

PRESS&DAKOTAN

DAILY DOSE

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



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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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-

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

SALEM – 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, Ill. — 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

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 Brendle 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.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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 doubleheader on Wednesday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NCAA TOURNAMENT

REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

Thursday, March 26

MIDWEST REGIONAL

At Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland

Wichita State (30-4) vs. Notre Dame

(31-5), 6:15 p.m.

Kentucky (36-0) vs. West Virginia

(25-9), 8:45 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL

At The Staples Center, Los Angeles

Wisconsin (33-3) vs. North Carolina

(26-11), 6:47 p.m.

Arizona (33-3) vs. Xavier (23-13),

9:17 p.m.

EAST REGIONAL

At The Carrier Dome, Syracuse, N.Y.

N.C. State (22-13) vs. Louisville (26-8),

6:37 p.m.

Michigan State (25-11) vs. Okla-

home (24-10), 9:07 p.m.

SOUTH REGIONAL

At NRG Stadium, Houston

UCLA (22-13) vs. Gonzaga (34-2),

6:15 p.m.

Duke (31-4) vs. Utah (26-8), 8:45

p.m.

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

Friday, March 27

At Greensboro, N.C.

South Carolina (32-2) vs. North

Carolina (26-8), 6 p.m.

Arizona State (29-5) vs. Florida

State (31-4), 8:30 p.m.

At Oklahoma City

Iowa (26-7) vs. Baylor (32-3), 6:30

p.m.

Notre Dame (33-2) vs. Stanford (26-9),

9 p.m.

Saturday, March 28

At Albany, N.Y.

UCConn (34-1) vs. Texas (24-10),

1:30 p.m.

At Spokane, Was.

Maryland (32-2) vs. Duke (23-10),

3:30 p.m.

Gonzaga (26-7) vs. Tennessee (29-5),

6 p.m.

NAT. INV. TOURN.

QUARTERFINALS

Tuesday, March 24

MIAMI 63, Richmond 61

Stanford 78, Vanderbilt 75

Wednesday, March 25

Old Dominion 72, Murray State 69

Louisiana Tech (27-8) at Temple

(25-10), 8 p.m.

SEMIFINALS

At Madison Square Garden, New York

Tuesday, March 31

Stanford (22-13) vs. Old Dominion

(27-7), 6 or 8:30 p.m.

Miami (24-12) vs. Louisiana Tech-

Temple winner), 6 or 8:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S NIT

THIRD ROUND

Wednesday, March 25

Eastern Michigan (24-12) at South-

ern Mississippi (24-10), 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 26

St. John's (23-10) at Villanova (21-13),

6 p.m.

NC State (18-14) at Temple (18-16),

6 p.m.

Missouri (19-13) at Michigan (18-14),

6 p.m.

Duquesne (23-10) vs. West Virginia

(20-14), 6 p.m.

Mississippi (19-13) at Middle Ten-

nessee (23-9), 7 p.m.

Northern Colorado (22-12) at UCLA

(15-18), 9 p.m.

Saint Mary's (Cal) (22-10) at Sacra-

mento State (18-15), 9 p.m.

NCAA DIVISION II MEN

At Evansville, Ind.

QUARTERFINALS

Wednesday, March 25

Tarleton State 77, Mount Olive 59

Indiana (Pa.) 69, Azusa Pacific 65

Florida Southern 81, S. New Hamp-

shire 70

Minnesota St.-Moorhead vs. Bel-

larmine, 8:30 p.m.

Semifinals

Thursday, March 26

Tarleton State vs. Indiana (Pa.), TBA

Florida Southern vs. Belarmine-

Minnesota St.-Moorhead winner, TBA

NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN

At Sioux Falls, S.D.

QUARTERFINALS

Tuesday, March 24

California (Pa.) 84, Nova Southeast-

ern 79, OT

Emporia St. 62, West Texas A&M 50

Cal Baptist 86, New Haven 77

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, March 26

SOFTBALL, COLLEGE

Briar

Cliff at MMC (DH, 3 p.m.)

SWIMMING & DIVING, COL-

LEGE NCAA Men's Champion-

ships at Iowa City

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE

OUTDOOR Clyde Littlefield Texas

Relays at Austin, Texas (USD)

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OUTDOOR Clyde Littlefield Texas

Relays at Austin, Texas (USD)

Saturday, March 28

BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC

at Doane (DH, 1 p.m.)

SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD

at IUPUI (DH, 10 a.m.); MMC at

Midland (DH, 1 p.m.)

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