# Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JEREMY HOECK

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To say South Dakota State University has had a banner year for athletics wouldn't be doing it justice.

Or the best of its class? That one might actually work, considering exactly where SDSU ranks among the rest of the Division I sports landscape.

With the Jackrabbits already in Eugene, Ore., for this weekend's NCAA Division I Baseball Regional Tournament (their first-ever such trip), it's already been arguably the most successful D-I season. Consider this: SDSU is one of 11 Division I schools across the country to have its football, men's basket

ball and baseball teams make the NCAA field. And that doesn't even include women's basketball, which of course has been a rather strong program up in Brookings. Those other 10 schools?

Florida, Kansas State, Louisville, North Carolina State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Mississippi, Oregon,

San Diego State and UCLA. That's some pretty elite company, wouldn't you agree? The Jacks are also the only Football Championship

Subdivision (FCS), or IAA, school in that mix. There are many factors that go into that kind of nationally-competitive success (too numerous to list in this short space), but it just goes to show you that South Dakota State is truly on the national radar. A deep run by the Jacks' baseball team could really vault the school higher.

## **Appeals Court Upholds Decision On Sioux Lawsuit**

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — A federal appeals court on Wednesday upheld a judge's decision to throw out a lawsuit by some tribal members over the University of North Dakota's nowretired Fighting Sioux nickname.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the suit filed against the NCAA failed to show that the governing body of college athletics "acted with discriminatory intent" when it banned the use of American Indian names and imagery in postseason competition.

Minot attorney Reed Soderstrom represented the tribal members. He told the Grand Forks Herald that he's not surprised by the ruling.

State voters in June 2012 overwhelmingly endorsed retirement of the nickname. The state has imposed a moratorium on a new nickname until

# **Mount Marty Baseball Signs Colorado Player**

Caleb Wilson of Gunnison, Colo., will attend Mount Marty College and play baseball for the Lancers, according to a release

Thursday. Wilson was a multi-sport star for Gunnison High School and lettered in football, basketball and baseball. He played outfield and pitched for the baseball team, and projects to be an outfielder at MMC.

Wilson had some impressive statistics during his high school career. As a sophomore he batted .467 with 29 hits, 25 runs, 20 runs batted in

and 11 stolen bases and was named 1st Team All-Conference his iunior and senior years and Honorable Mention All-State his senior year. During his junior year he batted .431 with 28 runs, 27 hits, 21 runs batted in and had 20 stolen bases. Wilson put up impressive numbers his senior year as well batting .474 with 27 hits, 1 home run and 13 runs batted in. As a pitcher, Wil-

son compiled a 6-3 record this spring.
"Mount Marty has a strong baseball tradition and we feel very grateful to have Caleb joining the program," MMC head coach Andy Bernatow said. "Caleb's uncle (Jason Clements) was a Lancer and I appreciate his help with the recruiting process. Caleb had an outstanding high school

career in several sports for Gunnison High School; we are getting an outstanding athlete.

"I am excited for what the future holds for Caleb at Mount Marty College. He will be a strong addition to the baseball program and the campus community."

The son of Chris and Tina Wilson, Caleb will major in criminal justice at Mount Marty College. Wilson will receive an academic achievement scholarship in addition to his hasehall award

## **USD's Bartling Transfers To Wayne State**

WAYNE, Neb. — University of South Dakota center Jared Bartling is among seven players added to Wayne State College's men's basketball 2013-14 recruiting class, the school announced Wednesday.

Bartling, a 6-foot-8, 235-pound native of Sioux Falls, will have one season of eligibility with the Wildcats. He will be reunited with former Sioux Falls Roosevelt teammate Adol Aluong. Bartling played in 34 games in three seasons at

Also among Wayne State's recruits were transfers Akeem Morissaint from Delray Beach, Florida; David Andersen of Lester Prairie. Minnesota: Jamie Pearson from Belleville, Michigan and high school signings Jaron Denn of Mapleton, Minnesota; Kenny Finco of Hartland, Wisconsin; and Damjan Sredanovic from Mount Pleasant, Utah.

The Wildcats posted a 17-12 record in the 2012-13 season and graduate three seniors from a team that had the most wins for a Wayne State men's program since the 1999-2000 season.

#### Wayne State Dropping Men's, **Women's Golf**

**SDSU Joins Elite Division I Company With Department-Wide Success** 

WAYNE, Neb. (AP) — Wayne State College is dropping its men's and women's golf programs to save money. Athletic director Mike Powicki said Wednesday that the NCAA Division II school in northeast Nebraska does not have the budget to appropriately fund the programs. The decision affects five men and five women.

Golfers who are on scholarship will continue to receive aid through the 2013-14 academic year.

The number of varsity sports Wayne sponsors will drop from 15 to 13. Golf will be offered as a club sport for men

and women. The University of Nebraska at Kearney will be the only Division II school in the state sponsoring both men's and women's varsity golf. Chadron State has a women's golf

#### **Registration Open For River City Gymnastics, Cheer Sessions**

Registration is now open for the River City Gymnastics and Cheer summer session, which runs over eight weeks from June 2 to Aug. 3 in Yankton.

Instruction will be provided on gymnastics, cheer, tum-

New classes being offered this summer include: Mighty Stars (all boys gymnastics/athletic class, ages 4-18) Strength & Conditioning (ages 9-18 for boys and girls in any sport) and Boot Camp (ages 18 and up, promotos

physical fitness, strength, toning & flexibility).

Contact Justin Olson at 661-4971 or yanktonrcg@gmail.com for more information. Registration forms can be downloaded online at yanktonrivercitygym-

## Theismann Added To Legends List

nastics.com. Check the website for specific dates.

SIOUX FALLS — Two-time NFL pro-bowler and Super Bowl champion Joe Theismann and Olympic triathlete Hunter Kemper have been added to the Hy-Vee/Sanford Legends list of celebrity athletes for 2013, event officials announced Wednesday. Theismann will replace former Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly, who is no longer available due to personal reasons, at the football clinic and banquet.

Kemper will hold a free triathlon clinic on June 14, a day before the IronKids' Triathlon, at 4:45 p.m. at the Augustana Flmen Center.

Seven celebrities comprise the Hy-Vee/Sanford Legends slate for the 2013 event scheduled to run June 13 to 25. They include: Theismann (Retired Washington Red-Bret Saberhagen (Retired, Kansas City Royals Pitcher), Michael Cooper (Retired, Los Angeles Lakers), Chad Greenway (Minnesota Vikings Linebacker), Prince Amukamara (New York Giants Cornerback), Ryan Bader (Professional Mixed Martial Artist) and Kemper (Olympic

### SCOREBOARD

# **GOLF**

CROFTON LAKEVIEW GC

RESULTS: Baily-Kuchta 42, Ferden-Johan-nasen 37, Baily-Edwards 35, Clark-Fish-Chris-tiansen 33, Merkel-Weiseler 32, Sprakel-Brady 32, Sailor-Graveland 30, Wiebelhaus-Wiebelhaus 28, Nohr-Goeden 27, Murphey-Petersen 26, Kuchta-Merkel 26, Tramp-Lancaster 25, Hy-sell-Brauer 25, Bartles Hoffart 24, Tramp-Leader 24, Haubrick-Lemmon 24, Zavadil-Pooler 23, Pokorney-Trenhaile 22, Sprakel-Janssen 21, Jackson-Thunker 21, Anderson-Larson 19, Keiser-Weinandt 15, Folkers-Van Essen 15, Pautler-Suing 13, Wilken-Schurman 11,

#### **BASEBALL**

# MAJOR LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE .588 .547 .538 Tampa Bay .423 Central Division Pct .569 .538 22 24 26 28 Cleveland Chicago Kansas City 24 21 .480 .429 4 1/2 28 .429 GB Texas 20 23 .615 .566 2 1/2 Oakland 23 29 4 22 30 4 15 37 2 NATIONAL LEAGUE .442

.288

Pct .608 .509 GB

.481

.667 .623

.623 .412

Pct

.538 .538 .451

.440

.380 14 1/2

GB

6 1/2

40 .245 19

Los Angeles Seattle Houston

Washington Philadelphia New York St. Louis

Pittsburgh West Division San Francisco San Diego

24 24 28 28 23 22 Tuesday's Games
Atlanta 7, Toronto 6, 10 innings
Colorado 2, Houston 1 Washington 9, Baltimore 3

Pittsburgh 1, Detroit 0, 11 innings Cincinnati 8, Cleveland 2 Tampa Bay 7, Miami 6 N.Y. Mets 2, N.Y. Yankees 1 Philadelphia 3, Boston 1 Minnesota 6, Milwaukee 5, 14 innings St. Louis 4, Kansas City 1
Chicago Cubs at Chicago, ppd., rain
Oakland 6, San Francisco 3 L.A. Dodgers 3, L.A. Angels 0 San Diego 6. Seattle 1 Wednesday's Games Chicago Cubs 9, Chicago White Sox 3 Cleveland 5, Cincinnati 2

Pittsburgh 5, Detroit 3 Baltimore 9. Washington 6 Boston at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m. N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m. Tampa Bay 3, Miami 1 Toronto at Atlanta, 7:10 p.m. Arizona at Texas, ppd., rain Milwaukee at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m. Kansas City at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m. Houston at Colorado, 8:40 p.m. L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels, 10:05 p.m. Seattle at San Diego, 10:10 p.m. Oakland at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Arizona (Miley 3-4) at Texas (D.Holland 4-

2), 1:05 p.m Chicago White Sox (Peavy 6-2) at Chicago Cubs (Wood 4-3), 1:20 p.m.
Seattle (F.Hernandez 5-4) at San Diego (Cashner 4-2), 2:40 p.m. Oakland (Griffin 5-3) at San Francisco (Zito

Boston (Lester 6-1) at Philadelphia (Petti-

bone 3-0), 6:05 p.m. Cincinnati (H.Bailey 3-3) at Cleveland (Kazmir 2-2), 6:05 p.m. Detroit (Fister 5-2) at Pittsburgh (Locke 5-1), 6:05 p.m. N.Y. Mets (Gee 2-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Nuno

Washington (Haren 4-5) at Baltimore

Milwaukee (Lohse 1-5) at Minnesota (Wal-

Houston (Harrell 3-6) at Colorado (Nicasio

ters 1-0), 7:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Guthrie 5-3) at St. Louis (Wacha 0-0), 7:15 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Lilly 0-1) at L.A. Angels (Vargas 4-3), 9:05 p.m.

(F.Garcia 1-2), 6:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (M.Moore 8-0) at Miami (No-lasco 3-5), 6:10 p.m.
Toronto (Dickey 4-6) at Atlanta (Minor 6-2),

TUESDAY LEAGUE LOW NET: Dan Johanneson-Trent Van 1-1), 6:05 p.m.

LOW GROSS: Michael Kuchta 40

## **AUTO RACING**

2013 NASCAR SPRINT CUP SCHED-**ULE AND STANDINGS** 

Feb. 16 — x-The Sprint Unlimited (Kevin Feb. 21 — x-Budweiser Duel 1 (Kevin Har-

Feb. 21 — x-Budweiser Duel 2 (Kyle Busch) Feb. 24 — Daytona 500 (Jimmie Johnson)
March 3 — Subway Fresh Fit 500, Avondale, Ariz. (Carl Edwards)
March 10 — Kobalt Tools 400, Las Vegas

(Matt Kenseth) March 17 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. (Kasey Kahne) March 24 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif. (Kyle Busch)

Anril 7 — STP Gas Booster 500, Ridgeway, Va. (Jim April 13 — NRA 500, Fort Worth, Texas (Kyle Busch) April 21 — STP 400, Kansas City, Kan.

(Matt Kenseth) April 27 — Toyota Owners 400, Richmond, Va. (Kevin Harvick) May 5 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala.

May 11 — Bojangles' Southern 500, Darlington, S.C. (Matt Kenseth)

May 18 — x-Sprint Showdown (Jamie Mc-

Murray) May 18 — x-NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race (Jimmie Johnson)
May 26 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C. (Kevin Harvick)
June 2 — Dover 400, Dover, Del.
June 9 — Pocono 400, Long Pond, Pa.

June 16 — Quicken Loans 400, Brooklyn, Mich June 23 — Toyota/Save Mart 350, Sonoma,

June 29 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, Ky. July 6 — Coke Zero 400 powered by Coca-Cola, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Aug. 11 — Cheez-It 355 at The Glen, Watkins Glen N Y

Sept. 7 — Federated Auto Parts 400, Rich-

Oct. 20 — Camping World RV Sales 500

Nov. 10 - AdvoCare 500, Avondale, Ariz Nov. 17 — Ford EcoBoost 400, Homestead

Driver Standings

July 14 — New Hampshire 300, Loudon, July 28 — Crown Royal Presents The Your

Hero's Name Here 400 at The Brickyard, Indi-Aug. 4 — Pennsylvania 400, Long Pond,

Aug. 18 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Aug. 24 — Irwin Tools Night Race, Bristol,

Sept. 1 - AdvoCare 500 at Atlanta, Hamp-Sept. 15 — GEICO 400, Joliet, III.

Sept. 22 — Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H. Sept. 29 — AAA 400, Dover, Del. Oct. 6 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas

Oct. 12 — Bank of America 500, Concord,

Talladega, Ala.
Oct. 27 — Goody's Fast Relief 500, Ridge-Nov 3 — AAA Texas 500 Fort Worth Texas

Through May 26 1. Jimmie Johnso 2. Carl Edwards, 413 3. Matt Kenseth, 394

Clint Bowyer, 385. Kasey Kahne, 370.
 Dale Earnhardt Jr., 364.

# AREA CALENDAR

Wilson

Thursday, May 30 BASEBALL, AMATEUR Freeman at Crofton (7:30 p.m.); Lesterville at Irene (7:30 p.m.); Menno at Avon (7:30 p.m., KVHT-FM); Scotland at Yankton (7:30 p.m.); Tabor at

not (7:30 p.m.)

GOLF, SDGA Junior Tour Southeast Region Event at Madison Country Club SOFTBALL, GIRLS' Wayne Dirt Devils at Yankton Spitfire (DH, 6:30 p. m., Riverside) Friday, May 31 BASEBALL, LEGION Lewis & Clark

Wooden Bat Classic — At Yankton: Yankton vs. Brandon Valley (10:30 a.m.); Blair vs. Brandon Valley (12:45 p.m.); Omaha Central vs. Blair (3 p.m.); Omaha Central vs. Spearfish (5:15 p.m.); Spearfish vs. Yankton (7:30 p.m., KYNT-AM); At Vermillion: Vermil-(7.30 p.m.), KTN1-Awy), At Vernimon: Vernimion vs. Sr. West vs. Brookings (12:45 p.m.); Brookings vs. South Sloux City (3 p.m.); South Sloux City vs. Sturgis (5:15 p.m.); Sturgis vs. Vermillion (7:30 p.m.); At Crofton: Crofton vs. Norfolk (10:30 a.m.); Mitchell vs. Norfolk (12:45 p.m.); Groton vs. Mitchell (3 p.m.); Tabor vs. Groton (5:15 p.m.); Tabor vs. Crofton (7:30

BASEBALL, VFW TEENER Mitchell Tourn. (Yankton Lakers, Yankton Reds)
Saturday, June 1
BASEBALL, LEGION Lewis & Clark

Wooden Bat Classic — At Yankton: Omaha Central vs. Yankton (10 a.m., KYNT-AM); Brandon Valley vs. Spearfish (12:15 p.m.); Blair vs. Spearfish (2:30 p.m.); Omaha Cen-tral vs. Brandon Valley (4:45 p.m.); Blair vs. Valleto (7; and 1). At Verzilities Propisions Yankton (7 p.m.); At Vermillion: Brookings vs Vermillion (10 a.m.); Brookings vs. Sturgis (12:15 p.m.); Sturgis vs. S.F. West (2:30 9. Martin Truex Jr., 336.

10. Brad Keselowski, 335.

12. Aric Almirola, 328. 13. Greg Biffle, 324. 14. Jamie McMurray, 321.

17. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 312.

**TRANSACTIONS** 

American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Optioned INF

BOSTON RED SOX — Optioned RHP Alex

CHICAGO WHITE SOX - Agreed to terms

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Sent C Lou Mar

bie Grossman to Oklahoma City (PCL). Recalled RHP Brad Peacock from Oklahoma City. Sent

RHP Josh Fields to Oklahoma City for a rehab

LHP Sean Burnett on the 15-day DL, retroactive to Monday. Reinstated RHP Tommy Hanson from

Yamaico Navarro to Norfolk (IL), Recalled 2B

Wilson to Pawtucket (IL). Recalled OF Jackie

. Kurt Busch, 304. . Joey Logano, 298

20. Tony Stewart, 291.

Ryan Flaherty from Norfolk

Bradley Jr. from Pawtucket

with OF Alex I langs on a minor lea

11. Kyle Busch, 332.

15. Jeff Gordon, 320. 16. Ryan Newman, 315. p.m.); South Sioux City vs. Vermillion (7 p.m.); At Crofton: Groton vs. Crofton (10 a.m.); Norfolk vs. Groton (12:15 p.m.); Norfolk vs. Tabor (2:30 p.m.); Tabor vs. Mitchell (4:45 p.m.); Mitchell vs. Crofton (7 p.m.); Yankton Juniors at Brandon Valley (DH, 1 BASEBALL, VFW TEENER South

Sioux City Tourn. (Yankton Black Sox); Mitchell Tourn. (Yankton Lakers, Yankton GOLF. SDGA Mid-Amateur Champi-

onships at Broadland Creek GC, Huron **SOFTBALL, GIRLS'** USSSA Pitch For The Cure Tourn. at Lincoln, Neb. (Yankton Spitfire); Wayne Dirt Devil Tourn. (Yankton Sunday, June 2
BASEBALL, AMATEUR Avon at Free-man (7:30 p.m.); Menno at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.); Scotland at Crofton (7:30 p.m.); Tabor

BASEBALL, LEGION Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic at Yankton — Semifi-nals: Yankton champ vs. Wild card (11 a.m.); Vermillion champ vs. Crofton champ (1:15 m.); Championship: Semifinal winners :30 p.m., KYNT-AM if Yankton plays)

BASEBALL, VFW TEENER South

at Irene (7:30 p.m.); Wynot at Yankton (7:30

Sioux City Tourn. (Yankton Black Sox)

GOLF, SDGA Mid-Amateur Champi-SOFTBALL, GIRLS' USSSA Pitch For The Cure Tourn. at Lincoln, Neb. (Yankton Spitfire); Wayne Dirt Devil Tourn. (Yankton

assignment.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Sent RHP Stephen Fife to Rancho Cucamonga (Cal) for a

MIAMI MARLINS — Designated 2B Nick Green for assignment. Selected the contract of 3B Ed Lucas from New Orleans (PCL). PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Placed 3B

PHILAUELPHIA PHILLIES — Placed 3B Michael Young on the bereavent list. Recalled INF Cesar Hernandez from Lehigh Valley (IL). SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Optioned RHP Sandy Rosario to Freson (PCL). Selected the contract of LHP Mike Kickham from Fresno. Transferred LHP Eric Surkamp to the 60-day DL.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Optioned
LHP Xavier Cedeno to Syracuse (IL). Recalled RHP Nate Karns from Harrisburg (EL). Sent OF

BASKETBALL National Basketball Association
CHARLOTTE BOBCATS — Named Steve Clifford coach.

Jayson Werth to Potomac (Carolina) for a rehab

son to Akron (EL) for a rehab assignment. HOUSTON ASTROS — Optioned OF Rob-

igins. CLEVELAND BROWNS — Named Jim DALLAS COWBOYS — Released LS Charley Hughlett and WR Carlton Mitchell. Signed LS Jackson Anderson and OT J.B.

nment.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Assigned RHP Billy Buckner outright to Salt Lake (PCL). Placed DETROIT LIONS — Claimed OR Thaddeus Carder. MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed LB Stan-

the restricted list.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Optioned OF Chris Colabello to Rochester (IL.). Reinstated INF Trevor Plouffe from the seven-day DL. NEW YORK YANKEES — Sent 1B Mark Teixeira and 3B Kevin Youkilis to Trenton (EL) for SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Released WR att Austin. Signed WR Greg Herd. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Announced the retirement of WR Steve Smith.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to terms OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Sent OF Josh

with C Brian Schwenke, DE Lavar Edwards, CB Khalid Wooten and S Daimion Stafford. WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Named Larry ento (PCL) for a rehab assignment.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Optioned RHP
Brandon Maurer to Tacoma (PCL). Recalled INF Coyer advance scout and Aubrey Pleasant offensive assistant. Alex Liddi from Tacoma. HOCKEY TAMPA BAY RAYS - Optioned RHP Jake

Odorizzi to Durham (IL). Recalled RHP Alex Colome from Durham. TEXAS RANGERS — Optioned LHP Martin rez to Round Rock (PCL). TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Designated RHP Ramon Ortiz and 1B Clint Robinson for assignment. Optioned RHP Thad Weber to Buffalo (IL). Placed 3B Brett Lawrie on the 15-day DL retroactive to Tuesday. Recalled RHP Todd Red-mond from Buffalo. Selected the contracts of RHP Neil Wagner and LHP Juan Perez from Buf

National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Optioned LHP Tyler Skaggs to Reno (PCL).

ATLANTA BRAVES — Optioned RHP Cory
Rasmus to Gwinnett (IL). Reinstated RHP Jordan Walden from the 15-day DL. Sent RHP Bran-

don Beachy to Rome (SAL) for a rehab

National Hockey League
NEW YORK RANGERS — Fired coach John Tortorella. COLLEGE ALABAMA — Named Kelly Curry, Terry
Nooner and Shereka Wright women's assistant
basketball coaches and Grant Fausset director

of women's basketball operations.

COLGATE - Named Jena Caccitore assis-DETROIT — Named Ernie Ziegler men's as-stant basketball coach and Robert C. Vowels director of athletics.

GEORGIA — Suspended S Josh Harvey-

Clemons one game.

ILLINOIS — Approved a contract extension for men's basketball coach John Groce through

TCU - Announced women's basketball G Alexia Standish is transferring from Texas A&M.

"Three years ago, I didn't even

know if I'd play baseball again,"

he said. "But this is definitely an awesome way to go out.' The winner of Friday's SDSU-Oregon game will face either Rice (41-17) or San Francisco (34-22) on Saturday night. Whomever wins the Eugene Regional will adround against the winner of the Raleigh, N.C. Regional.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

#### Vikings Rookie WR Has Work To Do Metrodome turf, breathing life in to MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Cordar-By that time, it was too late and I

relle Patterson was sliding down the draft board, there for the taking when the Minnesota Vikings jumped back into the first round to grab the speedy receiver from Ten-

Then Patterson went and grabbed something of his own: He picked No. 84 for his jersey, the number made famous in these parts by Randy Moss. The No. 84 carries with it expec-

tations, and to some degree, a stigma. Moss was both a breathtaking talent in Minnesota and a rather large headache, especially in his second tour with the Vikings in 2010. Like most people around here, Patterson never mentions Moss's numerous transgressions that enraged coaches and some teammates. He just remembers the touchdowns.

"Randy Moss was my role model growing up since I was little," Patterson said. "I wore 84 in high school and we were purple and gold so I looked up to Randy Moss the whole time. Now I have a chance to practice on the field he practiced on and play in the game that he played in.

Back in 1998, Moss dropped down the draft board because of character concerns, and the Vikings pounced on him at No. 21. He became the most dangerous deep threat in the NFL from the moment he first set foot on the

a stagnant franchise.

Patterson's plummet had more to do with inexperience than character, though there were some who questioned his work ethic and ability to pick up a complex offense. But the Vikings saw too much raw skill to pass up, so they packaged four draft picks to jump back into the first round at pick No. 29 to take him.

"That showed how much they believe in me to take a risk for a player like me because a lot of teams didn't believe in me," he said. "You see that when they passed up on me but the Vikings believe in me, and they did what they had to do to come and get me."

Now Patterson's education be-The Vikings are holding organ-

ized team activities this week, an essential exercise for a receiver that has so much to learn before his first professional training camp begins in late July. Patterson spent all of one season with the Volunteers after mak-

ing the jump to the SEC from junior

college in Hutchinson, Kan., a thin resume that has left him short on the nuances of playing receiver. "Ninth and 10th grade years, I wasn't in any sports," Patterson said. "I really didn't care about my grades. But 11th and 12th grade years when I started playing sports had to go the junior college route.

Patterson admits that he needs work to refine his route-running and ability to get off press coverage. He also had a couple of big drops in key situations for Tennessee.

"My biggest challenge will be that I will have to come in and work hard every day," Patterson said. "The first thing I will have to do is get into that playbook and start learning the different coverages and hook up with the quarterback and a couple of receivers and get ready to work."

Patterson heard whispers about his study habits in college, and so did the Vikings. They had well-respected receivers coach George Stewart meet with him leading up to the draft and also feel confident that newly signed veteran Greg Jennings will be there to act as a mentor, perhaps the same way Cris Carter did for Moss all those years

"I hope he's ready to work," Jennings said. "I hope he's ready to jump right in. I'm not a fan of treating a rookie like a rookie. It's all about the guy who knows the least, getting him up to speed just as quick as the guy who knows the most in the room. So that's the mindset I'm taking, hopefully that's his approach. I've already reached out to him. I'm looking forward to working with him."

# College

who now serves as a consultant for the Southeastern Conference, credited ESPN taking college baseball "to another level" It's a surge he hopes to improve upon when the SEC Network is un-

veiled sometime next year. Templeton, who also served as the chair of the NCAA tournament selection committee from 2007-09, also credited the 20-second pitch clock for speeding up games and better facilities as reasons for turning the game into a

fan-interest sport. As a result, Templeton believes more top players today are choosing to play college baseball rather than signing with major league teams out of high school and spending years in the minor

leagues. There are some quality student-athletes playing baseball at the collegiate level now," Templeton said.

One example of Templeton's belief is Arkansas infielder Dominic Ficociello, who was drafted in the 23rd round of the 2010 draft by Detroit before choosing to attend college rather than sign with the Tigers. Ficociello said he set his bonus demand incredibly high before the draft — \$1 million take-home pay after taxes because he wanted to experience the college environment.

teams would have to pay to get

said "I knew this was going to be few years and as attendance a pretty crazy thing, and it was going to be awesome and nothing

I had ever experienced before."

then I (saw) I needed my grades.

The decision to attend college has paid off in exactly the kind of experiences Ficociello had hoped for, including playing in front of thousands of fans per game with the Razorbacks and a trip to the College World Series last year. Arkansas' Baum Stadium, as

well as the interest across the SEC, also played significant roles in Ficociello's decision to bypass the professional ranks. The facility opened in 1996, has been expanded several times since, and an average of 8,335 fans paid to see the Razorbacks play this sea-

That's a far cry from the average of 1,399 fans who attended Arkansas games in 2002 — the season before Van Horn was hired away from Nebraska.

When Van Horn was hired, he struggled at first with the long road trips across the SEC, all of which were taken by bus. After a

began to rise, Van Horn approached then-Arkansas athletic director Frank Broyles about the travel — focusing on the competitive disadvantage to driving as well as the classroom time players were missing. The last bullet point hit home

with Broyles, and since the Razorbacks have flown to most of their away games, including charter flights when possible.

Van Horn said the increased television exposure and attendance played a role in the better travel arrangements, and he said the quality of the product has led to the overall growth in the It's a modern success story

that he hopes doesn't end any time soon. "It all helps, with travel, coaches' pay, the whole budget," Van Horn said. "If we were getting 2,000 a game, things might be different. That's just the way it is

now, and it's nice."

THE 106 DAYS OF SUMMER PARTY

WITH CLASSIC HITS 106.3 IS BACK!!

this year were

# lacks

From Page 7

"They like to bunt and they can

pitch, just like we can.

"If we play error-free ball, I think we could beat them." Of course, for SDSU to even be talking about beating a program like Oregon says a lot about its

emergence, Somsen said. "Back five years ago when I

came here, there wasn't much Jackrabbit talk about the nation," he said. "Nate Wolters really helped put us on the map, and the women (basketball) making it to nationals ever year really

'It's definitely been a ride,

furniture that lives the way you do

that's for sure." Somsen's career has been quite a journey in itself, as well. He missed part of his sophomore season and all of his third season following Tommy John surgery on his right elbow.

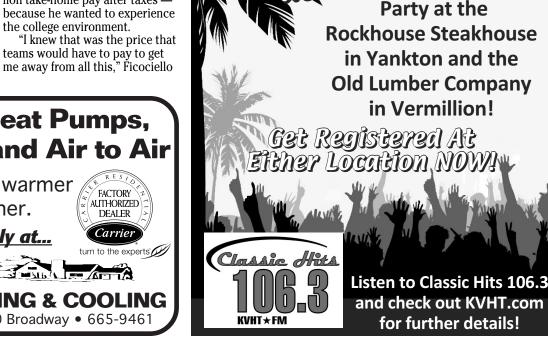
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