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SPORTS DEPARTMENT





Where Will

**Iverson Land?** 











IMBERWOLVE







# Yankton Native Patiently Awaits NBA Draft Call



y the end of this week, Colton Iverson will have celebrated his 24th birthday.

There is also a rather good chance he will be an NBA player.

Iverson, a 2008 Yankton High School graduate and first team All-Mountain West Conference player

There have many steps along the way for Iverson, a 7-foot, 263-pound center. He spent three seasons at Minnesota (2008-11), shifting between reserve to infrequent starter, and transferred to Colorado State for a redshirt season in 2011-12 and a standout senior campaign in 2012-13.

After leading CSU into the NCAA Tour-nament this spring, Iverson shifted his at-tention to the NBA Draft. He worked out with Impact Basketball in Las Vegas before emerging as a legitimate prospect in last month's NBA Draft Combine in Chicago.

"It's very enjoyable when you think about the payoff you could get," he said. "I'm loving every minute of it, traveling around the country, working out in different facilities. I'm definitely taking full advantage of it."

By the end of this past weekend, Iverson had worked out for 18 NBA teams: Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Den

as a senior for Colorado State, is nearing the end of a roller coaster journey that has him days from a potential professional career — one that was once considered unlikely.

"It makes you pretty anxious wanting to get there, but you want to enjoy every step of the way," he said last week during a stop in Portland, Ore., one of the final stops before the NBA Draft on Thursday.



ver, Houston, Indiana, Los Angeles (Lakers and Clippers), Memphis, Minnesota, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, San Antonio and Utah.

His agent, Adam Pensack of Pensack Sports Management Group in San Fran-cisco, Calif., said Iverson might still be brought in for other workouts right up until Thursday night.

"When I first spoke with Colton's family about him and about his future, he wasn't in their top 100 seniors," Pensack said last week. "Not on the list anywhere."

In a matter of three months, Iverson has vaulted himself to No. 43 on the website's list of top 100 prospects, according to the updated rankings on June 17. He is also the 12th-ranked senior — Pensack said an average of 20 seniors each year get drafted.

"It's been a meteoric rise," Pensack said. "Nobody has risen more than Colton during this process.

Iverson's projected ranking of No. 43 by DraftExpress.com would have him going to the Milwaukee Bucks. And in the most re-

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Story By Jeremy Hoeck • jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net - Basketball Illustration By James D. Cimburek

## Swimmers, Coaches Like New Format At Yankton Invite

#### **BY JEREMY HOECK**

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Though the overall number of swimmers was down, the 50th annual Yankton Charity Invitational has found success with its new format, according to coaches, athletes and officials.

In the second year using preliminaries and finals for each event, the two-day youth meet — co-hosted by the Yankton Swim Team (YST) and Vermillion Area Swim Team brought in around 200 swimmers from 14 teams in four different states. The modifications were met with open arms, according to Brian McGinnis, president of YST.

"A lot of the faster swimmers will come to something like this," said McGinnis, who pointed to Pierre only bringing a handful of kids — but that team's top-end swimmers.

"They like this competitive setup," he added. "It makes for

also but we're here to provide the best 🔳 A Photo experience Spread From for these The Meet Can kids." Be Found On.

longer days,

In previ-PAGE 4B ous years, the meet had two big

sessions for 11 & under and older divisions on Friday night and all day Saturday. Last year, however, officials made the decision to use a Saturday-Sunday setup, split the divisions apart and give swimmers two chances in each event - rather than final places based on prelim times.

McGinnis said the YST board will reevaluate its format prior to next year's meet, but said that if swimmers prefer the prelims/finals setup, it will remain.

The total number of swimmers this year was down by 25, McGinnis said, though there

were outside factors that played a role. Huron also had a meet this weekend to commemorate the opening of its new pool. And last year's Yankton Invitational was helped by the addition of a handful of swimmers who came to town on their way to the Olympic swim trials in Omaha, Neb.

'Overall, it was very nice outside; the weather finally cooperated for us," McGinnis said.

Also at the meet were swimmers from Aberdeen, Brookings, Mitchell, Pierre, Sioux Falls Seals, Sioux Falls Snowfox, Watertown, Sioux City (Iowa) Seahawks, Sioux City (lowa) Mariners, Siouxland Sharks (Iowa), Norfolk (Neb.) and Southwest Swim Club (Minn.). The first place team at the

meet was awarded a \$300 prize to donate to a charity of its choosing, while second and

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Madisyn Bietz, near, gets off to a fast start in her heat of the girls' 9-10 year-old 50meter backstroke at the Yankton Charity Invitational swim meet on Sunday at Yankton's Memorial Park pool.