

Westward Bound: USD Hoops Will Play In Rapid City

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Fans on the western half of South Dakota who otherwise would not get a chance to see Division I basketball in person now have a date to circle.

Saturday, Dec. 7.
The University of South Dakota announced Friday at a press conference in Rapid City that it will host a women's and men's basketball doubleheader in Rapid City on Dec. 7, at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.

The USD women will face South Dakota School of Mines at 6 p.m. Central, followed by the Coyote men and Wyoming at 8:15 p.m. Tickets for the doubleheader will go on sale at a later date.

While the men's game will carry the larger prestige of the two, the women's game is filled with homecoming stories. Coyote head coach Amy Williams is a native of Spearfish and incoming sophomore center Margaret McCloud attended

Rapid City Stevens High School.

"A lot of people in Rapid City always say they're following us and wish they could get to more games," McCloud said Friday. "It'll be nice to get some West River fans cherishing for the Coyotes a little more."

Taking the Coyote brand West River has long been a wish for the athletic department, but the timing finally worked out to make it happen in December, according to athletic director David Herbster.

"I think it's an outstanding opportunity for us to get out to a side of the state that we don't usually have a chance to," Herbster said Friday before a Coyote golf tournament in Rapid City.

"It just makes sense on a lot of levels." The matchup with Wyoming for the USD men will be the home end of a home



Herbster

and home series next season with the Cowboys. The Coyotes are scheduled to play in Laramie two weeks before the game in Rapid City, Herbster said.

There had to be, of course, mutual agreements on all sides, he added.

"It doesn't work if Wyoming or Mines don't see the value in it," Herbster said. With all their connections to West River, the Coyote women's program was all for moving a home game with NCAA Division II School of Mines across the state, Williams said.

"When we pulled into town (Thursday), and you could see the hills, it felt nice to be back home," she said. "To know that we'll be able to bring our team here and showcase ourselves around, to our fans and alumni, it's an exciting thing."

Though the women's matchup will mark the first-ever meeting between USD and Mines, the Coyote men will be playing Wyoming for the fifth consecutive season.

Wyoming won games in Laramie in 2009-10, 2011-12 and last season (by 20

points), while the Coyotes beat the Cowboys in Vermillion back in 2010-11.

Friday's announcement, though, was about more than just hoops, Herbster said.

"This is one of those things that people should understand goes above and beyond a game," he said. "For some of our athletes who have never been to the Black Hills, it will be an unbelievable experience."

The Coyote women's team boasts XX native South Dakotans who are no strangers to West River: McCloud, Tia Hemiller (Waterton), Heidi Hoff (Brandon Valley) and Bailey Milne (Madison).

"I'm excited," McCloud said. "I think we'll get a really good turnout. We have a couple South Dakota girls on the team, and even people in Rapid City know those girls. That should hopefully bring more fans to the game."

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

Buell Wins D-I Pole Vault Title; First For USD

EUGENE, Ore. — First full year of Division I, first national champion.

With a torn ligament in her left shoulder, South Dakota pole vaulter Bethany Buell cleared 14 feet, 7¼ inches on her third and final attempt to become South Dakota's first Division I national champion on Friday night at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field.

The junior from St. Louis tied the D-I national championship record with a clutch jump to edge Kansas' Natalia Bartonovskaya

and Eastern Illinois' Jade Riebold, who both finished at 14-5¼. USD teammate Emily Grove added First-Team All-America honors by finishing seventh after vaulting a season high 14-1¼. The two combined to earn 12 points for the USD women's team.

"I'm really proud of Bethany's effort and performance today," women's head coach Lucky Huber said. "Bethany, Emily and Coach (Derek) Miles all had a great season and this was a great way to cap it off."

Buell hit seven of her first 10 vaults, missing once at 14-3¼ and twice at 14-7¼. A third miss would've given Bartonovskaya the title based on misses. After clearing 14-7¼ to win the title, Buell attempted to clear 14-9 but missed on all three attempts.

Buell became USD's first track national champion since Emma Erickson won the 800-meters at the 2008 Division II NCAA National Championships. She also is the Summit League's first women's track champion and the second women's champion in any sport.

Buell missed much of the season after tearing a ligament in her left shoulder while setting the nation's top-mark this season of 14-7½ at the Texas Relays on March 29. She didn't compete again until the Summit League Championships on May 9. She'll have surgery to repair the ligament this summer.

Also making USD history, men's thrower Cody Snyder finished 21st in the discus with a mark of 176-0 on his second throw. He was the first USD men's athlete to qualify for the national championships since the Division I transition.

The Coyotes will have one more athlete competing at the championships as Megan Glisar competes in women's high jump on Saturday at 2:45 p.m. CT.



Buell

Somsen Awaits Draft Fate



SEAN WELSH/BROOKINGS REGISTER
Yankton native and South Dakota State pitcher Layne Somsen delivers to home plate against North Dakota State during a home earlier this spring in Brookings. Somsen is likely to be drafted today (Saturday) during the MLB First-Year Player Draft.

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Yankton native Layne Somsen chooses to remain patient, while professional baseball organizations decide his potential fate this weekend.

Somsen, a right-handed pitcher from South Dakota State, awaits his future during the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft, which began Thursday with rounds 1-2. Friday featured rounds 3-10, and today (Saturday) concluding with rounds 11-40.

"I don't want to get my hopes up, really," Somsen said this week. "You can have all the talent in the world but not get drafted. I think about it, but you just never know; it's never a certainty."

Either way, Somsen will find out this weekend — most likely Saturday — what his future holds.

Will he be drafted by a big-league team? Or will he await a potential invite somewhere else? By all accounts, it's more of a 'when' not 'if' with Somsen. One area scout, Hank Krause with the San Diego Padres, said he has been impressed with Somsen throughout his career.

"It's just a matter of who likes him and who's going to take him," Krause said this week. "I like him a whole lot, but you have to consider there are only 40 rounds."

Krause said the Padres, for example, have 30 scouts who each send in a list of 10 players to be considered. "That's a lot of sorting," he said.

"Who knows where he might go," Krause added. "I put him in my draft, and a couple others did the same thing."

Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft

Thursday	Rounds 1-2
Friday	Rounds 3-10
Saturday	Rounds 11-40

Somsen, 24, recently completed his fifth season at SDSU, where he has weaved through a roller coaster filled with valleys (elbow surgery) and peaks (conference honors).

He missed nearly two full seasons because of Tommy John surgery to his right elbow. He returned last spring and put together a solid comeback.

Somsen's senior season this spring, however, was his best. The Summit League Pitcher of the Year finished with a 4-5 record, a 1.87 earned run average, and 91 strikeouts in 91.1 innings. He helped key the Jackrabbits to the Summit League crown and eventually into the NCAA Tournament.

Somsen said there were 12 cross-checkers — senior scouts who review certain prospects — watching his performance against Oregon last Friday, when he allowed two hits over seven innings. The nationally-ranked Ducks ultimately beat the Jacks 3-2, with Somsen earning a no-decision.

What was decided, though, was that his outing "raised his value a little bit," Krause said.

It also helped put South Dakota State on the national map, according to Somsen's mother, Barb, who traveled to Oregon with her husband, Dan.

"Dan and I walked out after the loss, and we had several Rice people stop us and say, 'You guys should be proud, you belong here,'" Barb Somsen said. "That really meant a lot."

"That's always the question going in, 'We're a new team, are we going to go get blown out?'"

Though he said he is still "bothered" by the two 1-run

web

■ Watch The P&D Website For Updates On Somsen This Weekend.
yankton.net

Pudge Headed Into Rangers Hall Of Fame

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Pudge is going into the Texas Rangers Baseball Hall of Fame.

Ivan Rodriguez, the 14-time All-Star catcher who spent most of his career with Texas, will be the 16th member of the team's hall of fame.

The Rangers said Friday his induction will be July 20 during a ceremony before a game against Baltimore.

Rodriguez made his major league debut as a 19-year-old for the Rangers in 1991. He caught a major league record 2,427 games, surpassing Carlton Fisk's record of 2,226 during a game for the Houston Astros four years ago at Rangers Ballpark. It was later that season that Pudge returned briefly to the Rangers, the team he played for his first 12 seasons.

The 13 Gold Gloves that Rodriguez won are the most ever for a catcher. He was the 1999 American League MVP.

Rodriguez announced his retirement after 21 seasons as a player in April 2012. During spring training this year, he rejoined the Rangers as a special assistant to the general manager, including international scouting, player instruction on the major and minor league levels and talent evaluation.

In 1,507 career games with Texas, Rodriguez hit .304 with 217 homers and 842 RBIs. He ranks second in club history in hits (1747), doubles (352), and multi-hit games (490).

Baseball: Brookings Takes Two From Post 12

BROOKINGS — The Brookings Bandits swept an American Legion baseball doubleheader over Yankton Post 12 on Friday in Brookings. Brookings won by scores of 5-2 and 10-0.

In the first game, Brookings broke a 2-2 tie with three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Brad Ulmer and Kaleb Bromley both had one hit and one run scored, while Lane Sawatzke and Brady Hale added hits for Yankton. Sawatzke took the loss.

In the second game, Brookings pitcher Trevor Hornig struck out eight in a five-inning 6-hit shutout.

Mitch Gullikson was 2-3 for Yankton, while Ulmer, Andrew Hummel, Sawatzke and Hale all added a hit. Garrison Brockberg took the loss.

Yankton returns to action Tuesday for a 6 p.m. doubleheader with Mitchell at River-side Field.

VFW Teeners

SIoux FALLS — Sioux Falls West edged the Yankton Lakers 8-7 on Friday in the first day of action at at VFW Teener baseball tournament in Sioux Falls.

Nate Stephenson had two hits and two runs scored for Yankton, while Justin Leader also had two hits and one run scored. Jordan Kathol and Michael Heine both had a hit

and a run, while Nathan Hein had one hit and Tyler Strahl scored a run.

Hunter Cameron took the loss for the Lakers, who play at noon and 2 p.m. today (Saturday) in Sioux Falls.

Thursday SCL Crofton 3, Wynot 2

WYNOT, Neb. — Crofton scored two runs in the top of the fifth to take the lead and never let go, edging Wynot 3-2 in South Central League amateur baseball action on Thursday.

Crofton scored in the first inning, but Wynot took the lead with a two-run fourth. The Bluejays answered in the fifth, and both pitching staffs shut the door the rest of the way.

Alex Mueller, Scot Donner and Rand Thygeson each had a hit and a RBI for Crofton. Cody Wilken, Joe Wiebelhaus and Carl Schieffer also had hits in the victory.

Matt Hames had three hits and a RBI to lead Wynot. Scott Heimes had two hits and a RBI. Lee Heimes and Ryan Eskens added the other Wynot hits.

Trevor Arens pitched five innings to pick up the win. Thygeson struck out six over the final four innings for the save. Eric Hames took the loss.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Freeman Black Sox shortstop Austin Smidt, left, catches a pop fly and tries to avoid colliding with left fielder Jason Prouty during their South Central League amateur game Friday night in Tabor. Results of the game were not reported.

Familiar Names Highlight MLB Draft Day Two

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Mets found a familiar name during the second day of the Major League Baseball draft.

University of Connecticut infielder L.J. Mazzilli, son of Lee, was drafted by the Mets in the fourth round Friday — 40 years after the elder Mazzilli was a first-round pick of New York.

L.J. Mazzilli helped lead the Huskies to the Big East tournament title and an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament. He hit a team-best .354 with six home runs, 51 RBIs and 29 stolen bases.

The Yankees also went after famous bloodlines, drafting University of Michigan outfielder Michael O'Neill, nephew of Paul, in the third round.

"Congrats to my nephew Michael O'Neill," Paul O'Neill wrote on his Twitter page. "Drafted by the Yankees today!!!"

It's the second time Michael O'Neill was drafted by the Yankees after being selected by them in the 42nd round out of high school in 2010. He led the Wolverines in batting average (.356), slugging percentage (.498), on-base percentage (.396), runs scored (46), hits (85), doubles (17), home runs (5) and stolen bases (23) this season.

Coastal Carolina outfielder Jacob May, son of Lee May Jr. and grandson of Lee May, was also selected in the third round by the Chicago White Sox.

Northwestern right-hander Luke Farrell, son of Red Sox manager John Farrell, was drafted by