

# Cougars' Boomgarden Headed To Mount Marty

## Sturgis' Urbaniak Also Joins Lancer Volleyball Program

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Boomgarden

to major in." Four months later, Boomgarden was one of two high school recruits announced by Mount Marty, a NAIA school in Yankton.

Boomgarden, a 5-foot-7 setter, was joined by Taryn Urbaniak, a 5-foot-8 outside hitter from Sturgis, as the newest additions to a Lancer program coming off its first Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) tournament appearance in four years.

Once she realized volleyball could in fact be an option for her in college, Boomgarden said she came away impressed with the MMC staff and players during her recruitment day visit.

"They really work with the recruits, they get in contact with

them and they try their best to get you to go there," Boomgarden said.

Since that recruitment day, Mount Marty has begun the search for a new head coach, after Candice Climer announced she accepted a full-time teaching position at the college.

"That kind of scared me, but I know she'll still be on campus and will still be around if we need her help," Boomgarden said.

As a senior last season, Boomgarden — one of two setters used by Viborg-Hurley — recorded 365 set assists, 192 digs and 24 service aces. She helped lead the Cougars (12-16) to the region final, where they lost to Parker, one match short of the state tournament.

"Her confidence was improved greatly from last year," Viborg-Hurley coach Wendy Harms said. "She was a little unsure of herself in her junior year. She had to step in and



Urbaniak

fill the big shoes, and did a great job."

Boomgarden's soft-spoken nature masks an intensity that should eventually allow her to fit in at the college level, Harms said. "She starts out being kind of a shy athlete, but once she settles in, she'll be fine," Harms said. "She's willing to try anything, and was always willing to do anything I asked of her."

Whether she plays on the junior varsity or varsity team in 2015 for Mount Marty, Boomgarden was still confident her experience from recruitment day should help prepare her for the next level.

"It'll be more intense than high school, but the other players were really helpful on recruitment day," she said. "They showed us what

they do. They helped us a lot."

Urbaniak, the other recruit announced Monday, recorded 110 kills, 22 blocks and 43 service aces as a senior last fall for Sturgis.

"Both athletes are a great fit for the Mount Marty College community and will make great additions to the volleyball program over the next four years," Climer said in a release.

The addition of Urbaniak also shows an effort by the program — and Climer, before she left — to recruit West River. Urbaniak joins Savannah Sullivan (St. Thomas More), Larissa Trainer (Rapid City Central), Rhea Colombe (Rapid City Central) and Brooke Bennett (Rapid City Stevens) as recruits from the western half of the state.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

# Yankton's Frick, Hale Honored

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Two members of the Yankton Gazelles girls' basketball team were named honorable mention all-Eastern South Dakota Conference, as league honors were announced on Monday.

Junior Becky Frick and sophomore Lindsey Hale were selected by the league's coaches for the honor.

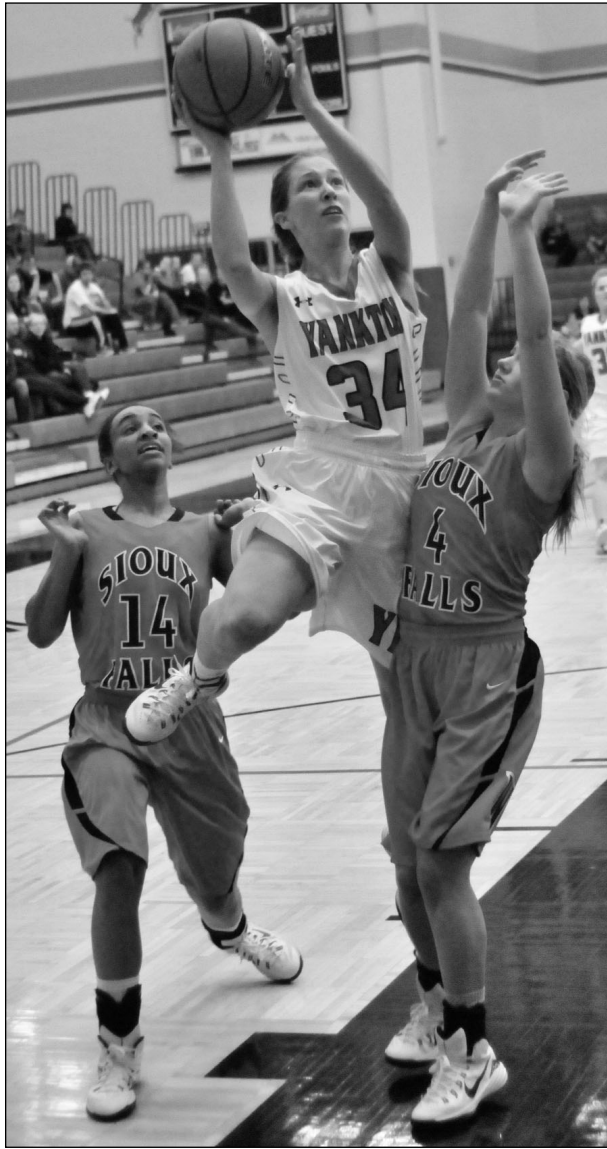
Frick, in her third season as a regular for the Gazelles, averaged 7.6 points and 3.8 rebounds per game for the Gazelles before missing the final seven games due to injury.

"Becky did a really good job of providing consistency for us," said Yankton head coach Trey Krier. "We relied on a lot of youth and inexperience this year, and she was able to provide a lot of experience for our younger kids."

Frick shot 41.7 percent from the field and 77.8 percent from the line for the Gazelles, providing steady leadership for the young squad.

"She wasn't a rah-rah leader for us, but you could tell the difference when she was on the floor," Krier said.

Hale averaged 9.9 points and 2.7 rebounds per game on the season for the Gazelles, hitting a team-best 31 three-pointers while shooting 35.6 percent from



Yankton sophomore Lindsey Hale (left photo, #34) and Becky Frick (right photo, #14) were named honorable mention all-Eastern South Dakota Conference for girls' basketball. The league honors were announced on Monday.

P&D FILE PHOTOS

## USD To Face Creighton In WNIT Thursday

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — A familiar opponent awaits the University of South Dakota women's basketball team in the Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT).

The Coyotes learned Monday night that they will host Creighton in the first round of the 64-team tournament on Thursday night at the Dakotadome. The game time will be announced today (Tuesday).

"It's going to be a tough matchup, but we're just excited to be hosting such a quality opponent," USD head coach Amy Williams said.

Creighton (17-13) lost in the quarterfinals of the Big East Conference Tournament and boasts last season's Player of the Year — and this season's preseason selection — Marissa Janning (15.9 ppg).

The Bluejays, who earned an at-large invite to the WNIT, have six common opponents this season with USD. Both teams beat Drake, Northern Iowa and Omaha, while Creighton swept Marquette (USD won the only meeting), won at Kansas (USD lost) and at South Dakota State (USD lost in Brookings).

Although Creighton and USD didn't meet in the regular season, the two programs have recent history. Prior to this season, the Bluejays and Coy-

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# SDSU Women Headed To Corvallis For NCAA Tourn.

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State was awarded the No. 14 seed in the Spokane region of the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship and will face third-seeded Oregon State in the first round, announced Monday night on the ESPN Selection Show.

## also

Pairings For The WNIT Were Set After Press Time. Find The Story Online At [yankton.net](http://yankton.net)

SDSU and OSU square off in Corvallis, Ore., in the tournaments first round Friday, March 20, at approximately 4 p.m. CT in the 9,604-seat Gill Coliseum.

The advancing team will play the winner of No. 6 George Washington and No. 11 Gonzaga Sunday.

South Dakota State (24-8) completed its ninth 20-win season in the last 11 years and makes its sixth appearance in the NCAA Championship. The Jacks are 1-5 in the championship and 2015 is the second time the Jackrabbits earned the No. 14 seed (2010).

The Beavers are the automatic qualifier from the Pac-12, ranked No. 10 and features Jamie Weisner, who led Oregon State, averaging 13.7 points and 6.3 rebounds per game. Two other Beavers average double-digits in scoring.

Oregon State was 26-4 this season and 16-2 in the Pac-12. The Beavers made their first NCAA Championship appearance in 18 years last season, defeating Middle Tennessee State in the opening round, before falling to No. 1 seed South Carolina in the second round.

It will be the first time in postseason play the Jackrabbits will face a Pac-12 conference squad. SDSU is 0-1 all-time against the Beavers, losing 68-65, Nov. 27, 2004, in the Paradise Jam in Turlock, Calif.

Tickets for the SDSU women's basketball first-round tournament game against Oregon State will be available through the Jackrabbit Ticket Office starting at 9 a.m. Tuesday. Visit the ticket office on the first floor of Frost Arena or by calling 1-866-GoJacks or 605-688-5422.

## Huskies, Irish, Terps, Gamecocks Earn Women's No. 1 Seeds

BY DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

UConn's journey to a third straight national championship will begin at home.

The Huskies are seeded first overall in the tournament and tops in the Albany Region, in search of a 10th overall title which would tie Geno Auriemma with UCLA men's coach John Wooden for most all-time.

UConn will open up Saturday in Storrs, Connecticut, against St. Francis, Brooklyn, which is making its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament. The Terriers (15-18) are the 10th team to enter the NCAAs with a losing record.

Joining the Huskies as top seeds are Maryland, South Carolina and Notre Dame in the 64-team tournament that begins Friday.

Notre Dame and UConn, former Big East rivals, met in the national championship game last season as undefeated teams with the Huskies coming away with the victory. The pair played

earlier this season in South Bend, Indiana, and the Huskies won by 18 points. UConn also beat South Carolina on Feb. 9 by 25.

The Huskies seem to be improving and having been rolling, winning games by an average of 42 points this season.

The Irish are the top seed in the Oklahoma City Region and have played in the past four Final Fours, but have come up short of a title each time. Baylor, Iowa and Stanford are the top seeds in the region that will try and derail the Irish.

The Gamecocks will face Savannah State in the first round, a team they beat by 62 points earlier this year. Florida State, Arizona State and North Carolina will try and stop South Carolina in the Greensboro Region.

Maryland is the top seed in the Spokane Region. The Terrapins became the second team to go unbeaten in the Big Ten, the conference they just joined this year. They will open up against New

Mexico State on Saturday.

Undefeated Princeton, which is the 15th team to enter the NCAA Tournament unbeaten, is an eight-seed. The Tigers will face Green Bay. It's the third time in five tournament appearances that the Tigers will play in the 8 vs. 9 game. Other teams in Spokane include second-seed Tennessee and third seed Oregon State.

All teams in the field would like to get to the national championship game April 7 in Tampa, Florida. This season the women's tournament moved its games up one day in the first two rounds and the regionals. The Final Four is still being played on Sunday (semifinals) and Tuesday (title game).

The NCAA also decided to go back to rewarding the top 16 seeds with home games in the opening two rounds for the first time since 2003.

By awarding the sites on merit the Gamecocks were allowed to host the first two rounds despite the state fly-

ing the Confederate flag on Statehouse grounds. The NCAA banned South Carolina and other schools in the state from hosting championships held at predetermined sites because of the state's decision to fly the Confederate flag. Mississippi schools also face the same NCAA rules.

Third-seeded Louisville was the only one of the 16 teams not hosting as the school's home arena was being used for the men's NCAA Tournament. The Cardinals will head to South Florida to face BYU in the opener.

Tennessee will be making its 34th straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament, getting into the field ever year. Three teams will be making their first trip — American, St. Francis, Brooklyn and Savannah State.

Monday's bracket didn't include Georgia, which saw its 20-year run of consecutive appearances end. Earlier in the day coach Andy Landers announced his retirement.

# As Harvick Soars, It's Not Clear Who Can Stop The Champion

BY JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — To the surprise of none, Kevin Harvick won at Phoenix.

Now in a zone not seen in NASCAR in several years, Harvick and crew chief Rodney Childers head to California amid a looming question: Can anyone stop the No. 4 team?

The only way Harvick was going to lose at Phoenix was if he or his Stewart-Haas Racing team made some sort of mistake that would derail the inevitable. It didn't happen, and he routed the field Sunday while grabbing his fourth consecu-

tive win at the Arizona short track.

It's part of a streak that dates back to last season, when Harvick grabbed his first Sprint Cup championship. He's won five of the last 10 races, two straight this season, and has seven consecutive top-two finishes.

His streak of top-two finishes is the longest since Hall of Famer Richard Petty did it during his 1975 championship season.

So now the No. 4 team heads to California looking to sweep this three-race West Coast swing.

It's left his competitors awestruck at the chemistry that team has created in just over one year. Harvick moved from Richard Chil-

dress Racing to SHR after the 2013 season, and he and Childers sent a message to the entire garage area that December in their first test together when they were head-and-shoulders better than the rest of the field.

"I remember the days when Jeff Gordon won 13 races in a year. I remember watching every week, it was incredible," said Jamie McMurray, runner-up to Harvick at Phoenix.

"I think our sport is much tougher now to do that. I remember when the 4 car unloaded at the Charlotte test last year, first lap on the track he was literally the fastest car. For a year it's been that way."

There have been other streaks in recent memory that rival Harvick: Tony Stewart won five of 10 Chase races in 2011; Jimmie Johnson won four straight Chase races in 2007, a run that rivaled his four wins in five races in 2004, when he fell eight points shy of his first title; and Gordon in 1998, when he won 13 times and finished first or second in 15 of the final 19 events.

So drivers do indeed cycle to the top of the Sprint Cup Series, and only Johnson, with five consecutive titles, has been able to maintain his grip as the best in NASCAR for any considerable length of time.

But until SHR shifts into R&D mode to prepare Harvick for the

season-ending 10-race Chase for the championship, there's no indication he can be stopped anytime soon.

If there was going to be a serious challenge, though, it would likely come from one of these drivers:

—JOEY LOGANO: The Daytona 500 winner is so far this season the only driver able to keep pace with Harvick. He has top-10 finishes in all four races and has started on the front row three times. He knew it was going to be tough to keep up with Harvick at Phoenix, where he led 35 laps but finished eighth.

He's pretty good at California — remember, he was racing for the

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