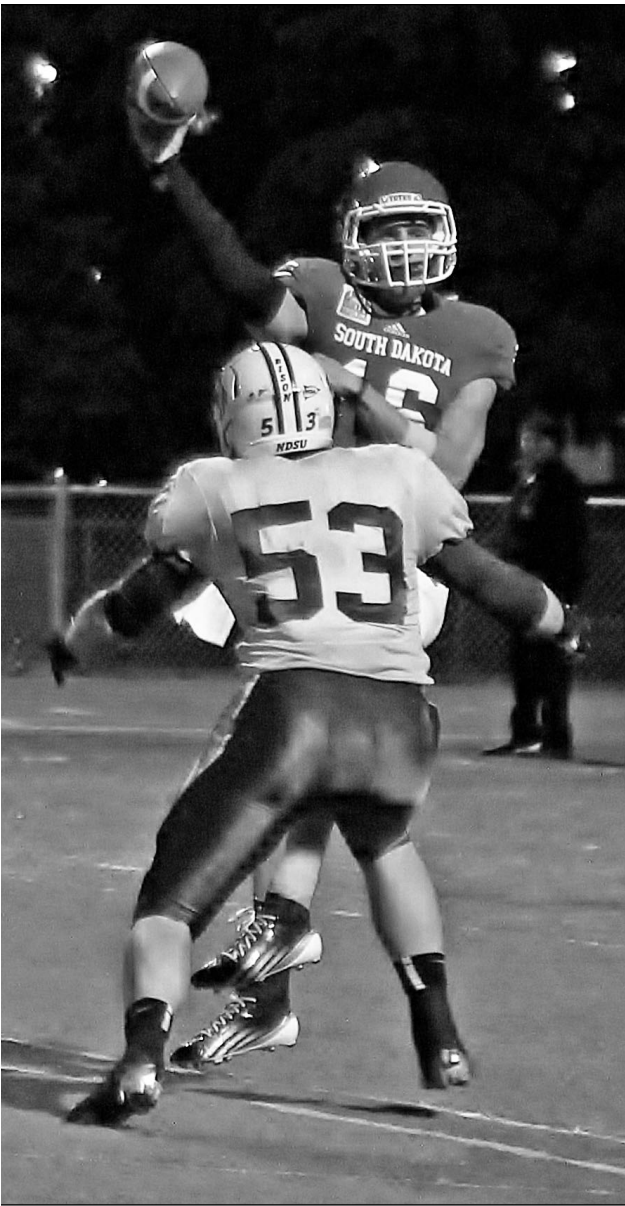


USD Approaches Spring With Anxious Anticipation



COYOTES: Josh Vander Maten

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — How anxious is the University of South Dakota football team to improve?

So much so that the past four months must have seemed like 10, with the program counting down the days to March 23 when it could start spring practices.

Anything to move past a 1-10 record last fall and show that, yes, that was an anomaly.

“It’s tough, because you don’t get to prove it to other people, but you can prove it to yourself,” said associate head coach and offensive coordinator Wes Beschorner.

The best way for the Coyotes to do that is to open positions up for competition during spring practices. USD graduated five starters on each side of the ball, but brings back enough depth to ensure that spring ball is more competitive than usual.

“Our guys know it,” Beschorner said. “We’ve talked about it. We’ve got to have the best 11 guys out there on offense, on defense and special teams. It’ll be a battle to see who those best 11 are.”

The Coyotes will hold 12 practices and two scrimmages before the spring game on Saturday, April 20 at 1 p.m.

Between 60-70 players will participate in spring drills, Beschorner said, and among those are key returners.

- **Offense:** Josh Vander Maten (Jr., QB), Jasper Sanders (Jr., RB), Terrance Terry (Jr., WR), Matt Huffer (Jr., LT), Cody O’Neill (Sr., LG), Andrew Schofield (Jr., RG) and Marc Murtha (Sr., RT).
- **Defense:** Tyler Starr (Sr., DE), Nick Jacobs (So., DT), Ryan Hillier

SOUTH DAKOTA FOOTBALL		
Remaining Spring Schedule		
Date	Event	Time
April 2	Practice (campus)	3:30-5:30 p.m.
April 4	Practice (campus)	3:30-5:30 p.m.
April 6	Scrimmage (Sioux Falls)	TBA
April 8	Practice (campus)	3:30-5:30 p.m.
April 10	Practice (campus)	3:30-5:30 p.m.
April 12	Practice (campus)	3:30-5:30 p.m.
April 13	Scrimmage (campus)	TBA
April 15	Practice (campus)	3:30-5:30 p.m.
April 17	Practice (campus)	3:30-5:30 p.m.
April 19	Practice (campus)	3:30-5:30 p.m.
April 20	Spring Game (campus)	1 p.m.
2013 Season Schedule		
Event (all times TBA)		
Aug. 31	vs. UC Davis	
Sept. 7	at Kansas	
Sept. 21	at Northern Arizona	
Sept. 28	at Western Illinois	
Oct. 5	vs. Missouri State	
Oct. 12	vs. Indiana State	
Oct. 19	at Northern Iowa	
Oct. 26	at Illinois State	
Nov. 2	vs. Youngstown State	
Nov. 9	vs. Montana	
Nov. 16	vs. South Dakota State	
Nov. 23	at North Dakota State	
Home Games at DakotaDome		

(So., LB), Aaron Swift (Sr., FS) and Devin Taverna (Sr., FS).

The program will then see an influx of freshmen recruits for the fall, most of whom will make up the scout team, Beschorner said.

An issue of almost equal importance to who sees the field is on-field discipline, Beschorner said. He pointed to “self-inflicted wounds” such as offsides, holding, pass interference and personal foul penalties as key in those 10 losses last year.

“Any time you play a team in the

FOOTBALL | PAGE 14



LANCERS: Kelli Norrid

Lancers Look To Build On Success

BY CHRIS RILEY
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What a difference a year makes. Last spring, the Mount Marty Lancers opened their season at Wayne State at the end of March and came back sunburned and exhausted from a 90-degree day. This year, just getting outside to conduct workouts has been a struggle as temperatures have hovered below average for much of the first month of the official outdoor track and field season.

“It has been frustrating trying to catch a break with the weather,” Junior Jordan Pater said. “Luckily the ice and snow has stayed away for the most part so we can still get some quality workouts in outside. I would just rather not have the cold and wind every day.”

Pater will be counted on for the Lancer men this spring, as the former cross country national qualifier has already punched his ticket to nationals in the marathon by virtue of his half-marathon qualifying race in December.

“I’d like to qualify in the 10,000 meter run also,” Pater added. “But it’s nice knowing that I am already in for the marathon.”

Joining Pater in qualifying for the marathon is junior Katie Smelker. Smelker, a walk-on from Colorado, broke Mount Marty’s school record in the women’s half-marathon in December while hitting the nationals qualifying standard.

Smelker was a three-time All-Conference performer at the GPAC

MOUNT MARTY TRACK & FIELD	
Date	Event
March 30-31	Wildcat Classic (Wayne, Neb.)
April 6	Dordt Inv.
April 12-13	Sioux City Relays
April 19-20	Red Raider Open (Orange City, Iowa)
April 23	Mount Marty Twilight
April 26	Dakota State Inv.
May 3-4	GPAC Champ. (Seward, Neb.)
May 9	Concordia Last Chance
May 24-26	NAIA Outdoor (Marion, Ind.)
Home Meets at Williams Field	

Indoor Championships in February, scoring top-eight finishes in the 3000 and 5000 meter runs and also in the 3200 meter relay, and will be counted on to lead the way for the Lancers in the running events this spring.

“Katie has been putting in a lot of miles and working very hard all year long,” Mount Marty head coach Randy Fischer said. “Hopefully she can back up her very good cross country and indoor seasons with a solid outdoor effort as well.”

Distance standout Kaylee Fly will redshirt this outdoor season to save one season of eligibility for next spring when the Omahanative comes back to finish her nursing degree.

That will leave the bulk of the middle-distance and distance races up to a group of talented underclassmen.

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USD Track

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for the Summit League Outdoor Championships, to be held May 9-11 in Muncie, Ind. USD won’t field full squads at every meet, but the ultimate goal is, again, to continue progression each weekend.

“We’ll probably go through some tough times, but hopefully by the time we get to Indiana, we can be successful there,” said men’s head coach Dave Gottsleben.

Men

Repeating their indoor performance, especially against NDSU, will prove to be a significant challenge for the Coyote men, Gottsleben said.

“We certainly have a lot of confidence, but on the other hand, the outdoor season requires a lot of things,” Gottsleben said. “We need to get some kids healthy, and depth is so important in the outdoor meet.”

Last spring, the USD men recorded 133.5 total points at the Summit League Outdoor meet in Fargo, N.D., but still fell short of the hometown Bison by 80 points.

The Coyotes will look to the same faces to improve those numbers this spring, especially when it comes to distance races with senior Jeff Mettler and throwing events with sophomores Kyle McKelvey and Cody Snyder.

Mettler, named track championship MVP at the indoor meet, won the steeplechase at last year’s outdoor meet, while McKelvey was named Men’s Newcomer of the Year after taking second in the shot put and fourth in the discus. Snyder, for good measure, was second in the discus — his primary outdoor event.

“We’re getting them into some big-time events, to the point where they can challenge anyone in the country,” Gottsleben said of his throwers. “They’re throwing really far, plus they’re mature and they’re motivated.”

The Coyotes also return three of their four runners from the



COYOTES: Megan Glisar

winning outdoor 1,600-meter relay, with sophomores Lukas Bernard, Jeff O’Connell and Erik Hill. Senior Casey Shade remains out with an injury, and Gottsleben said it’s unlikely he will be ready this spring.

Yankton natives Tyler Sternhagen (So.) and Connor Fitzsimmons (Fr.) are among those Gottsleben said should be ready to go this spring.

“Obviously we’re not as deep as some of the other teams, so we need to concentrate on staying healthy,” Gottsleben said. “We need to make small steps in each meet.”

Among the events this spring for the Coyotes will be the Sioux City Relays (April 12-13), Mount Marty Invite (April 23), Howard Wood Relays (May 3-4) and the Summit League Championships (May 9-11, Muncie, Ind.).

Women

With a number of their top athletes out for the indoor season, the Coyote women have everyone back together for what could be a memorable outdoor campaign.

“We’re really excited about where our team is at right now,” Huber said. “We’ve got all the pieces back in place. We should

have a really salty team.”

Returning for the Coyotes are five of those eight athletes who qualified for nationals — Alexa Duling (Sr.), Bethany Buell (Jr.), Kate Wellensiek (Jr.), Emily Grove (So.) and Analisa Huschle (So.).

Huschle, last year’s Summit League Outdoor Newcomer of the Year, could prove to be the biggest asset for USD. She won three titles in the 100, 200 and triple jump last spring, and took second in the long jump — combining for 38 points. She was out for the indoor season because of a back injury, Huber said.

Buell and Grove highlight what could be another special spring for the Coyote pole vaulters — both earned All-American honors at the NCAA meet last year.

Duling is back after qualifying in the 400-meter hurdles and Wellensiek qualified for the West Preliminaries in the javelin.

“It’ll be fun to load up a little bit and see what we can do,” Huber said.

The Coyotes again figure to be

strong in the distance races, especially after performances at the indoor meet. Amber Eichkorn (Fr.) took third place in the 3,000-meter run, while Ashley Sveum (Sr.) finished fourth in the 400-meter dash and Katie Wetzstein was fourth in the 1-mile run.

USD also returns senior Gabriel Williams, who was out for the indoor season but took fourth place in the 100-meter dash outdoors a year ago.

Huber also pointed to transfer Breanna Janovy as a potential top finisher in the discus.

Perhaps the biggest motivation for the Coyote women was watching their male teammates celebrate with a Summit League indoor crown, Huber said.

“It was a lot of fun to see our men win the indoor meet, and now the girls want to step up to that level,” he said. “If we can get some things going, we can get in there and see what happens.”

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Softball

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ate just where USD sits, especially as it pertains to Summit League powerhouse North Dakota State.

“They’re one of those teams that will score when they need to, but I like our chances,” Daly said of the Bison, who have won four straight conference titles.

Can the Coyotes potentially challenge the league’s best?

“I’m completely confident that we can make it to the tourna-

ment,” Denney said. “We’ll do our best, that’s for sure.”

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