Johnson had a chance at the claret jug three years ago until a 2-iron that went out-of-bounds on the 14th hole at Royal St. George's. He also lost a three-shot lead in the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, and missed out on a playoff at Whistling Straits for grounding his club in sand at the 2010 PGA Championship.

"I'm glad I'm in the last group," Johnson said. "Just go out there and try to shoot a big number."

Four shots can be lost quickly in

any major, especially in links golf, particularly in nasty weather. McIlroy followed up a record-tying 63 at St. Andrews in 2010 with an 80 the following day. Even so, the ease with which he moved around Royal Liverpool was more frightening than any forecast.

McIlroy picked up his first birdie with two putts from across the green on the par-5 fifth. But it was on the par-3 sixth, when McIlroy deposited an 8-iron to 7 feet for birdie, that he found that peace and put the pedal down on the rest of the field.

He ushered the pheasant off the eighth green, regrouped and holed a 7-foot birdie putt, chipped to tap-in range on the 10th and then kept giving himself chances on all but one hole until ending with three birdies. McIlroy was in such a groove that with the wind at his back, he hit driver 396 yards on the 17th hole and pitched to 8 feet.

It was only Friday — a fantastic one, not a freaky one — but the kid looked like he was going for a knock-out.

"Once I got to 7 (under), I felt like, 'OK, this time I feel good. I can get to 8. I can get to 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.'"