

NCAA: USD Student-Athletes Post High Marks

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

Twelve of 17 athletic programs at the University of South Dakota recorded a score of at least 975 in the latest 2011-12 Academic Progress Rate (APR), released Tuesday by the NCAA .

The annual report examines each team's academic success by tracking eligibility, retention and graduation rates, ending with the 2011-12 academic year. Teams that fail to achieve a score of 900 over a four-year period are subject to certain sanctions, such as practice restrictions and postseason bans.

USD's lowest score for any sport during 2011-12 was men's swimming at 942, followed by women's soccer (953), football (956), men's indoor track (968) and men's basketball (970).

Men's golf had a perfect score of 1000 and received the NCAA Public Recognition Award for the third consecutive year. The award is given to teams in the top 10 percent of the APR.

After men's golf, women's tennis was second highest at 991, followed by softball (987), women's golf (986), women's swimming (984) and women's outdoor track (983).

South Dakota State, meanwhile, had two teams record perfect scores of 1000 for the 2011-12 academic year, women's basketball and women's tennis. No sport were in danger of the 930 threshold, as men's swimming had the lowest score at 944.

For the 2011-12 year, USD would have been classified in the Great West Conference in the sport of football. By compar-

ing scores to the Missouri Valley Football Conference, though, which USD joined in 2012, the Coyotes would have been tied with their rival Jackrabbits for the top APR score at 956.

Other Missouri Valley Football Conference scores are as follows: Illinois State (953), North Dakota State (952), Northern Iowa (951), Western Illinois (951), Southern Illinois (949), Indiana State (940), Youngstown State (927) and Missouri State (923).

For men's basketball in the Summit League, SDSU ranks first with a score of 974. Other scores are as follows: USD (970), IUPUI (958), Kansas City (957), North Dakota State (957), Western Illinois (957), Oakland (949), Fort Wayne (930) and Omaha (917).

For women's basketball, SDSU led with

a perfect score of 1000. Oakland was second at 995, followed by North Dakota State (981), Omaha (979), Kansas City (978), South Dakota (978), Western Illinois (973), Fort Wayne (962) and IUPUI (950).

A total of 17 Summit League teams — including USD men's golf and SDSU women's basketball — posted perfect APR scores. They include: Eastern Illinois (men's swimming), Fort Wayne (women's golf), IUPUI (men's tennis, men's outdoor track, women's outdoor track), North Dakota State (men's golf, women's golf), Omaha (women's cross country, women's golf, women's tennis, women's indoor track, women's outdoor track), Oral Roberts (women's cross country) and Western Illinois (women's tennis, volleyball).

NCAA APR Again Hits Schools With Lesser Resources

BY ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
Associated Press

Eighteen Division I teams will miss the postseason, and another 18 in men's basketball and nine other college sports will trade practice time for remedial classroom sessions under NCAA academic progress reports released Tuesday.

Poor Academic Progress Rate scores mean postseason bans in the 2013-14 academic year for teams from 10 schools: Alabama State, Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Florida A&M, Florida International, Grambling State, Mississippi Valley State, New Orleans, Norfolk State, Savannah State and Southern. For Southern, its track team is ineligible for the postseason.

That compares to 15 teams ineligible for the 2012-13 postseason.

Five teams received Level 3 APR penalties, which can include financial aid reductions and multi-year postseason bans: the men's basketball teams at Grambling, Mississippi Valley, New Orleans and Louisiana-Monroe and Chicago State's women's volleyball team.

Most of the penalized schools have significantly more limited resources than top NCAA programs, including 11 historically black schools. Four of those banned are men's basketball squads from the 10-team Southwestern Athletic Conference.

The overall four-year APR score across Division I was 974, a one-point increase from last year. Scores are calculated by individual D-I teams based on eligibility and graduation and retention rates. A minimum four-year average score of 900, or 930 over the most recent two years, is required for postseason participation. The minimum required APR scores will increase to 930 over four years or 940 over two years, starting with the 2014-15 postseason. The cutoff is equivalent to a 50 percent graduation rate.

"If you can't graduate half your student-athletes, you shouldn't be worried about playing in championships or tournaments," said NCAA President Mark Emmert.

"There's more important things for you to be focused on."

Under the APR standards, the NCAA defines "limited resource" schools as those ranking in the bottom 15 percent in athletics spending. Those schools only have to earn a four-year APR of 910 for the 2014-15 postseason.

The squads losing postseason eligibility consist of six men's basketball teams; three football teams; two squads each in baseball, women's volleyball and men's indoor and outdoor track; and the New Orleans women's basketball team. Data for eight of the sanctioned teams remains under review, meaning the penalties could be reversed or lessened.

The ineligible men's basketball teams include Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Mississippi Valley State for a second consecutive year. Grambling and Alabama State are the other SWAC men's basketball teams that must also sit out the next postseason.

Overall, limited-resource schools in general and historically black colleges and universities in particular are narrowing the APR gap with the other D-I schools. The NCAA reported an 11-point gain among limited-resource schools and a 15-point gain among the HBCUs over the past two years.

A special NCAA fund provides supplemental financial assistance that allows low-performing schools to, among other options, hire more academic support workers or add space in computer labs. An NCAA pilot program provides six schools with an extra \$300,000 annually over three years for such added efforts.

USD, Vermillion Alum Brooks Named To VHS Girls' Helm

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Jon Brooks is coming home.

The 28-year-old Armour native and Vermillion High School graduate was approved at Monday night's school board meeting as the new head girls' basketball coach at VHS.

Brooks, a 2007 University of South Dakota graduate, has spent the last four years teaching at South Sioux City, Neb. He was a middle school boys' coach for one year and a varsity girls assistant coach for the last two seasons.

"It was a tough place to leave; they have a really nice program, but Vermillion is home for me," Brooks said Tuesday night.

"When the job came open, I was excited to try to get back here."

Brooks replaces former Vermillion coach Nick Mayer, who left after four seasons to take the head coaching position at Harrisburg.

In addition to his coaching duties, Brooks will also teach middle school technology in Vermillion and will serve as a varsity football assistant.

Making the move was a "win-win" for Brooks — who has been living in Vermillion and commuting every day to South Sioux City — and his wife, Amber, who works in Yankton.

"It's nice to get rid of that drive, and plus, I just wanted to be back here," he said.

In Vermillion, Brooks will take over a team that was 10-11 last season and lost in the first round of the district tournament — a year removed from a trip to the State Class A Tournament. The Tanagers graduated five seniors from last season as well.

Brooks will get a chance to meet his new players at a team meeting on Thursday, he said, though he does not come in completely unprepared.

"I know a little bit about the team," he said. "They lost a good group of seniors, so I know we'll be young. But I'm excited to get started."

Vermillion will also compete in an Augustana team camp next week, which will help him become even more familiar with his squad, Brooks said.

Following a trend with young Tanagers' girls coaches, Brooks becomes only the program's third head coach since 2002. Jamie Parish coached at VHS for seven seasons before Mayer assumed the position in 2009.

"I don't feel a lot of pressure, then," joked Brooks, who pointed to Mayer as aiding him in the transition.

"I know we'll have some good assistants coming back, so that will make the transition better."

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

M's Zunino First From '12 Draft Class In Majors

SEATTLE (AP) — Mike Zunino has become the first position player from the 2012 draft to reach the big leagues when the Seattle Mariners promoted the catcher from Triple-A Tacoma.

Zunino the third selection overall, was hitting .238 with 11 home runs and 43 RBIs for the Rainiers when he was called up Tuesday.

General Manager Jack Zduriencik said "we had a little bit of a later target date" for Zunino's arrival but the team was in a personnel bind. Backup catcher Jesus Sucre injured his hand June 4 and the club called up Double-A catcher Brandon Bantz as a short-term replacement.

Gullikson Powers Post 12 Past Mitchell



Yankton's Mitch Gullikson dives back to first base ahead of the throw to Mitchell first baseman Josh Schmidt during their American Legion baseball game on Tuesday at Yankton's Riverside Field. Gullikson finished with five hits as Yankton beat Mitchell 12-2.

Five-Hit Effort Powers Yankton To Win

Mitch Gullikson survived a rough start to score a game-high five hits, leading Yankton First Dakota Post 12 to a 12-2 victory over Mitchell in American Legion baseball action on Tuesday at Yankton's Riverside Field.

Gullikson, who collided with Mitchell first baseman Josh Schmidt during his first plate appearance, also drove in two runs on the day. Also for Yankton,

Brad Ulmer had three hits, including a double to lead off the game, and three runs scored. Andrew Hummel had three hits, two runs scored and two RBI. Austin Johnson also had three hits.

Kaleb Bromley had two hits and three RBI in the win.

Tanner Termansen went the distance in the eight-inning game, striking out five, for the win.

Yankton, 4-3 overall and 1-0 against region opponents, travels to Sioux Falls East today (Wednesday) for another region matchup. Start time is 6 p.m.

Tabor 12, Dakota Valley 2
TABOR — Kodi Larson homered and Tabor pitchers allowed just five hits in a 12-2 seven-inning American Legion victory

Monday night over Dakota Valley.

Mike Kocer doubled twice for Tabor (3-4), while Ross Kortan struck out five batters and allowed three hits to get the win.

Dillon Strickholm had two hits and Isaac Faldmo took the loss for Dakota Valley.

Tabor travels to Parkston today (Wednesday) for an 8 p.m. game.

Tar Heels Tip South Carolina For Final CWS Berth

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina carried a No. 1 ranking nearly all year along with the expectation of returning to the College World Series.

It turned out the top overall seed in the NCAA tournament would have to fight through all kinds of trouble — deficits, mistakes, bullpen-taxing games — to reach that goal.

Colin Moran hit an RBI triple in a three-run sixth inning and staff ace Kent Emanuel picked up his first career save by getting the final two outs to help UNC beat South Carolina 5-4 on Tuesday.

By winning the decisive third game of the weather-delayed super regional series, the Tar Heels (57-10) secured their sixth trip to Omaha in eight seasons.

It also capped a stressful two weekends of NCAA play, from a 13-inning comeback win against Florida Atlantic in the final game of the Chapel Hill Regional to the pair of one-run wins against the Gamecocks (43-20).

"It doesn't really matter how you get there," UNC coach Mike Fox said. "Baseball's a tough game, you never know how it's going to go. At the end of the day, we're going, so that's the most important thing."

Yet Fox has said all those moments have made a tough team even tougher — which explains how the Tar Heels managed to regroup after falling behind on a morale-killing two-run mistake in the fifth.

The Tar Heels went ahead for good in the sixth, then Emanuel — who had thrown 238 pitches in three NCAA tournament appearances — came on for a pair of one-pitch outs that sent the UNC players spilling out of the dugout and onto the field to celebrate.

"I think we just have a lot of confidence late in games," Moran said. "It kind of builds over time and it's hard not to be confident, no matter how much you're down after how much we've come back and how many times."

Reliever Trent Thornton (11-1) earned the

win, allowing one earned run over 4 2-3 innings as the Tar Heels tied a program record with their 57th victory.

North Carolina will see a familiar opponent in Omaha — the Tar Heels will open CWS play Sunday against instate and Atlantic Coast Conference rival North Carolina State. The last time the teams met, UNC won an 18-inning marathon on the way to the ACC tournament title over Memorial Day weekend.

South Carolina had won the national championship in 2010 and 2011, then finished second last year. The Gamecocks were back within a win of Omaha under first-year coach Chad Holbrook, a former UNC player who had also worked as an assistant under Fox.

UNC won Saturday's series opener 6-5, then South Carolina won Sunday's elimination game 8-0. But on a mistake-filled Tuesday for both teams, the Gamecocks will be left to wonder what-if after the sixth inning.

Softball: Lightning Sweep Past Wynot



Yankton Lightning catcher Brynn Albers tags out Wynot's Hannah Lauer at the plate during the opening game of their girls' softball doubleheader on Tuesday at Yankton's Riverside Park.

The Yankton Lightning swept Wynot in girls' softball action on Tuesday at Riverside Park, taking the opener 5-2 and the nightcap 14-0.

In the opener, Yankton's Ellen Andersen struck out five batters in four innings of shutout work and helped her cause with a hit and a RBI in helping lead the Lightning to victory.

Also for Yankton, Jenny Feilmeier had a triple and two RBI. Heather Hauer and Morgan Rothschadl added hits.

Rothschadl also struck out two in an inning of relief.

Kalyn Peterka, Brynn Albers and Feilmeier each doubled and singled to lead Yankton in the nightcap, with Peterka driving in three and Peterka and Albers driving in one each.

Abby Bartlett had a double and a RBI, and Bailey Kortan, Julie DeWitt, Hauer and Rothschadl each had a hit and a RBI. Andersen drove in a run in the victory.

Peterka struck out two in two innings of work for the win. Kortan pitched an inning of relief.

The Lightning play at Norfolk on Thursday.