

# Coyote Golfers Head West For NCAA Regional



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN BERRY/IUPUI

The University of South Dakota men's golf team poses with the Summit League banner after winning the Summit League Championship on Sunday. The Coyotes advance to NCAA Region competition, May 14-16 in Bremerton, Wash. It is the Coyotes' first appearance at a NCAA regional meet since 2003 and first at the Division I level.

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Before making the short drive to the airport for a flight home, coach Nick Hovden gathered his golfers together in a California hotel room early Monday morning. Not for a film session or a rah-rah speech.

No, the Coyotes had a vested interest in the NCAA Division I men's golf selection show.

A day earlier, Hovden's group captured its first Summit League championship in a comeback effort, earning the program a berth in the NCAA Regional Championship – its first regional appearance since 2003 and first at the D-I level.

"It really hasn't hit yet," Hovden said by phone Monday night, as he was driving back into Vermillion.

As they watched the

selection show on the Golf Channel, the Coyotes learned they will be one of 14 schools competing in the Bremerton, Washington, regional on May 14-16.

"It was surreal to see the University of South Dakota up there with all those big schools," Hovden said.

Much like the USD women's basketball witnessed during its NCAA Tournament selection show a year ago, the golfers saw "South Dakota" appear on the screen next to some of the nation's prestigious schools – with the likes of South Carolina, Washington, USC, Baylor, Iowa State and Michigan.

Such company might have meant pressure for the Coyotes, but instead, they're relishing the opportunity, Hovden said.

"They're ready," he said. "We've got nothing to lose." It was a similar mindset

the previous three days for USD at the Summit League tournament in Lompoc, California.

The Coyotes entered the third and final day of action Sunday 11 shots behind leader Oral Roberts and two shots behind second-place Oral Roberts. Eleven shots in one day. That wasn't exactly a position where the Coyotes could be thinking championship, unless everything went their way.

"We did a great job executing our game plan which was to stay patient," Hovden said. "All we wanted to do was put ourselves in position to make a move that last day."

Yet, that's exactly what happened.

The Coyotes shot a tournament-best 292 on Sunday and made the full comeback by edging Oral Roberts by

USD GOLF | PAGE 14

## USD's NFL Connection Rolls On

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Steve Tellefsen was lucky he had his cell phone handy. The former University of South Dakota cornerback was laying on his couch at home in southern Florida, anxious to watch Saturday night's NBA playoff game between the Los Angeles Clippers and San Antonio Spurs.

Thirty seconds into the game, Tellefsen's phone rang. It was a representative from the NFL's Minnesota Vikings, with an offer for Tellefsen to sign as an undrafted free agent.

"My mind went a thousand places," Tellefsen recalled Monday. "I can't even remember the whole phone call, I was just so happy."

Tellefsen wasn't the only former Coyote to get a similar call over the weekend, however. Offensive tackle Matt Huffer signed a free agent contract with the Atlanta Falcons.

What exactly was said in Tellefsen's brief chat with the Vikings, he's not sure.

"The only thing I remember was Chris Paul's game-winning shot," he joked, referring to the Clippers' win in game seven of the series.

Tellefsen spent two seasons at USD after transferring from Arizona Western College. As a senior with the Coyotes last fall, he recorded 26 tackles, one interception and a forced fumble.

As he saw with previous teammates Tyler Starr and Tom Compton who went through the NFL Draft process, Tellefsen realized the audition phase would take months.

"It's a long process," he said. "Every day, you're working out, trying to do the best you can by the time your pro day comes, and then it's a waiting game."

Tellefsen, like Huffer, competed at a pro day March 25 in Brookings. A scout from the Vikings talked to Tellefsen that day, and "said some positive things."

"I was just hoping that would stick," Tellefsen said. "By God's will, it did."

Huffer, an Iowa native, started 34 consecutive games at left tackle for USD before an injury late last season. He helped lead a Coyote offense that averaged 166 rushing yards and 189 passing yards during the 2014 season.

Tellefsen and Huffer were far from the only regional players to receive calls from NFL organizations.

South Dakota State had three players sign as undrafted free agents. Defensive end Jack Sherlock and safety Melvin Taveras signed with Minnesota, while running back Zach Zenner agreed to terms with the Detroit Lions.

The Missouri Valley Football Conference produced four players that were taken in the draft: Northern Iowa's David Johnson, North Dakota State's Kyle Emanuel, Illinois State's James O'Shaughnessy and Missouri State's MyCole Pruitt.

The signings of Tellefsen and Huffer brings USD's total number of players drafted or signed by NFL teams to five in the last year.

A year ago, Starr was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons, while Jarrid Bryant (St. Louis Rams) was signed as an undrafted free agent

USD-NFL | PAGE 14

## Golf | Pre-Regions 3B & 4B

# Courses Prep For State



Regions 3B and 4B held their Pre-Region golf tournaments on Monday in Yankton. The events were held concurrently, with boys at Fox Run and girls at Hillcrest, but were scored as separate region events. Both regions will play here, 4B on Friday and 3B on Monday, May 11, to qualify for state, May 18-19 in Yankton.

ABOVE: Scotland's Maggie Fiscel connects on a shot on the No. 1 fairway during Monday's Pre-Region 4B girls' golf tournament at Hillcrest Golf & CC in Yankton. (Jeremy Hoeck/P&D)

BELOW: Canistota's Drew Seubert stares down a putt on the No. 1 green during a Pre-Region golf event on Monday at Fox Run in Yankton. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)

RIGHT: Bon Homme's Alec Johnson puts on the No. 2 green during a Pre-Region golf event on Monday at Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)



BY JEREMY HOECK &  
JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
sports@yankton.net

With the South Dakota State Class B boys' and girls' golf championships coming to Yankton in two weeks, Fox Run PGA Golf Pro Kevin Doby didn't mind a practice round – just like the other golfers who came to Yankton on Monday.

The teams from Regions 3B and 4B held a concurrent Pre-Region meet on Monday, with boys at Fox Run and girls at Hillcrest Golf and Country Club, just as they will be when the state tournament is held May 18-19.

"All tournaments have their surprises," Doby said. "But if we can have a dry run, it helps."

Both Regions will hold their tournaments in Yankton as well, 4B on Friday and 3B on Monday, May 11. The idea of holding the Pre-Region tournaments together did not come until later.

"We came up with the idea last week, said Tom Cooney, the Region 4B chair and Andes Central-Dakota Christian golf coach. "We ran it by our coaches, and they agreed that it would be a good idea."

The tournaments were scored separately, with Bon Homme and Canistota winning boys' titles, and Burke-South Central and Bridgewater-Emery winning girls' crowns.

Over at Hillcrest for the girls' division, scores were a little higher than normal, partly because many of the golfers weren't used to the trees at the course.

Scotland sophomore Maggie Fiscel, the defending state champion, shot a 91 to finish first overall, but said later her round only fuels the fire more for Friday's region tournament.

"I think it's a good opportunity for me to do well," Fiscel said. "This round is behind me, and I'll do better. "I'll have more motivation."

The low boys' score between the two regions was posted by Bon Homme's Alec Johnson with a 77. Drew Seubert of Canistota had the low round among Region 4B teams and the second-best score overall with a 79.

Monday's rounds and the region competitions on the state tournament courses will only help the teams from

REGIONS | PAGE 15

# Tennis: Bucks Split, Vermillion Drops Two At Mitchell

MITCHELL – The Yankton Bucks tennis team improved to 10-4 on the season after a 1-1 effort Monday at a quadrangular in Mitchell. Yankton faced Pierre and Mitchell, but did not play Vermillion.

In the Bucks' 6-3 victory over Pierre, Luke Rockne (flight one), Hunter Rockne (three), Paul Fanta (four) and Nate List (five) won their singles matches. The Rockne brothers won their flight one doubles match, while Shindler and Fanta also won in doubles.

Mitchell then swept the Bucks 9-0.

The Vermillion Tangers dropped both of their matches, losing to Mitchell 6-3 and Pierre 7-2. The bright spot for Vermillion, though, was the flight one doubles tandem of Jacob Ford and Sam Craig, who teamed up to win both of their matches. Ford also picked up a flight one singles win against Pierre.

Yankton returns to action today

(Tuesday) at Sioux Falls Lincoln.

YANKTON 6, PIERRE 3

SINGLES: Luke Rockne Y def. Connor Shoop 10-6; Kaden Hight P def. Jason Shindler 10-6; Hunter Rockne Y def. Patrick Bollinger 10-2; Paul Fanta Y def. Payton Jones 10-2; Nate List Y def. Jace Wernsmann 10-4; Chris Rae P def. Ethan Klimisch 10-5

DOUBLES: Rockne-Rockne Y def. Shoop-Hight 10-8; Shindler-Fanta Y def. Bollinger-Jones 10-7; Wernsmann-Rae M def. List-Klimisch 11-10 (10-2)

JV: Tanner Dykstra-Ben Mooney Y def. Smith-Warne 10-6

MITCHELL 9, YANKTON 0

SINGLES: Jacob Cersosimo M def. Luke Rockne 10-7; Beau Brown M def. Jason Shindler 10-2; Alex Hegg M def. Hunter Rockne 10-4; Kanin Nelson M def. Paul Fanta 10-1; Brenden Lehr M def. Nate List 10-0; Jacob Dahme M def. Ethan Klimisch 10-2

DOUBLES: Cersosimo-Hegg M def. Rockne-Rockne 10-0; Brown-Nelson M def. Shindler-Fanta 10-6; Lehr-Dahme M def. List-Klimisch 10-1

JV: Gray Determan M def. Ben Mooney 8-0; Carter Cavanaugh M def. Tanner Dykstra 8-1

MITCHELL 6, VERMILLION 3

SINGLES: Adam Loes M def. Jacob Ford 11-10 (8-6); Jared Suel-flow M def. Sam Craig 10-7; Ryan Styles V def. Kyle Jamison 10-10 (7-2); Baley Miller M def. Tim Ellison 10-1; Alex Bergeson M def. Daniel Robinson 10-1; David Wang V def. Garret Johnson 10-10 (7-4)

DOUBLES: Ford-Craig V def. Loes-Jamison 10-5; Suel-flow-Miller M def. Styles-Ellison 10-2; Bergeson-Johnson M def. Robinson-Wang (score not provided)

PIERRE 7, VERMILLION 2

SINGLES: Jacob Ford V def. Jake Ryndon 10-2; Kaden Hight P def. Sam Craig 10-3; Patrick Bollinger P def. Ryan Styles 10-4; Payton Jones P def. Tim Ellison 10-2; Jace Wernsmann P def. Daniel Robinson 10-3; Chris Rae P def. David Wang 10-3

DOUBLES: Ford-Craig V def. Ryndon-Hight 10-8; Bollinger-Jones P def. Styles-Ellison 10-1; Wernsmann-Rae P def. Robinson-Wang 10-4



BROOKE CERSOSIMO/MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLIC  
Yankton's Luke Rockne competes in a boys' tennis quadrangular on Monday in Mitchell. Yankton went 1-1 on the day.