

# SDHSAA Starts Panel To Suggest Tourney Locations

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Following complaints in recent months about the criteria and the methods for choosing locations for state competitions, the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors took a step in response Wednesday.

They named athletic directors from five school districts to a new site-selection committee. In addition, three of the association's elected directors will be appointed to the panel at the board's next meeting Aug. 28.

Those eight will convene twice each school year and make recommendations to the association's full board. The board wants the committee to hold its first meeting before Oc-

tober.

The committee's first round of recommendations would be for the 2018-2019 school year. The association works years in advance on its competitions and events schedules.

The board reviewed the 2017-2018 alignments Wednesday without meeting any resistance from school district officials or community representatives.

The three association directors who will serve aren't clear yet.

Two elections for seats on the board are in run-offs, and four of the board's eight directors will start serving their terms at the Aug. 28 meeting. Directors are allowed to serve one term.

The five men selected to site-selection panel Wednesday come with long

experience in managing state events. They are Mark Meile of Sioux Falls, Darren Paulson of Rapid City, Gene Brownell of Aberdeen, Terry Rotert of Huron and Randy Marso of Brandon Valley.

Paulson is the current chairman of the association's board. His term expires this summer. "We have lots of data," Paulson said about the resources that will be available to the committee.

The association board chose the five committee members based on the total numbers of state-level competitions and events their communities hosted in the 2013-2014 school year and the next three school years.

Sioux Falls has 29, Rapid City 22, Aberdeen 14, Huron 11 and Brandon nine, followed by Mitchell eight, Wa-

tertown seven, Brookings five, Spearfish three and Yankton two.

Venues also were changed Wednesday for a handful of events in coming years because of complications in the locations that had been previously chosen.

Aberdeen will host the 2015-2016 state debate competition after Rapid City officials requested they be allowed to withdraw.

Rapid City also gave up the 2016-2017 gymnastics state championships because a new site requirement of space for two vaulting areas couldn't be met. That meet will move to Aberdeen.

Aberdeen also was selected to host the Oct. 5-6, 2017, state soccer championships.

## Football Tickets Will Help Prep Teams Pay For Playoff Travel

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The \$1 increases in ticket prices passed last year will remain for the playoff rounds of high school football in South Dakota this fall. But this time the revenue will be designated to directly help the high schools.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors made the decision Wednesday.

Student tickets will be \$5 and adult tickets will be \$7 for football playoff games except state championships. Football championship ticket prices will remain at \$8 for students and \$13 for adults.

High schools would use revenue from the additional \$1 from the sub-state football tickets to help offset travel expenses, according to John Krogstrand, an assistant executive director for the association.

The vote was 4-1 among the directors present. Director Dan Whalen of Pierre opposed the change because of the recent backlash over ticket prices.

Last summer the board raised most sub-state ticket prices to \$5 for students and \$7 for adults and later designated \$1 from each ticket to go into the association's foundation account.

The board rescinded the foundation dollar in January after strong opposition came from school officials throughout South Dakota.

The extra dollar won't apply to other sports. For example, volleyball playoff ticket prices will stay at \$4 for students and \$6 for adults.

Foreign students: The board adopted a policy setting athletic eligibility requirements for international students attending schools in South Dakota.

The six pages will be added to the SDHSAA handbook.

Among the criteria, a school or anyone associated with the school can't have selected the student; the student can't have already graduated from high school overseas and can't have attended another U.S. school; and the student must have a J-1 or F-1 visa.

A student at Mitchell Christian High School has an F-1 visa that allows him to stay beyond one year. There is dispute whether the new policy applies to him.

Chairman Darren Paulson of Rapid City stopped the discussion Wednesday. He said the policy issue needed to be decided first and the student's situation should be handled through the normal appeals process.

"That's what we have to do in this case, like it or not," Paulson said.

Wayne Carney, SDHSAA executive director, said "a lot of red flags went up" when he received information that an organization known as A-HOPE was seeking to place basketball players from Africa at Mitchell Christian.

A-HOPE stands for African Hoop Opportunities Providing an Education. The current

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## USD Ground Breaking

# 'Vision' Coming Into Focus

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — Amy Williams is all too familiar with using words like 'someday' and 'future' when it comes to long-term projects.

Rogers State (Oklahoma) University launched its women's basketball program in 2007 and Williams was its first head coach. In everything she told recruits and fans, 'down the line' was a popular phrase.

Now the head coach at the University of South Dakota, Williams can give recruits a concrete idea of when the new basketball/volleyball arena in Vermillion will break ground.

Next Tuesday at 1:45 p.m. "Those first recruits at Rogers State I was taking around our gym, we were avoiding broken glass and saying, 'Some day this will be our locker room,'" Williams said from her DakotaDome office on Wednesday, shortly after USD officially announced the groundbreaking ceremony.

"I used the word 'vision' a lot back then, and it's the same thing now. You try to share your vision of what's coming."

In front of media and Coyote supporters, dirt will ceremonially be moved for USD's athletic facility projects, which total \$66 million: A 6,000-seat arena, a Health, Science and Research connector building, and an outdoor track and soccer complex.

Physically seeing actual progress on the long-awaited endeavors will signal a much-needed step in the right direction, according to athletic director David Herbster.

"For me, it was always going to happen," he said Wednesday from his office.

Yes, the initial target date



A drawing, looking from the southeast, of what the new arena will look like at the University of South Dakota.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



The wooden bleachers on the west end of the DakotaDome have been removed to make way for new bleachers that will be fully installed by the end of July.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

## New Student Bleachers Among Other Projects Underway At USD

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — While ground will officially be broken next Tuesday for three major athletic facility projects at the University of South Dakota, work is already being done inside the DakotaDome on a number of other planned endeavors.

The first of which, and most visible, is the removal of the wooden student section bleachers on the west end of the dome.

Last month, USD removed the bleachers — which were over 30 years old, there since the dome opened — and will install new aluminum bleachers by the end of July.

The main reason? Safety and gameday management, according to athletic director

David Herbster.

"Getting students in and out of here was problematic, so it was a flow problem," Herbster said. "Nobody was in danger, but when it's that old, it doesn't show the wear you might imagine."

The previous bleachers provided only two entry and exit points for students, extra fans and band members. The new bleachers, however, will feature six such points — two on each side like usual, two on the upper level, and two in the back.

The new setup will be as high as the previous bleachers, reaching to the weight room and volleyball court level. Students can now, however, walk up to that level and then walk down aisles to their seats.

"In the big scheme, we don't really lose that much seating, because we're gaining more up top," Herbster said.

The new aluminum bleachers will have a red plastic cover

### video

■ Hear What USD's David Herbster Says About The New Bleachers.  
[yankton.net](http://yankton.net)

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## Baseball: Parkston Rallies Past Reds; Lakers Earn Split

PARKSTON — Parkston scored five runs in the final inning to rally past the Yankton Reds 10-6 in a VFW Teener baseball game Wednesday in Parkston.

Levi Wiersma had three hits for the Reds (6-6), while Ethan Wishon had two hits and one RBI. Michael Drotzmann and Owen Feser both added one hit and an RBI, and Rex Ryken had a hit.

Yankton will play in the Bob Deery Wood Bat Classic this weekend.

### Lakers 8-4, Renner 2-5

Caid Koletzky totaled four hits as the Yankton Lakers split a baseball doubleheader with Renner on Tuesday at Riverside Field.

Yankton won the opener 8-2, but Renner won game two 5-4 in eight innings.

In game one, Trey Bakke was 2-4 with four RBI for the Lakers, while Garrett Tennant was 2-4 with two RBI. Koletzky had two hits, drove in a run and scored twice, and Miles Carda and Isiah Woods both added one hit.

Jack Schoenfelder picked up the win and was relieved by Oakley Palmer.

In game two, Kellen Franzen had the game-tying RBI single in the bottom of the seventh. Koletzky and Nate Eihacker both had two hits, while Carda, Bakke, Tennant and Palmer all had one hit.

Carter Peterson pitched five in-

nings and Jackson Somsen took the loss in relief.

Yankton will compete in the Bob Deery Wood Bat Classic this weekend.

### Amateurs

#### Menno 12, Scotland 3

SCOTLAND — Jay Thaler struck out 13 in a complete game two-hitter for the Menno Mad Frogs in a 12-3 South Central League victory Tuesday night in Scotland.

Ryan Liebl and Macon Oplinger both had three hits for Menno, while Tyler Miller added a pair of hits. Thaler gave up three runs on two hits with six walks.

For Scotland, Shawn Kocourek took

the loss, while Michael Kronaizl and Joe Kronaizl had the only hits.

### American Legion

#### Platte 2, Tabor 1

PLATTE — Coledon Elmers had two hits to lead Platte past Tabor 2-1 in a 10-inning American Legion baseball game played Tuesday night in Platte.

Colby Johnson pitched four innings in the win, while Richard Sternberg went three innings and Seth Kirsch went two for the victory.

Tabor was held to singles by Cole Uecker, Andrew Roland and Zach Sutera. Austin Kaul allowed six hits in nine innings with five strikeouts, while Ross Kortan pitched the 10th.

## Rangers Win 2-1, Remain Alive For Stanley Cup

NEW YORK (AP) — The champagne the Los Angeles Kings had ready for a coronation stayed in boxes. The New York Rangers suddenly have some life in the Stanley Cup finals.

Henrik Lundqvist made 40 saves and had the Madison Square Garden crowd chanting his name in the Rangers' 2-1 victory in Game 4 that kept the Los Angeles Kings from sweeping them on Wednesday night.

Benoit Pouliot and Martin St. Louis each scored for the Rangers, who kept the Kings at bay. Los Angeles leads the series 3-1 and will get its second shot to claim the Cup for the second time in three years Friday night at home.

Los Angeles hoped to become the first team since 1998 to complete a sweep in the finals. Now the Rangers will try

to become the second team to erase a 3-0 hole in the finals and go on to win the Cup. The Kings had that kind of comeback in the first round against San Jose.

"It's not impossible," Lundqvist said. "They've done it."

Twice Los Angeles put the puck on the goal line, but couldn't get it all the way across. The last came with 1:11 left in the game when Rangers forward Derek Stepan pushed the puck out of danger in the crease after it got behind Lundqvist.

Pouliot scored 7:25 into the first period and St. Louis added a goal in the second for the Rangers. New York squandered multiple two-goal advantages in losing the first two games in overtime in Los Angeles.

Not this time.



Los Angeles Kings goalie Jonathan Quick (32) makes a save against the New York Rangers' Marc Staal in the first period of Game 4 in the Stanley Cup Finals at Madison Square Garden in New York on Wednesday.

WALLY SKALJ/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

## Spitfire Record Split

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Yankton Spitfire traveled to Norfolk, Nebraska for the second time in four days and came away with a doubleheader split with the Norfolk Impact in girls' softball action Wednesday.

Yankton won the opener 12-7 and Norfolk won the second game 14-5.

In the first game for the Spitfire, Jaclyn Arens struck out three batters to get the win in the pitching circle, and also added a two-run double and a single.

Karlee Kozak doubled, singled twice and drove in two runs, while Bailey Kortan and Brooke Loecker both added two RBI. Jessica Wirth singled twice, and Sophie Drotzmann and Liz Suing both had one hit.

In the second game for Yankton, Kozak tripled, doubled and drove in three runs. Arens singled twice and had one RBI, and Kortan and Drotzmann both singled. Kortan struck out three in the loss.

The Spitfire will host the Wayne Dirt Devils tonight (Thursday).