

# Latest Gift Moves USD Athletic Facility Projects Closer To Reality

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — The latest donation to the University of South Dakota has brought its athletic facility projects closer to its end goal of breaking ground either this year or next spring, according to two athletic department officials Wednesday.

The next step, naturally, is marching closer to the targeted monetary goal.

CorTrust Bank invested \$1.5 million to USD's facility master plan on Tuesday, which puts the 6,000-seat basketball and volleyball arena, and outdoor track and soccer complex over the \$50 million mark, according to Jon Schemmel.

"That's a great mark for us to hit," said Schemmel, associate athletic director for Development with the USD Foundation. "The last several months have snowballed some momentum for us, in a very positive way."

Adding that CorTrust's investment comes on the heels of other significant pledges, Schemmel said the fundraising efforts are nearing the \$69 million target that was presented to the South Dakota Board of Regents earlier this year. That fig-



Herbster

ure includes the 20-year bonding to finance the projects.

"At this point, with the momentum on our side, we're feeling very good about where we are today," Schemmel said.

Athletic director David Herbster said that although the exact numbers can change, the current amount raised is around 70 percent of the total figure.

USD's projects were kick-started last year with a \$20 million donation, spread out over 20 years, by Sanford Health.

"We've asked our donors to stretch a little bit to make this happen," Herbster said. "We're really pushing this because, as an institution, you have to keep moving."

On the question of when ground could be broken on the arena, Schemmel reiterated the previous stance that the short-term goal is by the end of 2013.

"That's still the hope, and we'll do everything we can to push that," Schemmel said. "That's certainly the goal, but it's not a certainty."

The more realistic timeline, however, would be for actual construction to begin on the arena project in the spring of 2014, he added. USD is, though, in the final design phase of the project, meaning that financial discussions have given way to specifics with the contractors.

"We have a long way to go yet, but we are definitely banging on the door," Schemmel said. "At this point, the conversation is not 'if' anymore, it's 'when.'"

The \$58.8 million project, minus financing, also calls for two soccer fields, two football practice fields and two basketball practice courts.

Between the DakotaDome and new arena — referred to as the "connector" — will be a three-story sports performance enhancement facility, that will house the Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Kinesiology & Sports Sciences departments. It will also include classrooms, coaches and administrative offices and other rooms.

"That was a big part of Sanford's gift," Schemmel said of the connector. "It'll be a unique opportunity for our students to be able to have real-world experience with our athletes and with our trainers."

"It'll be a wonderful marriage between athletics and academics."

CorTrust, a founding partner of USD athletics, will receive naming rights on the club area in the new arena. That area will be designed to entertain and serve as a gathering place for Howling Pack members and other sponsors, Schemmel said.

The partnership between CorTrust Bank (based in Sioux Falls) and USD dates back to 1984, and included support for DakotaDome renovations nearly 10 years ago.

Jack Hopkins, president and CEO of CorTrust Bank, expressed his interest in helping with the USD facility project, Herbster said.

"In the number of meetings we've had with them, they were always completely on board with it," he said. "As much as anything, I'm humbled by their continued support. These gifts are a belief in USD, as well."

Following the CorTrust donation, USD will continue seeking donors for the projects.

"It's just go-go-go right now; we still

## David Williams Named USD Senior Associate AD

VERMILLION — David Williams has been named senior associate athletics director for external relations at University of South Dakota.

Williams brings more than 20 years of intercollegiate athletic experience to South Dakota including 12 as an athletics director. He has served as AD at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro the past two years. Williams has also been the AD at Missouri Western State University (2008-11) and University of Wisconsin-Parkside (2000-08).

"David's hire is a tremendous shot in the arm for Coyote athletics," said USD athletics director David Herbster. "His wealth of experience and leadership will strengthen our department, University and community. David has an extensive background in all facets of athletic administration and revenue generation that will enable him to have an immediate positive impact on our program."

Williams' successes at KWC include the establishment of an Athletic Hall of Fame, which inducted its first class back in February, a contract with Adidas to provide exclusive apparel and footwear to all 17 Panther teams, and making the College a charter member of Great Midwest Athletic Conference.

"I am excited to join the staff at South Dakota," said Williams. "My goal is to match the worth ethic of the coaches and the administration. I've known David (Herbster) for a long time, and if I can match his enthusiasm and passion for the Coyotes, we will be successful in what we set out to accomplish."

While at Missouri Western in St. Joseph, Williams secured approximately \$19 million to build an 118,000 square-foot indoor practice facility, new practice fields and 2,000-seat football stadium expansion to bring in the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs' summer training camp to campus. In addition, MWSU and the city of St. Joseph co-hosted national championships for both NCAA Division II women's basketball (twice) and softball.

Williams served as president of the Division II Athletic Directors Association (D2 ADA) for three years. During his tenure, he co-authored "Division II Model Athletic Department", a document still used today by the NCAA as they assist colleges and universities seeking to transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II.

Williams' facility improvements at Parkside were major as he was part of a \$12 million expansion of the Sports and Activity Center including new state-of-the-art scoreboards and the first videoboard in the region for DeSimone Gym. The baseball and softball fields also received new chairback seats, scoreboards and dugouts.

Prior to his promotion to AD at Parkside, Williams served as assistant AD for marketing and operations. He also served as the Rangers' head golf coach and top assistant basketball coach. He's also been an assistant basketball coach at North Dakota State, where he earned his master's degree, and at Augustana (Ill.) College, his alma mater.

Williams and his wife, Suzanne, have three children: Cooper, 14, Carter, 12, and Caden, 7.



Williams

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## Somsen Named Summit League Pitcher Of Year

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Two years removed from back-to-back lost seasons, South Dakota State's Layne Somsen has lived up to the promise he showed when he left Yankton High School.

Somsen was named the Summit League's Pitcher of the Year during the league's awards night, held Wednesday prior to the Summit League Baseball Tournament.

The senior, who was also named first-team all-Summit League, ranked third in the league with a 1.91 earned run average. He has a 4-4 record with 73 strikeouts in 75 1/3 innings. The right-handed starter held opponents to a .202 batting average, which ranks second in the league.

"I'm so happy for him," said SDSU head coach Dave Schrag by phone from Rochester, Mich., as the Jackrabbits prepared for today's (Thursday) opening round game in the Summit League Baseball Tournament. "It couldn't have happened to a more deserving person."

The former Buck was humbled by the recognition, voted on by the league's coaches.

"There are quite a few good pitchers in the league, a lot of guys who had really good stats," he said. "The coaches voted on it, which makes it a lot nicer."

Somsen was hurt in the second game of the 2010 season and missed both the rest of that season and the entire 2011 season. He returned in 2012 to lead the Jackrabbits with 53 strikeouts in 55 2/3 innings.

"Last year was a big year, him getting back on the mound," Schrag said of Somsen, who was also given the Jackrabbits' Courage Award earlier this season. "This year his confidence went through the roof."

Part of what allowed Somsen to return to form was his efforts off the field.

"To his credit, Layne has a great work ethic," Schrag said. "All the time he spent in the weight room and the training room is a credit to the type of person he is."

Besides getting himself back in playing shape, Somsen added to his arsenal of pitches as he worked to get back on the field.



Somsen

The senior, who was also named

## Amateur Baseball | South Central League



P&D FILE PHOTO

Crofton shortstop Scot Donner fires the ball to first during the championship game of the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament. Crofton, which has played for the state championship each of the past three years, will begin defense of its South Central League title today (Thursday) against Yankton.

# League Play Begins Today

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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The Crofton Bluejays will look to defend their South Central League title and make another deep run into the state amateur baseball tournament as the 2012 SCL begins tonight (Thursday).

Three new managers will take the reins this year, including Dan Bures in Avon, Lee Heimes in Wynot (taking over for Terry Foxhoven, who passed away last November) and Jon Vavruska in Tabor.

Managers across the league pointed to Avon and Lesterville as potential threats to the regular season and district title. This year's District 6B Tournament will be played in Scotland from July 25-Aug. 3. The Class B State Tournament will be held Aug. 7-Aug. 18 in Sioux Falls.

Here is a look at the 10 teams in the SCL. Yankton is listed first, with the remaining nine following in alphabetical order.

### Yankton Tappers

Last summer concluded with an uncharacteristic early exit from the post-season for the hometown Tappers.

Yankton, under manager Ross Heine, was eliminated after two losses in the District 6A Tournament. In short, that exit fueled the fire for 2013.

"That's not where we wanted to be, done that early," Heine said. "The goal every year is to make state and do a little bit better."

"I feel like we should have a pretty solid lineup one through nine to get us there."

Many of the same faces as last year return for the Tappers, including Heine (3B), Trey Krier (P/DH), Jared Miller (IF), Robb McClemons (OF/IF), Jake Broscha (P/IF), Jesse Bailey (P/OF), Derrik Nelson (IF), Jason Nelson (OF), Mark Vig (P/IF), Devin Gullikson (IF), Mike Janish (P/IF), Tyler Pekarek (OF), Travis Devine (OF) and Heath Arens (IF/OF).

The combination of a deep lineup and quality pitching will again key the Tappers, Heine said.

Yankton led the South Central League in fewest runs allowed per game (2.5) last year, more than a run better than the next team. Their 9.06 runs scored per game ranked second behind Irene.

If there's one spot that will need patching, it's on the mound, Heine said. The addition of Josh Cleveland will help replace the loss of Josh Engquist.

The pitching staff will also include Mike Thunker and Brian Bartlett.

Yankton will also see production from newcomers Tate Bruckner (P) from Menno, along with brother Bo Bruckner (IF/OF). Also joining the Tappers will be Joe Vondracek (IF/OF), Julian Cutolo (C/OF), Josh Cleveland (P), Dillon Schenkel (OF), Josh Teichroew (P), Nik Davis (OF) and Kory Bromley (C).

The season opener for the Tappers, tonight (Thursday) at Crofton, Neb., will provide a necessary but tough test for Yankton. Crofton, like Yankton, finished 16-2 in the

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## Tyhurst Leaving YHS Bench For Spearfish Helm

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Yankton High School sophomore boys' basketball coach Adam Tyhurst is branching out to the other side of the state to lead his own program.

Tyhurst, 33, was announced Wednesday as the new head boys' basketball coach at Spearfish High School, which will rejoin the Class AA ranks in 2013-14. Tyhurst, who spent two seasons at YHS, will take over for departed Spearfish coach Eric Skoglund, who left for the Mitchell head coaching vacancy.

"For me professionally, I always wanted to be a varsity coach," Tyhurst said this week.

A Boise, Idaho native, Tyhurst came to Yankton in 2011 after spending six seasons at the college level — all at the NAIA Division II ranks. He was the assistant men's coach at Eastern Oregon for two seasons and the assistant men's coach at Dakota Wesleyan in Mitchell for four seasons.



Tyhurst

He coached the Yankton freshman in 2011-12 and the sophomore team last season. Ultimately, though, Tyhurst wanted to be a varsity coach — he had applied for the YHS position a year ago that ultimately went to Chris Haynes.

"I really enjoy the mentoring and role model aspect that teachers have in high school, compared to college, where you have such a small amount of kids you can affect," he said. "At a high school, you can affect a large amount of change."

Tyhurst will also teach math at Spearfish, a location that came onto his radar last month. Next came the matter of convincing his wife, Nikki, that such a move could be a good thing, considering she has family in Rapid City.

"I asked my wife, 'Would you mind? It's a math teaching position' and she said to go ahead

and apply," Tyhurst said. After a lengthy online application process, he was asked to drive out to Spearfish for an interview with the administration.

Initially, though, the basketball position was not listed as being open, but after expressing his interest in the job and going through the interview, Tyhurst was offered the position last Thursday.

"We were fortunate to have had a number of qualified applicants for this position," Spearfish activities director Karen Hahn said in a release. "(We) feel that Coach Tyhurst will best fit into our program both athletically and academically."

In making the move to Spearfish, Tyhurst won't exactly change classes in South Dakota basketball. In the new 2013-14 and 2014-15 alignments, Spearfish moves back up the Class AA ranks into District 4 with Douglas, Rapid City Central,

## Yankton's Wirth To Play At MMC

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Mount Marty softball coach Albert Fernandez is keeping another Yankton player close to home.

Jessica Wirth, a three-time all-state player who recently graduated from Yankton High School, will attend Mount Marty College and play softball for coach Fernandez and the Lancers, the institution announced on Wednesday.

"The Wirth family has been involved in softball in Yankton for a long time, so I've been able to watch her play for a number of years," Fernandez said of Wirth. "She plays hard and is a competitor. Her athleticism helps her stand out on the field."



Wirth



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton's Jessica Wirth watches the ball after making contact during a club high school softball game this past fall. Wirth, a three-time all-state infielder for the Gazelles, will take her talents across town to Mount Marty College, where she will attend college and play for the Lancers. She joins Gazelles and Spitfire summer club teammate Karlee Kozak as part of this year's Lancer recruiting class.

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