### SPORTS DIGEST

## SDSU Holds Lead in Commis-

sioner's Cup Race ELMHURST, III. - South Dakota State holds the lead after the winter season in The Summit League Commissioner's Cup standings. The Jackrabbits have 56.5 points and also lead the Dr. William Steinbrecher Men's All-Sports Award Standings, while South Dakota is first in the Dr. Helen Smiley

Women's All-Sports Award Standings. Overall, South Dakota is just two points behind the Jackrabbits with 54.5 points followed by IUPUI with 50.5 points and North Dakota State with 47.5 points. Oral Roberts (39 points) is in fifth place with a 1.5-point lead over Denver with 37.5 points. Western Illinois is in seventh place with 27.5 points while Omaha (25.5 points) and Fort Wayne (19.5 points) rounded out the standings

The Jackrabbits overtook the lead after top-three finishes in all six winter sports, including a first-place finish in men's basketball. SDSU also placed first in women's soccer this fall and has finished second the men's cross country, women's swimming & diving and women's basketball. In all, the Jacks have finished in the top-three in nine of its 10 sponsored sports thus far.

South Dakota took sole possession of second place and regained the top spot in the women's all-sports award standings after a first-place finish in women's basketball and second-place finish in women's indoor track & field. IUPUI rounds out the top-three slots in the Commissioner's Cup race after a second-place showing in men's swimming & diving and third-place finish in women's basketball.

The Commissioner's Cup is given annually to the member institution that collects the most combined points in relationship to placement in league-sponsored sports between its men's and women's athletic programs, while the All-Sports Awards are given to the institutions that accumulate the most points in men's sports and women's sports. The men's award named for former Valparaiso Director of Athletics Dr. William Steinbrecher, who guided the Crusaders from 1979-2004, while the women's award is named for former Western Illinois Director of Athletics Dr. Helen Smiley, who headed WIU's athletic program from 1994-2001

### Nebraska Academic All-State Honorees Announced

SCOREBOARD

**BASKETBALL** 

REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

Notre Dame 81, Wichita State 70 Kentucky (36-0) vs. West Virgir (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),

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. Oklahoma (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

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

At Quicken Loans Arena. Cleveland

At The Staples Center, Los Angeles

EAST REGIONAL
At The Carrier Dome, Syracuse, N.Y.

SOUTH REGIONAL

nifinal winners Sunday, March 29

At NRG Stadium, Houston

Notre Dame (32-5) vs. Kentucky-West Virginia winner, TBA WEST REGIONAL

Saturday, March 28
MIDWEST REGIONAL

Friday, March 27

At Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland

NCAA TOURNAMENT

LINCOLN, Neb. – Several area studentwere recognized by the Nebraska School Activities Association with its winter

At Greensboro, N.C.

At Oklahoma City

Saturday, March 28

At Albany, N.Y.

At Spokane, Was.

NAT. INV. TOURN.

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

WOMEN'S NIT

Tuesday, March 24 Miami 63, Richmond 61

Stanford 78. Vanderbilt 75

Wednesday, March 25 Old Dominion 72, Murray State 69 Temple 77, Louisiana Tech 59 SEMIFINALS

At Madison Square Garden, New York

Stanford (22-13) vs. Old Dominion

THIRD ROUND

Southern Mississippi 76, Eastern

5), 6 p.m.

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

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

UConn (34-1) vs. Texas (24-10), 11 a.m. Dayton (27-6) vs. Louisville (27-6),

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

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

QUARTERFINALS

Academic All-State Awards.

Here are the area honorees in athletics and fine arts

ALLEN: Brian Boese, boys' basketball; Coleman Kneifl, boys' basketball; Lexi Oswald, girls' basketball; Caleb Thomas, wrestling

CREIGHTON: Shane Asher, boys' basketball; Brook Baller, boys' basketball; Jessica Gragert, girls' basketball; Emily Sorensen, girls' basketball; Allison Morrill, speech; Sarah Smith, speech: Colten Adams, wrestling: Connor Baldwin, wrestling

CROFTON: Josh Allen, boys' basketball; Brock Mueller, Crofton; Lily Steffen, girls' basketball; Quinn Wragge, girls' basketball; Cory Augustin, speech; Cole Steffen, speech HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC: Ty Becker, boys'

basketball; Stephen Hillis, boys' basketball; Monica Arens, girls' basketball: Taylor Lammers, girls' basketball: Samantha Kleinschmit, speech; Hannah Rembert, speech; Austin Koch,

HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE: Tanner Fischer, boys' basketball; Jared Fuelberth, boys' basketball; Sophie Noecker, girls' basketball; Camarie Stratman, girls' basketball; Chase Dendinger, speech: Hannah Flaugh, speech

LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE: Jordan Jansen, boys' basketball; Dillan Wolfgram, boys' basketball; Ellie Arduser, girls' basketball; Audra Corbit, girls' basketball; Connor Cross, speech; Katie Leapley, speech; Billy Barelman, wrestling; Chayce Hirschman, wrestling

NIOBRARA: Jacob Johnson, boys' basketball: Steven LaPointe, boys' basketball; Brittany Eisenhauer, girls' basketball; Trenton Guenther, speech; Liam Key, speech

PONCA: Derrek Touney, boys' basketball; Michael Walsh, boys' basketball; Hannah Albrecht, girls' basketball; Kianna Kramper, girls' basketball; Lauren Brickett, speech; Alisha Sullivan, speech: Colton Oswald, wrestling RANDOLPH: Denton Kuhl, boys' basketball; Seth Lackas,

boys' basketball; Katie Fye, girls' basketball; Haley Schnoor, girls' basketball; Dylan Loberg, wrestling VERDIGRE: Kylie McManigal, girls' basketball; Alex Hollmann, speech

WAUSA: Jordan Burns, bovs' basketball: Kyle Kleinschmit. boys' basketball; Torissa Clausen, girls' basketball; Tara Munter, girls' basketball; Samantha Hennings, speech; Jessah

WYNOT: Austin Lange, boys' basketball; Tristan Wieseler, boys' basketball; Jenna Heine, girls' basketball; Danielle Wieseler, girls' basketball: Larissa Attema, speech: Hannah

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT Carolina (26-8), 6 p.m.

Arizona State (29-5) vs. Florida
State (31-4), 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 29

UCLA winner, TBA

At Evansville, Ind.

NCAA DIVISION II MEN

oane (DH, 1 p.m.)

BASEBALL, CLUB JV S.F. O'Gorman at Yankton (DH, 5 p.m.) BASEBALL, CLUB 9/10 S.F.

Midland (DH, 1 p.m.)

SWIMMING & DIVING, COL-LEGE NCAA Men's Champion ships at lowa City
TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE
OUTDOOR Clyde Littlefield Texas
Relays at Austin, Texas (USD);

Thursday, March 26 Villanova 63, St. John's 55 Indiana (Pa.) 69, Azusa Pacific 65 Temple 80, NC State 79, OT Michigan 65, Missouri 55 West Virginia 60, Duquesne 39 Bellarmine 92, Minnesota St.-Middle Tennessee 82, Mississippi Moorhead 75

Northern Colorado (22-12) at UCLA (15-18), 9 p.m. Saint Mary's (Cal) (22-10) at Sacramento State (18-15), 9 p.m. QUARTERFINALS 8:30 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP Villanova (22-13) at West Virginia (21-14), 1 p.m. Bellarmine winner, 2 p.m. Michigan (19-14) at Southern Mississippi (25-10), 2 p.m.

Cal Baptist 85, Limestone 67
CHAMPIONSHIP

California (Pa.) vs. Cal Baptist, 7

### AREA CALENDAR

SWIMMING & DIVING, COL-LEGE NCAA Men's Championships at lowa City
TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE
OUTDOOR Clyde Littlefield Texas
Relays at Austin, Texas (USD)
Saturday, March 28
BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC

sevelt at Yankton (DH, 1 p.m.) SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD

Temple (19-16) at Middle Tennessee

Saint Mary's (Cal)-Sacramento

State winner vs. Northern Colorado-

Wildcat Classic at Wayne, Neb (USD, 11 a.m.)
Sunday, March 29
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Concordia at MMC (DH, 1 p.m.)

SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD

Wednesday, March 25 Tarleton State 77, Mount Olive 59

Semifinals Thursday, March 26 Indiana (Pa.) 72, Tarleton State 68 Florida Southern vs. Bellarmine

NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN Wednesday, March 25 California (Pa.) 51, Emporia St. 46

> do to win a football game," he said. The biggest sign that

things are already different year centers on experience. In last season's season finale at South Dakota State,

BY JEREMY HOECK

program forward. F.A.S.T.

in Vermillion.

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VERMILLION — It's not

plastered on any billboards

motto for the University of

South Dakota football team

is geared toward moving the

Finish. Aggressive. Strong.

especially, that's a big part of 'senior quarterback Kevin Earl said after Thursday's af-

ternoon first spring practice

"Everything we do, we try

Coming off a 2-win season

and second winless confer-

ence record in three years,

the only thing the Coyotes

could do was attack the off-

season training with a fire.

they did, coaches and play-

says they got bigger and

for us, it's a bigger deal be-

cause of the amount of guys

linebacker Keyen Lage said.

year ago at this time about

carrying that over into suc-

Joe Glenn said.

cess on the field, head coach

"Now we've got to learn

the Coyote way, and what we

the team's work in the weight

room, but now the focus is on

we have coming back," senior

There was similar talk a

ers said Thursday.

And that's exactly what

"Every team every year

faster in the weight room, but

or T-shirts, but the new

Together.
"When we work out,

to take that approach."

the Coyotes — mostly because of injury — had two seniors see the field. And as they began spring practices, they have 18 seniors and 19



Wide receiver Riley Donovan, front, breaks away from teammate Zeke Lewis, 31, during a University of South Dakota spring football practice Thursday afternoon in Vermil-

juniors on the roster.

University of South Dakota football players huddle up during Thursday afternoon's prac-

**Coyotes Open Spring Practice** 

'We're getting the birthdays we thought we needed, now it's just time to get better," Glenn said.

Of the seniors, 12 are on the defensive side, which understandably has the team anxious to step forward in slowing opponents down, Lage said.

The guys starting now are three or four year guys, so we've had time to get used to the teams we play," the Sioux Falls native said.

Before the Coyotes can start worrying about the season opener (Sept. 5 at Kansas State), they've still got 13 spring practices left, including the April 25 spring game.

Glenn said his main goal with spring ball is to insert the offense, defense and special teams to bring everyone up to speed before they break for the summer.

"We can't do a lot of

football, but we can do a lot of drills," he said. "When you actually play the game, you take a big chance of getting hurt. Every hit is against South Dakota.

We've got to be careful with how much live stuff we do. I've never been a huge guy in spring ball of all-out hits and slugging it out."

Rather than beating each other up in spring ball, the goal throughout the offseason and into spring drills was the F.A.S.T. mindset with some of the younger players,

"We had time to get to know them close and become friends, and start to build some chemistry," he said.

'We've talked about everyone buying in and being a tighter overall unit.'

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

### **Wisconsin, Notre Dame Advance To Elite Eight** LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sam each for the fourth-seeded dominated Wichita State to

Dekker scored a career-high 23 points, Frank Kaminsky added 19 and top-seeded Wisconsin rallied in the final 10 minutes to hold off North Carolina 79-72 on Thursday night and advance to the Élite Eight of the NCAA Tourna-

Reserve Zak Showalter scored six points in the Badgers' 19-7 run that sent them into the West Regional final Saturday against either No. 2 seed Arizona or sixth-seeded Xavier.

Brice Johnson and Justin Jackson scored 15 points

Tar Heels (26-12), who got within one point with 4:21 remaining but couldn't retake the lead they owned for much of the second half

Marcus Paige hit consecutive 3-pointers that drew Carolina within one with 54 seconds to go, but Wisconsin (34-3) made all eight of its free throws — four by Kaminsky — over the closing seconds. Paige added 12 points for

the Tar Heels.

NOTRE DAME 81, WICHITA STATE 70: CLEVELAND (AP) — Demetrius Jackson scored 20 points and third-seeded Notre Dame

Ex-Husker Gregory To NFL Media: I Failed Drug Tests

advance to the Elite Eight for the first time in 36 years.

The Irish (32-5) shot 75 percent (18 of 24) in the second half, easily pulling away from the seventh-seeded Shockers (30-5). Pat Connaughton added 16 points and 10 rebounds for Notre Dame and Jerian Grant had nine points and 11 assists as the Irish won their eighth straight.

Notre Dame will play either unbeaten Kentucky or West Virginia on Saturday night with a Final Four spot on the line. Fred VanVleet led Wichita

State with 25 points, Darius Carter had 19 points and eight rebounds but guard Ron Baker had just nine points and went scoreless in the

ally no one else I can blame."

# .ancers

FROM PAGE 5A

Fernandez. "There's a big difference about this team. They know that they can come back with the offense they have, so they always stay in games, give ourselves a chance.'

Karlee Kozak and Kelsev Mitera each had three hits for Mount Marty in the nightcap. Jessica Wirth had a pair of hits. Krause and Jennifer Mitera each had a hit in the

Brooke Lyman and Deanna Ayala each doubled and singled to lead Briar Cliff in the second game. Jessica Bastian added a double for the Chargers, who moved to 10-6 (1-1 GPAC) on the season.

Krause survived a tough fifth inning to pick up the win, striking out four. Clara Dotzler took the loss.

Kelsey Mitera said that the Lancer hitters figured out Dotzler, who came on in relief in the opener.

"We saw her (Dotzler) in the first game at the end," she said. "All of us got back up again, made our adjustments and just hit the ball."

Briar Cliff took an early 2-0 lead, but MMC answered with three runs in the bottom of the first. The Lancers took advantage of two Charger errors as Olivia Rodriguez and Kozak drove in runs.

MMC added a run in the second, then answered Briar Cliff's one-run third with

three in the bottom of the frame. Kelsey Mitera drove in a run for MMC, which took advantage of an error and a

wild pitch to score runs. Briar Cliff batted around in the fifth to tie the game, but the Lancers regained the lead in the bottom of the frame. Kelsey Mitera led off with a single, moved up on a Krause sacrifice and scored on Jennifer Mitera's two-out

"I had a bad inning, but I trusted the team and they scored for me," Krause said.

Krause said that the Lancers' pumped up offense - MMC came into Thursday batting .280 as a team after batting .244 last season helps her and the other pitchers feel comfortable in the circle.

"It's a great feeling," she said. "It puts a lot less pressure on the pitchers knowing the team has our back with their bats. In the opener, Ayala went

3-3 with a home run and a double to power Briar Cliff to

Amy Anderson doubled and singled and Ashley Del Alto had two hits for the Chargers, who led 3-0 after one inning.

Jennifer Mitera doubled and singled for MMC. Krause, Cassidy Janicek, Erin Boyle and Kelsey Mitera added hits for the Lancers. Hannah Hustad picked

up the win. Brooke Becker took the loss, her first of the season (4-1).

"They caught us off guard a little bit in the first inning, gave up three runs," Fernandez said. "Those first three hitters, I don't think the ball left the infield. They've got some good kids in that 1-2 hole, some slappers that place the ball well.'

MMC has already matched its win total of a season ago, when the team went 8-28. with more than half the season remaining.

"That really goes to the players. We wanted to come in with a different philosophy, change the culture a little bit." Fernandez said. "We did that over the summer, started at the beginning of the year with some of the team building stuff we did."

For the Lancers to continue building on that mark, they need to remain on task, Kelsey Mitera said. "We need to stay focused

and not get too ahead of ourselves," she said. "Play every inning by every inning, and go that way." MMC travels to Midland

in GPAC action on Saturday. Start time is set for 1 p.m.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter. com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

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#### Eddie Rhodman Jr., one of Gregory's handlers, said on season at Nebraska, where he recorded 17 1/2 sacks in two

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Defensive end Randy Gregory said he tested positive for marijuana at the NFL scouting combine last month and that he failed two drug tests at Nebraska last year.

Gregory disclosed his marijuana use in an interview with NFL Media on Wednesday

Gregory went into February's scouting combine projected to be among the top 10 picks in the draft. He declared for the draft after his junior

He said he tested positive

sounds cliche, but there's re-

for marijuana at Nebraska in January 2014 and April 2014. Gregory said he hadn't smoked marijuana since December.

"Í blame myself," Gregory told NFL Media. "And I know it

Thursday that Gregory would not comment further. Gregory said he knows the failed drug tests could hurt his

draft position. "Am I worried? Yeah, I'm worried," he said. "At the same

time, I'm confident. I know

I'm going to be all right in the

Fourth a year ago at the league meet, SDSU is for now basking in the recent suc-

"It puts a good name out there for us," she said. "After winning these events, and getting second in the other one, it definitely has them watching the scoreboard."

Hoeck on Twitter at twitter. com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

### UMKC Shoot-Out in Kansas City, Missouri. And then two weeks later comes the Summit League Championships in

cess, Mingo said.

You can follow Jeremy

# Johnson Electric, LLP 500 W. 12TH ST., YANKTON **COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • TRENCHING** 605-665-5686 Gary R. Johnson • Chris Merkel

Rick Merkel • Ben Merkel

### Mingo FROM PAGE 5A finishes of 20th, fourth and winter, Mingo said. ments. "It was a big change, being able to hit all year," she said. in Brookings may be an-'Getting our swings down, that definitely made our scores drop." The Jacks already had a Mingo said. Casey VanDamme is in his

smaller indoor putting and chipping area, but the ability to physically see the result of a swing — and not on a simulator screen — paid dividends this spring, Mingo said. They've done a lot with "We saw it right away the SDSU program, really

when we got on the range," she said. "It was amazing to see the impact of our balls flying straighter. It was very Jackrabbits?

Such an indoor facility would have no doubt helped in high school, Mingo said, although the Yankton golfers occasionally used the Empire Golf & Sport Dome in Sioux

"It's just something that South Dakotans grew up with, not being able to play in the winter," Mingo said.

Mingo, who came into the season ranked eighth in career scoring average (80.96) at SDSU, has recorded 24th in the last three tourna-

The new coaching staff other reason the Jacks have risen quickly in the D-I ranks,

first year as head coach after a 5-year stint at Tennessee. while assistant coach Dean Ellis — a former 20-year head coach at Northern Michigan — is also in his first year.

turned us around," Mingo said. "It's having a great impact on us.' The better news for the

Their top five golfers will all be back next season. SDSU has been led by junior Svdney MacDonald, sophomore Hallie Getz (Pierre), Mingo, junior Brianna Janu and freshman Natcha Srimaneerungroj. The Jackrabbits return

to action April 6-7 at the