PRESS&DAKOTAN

DAILY DOSE

Opinions from the **P&D Sports** Staff on local and national high school, college and pro sports.

The Mount Marty College baseball team played games 26 and 27 on their season on Wednesday, including games 14 and 15 at the friendly confines of what is now called Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field. Unless March goes out like a lion instead of the lamb that is forecasted, there will be two more home games before the end of the month. In comparison, MMC didn't play its 27th game last year until April 6 and didn't play its 15th home game until two weeks later. Yes, a mild spring has played a big role in that statistic, but the new turf at Riverside may be a bigger factor. MMC played its first nine games at home, including three on Feb. 20 for the earli-

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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Turf Making A Difference For Mount Marty Baseball

est home start in program history. The ninth home game a year ago came on April 9, as MMC's first 14 games were played at a neutral site.

The artificial surface also allowed the Lancers to get outside and practice sooner and more often, something that helped the team get off to a strong start. MMC has already scored 18 victories with half the season remaining, just six wins shy of their total in 47 games in 2014.

The turf has also helped out Mount Marty's softball team, which was able to sneak in a few outside workouts themselves. The Lancer women take a 7-7 record into Great Plains Athletic Conference play, just one win shy of their total all of last season (36 games).

It's hard to quantify how much a few wins here and there mean to a program, but more victories are always better for everything from visibility to recruiting. And if the turf pays off in a few extra Lancer victories each year, it will more than pay for itself.

SPORTS DIGEST

Sprakel Added To 3-Class Lineup ALEM - Yankton's Andi Sprakel has been added to

the Class AA girls' roster for the 3-Class Shootout all-star basketball games, scheduled for Saturday at McCook Central High School in Salem. Also announced Wednesday, Mount Marty College men's

basketball assistant Sam Holden will replace head coach Andrew Baker as the coach for the Class A boys' team.

The Class AA girls face the Class A girls at 2 p.m., with the winner facing the Class B girls at 3:45 p.m. The Class B boys face the Class A boys at 5:15 p.m., with the winner facing the Class AA boys at 7 p.m.

T&F: Lewin, McKelvey Earn Indoor

Athlete Of The Year Honors

ELMHURST, III.—South Dakota junior hurdler Teivaskie Lewin and senior thrower Kyle McKelvey were named the 2015 Summit League Men's Indoor Track and Field Athletes of the Year on Wednesday.

Hailing from Montego Bay, Jamaica, Lewin becomes the third consecutive Coyote to obtain the Men's Indoor Track Athlete of the Year honor, following Brandon Kovash in 2014 and Jeff Mettler in 2013. Lewin's indoor season honors include becoming a first-team All-American, Summit League Track

SCOREBOARD

Championship MVP and setting a school, state and Summit League record in the 60-meter hurdles at 7.81 seconds.

A native of Beresford, McKelvey earns the Men's Indoor Field Athlete of the Year honor after he earned All-Summit League honors in the shot put and weight throw. McKelvey's throw of 63 feet, 0 inches broke the Summit League Championship meet record in addition to setting a new school and state record in the event. McKelvey narrowly missed qualifying for the NCAA Championships when he finished the season ranked 19th nationally in the shot put. South Dakota's track and field teams travel to Texas this

week for the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays in Austin, Texas, and Texas State's Bobcat Invitational in San Marcos, Texas. Both meets are scheduled for Thursday through Saturday.

Golf: MMC Ninth At Midland

VALLEY, Neb. - The Mount Marty College men's golf team finished ninth in the 11-team Midland Spring Men's Golf Invite hosted at The Pines in Valley, Nebraska.

Dylan Brende led MMC with an 81. Luke Loecker and Collin Matthews each shot an 84. Robbie Neswick and Ben Jensen each shot 85 for the Lancers.

Iowa Western won the team title with a 298, three strokes better than host Midland. Iowa Western's Allister Balcombe won individual honors with a 2-under 70.

AREA CALENDAR

Miami 63, Richmond 61 Stanford 78, Vanderbilt 75 BASKETBALL NCAA TOURNAMENT Wednesday, March 25 Old Dominion 72, Murray State 69 Louisiana Tech (27-8) at Temple REGIONAL SEMIFINALS Thursday, March 26 MIDWEST REGIONAL LOUISIGNS (25-10), 8 p.m SEMIFINALS At Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland At Madison Square Garden, New York Wichita State (30-4) vs. Notre Dame (31-5), 6:15 p.m. Kentucky (36-0) vs. West Virginia Tuesday, March 31 Stanford (22-13) vs. Old Dominion (27-7), 6 or 8:30 p.m. Miami (24-12) vs. Louisiana Tech-(25-9), 8:45 p.m. WEST REGIONAL At The Staples Center, Los Angeles Wisconsin (33-3) vs. North Carolina Temple winner), 6 or 8:30 p.m. (26-11), 6:47 p.m. Arizona (33-3) vs. Xavier (23-13), WOMEN'S NIT THIRD ROUND Wednesday, March 25 Eastern Michigan (24-12) at South-ern Mississippi (24-10), 7 p.m. EAST REGIONAL At The Carrier Dome, Syracuse, N.Y. N.C. State (22-13) vs. Louisville (26-Thursday, March 26 St. John's (23-10) at Villanova (21-13), 6 p.m. Michigan State (25-11) vs. Okla-homa (24-10), 9:07 p.m. SOUTH REGIONAL NC State (18-14) at Temple (18-16), 6 p.m Missouri (19-13) at Michigan (18-At NRG Stadium, Houston 14), 6 p.m. UCLA (22-13) vs. Gonzaga (34-2), Duquesne (23-10) vs. West Virginia Friday, March 27 (20-14), 6 p.m. Duke (31-4) vs. Utah (26-8), 8:45 ppi (19-13) at Middle Ten-Missis nessee (23-9), 7 p.m. Northern Colorado (22-12) at UCLA NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (15-18), 9 p.m. Saint Mary's (Cal) (22-10) at Sacra-REGIONAL SEMIFINALS mento State (18-15), 9 p.m. At Greensboro, N.C. South Carolina (32-2) vs. North NCAA DIVISION II MEN At Evansville, Ind. QUARTERFINALS Arizona State (29-5) vs. Florida State (31-4), 8:30 p.m Wednesday, March 25 Tarleton State 77, Mount Olive 59 Indiana (Pa.) 69, Azusa Pacific 65 At Oklahoma City lowa (26-7) vs. Baylor (32-3), 6:30 Florida Southern 81, S. New Hamp-Notre Dame (33-2) vs. Stanford (26shire 70 Minnesota St.-Moorhead vs. Bel-Minnesola Cl. Iarmine, 8:30 p.m. Semifinals UConn (34-1) vs. Texas (24-10), Thursday, March 26 Tarleton State vs. Indiana (Pa.). TBA Dayton (27-6) vs. Louisville (27-6), Florida Southern vs. Bellarmine-nnesota St.-Moorhead winner, TBA Maryland (32-2) vs. Duke (23-10),

NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN At Sioux Falls, S.D QUARTERFINALS Tuesday, March 24 California (Pa.) 84, Nova Southeastern 79, OT oria St. 62, West Texas A&M 50 Cal Baptist 86, New Haven 77

Thursday, March 26 SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Briar Cliff at MMC (DH, 3 p.m.) BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC Doane (DH, 1 p.m.) SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD at SWIMMING & DIVING, COL-LEGE NCAA Men's Championat IUPUI (DH, 10 a.m.); MMC at Midland (DH, 1 p.m.) SWIMMING & DIVING, COL-LEGE NCAA Men's Championships at Iowa City TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE ships at lowa City TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays at Austin, Texas (USD); Wildcat Classic at Wayne, Neb. **OUTDOOR** Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays at Austin, Texas (USD) Friday, March 27 SWIMMING & DIVING, COL-LEGE NCAA Men's Championships at Iowa City (USD, 11 a.m.) TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays at Austin, Texas (USD) Saturday, March 28 dia at MMC (DH, 1 p.m.) SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD

Limestone 61, Lewis 58 SEMIFINALS C Rob Brantly to Charlotte (IL). Reas-signed INF Juan Diaz and OF Courtney Wednesday, March 25 California (Pa.) 51, Emporia St. 46 Hawkins to minor league camp. CLEVELAND INDIANS - Released

Cal Baptist vs. Limestone, 8:30 p.m 1B Jerrud Sabourin. OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Optioned RHP Ryan Cook to Nashville (PCL). TEXAS RANGERS — Released CHAMPIONSHIP California (Pa.) vs. Cal Baptist-Limestone winner, 7 p.m.

AUTO RACING

2015 SCHEDULE

DRIVER STANDINGS

Through March 22 1. Kevin Harvick, 225.

2. Joey Logano, 197. 3. Martin Truex Jr., 192.

4. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 164

Brad Keselowski, 163.
Ryan Newman, 162.
Jimmie Johnson, 159.
Kasey Kahne, 159.

9. Paul Menard, 152.

10. Aric Almirola, 138

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Optioned

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

LHP Efrain Nieves. TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Optioned RHPs Chad Jenkins and Bo Schultz to Buffalo (IL).

National League COLORADO ROCKIES — Optioned IP Tommy Kahnle to Albuquerque RHP (PCL). WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Rex-non-points race March 15 — CampingWorld.com 500, Avondale, Ariz, (Kevin Harvick)

assigned RHP Bruce Billings to minor March 22 — Auto Club 400, Fon-tana, Calif. (Brad Keselowski) March 29 — STP 500, Ridgeway, gue camp. BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association ATLANTA HAWKS — Signed F Aus-tin Daye to a second 10-day contract. FOOTBALL National Football League CHICAGO BEARS — Signed LB Mason Foster to a one-year contract. GREEN BAY PACKERS - Signed DB Kyle Sebetic. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Named

Dwaine Board assistant defensive line coach, Chris Cash assistant secondary/ cornerbacks coach and Andre Curtis assistant secondary/safeties coach TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS Waived LB Brandon Magee. HOCKEY HOCKEY HALL OF FAME —

But the momentum had been started.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty's Cody Ulmer drops down a bunt during the second game of a non-conference baseball doubleheader with Dakota State on Wednesday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

was nice to start seeing the ball hit hard and land in."

Mount Marty's Ryan Buck dives back into first base as Dakota State first baseman Jordan

Entrikin takes the throw during the second game of their non-conference baseball dou-

bleheader on Wednesday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

would prefer not needing a on a given day, according to

to approach games like that here on out.

play," Bernatow said. "Mentally, we've got to be a little

"If it's something we can get over, it could change the complexion of how the season goes.'

Mount Marty had a 7-13 record in the GPAC last year, but was picked to finish fifth this spring. A strong start in the non-conference season with already 15 home games no doubt helps, Buck said.

"It's obviously more important in conference games," he said. "We just wanted to build up to that point so we can try to win the conference."

You can follow Jeremy

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at www.vankton.net.

FROM PAGE 7 Senior Julian Cutolo added four hits and three RBI on the day, while senior Derrik Nelson and junior Nick Sunday, March 29 BASEBALL, COLLEGE Con-Sehr each had three hits. Richard Sternberg, a

Platte native, threw three innings of hitless relief for Dakota State (4-19) in the first game, and Luke Gassman and Mitch Bouchard each went one inning to secure the DSU

Lancers

Jake Harris and Nick Serrata each had a pair of hits Jorgensen's 2-run home run in the fourth inning was

Normally, surrendering five hits wouldn't result in a loss for the Lancers, but it did Wednesday.

"It's not like you're not going to make mistakes on the mound, you just hope your offense is good enough to overcome it," Bernatow said.

Sophomore pitcher Sam Erickson — three runs over four innings - took the loss for the Lancers, who didn't score until the bottom of the seventh. A ground ball double play ended the game.

16 batters to the plate in the third, scoring 11 runs. "In the second game, it tougher.

Buck said. The Lancers, though, 20-hit barrage to break even

Bernatow. "We've got to be better," he said. "Yeah I'm happy in terms of the second game, but you don't have the luxury

their coach.

An issue for the Lancers has been not letting one atbat or one pitch determine their mindset, according to

"We've got to be a little

better being disciplined and

coming to the park ready to

win.

for the Trojans, while Jamie

enough cushion.

Jacks

3:30 p.m. Gonzaga (26-7) vs. Tennessee (29-

QUARTERFINALS

9:17 p.m.

Friday, March 27

8), 6:37 p.m.

6:15 p.m

Friday, March 27

Carolina (26-8), 6 p.m

9), 9 p.m. Saturday, March 28 At Albany, N.Y.

p.m

p.m.

11 a.m

1:30 p.m.

At Spokane, Was

NAT. INV. TOURN.

Tuesday, March 24

FROM PAGE 7

der both had strong seasons off the bench this year. "It's exciting," Johnston

said. "Our sophomore class benefited from our run last year in the WNIT, and this year's freshman class will benefit from all the positive things we did this year.

For the Jackrabbit men, falling short of an NCAA Tournament berth by way of a gut-punching loss to North Dakota State in the Summit League finals put a damper on an otherwise impressive season, but they certainly gained a measure of redemption in the postseason.

By sharing the Summit League regular season title with NDSU, the Jacks earned an automatic bid to the NIT, their first appearance in the nation's second-most prestigious college basketball tournament.

Just getting that bid was noteworthy for the program, but they made it count with a sizeable upset, cruising to an 86-76 win over top-seeded Colorado State in Fort Collins. It was SDSU's first postseason win at the Division I level. That win, coupled with the regular season conference title, made SDSU's 24-11 season about

as good as it possibly could have been without a trip to the NCAA's. It ended with a 92-77 loss at Vanderbilt in the second round of the NIT.

Va.

What SDSU did was particularly impressive because of how quickly they were thrown together as a squad. Junior guard Jake Bittle and senior center Cody Larson (in his second year with the program) were joined in the starting lineup by three newcomers transfer guards Deondre Parks and George Marshall and true freshman forward Reed Tellinghuisen. A starting five with so little court time together would expectedly take a long time to gel, and the Jacks did lose their first two Summit League games as part of a four-game losing streak.

But thanks in large part to at-times dominant team defense, the Jacks got hot, winning 12 of their last 14 in the regular season, many by wide margins.

Parks was named the Summit's top newcomer while Marshall was named to the Allnewcomer team. Larson, Parks, Marshall and Bittle received All-Summit recognition, while Larson was named the conference's best defensive player.

That made for a satisfying end to a circuitous career for Larson, a Roosevelt grad who battled off-field disciplinary issues through high school and

the University of Florida, where he began his career. SDSU took a risk in bringing Larson on board, but he ultimately proved to be a top-flight player and model student.

Named Lanny McDonald chairman of the board.

"I've loved him - loved every minute with him," coach Scott Nagy said. "He's been an incredible, straight-A student, an incredible teammate. Being able to get him in a good environment with solid guys helped him a lot.'

The only other senior the Jacks lose is Zach Horstman, a 6-6 swingman who served as a leader and valuable locker room presence in addition to providing quality minutes off the bench.

Neither will be easy to replace, but the Jacks have reasons to feel good with Parks (14.1 points per game), Marshall (13.2), Bittle (10.1) and Tellinghuisen (8.6) all returning. Skyler Flatten showed wicked athleticism off the bench and could be a breakout threat, while big men Ian Theisen and Connor Devine showed promise as underclassmen. Mike Daum, who redshirted this year, will join those two in an effort to fill Larson's void. USF transfer Keaton Moffitt proved himself off the bench, though prep superstar Anders Broman will transfer after falling down the depth chart this year as a sophomore.

Collin Peterson's 2-run single in the bottom of the second inning in game two brought the Lancers within 3-2. The home team then sent

Winter

FROM PAGE 7

the percentage of jobs you can find where you're not going to wear yourself out or risk putting a nail into your finger," Rogers said.

There's less risk at the grocery store, but makes for amusing encounters. Working one winter at the Rainbow Foods in his hometown of Shoreview, Minnesota, Twins pitching prospect Mark Hamburger noticed the team's minor league director in the next line.

"I was wearing my apron and everything," Hamburger said, smiling. "He was like, 'Mark Hamburger! What are you doing here?' Then I said, Well, you know I didn't really get too big of a signing bonus, so I've got to do stuff,' and he was like, 'Oh, nice to see you."

Former pitcher Garrett Broshius, who spent six seasons in the San Francisco Giants system, dabbled in personal training while making minor league money, and spent a couple

winters with a cognitive psychologist on memory research. His ballplayer friends varied widely on work. One sold women's shoes at Macy's over the holidays. Another worked for a dog-walking service. Then there was the Jimmy John's sandwich delivery guy.

'On a bike he bought off of Craigslist," Broshius said. "Apparently the brakes didn't work too well, so it didn't seem too safe.

Sometimes, staying in the sport is best. Fien dabbled in pitching lessons to supplement the warehouse work, for example. Others try to plant the seeds of a sustainable second career.

Miami Marlins pitching prospect Pat Urckfitz started his own hunting calls business three years ago. Yep, just like the bearded Robertson family on the reality show "Duck Dynasty.

Beaver Creek Game Calls sells handmade (by Urckfitz himself), hand-tuned callers for duck, goose, deer and turkey hunters. The shop is open four months a year between baseball seasons. His partners

take the calls to trade shows around the country.

"At first I started making them for my friends. Then the word got out about them, so then I started selling them to people," Urckfitz said. "If I was doing it year round I would be all right.

Baseball won't last forever, after all.

Twins prospect Alex Meyer was a former first-round pick by the Washington Nationals who didn't need the winter money so much, but two years ago took substitute teaching assignments for \$63 a day to connect with his Greensburg, Indiana, hometown.

"It shows you hard it is to earn \$100, when there's people out there who work paycheck to paycheck," Meyer said. "That's a real thing, so it definitely makes you understanding of the opportunity we have in this game to take care of your family.'

AP Baseball Writer Noah Trister and AP Sports Writers Ronald Blum and Steven Wine contributed to this report.

