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



WNIT Was Launching Pad For SDSU Women: Can It Do The Same For Coyotes? BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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,

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.

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 Ryun Williams has done a tremendous job of picking up where Chad Lavin left off, building a proram 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.

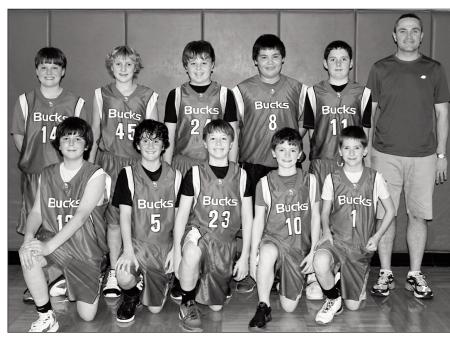
It could be the prelude to a NCAA Tournament bid.

Norfolk **Tourney** Champs

The Yanktor Sixth Bucks earned top honors in their division at the Norfolk Classic, March 3-4 in Norfolk, Neb. Team members include (front) Gerrit Dvkstra, Tate Gale Cameron Krejci Jack Wolfgram, Kellen Franzen, (back) Trevor Raf-

Kobe





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 Athletic 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 time 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

Huskers Send Eight To NCAA Wrestling Championships

14 28 .333 12

Sacramento

Tuesday's Games

Indiana 92, Portland 75 Orlando 104, Miami 98, OT

Wednesday's Games Indiana 111, Philadelphia 94

New Jersey 98, Toronto 84 New York 121, Portland 79 Houston 107, Charlotte 87

Milwaukee 115, Cleveland 105

L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

Orlando at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m. Miami at Chicago, 9:30 p.m. Detroit at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Boston at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Atlanta at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Utah at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games Washington at New Orleans, 7 p.m.

Charlotte at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Denver, 8 p.m.

Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Utah, 8 p.m.

Friday's Games New Jersey at Orlando, 6 p.m. Miami at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.

Washington at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m. Indiana at New York, 6:30 p.m.

San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8:30

Milwaukee at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

Atlantic Division

Portland at Chicago, 7 p.m.

Toronto at Memphis, 7 p.m.

Detroit at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Houston 104, Oklahoma City 103

L.A. Lakers 116. Memphis 111.207

Dallas 107, Washington 98 Denver 118, Atlanta 117, OT Golden State 115, Sacramento 89

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

Dallas

on Thursday, March 15, from the Scottrade Center in St. Louis, Mo. The Huskers qualified 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

The eight Husker wrestlers to qualify for the tournament include Ridge Kiley (133), Jake Sue-flohn (141), James Green (157), Robert Kokesh (165), Tyler Koehn (174), Josh Ihnen (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. Ihnen and Kiley also both return after participating at the championships last year. Ihnen, a three-time qualifier, owns a 23-5 overall record and had the best showing of any

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, March 15
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Spring Break Trip (MMC vs. unt Vernon Nazarene, DH, 1 p.m.)
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S Women's NIT (Drake at USD,

7 p.m., KKYA-FM) BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State Class AA Tourn. at

Valley vs. Clark-Willow Lake, 8:45 p.m.; S.D. State Class B Tourn. at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley vs. Wolsey-Wessington, 8:45 p.m., KVHT-FM)

SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S Tucson Inv. (MMC vs. Hunting-

Friday, March 16

BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC vs. Spring Arbor (DH,

10:30 a.m.)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State Class AA Tourn. at

BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State Class AA Tourn. at

Valley); S.D. State Class B Tourn. at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley,

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 freshman. Sueflohn, Green and Kokesh all qualified in their first season of colle-

Parks & Rec Announces Summer Rec Leagues

giate wrestling.

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.citvofvankton.org.

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

SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Southern Utah (DH):

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Aztec Inv. at

Tucson Inv. (MMC vs. Huntington, 8:30 a.m.; MMC vs. Dickinson State, 10:30 a.m.)

San Diego (USD)

Saturday, March 17

BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State Class AA Tourn. at
Rapid City; S.D. State Class A Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Dakota
Valley); S.D. State Class B Tourn. at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley,

SOFTRALL WOMEN'S USD at Southern Utah: Tucson

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Aztec Inv. at

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING CROFTON, NEB.

Todd Moody 237

MEN'S COMMERCIAL HIGH TEAM GAME: Wiebelha 897 HIGH TEAM SERIES: Wiebelhaus Rec 2521 HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Tom Viebelhaus 253, Steve Honeywell 239,

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Todd Moody 696, Tom Wiebelhaus 653, Steve Honeywell 623 A STANDINGS: Wiebelhaus Rec 64-

36, Coor's Light 60-40, Dean's Cab 57-43, Goeden Steele 42.5-57.5 B STANDINGS: Leader Angus 50.5-49.5, Crofton Elevator 48-52, Don's Auto 44-56, DSM Apts 34-66 HIGHLIGHTS: Duane Kaiser - 62

over game avg.; Todd Moody - 87 over series avg.; Brad Schieffer 5-7; Dan Mc-Farland 3-6-7-10 **VOLLEYBALL**

YANKTON PARKS & REC

WOMEN'S C LEAGUE RESULTS: JJ 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; Ferdig's Firecrackers def. Budlight Bashers 3-0 21-15, 21-16, 21-18 STANDINGS: Inside-Outers 12-2, Ice House/Dakota Express 12-2, Ferrell Gas 11-3, JJ Benji's 10-4, Kiss My Aces 6-8, Budlight Bashers 5-9, Ferdig's Firecrackers 4-10, Larry's Heating & Cooling 2-12, Dani's Daycare 1-13

BASEBALL MLB SPRING TRAINING

Tuesday's Games Baltimore 7, Tampa Bay 7, tie, 10 in-

Houston 6, Philadelphia 5, 10 innings Miami 2. Atlanta 2, tie, 10 innings Toronto 8, Milmesota 2 St. Louis 7, N.Y. Mets 1 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 Wednesday's Games Pittsburgh 11, Baltimore 5 Detroit 7, N.Y. Mets 6, 10 innings

Miami 4, Tampa Bay 2 Houston 4, St. Louis 3 Toronto 7, N.Y. Yankees 5 Minnesota 6, Philadelphia 4 Milmesota o, Frinaucipina 3 Milwaukee 10, Chicago Cubs 2 Chicago White Sox 9, L.A. Angels 7 San Diego 9, Cincinnati 4 San Francisco 2, Cleveland 2, tie, 10

ngs San Diego 8, Arizona (ss) 0 Atlanta 6, Washington 5 Kansas City vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 10:05 p.m. L.A. Dodgers vs. Cincinnati at

Goodyear, Ariz., 10:05 p.m.
Arizona (ss) vs. Colorado (ss) at Scottsdale, Ariz., 10:10 p.m. Thursday's Games Baltimore vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.,

12:05 p.m. Atlanta vs. Philadelphia (ss) at Clear-water, 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.

(26-7), 3:20 p.m Toronto vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla., 12:05 p.m. N.Y. Mets vs. Miami at Jupiter. Fla., Sunday, March 18

12:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (ss) vs. Tampa Bay at
Port Charlotte, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
St. Louis vs. Boston at Fort Myers, 4:15 p.m. LSU (22-10) vs. San Diego State (25-Fla., 1:35 p.m. 6), 30 minutes following

Arizona vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m. San Diego vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, NCAA TOURNAMENT 3:05 p.m. Chicago White Sox vs. Cleveland at Tuesday, March 13 Western Kentucky 59, MVSU 58

Goodyear, Ariz., 3:05 p.m. Kansas City vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glen-dale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m. Cincinnati vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz., 3:05 p.m. Oakland vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.,

Baltimore vs. Minnesota (ss) at Fort

Philadelphia vs. Pittsburgh at Braden-

Washington vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 12:05 p.m. Detroit vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie,

L.A. Angels (ss) vs. San Diego at Peo-ria, Ariz., 3:05 p.m. San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.

Milwaukee (ss) vs. Kansas City at Sur-

prise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Cleveland vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Seattle (ss) vs. Milwaukee (ss) at Tuc-

Texas vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale,

Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee,

Minnesota (ss) vs. Boston at Fort

Seattle (ss) vs. Oakland at Phoenix.

BASKETBALL

MEN'S C LEAGUE RESULTS: Cortrust Bank def. Ball is Life 73-45; Gause Honey def. Dunkin Don-keys 68-58; Main Street def. Blue Ballers

STANDINGS: Cortrust Bank 14-1

Gause Honey 9-6, Ball is Life 7-8, Dunkin Donkeys 6-9, Main Street 5-10, Blue Ballers 4-11

DES MOINES REGIONAL

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURN.

YANKTON PARKS & REC

Myers, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
Colorado vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear,

Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. Arizona at

Myers, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay vs. Toronto at Dunedin,
Fla., 12:05 p.m.

12:05 p.m.

ton, Fla., 12:05 p.m.

Fla., 12:10 p.m.

son, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.

Fla., 5:05 p.m.

Ariz., 9:05 p.m.

California (24-9) vs. South Florida (20-3:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (ss) vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m. 13), 30 minutes following **EAST REGIONAL** Second Round San Francisco vs. Seattle at Peoria, Thursday, March 15 Ariz., 9:05 p.m. Friday's Games Miami vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.,

At The CONSOL Energy Center, Pittsburgh
Kansas State (21-10) vs. Southern
Mississippi (25-8), 11:40 a.m.
Syracuse (31-2) vs. UNC Asheville

FIRST ROUND At UD Arena, Dayton, Ohio

BYU 78. Iona 72

Wednesday, March 14

(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

At The Pit, Albuquerque, N.M. Wisconsin (24-9) vs. Montana (25-6), 1:10 p.m. Vanderbilt (24-10) vs. Harvard (26-4),

Friday, March 16

11:15 a.m. Florida State (24-9) vs. St. Bonaven-

ture (20-11), 30 minutes following SOUTH REGIONAL Thursday, March 15

At The KFC Yum! Center, Louisville, Ky. Kentucky (32-2) vs. Western Kentucky (16-18), 5:50 p.m. Iowa State (22-10) vs. UConn (20-13),

At The Pit, Albuquerque, N.M. Baylor (27-7) vs. South Dakota State UNLV (26-8) vs. Colorado (23-11), 30

At The Rose Garden, Portland, Ore. Wichita State (27-5) vs. VCU (28-6), 6:15 p.m.

Indiana (25-8) vs. New Mexico State Friday, March 16

At Greensboro Coliseum, N.C. Duke (27-6) vs. Lehigh (26-7), 6:15

Notre Dame (22-11) vs. Xavier (21-MIDWEST REGIONAL

At Greensboro Coliseum, N.C. Creighton (28-5) vs. Alabama (21-11),

Temple (24-7) vs. California-South

WEST REGIONAL

Second Round

At The Rose Garden, Portland, Ore. Louisville (26-9) vs. Davidson (25-7),

Florida winner, 30 minutes following

minutes following

Thursday, March 15

State (20-11), 11:15 a.m.

minutes following

Friday March 16

Saturday, March 17
At Allstate Arena, Rosemont, III.
Tennessee (24-8) vs. UT Martin (23-DePaul (22-10) vs. BYU (26-6), 30 11), 30 minutes following At Nationwide Arena, Columbus, Ohio San Diego State (26-7) vs. N.C. State (22-12), 11:40 a.m. Georgetown (23-8) vs. Belmont (27-At Stroh Center, Bowling Green, Ohio Ohio State (25-6) vs. Florida (19-12),

11:15 a.m. 7). 30 minutes following Baylor (34-0) vs. UC Santa Barbara At Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, Tenn. Michigan (24-9) vs. Ohio (27-7), 6:20 (17-15)), 30 minutes following At Carmichael Arena, Chapel Hill, N.C. Georgetown (22-8) vs. Fresno State

First Round

minutes follow

10:10 a.m.

minutes following

First Round Saturday, March 17

(23-9), 30 minutes following

(20-11), 30 minutes following

Sunday, March 18

11:10 a.m.

At Reed Arena, College Station, Texas Arkansas (23-8) vs. Dayton (23-6),

At Comcast Center, College Park, Md. Maryland (28-4) vs. Navy (18-13),

Louisville (22-9) vs. Michigan State

At Joyce Center, Notre Dame, Ind. California (24-9) vs. Iowa (19-11),

At Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee.

KINGSTON REGIONAL

At Webster Bank Arena, Bridgeport,

At McCarthey Athletic Center, Spokane

Coast (29-2), 30 minutes following

First Round
Saturday, March 17
At Webeen

(24-4), 10:20 a.m.

minutes following

Texas A&M (22-10) vs. Albany (NY)

Sunday, March 18

(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) FRESNO REGIONAL

Saturday, March 17
At Constant Convocation Center, Norfolk, Va. West Virginia (23-9) vs. Texas (18-13),

Stanford (31-1) vs. Hampton (26-4), 12:40 p.m. 30 minutes following New Mexico (27-6) vs. Long Beach State (25-8), 30 minutes following At Mackey Arena, West Lafayette, Ind. South Carolina (23-9) vs. Eastern Michigan (23-8), 10:05 a.m. Friday, March 16

At Nationwide Arena, Columbus, Ohio Memphis (26-8) vs. Saint Louis (25-7), Purdue (24-8) vs. South Dakota State 5:50 p.m. Michigan State (27-7) vs. LIU (25-8), (24-8), 30 minutes following Sunday, March 18 30 minutes following At Lloyd Noble Center, Norman, Okla. St. John's (22-9) vs. Creighton (20-

At CenturyLink Center, Omaha, Neb. Florida (23-10) vs. Virginia (22-9), 1:10 12), 5:05 p.m. Oklahoma (20-12) vs. Michigan (20-Missouri (30-4) vs. Norfolk State (25-At Memorial Gymnasium, Nashville

Tenn. Vanderbilt (22-9) vs. Middle Ten-NATIONAL INVITATION TOURN. nessee (26-6), 5:10 p.m.
Duke (24-5) vs. Samford (20-12), 30 First Round RALEIGH REGIONAL

Tuesday, March 13 UMass 101, Mississippi State 96, 20T Seton Hall 63, Stony Brook 61 lowa 84, Dayton 75 Tennessee 65, Savannah State 51 Northwestem 76, Akron 74 Middle Tennessee 86, Marshall 78 Oregon 96, LSU 76 Washington 82, Texas-Arlington 72 Stanford 76, Cleveland State 65

Wednesday, March 14 Minnesota 70, La Salle 61 Drexel 81, UCF 56 Northern Iowa 67, Saint Joseph's 65 Miami 66. Valparaiso 50 Bucknell (24-9) at Arizona (23-11), 8

p.m. Nevada (26-6) at Oral Roberts (27-6), 8:15 p.m. Notre Dame (30-3) vs. Liberty (24-8), Illinois State (20-13) at Mississippi (20-13), 8:30 p.m

Georgia (22-8) vs. Marist (25-7), 11:05 March 15-19 UMass (22-10) at Seton Hall (21-12), St. Bonaventure (29-3) vs. Florida Gulf Middle Tennessee (26-6) at Ten-

nessee (19-14), TBA Friday, March 16 Northwestern (19-13) at Washington (22-10), 9 p.m. Conn. Kansas State (19-13) vs. Princeton

Sunday, March 18 lowa (18-16) at Oregon (23-9), 4 p.m. Minnesota (20-14) vs. Miami (20-12) Drexel (28-6) vs. Northern Iowa (20-

UConn (29-4) vs. Prairie View (17-15), 30 minutes following Bucknell-Arizona winner vs. Nevada-Oral Roberts winner Stanford (22-11) vs. Illinois State-Mis-Wash. Rutgers (22-9) vs. Gonzaga (26-5), sissippi winner

3:15 p.m. Miami (25-5) vs. Idaho State (24-7), 30 WOMEN'S NAT. INV. TOURN. First Round At Hilton Coliseum, Ames, Iowa Kentucky (25-6) vs. McNeese State

Wednesday, March 14 Drexel (18-13) at Fairfield (24-8), 6 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 Miami (Ohio) (21-9) at Richmond (22-American (23-7) at Villanova (17-14).

Ouinniniac (22-9) at Temple (21-9) 6 Harvard (17-11) at Hofstra (19-11), 6

VCU (17-14) at Bowling Green (24-6), Boston University (23-8) at Saint Joseph's (21-10), 6 p.m. Appalachian State (25-6) at UNC Wilmington (20-12), 6 p.m.

Howard (24-8) at Virginia (22-10), 6 Davidson (22-9) at James Madisor (24-7), 6 p.m. Wake Forest (19-13) at Charlotte (16-

13), 6 p.m. Stetson (23-10) at Florida International (22-10), 6 p.m. Florida Atlantic (17-12) at South Florida (17-15), 6 p.m.

High Point (20-12) at N.C. State (18stern Illinois (22-8) at Texas Tech

MVSU (18-13) at Tulane (22-10), 7 Drake (18-15) at South Dakota (22-7) 7 p.m. UMKC (22-11) at Missouri State (22-

8), 7 p.m. Chattanooga (22-9) at Memphis (24

Central Michigan (20-15) at Illinois State (18-12), 7:05 p.m. Utah State (21-9) at Utah (15-15), 8 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. Friday, March 16 Syracuse (18-14) at Hartford (19-12), 6 p.m. Detroit (20-13) at Toledo (21-9), 6 p.m

Duquesne (20-11) at Cincinnati (15-

Central Arkansas (24-6) at Oklahoma State (16-12), 7 p.m.
Oral Roberts (20-10) at Wichita State (19-12), 7:05 p.m. Arizona State (20-11) at Pacific (17-13). 9 p.m.

CS Northridge (17-13) at San Diego (22-8), 9 p.m. Second Round

March 17-19
UC Davis-Oregon State winner vs.
UNLV-Saint Mary's (Cal.) winner
Cal Poly-Washington winner vs. Utah

Arizona State-Pacific winner vs. CS Northridge-San Diego winner E. Illinois-Texas Tech winner vs.

MVSU-Tulane winner
Central Michigan-Illinois State winner Drake-South Dakota winner vs. North-

em Colorado-Colorado winner
Oral Roberts-Wichita State winner vs.
Central Arkansa-Oklahoma State winner UMKC-Missouri State winner vs. Chattanooga-Memphis winner Quinnipiac-Temple winner vs. Harvard-Hofstra winner Syracuse-Hartford winner vs. Drexel-

Fairfield winner 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 Detroit-Toledo winner vs. Duquesne-Cincinnati winner

VCU-Bowling Green winner vs.

Boston University-Saint Joseph's winner High Point-N.C. State winner vs. Ap-

palachian State-UNC Wilmington winner

Miami (Ohio)-Richmond winner vs. Howard-Virginia winner Davidson-James Madison winner vs. At The KFC Yum! Center, Louisville, Ky. Murray State (30-1) vs. Colorado Wake Forest-Charlotte winner Stetson-Florida International winner Marquette (25-7) vs. BYU (26-8), 30 vs. Florida Atlantic-South Florida winner

> MEN'S NCAA DIV. II TOURN. At Highland Heights, Ky.
>
> Quarterfinals, Wednesday, March 21
> Stonehill vs. West Liberty, 11 a.m.
> Midwestern State vs. Western Wash-

ington, 1:30 p.m. Alabama-Huntsville vs. Bellarmine, 5

Atlantic Division

New York

Orlando

Atlanta

Detroit

Oklahoma City

Utah

Portland

L.A. Clippers

New Jersey

Colorado Mines vs. Montevallo, 7:30 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOC. EASTERN CONFERENCE

> 24 .442

L 10

15 .651

18 .571

W L Pct 35 9 .795

17

L 10

19 21 21

16 17

22 21

20 .545

.238

Pct

Pct .619 .575 GB

.488 11 1/2

.465 12 1/2

.463 6 1/2 .462 6 1/2

GB

Central Division

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Northwest Division

Pacific Division

23

.326

.220 .146

.357

Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m. HOCKEY NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE EASTERN CONFERENCE

29 .341 10 1/2 29 .326 11 New Jersey 70 40 25 5 85 195 182 N.Y. Islanders 70 28 31 11 67 164 211 7 1/2 ers 70 28 31 11 67 164 211
Northeast Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA
69 40 26 3 83 223 170
71 36 25 10 82 218 209
71 33 29 9 75 178 201
70 30 32 8 68 202 217
71 28 32 11 67 188 198
Sutheast Pikilan 22 25 Boston GB .795 —
.610 8 1/2
.442 15 1/2
.390 17 1/2

Southeast Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Florida 69 33 23 13 79 171 193
Washington 70 36 28 6 78 189 197
Washington 70 36 28 6 78 189 197 19 Winnipeg 69 32 29 8 72 181 195 Tampa Bay 69 32 30 7 71 197 234 .585 3 1/2 Carolina 70 26 29 15 67 183 211 WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA71 45 18 8 98 186 139
70 44 23 3 91 219 167
69 41 21 7 89 200 179 St. Louis Nashville 71 38 25 8 84 213 209 69 22 40 7 51 161 223 Columbus Northwest Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA69 42 19 8 92 215 172
72 38 30 4 80 191 193 Calgary 70 29 31 10 68 150 194 69 26 36 7 59 182 209 Edmonton

Dallas at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m. Columbus at Edmonton, 10 p.m Phoenix at Vancouver, 10 p.m. Detroit at Anaheim, 10 p.m. Thursday's Games Colorado at New Jersey, 6 p.m.

Philadelphia at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m. Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m. St. Louis at Carolina, 6 p.m. Toronto at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m. Boston at Florida, 6:30 p.m. Phoenix at Calgary, 8 p.m. Nashville at San Jose, 9:30 p.m Friday's Games Montreal at Ottawa, 6 p.m.

Washington at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m. Chicago at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. Calgary at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m. Los Angeles at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

Feb. 18 — x-Budweiser Shootout, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Kyle Busch) Feb. 23 — x-Gatorade Duel 1, Day-

Beach, Fla. (Matt Kenseth) March 4 - Subway Fresh Fit 500, Avondale, Ariz. (Denny Hamlin)

March 11 — Kobalt Tools 400, Las

Vegas (Tony Stewart)

March 25 — Auto Club 400, Fontana April 1 — Goody's Fast Relief 500,

Ridgeway, Va. April 14 - Samsung Mobile 500, Fort April 22 — STP 400, Kansas City,

May 6 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala. May 19 - x-Sprint Showdown, Con-

cord, N.C. May 19 — x-Sprint All-Star, Concord, May 27 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord,

June 17 - Heluva Good! Sour Cream Dips 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

June 30 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, Driver Standings 1. Greg Biffle, 125.

ton, 4 p.m.; MMC vs. Waldorf, 6 p.m.

 Kevin Harvick, 115.
 Denny Hamlin, 113.
 Dale Earnhardt Jr., 107. 5. Matt Kenseth, 102. (tie) Carl Edwards, 102. 7. Tony Stewart, 100.

8. Martin Truex Jr., 98.

(tie) Joey Logano, 98 10. Mark Martin, 97. 11. Paul Menard, 89. 12. Kyle Busch, 87. 13. Ryan Newman, 86. (tie) Clint Bowyer, 86. 15. Jeff Burton, 82.

16. Bobby Labonte, 76. 17. Jeff Gordon, 75. 20. Dave Blaney, 66.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Optioned

INF Joe Mahoney to Norfolk (IL).
CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Optioned
RHP Gregory Infante to Charlotte (IL). Reassigned C Damaso Espino, RHP Brian ogrosso RHP Jacob Petricka OF Brandon Short and OF Delwyn Young to their minor-league camp. Added INF Tyler Saladino to major-league camp.

National League ATLANTA BRAVES—Optioned RHP Erik Cordier to Gwinnett (IL). Reassigned RHP Jason Rice, C Matt Kennelly, OF Todd Cunningham and OF Stefan Gartrell to their minor league camp.

NEW YORK METS—Suspended C

Eric Langill for seven days without pay after being charged in a drunken driving ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Optioned RHP Maikel Cleto. RHP Brandon Dickson and INF Pete Kozma to Memphis (PCL) and INF Zack Cox to Springfield (Texas). Reassigned RHP Joe Kelly, RHP Shelby

Miller and LHP Kevin Siegrist to their mino American Association
FARGO-MOORHEAD REDHAWKS—
Signed RHP Ryne Nelson and RHP Wade

GRAND PRAIRIE AIR HOGS-Signed INF Greg Porter and INF Bryan

Myrow.

KANSAS CITY T-BONES—Signed LHP Devin Anderson and INF Reid Fronk. LAREDO LEMURS—Signed RHP Manny Ayala.
SIOUX CITY EXPLORERS—Released INF Kent Sakamoto, OF Aljay Davis ST. PAUL SAINTS—Signed INF Tanner Townsend.
WICHITA WINGNUTS—Released

LHP Eric Gilliland and OF John Allen. Can-Am League
OUEBEC CAPITALES—Signed RHP

James to a 10-day contract. NEW YORK KNICKS—Announced the resignation of coach Mike D'Antoni. Named Mike Woodson interim coach.

FOOTBALL D Frederic St-Denis from Hamilton (AHL) National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Agreed to
terms with OL Adam Snyder on a five-year CHICAGO BEARS—Agreed to terms

with KR-PR Eric Weems on a three-year contract.
CLEVELAND BROWNS—Released G Eric Steinbach.
DALLAS COWBOYS—Agreed to

terms with CB Brandon Carr on a five-year contract and QB Kyle Orton on a three-year contract. Signed OL Mackenzy Bernadeau to a four-year contract and FB and William Lacasse Lawrence Vickers to a two-vear contract. DETROIT LIONS—Signed WR Calvin nnson an eight-year contract. 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 from Philadelphia for a 2012 sixth-round draft pick. JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS-Agreed to terms with DE Jeremy Mincey on a four year contract and WR Laurent Robinson to

a five-year contract.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Signed RB

Signed D Florian Lechner. 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

NEW YORK JETS—Re-signed K Nick OAKLAND RAIDERS—Released G

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 con-

ST. LOUIS RAMS—Traded their 2012

Sunday, March 18 No activities scheduled

> Finnegan on a five-year contract.
>
> SAN DIEGO CHARGERS—Resigned OT Jared Gaither to a four-year contract. Signed LB Jarret Johnson to a four-year contract. Agreed to terms with TE

2012 first and second-round draft picks

and its 2013 and 2014 first-round draft

picks. Agreed to terms with CB Cortland

year contracts. Released C Jeff Faine. WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Signed WR Pierre Gargon and WR Joshua Mor-HOCKEY National Hockey League MONTREAL CANADIENS—Recalled

assigned him to Binghamton (AHL). SAN JOSE SHARKS—Signed F Sebastian Stalberg to a two-year contract. American Hockey League
PROVIDENCE BRUINS—Reassigned D Zach McKelvie to Reading

ECHL
READING ROYALS—Announced F
Casey Haines was returned to the team by Norfolk (AHL), Released F Jeremiah Ketts

Central Hockey League
EVANSVILLE ICEMEN—Signed F
Maxime Boisclair.
FORT WAYNE KOMETS—Claimed F QUAD CITY MALLARDS—Signed G

Justin Grant. TEXAS BRAHMAS—Waived F Chris

TENNIS
ATP TOUR—Fined Michael Llodra

COLLEGE CENTRAL MICHIGAN—Fired basket COLGATE-Named Brad Dunlay as sistant offensive line coach.
KENT STATE—Fired women's bas-

ketball coach Bob Lindsay. SOUTH CAROLINA—Named Spencer Lewis men's assistant socce coach. VILLANOVA—Announced junior G

Commentary: Academics Still Second At Many Schools

BY TIM DAHLBERG

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

Figuring out which schools care as much about academics as they do basketball is a lot easier.

Four vet Butler somehow found its

way there for the second straight

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. Matriculate 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-ayear business that distributes riches to almost everyone involved

Available at

They play for the fun of the game and, for an elite few, the hope of making it in the pros. For the vast majority, 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.

cially 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 grad-

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.

hadn't graduated a black basketball player in a decade and the NCAA couldn't do a thing about it," said Lapchick, whose studies on race and academics in colleges as director of UCF's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports, have helped draw attention to a subject once rarely discussed. "Now they The good news is that things

are getting marginally better. Coaches are being forced to pay more attention to academics, and there are new penalties that will eventually reduce the number of basketball factories in the nation's institutes of higher education. They're hardly perfect, and

they contain way too many loop-

tial ban of UConn from next year's tournament because of poor academics should serve as a wakeup call for those who still don't get it. Credit NCAA president Mark

Emmert for some of it. He runs an organization that in the past appeared to be uncertain about its true purpose, which is to educate athletes and protect the integrity of college athletics. Since coming on board a little more than a year ago, he has repeatedly pushed proposals for tougher academic standards, some more effective than others.

ACADEMICS | PAGE 10



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Los Angeles 70 33 25 12 78 159 154

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point

Tuesday's Games Washington 5, N.Y. Islanders 4, SO

Chicago 4, St. Louis 3, SO Philadelphia 3, New Jersey 0

N.Y. Rangers 4, Carolina 2 Tampa Bay 6, Boston 1

Calgary 3, San Jose 2, OT

Los Angeles 5, Detroit 2

Montreal 3, Ottawa 2, SO

Wednesday's Games Colorado 5, Buffalo 4, SO

Florida 5, Toronto 2

Dallas 1, Minnesota 0

tona Beach, Fla. (Tony Stewart)
Feb. 23 — x-Gatorade Duel 2, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Matt Kenseth)
Feb. 26 — Daytona 500, Daytona

March 18 — Food City 500, Bristol,

April 28 — Richmond 400, Richmond,

N.C. June 3 — Dover 400, Dover, Del. June 10 — Pocono 400, Long Pond,

June 24 — Toyota/Save Mart 350,

Unfortunately, some schools are failing their athletes - and failing them miserably. That's espe-

uating at a 60 percent rate while white players were at 88 percent.

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Kory Sperry on a one-year contract.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed
G Carl Nicks and CB Eric Wright to five-BASKETBALL National Basketball Association CHICAGO BULLS—Signed G Mike

Cole Schneider to a two-year contract and

Major League Soccer NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION—

\$2,500 for verbal abuse during a match i the BNP Paribas Open.

Maalik Wayns will enter the NBA draft and

except the ones who really count "We used to report schools that holes for a cagey coach to exploit. - the unpaid labor toiling on the AP Sports Columnist But they are a start, and the potencourt.