

# Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

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



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Eventually this was going to become an issue in South Dakota. You could argue it already was, but it's more state officials recognize the changing trends.

What am I talking about? Education funding? Nope, I'm talking about year-to-year contracts for head coaches in college sports across South Dakota, specifically those at the two Division I schools — South Dakota State and the University of South Dakota.

As our counterparts at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported Friday, SDSU men's basketball coach Scott Nagy spoke with Ball State athletic department officials Thursday. It may or may not have been an official "in-

## Regents Policy Of Year-To-Year Contracts Needs Overhaul

terview," but it's proof that eventually, Nagy — and his women's counterpart, Aaron Johnston — are going to get offers from other schools and are potentially going to leave. And it's hard to argue with any possible decision to do so, loyalty to their school or not.

This is where the issue of 1-year contracts becomes a rather big problem for South Dakota. The state Board of Regents allows only year-to-year contracts for coaches, as well as teachers.

It came to the forefront in 2011 when USD was in the market for a new head football coach, after firing Ed Meierkot. Eventually, USD lucked out and finally convinced Joe Glenn to come back to his alma mater. When USD lost women's basketball coach Ryan Williams to Colorado State, the school couldn't exactly offer much in the way of stability, though Amy Williams has proven to be a smart hire.

Either way, our state is going to have to change its policy, otherwise our D-I schools are going to fall behind.

## Baseball: Jacks Win Series Opener At UNC

GREELEY, Colo. — Yankton native Layne Somers struck out eight batters over six innings and Daniel Marra and Zach Coppola each tallied three hits to lead South Dakota State to a 5-1 victory over Northern Colorado in the opening game of a three-game baseball series Friday afternoon at Jackson Field.

The Jackrabbits improved to 11-8 overall, while Northern Colorado dropped to 7-12 on the season.

Somers struck out two batters in each of the second, third and fourth innings in earning his second victory of the season, upping his season total to 38 K's in 34 2/3 innings. The senior right-hander surrendered five hits and walked three.

The two teams are slated to play the middle game of the three-game series today (Saturday). First pitch is set for noon Mountain time.

## USD Tennis Drops Two Matches

BLOOMFIELD, Mich. — The University of South Dakota women's tennis team lost a pair of Summit League

matches on Friday in Bloomfield, Mich.

Kansas City beat the Coyotes 4-1 and Fort Wayne blanked the Coyotes 4-0. USD falls to 12-9 on the season.

## SDSU Softball Falls Twice In Omaha

OMAHA, Neb. — The South Dakota State softball team dropped both games of a doubleheader on Friday in the Jackrabbits first-ever Summit League series with Omaha, falling 4-1 in the opener and 3-0 in the night cap.

The losses drop the Jacks to 9-17 on the season overall and to 1-4 in The Summit League, while the Mavericks improve to 24-4 on the season overall and to 2-0 in league play.

Kelly Kleppin recorded two of the Jackrabbits four hits in the day, including the lone SDSU hit in Game 2. Marilee Petersen knocked in the Jackrabbit run in the opener, an RBI single up the middle that scored Jessica Markanich and tied the game at 1-1 in the fourth inning.

Omaha regained the lead with two runs on three hits and one Jackrabbit error in the bottom of the fifth to go up 3-1, and then added a run in the sixth to lock up the 4-1 win.

Omaha's Ashton Hughes surrendered a hit to Kleppin in the first inning of Game 2, and then gave up a walk to Devan Larsen in the third, but didn't allow any other baserunners in picking up the win.

The Mavericks tot the only run they would need in the third inning, but added two more in the fifth on a Campbell Ditto homerun.

The Jackrabbits look to avoid the series sweep today (Saturday) in the series finale at noon.

## Mettler Paces USD Track Thurs.

AUSTIN, Texas — Jeff Mettler placed fourth in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase while two other Coyotes recorded top-10 finishes on Thursday at the Texas Relays.

Mettler was the second best collegiate finisher in the race, finishing in 8 minutes, 54.40 seconds. David Adams of Team adidas/Rogue AC won the event in a meet record time of 8:46.52, while Austin Bussing of Texas finished second (8:52.05) and John Sullivan (adidas/RogueAC) was third (8:53.49).

Amber Eichkorn and Megan Hilson (Yankton) both also recorded top-10 finishes. Eichkorn was 10th out of 25 in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 17:13.50, while team-

mate Katie Wetzstein was 19th at 18:02.95. Hilson placed 10th out of 26 in the 10,000 at 37:12.42, with teammates Ali Gress (37:28.68) and Britni Waller (38:48.51) finishing 12th and 19th, respectively.

Two more Coyotes also competed on Thursday. Brant Haase placed 12th out of 22 in the men's 10,000 in 31:58.51, and Alexa Duling placed 24th of 85 in the 400 hurdles in 1:01.68.

## Hockey: North Dakota Rallies To Beat Niagara 2-1

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Andrew MacWilliams and Danny Kristo scored in a 57-second span early in the third period in North Dakota's 2-1 comeback victory over Niagara on Friday in the NCAA West Regional semifinals.

Second-seeded North Dakota (22-12-7) will play Yale on Saturday in the regional final for a spot in the Frozen Four in Pittsburgh. Fourth-seeded Yale beat top-seeded Minnesota 3-2 in overtime in the opener.

Third-seeded Niagara finished the season 23-10-5.

YALE 3, MINNESOTA 2, OT; GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Jesse Root scored 9 seconds into overtime to give fourth-seeded Yale a 3-2 victory over top-seeded Min-

nesota in the NCAA West Regional semifinals Friday.

Kenny Agostino intercepted Minnesota defenseman Ben Marshall's pass behind the net and feed Root for his 10th goal of the season.

Yale (19-12-3) will play North Dakota in the regional final Saturday for a spot in the Frozen Four in Pittsburgh. Minnesota, the No. 2 overall seed in the 16-team tournament, finished the season 26-9-5.

## Minor League Ballpark To Host College Baseball

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska-Omaha will play Creighton this weekend at the minor league ballpark that's home to the Omaha Storm Chasers.

Saturday's game will be the first of four non-conference games scheduled at Werner Park this year.

The Creighton vs. Nebraska-Omaha game is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. Saturday. It's the second game of a three-game weekend series between the two teams.

The other two games in the series will be played at TD Ameritrade stadium downtown on Friday at 6 a.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.

## SCOREBOARD

### BOWLING

#### CROFTON, NEB.

**MEN'S COMMERCIAL LEAGUE**  
HIGH TEAM GAME: Merkel Insul 925  
HIGH TEAM SERIES: Merkel Insul 2522  
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Mike Johnson 269, Dennis Merkel 266, Rob Wiebelhaus 247  
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Mike Johnson 729, Dennis Merkel 694, Rob Wiebelhaus 664  
A STANDINGS: Wiebelhaus Rec 91.5-68.5 (4th quarter winner), Crofton Elevator 81.5-78.5, Don's Auto 81-79, Merkel Insul 81.5-103.5  
B STANDINGS: Coor's Light 92-68 (4th quarter winner), DSM Apis 85.5-74.5, Gooden Steele 77-52.5, Leader Angus 74.5-85.5  
HIGHLIGHTS: Dennis Merkel — 87 over game avg., Mike Johnson — 177 over series avg.

### BASEBALL

#### LARGEST BASEBALL CONTRACT PACKAGES

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball contracts worth \$160 million or more. Figures were obtained by The Associated Press from player and management sources and include all guaranteed income but not income from potential incentive bonuses. There is no distinction for deferred money.

Player, Club	Years	Total
Alex Rodriguez, NYY	2008-17	\$275M
Alex Rodriguez, Tex-NYY	2001-10	\$252M
Joey Votto, Cin	2012-23	\$251.5M
Albert Pujols, LAA	2012-21	\$230M
Prince Fielder, Det	2012-20	\$214M
Derek Jeter, NYY	2001-10	\$189M
Joe Mauer, Min	2011-18	\$184M
Mark Teixeira, NYY	2009-16	\$180M
Justin Verlander, Det	2013-19	\$180M
Felix Hernandez, Sea	2013-19	\$175M
Buster Posey, SF	2013-21	\$167M
CC Sabathia, NYY	2009-15	\$161M
Manny Ramirez, Bos-LAD	2001-08	\$160M
Matt Kemp, LA	2012-19	\$160M

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

**Sunday's Games**  
Texas at Houston, 7:05 p.m.  
**Monday's Games**  
Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 12:05 p.m.  
Kansas City at Chicago White Sox, 3:10 p.m.  
Detroit at Minnesota, 3:10 p.m.  
L.A. Angels at Cincinnati, 3:10 p.m.  
Seattle at Oakland, 9:07 p.m.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

**Monday's Games**  
Miami at Washington, 12:05 p.m.  
San Diego at N.Y. Mets, 12:10 p.m.  
Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.  
Colorado at Milwaukee, 1:10 p.m.  
L.A. Angels at Cincinnati, 3:10 p.m.  
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, 3:10 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 6:05 p.m.  
St. Louis at Arizona, 9:05 p.m.

## Contracts

From Page 9

said. "Once spring training started I knew I wanted to stay."

Verlander's deal keeps his \$20 million salaries for each of the next two seasons and adds \$140 million in guaranteed money: \$28

million each season from 2015-19. It includes a \$22 million option for 2020 that would become guaranteed if he finishes among the top five in 2019 Cy Young voting. The deal could be worth \$202 million over eight seasons.

Posey's deal includes a club option for 2022 that could raise the value to \$186 million over a decade.

He had been due to make \$8 million this year. Instead, the 26-

year-old gets a \$7 million signing bonus, with \$5 million payable Oct. 15 and the remainder Jan. 15, and his 2013 salary is reduced to \$3 million.

He will make \$10.5 million in 2014, \$16.5 million in 2015, \$20 million in 2016 and \$21.4 million in each of the following five seasons. The Giants' option is for \$22 million with a \$3 million buy-out.

## Coyotes

From Page 9

and I think we exuded that — especially on the defensive end and out-rebounding teams," Yackley said. "That is how we won a lot of games."

Wilson, who started the final 82 straight games as a Coyote, finished the year second on the team in scoring (12.9 ppg) and second in three-pointers made (41).

The Coyotes will also say good-bye to senior bench players Sam Mehr and Pam January. January started the first 17 games of the year before sophomore Lisa Loeffler worked her way into the starting lineup. Mehr will be most remembered for her three-point shooting (32.96 on the season), especially the first two games of the Summit League tourney where she played a key role in back-to-back second-half comebacks for the Coyotes.

"Our seniors were a hard working group of young women," Williams said. "They brought energy and an outstanding work ethic to every single game and workout."

While keeping perspective on the season that just ended, it is hard not to be excited for this USD squad going forward with the returning talent that was on the court this season.

Junior college transfer Polly Harrington (Jr.) will be the lone upperclassman returning next year after starting all 35 games this season in the post and placing second on the team in FG percentage (49 percent) and rebounding (5.8 rpg) and third in

scoring (11.1 ppg). Harrington, who came off the bench for Louisville as a freshman, recorded double-digit points in 22 of the Coyotes' 35 games.

The most excitement about the 2012-13 season back in November circled around the possible impact that redshirt sophomore Nicole Seekamp would have. Seekamp, one of Australia's top prep players during the past half-decade, would not disappoint, as she led the team in scoring (14.9 PPG), FT percentage (84 percent) and steals (1.6 SPG).

Although she did commit a team-high 2.7 turnovers per game, Seekamp routinely made highlight reel plays and showed no mercy when attacking the basket. She scored 20 or more points on eight separate occasions, including a career-best 33 points against Utah State in the WBI opener.

Williams sees Seekamp as a team leader and is hopeful that the Coyotes will be hungry for even more success next season despite the loss of four seniors.

"I hope the first thing that happens is the expectations are raised," Williams said after Thursday's loss. "I'm hoping (our

success) will make our all returning players to continue to raise the bar."

The only other player on the Coyotes' roster who was not a freshman and saw action this year was Loeffler. As stated previously, Loeffler worked her way into the starting lineup mid-season and the post player from St. Paul made an immediate impact.

USD was 12-6 in Loeffler's starts, as the 6-1 forward averaged 5.5 points per game (while shooting 46 percent from the field) and finished fourth on the team in rebounds (4.9 rpg). Those averages can be deceiving though as Loeffler reached double-digit points four times after being inserted into the starting lineup and grabbed nine or more rebounds on five occasions in her 18 starts.

When you lost five of your 15 roster players to season ending injuries before the season even starts, as the Coyotes did, it ensures that all 10 remaining players will see significant playing time. This was true for a trio of freshmen on this year's team, who had to adjust to the college game on the fly.

Former Rapid City Steven's standout Margaret McCloud

## AREA CALENDAR

### Saturday, March 30

**BASEBALL, COLLEGE** Dordt at MMC (DH, 1 p.m., KYNT-AM)

**GOLF, MEN'S** Western Illinois Tour. at Macomb, Ill. (USD)

**SOFTBALL, COLLEGE** Morningside Tour. (MMC)

**TENNIS, WOMEN'S** USD vs. Western Illinois at Oakland, Mich. (9 a.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR** Texas Relays at Austin, Texas (USD); Razorback Spring Inv. at Fayetteville, Ark. (USD); Wildcat Classic at Wayne, Neb. (MMC, 10 a.m.)

**BASEBALL, PREP** Beresford-Centerville vs. Tri-Valley at Canton; Beresford-Centerville at Canton; Bon Homme at Dakota Valley

**GOLF, GIRLS'** YHS/Bookings at Brandon Valley (2 p.m.)

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**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUT**