

Press&Dakotan

DAILY DOSE

Sports opinions from the P&D Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Six years ago, the South Dakota State women made the first of back-to-back appearances in the Women's National Invitational Tournament, more commonly known as the WNIT. The Jackrabbits had a strong showing, winning two games.

Flash back to 2012. The SDSU women are celebrating their fourth consecutive Summit League Tournament title, and the fourth consecutive NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament bid that came with it. This year, that journey will take them to West Lafayette, Ind., to play first and second round host Purdue.

The University of South Dakota women make their WNIT debut tonight (Thursday), hosting Drake in a 7 p.m.

WNIT Was Launching Pad For SDSU Women: Can It Do The Same For Coyotes?

contest at the DakotaDome. The team is a mix of the final talent from USD's Division II era — Amber Hegge and Annie Roche — and players that were recruited specifically for the Division I level. That talent level — even with the graduations of Hegge, Roche and 6-4 post Jodie Boss after this season — will continue to get better. Three of South Dakota's top seniors have already signed on for next season, and a top junior college and a top international recruit are also joining the roster next season.

Coach Ryn Williams has done a tremendous job of picking up where Chad Lavin left off, building a program that finished in the top three of the Summit League in its first season. The next step in that progression begins tonight at the DakotaDome. If the Coyotes play their cards — and their hoops — right, the tournament could prove to be much more than a chance to play an extra game or two.

It could be the prelude to a NCAA Tournament bid.

Norfolk Tourney Champs

The Yankton Sixth Grade Bucks earned top honors in their division at the Norfolk Hoops Classic, held March 3-4 in Norfolk, Neb. Team members include (front) Gerrit Dykstra, Tate Gae, Cameron Krejci, Jack Wolfgram, Kellen Franzén, (back) Trevor Rafferty, Brady Dangler, Casey Krejci, Kobe Bowker, Garrett Tennant and Coach Jeff Wolfgram.



SDIAAA To Induct Three

SPEARFISH — Jerry McPartland of Castlewood, Paul Sterling of Rapid City and Mark Wendelgass of Huron will make up the 2012 class of the South Dakota Interscholastic Administrators Association Hall of Fame, announced today (Thursday).

To be chosen for this honor a person must have been an athletic director for 10 years and an active member in the SDIAAA. Candidates are considered through three criteria, national, state and local involvement. Individuals are chosen who have volunteered to promote the belief and purpose of the SDIAAA and who have promoted the importance of athletics and sportsmanship within their school and community.

The induction ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Spring Athletic Director's Conference Award Luncheon at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Spearfish on Thursday, March 28 at noon.

Huskies Send Eight To NCAA Wrestling Championships

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The Nebraska wrestling program will send eight wrestlers to the 2012 NCAA Wrestling Championships, which are set to begin

on Thursday, March 15, from the Scottrade Center in St. Louis, Mo. The Huskers competed at eight weight classes for the first time since 2008 and hope to improve on back-to-back 12th-place finishes at the NCAA tournament in 2010 and 2011.

The Huskers will begin action on Thursday at 11 a.m. with pigtail and first round matches taking place. In Session II, second round and first round consolation matches are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. Sessions III and IV are on Friday and include the quarterfinals and semifinals, while Session V is slated for Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and include the consolation finals. The finals of the championship draw will start at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday night.

The eight Husker wrestlers to qualify for the tournament include Ridge Kiley (133), Jake Suefloh (141), James Green (157), Joke Kesh (165), Tyler Koehn (174), Josh Inhen (184), James Nakashima (197) and Tucker Lane (Hwt). Lane brings plenty of NCAA experience to the table, having now qualified for four-straight NCAA tournaments. The senior is in search of his first All-America honor after coming up one match short each of the past two seasons. Inhen and Kiley also both return after participating at the championships last year. Inhen, a three-time qualifier, owns a 23-5 overall record and had the best showing of any

Husker wrestling at the Big Ten Championships, finishing in second place. Kiley was one of two Huskers to earn an at-large bid into the tournament and is 17-14 on the season and won two matches at the Big Ten Tournament by major decision.

The Huskers will have five wrestlers competing in their first NCAA tournament, a list that also includes three freshmen, Suefloh, Green and Kesh all qualified in their first season of collegiate wrestling.

Parks & Rec Announces Summer Rec Leagues

The Yankton Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for the 2012 women's and coed sand volleyball leagues and coed softball leagues.

Deadline for team registrations, rosters, and fees is Friday, May 11. League play will start the first week in June.

Team registration forms and rules are available at the Summit Activities Center at 1801 Summit Street or on the City of Yankton web site at www.cityofyankton.org.

For further information, call (605) 668-5234 or stop by the Summit Activities Center at 1801 Summit Street, Yankton.

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

CROFTON, NEB.
HIGH TEAM GAME: Wiebelhaus Rec 897
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Tom Wiebelhaus 235, Steve Honeywell 239, Todd Moody 237
TODD MOODY 237
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Todd Moody 696, Tom Wiebelhaus 663, Steve Honeywell 623
A STANDINGS: Wiebelhaus Rec 67-46, Coor's Lighting 60-40, Deban's Cab 54-33, Gause Steele 42-57-5
B STANDINGS: Leader Angus 50-5-49, Crofton Elevator 48-52, Don's Auto 44-56, DSM Arts 34-66
HIGHLIGHTS: Duane Kaiser — 62 over game avg.; Todd Moody — 87 over series avg.; Brad Schieffer — 57, Dan McFarland 34-7-10

VOLLEYBALL

YANKTON PARKS & REC
WOMEN'S C LEAGUE
RESULTS: Ju Benji's def. Kiss My Aces 3-0 21-6, 21-19, 21-7; Inside-Outers def. Larry's Heating & Cooling 3-0 21-9, 21-12, 21-16; Fardig's Firecrackers def. Budget Bashers 3-0 21-15, 21-16, 21-18
STANDINGS: Inside-Outers 12-2, Ice House/Dakota Express 12-2, Fardig's 11-3, Ju Benji's 10-4, Kiss My Aces 6-8, Budget Bashers 5-9, Fardig's Firecrackers 4-10, Larry's Heating & Cooling 2-12, Dana's Daycare 1-13

BASEBALL

MLB SPRING TRAINING
Tuesday's Games
Houston 6, Philadelphia 5, 7 tie, 10 innings
Toronto 2, Atlanta 2, tie, 10 innings
Oakland 8, Milwaukee (ss) 6
Kansas City 7, Cincinnati 5
Chicago Cubs 5, San Francisco 4
Cleveland 8, Texas 8, tie, 10 innings
Colorado 5, L.A. Dodgers 2
Seattle 7, Milwaukee (ss) 4
San Diego 6, Chicago White Sox 3
L.A. Angels 3, Arizona 0
Detroit 6, Washington 3
Boston 1, N.Y. Yankees 0
Wednesday's Games
Detroit 7, N.Y. Mets 6, 10 innings
Miami 4, Tampa Bay 2
Houston 4, St. Louis 3
Minnesota 6, N.Y. Yankees 5
Milwaukee 10, Chicago Cubs 2
Chicago White Sox 5, L.A. Angels 7
Colorado 6, Texas 1
San Diego 9, Cincinnati 4
San Francisco 2, Cleveland 2, tie, 10 innings
San Diego 8, Arizona (ss) 0
Atlanta 6, Washington 5
Kansas City vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 1:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz., 1:05 p.m.
Arizona (ss) vs. Colorado (ss) at Scottsdale, Ariz., 10:10 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Pittsburgh vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Atlanta vs. Philadelphia (ss) at Clearwater, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Washington at Viera, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Kansas City vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (ss) vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
St. Louis vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:35 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
San Diego vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Kansas City vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Oakland vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (ss) vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.
Friday's Games
Miami vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Baltimore vs. Minnesota (ss) at Fort Myers, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Philadelphia vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Washington vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Detroit vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 12:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (ss) vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Cleveland vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Seattle (ss) vs. Milwaukee (ss) at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Texas vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 5:05 p.m.
Minnesota (ss) vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
Colorado vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.
Seattle (ss) vs. Oakland at Phoenix, 9:05 p.m.

BASKETBALL

YANKTON PARKS & REC
MEN'S C LEAGUE
RESULTS: Cortrust Bank def. Ball is Life 73-45; Gause Honey def. Dunkin Donuts 68-58; Main Street def. Blue Ballers 57-54
STANDINGS: Cortrust Bank 14-1, Gause Honey 9-6, Ball is Life 7-8, Dunkin Donuts 6-9, Main Street 5-10, Blue Ballers 4-11

FIRST ROUND

Saturday, March 17
At Allstate Arena, Rosemont, Ill.
Tennessee (24-8) vs. UT Martin (26-6), 3:10 p.m.
DePaul (22-10) vs. BYU (26-6), 30 minutes following
Sunday, March 18
At Strick Center, Bowling Green, Ohio
Ohio State (25-6) vs. Fresno State (19-12), 11:15 a.m.
Baylor (34-0) vs. UC Santa Barbara (17-15), 30 minutes following
At Carmichael Arena, Chapel Hill, N.C.
Georgetown (22-8) vs. Fresno State (28-5), 11:20 a.m.
Georgia Tech (24-8) vs. Sacred Heart (25-7), 30 minutes following
At Jack Stephens Center, Little Rock, Ark.
Delaware (30-1) vs. UALR (20-12), 4:20 p.m.
Nebraska (24-8) vs. Kansas (19-12), 30 minutes following

FRESNO REGIONAL

Saturday, March 17
At Constant Convocation Center, Norfolk, Va.
West Virginia (23-9) vs. Texas (18-13), 10:10 a.m.
Stanford (31-1) vs. Hampton (26-4), 30 minutes following
At Mackey Arena, West Lafayette, Ind.
South Carolina (23-9) vs. Eastern Michigan (23-8), 10:05 a.m.
Purdue (24-8) vs. South Dakota State (25-7), 30 minutes following
Sunday, March 18
At Lloyd Noble Center, Norman, Okla.
St. John's (22-9) vs. Creighton (20-12), 5:05 p.m.
Oklahoma (20-12) vs. Michigan (20-11), 30 minutes following
At Memorial Gymnasium, Nashville, Tenn.
Vanderbilt (22-9) vs. Middle Tennessee (26-6), 5:10 p.m.
Duke (24-5) vs. Samford (20-12), 30 minutes following

RALEIGH REGIONAL

Saturday, March 17
At Reed Arena, College Station, Texas
Arkansas (23-8) vs. Dayton (23-6), 3:05 p.m.
Texas A&M (22-10) vs. Albany (NY) (23-9), 30 minutes following
At Cony Center, College Park, Md.
Maryland (28-4) vs. Navy (18-13), 10:15 a.m.
Louisville (22-9) vs. Michigan State (20-11), 30 minutes following
Sunday, March 18
At Joyce Center, Notre Dame, Ind.
California (24-9) vs. Iowa (19-11), 11:10 a.m.
Notre Dame (30-3) vs. Tallahassee (24-8), 30 minutes following
At Donald L. Tucker Center, Liberty, Mo.
Georgia (22-9) vs. Marist (25-7), 11:05 a.m.
St. Bonaventure (29-3) vs. Florida Gulf Coast (29-2), 30 minutes following
KINGSTON REGIONAL
Saturday, March 17
At Webster Bank Arena, Bridgeport, Conn.
Kansas State (21-10) vs. Princeton (24-4), 10:20 a.m.
UNC (29-4) vs. Prairie View (17-15), 30 minutes following
At McCarthy Athletic Center, Spokane, Wash.
Rutgers (22-9) vs. Gonzaga (26-5), 3:15 p.m.
Miami (22-9) vs. Idaho State (24-7), 30 minutes following
Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (ss) vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
St. Louis vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:35 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
San Diego vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Kansas City vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Oakland vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (ss) vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.

FIRST ROUND

Tuesday, March 13
Western Kentucky vs. MVSU 58
BYU 78, Iowa 72
Wednesday, March 14
California (24-9) vs. South Florida (20-13), 30 minutes following
EAST REGIONAL
Second Round
Thursday, March 15
At The CONSOL Energy Center, Pittsburgh
Kansas State (21-10) vs. Asheville (24-9), 30 minutes following
Syracuse (31-2) vs. UNC Asheville (24-9), 30 minutes following
Gonzaga (25-6) vs. West Virginia (19-13), 6:20 p.m.
Ohio State (27-7) vs. Loyola (Md.) (24-8), 30 minutes following
Washington vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Detroit vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 12:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (ss) vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Cleveland vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Seattle (ss) vs. Milwaukee (ss) at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Texas vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 5:05 p.m.
Minnesota (ss) vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
Colorado vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.
Seattle (ss) vs. Oakland at Phoenix, 9:05 p.m.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

FIRST ROUND
At UConn Arena, Storrs, Conn.
Western Kentucky vs. MVSU 58
BYU 78, Iowa 72
Wednesday, March 14
California (24-9) vs. South Florida (20-13), 30 minutes following
EAST REGIONAL
Second Round
Thursday, March 15
At The CONSOL Energy Center, Pittsburgh
Kansas State (21-10) vs. Asheville (24-9), 30 minutes following
Syracuse (31-2) vs. UNC Asheville (24-9), 30 minutes following
Gonzaga (25-6) vs. West Virginia (19-13), 6:20 p.m.
Ohio State (27-7) vs. Loyola (Md.) (24-8), 30 minutes following
Washington vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Detroit vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 12:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (ss) vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Cleveland vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Seattle (ss) vs. Milwaukee (ss) at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Texas vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 5:05 p.m.
Minnesota (ss) vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
Colorado vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.
Seattle (ss) vs. Oakland at Phoenix, 9:05 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL

Saturday, March 17
At KFC Yum! Center, Louisville, Ky.
Michigan State (30-1) vs. Colorado State (20-11), 11:15 a.m.
Marquette (25-7) vs. BYU (26-8), 30 minutes following
At The Rose Garden, Portland, Ore.
Louisville (26-9) vs. Davidson (25-7), 12:40 p.m.
New Mexico (27-6) vs. Long Beach State (25-8), 30 minutes following
Friday, March 16
At Nationwide Arena, Columbus, Ohio
Georgetown (22-8) vs. Belmont (27-7), 11:40 a.m.
Georgetown (23-8) vs. Belmont (27-7), 30 minutes following
At Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, Tenn.
Michigan (24-9) vs. Ohio (27-7), 6:20 p.m.
Temple (24-9) vs. California-South (24-9), 30 minutes following
Florida winner, 30 minutes following
At CenturyLink Center, Omaha, Neb.
Saint Mary's (Calif.) (27-5) vs. Purdue (21-12), 6:27 p.m.
Kansas (27-6) vs. Detroit (22-13), 30 minutes following

WEST REGIONAL

Second Round
Thursday, March 15
At The KFC Yum! Center, Louisville, Ky.
Michigan State (30-1) vs. Colorado State (20-11), 11:15 a.m.
Marquette (25-7) vs. BYU (26-8), 30 minutes following
At The Rose Garden, Portland, Ore.
Louisville (26-9) vs. Davidson (25-7), 12:40 p.m.
New Mexico (27-6) vs. Long Beach State (25-8), 30 minutes following
Friday, March 16
At Nationwide Arena, Columbus, Ohio
Georgetown (22-8) vs. Belmont (27-7), 11:40 a.m.
Georgetown (23-8) vs. Belmont (27-7), 30 minutes following
At Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, Tenn.
Michigan (24-9) vs. Ohio (27-7), 6:20 p.m.
Temple (24-9) vs. California-South (24-9), 30 minutes following
Florida winner, 30 minutes following
At CenturyLink Center, Omaha, Neb.
Saint Mary's (Calif.) (27-5) vs. Purdue (21-12), 6:27 p.m.
Kansas (27-6) vs. Detroit (22-13), 30 minutes following

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOC.

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
Boston 25 18 581 —
Philadelphia 22 19 537 2
New York 19 24 442 6
New Jersey 15 29 341 10 12
Toronto 14 29 326 11
Southwest Division
W L Pct GB
Miami 31 10 656 4
Orlando 28 15 651 —
Atlanta 24 20 571 7 12
Washington 9 32 220 22
Charlotte 6 35 146 25
Central Division
W L Pct GB
Chicago 25 16 610 8 12
Indiana 35 9 756 —
Milwaukee 19 24 442 15 12
Cleveland 16 25 390 17 12
Detroit 15 27 357 19
WESTERN CONFERENCE
West Division
W L Pct GB
San Antonio 27 10 676 —
Memphis 24 17 585 3 12
Dallas 24 20 545 5
Houston 24 20 545 5
New Orleans 10 32 238 18
Northwest Division
W L Pct GB
Oklahoma City 32 10 676 —
Denver 24 19 558 8 12
Minnesota 22 21 512 10 12
Utah 20 21 488 11 12
Portland 20 23 465 12 12
Pacific Division
W L Pct GB
L.A. Lakers 26 16 619 —
L.A. Clippers 23 17 576 2
Phoenix 19 22 463 6 12
Golden State 18 21 462 6 12

WOMEN'S NAT. INV. TOURN.

First Round
Wednesday, March 14
Drexel (18-13) at Fairfield (24-8), 6 p.m.
Northern Colorado (20-11) at Colorado (18-13), 8 p.m.
Cal Poly (17-14) at Washington (17-13), 9 p.m.
Thursday, March 15
UC Davis-Oregon State winner vs. UNLV-Saint Mary's (Cal.) winner (18-12), 7:05 p.m.
Howard (24-9) at Virginia (22-10), 6 p.m.
Davidson (22-9) at James Madison (24-7), 6 p.m.
Wake Forest (19-13) at Charlotte (16-13), 6 p.m.
Stetson (23-10) at Florida International (22-8), 6 p.m.
Florida Atlantic (17-12) at South Florida (17-15), 6 p.m.
High Point (20-12) at N.C. State (18-15), 7 p.m.
Eastern Illinois (22-8) at Texas Tech (19-13), 7 p.m.
MSU (18-15) at South Dakota (22-10), 7 p.m.
UMKC (22-11) at Missouri State (22-8), 7 p.m.
Chattanooga (22-9) at Memphis (24-7), 7 p.m.
Central Michigan (20-15) at Illinois State (18-12), 7:05 p.m.
Utah State (21-9) at Utah (15-15), 8 p.m.
UC Davis (17-12) at Oregon State (18-12), 9 p.m.
UNLV (22-9) at Saint Mary's (Cal.) (21-10), 9 p.m.

Commentary: Academics Still Second At Many Schools

BY TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Filling out a bracket for the NCAA tournament is pretty much a crapshoot, no matter how much you study or how good you guess. That was especially true last year, when no No. 1 seed made the Final Four yet Butler somehow found its way there for the second straight year.

Figuring out which schools care as much about academics as they do basketball is a lot easier. Attend Duke or, say, Creighton and you're pretty much assured a degree if not a career in the NBA. Both schools in recent years graduated all their basketball players, as did four other teams in this year's field.

Materialize somewhere else, and you might end up working behind the counter at Subway.

That's the reality of college athletics, where the payoff for athletes doesn't come close to matching the payday for schools. The NCAA tournament is a billion-dollar-a-year business that distributes riches to almost everyone involved

except the ones who really count — the unpaid labor toiling on the court.

For the vast majority of the game and, for an elite few, the hope of making it in the pros. For most of making it, though, the only payout in the end is a college degree they might not have been able to pursue if not for their ability on the basketball court.

Unfortunately, some schools are failing their athletes — and failing them miserably. That's especially true when it comes to black basketball players.

Richard Lapchick, who does an annual report on graduation rates for the University of Central Florida, said black players are graduating at a 60 percent rate while white players were at 88 percent.

At the University of Florida, only one in five black basketball players get their degrees, according to NCAA statistics. At the University of Virginia, it's one in three. And it doesn't take a math major to figure out that a 14 percent graduation rate among black players at defending national champion Connecticut is both abysmal and disgraceful.

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, March 15
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Spring Break Trip (MMC vs. Mount Vernon Nazarene, DH, 1 p.m.)
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Women's NIT (Drake at USD, 7 p.m., KKVA-FM)
BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State Class AA Tournament at Rapid City, S.D. State Class A Tournament at Sioux Falls (Dakota Valley), S.D. State Class B Tournament at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley, 8:45 p.m., KVHT-FM)
FOOTBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Southern Utah; Tucson Inv. (MMC)
Friday, March 16
BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC vs. Spring Arbor (DH, 12:30 a.m.)
BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State Class AA Tournament at Rapid City, S.D. State Class A Tournament at Sioux Falls (Dakota Valley), S.D. State Class B Tournament at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley, 8:45 p.m., KKVA-FM)

Saturday, March 17
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Spring Break Trip (MMC vs. Mount Vernon Nazarene, DH, 1 p.m.)
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Women's NIT (Drake at USD, 7 p.m., KKVA-FM)
BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State Class AA Tournament at Rapid City, S.D. State Class A Tournament at Sioux Falls (Dakota Valley), S.D. State Class B Tournament at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley, 8:45 p.m., KVHT-FM)
FOOTBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Southern Utah; Tucson Inv. (MMC)
Sunday, March 18
No activities scheduled

June 30 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, Ky.
Driver Standings
1. Greg Bille, 125
2. Kevin Harvick, 115
3. Denny Hamlin, 113
4. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 107
5. Matt Kenseth, 102
6. Tony Stewart, 100
7. Jeff Gordon, 75
8. Mark Martin, 71
9. Marcos Ambrose, 74
10. Regan Smith, 74
20. Dave Blaney, 66

NASCAR SPRINT CUP
Feb. 18 — x-Budweiser Shootout, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Kyle Busch)
Feb. 23 — x-Gatorade Duel 1, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Tony Stewart)
Feb. 23 — x-Gatorade Duel 2, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Matt Kenseth)
March 4 — Subway Fresh Fit 500, Avondale, Ariz. (Denny Hamlin)
March 11 — Kobalt Tools 400, Las Vegas (Tony Stewart)
March 16 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn.
March 25 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif.
April 1 — Goody's Fast Relief 500, Ridgeville, Va.
April 14 — Samsung Mobile 500, Fort Worth, Texas
April 22 — RHP 400, Kansas City, Kan.
May 6 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala.
May 12 — Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.
May 19 — x-Sprint Showdown, Concord, N.C.
May 27 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C.
June 3 — Dover 400, Dover, Del.
June 10 — Pocono 400, Long Pond, Pa.
June 17 — Heluva Good! Sour Cream Dips 400, Brooklyn, Mich.
June 24 — Toyota/Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif.

Major League Baseball
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Options INF Joe Mauer to Norfolk (SOX)
CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Options RHP Gregory Infante to Charlotte (IL), Reassigned G Damaso Espino, RHP Brian Odoms, RHP Jacob Petricka, OF Brandon Shurtz and OF Delwyn Young to their minor-league camp
DETROIT TIGERS—Signed INF Tyler Saladino to major-league camp
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Agreed to terms with WR Reggie Wayne on a three-year contract, Signed DE Cory Redding, Acquired OL Winston Justice and a 2012 sixth-round draft pick
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Agreed to terms with DE Jeremy Mincey on a four-year contract and WR Laurence Robinson to a five-year contract
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Signed RB Peyton Hillis
MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed TE John Carlson to a five-year contract
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Named Henry Ellard wide receivers coach
NEW YORK GIANTS—Signed TE Martellus Bennett
NEW YORK JETS—Re-signed K Nick Folk
OAKLAND RAIDERS—Released Cooper Carlisle and DT John Henderson
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Agreed to terms with DE Trent Cole on a four-year contract extension through 2017 and with WR DeSean Jackson on a five-year contract
ST. LOUIS RAMS—Traded their 2012

first-round draft pick to Washington for its 2012 first and second-round draft picks and its 2013 and 2014 first-round draft picks. Agreed to terms with CB Cortland Finnegan on a five-year contract
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS—Re-signed OT Jared Galtier to a four-year contract, Signed LB Jarrett Johnson to a four-year contract, Agreed to terms with TE Kory Sperry on a one-year contract
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed G Carl Nicks and CB Eric Wright to five-year contracts, Released C Jeff Faine
WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Signed WR Pierre Garçon and WR Joshua Morgan
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
MONTREAL CANADIENS—Recalled D Frederic St-Denis from Hamilton (AHL)
OTTAWA SENATORS—Signed F Cole Schneider to a two-year contract and assigned him to Birmingham (AHL)
SAN JOSE SHARKS—Signed F Sebastian Stalberg to a two-year contract
American Hockey League
PROVIDENCE BRUINS—Reassigned D Zach McDevine to Reading (ECHL)
ECHL
READING ROYALS—Announced F Casey Haines was returned to the team by Norfolk (AHL), Released F Jeremiah Keith and William Lacasse
Central Hockey League
EVANSVILLE ICEMEN—Signed F Maxime Boscail
FORT WAYNE COMETS—Claimed F Mike Vasko off waivers from Rapid City
QUAD CITY MALLARDS—Signed G Justin Grant
TEXAS BRAHMS—Waived F Chris Moran