

PHOTO OF THE DAY

Net Result



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

A Viborg fan, wearing a simulated basketball net for a cap, watches the action during the consolation semifinals at the South Dakota State Class B Girls' Basketball Tournament Friday at the Watertown Civic Arena. Freeman defeated Viborg 51-37.

AREA DIGEST

USD's Boots, Cain Honored By Sporting News

OREM, Utah — University of South Dakota men's basketball coach Dave Boots and senior forward Tyler Cain have been named the Great West Conference Coach of the Year and Player of the Year, respectively, by Sporting News Today, the publication announced Friday.

Cain earned the same accolade from the conference office on Tuesday after posting a dominant season for the Coyotes. He has averaged 15.1 points, 10.2 rebounds and 2.9 blocks to lead USD in all three categories, and has notched 13 double-doubles during 2009-10.

In his 22nd season at USD, Boots also earned the same accolade from the conference office. His 83-49 win over HJIT on March 7 gave USD its seventh straight 20-2in season and clinched the GWC regular season title in the league's inaugural season. Boots has a 463-181 record at USD.

An online-only daily sports section, Sporting News Today features more than 30 pages of the latest sports news from across the country.

USD Softball, Tennis Canceled Friday

The University of South Dakota softball and tennis teams canceled its action on Friday, as heavy rains in Florida continued to fall. The USD softball team's games with Indiana State and Pennsylvania that were scheduled for Friday in Kissimmee, Fla., have been canceled and will not be rescheduled.

USD (4-10), which has won three of its last four, will conclude its Florida trip today (Saturday) with two games. The Coyotes will face Butler at 6 p.m. Central time and Wagner at 8 p.m. Central time.

And USD's tennis match against Radford, originally scheduled for Thursday, was postponed to Friday. However, persistent rain on Friday caused the cancellation of that match, along with the Coyotes' contest against Appalachian State.

The Coyotes' next action is set for Thursday, March 18 in Ames, Iowa. USD will face Cleveland State and Iowa State in matchups there.

Jacks, T-Birds Split Summit Opener

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Snow in Cedar City, Utah, forced Southern Utah officials to move Friday's Summit League opener to Karl Brooks field on the campus of Dixie State College in St. George, Utah, where the Jackrabbits softball team beat Southern Utah 10-0 in five innings in the opener before falling 6-4 in 10 innings in the nightcap.

The Jacks end the day 6-15 overall and 1-1 in Summit League play. SUU ends the day with a 4-15 overall record and the same 1-1 league record.

SDSU and Southern Utah meet for the rubber game today (Saturday) again in St. George, with the first pitch scheduled for 12 p.m. MT.

End Senior Hunger 5K March 20

The End Senior Hunger 5K race will be held Saturday, March 20, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Yankton Chamber parking lot. The event is a fun run/walk to raise awareness to end senior hunger.

For more information, contact Tammy Matuska at yscoc@mid-conetwork.com, or by phone at 605-665-4685. Information is also online at www.yanktoncenter.org.

Correction

Due to incomplete information provided to the Press & Dakotan, Brody Burgenson's name was left out of the outline for the Yankton Optimist Club Tri-Star hockey skills competition photo that appeared in Thursday's edition.

Burgenson, pictured in the front row, tied for third place in the 7-9 year-old division at the event.

We apologize for the error.

NATIONAL DIGEST

Golf: Els Holds 1-Shot Lead At Doral

DORAL, Fla. (AP) — Ernie Els was in the lead and off the golf course, and he wasn't sure which made him feel better. Rushing to finish as dark clouds gathered over the Blue Monster, Els made one last birdie for a 6-under 66 and a one-shot lead over Robert Allenby before heavy rain temporarily halted play Friday in the CA Championship.

Eighteen players had to wait nearly three hours before they could resume the second round. When it finally ended, Els had his first lead after any round on U.S. soil since he won the Honda Classic two years ago.

He was at 10-under 134, courtesy of three straight birdies early in his round, when his shotmaking was supreme, and how he held it together when the wind and weather changed quickly and dramatically.

Allenby was tied for the lead until a three-putt from 50 feet in rain so strong he could barely see the flag. The bogey gave him a 67 and will put him in the final group with Els on Saturday.

Charl Schwartzel got up-and-down for par behind the 18th green when the round resumed to finish off a 70. He was at 7-under 137, along with Bob Hope Classic champion Bill Haas, who had a 66. Padraig Harrington (68) and Soren Hansen (69) were 6 under, while defending champion Phil Mickelson (69) was six shots off the lead.

PUERTO RICO OPEN: RIO GRANDE, Puerto Rico (AP) — Skip Kendall topped the Puerto Rico Open leaderboard at 5 under after nine holes when first-round play was suspended because of darkness in the rain-delayed PGA Tour event.

Heavy morning rain suspended play just 20 minutes after the first tee time and the round didn't resume until 4:35 p.m. Downpours also forced the suspension of play Thursday, when 6.6 inches fell at oceanside Trump International Golf Club-Puerto Rico.

AREA CALENDAR

BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC vs. Madrona at Orlando (9:30 a.m.)
BASEBALL, MEN'S NAIA Division II Tour. at Branson, Mo.; Great West Conf. Tour. at Orem, Utah (Championship — Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m.)
BASEBALL, WOMEN'S NAIA Division II Tour. at Sioux City, Iowa; Great West Conf. Tour. at Orem, Utah (Championship — Semifinal winners, 4 p.m.)
BASKETBALL, BOYS' Neb. State Tour. at Lincoln (Hartington CC, Randolph)
BASKETBALL, GIRLS' S.D. State Class AA Tour. at Huron; S.D. State Class A Tour. at Aberdeen (Dakota Valley); S.D. State Class B Tour. at Watertown (Freeman, Viborg)
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Rebel Spring Games at Kissimmee, Fla. (USD vs. Wagner, 8 a.m.; USD vs. Butler, 10 a.m.)
Sunday, March 14
No activities scheduled.
Monday, March 15
BASEBALL, MEN'S NAIA Division II Tour. at Branson, Mo.
BASEBALL, WOMEN'S NAIA Division II Tour. at Sioux City, Iowa

Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

SCOREBOARD

Area Bowling
Championship, Saturday
At Deanev Sports Center
CROFTON MEN'S COMMERCIAL
HIGH TEAM GAME: Don's Auto 88, Lincoln 88
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Chris Kuehler 247, Don Voudry 235, Dennis Merkel 224

Prep Hoops
NEB. STATE BOYS' TOURN.
CLASS A
First Round, Thursday
At Deanev Sports Center
Omaha Creighton Prep 62, Omaha Bryan 50
Lincoln Southeast 67, Millard 30, 47
Omaha Central 71, Lincoln High 44

Championship, Saturday
At Deanev Sports Center
First Round, Thursday
Omaha Central 53, Lincoln Southeast 52
Omaha Central 53, Lincoln Southeast 52
Omaha Central 53, Lincoln Southeast 52

Men's Hoops
GREAT WEST CONFERENCE
March 10-13 at Orem, Utah
First Round, Wednesday
Texas-Pan American 56, Utah Valley 53
New Jersey Tech 70, North Dakota 77

Women's Hoops
GREAT WEST CONFERENCE
March 10-13 at Orem, Utah
First Round, Thursday
South Dakota 57, New Jersey Tech 49
Texas-Pan American 69, Houston Baptist 61

Area Bowling
Championship, Saturday
At Deanev Sports Center
CROFTON MEN'S COMMERCIAL
HIGH TEAM GAME: Don's Auto 88, Lincoln 88

Championship, Saturday
Sioux Falls 52, Rapid City 44
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Pacific Division
San Jose 66, 43, 14, 9, 95, 220, 165
Los Angeles 67, 40, 22, 5, 85, 204, 179
Phoenix 67, 40, 22, 5, 85, 181, 167

Transactions
BASEBALL
American League
NEW YORK YANKEES—Agreed to terms with RHP Alfredo Aceves, RHP Jonathan Albaladejo, C Francisco Cervelli, RHP Joba Chamberlain, 2B Reggie Corino, LHP Wilkin De La Rosa, RHP Christian Garcia, OF Brett Gardner, OF Greg Golson, OF Jamie Hoffmann, RHP Phil Hughes, RHP Mark Melancon, RHP Hector Noesi, RHP Ivan Nova, 2B Ramon Flores, RHP David Robertson, 2B Kevin Russo and RHP Romulo Sanchez on one-year contracts.

The NBA
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
Boston 41, 23, 641
Toronto 32, 31, 508, 8, 172
Philadelphia 23, 42, 354, 18, 112
New York 22, 43, 338, 19, 172
New Jersey 7, 58, 108, 34, 172

The NHL
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
Pittsburgh 68, 40, 23, 5, 85, 215, 196
New Jersey 66, 40, 23, 3, 83, 178, 158
Philadelphia 68, 37, 4, 74, 199, 190
N.Y. Rangers 68, 30, 29, 9, 69, 178, 187

DC High School Football Team Gets Female Coach
WASHINGTON (AP) — The football players at Calvin Coolidge Senior High School, Mayor Adrian Fenty and a room full of cheering staff needed only one word to describe her: coach.

Natalie Randolph, a 29-year-old biology and environmental science teacher, was introduced Friday as the coach of the school's Coolidge Colts. She's believed to be the nation's only female head coach of a high school varsity football team.

"While I'm proud to be part of what this all means," Randolph said, "being female has nothing to do with it. I love football. I love teaching. I love these kids. My being female has nothing to do with my support and respect for my players on the field and in the classroom."

The news conference drew the kind of attention usually reserved for the Washington Redskins and was delayed nearly two hours so Fenty, who is up for re-election this year, could be there and proclaim "Natalie Randolph Day" in the city.

Randolph was chosen from about 15 candidates after the previous coach resigned. The Washington native and University of Virginia track star played six seasons as a receiver for the D.C. Divas of the National Women's Football Association, helping the team win the title in 2006.

She also was an assistant coach from 2006-08 at another D.C. high school, H.D. Woodson, where opposing coaches would throw funny looks her way when told she was on the staff.

Now she's a head coach, ready to dispel naysayers. And she doesn't plan to do it by screaming in the kids' faces.

"I'm probably more Tony Dungyque," said Randolph, who has a copy of the Super Bowl-winning coach's book. "I'm soft-spoken, so me yelling is not me. I'm going to be me. That's what I do in the classroom. When I get observed, the observers say 'I didn't expect you to be able to handle this class,' but I do what I have to do to get it done."

Randolph's finance, Thomas Byrd, warned that Randolph's polite demeanor could be misleading — "She packs a mean punch," he said — and her Divas teammates were on hand to describe the grit that kept her playing on a severely injured ankle several years ago.

But Randolph will no doubt have to work a bit harder than the average coach to win the respect of players, opposing coaches and the football community at large.

Keith Bulluck, a 10-year NFL veteran, posted on Twitter that he's "not saying it can't be done or shouldn't be done. Football is clearly a mans sport & it's 2 be seen how young men take to their coach being a woman."

Randolph, her hair in dreadlocks with blonde highlights, wore a stylish necklace Friday. Some of her players already know and respect her — she's been a teacher at the school for two years. They also know players on other teams will have a field day talking trash.

"I need trash talk as my ammunition to do better," junior defensive tackle Daniel West said. "There's nothing like proving somebody wrong. And I think that's what we're going to have to do this season — because a lot of people have something to say about her being our coach, and I feel like it's my duty and it's the team's duty to prove everybody wrong, to show that it doesn't matter. As soon as we start winning, everybody will want to be on the bandwagon."

Coolidge went 6-4 last season under coach Jason Lane and has a state-of-the-art field, so it's not necessarily a school that needs to draw attention. Principal Thelma Jarrett insisted that in "no way" was this a publicity stunt.

"On the field, in the classroom — we'll prove 'em wrong," Jarrett said.

Added Randolph: "People are always going to think negative things. I know what the deal is. My administration supports me, the kids support me. So that's all that really matters."

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