

USD Women Get Commitment From 6-4 Transfer

Fogg Will Have Two Seasons For Coyotes

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The latest addition for the University of South Dakota women's basketball program follows a trend the Coyotes witnessed first-hand at the NCAA Tournament.

Size and length win at the national level.

With that mind, USD announced Wednesday the signing of 6-foot-4 Canadian post Abigail Fogg, a transfer from Division I American University and native of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Fogg will have to redshirt the 2014-15 season, but will have two seasons of eligibility.

Fogg was a situation where a

previous connection helped USD, but her height certainly sweetened the package, according to head coach Amy Williams.

"That's something you can't teach, that kind of size," Williams said Wednesday evening.

Fogg is the third recruit — and second transfer — signed by the Coyotes for the 2014-15 season, joining Rapid City native Caitlin Duffy, a 5-foot-11 guard from Colorado State. Both will redshirt next season.

The other recruit is 6-foot-1 post Kate Liveringhouse from Bellevue West (Omaha, Nebraska), who will be a freshman this fall.

Winners of the Summit League

tournament in March, the Coyotes were competitive with a much taller Stanford squad in the first round of the NCAA Tournament — ultimately losing by 19 points.

"When you look nationally, some of them have tremendous athleticism, some have tremendous speed, Stanford had tremendous size," Williams said.

"That was a very impressive thing for us, to see that level up close."

A close connection is also what brought Fogg to USD's radar. Current Coyote assistant Josh Hutchinson recruited Fogg to American University, where Hutchinson was an assistant.

When American changed

coaches, that eventually led Fogg to want to make a move, Williams said

Fogg played in 20 games last season for the Eagles, averaging 2.6 points and 2.8 rebounds in 9.9 minutes of action per game. At USD, though, she eventually figures to see more time by the time she is eligible, Williams said.

"In Abi's case, she'll really benefit spending a year getting stronger and getting to know her teammates and our program," Williams said.

By the time Fogg and Duffy are eligible as juniors in 2015-16, the Coyote roster could also feature a number of other long and athletic players.

USD has received three known verbal commitments, including a 6-

foot-1 post and a pair of 5-foot-9 guards.

"The size is outstanding, and right now we've got to keep working at that next step," Williams said.

That being?

Being more consistent in the regular season to contend for a regular season championship, she said. The last two seasons, USD has surged down the stretch and made a deep run in the post-season tournament.

USD will return four starters next season, with the only graduation hit being center Polly Harrington.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

12 From MMC Earn NIAA Scholar-Athlete Recognition

Twelve Mount Marty College student-athletes were named All-America Scholar Athletes by the NIAA in various spring sports. Announcements have come in the past week.

One student-athlete was honored in two sports, Yankton native Christopher Hoffman. The senior was recognized for both men's golf and men's track and field.

Four other members of the track and field team were recognized. Senior Jordan Pater and junior Logan Ulmer (Yankton) were honored on the men's side, while juniors Abbey VanDeBerg and Holly Hegge (Crofton, Neb.) were honored on the women's side.

The women's softball program had four honorees: Michaela Bunde, Anna Kolasch, Shaina Lonneman and Lauren Orwig.

Three members of the baseball team were recognized, seniors Jared Miller and Benjamin Elliott, and junior Derek Blumenstock.

To be recognized, a junior or senior student-athlete must have a 3.5 cumulative grade-point average or better and be nominated by the head coach or sports information director.

Also honored on the women's side in track and field were Briar Cliff's Jayna Specht, a senior from Yankton; Dordt's Lillie Koerner, a junior from Freeman; and Concordia's Tracy Peitz, a senior from Hartington, Nebraska. Men's track and field honorees included Concordia's Jacob Riefenrath, a senior from Hartington; and Morning-side's Taylor Kube, a senior from Crofton, Nebraska.

Xtreme Split With Impact

The Yankton Xtreme split with the Norfolk Impact in girls' fastpitch baseball action on Tuesday.

Norfolk claimed the opener 1-0.

For Yankton, Emily Oswald and Lily Ryken each doubled to lead the way. Alix Peterka, Bailey Peterka and Merlye Mason added hits. Holly Mines took the loss, striking out three.

The Xtreme bounced back with a 7-5 victory in the nightcap.

Traia Hubbard had a triple and three RBI, and Megan McCorkell had a hit and two RBI to lead Yankton. Lexie McCorkell had a hit and a RBI, and Gracy Roy and Bailey Peterka added hits.

Bailey Peterka picked up the win, striking out one in the complete game effort.

The Xtreme will play in a tournament at Wayne, Nebraska, this weekend.

Eye On The Ball



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton shortstop Nate Hein tries to get in front of a ground ball during the second game of Post 12's Junior Legion baseball double-header with Sioux Falls West on Wednesday at Riverside Field. Results from the game were not available at presstime.

Cedar Third After Day One Of State Boys' Golf

LINCOLN, Neb. — Hartington Cedar Catholic sits six strokes off the lead entering today's (Thursday) final round of the Nebraska State Class C Boys' Golf Tournament, being held at Mahoney Golf Course in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Hastings St. Cecilia leads the event with a 314, five strokes better than David City. Cedar Catholic is in third at 320. Laurel-Concord-Coleridge shot a 338 to rank ninth at the midway point.

Plainview's Sam Meuret, the defending state champion, shot a 2-under 68 to lead by one stroke entering the final round. Gibbon's Rylee Reinertson is second at 69.

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge's Jamy McCoy is the top area golfer, ranking seventh with a 73. Cedar Catholic's Dalton Lammers is eighth at 74.

Class D

KEARNEY, Neb. — Hartington shot a team score of 360 to rank sixth entering the final round of the Nebraska Class D Boys' Golf Tournament, being held at Kearney Country Club.

Thayer Central leads the event at 332, two strokes better than Bancroft-Rosalie. TCHS is led by Jay Cottam's 71, three strokes better than Humphrey St. Francis' Trevor Kosch.

Derek Jueden of Hartington is tied for 20th at 86.

Schlingman, Bormann Win SDGA Junior Event At Bluffs

VERMILLION — Parkston's Sydney Bormann and Yankton's Mitch Schlingman earned medalist honors in the 16-18 year-old division at the South Dakota Golf Association's Junior Tour opening event, Wednesday at The Bluffs Golf Course in Vermillion.

Bormann, a two-time Class A high school champ, shot a 66 for a nine-stroke victory over Parkston teammate Sydney Weber, runner-up at this year's Class A Tournament. McKayla Poppens of Lennox also shot a 75. Vermillion's Kayla Stammer finished fifth with an 81. Yankton's Payton Pierce was seventh with an 87.

Schlingman shot a 67 to beat Lake Andes' J.J. Cooney by three strokes. Parker Klitzke of Sioux Falls finished third at 74.

Vermillion's Kyleigh Moran won the girls' 14-15 year-old division with an 83. Yankton's Linze Cowman finished third at 92, with Parkston's Jayden Bormann fourth at 96.

Brandon's Zane Swenson won the boys' 14-15 year-old division with a 73. Tyndall's Alec Johnson finished second with a 76.

Lauryn Driscoll of Hartford won the girls' 12-13 year-old division with a 108. Jack Lundin of Sioux Falls claimed the boys' 12-13 year-old division with a 69. Yankton's Michael Frick finished third with an 83.

Sunni Josephson of Sioux Falls won the girls' 11-under division with a 58. Jack Hilgenberg of Sioux Falls claimed the boys' 11-under division with a 40. Yankton's Jimmie Cunningham was second, one stroke back.

Obama To Tackle Youth Sports Concussion Issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concerned that too little is known about the effects of head injuries in young athletes, President Barack Obama is bringing representatives of professional sports leagues, coaches, parents, youth sports players, researchers and others to the White House to help educate the public about youth sports concussions.

Tackling the issue at a White House summit Thursday, Obama also will highlight pledges of money and other support from the NFL, the National Institutes of Health, the Pop Warner Little Scholars and others to do the research, promote safety and speed development of materials designed to provide better protection.

Obama comes to the issue through his well-documented love of sports, and as the father of two daughters active in sports. The president thinks sports are also a good way to keep kids healthy and out of trouble, but he raised some eyebrows last year by saying he would "have to think long and hard" before letting a son, if he had one, play football because of the risk of head injuries.

"He, as a parent, is concerned about the safety of his own daughters," said White House communications director Jennifer Palmieri, one of several officials who previewed the White House Healthy Kids & Safe Sports Concussion Summit for reporters.

In a report last fall, the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council called for a national system to track sports-related concussions and begin answering questions about the risks of youth sports, such as how often do the youngest athletes suffer concussions or which sports have the highest rates.

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that can be caused by a blow to the head. Concussions also can be caused by body blows that cause the brain to bounce around or twist inside the skull. Nearly 250,000 kids visit hospital emergency rooms each year with brain injuries caused by sports or other recreational activity, the White House said.

The pledges Obama will announce Thursday are designed to start gathering the needed data.

Among the largest commitments, the NCAA and the Defense Department are launching a \$30 million effort to produce research on concussion risks, treatment and management. Concussions and other types of brain injuries are an issue for U.S. service members too. Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army chief of staff, was to participate in the summit.

The National Football League is committing \$25 million over the next three years to promote youth sports safety.

The NIH is undertaking a new re-

search effort on the chronic effects of repetitive concussions, work supported by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health through an initial investment of \$16 million from the NFL.

With a \$10 million investment from Steve Tisch, UCLA will launch a program named for the New York Giants co-owner to target sports concussion prevention, outreach, research and treatment for athletes of all ages, but especially youth. The money will also support planning for a national system to determine the incidence of youth sports concussions. The Institute of Medicine report had called for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to establish and oversee such a system.

Pop Warner Little Scholars, a private youth league, will participate in a research project that tracks concussions and concussion trends in high school sports.

After Obama opens the summit with remarks, Fox Sports reporter Pam Oliver was scheduled to moderate a panel discussion that includes Odierno. In the afternoon, Obama planned to participate in sports drills on the South Lawn with kids from local YMCA programs.

Obama said in a 2013 interview with the New Republic that football may

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City Dodgeball Champs



Hanson Briggs Ballz Of Fury won the Yankton Parks & Rec coed dodgeball tournament title. Team members include (front) Danny Koletzky, Steph Anderson, Crystal Gemar, (middle) Barb Hanson, (back) Matt Hanson, Travis Pokorney, Keshia Shelburg, Lance Gemar, Jessica Albers, Zack Weiss and Dusty Koletzky.

Women's CWS Opens Today

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Women's College World Series used to seem more like the West Coast Invitational, with multiple entrants from the Pacific-12 Conference and Golden State squads such as California State-Fullerton and Fresno State frequenting the fields.

But if the bracket this year for the NCAA softball championship is any indication, the era of Pac-12 and West Coast domination of the sport might be nearing an end. For the first time since 1986, only one Pac-12 team — top-seeded Oregon — is in the field for the eight-team event that begins Thursday.

Instead of longtime softball stalwarts Arizona, Arizona State, Washington and California, teams such as Louisiana-Lafayette, Florida,

Oklahoma and Alabama are becoming tournament regulars. Programs like Kentucky now are capable of traveling to third-seeded UCLA — softball's gold standard, with 11 national titles — and winning, which the Wildcats did twice Sunday to qualify for the WCWS.

Every coach with a team at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium thinks that's a good thing, including the one guiding the lone Pac-12 survivor.

"First off, I'm glad to be the one," Oregon coach Mike White quipped. "That tells you about the parity of the game right now. It's great for the game. A rising tide lifts all boats. The better everyone gets, the better this game gets. The more attention it

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