

Starr Awaits Chance To Shine



P&D FILE PHOTO
South Dakota linebacker Tyler Starr leaps at South Dakota State's Zach Zenner during their Missouri Valley Football Conference matchup at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Starr will be hoping to continue his playing career at the professional level, and could learn his fate this weekend. The National Football League draft begins today (Thursday), and Starr has been projected as high as a sixth round selection.

USD Standout Hopes For NFL Opportunity

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Tyler Starr made a name for himself at the University of South Dakota playing a fearless brand of football. Fearless. As if everything depended on the next event. As far as Starr's potential career in the NFL is concerned, however, the results of this weekend's NFL Draft are not exactly the end of the line, according to his agent, Kyle Strongin. Starr, a 6-foot-4 outside linebacker who left USD as the program leader with 27 sacks, is listed as a late-round possibility for the NFL Draft, which begins tonight (Thursday) with round one. Rounds 2-3 will be televised Friday, with rounds 4-7 on Saturday. "That'd be great if he was drafted, but you don't know how it's going to play out," Strongin told the *Press & Dakotan* on Wednesday. "The weekend for him is a start to his career. "It's exciting, we'll find out where he's going, where he's living, who is coach is going to be." NFLDraftScout.com, perhaps the premier pre-draft website, lists Starr — who didn't return phone messages Wednesday — as a high sixth

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VHS Tennis Get Boost In Effort To Stay Afloat

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VERMILLION — Two years after being axed from the school budget, the Vermillion High School tennis teams gained new life thanks to a national sporting goods chain. Vermillion was one of 188 schools nationwide to be selected for the DICK's Sporting Goods Foundation 'Sports Matter' program, which provides matching funds for teams cut from budgets. To receive those matching funds, Vermillion's teams had to raise at least \$4,850 — half of the combined boys' and girls' budgets, Hughes said. The deadline for pledges is Friday, May 23 at 5 p.m. Central. Donations can be made on the team's Dick's website: <https://sportsmatter.com/vhs-tennis-staying-in-the-game> "It's been a struggle, and then you get this opportunity, and I think everyone lightens up a little bit," said Vermillion head coach Betsy Hughes, whose boys' team travels to Yankton today (Thursday) for a dual. "It feels hopeful." As of Wednesday afternoon, Vermillion had raised 86 percent of the necessary money, with 54 donors. The relationship with DICK's began when Steve Ford, a former resident of New York (where the chain is based) and father of Jacob, a junior for the Tanagers boys' squad, saw the 'Sports Matter' program in an email. "I usually just delete those emails," he joked. Instead, Ford passed the email around and within a week, Vermillion submitted its information to DICK's. Part of the proposal was an outline of the tennis programs' annual budget, Ford said. "I thought, 'Gosh, you

know, this would be perfect," he said. In the two years after having its programs cut from the budget, Ford said the tennis community "scrambled" to raise money — both times being told the programs would not return to the budget. Now, the groups have tried raising funds year-round, with an eye toward the future, Ford said. To that end, if Vermillion raises more than the necessary \$4,850, DICK's would still only match that amount, but the extra money could be used toward the next year's efforts, Ford said. Since the 2012 decision, the Vermillion programs have held fundraisers ranging from selling chocolate bars to holding a dance. Last fall, however, a Vermillion downtown bar sponsored the girls' team for a day — the same day Vermillion hosted Yankton in a dual. The establishment donated the proceeds from lunch and dinner to the team. According to Hughes, the Yankton team members and families went to the establishment. "It's just been cool to watch the community and everyone around us support us like this," Hughes said. Ford said Monday was a "big day" for the effort, thanks to support from Mike Briggs of the Yankton Tennis Association and an email he circulated to supporters. "Mike said in the email, 'I believe that the future of tennis in Vermillion and Yankton depend on us working together,'" Ford said. "With two small schools, tennis is not going to be one of the major sports, but there's a lot of value to it," Ford added. "It's a sport you



P&D FILE PHOTO
Vermillion's Kevin Helenurm returns a shot against O'Gorman's Jake Moran during their second round match at flight four singles at the South Dakota State Boys' Tennis Tournament last season. The VHS tennis program, which was cut from the school budget in 2012, was selected for the 'Sports Matter' program from the DICK's Sporting Goods Foundation. The program will donate half the team's budget for next year — \$4,850 — if the program can raise the other half in donations by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 23. As of Wednesday afternoon, the program had raised 86 percent of those funds. The Vermillion boys play at Yankton today (Thursday) at 6:30 p.m.

'Sports Matter' Program

WHAT IS THIS?: A program from the DICK's Sporting Goods Foundation, designed to provide matching funds to youth sports teams at risk of being eliminated by budget cuts. The Vermillion Tennis Program is one of 188 programs selected nationwide.

HOW DOES IT WORK?: To receive the matching funds, the Vermillion tennis program must raise at least \$4,850, half their combined annual budget, through a five-week crowdfunding campaign organized by Sports Matter. If the crowdfunding effort yields \$4,850 in donations by May 23, DICK's will match another \$4,850 to fully fund Vermillion boys' and girls' tennis for the 2014-15 school year.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?: If you would like to help the Vermillion tennis program, go to their webpage at <https://sportsmatter.com/vhs-tennis-staying-in-the-game> or scan the QR code on the right side of this box



Coyotes Down Jacks To Open Summit Tour.

FARGO, N.D. — South Dakota freshman pitcher Rachel Cue continued her dominance against South Dakota State and the Coyotes advanced in the winner's bracket of the Summit League Tournament following a 7-2 win against South Dakota State Wednesday at Elvig Sports Complex. The Coyotes (29-20), seeded third, take on second-seeded Fort Wayne (38-13) at 10 a.m. Thursday. The teams split a pair of games in Indiana back in late March. Cue (18-9), named Summit League Freshman of the Year Tuesday, improved to 4-0 against the Jackrabbits this season. She didn't allow a hit until the fourth inning and finished with six strikeouts. When South Dakota State scored two runs with two outs in the final inning, it marked the Jacks' first earned runs off Cue in 24 innings. Morgan Hancock drove in two runs with a double in the first inning to give USD a 2-0 lead. Katie Dinning made it 3-0 with an RBI single in the second. Katie Cochran's two-run homer off the scoreboard in center field made it 5-0 in the fourth. The Coyotes added another run in the fifth and sixth innings and out-hit the Jacks 11-6. Dinning, Hancock, Yvon Minogue and Christine Broders each had two hits for South Dakota.

Golf: Mueller Wins At NV

NIOBRARA, Neb. — Elgin Public-Pope John edged out Boyd County for top honors at the Niobrara-Verdigre Invitational boys' golf tournament, held Wednesday at the Niobrara Golf Course. EP-PJ shot a 342, with Boyd County finishing at 349. Osmond and Bloomfield-Wausa each finished at 352, with Clearwater-Orchard and Neligh-Oakdale each at 353. Crofton's Brock Mueller earned medalist honors, shooting a 75 and beating EP-PJ's Kyle Heithoff in a playoff. Neligh-Oakdale's Chase Kallhoff was third, finishing at 78. TEAM SCORES: Elgin Public-Pope John 342, Boyd County 349, Osmond 352, Bloomfield-Wausa 352, Clearwater-Orchard 353, Neligh-Oakdale 353, Ewing 367, Santee 410, Chambers-Wheeler Central 420, Niobrara-Verdigre 486. TOP 15: Brock Mueller, Crofton 75; Kyle Heithoff, Elgin Public-Pope John 75; Chase Kallhoff, Neligh-Oakdale 78; Aric Kriener, Osmond 79; Mitchell Atkinson, Boyd County 80; Cody Bern, Boyd County 80; Aaron Haul, Clearwater-Orchard 80; Quinn O'Brien, Bloomfield-Wausa 82; Chad Bode, Elgin Public-Pope John 83; Ben Ramold, Ewing 85; Tate Schutt, Clearwater-Orchard 86; Jeremy Olffest, Bloomfield-Wausa 86; Robert Nordby, Ewing 88; Miles Schrage, Elgin Public-Pope John 88; Dante Schmitt, Osmond 89; Jacob Tabbert, Clearwater-Orchard 89; Matt Koehler, Bloomfield-Wausa 89; Zach Kumm, Osmond 89

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Track: Lennox's Mechels Dominates At LenWood

LENNOX — Hometown standout Halie Mechels won four events, including one in meet-record time, to lead Lennox at the LenWood Invitational track and field meet held Tuesday. No team points were kept. Mechels won the 800 in a meet-record 2:24.80, swept the 100 (16.04) and 300 (49.36) hurdles, and added a victory in the high jump (5-0). Sioux Falls Christian's Kara Koth and Miranda Velgersdyk each won two individual events. Koth won the triple jump with a meet-record mark of 35-7 1/2, and added a win in the long jump (16-9 1/4). Velgersdyk won the 100 (13.03) and 200 (27.08). Parker was led by Brittany Olson's victory in the 400 (1:03.64). The Pheasant girls also won the 800 relay (2:00.60). Dell Rapids set two meet records on the boys' side. Brett Nichols set the meet standard in the triple jump

at 44-6, and also won the long jump (21-8). The Quarriers also set the meet record in the medley relay (3:40.76). Lennox's Trey Furgeson won the 100 (11.62) and 200 (23.55). Parker got wins from Michael Olson in the 800 (2:02.76) and Zach Anderson in the high jump (6-0).

Baltic Inv.

BALTIC — The Garretson girls and Baltic boys claimed top honors in the Baltic Invitational track and field meet on Tuesday. Viborg-Hurley claimed sixth in each division. Garretson was sparked by Mara VanDeBerg, who won the 100 (12.5), 200 (27.3) and 400 (1:03.0), on the way to a 141-100 victory over Deubrook Area in the girls' division. The Blue Dragon girls won seven events on the day. The Baltic foursome of Mariah Hanisch, Brittany Hazel, Makay Paszek

and Madison Polzin won the 800 (1:57.4), 1600 (4:20.3) and medley (4:37.4) relays. Dell Rapids St. Mary's Ally Mullaney won high jump (4-9), as well as the 100 (16.3) and 300 (50.4) hurdles. The Baltic boys only won three events, but held off Garretson 126-101. Conner Blossmo had a hand in four wins for Garretson, claiming the 100 (11.1) and 200 (23.3) and teaming with Sean Tillma, Alex Thorson and Austin Matthiesen to win the 400 (45.7) and 800 (1:36.5) relays. Viborg-Hurley won the boys' medley in 3:55.7.

South Central Inv.

BONESTEEL — A near-sweep of the relays helped the Corsica-Stickney boys to victory at the South Central Invitational track and field meet on Tuesday. Corsica-Stickney won the four relays and had one other win, scoring 88

points to beat Winner by seven points. Platte-Geddes was third with 70 points, led by victories from Kole Heller (100, 11.1), Tate Wagner (400, 53.6) and Carter Dykstra (long jump, 20-0 1/4). Chamberlain's Hudson Priebe was a double-winner on the boys' side, claiming the 200 (22.7) and the 110-meter hurdles (15.2). Burke-South Central scored 76 points in the girls' division, edging out Kimball-White Lake (71) and Winner (70). Platte-Geddes finished with 52 points. KWL's Ivy Haines was a triple-winner, claimin the 300 hurdles (51.8), long jump (15-5) and triple jump (33-1 1/2). Burke-South Central's Allison Sebern won the 400 (1:00.6) and 800 (2:31.1). Reganne Engebretson led Platte-Geddes with a victory in the 100 (12.6). The Black Panthers also won the 800 relay (1:55.4).