

SDSU Women Outgun 'Yotes

USD Will Face Western Illinois In Summit League Tournament Opener

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — South Dakota State sure didn't play like a team that had already assured itself of the No. 1 seed.

No, instead, it went out and won a high-scoring road game 99-88 at rival University of South Dakota on Sunday afternoon at the DakotaDome.

The Jackrabbits (22-8, 13-1), who have now won five straight in the series, already had the top seed locked up next weekend's Summit League Tournament.

On the idea of potentially having nothing to play for Sunday, head coach Aaron Johnston didn't buy it.

"This game by itself, I don't care when we play this game, will mean a lot to us," he said.

A win would have secured the No. 3 seed for the Coyotes (16-13, 7-7), but the loss drops them to fourth. In that spot, USD will open the tournament next Sunday at noon against No. 5 Western Illinois.

"We worked so hard to get that third position, because we had that rough patch at the beginning," senior Polly Harrington said, referring to USD's 0-4 start in the league.

"It's just good to know we got it and it's sealed."

At the cost of another defensive struggle, though.

In splitting the final two home games of the season, the Coyotes surrendered 87 (in overtime to North Dakota State) and 99 on Sunday.

"I think 88 points should be enough to win," sophomore Tia Hemiller said. "I thought in the second half, we didn't stick to our game plan as much."

The biggest problem for the Coyotes was on the glass. South Dakota State out-rebounded the home team 37-25 — the second largest rebounding deficit of the season for USD.

"We talked about that being the battle within the battle, that we'd have to find a way," Williams said. "For us, if we get out-rebounded by one, that's a devastating loss for us."

Controlling the glass was the key in the first half for the Jacks, who used an 18-10 rebounding edge — and 11 points and six boards from



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota's Polly Harrington gets inside for a basket during the Coyotes' matchup with South Dakota State on Sunday at the DakotaDome. SDSU won 99-88 to finish the regular season with a 13-1 Summit League record. USD will be the fourth seed in the Summit League Tournament, and will face Western Illinois on Sunday, Feb. 9, in Sioux Falls.

Jackrabbits Down USD Men 75-61

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BROOKINGS — It was more of the same in many ways Saturday at Frost Arena.

The four seniors for the South Dakota State men's basketball team helped secure another home victory. And the University of South Dakota was unable to recover from early struggles on the road.

Guess which team is rolling into the Summit League Tournament?

"It was a little emotional, but I couldn't think of a better way for us to go out," said SDSU's Jordan Dykstra, whose double-double helped the Jacks beat the Coyotes 75-61 in the regular season finale.

And not only going out in those seniors' final game at Frost (where they went 48-8 in their careers), but in the final tune-up before next weekend's post-season tournament.

Dykstra — who was honored, along with the other three seniors, after the game — supplied 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Jacks (18-11, 10-4), who dominated the paint against the younger Coyotes (12-17, 6-8).

All five starters reached double figures for the Jacks, which was perhaps fitting for a veteran group.

"It was a good game for us to go out on," Dykstra said.

COYOTES | PAGE 9

STATE-U | PAGE 8

Former Gazelle Erickson Loses Battle With Cancer

Former Yankton High School golfer Kaitlyn Erickson lost her battle with cancer on Friday in Yankton. She was 21.

Erickson, who attended Doane College and was a part of the Tigers' 2013 NAAIA meet squad, was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma in June of 2013.

In two seasons at Doane, she played 31 rounds in competition, shooting a career-best 87 in the third round of the Great Plains Athletic Conference tournament her sophomore year.

As a senior, Erickson tied for 30th in the S.D. State Class AA girls' golf tournament with a two-day score of 183, helping lead the Gazelles to a third place finish. She tied for 19th as a junior, shooting a one-day score of 92 as the Gazelles placed second.

Funeral services are at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Dave Gundersen and the Rev. Steve Weispfennig officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories, Yankton.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one



P&D FILE PHOTO

Kaitlyn Erickson watches her tee shot during a home event in her senior season for Yankton High School. Erickson, who later competed for Doane College, lost her battle with cancer on Friday. She was 21.

hour prior the service at the church.

USD Men Repeat As Summit League Champs

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Not much has changed for the South Dakota men's track and field team in the past year, which is a good thing for the Coyotes.

The Coyote men won their second straight league title. Jeff Mettler repeated as the Summit League men's track MVP and head coach Dave Gottsleben repeated as the Summit League Coach of the Year on Saturday at the Summit League Indoor Championships held at the IPFW Athletics Center Fieldhouse.

Mettler, Cody Snyder, Brandon Kovash, Mach Dojiok and Teivaskie Lewin all claimed individual titles on the men's side, while Emily Grove and Megan Glisar won league titles on the women's side to lead the USD women to a second place finish in the team standings.

Mettler, who won the men's 3,000 on Friday, won the mile on Saturday in 4 minutes, 11.03 seconds. It was his fourth career league indoor title and sixth Summit League title overall. Mettler also placed fifth in the 5,000 (14:55.77) while teammate Brant Haase was third in the 5,000 (14:51.24) and fourth in the mile (4:16.46).

Cody Snyder broke the league and school shot put record with a top mark of 59 feet, 11 3/4. The toss broke the previous school record of 59-5 and league record of 59-4 1/4. Kyle McKelvey tied the previous league record while finishing second.

Kovash recorded his first two individual league titles, winning the 60 in

6.90 and 200 in 22.20. He led three more Coyotes to top-five finishes in the 200, with Christian Nielsen placing second (22.26), Jeff O'Connell placing fourth (22.58) and Jack Thony placing fifth (22.65).

Dojiok took the league 800 title in 1:55.03, edging Moses Heppner of North Dakota State by two-hundredths of a second. Casey Shade followed in third place in 1:55.67.

In the 60-meter hurdles, Lewin set a new fieldhouse record while winning in 8.03, breaking the old record set by Brandon Winters of Purdue on Dec. 7 last year by one-hundredth of a second. Erik Hill added a third place finish in 9.17.

The men's 4x400 relay team of Hill, Lukas Bernard, Nielsen and Shade added a win in 3:20.28 to round out the men's team's wins.

On the women's side, Megan Glisar repeated as high jump champion by clearing 5-10 3/4, besting SDSU's Mary Wirth by an inch. Glisar's height was a new fieldhouse record and missed the league record by a half inch.

Emily Grove rounded out USD's champions by clearing 14-1 3/4 in the pole vault, which was also a new fieldhouse record. Teammate Hunter Wilkes finished second at 13-2 1/2.

Outside of USD's winners, Tyler Frank was second in the men's high jump (6-8 3/4), Josh Petersen broke the USD heptathlon record of 4,617 while finishing third with 4,705 points and Conner Fitzsimmons was third in the men's triple jump (46-4 1/4).

Nielsen's third place (49.89) and Bernard's fourth place (50.24) in the 400 rounded out the men's top-five finishers.

Katie Wetzstein placed second in the 5,000 (17:20.90) and third in the mile (4:52.88) while Amber Eichkorn was third in the 5,000 (17:23.17) and fifth in the mile (5:00.53). The women also received a second place finish from Tansha Clarke (8.78) and a fifth place finish from Molly Ervin (9.17) in the 60-meter hurdles.

In field events, Ashley Thompson placed second (38-11) and Clarke was fifth (37-8) in the triple jump, while Danielle Waldner (47-0 1/4), Kayla Johnson (45-9 3/4) and Meghan Dennis (44-5 1/2) finished third, fourth and fifth respectively in the shot put.

In the final men's team standings, South Dakota recorded 253 points, while North Dakota State finished second with 208 points. SDSU (98), Western Illinois (78) and IUPUI (16) rounded out the men's standings.

North Dakota State won the women's title with 233 points, while South Dakota had 142.33 points. Omaha (109), SDSU (97) and Western Illinois 36.33 rounded out the women's top five. Full results are below.

USD's teams will next compete at the Tulsa Duals on March 21, but Grove, Glisar and pole vaulter Bethany Firsick are currently eligible to compete at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Albuquerque, N.M., on March 14-15.

Parkston Places 12, Defends Class B Title

Ten Area Wrestlers (8 In B, 2 In A) Win Titles

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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ABERDEEN — The Parkston Trojans took a different road up the mountain, but got there just the same.

Parkston placed 12 wrestlers and had all 13 of its wrestlers score points in repeating as champions at the South Dakota State Class B Wrestling Tournament, which concluded on Saturday at the Barnett Center on the Northern State University campus.

A year ago, the Trojans placed eight wrestlers, but scored big points on the way to a state tournament record 164 points. This year, they scored 158 points, the second-most ever in a state tournament.

"It's a good feeling," said Parkston head coach Jared Digmann. "But we still feel like some of our guys didn't reach their goals. But some achieved over their goals. That's what this team has been able to do all year."

For the second straight year, the Philip Scotties took second to the Trojan juggernaut, this year scoring 134 points.

"Philip gave us everything we anticipated and more," Digmann said. "They put four in the championships and placed six. Most years that would win state."

"I wasn't sitting in cruise control by any means."

While Digmann wasn't in "cruise control," the title was wrapped up by the time Parkston's two finalists, Mitch Heisinger at 182 pounds and Brady Reiff at 220 pounds took to the mat. Heisinger lost a hard-fought match to Beresford's Josh Casperson, while Reiff beat out Moberidge-Pollock's Chase Schoenhard by major decision.

Also for Parkston, Blake Bietz (132) and Weslee Dvorak (152) each finished third, and Austin Bertram (285) placed fourth. Logan Mahoney (113), Dawson Semmler (126), Miles Semmler

(170) and Andrew Semmler (195) all placed fifth. Dillon Stadlman (160) finished sixth, Kyler Holzbauer (120) placed seventh and Jake Weber (138) finished eighth in the event.

Mitch Heisinger, Andrew Semmler and Weber all graduate for Parkston, leaving nine returning medalwinners, including a returning two-time state champ. But Digmann knows that a third straight title won't come without a lot more hard work.

"We graduate three seniors, and we got a lot of points out of those three," he said. "We have to have people step up into their spots."

Reiff was an undefeated state champion a year ago, and was nearly perfect against in-state competition this season. The 43-3 wrestler took two losses at The Clash in Rochester, Minn.

"Brady had been predicted to win all year. That's a



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Parkston's Brady Reiff sends Moberidge-Pollock's Chase Schoenhard to the mat during the 220-pound championship of the South Dakota State Class B Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in Aberdeen. Reiff won his second straight title, finishing with a 43-3 record.

WRESTLING | PAGE 9