

USD Basketball | Craig Smith Named New Coach

# Smith Vows Success At USD



Craig Smith speaks to the crowd and media during his introductory press conference on Monday in Vermillion. Smith was named the 17th head coach in University of South Dakota men's basketball history.

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — If Craig Smith gets his way, his University of South Dakota program will contend annually for a Summit League crown. And soon.

That was made very clear Monday afternoon when Smith, a long-time assistant under Tim Miles, was announced as USD's newest head men's basketball coach. "If you're looking at an 'S' curve, we're at the lower end, and we're going to trend fast," Smith told a standing room only crowd at the Muenster University Center.

"If we were a stock, I would certainly buy."

The combination of confidence and energy were two traits not lacking in Smith, based on his introduction to Coyote nation. The two-year assistant at Nebraska continually used the phrase "relentless pursuit of excellence" in talking about his goals for USD, which is coming off three consecutive losing seasons — in which the Coyotes were 16-33 in the Summit League.

"We're going to compete at the national level," Smith said, looking over at the group of USD players gathered for the news conference.

"If you're not in this thing to win the Summit League and take care of business against the North Dakota States and South Dakota States and everyone else, you're in the wrong locker room."

Smith, who will have a salary of \$185,000, had been a popular candidate from the start of USD's national search — which the school sought after long-time coach Dave Boots resigned last September. Joey James served as the interim coach this past season.

Getting the opportunity to play for a coach with plenty of Division I experience is understandably exciting for the current Coyote players, according to sophomore Casey Kasperbauer.

"I think he's exactly what we need at this time in this program," Kasperbauer said. "We have the type of people right now to do what he wants to do on the court, so I'm really excited to play for him."

## also

■ Watch A Video Of Craig Smith's Introductory Press Conference.  
[yankton.net](http://yankton.net)



Craig Smith, right, takes a cap from University of South Dakota athletic director David Herbster after Herbster introduced Smith as the 17th men's basketball coach in USD history. The event took place on Monday in Vermillion.

### The Craig Smith File

**BORN:** Stephens, Minn.  
**FAMILY:** Wife, Darcy; three sons, Landon, Brady and Carson; and daughter, Lauren  
**COLLEGE:** 1996 graduate of the University of North Dakota  
**COACHING EXPERIENCE:** Northern State (grad. asst. 1997-98), Minot State (asst. 1998-2001), North

Dakota State (asst. 2001-04), Mayville State (head coach, 2004-07), Colorado State (asst. 2008-12) and Nebraska (asst. 2012-14)  
**CAREER RECORD:** Went 72-29 in three seasons at Mayville State, guided team to three NAIA national tournaments

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Track & Field | Dan Lennon Class A

# Seniors Shine For Yankton

## Girls Win Two Events, Boys One For YHS

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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VERMILLION — Yankton's seniors showed their ability to lead on the track, as the Gazelles won and posted top-two finishes in three others, and the Bucks won one event and finished 2-3 in the pole vault at the Class A portion of the Dan Lennon Invitational track and field meet, held Monday at the DakotaDome.

Distance events were a highlight for the Yankton girls, with senior Whitlee Larson winning the 800 (2:21.23) and senior Annie Kruse claiming the 3200 (11:13.28).

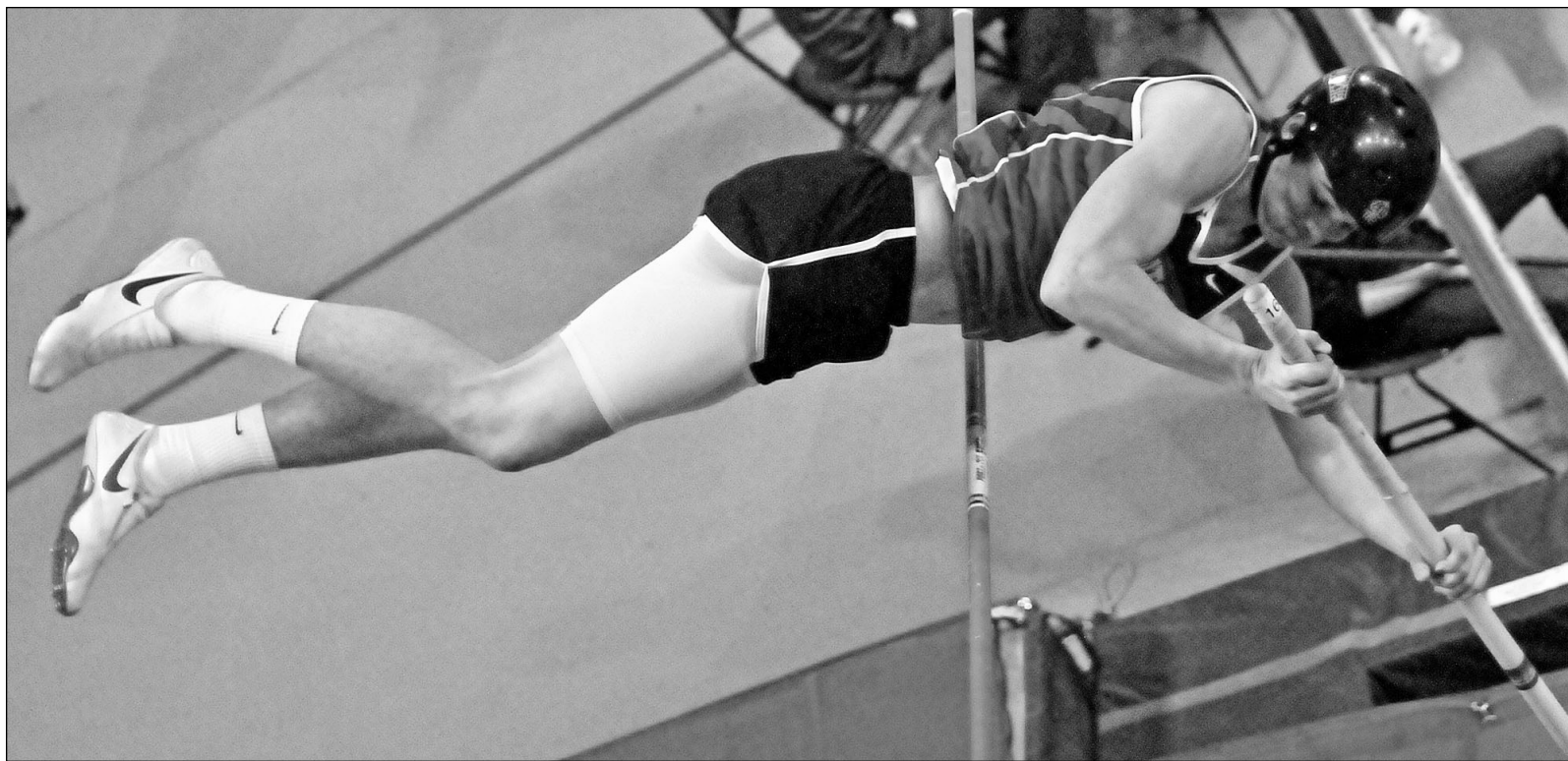
Larson was also a part of Yankton's two top-five relay finishes, second in the 1600 relay (4:15.60) and fourth in the medley (4:28.50). Kruse was also a part of the medley squad.

"Our distance girls were really good today," said Yankton head coach Luke Youmans. "Our seniors on the track — Whitlee, Annie and Hailey (Luken) — anything they were a part of today, we knew we had a chance to win."

Hailey Luken finished second in the 60-meter hurdles (9.56) and tied for fifth in the high jump, clearing five feet.

"Our seniors are so versatile," Youmans said. "We've got Hailey in the sprints and field events, Whitlee can run anything from 400 to 1600, and Annie can run anything from 800 to 3200. When you can overlap kids like that, it allows us to do a lot of things really well and be competitive in a lot of events."

Danielle Beckmann was a part of both relays, and was third in the 400 (1:02.01). Erin Luken and Lauren Graves, who finished fifth in the 800 (2:30.46) were a part of the



Yankton's James Hofer clears the bar at 11 feet, six inches during the boys' pole vault competition at the Dan Lennon Invitational track and field meet on Monday at the Dakota Dome in Vermillion.

1600 relay. Brenna Fitzsimmons was the other member of the medley.

Also for Yankton, Savannah Woods placed third in the 1600 (5:29.98). Dakota Valley's Marisa Schulz was fourth in that event.

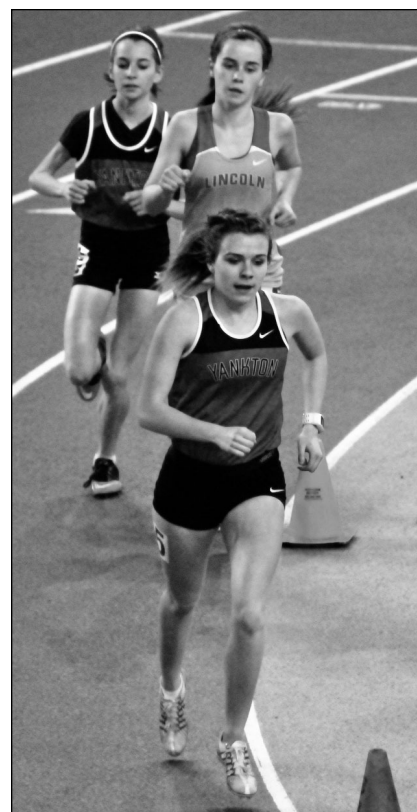
Senior Brice Cowman had the lone victory for the Yankton boys, claiming the 3200 in 9:57.84.

The Bucks also went 2-3 in the pole vault, with Casey Skillingstad clearing 13 feet to finish second, while James Hofer went 12-6 to place third.

Youmans is hoping their early success translates into success outdoors.

"A lot can change going from indoors in climate-controlled comfort to outdoors," he said. "As good as they were today, we're hoping they can continue to have that success outdoors."

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## YHS Has Strong Showing At Lennon

LEFT: Yankton's Savannah Woods leads a pair of runners, including teammate Madison McClure, back left, during the girls' 1600-meter run at the Dan Lennon Invitational track and field meet on Monday at the Dakota Dome in Vermillion.

RIGHT: Yankton's Casey Skillingstad clears the bar at 11 feet, six inches during the boys' pole vault competition at the Dan Lennon Invitational track and field meet on Monday at the Dakota Dome in Vermillion.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D



# 12th-Seeded BYU Ends Season For Nebraska Women

## Stanford Stops FSU

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Morgan Bailey tied her career high with 18 points, Jennifer Hamson had 15 points and 14 rebounds, and BYU held on to beat Nebraska 80-76 Monday night, advancing to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA women's tournament for the first time since 2002.

Lexi Eaton added 15 points and Xojian Harry hit three 3-pointers in the final eight minutes for the 12th-seeded Cougars (28-6), who became just the third No. 12 seed to reach the final 16.

They led by 17 points in the first half on the way to their second straight upset. The Cougars defeated No. 5 seed North Carolina State in the first round at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion. Next up is either

Connecticut or St. Joseph's.

Tear a Lauderhill scored 22 points and Big Ten player of the year Jordan Hooper added 20 points for fourth-seeded Nebraska (26-7), which now hosts a regional it won't be playing in.

Playing with a dislocated middle finger on her left hand from the first round, Hamson scored BYU's final five points after Nebraska got within three points and then two over the final 42 seconds.

Lauderhill rallied the Huskers with 12 consecutive points after they trailed by 12 with 3 1/2 minutes left.

BYU dominated the first half, leading by 17 and holding the Huskers to 33 percent shooting. Hamson, the 6-foot-7 shot blocker, disrupted the Huskers, using her

long arms to cause havoc.

But Nebraska came out of half-time on a 20-10 run to close to 51-50. Hooper scored 12 points and Emily Cady added seven in the spurt.

The Cougars outscored the Huskers 23-10 to start the game, when BYU was shooting 60 percent. They extended their lead to 37-20 on the first of three straight baskets by Bailey before Nebraska outscored BYU 10-4 to end the half trailing 41-30.

Hooper had just five points in the first 20 minutes, when the Cougars owned a 16-10 edge on the defensive glass.

STANFORD 63, FLORIDA ST. 44: AMES, Iowa (AP) — Chiney Ogwumike had 21 points and nine rebounds, and Stanford broke open the game with a 30-2 run spanning the halves in a 63-44 victory over Florida State in the second round of the NCAA women's tournament Monday night.

The second-seeded Cardinal (31-3) won two games in Ames to advance to the regional they'll host at Maples Pavilion starting Saturday. They're in the Sweet 16 for the seventh year in a row.

The 10th-seeded Seminoles (21-12) struggled to score in both of their two tournament games, following a 55-44 win over Iowa State with another dud.

Lili Thompson added 14 points and Bonnie Samuelson had 11 with three 3-pointers. The Cardinal had 17 assists on 22 field goals.

BAYLOR 75, CALIFORNIA 56: WACO, Texas (AP) — Odyssey Sims scored 27 points in her final home game and Baylor advanced to its sixth consecutive NCAA Sweet Sixteen, taking over in the second half for a 75-56 victory over California on Monday night.

Sims punctuated a game-clinching 13-2 run with a long 3-pointer with 4 1/2 minutes left. Baylor coach Kim Mulkey could only smile even though she appeared to be calling for a different play from the sideline. Sims scored 11 points in that spurt of about 5 minutes that pushed Baylor (31-4) ahead 66-52.

Afure Jemerige had 17 points and Brittany Boyd 15 for Cal (22-10), a Final Four team last season.

Baylor, the No. 2 seed in the Notre Dame Regional, has a rematch with Kentucky (26-8) on Saturday in South Bend, Ind.

KENTUCKY 64, SYRACUSE 59: LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky came up with the big shots and stops to survive Syracuse's upset bid and make it back to the Sweet 16.

Bria Goss was key on both ends as she scored 17 points to help third-seeded Kentucky beat No. 6 seed Syracuse 64-59 on Monday night in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Goss went 11 of 12 from the foul line as the Wildcats (26-8) ground out a victory two days after beating Wright State by 46 points. Syracuse's physical play and its trademark zone defense had a lot to do with disrupting Kentucky's rhythm and scoring opportunities in a 36-percent shooting performance.

TENNESSEE 67, ST. JOHN'S 51: KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Clara Burdick had 21 points and 11 rebounds as Tennessee relied on its smothering defense to pull away from St. John's for a 67-51 victory in the second round of the NCAA tournament Monday night.

Tennessee, the top seed in the Louisville Regional, advanced to a regional semifinal Sunday against the winner of Tuesday's game between No. 4 seed Maryland and No. 5 seed Texas.

Although St. John's (23-11) never led, the eighth-seeded Red Storm tied the game 39-39 with 16:59 remaining. St. John's would score just two more points over the next nine minutes as its hopes for an upset disintegrated. The Red Storm shot 5 of 24 and committed 13 turnovers in the second half.

Meighan Simmons scored 17 points as Tennessee (29-5) won for the 15th time in its last 16 games. Isabelle Harrison had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Alyyah Handford scored 23 for St. John's.