

# Howard Wood Relays Back After One Year Off

## Typical Wood Weather Has Coaches Weighing Competition Options



P&amp;D FILE PHOTO

**Lindsey Montileaux, right, of the University of South Dakota, nears the finish line in first place of the women's 800-meter run at last Friday's Mount Marty College Twilight Meet at Williams Field. USD and SDSU will be among the college teams at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays today (Friday).**

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Howard Wood Dakota Relays and Mother Nature are again butting heads. And the result is more frustration for high school and college athletes anxious to compete in front of a statewide audience on a premier stage in Sioux Falls, starting today (Friday) and continuing Saturday.

Alexa Duling can't help but laugh. "Every year it seems like there's bad weather, which makes it a little more difficult," said Duling, a senior from Gregory on the University of South Dakota women's track team.

"It's a special atmosphere and a special crowd. It's nice to compete in front of something like that."

Boasting a field that includes athletes from every collegiate level, from NAIA to Division I, the Relays return this year after a hiatus in 2012 because of renovations.

Also back? Poor weather. Saturday's forecast calls for temperatures around 40-45 and a 30 percent chance of rain or snow.

Those conditions also mean coaches and athletes will have some decisions to make, as the ultimate question becomes, is it worth it, according to USD women's track coach Lucky Huber.

"We're trying to balance the entertainment value of our kids wanting to go out and compete with the risk of injury," Huber said. "Our kids are looking forward to it."

"But we have to temper that a little bit with what's coming up for us in the next couple weeks."

From Howard Wood, USD will next compete in the Summit League Outdoor Championships the following weekend, May 9-11 in Muncie, Ind.

Then comes the NCAA Preliminary Round May 23-25 in Austin, Texas, for those athletes who qualify.

Cold and wet weather this weekend could naturally result in serious setbacks, Duling said.

"This is the part of the season where we need to be running really well and staying healthy," she said. "If it's really cold, you have the problem of maybe pulling a muscle. It's all about making smart decisions."

Still, regardless of weather, Huber said USD plans to bring a squad of nearly 60 athletes to Sioux Falls — though spring graduation ceremonies are being held Saturday morning in Vermillion.

"Right now, we're planning to put everyone on a bus and go; let's go compete," Huber said. "Fifty degrees and no wind isn't too bad, but fifty degrees with some rain is not good."

"That's the balance we look at."

When it comes to competition, the Coyote women appear set for a successful weekend. USD enters with the top qualifying mark or time in seven individual events.

Leading the way is pole vault, which has been moved inside Howard Wood Field, rather than being held out by the throwing events. USD's Bethany Buell has the top mark (14-feet-7.5) though she might not compete, while Emily Grove (14-2) is seeded second.

Megan Glisar is seeded first in the high jump (6-0), while Meghan Dennis has the top mark in the javelin throw (151-4) and Yankton native Ashlea Johnson ranks first in the long jump (18-4.25).

On the track, Duling Duling has the top time in the 100 hurdles (13.9) and 400 hurdles (57.4). Lindsey Montileaux enters the 800-meter run feature event with the top time at 2:17.2.

Assistant coach Kenna Wolter, competing unattached, comes in with the top mark in the triple jump (42-0.5).

On the men's side for USD, field events look to be the strongest, as the Coyotes have the top mark in four individual events.

Cody Snyder of Lake Andes is seeded first in the discus (186-7), with Kyle McKelvey of Beresford second (167-6). McKelvey has the top mark in the shot put

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## MMC Swept Out Of GPAC Tourney

HASTINGS, Neb. — Dakota Wesleyan scored on a bobbled ball in the bottom of the ninth to claim a 4-3 victory over Mount Marty in an elimination game in the Great Plains Athletic Conference baseball tournament on Thursday in Hastings, Neb.

MMC had rallied from deficits of 2-0 and 3-2 to force extra innings.

Cassidy Key-Darlington took the loss. No other statistics were available at presstime due to the late completion of the game.

MMC finished the season with a 19-25 record.

**NEBRASKA WESLEYAN 5, MOUNT MARTY 1:** Nebraska Wesleyan's Ryan Dolezal allowed one run on four hits as the Prairie Wolves stopped Mount Marty 5-1 in the opening round Thursday afternoon at Duncan Field.

Dolezal (3-6) struck out five and hit two batters in the victory.

NWU took advantage of three Lancer errors to score three unearned runs off Mount Marty's Dominic Wieseler (2-5). Brian Bartlett pitched retired the side in the top of the seventh for the Lancers.

Justin Van Dyke's two-run home run in the fourth put NWU on the board. He finished with two hits, as did Alex Heideman, who doubled and singled. Andrew Toy drove in two runs. Nick Dolson added a double for the Prairie Wolves.

Kyler Pekarek had a triple for Mount Marty. Zac Hollenback, Mathias Godsil and Bryton Carlson added hits for the Lancers.

### High School

#### Frosh: Yankton 11-4, West Central 4-11

Mason Townsend had two hits in each end of a doubleheader as Yankton split with West Central in freshman high school baseball action on Thursday.

Each game finished with a score of 11-4, with Yankton winning the first and West Central claiming the second.

Hunter Ryan had a hit in each game for Yankton. Levi Schmidt doubled in second game.

Collin Muth picked up the win in the opener. Brady Taggart took the loss in the nightcap.

## UNDER THE LIGHTS



Yankton's Ben Jensen returns a shot during the Bucks' annual Dr. Tim Mulhair Classic prime time boys' tennis dual with Vermillion on Thursday at the YHS-SAC Tennis Courts. Yankton won the varsity dual 8-1 and the JV dual 5-4.

## Bucks Stop Tanagers 8-1 At Mulhair Classic

The Yankton Bucks scored an 8-1 victory over Vermillion in the third annual Dr. Tim Mulhair Classic boys' tennis dual, held Thursday at the YHS/SAC Tennis Courts.

The event is held under the lights, though varsity doubles were shortened due to poor weather conditions.

Luke Rockne, Paul Fanta, Jason Shindler and John Fanta each won in doubles and singles for Yankton. Ben Jensen and Brandon Frick also won in singles, as the Bucks went 6-0 in singles play.

Vermillion's Will Card and Jacob Ford

edged Jensen and Frick on an 11-9 tiebreaker to win the lone Tanager point on the day.

Yankton travels to Brookings for a quadrangular with the Bobcats, Aberdeen Central and Huron on Saturday. Vermillion takes on Sioux City (Iowa) East today.

Yankton also won the JV dual, 5-4.

For Yankton, Hunter Rockne and Nate List won in both singles and doubles. Ethan Klimisch also won in singles. Malan Moody and Tanner Dykstra also won in doubles.

Sam Craig won in singles and doubles for Vermillion. David Wang and Tim Ellison also

won in singles for the Tanagers.

**VARISITY: Yankton 8, Vermillion 1**  
SINGLES: Luke Rockne Y def Will Card V 6-2, 7-5; Ben Jensen Y def David Day V 6-1, 6-4; Brandon Frick Y def Jacob Ford V 6-2, 6-2; Jason Shindler Y def Kevin Helenurm V 6-1, 6-0; John Fanta Y def Mark Helenurm V 6-1, 6-1; Paul Fanta Y def Joe Swanson 6-4, 4-6, 10-3

**DOUBLES:** Luke Rockne-Paul Fanta Y def Day-K. Helenurm V 10-1; Card-Ford Y def Ben Jensen-Brandon Frick Y 11-10 (11-9); Jason Shindler-John Fanta Y def M. Helenurm-Swanson 10-2

**JV: Yankton 5, Vermillion 4**  
SINGLES: Hunter Rockne Y def Ryan Styles V 8-6; Nate List Y def Andrew Callahan V 8-4; Sam Craig Y def Logan Megard Y 8-1; Ethan Klimisch Y def Isaac Rosdall V 8-2; David Wang Y def Malan Moody Y 8-6; Tim Ellison Y def Tanner Dykstra Y 9-8 (7-4)

**DOUBLES:** H. Rockne-List Y def Styles-Callahan V 8-2; Craig-Rosdall Y def Megard-Klimisch Y 8-3; Moody-Dykstra Y def Wang-Ellison V 6-4

## AP Sources: Kahn Out As Wolves President, Flip In

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Goodbye, David Kahn. Hello, Flip Saunders. Again.

The Minnesota Timberwolves announced Thursday that owner Glen Taylor will not to pick up the option for next season on Kahn's contract. Three people with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that Taylor has agreed on a deal to hire Saunders as Kahn's replacement. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because an official announcement hasn't been made.

Saunders coached the Wolves from 1995-2005, and his reputation in these parts only grew when the Timberwolves cratered after his exit.

"We want to thank David for all of his efforts the past four years with our basketball team," Taylor said in a statement issued by the team. "These are always difficult decisions, but at this time, we believe it is in the best interest of our organization to make a change. We wish David all the best in the future."

Kahn spent four seasons leading the Timberwolves. He helped bring point guard Ricky Rubio and coach Rick Adelman to Minnesota, but his teams went 89-223 and missed the playoffs in all four of his seasons.

"It's always the owner's prerogative," Kahn told The AP. "I don't think it's appropriate to say whether it's fair or not. I'm very grateful for the opportunity that Glen gave me."

Taylor's decision brings an end to a polarizing reign for Kahn. After serving as an executive with the Indiana Pacers, Kahn was a surprise hire in 2009 to replace longtime Timberwolves executive Kevin McHale. Kahn eventually de-

cided not to bring McHale back as head coach, then went about a massive rebuild of a team that was still trying to move on after trading franchise player Kevin Garnett to Boston in 2007.

Kahn tabbed Kurt Rambis to usher in a new identity and style of play, but he lasted only two seasons on the job. With cleaning up the team's salary cap situation a priority in the first season, the Wolves won just 15 games with a collection of retirees and journeymen surrounding Al Jefferson, who was in his first season back from a torn ACL, and Kevin Love, who was in his second season in the league.

Kahn and Rambis clashed repeatedly on the direction of the team and the philosophy on the court. Rambis was fired with a record of 32-132 and Kahn was able to help lure Adelman in 2011 to take over a roster that was just starting to take shape. With Rubio emerging as a young dynamo in his rookie season and Love asserting himself as perhaps the best power forward in the game, the Timberwolves were on track to end a long playoff drought until Rubio went down with a torn ACL in March.

Perhaps more damaging, Kahn drew Love's wrath by refusing to give him a maximum five-year extension in January. Love instead signed a four-year deal with an opt-out after three seasons and didn't hide his disappointment. He seethed behind the scenes and publicly about the perceived slight, a grudge that would carry over into this season.

"I think Kevin is on a journey from the individual to the team," Kahn said. "It's a journey that many players have taken in their careers."

I've had several positive conversations with Kevin in the last couple of months. I sense that he's making that journey, and he recognizes there are many bumps in the road, and he's making that journey there. I like him a lot."

The team tumbled out of the playoff picture, but hopes were high at the start of this season when Kahn added Andrei Kirilenko, Chase Budinger, Alexey Shved and Dante Cunningham to the mix. Then Love broke his hand just before the regular season started and broke it again in January, limiting the Olympian to 18 games for the year. Rubio returned from his knee injury in mid-December but didn't regain his old form until February, Budinger missed more than three months with a knee injury and Kahn's gamble on Brandon Roy proved to be ill-fated. Kirilenko, Nikola Pekovic and JJ Barea also missed stretches because of injuries, Adelman missed 11 games to be by his wife's side while she suffered through seizures and the Wolves finished 31-51.

"It's been a very, very hard 14 months," Kahn said. "I've been in a lot of hospital rooms the last 14 months; more than I ever anticipated when I took this job."

Most of Kahn's biggest missteps came in the draft. He chose Jonny Flynn over Stephen Curry in 2009 with the sixth overall pick, traded a pick that Denver used to take Ty Lawson and chose swingman Wes Johnson fourth overall in 2010. Only two of the 10 draft picks the Timberwolves made in his four years — Rubio and 2011 No. 2 overall pick Derrick Williams — are currently on the roster.

## NCAA Report: Athletic Expenses Rising

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Athletic expenses are rising at a faster pace than revenue is being generated at most Division I schools, according to a new NCAA study.

The 2012 Revenue and Expenses Report, released this week, shows Football Bowl Subdivision schools are spending 10.8 percent more on athletics than in 2011 despite generating new income of only 4.6 percent. Non-football playing Division I schools are contending with a larger discrepancy — spending 8.8 percent more while seeing their revenue base actually shrink by 1.7 percent.

Football Championship Subdivision schools did far better, holding expenses to an increase of only 6.8 percent while generating a 9 percent increase in revenue over 2011 though median losses expanded by 6.7 percent from 2011 to 2012.

A year ago, the disparities were far smaller. FBS schools, for instance, had budget increases of 9.7 percent and revenue increases of 8.8 percent.

It's not the only troubling financial sign in the report.

Since the NCAA began compiling these numbers in 2004, athletic department budgets have increased substantially when meas-

## Mount Marty Ready For GPAC Track

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Steady progression has been the focus for the Mount Marty College men's and women's track teams over the past few years.

As the Lancers head to the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Outdoor Track and Field Championships today (Friday) and Saturday in Seward, Neb., they will put that goal to the test.

"We're making progress every year, by getting better and better athletes," head coach Randy Fischer said this week.

A year ago, the Lancer women scored 23 team points at the GPAC Outdoor Championships, while the men scored 11 points. Both squads finished in 10th place.

The women's squad again looks to be capable of scoring points.

Junior Katie Smelker is seeded third in the 10,000-meter run and sixth in the 5,000-meter run. She has also already qualified for nationals in the marathon.

"She's made dramatic improvements," Fischer said. "She's been running some serious miles. We look forward to getting some points there."

Sophomore Abbey VanDenBerg comes in with the fourth-best mark in the triple jump (37-2.25), an event she already qualified for nationals in.

"We're hoping she can crack two or three," Fischer said. "It'll be a challenge, but she's jumping better every week. She's a great warm weather jumper; that loosens her up."

Among other MMC women, junior April Winne ranks 13th in the high jump, sophomore Holly Hegge is 14th in the long jump and sophomore Emily Anderson is seeded 15th in the triple jump.

In relays, the Lancer women rank sixth in the 3200 (with the quartet of Jordyn Hudelson, Beth Finnegan, Jade Steinberg and Tess Byrd), as well as ninth in the 1600 and ninth in the 400.

The men's team also has potential to score in distance events. Junior Jordan Pater ranks fifth in the 10,000-meter run and 15th in the 5,000-meter run.

Sophomore Neil Hohenthaner, a Yankton native, comes in 10th in the decathlon with 4457 total points.

"Neil has been making improvements and he has a real chance to make top eight," Fischer said.

In field events, the Lancers also have a couple chances to score some points.

Sophomore Tyler Payer ranks sixth in the long jump (22-3.5) and senior Trevor Lopour is seeded 13th in the high jump (6-3.25).

Following the GPAC Championships, there will also be a last chance meet in Seward, Neb., next Thursday for those athletes still looking to qualify for nationals. The NAIA Outdoor Nationals will be held May 24-26 in Marion, Ind.

Ultimately, the short-term goal is to climb the conference ladder, Fischer said.

"Next year we have some great recruits coming in, and our goal is to keep getting better and move up the ranks in the GPAC," he said.

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