

# U.S. Women's Open: 11-Year-Old Qualifier Just Wants To Have Fun



JEFF SINER/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT  
**Lucy Li, 11, answers questions from the media during a press conference for the U.S. Women's Open Championship at Pinehurst No. 2 on Tuesday in Pinehurst, N.C.**

PINEHURST, N.C. (AP) — With giggles and plenty of giggles, Lucy Li just wants to have fun like any 11-year-old girl.

Except that she's playing the biggest event in women's golf.

Li, a sixth-grader from the Bay Area who doesn't appear to be the least bit overwhelmed by the attention around her, became the youngest qualifier in U.S. Women's Open history when she shot 68 at Half Moon Bay last month to win her sectional by seven shots.

She celebrated by having dinner at her favorite restaurant and watching "The Amazing Spiderman 2."

Now it's time for the amazing Lucy Li show.

"She looks so darn cute," said Michelle Wie, who didn't make it to her first Women's Open until she was 13. "I was like, 'I don't think I looked that cute when I was 11.' But she just looks so ex-

cited, so wide-eyed. ... And I'm just really so excited for her to be out. It's a memory that will last her a lifetime. What other 11-year-old can say that they played in the U.S. Open at Pinehurst? And she got to see the men play, too."

Life is moving at warp speed for little Lucy Li.

She only became serious about golf four years ago when she set up shop in Miami to work with Jim McLean. Just two months ago, the precocious 11-year-old with a mouth full of braces won her age division in the inaugural Drive, Chip and Putt Championship at Augusta National. And now she's at Pinehurst No. 2, ready to take on the course where Martin Kaymer won the U.S. Open on Sunday.

"It's awesome, right?" she said. "I mean, Pinehurst and Augusta National in like two months. I mean, that's just

amazing. It's mind-blowing for me. It's been awesome, because it's been ... I mean, the food is great and it's been a lot of fun. I've made a lot of friends."

There's something about U.S. Women's Open in the North Carolina sandhills that attracts all the kids.

Morgan Pressel qualified when she was 12 and had just turned 13 when the Women's Open was down the street at Pine Needles in 2001 (Li wasn't even born then). Lexi Thompson qualified and played at 12 when it returned to Pine Needles in 2007.

Too young? Both went on to win major championships.

"Look, if you're good enough, you're old enough — or young enough, whichever way you look at it," Laura Davies said. "If you can play the golf and you can qualify, then have a go. What's

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## SPORTS DIGEST

### Laurel-Concord-Coleridge's Dietrich Headed To Wayne State

WAYNE, Neb. — Wayne State College women's track and field coach Marlon Brink announced on Tuesday that Kelsey Dietrich of Laurel, Nebraska, and Siera Zach of Stanton will attend Wayne State College in the 2014-15 school year and compete for the Wildcats. They join Shandan Platt of Ainsworth and Kacie O'Connor of Sundance, Wyoming as members of the 2015 recruiting class.

"It is important for our team to sign some of these good, local Northeast Nebraska athletes," said Coach Brink. "They have been an important part of our team's success over the years."

Kelsey Dietrich of Laurel-Concord-Coleridge High School scored points in four events last month at the Class C State Track Meet to help Laurel-Concord-Coleridge to a ninth place finish. She was second in the 100 meter hurdles (15.76) and sixth in the 300 meter hurdles (47.00) while running legs on the sixth place 400 meter relay and seventh place 1600 meter relay teams. Dietrich also competed in four events at state as a junior and was a state qualifier in the 100 and 300 hurdles as a sophomore.

Dietrich was also an All-Lewis and Clark Conference selection in volleyball as a senior and excels in the classroom, earning Lincoln Journal Star and NSAA Academic All-State honors in track and field and volleyball during her junior and senior seasons.

"Kelsey is a very good hurdler who is really starting to understand the races and how to attack the hurdles and run them at a very high level," commented Brink. "She is a versatile athlete and will be able to help our team immediately and should be able to be competitive in the NSIC."

Siera Zach of Stanton High School comes to Wayne State as a preferred walk-on. She was a four year Class C state track qualifier for the Mustangs, placing seventh this season in the 100 meter hurdles (16.52) while also running a leg on the fifth place 4 x 100 meter relay team. Zach qualified for state in the 100 meter hurdles all four years in high school and was a state qualifier in the 300 meter hurdles and pole vault.

### SDHSCA Honors Announced

ST. LOUIS — The South Dakota High School Coaches Association announced its Coach of the Year Awards for the Spring of 2014.

Mick Hoglund of Dell Rapids won boys' golf honors, with Billie Jo Indahl of Burke-South Central honored for girls' golf. Mitchell's Pat Moller earned boys' tennis honors. Bob Garry of Sioux Falls Christian and Jim Jarovski of Sioux Falls Lincoln claimed girls' and boys' track and field honors.

These coaches will be recognized at the annual awards banquet to be held in Aberdeen on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 in conjunction with the summer coaches' clinic.

Tyler Hockett of Parkston was a finalist for both boys' and girls' golf honors, after winning girls' honors a year ago. Parker's Phil Bjorneberg and Freeman's Rory Hermsen were finalists for boys' track and field honors. Irene-Wakonda's Brent Mutchelknaus was a finalist for girls' track and field honors.

### Coyote Football Nets 35 Academic Award Winners

VERMILLION — South Dakota's football team had 35 student-athletes named 2013-14 Missouri Valley Football academic award winners announced Tuesday by the conference office.

Of those 35, three — Kyle Cichos, Marcus Murtha and Josh Vander Maten — earned the league's highest academic achievement by capturing the MVFC President's Council Academic Excellence Award, which requires a 3.5 cumulative grade point average (through Fall 2013 semester) and participation in athletics a minimum of two years. The student-athlete must also be within 18 hours of graduation.

Seven Coyotes, including Cichos,

Murtha and Vander Maten, earned the Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award, which requires a minimum GPA of 3.2 for the previous two semesters (freshmen are not eligible). Kayl Barkley, Ryan Hillier, Ben Kramer and Matthew Miller were included in that distinction.

Those who recorded a minimum 3.0 GPA for the 2013 fall semester while having a minimum of 12 hours of enrollment qualified for the MVFC Honor Roll. Thirty-four Coyotes earned that distinction: Ryan Alger, William Armstead; Kayl Barkley; Fred Beaugard; Miles Berger; Trevor Bouma; Sam Cooke; Riley Donovan; Spencer Fox; Jackson Gannon; Benjamin Gardner; Sean Glenn; Ryan Hillier; Adam Juhl; Ed Kennedy; Kiefer Ketelhut; Austin Koch; Ben Kramer; Taylor Lambert; Mike Meinert; Colin Mertlik; Nick Meyer; Matthew Miller; Jet Moreland; Marcus Murtha; Aaron Ramsey; Graham Resseguie; Jordan Roberts; Andrew Schofield; Brandt Van Roekel; Josh Vander Maten; John Wessel; Tyler Wilhelm; and Luke Worden.

### North Dakota To Play Colorado In Preseason WNIT

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — The University of North Dakota women's basketball team will play Colorado in the first round of the Preseason Women's National Invitational Tournament in November.

The bracket for the Preseason Women's NIT was announced Tuesday. Colorado will host UND on Nov. 15.

UND is the defending Big Sky regular season and tournament champion. The team last season advanced to its first NCAA Division I Tournament.

UND is the first Big Sky Conference member to participate in the Preseason WNIT since 2009. Other teams competing are Albany, Arkansas State, Central Arkansas, Eastern Kentucky, Jackson State, Mercer, Mississippi State, Penn State, Rider, Seton Hall, St. Francis Brooklyn, Towson, West Virginia, and Western Kentucky.

The tournament is formatted to give all teams a three-game guarantee. The championship is set for Nov. 23.

### Van Dyken-Rouen Taking Next Step In Her Recovery

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Olympic swimmer Amy Van Dyken-Rouen is transferring to a Colorado hospital to continue rehabilitation from injuries she suffered in an all-terrain vehicle accident two weeks ago.

Van Dyken-Rouen will take a medical flight from Scottsdale to Denver on Wednesday so she can rehab at Craig Hospital, which specializes in spine injuries.

The six-time gold medalist severed her spinal cord and broke several ribs in the June 6 ATV crash near Show Low. She had no feeling in her legs and feet after the accident, and said last week that she is still paralyzed.

Van Dyken-Rouen was the first American woman to win four gold medals in one games at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and won two more at Sydney four years later before retiring from competition.

### White Still Mourning Loss Of Brother

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP) — Roddy White promises to give his teammates the spotlight when the Atlanta Falcons star in HBO's "Hard Knocks" series during training camp.

For the opening day of minicamp, however, White was the star. And the director. And the reporter.

White ushered receiver Julio Jones into a swarm of media and took control of the scene, asking and answering questions.

After saying he was held out of Tuesday's drills for "precautionary" reasons, White asked Jones a question. He allowed time for a two-sentence response, and then proclaimed "All right, back to Roddy!"

Sorry, Julio.

The humor is comfort for White following his most difficult season and a tragic offseason. His family was devastated when his younger brother, 21-year-old Tyrone Moore Jr., was shot and killed last month outside a South Carolina nightclub.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
**Dignitaries, including S.D. governor Dennis Daugaard (left of center), USD president Jim Abbott (right of center) and USD athletic director David Herbst (second from right), turn over the first shovels of dirt Tuesday afternoon near the DakotaDome in Vermillion to mark the ground-breaking for USD's \$66 million facilities project.**

## USD

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while the women's team played in front of an average of 1,398 fans over 13 games.

"Hopefully I'll get to play at least a year or two in it," joked Crofton, Nebraska native Bridget Arens, an upcoming sophomore for the women's basketball team.

A new home for basketball — and volleyball — was much needed on USD's athletic landscape, according to Abbott. He pointed out that the DakotaDome was built in 1979 for \$8.2 million.

"It's important to remember, with the dome itself for basketball, that was a bit of a compromise," Abbott said. "When they started planning it, they wanted two separate facilities."

"It just wasn't monetarily possible, but now it is."

Football will remain in the DakotaDome, and will eventually see increased seating (that's another phase of USD's athletic master plan), but it's been basketball and volleyball that have suffered since the dome opened, as Daugaard pointed out on a couple of occasions.

The governor said the DakotaDome has been the "central location" for high school football championships in South Dakota — that it's "every kid's dream to become a football champion here."

On the other hand, the dome has been "less than ideal" for basketball and volleyball, he added.

"It's just too cavernous," he told the Press & Dakotan. "To have an area that is designed for those sports, and will arrange the crowd in

such a way that they're close to the action, it's just a great day at USD."

Even in the short-term, before the arena officially opens in two years.

Athletic director David Herbst put it this way: Certain coaches likely wouldn't be at USD without such projects.

"I can tell you, we wouldn't have attracted coaches like Amy Williams or Craig Smith without the vision of this program in place," he said.

"It's one thing to see the picture — and you can see their eyes open up — but that's secondary to walking through the door, and touching it and playing in it."

The first bid packages for the track and soccer complex will go out by the end of this week, Herbst said. Then comes the second bid package, for the excavation and

earth work for the arena the following week.

The actual work on the arena will begin at the end of July, Herbst said.

As far as volleyball is concerned, the program is looking forward to boosting its home atmosphere, head coach Leanne Williamson said.

The Coyotes, who used to play their home matches on the DakotaDome floor, have spent the last two seasons playing at the 'Coyote Den' on the dome's upper level.

"We love our den, and we love playing up there," Williamson said. "It's loud, it's a great environment, but having a new arena will bring a sense of pride for our program."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## Ex Bears QB Jim McMahon Opens Up About Dementia

CHICAGO (AP) — Jim McMahon would leave home and forget how to get back.

Sometimes, he would stay in his room and lie on his back in the dark because the pain in his head was so excruciating. At his darkest moments a few years ago, when it was just about too much to handle, the former Chicago Bears quarterback thought about killing himself.

"I am glad I don't have any weapons in my house or else I am pretty sure I wouldn't be here," McMahon said. "It got to be that bad."

McMahon opened up about his struggles with early onset dementia and depression in a gathering with a small group of reporters on Tuesday, issues he believes were brought on by the beating he absorbed playing football. He is scheduled to be honored Wednesday in Chicago by the Sports Legacy Institute, a Boston University-based group that has been

studying the effects of brain trauma in athletes and others.

While his suicidal thoughts are a thing of the past thanks to treatment that drains spinal fluid from his brain, the fight with dementia continues. The "punky QB" who once helped the Bears shuffle their way to a championship is also digging in for another battle, one that could have major consequences for the NFL.

McMahon is one of several players identified by name in a federal lawsuit filed in California last month accusing teams of illegally dispensing powerful narcotics and other drugs to keep players on the field without regard for their long-term health.

He also is part of a class-action lawsuit in which the NFL agreed to a \$765 million settlement without acknowledging it hid the risks of concussions from former

players. A federal judge has yet to approve the settlement, expressing concern the amount is too small.

While McMahon wouldn't discuss the most recent suit, he did talk about the troubles he has faced in recent years, issues he believes took root when he was getting battered on the field.

McMahon said he had three to five diagnosed concussions and who knows how many more that went undiagnosed. That's in addition to injuries to the kidney, broken ribs, an addiction to painkillers and a broken neck that he said team doctors and trainers never told him about.

He found out about five years ago, when he went for X-rays and an MRI. Doctors told him he had broken his neck at some point, and McMahon believes it happened with the Minnesota Vikings during the 1993 season, when he got sandwiched by two Giants defenders in a playoff game at New York.

Nearly broken in two, McMahon couldn't move his

legs at first. He eventually headed to the sideline after about 10 minutes. He didn't stay there long.

He said he went back in — "like an idiot" — and a defender trying to block a pass grazed his head. McMahon's legs went numb again and he left the game.

McMahon said the doctor asked him afterward how he felt but did not examine him. He said there's "no doubt about it," the team knew his neck was broken.

A message was left Tuesday seeking comment from the Vikings.

The dementia diagnosis came five years ago, after McMahon was having trouble remembering the most basic stuff.

He would meet someone and forget their name. For that matter, he had trouble remembering the names of people he knew for years.

That wasn't all. He'd go out and forget the way home, so he would call

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## World Cup

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Besler, like Altidore, went for an MRI. The defender felt soreness in his right leg late in the first half and was replaced by Brooks for the start of the second.

"Matt is no problem. All fine for the next game," Klinsmann said.

Bedoya was hobbling before Zusi replaced him in the 77th minute. He said he had a hip pointer, the reoccurrence of an old injury, then also cramped up in his hamstring.

Portugal also has injury issues and will have to change the right side of its defense. Pepe was ejected in Mon-

day's 4-0 loss to Germany after he appeared to head butt Thomas Mueller. Right back Fabio Coentrao was taken off on a stretcher and forward Hugo Almeida limped off. Coentrao is out for the tournament.

The U.S won its World Cup opener for only the third time in 10 tries, following a 3-0 victory over Belgium in 1930 and a 3-2 win against Portugal in 2002. The Americans advanced to the semifinals in 1930 and the quarterfinals in 2002.

If the U.S. ties fourth-ranked Portugal and No. 2 Germany defeats Ghana, the Americans would head to their third match in prime position to advance. If the Americans and Germans win, the U.S. clinches with a game

to spare.

After delaying training by 45 minutes to wait out a huge traffic jam caused by Brazilians rushing home to watch the Selecao play Mexico, American subs practiced at Sao Paulo Futebol Clube's Barra Funda complex Tues-

day. Those who saw significant time Monday worked in the weight room and swimming pool. Klinsmann was thinking of giving players a day off Wednesday.

"Our bodies are banged up a bit," Bedoya said.

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## Independence Day Deadlines

**The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Friday, July 4th, for the Independence Day holiday.**

The following deadlines will apply:

Saturday, July 5 newspaper — 5 p.m.,	Tuesday, July 1
Monday, July 7 newspaper — 5 p.m.,	Tuesday, July 1
Tuesday, July 8 newspaper — 5 p.m.,	Wednesday, July 2
Out On The Town, July 8 & 10 — 5 p.m.,	Wednesday, July 2
Wednesday, July 9 newspaper — 5 p.m.,	Thursday, July 3

**There will be no newspaper on Friday, July 4, 2014.**

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