

Big Ten Athletic Directors Eye Stronger Football Schedules

BY TEDDY GREENSTEIN
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CHICAGO (MCT) — Cupcakes are out. Compelling matchups are in. “We want to get out of the business,” Michigan athletic director Dave Brandon said, “of scheduling games that feel like scrimmages to our fans.” To that end, the Big Ten will begin playing nine conference games in 2016. Most schools, if not all, will stop scheduling FCS foes. And Commissioner Jim Delany is pushing for more matchups like Wisconsin-Alabama — which will open the 2015 season at Cowboys Stadium — and fewer like Arkansas State-Nebraska. The main motivations, said the ADs at this week’s Big Ten meetings in Chicago, are to give fans a reason to buy tickets and to boost teams’ strength of schedule. That will be a key component in how teams are selected for the playoff, which begins in 2014. “Football can be pretty boring in September if you don’t create great contests,” Bran-

don said. “We don’t want to be boring.” Said Illinois AD Mike Thomas of the nationwide challenge of drawing fans to games: “It’s a little more difficult with 60-inch TVs and the price of concessions and having to wait in line to go to the bathroom. We have to do our part for the in-game experience, but who we’re playing is also (important).” The big chill: Given that attendance at the Big Ten championship game plummeted — from 64,152 for the inaugural game to 41,260 last year — moving the game out of Indianapolis after 2015 could become a hot topic. But Wisconsin AD Barry Alvarez is cold to the idea of playing the game in an outdoor venue such as Soldier Field. “I wouldn’t want the weather to be a factor in a championship game,” he said. “I’ve seen some of these games in (Chicago) where an extra point starts here and ends up over there. You’re trying to recruit kids out of warm-weather states and they’re watching that and saying, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me.’”

“I know some people say it’s football and it’s supposed to be played outdoors. No one ever said you have to be uncomfortable.” That said, the Big Ten appears close to adding the Pinstripe Bowl, played at Yankee Stadium, to its rotation. As Penn State AD Dave Joyner put it: “New York City during the holidays is one of the most beautiful places in the world. And playing in Yankee Stadium has a lot of pizzazz.” For the birds: Brandon used less colorful language in describing Notre Dame’s decision to end its football series with Michigan than Wolverines coach Brady Hoke, who told fans Monday that the Irish were “chickening out” by canceling the 2015-17 games. “It sounded a lot like Brady,” Brandon said. “That’s probably how a football coach thinks about it.” The teams will meet Sept. 7 in Ann Arbor before concluding the series in 2014 in South Bend. The Irish had to cancel some games because of its deal that calls for five matchups a year against ACC teams.

Hawaii Refracts On Team Names

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii’s athletic department is scrapping a plan to drop the word “Rainbow” from its men’s teams’ nicknames. The university announced Tuesday it is changing its football, baseball and other men’s team nicknames to the Rainbow Warriors — a name previously used by the football team but dropped in 2000. The changes take effect July 1. All Hawaii’s women’s teams will continue to be known as the Rainbow Wahine. “Wahine” means “woman” in Hawaiian. The change backtracks from a previous plan announced in February for the men’s teams to be known as simply the Warriors — the current name for the football team. Athletic director Ben Jay said the change comes in response to public reaction to dropping the term Rainbow from all men’s teams. “We have received both positive and negative feedback,” Jay said in a statement. “We listened to the public discussion and we went back to the original two questions we asked ourselves: Who are we and what is representative of the islands?” Jay said the issue is emotional, with the only consensus that the teams should share a nickname. “That goal will still be accomplished as we retain the Rainbow and Warriors names, both of which are near and dear to the hearts of our fans, whom we represent,” Jay said.

Aussie Forward Signs With MMC Men’s Hoops

Patrick Ciganovic of Adelaide, Australia will attend Mount Marty College and play men’s basketball for the Lancers, the institution announced on Tuesday. Ciganovic, a 6-6 forward, averaged 14.7 points and 8.2 rebounds per game his senior year. Ciganovic was co-captain on the Saint Michael’s team that went 14-1 his senior year and were runners-up in the State Championships. He was a member of the 2013 U/20 South Australian All State Team and earned a bronze medal in the national championships. Ciganovic also excelled academically off the court as well receiving the Principal’s Award in 2011. Jim Thorson, who recently resigned as men’s basketball coach, had high praises for Ciganovic. “Patrick brings a tremendous amount of athletic ability to the team,” he said. “His ability to generate offense and be a strong rebounder will be a great addition to the Lancers’ squad this fall.” The son of Peter and Yvonne Ciganovic of Adelaide, Australia, he plans to major in accounting at Mount Marty College.



Ciganovic

Spearfish OF Signs With MMC Baseball

Spearfish multi-sport standout Mason Kaitfors will attend Mount Marty College and play baseball for the Lancers, the institution announced on Tuesday. Kaitfors, an outfielder who plays for MMC alum Matt Kemp at Spearfish, is batting .450 through six games this season. Last season he batted .343 last season, recording 69 hits, 60 runs scored, 10



Kaitfors

doubles, a triple and 31 runs batted in. He also walked 32 times and stole 19 bases in 2012, helping Post 164 to a state tournament bid. “I am really excited about the signing and commitment of Mason Kaitfors. Mason has been on the coaching staff’s radar for several years,” said MMC head baseball coach Andy Bernatow. “We are getting an exceptional athlete, baseball player and competitor. Mason possesses many tools that college coaches look for and he can run. Bringing in speed is something that is needed with this current recruiting class.” Bernatow is also excited to bring another Spearfish player to MMC. The Lancers have had a string of talented players from the West River program, including Kemp. “I am also excited and fortunate to be getting another quality player from Spearfish,” Bernatow said. “Spearfish has been a great place for us to find talent; Coach Matt Kemp does a tremendous job of developing talent and teaching the players to play sound baseball. Mason should be a great fit for the program and the campus community.” Kaitfors has also shined in football, basketball and track at Spearfish High School, earning all-state honors in football. The son of Mike and Leslie Kaitfors, he will major in Recreational Management at MMC. Kaitfors will receive academic excellence scholarship in addition to his athletic award at Mount Marty College.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

ABOVE: Vermillion’s Tanner Anderson, right, tells teammate Regan Bye, 27, to take an inside route to home plate to avoid at tag attempt by Dakota Valley catcher Aaron Likness. Bye scored on a sacrifice fly for the game’s first run in a 10-0 Tanager victory on Tuesday at Prentis Park. **BELOW:** Dakota Valley third baseman Ryan Lammers makes a diving attempt at a ground ball during the second inning of the Panthers’ Region 1B playoff opener at Vermillion on Tuesday.



Kingsley-Pierson Two-Sport Star Headed To MMC

The Mount Marty College athletic program has announced that Levi Mahrt of Kingsley, Iowa, will attend MMC and participate in both men’s golf and baseball for the Lancers. In baseball, Mahrt had a 4-4 record for Kingsley-Pierson last season, striking out 39 batters in 44 innings. An honorable mention all-conference selection a year ago, he has two career no-hitters to his credit. “I am happy to have Levi join the program,” said MMC baseball coach Andy Bernatow. “We need to add numbers to the pitching staff if the program wants to have continued success. Levi has the ability to provide depth to our pitching staff.” As a golfer, Mahrt finished 10th in sectionals with an 86, and sports a nine-hole low round of 38. “Levi joining our program is another step forward for us,” said MMC golf coach Tom Schlimgen. “He will have a chance to compete for a varsity spot and will add depth and competition to our group. We are excited to have him as a Lancer.” The son of Travis Mahrt and Kim Mahrt, he will major in exercise wellness at MMC.



Mahrt

MMC Men’s Soccer Program Adds Arizona Prep Standout

Colin Linde of Sierra Vista, Ariz., will attend Mount Marty College and play men’s soccer for the Lancers, according to a release from MMC on Tuesday. Linde led his Buena High School team in goals and assists his senior year with 11 goals and 6 assists and was team captain. Linde also received honorable mention in the All-Southern Arizona Boys Soccer league. In addition to playing for Buena High School, he was also a member of the Cochise Futbol Club Soccer Academy Estudiantes from 2011 through the present. “We are excited to have Colin joining the Lancer soccer program. He has been competing with and



Linde

against very high level teams during high school and the club soccer season. He is already a very skilled player and has the capability of playing several different positions,” said MMC soccer coach Nathan Epp. “Academically, Colin is a great student. I have no doubt he will do well both academically and athletically while at Mount Marty College.” Linde, the son of Devin Linde and Monica McDonough, plans to major in Criminal Justice at MMC.

Mitchell’s Megan Roth To Join MMC Women’s Soccer Program

Mitchell’s Megan Roth is headed to Mount Marty College and will play women’s soccer for the Lancers, the institution announced on Tuesday. Roth, a center midfield and forward, was a four-year varsity letter winner and received honorable mention All-State award winner. She also played with in the Mitchell Soccer Association Club. “We are excited to have Megan joining our program; she is a very intelligent soccer player and reads the game very well,” said MMC head soccer coach Nathan Epp. “Megan is also an outstanding stu-



Roth

dent who will do very well at Mount Marty College.” In addition to her sports career, Megan was awarded first place in the Future Business Leaders of American competition in 2013 and was a member of the student council. Megan is the daughter of Dan and Cindy Roth of Mitchell. She will pursue a degree in nursing while at Mount Marty College.

Tanagers Cruise Past DV 10-0 In Playoff Opener

VERMILLION — The Vermillion Tanagers made quick work of Dakota Valley in the opening round of the Region 3B East baseball playoffs, beating the Panthers 10-0 on Tuesday at Prentis Park. The victory advanced Vermillion, the defending S.D. Class B champions, to the east division finals against Bon Homme later this week. The date and time will be announced. Collin Bertram had three hits, Tanner Settles had two hits and Jack Brown doubled to lead Vermillion. Jayce Huska, Tanner Anderson, Colin Olson and Peter Haught added hits. Anderson and Olson each drove in two runs in the victory. Regan Bye and Olson each stole two bases for the Tanagers. Aaron Likness and Ryan Lammers had the lone Dakota Valley hits. Bertram went all five innings for the victory. Isaac Faldmo took the loss, giving up six runs, two earned, in 1 1/3 innings.

Chamberlain 9, PGDCWL 8 CHAMBERLAIN — Chamberlain scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh to claim a 9-8 victory over Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian-White Lake in the opening round of Region 3B East baseball playoff action on Monday. PGDCWL had scored six runs in the top of the seventh to take an 8-7 lead into the final half-inning. Dylan Dominick doubled and singled, and Tyson Fleury had two hits for Chamberlain, which advances to face either Winner-Colome or South Central later this week. For PGDCWL, Matthew Randall had three hits, and Drew Turnis had two hits and three RBI to lead the way. Connor Kuipers added a double, a single and two RBI for the Honkers, who finished with a 2-6 record. Jacob Byre got the final three outs to pick up the win in relief of Sam Tyrell, who pitched into the seventh. Coby Johnson, the third Honker pitcher, took the loss.

USD Women Ink JC Point Guard

VERMILLION — South Dakota head women’s basketball coach Amy Williams is pleased to announce Raeshel Contreras of Foothill College (Calif.) has signed a National Letter of Intent to the University of South Dakota. The point guard will be a junior when she enrolls this fall. Contreras averaged 17 points per game while shooting 45 percent from the field and 42 percent from 3-point range while playing in the Coast Conference of the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA). She was a two-time First-Team All-Conference hon-

oree, earned First-Team All-State honors in 2012 and was named to the 2012 CCCAA All-State Tournament Team after leading the Owls to the finals. The graduate from Encinal High School in San Francisco scored more than 20 points in 10 games and in double figures in 25 games during her second season at Foothill. Contreras is the fourth member of South Dakota’s 2013 recruiting class. Already signed are Bridget Arens of Crofton, Neb., Jaylah Jackson of Olathe, Kan., and Maddy White of Warnambrook, Australia.

Man Dribbling Soccer Ball To Brazil Killed By Car

A Seattle man trying to dribble a soccer ball 10,000 miles to Brazil in time for the 2014 World Cup died Tuesday after being hit by a pickup truck on the Oregon Coast. Police in Lincoln City, Ore., said 42-year-old Richard Swanson was hit at about 10 a.m. while walking south along U.S. Highway 101 near the city limits. He was declared dead at a hospital. The driver has not been charged. Lt. Jerry Palmer said investigators found materials among Swanson’s belongings listing his website, breakawaybrazil.com. Swanson set out on the trek to promote the One World Futbol

Project, based in Berkeley, Calif., which donates durable soccer balls to people in developing countries. “We are deeply saddened to learn about Richard’s death,” Lisa Tarver, chief operating officer of One World Futbol Project, said in a statement. “He was a very inspiring man who in a very short time walked his way into many lives. Our thoughts are with his family.” Police said Palmer’s soccer ball was recovered. In an interview with *The Daily*