

# Seitzinger Returns Home, Signs With MMC

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Jackson Seitzinger is familiar with challenges on the basketball floor.

The 2012 Yankton High School graduate spent two seasons at Minnesota West Community College, helping lead a team that had not made its conference tournament in a decade to consecutive appearances.

Now, the 20-year-old Seitzinger has eyes on doing the same thing in his hometown at Mount Marty College.

"I know it's the start of a rebuilding process there, they want to get the program back to winning," said Seitzinger, who is transferring to MMC for his final two seasons, the school announced Wednesday. "Hopefully we can do that."

Seitzinger, a 6-foot-2 guard, averaged 14 points, 4.3 rebounds and



Seitzinger

3.1 assists last season for Minnesota West, which won 19 games. He will join Mount Marty for the 2014-15 season with junior eligibility.

In the same release on Wednesday, MMC also announced the signing of Geoffrey Dunker, a guard from Brush, Colorado — adding to a recruiting class heavy on South Dakota names.

Mount Marty head coach Andrew Baker says his recruiting philosophy is simple: "You've got to own the state."

The second-year men's basketball coach said his main goal is to look at local and area athletes, and branch out from there when necessary.

Seitzinger and Dunker join a 2014 MMC recruiting class that already includes a number of area



Dunker

players — Seamus O'Malley (Centerville), Jake Anderson (Parker), Jalen Hurley (Parkston), as well as Cody Willett (Canton) and Deric Denning (Mount Vernon).

The conversation with Seitzinger, in particular, began last summer shortly after Baker was promoted.

"We talked about him eventually coming here, but it wasn't the best fit for him last season," Baker said Wednesday. "It was better for him anyway to get another year of experience."

While getting one more season with Minnesota West, Seitzinger said he was able to play against guys who later signed with Division I and D-II programs.

"It really helped me out a lot," he said. "Getting more of a feel for the

game, that was a big thing."

So was returning to Yankton, Seitzinger added, joking that his parents won't have to travel two hours to watch him play a home game.

"He's comfortable with coming back home, and he wants an education degree," Baker said. "But he'll help us hopefully right away."

Particularly in Mount Marty's motion offense under Baker, Seitzinger added. Last season at Minnesota West, Seitzinger shot 43 percent from the floor, including 37 percent from long range.

"In high school, I was pretty much a mid-range guy, but the coaches (at West) helped me with my three-point shot," he said.

"Coach Baker said we're going to try to get out in transition more, so I think that should help me."

Not only is the goal with recruiting regional faces to obviously contend in the Great Plains Athletic Conference, MMC can potentially

generate more excitement within the fan base, Baker said.

"It's great for the program, great to get local kids, to have people see these kids," he said.

"And getting a Yankton kid is great for everyone, the high school program, the community, and hopefully some more people come out to watch."

And if Seitzinger and his new teammates have their way, the Lancers will dramatically improve on a 4-win season in 2013-14, Seitzinger said.

"I know the GPAC is always one of the best NAIA conferences in the country, so we'll all need as much time together in the summer as we can get," he said. "We want to get our chemistry down now and start rolling when the season starts."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

## Lincecum No-Hits Padres Again

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Tim Lincecum pitched his second no-hitter against the San Diego Padres in less than a year, allowing only one runner Wednesday and leading the San Francisco Giants to a 4-0 win.

Lincecum totally shut down the weakest-hitting team in the majors, striking out six and walking one.

"I didn't feel like my stuff was great," he said.

No matter, Lincecum retired the final 23 batters after walking Chase Headley in the second inning. Though the Padres hit a few balls hard, San Francisco fielders didn't need to make any exceptional plays to preserve Lincecum's gem.

The 30-year-old Lincecum (6-5) threw 113 pitches for this win, using a big-breaking curve to set up his fastball. Last July 13 at San Diego, he threw 148 pitches while holding the Padres hitless.

"It was not a stuff day. It was more of a location day," he said.

The right-hander with two NL Cy Young Awards became just the second pitcher in major league history to twice no-hit the same team. Hall of Famer Addie Joss did it for Cleveland against the Chicago White Sox with a perfect game in 1908 and a no-hitter in 1910.

This was the third no-hitter in the majors this year. Clayton Kershaw did it exactly a week ago and his Los Angeles Dodgers teammate Josh Beckett did it earlier in the season.

Headley walked with one out in the second after falling behind 1-2 in the count. The Padres began the day worst in the majors in batting average, runs and hits.

The Padres, incidentally, are the only franchise in the big leagues that has never pitched a no-hitter.

Lincecum made quick work of the San Diego hitters in the late innings.

He drew a standing ovation when he batted in the eighth, then got another ovation when he took the mound to begin the ninth.

Lincecum struck out pinch-hitter Chris Denorfia to open the ninth. Pinch-hitter Yasmani Grandal followed with a tapper back to Lincecum, who tossed to first for the out.

Will Venable was up next, and Lincecum retired him on an easy grounder to second base. Lincecum took a few steps toward first when the ball was hit, stopped to watch the play and clapped his hand into his glove when it was over.

Catcher Hector Sanchez soon met Lincecum for an embrace, and the rest of the Giants joined in the celebration.

Lincecum threw the 16th no-hitter in Giants' team history. Just one other pitcher has thrown two — Christy Mathewson for the New York Giants more than 100 years ago.

Lincecum joined Justin Verlander, Mark Buehrle and Homer Bailey as active pitchers with two no-hitters. Nolan Ryan holds the all-time record with seven.

"Right now, I guess I'm just saying it's really cool," Lincecum said.

No longer the shaggy-haired ace of the Giants, Lincecum sported a mustache while thrilling 41,500 fans at AT&T Park. He lowered his ERA to 4.42 and put together quite a complete game — he went 2 for 3 with a walk and scored twice.

Lincecum starred for the Giants in 2010, going 16-10 as they won their first World Series crown since moving to San Francisco in 1958. He hasn't finished with a winning record since then, and was relegated to the bullpen when the Giants won another championship in 2012.

# Gruis Headed Overseas



P&D FILE PHOTO

South Dakota post Trevor Gruis maintains control of the ball under the hoop despite the effort of Iowa Wesleyan defenders during a game in the 2013-14 season. Gruis has signed to play with Jamtland in the Swedish Basketligan (Premier League).

## Former Coyote Post Player Signs To Play In Sweden

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Another former University of South Dakota men's basketball player is headed overseas to play in the professional ranks.

The latest foreign export is Trevor Gruis, a 6-foot-10 center who in March wrapped up his Coyote career after recording 1,340 points, 767 rebounds and 112 blocks.

Gruis, a native of Ellsworth, Minnesota, signed Tuesday with Jamtland, a Swedish premier team that plays in the Basketligan (Premier League) in the Scandinavian country.

"I wanted to see how good could I be before I'm actually done," Gruis said Wednesday. "It doesn't feel like my playing days have to be over."

While not listed on any NBA radars, Gruis said he remains realistic about his future, specifically that he could at least continue playing the game he loves.

"Hearing those other guys talk about it, I thought it'd be cool," he said. "I was realistic about my shot in the NBA, that it was a shot in the dark."

"Even if I could get a chance at Europe, it's one step closer to the NBA."

Those other guys refer to a handful of other former Coyotes who have played or are currently playing basketball overseas. Charlie Westbrook spent one season in Italy before joining the NBA D-League, while former USD standout Tyler Cain has played in Latvia for the past four seasons. Ricardo Andreotti spent last season with a team in Austria.

In addition, Juevol Myles is playing with a team in France.

Former Yankton standout Colton Iverson, who was taken in last year's NBA Draft, spent last season playing professionally in Turkey. He will join the Boston Celtics later this summer for the NBA Summer League.

Certain countries were ruled out by Gruis and his family, including Ukraine, and a number of others in the Middle East because of rising — and continuing — tension in those areas.

"For me, I was thinking about all those stereotypes with other countries," Gruis said. "When you think about Russia, you think about Liam Neeson movies and people being abducted."

"When he (agent) came back with Swe-

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## World Cup: Seven Teams Vying For Three Spots In Second Round

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — It's the last day of the group stage at the World Cup, and seven teams are still vying for the last three spots in the Round of 16.

While most teams are either on their way home or preparing for the knockout stage, there's still everything to play for in the finely balanced

Group G, where all four teams still have a chance to go through.

The biggest matchup of the day pits the United States against Germany in a game that could put both teams through and will determine whether the Ghana-Portugal game has any real significance.

The only team that can afford to relax a little is Belgium, which has already advanced to the knockout round after winning its first two matches. The Belgians still need a point against South Korea to top Group H, though, while Algeria could claim the other spot with at least a draw against Russia.

Here are the main things to watch for Thursday:

**NO FRIENDLY TRUCE:** When the U.S. takes on Germany, it's one of those rare games when both teams will be happy with a draw. Just don't expect either team to play for one.

Both countries have four points in Group G and a draw would put both through to the next round, with Germany as group winner on goal difference. Germany, though, badly wants to beat its former coach and star player Jurgen Klinsmann, who is now in charge of the U.S. team. The Americans, meanwhile, need a win to avoid Belgium in

the next round. Add in the fact that five players on the U.S. team have German mothers, and there's no shortage of plot lines that go beyond just the result.

Klinsmann said "I don't think that we are made for draws," while Germany defender Mats Hummels said it would be "highly unsportsmanlike" not to go for a win.

Venue: Recife. Kickoff 1 p.m. local time (noon in New York, 5 p.m. London, 1 a.m. Tokyo)

HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW: Cris-

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## Baseball: Post 12 Downs Vermillion 6-4

VERMILLION — Lane Sawatzke had a double, a single and three RBI to lead Yankton to a 6-4 victory over Vermillion in American Legion baseball action on Wednesday at Prentis Park.

Sheldon Gant had two hits, a RBI and a run scored for Yankton. Colin Muth also had two hits. Tanner Termansen had a double and a run scored. Adam Walter posted a hit and a RBI. Brad Ulmer had a hit and a run scored, Landon Withrow drove in a run and scored another, and Mitch Gullikson scored a run in the victory.

Ben Cameron pitched four innings, striking out one, for the victory. Gant pitched the final three innings for the long-relief save.

Yankton, 21-4, hosts Sioux Falls East in a doubleheader today (Thursday). Start time for the region doubleheader is 2 p.m. at Riverside Field.

### VFW Teener

#### Alcester 8, Irene 6

IRENE — Sam Jensen and Zach Ronning each had a hit and two runs scored as Alcester battled past Irene 8-6 in VFW Teener baseball action on Monday.

Grant Johnson and Eli Skoglund each drove in two runs in the victory.

Taten Gale had three hits, and Trey King and Preston Gall added two hits each for Irene.

Jensen picked up the win in relief of Johnson. Ty Martz took the loss, going the distance.

Alcester hosts Vermillion on Thursday.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton first baseman Mason Townsend dives in front of a throw wide of first base during the first game of Post 12's junior American Legion baseball doubleheader with Brandon Valley on Wednesday at Riverside Field. Results were not available at presstime.

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