

Williams Leaving USD For Colorado State

Former USD Coach Lavin Also Headed To Fort Collins

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In one grab, Colorado State University appears to have landed not only University of South Dakota head women's basketball coach Ryun Williams but also former coach Chad Lavin.

The news of Williams' departure was confirmed this weekend by an incoming recruit and the news of Lavin's decision to be an assistant was confirmed by Yankton native Maggie Youngberg, a 2-year graduate assistant for Williams.

Williams leaves USD after compiling a 76-47 record in four seasons, all during the Division I transition, including back-to-back 20-win seasons and two straight post-season appearances.

The 43-year-old Williams, who still has family in his native Wyoming, plans to fly to Fort Collins, Colo., today, according to Youngberg.

"He always said there were only a couple jobs he would've left USD for, because he loves USD so much," Youngberg said Sunday. "Anybody who played for him or worked with him would say it's sad to lose him."

Williams, who previously spent three seasons at Sheridan College (Wyo.) and 10 seasons at Wayne State (Neb.), guided the Coyote women to a 23-8 record this past season and a berth in the WNIT — where USD beat Drake in the first round.

He will take over a program that was 13-17, third in the Mountain West Conference, last season under former coach Kristen Holt. The Rams haven't had a winning season since 2004-05.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for him," Youngberg said. "People at Colorado State should be super excited to have him. He was a joy to work with him, and I'm happy for him and his family."

"He'll do great things there."

News of Williams' departure began to circulate Saturday, and eventually word reached incoming recruit, Margaret McCloud of Rapid City Stevens.

"He's probably doing what's best," McCloud said Sunday. "It's a good opportunity for him. I'm just thankful that I got the chance to get to know him, because he's a great guy and a good coach."

"I wish I could play for him, but I know he's doing what he thinks is right," she added.

Williams took over for Lavin in 2008 and guided the Coyotes to an 18-11 record that first season, in 08-09. USD was 15-16 the following season and 20-12 in 2010-11, when the Coyotes qualified for the Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI).

This past season, Williams guided USD to a 23-8 record and 12-6 mark in the Summit League as conference newcomers.

Watching along with the rest of the

incoming class was McCloud, who averaged 16.5 points and 14.5 rebounds for the Raiders — who finished seventh at the state AA tournament.

"It was really exciting to see," McCloud said. "It was a little motivation to work extra hard to get to that step; to help the program move forward."

McCloud is one of five incoming recruits for the Coyotes in 2012-13, joining Heidi Hoff (Brandon Valley) and Tia Hemiller (Watertown), as well as transfers Mika Rodewald (Iowa Central CC) and Polly Harrington (Johnson County CC). Madison's Bailey Milne also committed as a walk-on.

In the case of Lavin, a 2011 inductee into the USD Sports Hall of Fame, his decision to join Williams at Colorado State was a surprise in some ways, but not others, Youngberg said.

"I told him, 'I had such a great time playing for both of you, you guys will do amazing,'" Youngberg said. "It's a great fit, having them working together."



P&D FILE PHOTO
Ryun Williams, shown here along the bench during South Dakota's women's basketball game at South Dakota State in January, will leave USD for Colorado State University, according to reports.

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Track & Field | Nebraska State Meet

Underclassmen Shine On Final Day

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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OMAHA, Neb. — Area squads may not have made the final awards stands, but the results on the final day of the Nebraska State Track and Field Championships were a sign of the promise to come.

Of the 38 area athletes that took home at least one medal on Saturday at Omaha's Burke Stadium, 30 will be back next season, including two of the five state champions awarded on the final day of the meet.

The Crofton boys had the best team finish, placing fourth in Class C with 28 points. The Crofton girls scored 27 points, finishing eighth.

The Fillmore Central girls and Hastings St. Cecilia boys won the Class C titles, while the Lindsay Holy Family girls and Cambridge boys won in Class D.

Here is a look at Saturday's results in the four divisions involving area programs:

Class C Boys

Crofton's Tom Pietz went into the state meet feeling he could win one state title. Saturday, he earned his second.

A toss of 158 feet, one inch, was enough to take the Class C boys' title on a windy day. Pietz took the lead for good on his second throw of preliminaries, then iced the win on the final toss of his prep career.

"In finals I told myself that I was in the lead and not to get too stressed, to go out and have fun. Maybe I had a little too much fun," he said.

Pietz's first throw of finals went into the netting surrounding the discus ring. "On my last one, I knew I had nothing to lose, so I let it all go."

The win was a fitting ending to a senior year for Pietz that included a Nebraska single-game record for rushing in football and was nearly unbeaten the entire season in track and field throwing events.

"I couldn't be happier," the South Dakota State football recruit said. "I wasn't expecting two titles, maybe one. It was great to come down here and finish it off."

Also in the discus, Cedar Catholic senior Logan Weinandt, a Wayne State football recruit, finished sixth with a toss of 149 feet.

Crofton sophomore Alex Janssen posted a season best by 16 seconds in finishing third in the 1600-meter run in 4:33.34.

After not running as well as he'd hoped in the 3200 on Friday, Janssen tried not to over-think his final race of the season.

"Coach always says just to try to stay smooth," Janssen said. "I actually expected to do better in the two-mile (3200). I didn't think I'd place in the mile (1600) because I hadn't been running well lately."

The Creighton foursome of senior Henrik Daeter, juniors Bronson Paul and Cole Thomas, and freshman Reid Liska teamed up to finish fourth in the 1600 relay, clocking a 3:31.23.

Class C Girls

Crofton junior Danielle Riesberg did well on a busy final day, winning the 400, finishing fourth in the 200 and helping the Lady Warriors to a fourth place finish in the 1600 relay and an eighth place finish in the 400 relay.

Her 400-meter-dash victory came with the help of some advice she got from her older brother.

"He said to go out fast then see what you've got left," she said. "I came around the (final) curve and was expecting lanes four and five to

come up, but they didn't. The Lincoln Christian girl (Morgan Dworak) was the only one ahead of me and I thought, 'I can catch her.'"

Riesberg won the race in 58.97 seconds. Two hours earlier, Riesberg had teamed with Morgan Schenkel, Amy Mueller and Maria Wortmann to clock a 51.89 and earn an eighth place finish out of the slow heat. Three hours after, she clocked a 26.53 to finish fourth in the 200.

"I was definitely feeling it after the 200," she said. "In the four-by-four (1600 relay) I knew I had teammates for whom this was their only event. I had to run it for them."

Teaming with Bridget and Allison Arens and Vanessa McFarland, Riesberg anchored the Lady Warriors to a 4:09.76 and a fourth place finish.

"We knew we could run a 4:10," Riesberg said. "That's what we were shooting for."

With track done for another spring, Riesberg is already pumped for another season.

"I'm sad to see track season end," she said. "It's my favorite sport. I'm already waiting for senior year."

Wortmann, a freshman, also had a hand in Crofton's other points on the day, finishing fifth in the shot put with a toss of 39 feet, six inches.

Laurel-Concord-Colebridge senior Amy Pritchard ended her career in a high note, finishing second in the triple jump with a mark of 36-8 3/4.

Cedar Catholic scored seven points on the final day, with juniors Alexis Steffen and Katelyn Dickes combining to play a hand in all of them.

Steffen placed seventh in the high jump (5-0) and eighth in the triple jump (34-9). Dickes earned a seventh place finish in the 300-meter hurdles (48.22). The two teamed up with junior Siera Becker and freshman Alexandria Walter to place seventh in the 1600 relay (4:11.37).

Also on Saturday, Creighton sophomore Emily Boyle cleared 9-6 to tie for fourth in the pole vault and Ponca freshman Hailey Pollard placed eighth in the 400 in 1:01.78.

Class D Boys

After not being happy with his 3200-meter victory Bloomfield senior Austin Hamm felt a little better after winning the Class D 1600-meter run Saturday, mostly because he didn't lose a bet.

"One of my classmates bet me that if I didn't win the 1600 and 3200, I had to shave my head," he said. "I want to thank Tyler Brown for giving me that motivation. I didn't want to shave my head, so I wasn't losing."

Hamm got pinned in during the 800 earlier in the day and ended up finishing 10th. In the 1600, he wasn't going to take that chance and led almost the entire race.

"I felt like that, if I hadn't gotten pinned in, I would have had gotten a medal (in the 800). So it was frustrating for me," Hamm said. "I wanted the school record (4:26), but it was still a PR (personal record) for me. I was disappointed that I didn't get the school record, but I am not disappointed in how my career ended."

Hamm will continue his running career at South Dakota State, giving the Jackrabbits a clean sweep of the Nebraska small-school distance runners. (Humphrey St. Francis' Andrea Weeder, the Class D girls' 1600 and 3200 champ each of the past four years, has also signed to SDSU.) He is looking forward to trading in his blue and white for blue and gold.

"I'm looking forward to upping my miles and working hard to compete for SDSU next year," he said.

Hartington junior Adam Hochstein placed second in that 1600 race, clocking a 4:33.16.

Randolph junior Nick Schmit earned a pair of medals Saturday, placing eighth in the 800 (2:02.20) and teaming with Nolan Nordhues, Levi Lackas and Jared Korth to finish fourth in the 1600 relay (3:32.55).

The Hartington boys earned eighth place in the 400 relay, with the foursome of juniors Brandon Mainquist, Nick Miller, Alec Fuelberth and sophomore Joe Noecker finishing in 45.68.

Class D Girls

Wynot junior Ashley Heine set the stage for



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

ABOVE: Crofton senior Tom Pietz celebrates after his winning throw in the Class C boys' discus at the Nebraska State Track and Field Championships on Saturday at Omaha's Burke Stadium.
BELOW: Wynot junior Ashley Heine gets out of the blocks during the Class D girls' 400-meter dash. Heine won the 800, finished fifth in the 400 and helped the Blue Devils to an eighth place finish in the 1600 relay.

a great day with an upset win in the 800-meter run. She clocked a 2:19.90, just ahead of Osmond's Carissa Gutz (2:20.49) and Weeder (2:22.10).

"I started off well. I stayed with the leader then, toward the end of the first lap, I tried to get ahead of her," Heine said. "I got the lead and kept it."

Heine followed that up with a fifth place finish in the 400 (1:00.35) and anchoring the Blue Devils to eighth in the 1600 relay (4:17.13), teaming with senior Haley Gowery, junior Erica Burbach and freshman Jenna Heine.

After taking home three medals this year, Heine is hoping to build on her success next season.

"I think it will help a lot. This experience will help a lot," she said.

The experience from the year before helped Bloomfield senior Kylie Abbenhaus go from state medalwinner to state champion.

Abbenhaus won the shot put with a toss of 38-7 3/4 after placing eighth as a junior.

"Last year I placed eighth and I wanted to do better than that," she said. "I had been doing well this year."

Abbenhaus will attend the University of Nebraska next fall, but will not be competing in collegiate sports at UNL.

A pair of Wausa athletes also earned medals on Saturday. Junior Abigail Hegge finished third in the triple jump with a mark of 34-9 3/4. Sophomore Breanna Gallup finished fifth in the 1600, clocking a 5:31.42.

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I'll Have Another Has A Date With The Belmont

Horse Rallies To Take Preakness, Looks To Be First Since '78 To Win Triple Crown

BY ED MCNAMARA
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BALTIMORE (MCT) — I'll Have Another was bright and bouncy Sunday on his first morning as the world's most famous horse. The chestnut colt with the white star on his forehead playfully nipped at assistant trainer Dennis O'Neill from inside stall 17 at Pimlico's stakes barn. An hour later, at 9:08, he was led on to a van bound for Belmont Park, where he will seek racing immortality June 9 in the Belmont Stakes.

Since Affirmed became the 11th thoroughbred to sweep the Triple Crown in 1978, 11 horses have won the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness before coming up short in the 1 1/4-mile "Test of the Champion." I'll

Have Another earned his chance Saturday with a thrilling rally that overtook pacesetter Bodemeister three strides from the finish line.

Owner Paul Reddam endured extreme stress that led to unmatched joy. "Well," he said Sunday morning, "at least I know my heart is good for a couple more years."

Just as he did in the Derby, Bodemeister led from the start, and this time, he almost hung on.

"I never rode a horse that gave me as much as he did and still got beat," Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith said.

Trainer Bob Baffert said Bodemeister won't go to the Belmont. "We're getting off the bus," Baffert said, which was a relief to Doug O'Neill, I'll Have Another's trainer.

"Anytime you can dodge an amazing horse like that, it's a good thing," O'Neill said. "There will be fresh horses — Union Rags and Dullahan come to mind — but our horse came out of the race in great shape, and we're ready to go."

For the fourth consecutive race, 25-year-old Mario Gutierrez turned in a flawless ride on I'll Have Another, to whom the humble Mexican gave all the credit. Reddam reflected on what O'Neill calls "the 'it' factor," competitive fire that can't be taught.

"I'll Have Another has the intangibles," Reddam said. "You can say what you want about numbers and all that other stuff, but he has the will to win. That's what people miss when they analyze races, the intangibles. He knows what he has

to do, and he has the heart of a champion."

Besides Derby also-rans Union Rags, Dullahan and Alpha, the Belmont field is likely to include Paynter, easy winner of an allowance race Saturday at Pimlico, and Optimizer, sixth in the Preakness. The New York Racing Association also listed Mark Valeski, Atigun, Five Sixteen, Guyana Star Dwee, Rousing Sermon, Stealcas and Street Life as possibilities.

Doug O'Neill didn't sound concerned about the competition as long as his new superstar stays sound and healthy.

"To do what he's done the past few weeks, to see how he came out the morning after the Preakness and cleaned up his feed tub, that gives me confidence," he said.

"And I think Mario has shown his coolness in the first two legs. I think we have a good pilot for this scenario."

I'll Have Another cost only \$11,000 as a yearling, and he went for a relatively cheap \$35,000 when Dennis O'Neill picked him out of a 2-year-olds in training sale in April 2011 in Ocala, Fla. "The underbidder, I can't remember who he was, came up to me right away and said, 'I'll give you \$60,000 for him,'" Dennis O'Neill said. "I called up Paul and said, 'Want to make a quick \$25,000?' Paul said, 'It's up to you. Go ahead if you want.' Any other owner would have sold him there and we wouldn't be in this position."

As baseball general managers always say, sometimes the best deals are the ones you don't make.

Gazelles, Area Teams Set For State Golf

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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SIOUX FALLS — With four state meet golfers back from a year ago, the Yankton Gazelles will be looking to make another run a top finish in the South Dakota State Class AA Girls' Golf Championships, beginning today (Monday) at Elmwood Golf Course in Sioux Falls.

The Gazelles boast a former state champion in senior Hannah Withrow and the state's junior golfer of the year in her age group, junior Megan Mingo. Both have been Yankton's top golfers this season.

"If we want to do well, we need Megan and Hannah to play well both days," said Yankton head coach Brett Sime. "When we've done our best, they have both turned in good rounds."

Mingo finished third at state a year ago. Withrow, the 2010 state champ, tied for 13th. Also back for the Gazelles are junior Whitney Specht, who tied for 27th, and sophomore Amber Livingston, who tied for 66th.

Sophomore Alyssa Schild and eighth grader Becky Frick round out the Gazelles' state meet squad.

The Gazelles have been among the top teams the entire season, highlighted by a runner-up finish at the Yankton Invitational.

"In the big invites we've consistently been in the top five or six teams," Sime said. "In the duals and triangulars we've competed well."

To compete in the state meet, the Gazelles will have to keep their team scores in the 330s, maybe even lower, according to Sime.

"We need to have Megan and Hannah shoot around 80, and two more golfers in the 80s both days," he said. "We have a good shot to compete as a team and bring home some hardware."

Defending state champion O'Gorman, playing on its home course, is one of the favorites in the tournament.

"O'Gorman playing at home will be tough to beat," Sime said. "We faced them at Elmwood twice. In the Sioux Falls Invite, Pierre tied them, so O'Gorman and Pierre are the favorites."

"There are six to eight teams in the race for the top six spots," Sime added. "We are in a position to bring a plaque or trophy back to Yankton."

Play begins at 9 a.m. today and Tuesday.

Here is a look at area teams competing in other state golf tournaments this week. Tournaments in South Dakota run today and Tuesday, while the Nebraska boys' tournaments are set for Tuesday and Wednesday.

The South Dakota Class A girls' tournament will take place at Southern Hills Golf Course in Hot Springs. The S.D. Class B Tournament will take place in Rapid City, with the girls playing at the Elks Golf Course and the boys playing at Hart Ranch Golf Course. The Nebraska Class C Boys' Tournament will take place at Kearney Country Club, with Class D playing at River's Edge Golf Course in North Platte.

Class A Girls

Parkston will be looking to get back on top of the Class A girls' golf scene after two straight runner-up finishes.

The Lady Trojans, who won the title in 2009, boast the second-best region score coming in, trailing only defending champion Sioux Falls Christian, as well as the top returning placewinner, junior Logan Wagner, who tied for third. Parkston also boasts two other top-25 finishers, junior Jordan Bormann (tied for 8th) and eighth grader Sydney Bormann (tied for 21st). Junior