

Freeman's Mors To Become Next Activities Director At YSD

FREEMAN — The Yankton School District did not have to look far for its next activities director and assistant principal. Ryan Mors, elementary principal and girls' basketball and golf coach, has accepted the position at YSD and will begin his duties in July. "It was too good an opportunity to pass up," Mors told the *Freeman Courier*. "I had no inclination of leaving, but this opportunity presented itself and all the pieces fell into place." Mors replaces the out-going Wally Bosch, who served two years as Yankton's activities director after taking over for Bob Winter in 2010. Mors guided the Freeman

Flyers girls' basketball teams to three consecutive district titles (2009-11) and two state tournament berths (2009-10). The Freeman girls' golf team earned fourth place at last year's Class B state tournament. "That's one of the reasons I got into coaching, to see those players experience that kind of success," Mors told the *Courier*. "Experiencing it right along with them is something I'll never forget." Mors' wife, Aimee, who teaches science, junior high reading and health at Freeman High School along with her assistant varsity track coaching duties, will continue teaching in Freeman, according to the *Courier*.

STM's Duffy Leads 'A' All-State Team

Parkston's Malloy, Wagner's Brecke Also On 1st Team

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Two years after a back injury forced her to miss her entire sophomore season, Caitlin Duffy stormed back to become one of the state's most prolific players. Not only did she develop into a Division I recruit, the senior helped St. Thomas More to its first girls' state basketball championship this season. For those efforts, Duffy has been named to the Class A girls' All-State first team, released today (Thursday) by the South Dakota Sportswriters Association. Joining Duffy on the first team are Parkston senior Marie Malloy, Elkton-Lake Benton senior Cassidy Gebhart, Wagner senior Devon Brecke and Clark-Willow Lake junior Chynna Stevens. A Colorado State University recruit, Duffy averaged 19.5 points, 6.8 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 3.3 steals per game as a senior — saving some of her best performances for the

State Class A Tournament in Spearfish. "She has an amazing desire to play the game and always get better," coach Brandon Kandolin said. "She put in a tremendous amount of time to get where she's at." Though she eventually became a hot commodity on the college recruiting scene, Duffy was always quick to point out her real ambition: Helping the Cavaliers to their first girls' state basketball championship. "Last summer when she was on the AAU tour, that's when all of a sudden she started getting calls from schools," Kandolin said. "She was excited about it, but she was always telling me that her number one goal was winning state." Guided by Malloy, the Parkston Lady Trojans came up just short of that same goal — losing in the final to St. Thomas More. Malloy, a University of Sioux Falls recruit, averaged 22.6 points, 5 assists and 4 steals per game. Yet, one of her most surprising numbers? Nine rebounds a game — all that for a 5-foot-6 guard.

"You're never going to find a harder worker than Marie," coach Rob Van Laecken said. "What she gives you the first minute of the game, you'll get the last minute; nothing changes. She's going 110 percent the entire time." Malloy, an all-state player for the third straight year (she was first team as a sophomore), was a starter for the Trojans since her eighth grade year. Since that first action, she utilized her speed, Van Laecken said. "I've been doing this a long time, and she's by far the quickest guard I've ever coached," he said. "When she has the ball in her hands, not many people can stop her." The Spirit of Su winner, Malloy suffered a knee injury in the first minute of the state championship. Sure, it was devastating, but Van Laecken said she immediately became the team's most vocal cheerleader. "You just can't say enough about her," he said. A speedy guard known for consistently

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MMC's Scheich Pushing Self In Classroom, On The Court

BY CODY BALL
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Despite being in only her second year at Mount Marty, women's basketball player Johanna Scheich was named the Great Plains Athletic Conference Emil S. Liston Award. The Emil S. Liston award is given to one women's basketball player per conference who is an academic junior. The honor is voted on by each member school's faculty athletic representatives. Scheich, who is from Mitchell but prepped at Ethan, is a sophomore academically, but has taken a heavy course load which has put her as a junior academically. "Johanna is about as good of a kid as you can find," Mount Marty head women's basketball coach Tom Schlimgen said. "She's really a great kid and exemplifies the type of athletes that we want to recruit to Mount Marty." Now that Scheich has been named the recipient of the award for the GPAC she is now eligible for the national award. The always humble Scheich spoke about the moment when she found out she had won the award. "Honestly, I was completely surprised," Scheich said. "More than anything, I am proud to receive this honor for Mount Marty. I think it says a lot about our school and our program that a candidate from Mount Marty has received the Emil S. Liston award twice in the past three years." Two years ago, Yankton native, and current Mount Marty senior, Kylie Gross was awarded the Emil S. Liston award. Schlimgen also feels the award is a reflection of the Mount Marty community. "This is a great honor for Johanna and for Mount Marty," Schlimgen said. "There is only one award given out of all 11 teams in the GPAC, which is a very prestigious conference. It just speaks to the academic quality of Mount Marty." Scheich has a broad range of interests, which played a role in her receiving the award. The long list of her current campus involvements include: being the president of Mount Marty choirs, secretary of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, an active member of campus ministry, a sophomore representative of the Student Government Association, a member of the English honor society Sigma Tau Delta, a tutor in the learning center, and a writer for the student newspaper, The Moderator. Scheich has also had creative writing work accepted into Mount Marty's literary journal Paddlefish, and has had research work accepted into Scholastica, Mount Marty's research journal. In addition to the many responsibilities Scheich, an English major and philosophy minor, is a Presidential Scholarship recipient who maintains a 4.0 GPA. "We knew before Johanna showed up on campus that she would be a hard worker just from looking at her high school grades," Schlimgen said. "She is highly respected by her teammates and earned one of the two 'great teammate' awards that the players on our team vote for." In the 2011-12 season Scheich appeared in 29 games and was in the starting lineup at point guard in four of those appearances. She finished the season with 22

ROGER HAAS TOURNAMENT CHAMPS



ABOVE: The Yankton Bucks sixth grade boys' basketball team won the Pizza Hut red division at the Roger Haas youth basketball tournament this past weekend. Team members include (front) Gerrit Dykstra, Tate Gale, Jack Wolfgram, Cameron Krejci, Casey Krejci, Kellen Franzen, (back) coach Nate Franzen, Brady Dangler, Trevor Rafferty, Garrett Tennant and coach Jeff Wolfgram.

LEFT: The Yankton Fury sixth grade girls' basketball team won the Slumberland red division at the Roger Haas youth basketball tournament this past weekend. The squad has also won tournaments in Norfolk and Crofton, Neb., Akron, Iowa, and Alcester. Team members include (front) Anna Savey, Emily Oswald, Holly Hicks, coach Dan Hicks, (middle) Holly Mines, Leah Waid, Kara Ulmer, (third) Aurora Papstein, Kylie Rodig, Madie Cordell and (back) coach Sean Cordell.

Cultures Clash In Commonwealth Over Kentucky-Louisville Game

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — This Bluegrass State rivalry runs deep, and the divide is wide. Just 70 miles apart, Lexington and Louisville are worlds apart when it comes to college basketball. Come Saturday when the Cardinals and Wildcats meet at the Final Four in New Orleans, a berth in the national title game is just the beginning. Here, the game is likened to a civil war. Pick a side: Wildcats or Cardinals. Rupp's Runts or the Doctors of Dunk. Dan Issel or Wes Unseld. John Calipari or Rick Pitino. "If the excitement and frenzy and turbulence that's been stirred up in Kentucky this week could be harnessed, we could solve our energy crisis," Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell said on the Senate floor. "Basketball fans from Kentucky have been waiting their whole lives for this game." This is the grudge match to end them all. It's the fifth time the schools will meet in the NCAA tournament — the two sides have split the four previous meetings — and it pits Louisville coach Pitino against one-time friend and now frosty foe Calipari. Not to mention Kentucky freshmen phenoms Anthony Davis and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, who have been steady in taking the Wildcats to the top, vs. a ragtag flock of Cardinals who've won eight straight with a rotating cast of mostly unknowns such as Peyton Siva and Gorgui Dieng. "It's not about (Pitino) or I; it's about these players," said Calipari, who's in his second consecutive Final Four still searching for the national title that's eluded him. "Hopefully we both have our teams ready to play, and I think we will, and we'll go at it." The Cardinals (30-9) lost this year's matchup vs. the Wildcats (36-2) 69-62 on Dec. 31. Even though there is much more on the line Saturday, it will be difficult for the game to be much more intense. "There's going to be so much pressure on the players," former Louisville forward Earl Clark said. "It's going to go down in history. Kentucky is the No. 1 team, and Louisville is like the Cinderella of the tournament." Kentucky blue dominates most of the state of more than 4.3 million basketball-crazed fans, surrounding the outnumbered Cardinals fans who have fortified a stronghold in the state's largest city. The fan bases are about as different as they can be, and Pitino is one of the few who knows what it's like on both sides of the aisle. He coached Kentucky for eight years, bringing the Cats back to the pinnacle of greatness with an NCAA title in '96. He's been at Louisville for the last 11 years and is heading to his second Final Four with the Cardinals. "It's two different entities, re-

Minnesota, Stanford Meet In NIT Final

NEW YORK (AP) — Minnesota coach Tubby Smith and Stanford's Johnny Dawkins ran into each other a few times recruiting Andre Hollins. The point guard from Memphis, Tenn., chose the Golden Gophers, and he's playing his best basketball deep into his freshman season, leading an injury-riddled team to the title game of the NIT — against the Cardinal. The schools face off Thursday night at Madison Square Garden. "We want the ball in his hands because he's making very good decisions with it," Smith said Wednesday. For third-seeded Stanford, there will be plenty of familiarity Thursday, too. The Cardinal played in the Garden in November, reaching the final of the NIT Season Tip-Off. They led Syracuse, which would go on to earn a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament, by six points with about 4 1/2 minutes left. But the Orange turned up the pressure, ending the game on a 15-3 run to win 69-63. Stanford saw convincing evidence in Tuesday's semifinal that it's come a long way since then, when the Cardinal wasted a big lead against Massachusetts but rallied to win. "The same run was made, and we didn't respond the way we needed to," Dawkins said of the Syracuse game. "To see our growth in our young players that we were able to respond." Sixth-seeded Minnesota's young players, Hollins included, have had to grow up in a hurry because of injuries to two key seniors: Trevor Mbakwe and Ralph Sampson III. The Golden Gophers started three freshmen, a sophomore and a junior in Tuesday's semifinal against Washington. And yet Smith can credit good health for Minnesota's recent strong performances. Players such as Hollins, who was bothered by a sprained right ankle earlier in the season, are no longer nagged by various ailments, leading to more continuity at practice. Others are settling into new roles. Rodney Williams moved from small forward to power forward when Mbakwe was hurt early in the season, and he's averaging 20.8 points in his last five games compared with 10.9 for the first 32. "Roles change daily for us with so many missed practices, missed games, and it's been tough," Smith said. "As a coach you want to know, and as players you want to know, their roles and their responsibilities, and they're not that clearly defined because of other extenuating circumstances." Stanford is young in that most important of places: the backcourt. Leading scorer Chasson Randle is a freshman, and sophomore Aaron Bright is the primary ball-handler. Winning the NIT last year was certainly a springboard to success for Wichita State — the Shockers earned a No. 5 seed in this season's NCAA tournament. "Whenever you're invited to play in postseason, you get a chance to continue to develop your team, through practices, through just the ability to play in these one-and-done situations," Dawkins said. "I think there's something about that — it hardens you. It makes you a better team; it makes you a tighter unit."

Ichiro A Hit In Japan As Mariners Beat A's

TOKYO (AP) — Ichiro Suzuki gave his fans in Japan a performance to cheer about. Suzuki had four hits in his return home, Dustin Ackley homered and singled in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Oakland Athletics 3-1 Wednesday night in baseball's season opener. "It was very special to open in Japan," said Suzuki, who spent nine seasons in Osaka with the Orix Blue Wave. "I wanted to have fun and give the fans something at this special time and wanted to share a special moment with them." Major League Baseball and the players' association are using the series to assist rebuilding in Japan following last year's earthquake and tsunami. A group of players and coaches traveled to the disaster zone on Tuesday to conduct a baseball clinic. Felix Hernandez combined with two relievers on a six-hitter as MLB opened its season in Tokyo for the fourth time. The continent switch didn't help the A's, who became the first team to lose eight

STATE SWIMMING CHAMPS



The Vermillion Area Swim Team had two individuals, both in the girls' 11-12 year-old division, win state titles at the South Dakota State Short Course Championships earlier this month. Madisen Martinez, left, won the 50 and 100-yard breaststroke. Lexie Malimaneek won the 200 and 500 freestyle, and the 200 individual medley.