

# Press & Dakotan

## DAILY DOSE

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



BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Have you filled out your bracket yet? (Random tangent isn't cool how that at this time each year, one word — "bracket" — means so much. You say the word and everyone knows what you mean: NCAA Tournament.) I've never been one to really get excited about college football bowl picks, and not because I always manage to chose the wrong team in a 50-50 decision. Basketball, however, is when I get anxious; ready to print out four blank brackets and try to find that perfect one. This year, though, I'm finding it harder to think objectively about the bracket I have sitting next to me on my

### Logic? Who Needs Logic For Bracket Selections?

desk. I'm a huge Gonzaga fan (thanks to family connections out in Washington), and of course, I'd like to pencil in South Dakota State for an upset or two. But that's where we all go wrong in our bracket pools. We want to pick "our" teams, but we end up watching them lose early and watching our standings in the office pool sink lower and lower. Trust me, I've been there. Still, I'm finding myself advancing Gonzaga all the way to the Final Four. Someone please come stop me. It's certainly possible, but not all that likely. A lot of folks are taking Louisville to reach the title game, and others like Miami to do the same on the other half of the bracket. I tried hard to find a Cinderella team, but there again, I overanalyze things and end up taking Saint Louis to the Final Four. Whoops. Guess we'll all find out just how wrong I was — again.

### Nebraska Multi-Sport Standout Signs With MMC

Mandy O'Malley of North Platte, Neb., will attend Mount Marty College and participate in basketball and cross country for the Lancers beginning this fall, the institution announced on Tuesday.



O'Malley helped St. Patrick's High School to state tournament appearances in 2012 and 2013, averaging 7.8 points, 4 rebounds, 3.4 assists, and 2.7 steals per game this past season. She holds the three-point single-season record for Saint Patrick's, and was named SPVA Second Team All-Conference this past season. We are excited to have Mandy join our program," MMC head women's basketball coach Tom Schlingen said of the 5-3 guard. "She is the type of student-athlete we want to have in our program and we look forward to her being a positive part of our campus and team." O'Malley has also produced a fine running resume, earning top-20 finishes in the Nebraska State Cross Country meet each of the past two seasons. She has four individuals and one state track meet relay medal to her credit, including a sixth place finish in the 3200, an eighth place finish in the 1600 and a fourth place in the 3200 relay this

past season. "Mandy is a very talented runner," said MMC track and cross country coach Randy Fischer. "She will really be a big part of our cross country team in the years to come." O'Malley is a member of the National Honor Society and was the Emily McNeel Doyle Award recipient. In addition to her athletic awards, she will also receive an academic achievement scholarship and a Catholic leadership scholarship. The daughter of James and Deb O'Malley of North Platte, Neb., she will major in nursing at Mount Marty College.

### USD Women Sixth In California

MONTEREY, Calif.—South Dakota sophomore Jordan Rearick carded a final round 81 and placed 18th in leading the Coyotes to a sixth-place finish at the Monterey Bay Invitational played Sunday thru Tuesday at Del Monte Golf Club. Rearick finished 34-over-par at the 54-hole event. She improved from 85 to 84 to 81. South Dakota improved its team score by a stroke each round and finished at 1,017 (340-339-338). "It was nice to get outside and hit some good shots," said USD assistant coach KC Kane. "We put ourselves in some tough situations throughout the tournament, but we scrambled well to make pars." The Coyotes' 15 individual rounds ranged from 81 (+9) to 88 (+16). Freshman Victoria Grasso (+38, 86-81-87) placed 21st, junior Hailey Sheldahl (+40, 84-88-84) was

23rd and senior Nicole Funck (+42, 85-86-87) was 24th. Sophomore Stephanie Rodgers (+45, 87-88-86) rounded out USD's lineup and placed 27th. "There were a lot of well-placed bunkers on the course, but we hit a lot of good shots out of them," said Kane. "Those are tough to work on in the winter, but we handled it well." Northern Colorado, behind medalist Carleigh Silvers, won the event with a score of 952 (336-308-308). Western Illinois (336-323-309) was 16 strokes back in second place. Silvers was 11-over-par and earned a 10-stroke win against Western's Kristi Tschudin, who placed second. The Coyotes return to the links April 8-9 in Kansas City, Mo.

### Coyote Men Take Ninth In La.

HAMMOND, La.—South Dakota men's golf finished ninth out of 12 teams at the Carter Plantation Intercollegiate hosted by Southeastern Louisiana on Monday and Tuesday. Southeastern Louisiana won the event with a team score of 861 (-3), 13-strokes better than runner up Austin Peay. "We had a great first round," said head coach Nick Hodven. "We were in second-place with a score of 293. That tells me the talent is there to compete; this team just needs to learn to finish tournaments. The second and third rounds have been our Achilles' heel all season, but this is a young group and they need that experience to get better." Dakota Clark led the 'Yotes at seven-over-par, tying

him for 19th-place in the field of 66. Alex Kline (+11) and Sam Matthew (+16) also finished among the top 40 individuals.

Southeastern Louisiana had the top-two individual finishers at the tournament in Eamon Bradley (five-under-par, first) and Rhys West (four-under-par, second). The Coyotes have 10 days off before returning to action for the Western Illinois Tournament in Macomb, Ill., on March 29.

### Inaugural Northeast Nebraska All-Star Football Classic Set

NORFOLK, Neb. — The inaugural Northeast Nebraska All-Star Football Classic will be played Saturday, June 8, at Norfolk's Veteran's Memorial Park. Among the area players selected for the "red" squad are Chet Beckmann of Bloomfield; Levi Nielsen of Creighton; Travis Allvin, Justin Jansen and Brady Steffen of Crofton; Grant Dicks and Danny Loecker of Hartington Cedar Catholic; Kyle Kardell and Justin Saunders of Laurel-Concord/Coleridge; Eli Schreier of Niobrara/Vedrigre; Sam Burki of Ponca; and Marcus Claussen of Wausa. The red squad will be coached by Rich Rethwisch of Wayne, and assisted by Jeff Jensen of Creighton, Jeff Bellar of Norfolk Catholic, Tim Kasmeyer of Norfolk Catholic, Greg Warneke of Pierce and Doug Konopasek of Niobrara/Vedrigre. More information is available online at www.nenallstar-footballclassic.com

### S.D. Amateur Baseball Meeting March 24

MITCHELL — The South Dakota Amateur Baseball Association annual meeting will be held Sunday, March 24, beginning at noon at the Highland Conference Center in Mitchell. There will be a noon meal, which is free to all team managers, players, league officers, umpires, fans and other interested parties. The annual meeting will follow the meal. The meeting had originally been scheduled for February, but was postponed due to weather.

### Clarification

A story in Monday's edition on the Viborg-Hurley vs. White River basketball game made reference to players on the Viborg-Hurley basketball roster having won a state VFW Teener baseball title. Those players were part of a team based out of Irene.

### Correction

Tuesday's "Daily Dose" column referred to the Baylor team that the South Dakota State women played in their first NCAA Tournament appearance as featuring current star Brittany Griner. Griner was not a member of that team. We apologize for the error.

## SCOREBOARD

### BASKETBALL

#### BIG 8 CONFERENCE

**BOYS' ALL-CONF.**  
Jesse Brown, Madison; Trae Vandenberg, Madison; Jacob Giles, Madison; Austin Krier, Vermillion; J.T. Sorenson, Vermillion; Zach Kocman, Lennox; Tyler Harms, Lennox; Andrew McCuen, Harrisburg; Brayden Swartwout, West Central  
**HONORABLE MENTION:** Mason Sullivan, Madison; Nick Jensen, Vermillion; Alex Lane, Lennox; Alex Jacobson, Harrisburg; Cole Jorgensen, West Central

#### NCAA TOURNAMENT

**FIRST ROUND**  
**At UD Arena, Dayton, Ohio**  
Tuesday, March 19  
N.C. A&T 73, Liberty 72  
Middle Tennessee State (28-5) vs. Saint Mary's (Cald) (27-6), 8:10 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 20  
LIU Brooklyn (20-13) vs. James Madison (20-14), 5:40 p.m.  
Boise State (21-10) vs. La Salle (21-9), 8:10 p.m.

#### EAST REGIONAL

**Thursday, March 21**  
**At Rupp Arena, Lexington, Ky.**  
Butler (26-8) vs. Bucknell (26-5), 11:40 a.m.  
Marquette (23-8) vs. Davidson (26-7), 30 minutes following  
**At HP Pavilion, San Jose, Calif.**  
UNLV (25-9) vs. California (21-11), 6:27 p.m.  
Syracuse (26-9) vs. Montana (25-6), 30 minutes following

#### At UD Arena, Dayton, Ohio

N.C. State (24-10) vs. Temple (23-9), 12:40 p.m.  
Indiana (27-6) vs. LIU Brooklyn-James Madison winner, 30 minutes following  
**At The Frank Erwin Center, Austin, Texas**  
Miami (27-6) vs. Pacific (22-12), 1:10 p.m.  
Illinois (22-7) vs. Northwestern State (23-8), 30 minutes following

#### SOUTH REGIONAL

**At The Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills, Mich.**  
Michigan (26-7) vs. South Dakota State (25-9), 6:15 p.m.  
VCU (26-8) vs. Akron (26-6), 30 minutes following  
**Friday, March 22**  
**At Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia**  
George Town (25-6) vs. Florida Gulf Coast (24-10), 5:50 p.m.  
San Diego State (22-10) vs. Oklahoma (20-11), 30 minutes following

#### At The Sprint Center, Kansas City, Mo.

North Carolina (22-10) vs. Villanova (20-13), 6:20 p.m.  
Kansas (29-5) vs. Western Kentucky (20-15), 30 minutes following  
**At The Frank Erwin Center, Austin, Texas**  
Florida (26-7) vs. Northwestern State (23-8), 6:27 p.m.  
UCLA (25-9) vs. Minnesota (20-12), 30 minutes following

#### MIDWEST REGIONAL

**Thursday, March 21**  
**At Rupp Arena, Lexington, Ky.**  
Louisville (29-5) vs. N.C. A&T (20-16), 5:50 p.m.  
Colorado State (25-8) vs. Missouri (23-10), 30 minutes following  
**At The Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills, Mich.**  
Michigan State (25-8) vs. Valparaiso (26-7), 11:15 a.m.  
Memphis (30-4) vs. Middle Tennessee-Saint Mary's (Cald) winner, 30 minutes following

#### At HP Pavilion, San Jose, Calif.

Saint Louis (27-6) vs. New Mexico State (24-10), 1:10 p.m.  
Oklahoma State (24-8) vs. Oregon (26-8), 30 minutes following  
**Friday, March 22**

#### At Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia

Duke (27-5) vs. Albany (NY) (24-11), 11:15 a.m.  
Creighton (27-7) vs. Cincinnati (22-11), 30 minutes following  
**WEST REGIONAL**  
**Thursday, March 21**  
**At EnergySolutions Arena, Salt Lake City**  
Pittsburgh (24-8) vs. Wichita State (26-8), 12:40 p.m.  
Gonzaga (31-2) vs. Southern (23-9), 30 minutes following

#### At The Sprint Center, Kansas City, Mo.

Arizona (25-7) vs. Belmont (26-6), 6:20 p.m.  
New Mexico (29-5) vs. Harvard (19-9), 30 minutes following  
**Friday, March 22**  
**At UD Arena, Dayton, Ohio**  
Ohio State (26-7) vs. Iowa (20-13), 6:15 p.m.  
Notre Dame (25-9) vs. Iowa State (22-11), 30 minutes following

#### At The Sprint Center, Kansas City, Mo.

Wisconsin (23-11) vs. Mississippi (26-8), 11:40 a.m.  
Kansas State (27-7) vs. Boise State-La Salle winner, 30 minutes following  
**NATIONAL INVITATION TOURN.**  
**FIRST ROUND**  
**Tuesday, March 19**  
Maryland 66, Niagara 70  
St. John's 83, Saint Joseph's 61  
Louisiana Tech 71, Florida State 66  
Robert Morris 59, Kentucky 57  
Alabama 62, Northeastern 43  
Virginia 67, Norfolk State 56  
Denver 61, Ohio 57  
Washington (18-15) at BYU (21-11), 9:30 p.m.  
Stephen F. Austin (27-4) at Stanford (18-14), 12:40 p.m.

#### At Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia

Indiana (27-6) vs. Temple (23-9), 12:40 p.m.  
Indiana (27-6) vs. LIU Brooklyn-James Madison winner, 30 minutes following  
**At The Frank Erwin Center, Austin, Texas**  
Miami (27-6) vs. Pacific (22-12), 1:10 p.m.  
Illinois (22-7) vs. Northwestern State (23-8), 30 minutes following

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#### At College Station, Texas

Texas A&M (24-9) vs. Wichita State (24-9), 3:05 p.m.  
Nebraska (23-8) vs. Chattanooga (29-3), 30 minutes following  
**Sunday, March 24**  
**At Iowa City**  
Notre Dame (31-1) vs. UT-Martin (19-14), 4:05 p.m.  
Miami (21-10) vs. Iowa (20-12), 30 minutes following

#### At Durham, N.C.

Duke (30-2) vs. Hampton (28-5), 11:05 a.m.  
Oklahoma State (21-10) vs. DePaul (21-11), 30 minutes following  
**BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL**  
**Saturday, March 23**  
**At Storrs, Conn.**  
Vanderbilt (20-1) vs. Saint Joseph's (23-8), 10:05 a.m.  
Connecticut (29-4) vs. Idaho (17-15), 30 minutes following

#### At College Park, Md.

Maryland (24-7) vs. Quinnipiac (30-2), 10:15 a.m.  
Michigan State (24-8) vs. Marist (26-6), 30 minutes following  
**Sunday, March 24**  
**At Newark, Del.**  
Delaware (30-3) vs. West Virginia (17-13), 11:15 a.m.  
North Carolina (28-6) vs. Albany (NY) (27-3), 30 minutes following

#### At Queens, N.Y.

Kentucky (27-5) vs. Navy (21-11), 11:05 p.m.  
Dayton (27-2) vs. St. John's (18-12), 30 minutes following  
**WOMEN'S NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 20**  
x-Oklahoma City (50-17) vs. Auburn (16-14), 6 p.m.  
East Illinois (19-11) at Missouri (17-14), 7 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 21**  
Idaho State (18-12) at BYU (21-10), 8 p.m.  
Utah (18-13) at Long Beach State (16-15), 9 p.m.  
UC Santa Barbara (16-16) at San Diego State (26-6), 9 p.m.

#### At Louisville, Ky.

Purdue (24-8) vs. Liberty (27-6), 11:10 a.m.  
Louisville (24-8) vs. Middle Tennessee (25-7), 30 minutes following  
**Sunday, March 24**  
**At Waco, Texas**  
Florida St. (22-9) vs. Princeton (22-6), 4:10 p.m.  
Baylor (32-1) vs. Prairie View (17-14),