

SPORTS DIGEST

SDSU Holds Lead in Commissioner's Cup Race

ELMHURST, Ill. — 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 Steimbacher 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 in 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 is named for former Valparaiso Director of Athletics Dr. William Steimbacher, 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

LINCOLN, Neb. — Several area students were recognized by the Nebraska School Activities Association with its winter

Academic All-State Awards.

Here are the area honorees in athletics and fine arts activities:

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 Grager, 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, wrestling

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; Dillon Wolgram, boys' basketball; Ellie Arudser, girls' basketball; Audra Corbit, girls' basketball; Connor Cross, speech; Katie Leapley, speech; Billy Barelmam, wrestling; Chayce Hirschman, wrestling

NIORARA: 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 Krampfer, 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 Holmann, speech

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

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



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

University of South Dakota football players huddle up during Thursday afternoon's practice in Vermillion.

Coyotes Open Spring Practice

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — It's not plastered on any billboards or T-shirts, but the new motto for the University of South Dakota football team is geared toward moving the program forward.

F.A.S.T.
Finish. Aggressive. Strong. Together.

"When we work out, especially, that's a big part of it," senior quarterback Kevin Earl said after Thursday's afternoon first spring practice in Vermillion.

"Everything we do, we try to take that approach."

Coming off a 2-win season and second winless conference record in three years, the only thing the Coyotes could do was attack the off-season training with a fire.

And that's exactly what they did, coaches and players said Thursday.

"Every team every year says they got bigger and faster in the weight room, but for us, it's a bigger deal because of the amount of guys we have coming back," senior linebacker Keyen Lage said.

There was similar talk a year ago at this time about the team's work in the weight room, but now the focus is on carrying that over into success on the field, head coach Joe Glenn said.

"Now we've got to learn the Coyote way, and what we 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, the Coyotes — mostly because of injury — had two seniors see the field. And as they began spring practices, they have 18 seniors and 19



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

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

juniors on the roster. "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 off-season and into spring drills was the F.A.S.T. mindset with some of the younger players, Earl said.

"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.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NCAA TOURNAMENT

REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

Thursday, March 26

MIDWEST REGIONAL

At Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland

Notre Dame 81, Wichita State 70

Kentucky 96-0 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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

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

p.m.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, March 28

MIDWEST REGIONAL

At Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland

Notre Dame (32-5) vs. Kentucky-

West Virginia winner, TBA

WEST REGIONAL

At The Staples Center, Los Angeles

Semifinal winners

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

EAST REGIONAL

At The Carrier Dome, Syracuse, N.Y.

Semifinal winners

SOUTH REGIONAL

At NRG Stadium, Houston

Semifinal winners

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.

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

11 a.m.

Dayton (27-6) vs. Louisville (27-6),

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

Temple 77, Louisiana Tech 59

SEMIFINALS

At Madison Square Garden, New York

Tuesday, March 31

Miami (24-12) vs. Temple (26-10),

6 p.m.

Stanford (22-13) vs. Old Dominion

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

WOMEN'S NIT

THIRD ROUND

Wednesday, March 25

Southern Mississippi 76, Eastern

AREA CALENDAR

Friday, March 27

SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE

NCAA Men's Championships at Iowa City

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE

OUTDOOR Clyde Littlefield Texas

Relays at Austin, Texas (USD)

Saturday, March 28

BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC

at Doane (D.H. 1 p.m.)

BASEBALL, CLUB JV S.F.

O'Gorman at Yankton (D.H. 5 p.m.)

BASEBALL, CLUB 9/10 S.F.

Roosevelt at Yankton (D.H. 1 p.m.)

SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD

at IUPUI (10 a.m.)

Michigan 65

Thursday, March 26

Villanova 63, St. John's 55

Temple 80, NC State 79, OT

Michigan 65, Missouri 55

West Virginia 60, Duquesne 39

Middle Tennessee 82, Mississippi

70

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.

QUARTERFINALS

Villanova (22-13) at West Virginia

(21-14), 1 p.m.

Michigan (19-14) at Southern Miss-

issippi (25-10), 2 p.m.

Temple (19-16) at Middle Tennessee

(24-9), 4 p.m.

March 28-30

Saint Mary's (Cal)-Sacramento

State winner vs. Northern Colorado-

UCLA winner, TBA

NCAA DIVISION II MEN

At Evansville, Ind.

QUARTERFINALS

at IUPUI (D.H. 10 a.m.); MMC at

Midland (D.H. 1 p.m.)

SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE

NCAA Men's Championships at Iowa City

TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE

OUTDOOR Clyde Littlefield Texas

Relays at Austin, Texas (USD);

Wildcat Classic at Wayne, Neb. (USD, 11 a.m.)

Sunday, March 29

BASEBALL, COLLEGE Con-

cordia at MMC (D.H. 1 p.m.)

SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD

at IUPUI (10 a.m.)

Wednesday, March 25

Tarleton State 77, Mount Olive 59

Indiana (Pa.) 69, Azusa Pacific 65

Florida Southern 81, S. New Hamp-

shire 70

Bellarmine 92, Minnesota St.-

Moorhead 75

Semifinals

Thursday, March 26

Indiana (Pa.) 72, Tarleton State 68

Florida Southern vs. Bellarmine,

8:30 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, March 28

Indiana (Pa.) vs. Florida Southern-

Bellarmine winner, 2 p.m.

NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN

At Sioux Falls, S.D.

SEMIFINALS

Wednesday, March 25

California (Pa.) 51, Emporia St. 46

Cal Baptist 65, Limestone 67

CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, March 27

California (Pa.) vs. Cal Baptist, 7

p.m.

Wisconsin, Notre Dame Advance To Elite Eight

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sam 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 Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament.

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

each for the fourth-seeded 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) — Demeetrius Jackson scored 20 points and third-seeded Notre Dame

dominated Wichita State to 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 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 second half.

ally no one else I can blame." Eddie Rhodman Jr., one of Gregory's handlers, said on 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 end."

picks in the draft. He declared for the draft after his junior season at Nebraska, where he recorded 17 1/2 sacks in two seasons.

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

"I blame myself," Gregory told NFL Media. "And I know it sounds cliché, but there's re-

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

Fourth a year ago at the league meet, SDSU is for now basking in the recent success, Mingo said.

"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."

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Mingo

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winter, Mingo said.

"It was a big change, being able to hit all year," she said. "Getting our swings down, that definitely made our scores drop."

The Jacks already had a 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.

"We saw it right away when we got on the range," she said. "It was amazing to see the impact of our balls flying straighter. It was very helpful."

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 Falls.