

# Mount Marty Announces New Tennis Coach

## Ron Briggs Takes Over Women's Program, Will Be First Coach For Men's Program

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Connections with Yankton and with former head coach Rob Klimisch helped bring Mount Marty College's next head tennis coach to campus.

MMC announced on Tuesday that Ron Briggs will be the next



Briggs

head coach for the women's tennis program, replacing Klimisch, and the first head men's tennis coach.

"Ron is going to be a great fit for us," said MMC Athletic Director Chuck Iverson. "He has a lot of energy and passion for the game."

Briggs, the father of Yankton Tennis Association head Mike Briggs, recently retired after serving as the CEO of Franciscan Care Services, Inc. in West Point, Nebraska. With Klimisch stepping away from the program, Klimisch and Mike Briggs talked about how Ron would be a good fit for the program.

"Rob and my son Mike talked

about it, and they thought it would be good to have me interview," said Ron Briggs, who has spent the last 35 years as a hospital administrator, the last 20 of which has been spent as the CEO of a hospital. He has been an active tennis player for more than two decades, playing competitively at the 3.5 level. "When I started my undergrad studies, I was looking at being a teacher and a coach. Now I'm going full circle."

Besides his ties to Yankton, Ron Briggs has a tie to MMC: The replacement he hired for his former position is the nephew of MMC's Fr. Thomas Wordekemper.

Ron Briggs takes over a MMC women's program that went winless in the Great Plains Athletic Conference a year ago, but will

return 2013 GPAC Player of the Year Vanessa Rockne, as well as another Yankton graduate, Lexie Klimisch. Lauren Janssen, another senior, also returns for the Lancers.

"We've got a great women's program that I am inheriting," he said. "For the men, we hope we can find the people we need."

Briggs made an immediate impression on Rockne.

"The first time I met him I was at worked. My boss said that a 'Ron Briggs' had called for me. Ten minutes later, he showed up at my work and said, 'Hi. I'm your new tennis coach,'" she said. "It was a good sign of his dedication, that he was interested in who his players were."

Since then Rockne has watched as Briggs has tried to build back up a women's team that was short-

handed last season and begin to build the men's program.

"I can tell his commitment to being the Mount Marty tennis coach," she said. "Just seeing his enthusiasm, it carries through to the players."

MMC has students on campus interested in competing in men's tennis, and the Lancers plan to field a team at the club level for 2015-16. MMC will move up to varsity competition in the 2016-17 season.

Briggs has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Dana College, which was a member of the GPAC before it closed, and a Master of Hospital Administration from the University of Minnesota.

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# Post 12 Ready For State

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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A summer ago, Yankton Post 12 came up just short of a state championship, losing on the final day.

And so, the natural goal for 2015 was simple.

"Our overall goal was to get back there," head coach Trey Krier said. "We knew what we had coming back from last year, and we obviously had some success at state."

"We just wanted an opportunity to get there."

Yankton has achieved the first half of that goal, by qualifying for the South Dakota State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament, which begins today (Wednesday) at Bob Shelden Field in Brookings.

Yankton (27-17), boasting a balanced attack at both the plate and on the mound, will open the tournament today against Watertown at 5 p.m. Watertown swept the regular season series.

In other first-round action today: Sioux Falls West plays Rapid City Post 320 at 10 a.m., Rapid City Post 22 plays Aberdeen at 1 p.m. and Brookings plays Pierre at 8 p.m.

Yankton's biggest advantage in the field is its deep offensive attack, led by Mason Townsend (.407, 2 HR, 38 RBI). Among the other regulars, Yankton boasts Brad Ulmer (.397, 52 hits), Jordan Kathol (.339, 43 hits), Colin Muth (.309, 42 hits, 23 RBI), Sheldon Gant (.320, 1 HR, 30 RBI), Adam Walter (.298, 1 HR, 20 RBI), Landon Withdraw (.298), Austin Johnson (.214) and Levi Schmidt (.347, 1 HR).



P&D FILE PHOTO

The Yankton Post 12 American Legion baseball team lines up prior to a game in the Region 2A Tournament last week. Yankton, which finished second in the region to qualify for state, opens the South Dakota State American Legion Baseball Tournament today (Wednesday) in Brookings. Post 12 faces Watertown at 5 p.m.

That offensive attack produced 33 runs over four games at the Region 2A Tournament, where Yankton took second to Sioux Falls West.

"We've proven we can be a team that can score some runs, but we'll need to pitch a little bit better," Krier said. "We have to hold teams down more, to that 6-7-8 range, which typically hasn't been a problem for a Yankton team."

The key for Post 12 to make another deep run will depend on the pitching, according to Krier.

Yankton is led on the mound by Townsend (5-1, 2.33 ERA), and can also throw Muth (6-2, 2.61 ERA), Kathol (5-2, 2.66 ERA) and Withdraw (3-2, 3.77 ERA), among a handful of others.

"We have the potential to be better on the mound, and make it more difficult for a team to score a run," Krier said. "If we can make some improvements there, our offense is good enough to carry us."

Whether that will be the case against Watertown remains to be seen. Watertown both ends of a doubleheader against Yankton earlier this summer up in Watertown.

"They're a very good team, with a lot of components, particularly on the offensive side," Krier said. "We'll be tested right away. We'll have to see if we can find a way to hold them down."

The loser of the Yankton-Watertown game will play at

10 a.m. on Thursday, while the Yankton-Watertown winner will play at 5 p.m. Thursday.

Even with defending state champion Rapid City Post 22 in the field, Yankton knows it has just as good of a chance as anyone to capture the crown, Krier said.

"As soon as you're there, it's anybody's game," he said. "I don't think there's necessarily a clear-cut favorite."

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## 'Dr. Jen' Embraces Breakthrough Role With Arizona

BY BOB BAUM  
AP Sports Writer

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Jen Welter accepts the title of trailblazer, embraces the chance to be a role model for girls and, perhaps most of all, can't wait to get beyond the hype and on to work when the Arizona Cardinals open training camp this weekend.

It's only a six-week internship coaching inside linebackers for the Cardinals, through training camp and the four preseason games. Nonetheless, it marks another barrier broken for women in sports.

The 37-year-old Welter appeared at a news conference at Cardinals headquarters Tuesday and gave all the credit for her hiring to Bruce Arians, saying the coach's "heart made this happen."

Team President Michael Bidwill said the move has the enthusiastic support of the organization, which has long been known for hiring minorities for management positions. Bidwill said he spoke Monday night with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who congratulated the Cardinals on the move.

Known as Dr. Jen back in Texas, Welter has a PhD in psychology as well as a season as a player on a men's team, the Texas Revolution of the Indoor Football League.

There are a lot of people who are better than her at the X's and O's of football, she said, "but the heart factor, the intelligent player factor, the being-the-person-with-the-motor-who-won't-quit factor, those are things I know I can add to."

Welter is the latest woman to

enter what had been a men-only position. In April, the NFL announced that Sarah Thomas would be the league's first full-time female official. The NBA long has had a female official. And Becky Hammon is an assistant with the San Antonio Spurs and recently was head coach of the Spurs team that won the Las Vegas Summer League championship.

Welter said that for too long girls have been given the wrong message, that it's so important to be pretty.

"We show them as accessories, for no other better way to put it," she said. "We teach them very early on to be pretty, marry well and then act badly and you'll get on TV, and that's what they grow up thinking what fame is or success is."

"I want little girls to grow up knowing that when they put their minds to something, when they work hard, they can do anything."

The hiring came from comments Arians made at the NFL owners meetings in Phoenix last March.

He was asked about the possibility of women coaching in the league.

"The minute they can prove they can make a player better, they'll be hired," Arians said.

A short time later, the coach of the Texas Revolution got in touch with Arians and said he knew someone who might fit that bill.

Arians called Welter and offered her one of the team's six internships, then he got the backing of general manager Steve Keim and Bidwill.

"He had to get all the right yeses but it was his heart that made it happen," Welter said, "and it was his belief that the Arizona Cardinals are the team that could handle this hap-

pening and that he has coaches on his staff that would embrace it and not cast me off to the side. You can't blaze a trail alone. Otherwise you're going to get stuck in the woods."

Welter grew up in Vero Beach, Florida, and she told a story a relative related to her about when she could hardly see out of a helmet: She would have the family drag a mattress outside so she could have the bigger kids tackle her.

She played rugby at Boston College but football was her first love. She spent 14 years as a linebacker, most of them with the Dallas Diamonds of the Women's Football Alliance. She won two gold medals with the U.S. team at the International Federation of American Football women's world championships.

A year ago, the first barrier fell for her when she played running back and on special teams for the Revolution, the first woman to play a non-kicking position on a men's professional football team. Last February, she became the first woman to coach for a men's professional team when the Revolution made her linebackers and special teams coach.

Then Arians called.

The coach said an internship is designed as a steppingstone to get a full-time NFL job. Of course that's what Welter is eying.

"My expectations are to learn from the very best in football," she said.

And she feels more than welcome.

"The last 24 hours," she said, "had been getting wrapped around by the wings of the Cardinals."

As much as they can under the rarely satisfied watch of their devoted yet demanding head coach, the players have embraced the positive vibes surrounding their arrival at training camp.

For a team that won only 31 games over the past five years, with only one playoff season in that span, this is a refreshing change.

## B: McCook-Miner Rolls To Title

SALEM — Host McCook-Miner pounded out 15 hits and took advantage of nine walks to rout West Central 17-5 in the championship of the South Dakota State Class B American Legion Baseball Tournament on Tuesday.

With the victory, McCook-Miner advances to play in the Central Plains Division II Tournament, Aug. 6-9 at LeSeur, Minnesota.

Tanner Miller had four hits, including a double, and Cole Cheeseman had a triple, a double, a single and three RBI to lead McCook-Miner. Tyler Cleveland and Tim Gassman each had two hits and three RBI, with Cleveland recording a double. Luke Loudenburg also had two hits in the victory.

For West Central, Dylan Masterson went 2-4 with a home run, a double and three RBI to lead the way. Riley Schraeder doubled and singled in the effort.

Loudenburg went the distance, striking out five, for the win. Blake Svoboda took the loss, striking out seven but allowing nine runs (two earned) in six innings of work.

## Patriots Fans Defiant After 'Deflategate' Ruling

BY PHILIP MARCELO  
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Patriots fans are steamed after NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell upheld Tom Brady's four-game suspension Tuesday.

In bars across downtown Boston, denizens of Patriots Nation expressed surprise and anger at the ruling while still holding out hope their beloved quarterback would be vindicated — either in the courtroom or on the field.

John Parthum, a native of suburban Andover, was en-

## On To State



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Crofton's Aaron Losing connects on a pitch during Tuesday night's District 6B amateur baseball Tournament game against Wynot in Irene. Crofton beat Wynot 3-2 to advance the championship game and qualify for state. Wynot, the defending Class B champs, will face Freeman in an elimination game on Thursday.