

# USD Men's Basketball Program Gains Another Commit

BY JEREMY HOECK

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A breakout performance at the Iowa state boys' basketball tournament ultimately helped vault Tyler Borchers from an NAIA recruit to an NCAA Division I recruit.

Borchers, a 6-foot-7 post from LeMars, Iowa, verbally committed Monday to play basketball at the University of South Dakota after a

visit to the Vermillion campus.

"It's an amazing program, it's really on the rise," Borchers said in a phone interview Tuesday. "I'm pretty excited."

Borchers had previously signed with Morningside College back in March, but after a breakout state tournament (he had 35 points and 19 rebounds in a semifinal win) in which he guided LeMars to the state championship game, Borchers

opened his recruiting back up.

"It's crazy how a few good weeks can change everything," he said.

The prospect of playing at the highest level and having a chance to someday play in the NCAA Tournament was too enticing to pass up, Borchers added.

"Playing Division I basketball has always been a dream of mine," he said.

Borchers, who committed as a

walk-on, becomes the fourth addition to USD's 2015 recruiting class. He joins fellow high school commits Tyler Hagedorn (Norfolk, Neb.) and Dan Jech (Rochester, Minn.), along with Iowa transfer Trey Dickerson.

By the time Borchers begins his second season (2016-17) with the Coyotes, he and his teammates will be playing in a brand new 6,000-seat arena.

"It looks great, they showed me

all the photos of what it will look like," said Borchers, who admitted that the arena wasn't a huge factor in his decision.

As far as what he brings to the table for USD?

"My work ethic, definitely," he said. "I always give it my all."

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# Yoder Making Up For Lost Time

BY JEREMY HOECK

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FREEMAN – Hannah Yoder has made up for lost time in a big way.

The Freeman Academy junior is healed from a foot injury and has developed into one of the state's top Class B sprinters. And probably quicker than she could have anticipated a year ago.

"I didn't know what to expect," Yoder said at Tuesday's Don Diede Relays in Freeman. "But it's definitely been better than I thought."

Yoder missed the entire track season last spring with a right foot injury – nobody, not even specialists, were sure what it was. "We thought it was better that I play it safe," she said.

The time away from the sport – although she was still around the program last spring – has given her a new perspective.

"I love being able to run again," Yoder said. "I'm realizing how much I love it and how much I missed it."

It's with that passion that Yoder has vaulted herself into the place-at-state discussion.

She has already qualified for state in the 100-meter dash (season-best time of 12.4) and 200-meter dash (26.9), which was "on my list of goals for the season," she said. Yoder also competes in Freeman Academy's sprint medley relay that has also qualified for state.

Although she admits track isn't her first love (volleyball would probably take the top spot), Yoder said she was persuaded at a young age to give the sport a try. She has an older brother, Noah, who ran track for Freeman Academy.

"So it wasn't exactly an option for me," Yoder said, smiling. "But now I'm glad I stuck with it."

Freeman Academy's state-qualifying medley relay proves that the Bobcats are talented enough in the 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash and 800-meter run to be successful.

"My friends like to say that every race I'm in, we can win," Yoder said. "I don't know if I believe them."

The main question now for Yoder is, how will she fare at the state meet?

Yoder's best time of the season in the 100 would have beaten the entire field at last year's state Class B meet. The champion, Macy Heinz of Ipswich, clocked a 12.51 for the title.

"I'm not sure what to expect there, honestly," Yoder said. "It'll be exciting to see how it goes, but it won't be easy."

## Schmidt Eyes State Record

Even battling a sore right hamstring, Freeman senior Brennan Schmidt was still able to clock a sub-50.0 in the



ABOVE: Freeman's Brennan Schmidt jumps out of the blocks to start the boys' 400-meter dash at Tuesday's Don Diede Relays in Freeman.

BELOW: Freeman Academy's Hannah Yoder holds her championship T-shirt on the awards podium at Tuesday's Don Diede Relays in Freeman.

400-meter dash on Tuesday.

And yet, that's not his best time of the season.

Schmidt, a University of South Dakota recruit, continued his assault of the state record in the 400 by running a 48.5 at the Don Diede Relays. His best time of the season is 48.5, which is just shy of the state record of 47.8, set by Larry Miller of Freeman Academy in 1982.

The 400, though, is far from the only event Schmidt is excelling at this spring. He has also run solid times in the 100-meter dash (10.9), 200-meter dash (22.3) and 800-meter run (2:00.1).

"I've been putting in my work at practice but not over-working myself," Schmidt said Tuesday. "I'm just trying to stay in good shape."

The ultimate goal for Schmidt and his Flyers teammates is putting together another top-5 finish at state. Freeman took third in Class B a year ago.

"I'm hoping we can put enough points on the board to get a team championship," Schmidt said. "We have guys doing some great things, but we'll see what happens at state."

## Wixon Improving

A year ago, Centerville's Nick Wixon finished 16<sup>th</sup> out of 17 runners in the 3200-meter run at the state meet, and didn't qualify in the 1600-meter run.

Now a senior, Wixon hopes to change that.

He has clocked a season-best time of 4:48.0 in the 1600 and has also progressed in the 3200, he said Tuesday.

"I've definitely improved a lot," said Wixon, who was in the 5-minute range in the mile a year ago.

"It's been a fun season."

Wixon ran a 4:50.14 to win the 1600-meter run at the Don Diede Relays, but came up just short of the state qualifying standard of 4:39.7.

"I thought I'd qualify," said Wixon, who has signed to run for Mount Marty College. "But my third lap was a little slow."

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## Area Athletes Shine At Don Diede Meet

FREEMAN – Although the Mount Vernon-Plankinton girls and Corsica-Stickney boys won the team titles, a number of area athletes had successful days at the Don Diede Relays on Tuesday in Freeman.

Mount Vernon-Plankinton, a Class A school, was first in the girls' division with 199 total points. Hanson was a distant second at 77, three points ahead of Irene-Wakonda and four ahead of Gayville-Volin.

The hometown Freeman Flyers won four events, with two meet records. Rebecca Eberts won the 3200-meter run (12:52.71), while the Flyers also set meet records in the 3200 relay (10:05.85) and medley relay (4:22.87), and were first in the 1600 relay (4:15.53).

Gayville-Volin won three events, as Laura Nelson was the champion in the 1600-meter run (5:30.77). Ashley Emmick won the pole vault (8-3) and Traia Hubbard was first in the discus (112-10).

Freeman Academy's Hannah Yoder won the 100-meter dash (12.49) and teammate Clara Koerner won the 800-meter run (2:28.62).

Irene-Wakonda's Lauren Sokolowski had the best time in the 100 hurdles (15.49).

In the boys' division, Corsica-Stickney was first overall with 113 total points. Centerville was second at 76, two points ahead of Mount Vernon-Plankinton and three ahead of Bridgewater-Emerly.

Freeman had three first-place finishes, as Brennan Schmidt set a meet record in the 400-meter dash (48.67), and the Flyers had the best times in the 400 relay (44.81) and 1600 relay (3:29.1).

For Centerville, Nick Wixon won the 1600-meter run (4:50.14), Tyrell Martz won the pole vault (11-9) and Christian Gruschin had the best mark in the discus (149-7). Viborg-Hurley's Logan Hansen won the 800-meter run (2:09.5), and the Cougars also won the medley relay (3:57.14).

In other area finishes, Freeman Academy's Ryan Haggerty was first in the 3200-meter run (10:57.12), Irene-Wakonda's Gabe King won the triple jump (39-0) and Menno's Austin Handel was the champion in the shot put (48-4.5).

## Beresford Lions Club

BERESFORD – The Canton girls and West Central boys easily captured the team titles at Tuesday's Beresford Lions Club Meet in Beresford.

Canton won the girls' title with 220 total points, well ahead of West Central (122). Beresford, Elk Point-Jefferson and Alcester-Hudson were the three area teams competing.

In area finishes, Elk Point-Jefferson's Josie Heeren won the 400-meter dash (1:01.02) and 800-meter run (2:25.31), while Alcester-Hudson's Kendra Jensen won the 1600-meter run (5:49.33).

The boys' division was closer, but West Central – 193 points – still easily won the title over second-place Beres-

TRACK | PAGE 10

# Pats Down Summit League Softball: Eight Coyotes Honored

## Bucks 8-1

SIoux FALLS – Sioux Falls Lincoln downed Yankton 8-1 in boys' tennis action on Tuesday.

The lone victory for Yankton came at flight two doubles, where Paul Fanta and Jason Shindler battled past Lincoln's Austin Noldner and Dylan Wald for a 6-2, 1-6 (10-4) victory. The win pushed the duo to 11-2 on the season.

Hunter Rockne pushed Noldner to a tiebreaker in flight three singles, dropping a 6-1, 1-6, (10-8) match.

Next up for Yankton, 11-5, is a quad-rangular at Brookings on Saturday.

**SINGLES:** Kaleb Dobbs L def. Tanner Dykstra 6-0, 6-0; Sam Dobbs L def. Jason Shindler 6-2, 6-4; Austin Noldner L def. Hunter Rockne 6-1, 1-6, (10-8); Graham Leonard L def. Paul Fanta 6-3, 6-0; Erik Rossing L def. Nate List 6-1, 6-2; Dylan Wald L def. Ethan Klimisch 6-0, 6-3

**DOUBLES:** Dobbs-Dobbs L def. Rockne-Dykstra 6-0, 6-0; Fanta-Shindler Y def. Noldner-Wald 6-1, 1-6, (10-4); Rossing-Aidan DeBoer L def. List-Klimisch 6-1, 6-1

**JV:** Akshay Choudhry L def. Ben Mooney 6-2, 6-1

## USD Puts Three On First Team, Five On Second Team

FARGO, N.D. – Three members of the University of South Dakota softball team earned First-Team All-Summit League honors as the league announced its post-season awards Tuesday evening.

Catcher Allie Daly, first baseman Yvon Minogue and outfielder Katie Dinning were each named to the first team for USD.

Minogue set a Summit League records with 26 doubles and 87 hits, batting .481 with nine home runs and 38 RBI. Daly batted .398 with 13 home runs and a team-best 57 RBI. Dinning finished at .352 with 10 home runs and 10 RBI, as well as a team-best eight stolen bases.

Five Coyotes were named to the second team: pitchers Rachel Cue and Madison Frain, shortstop Matley Jones, and outfielders Katie

Cochran and Morgan Hancock. Frain went 12-10 with a 4.36 earned run average, striking out 58 batters in 136 1/3 innings. Cue went 11-12, striking out 89 batters in 146 1/3 innings. Jones batted .404 with 55 RBI and a team-best 14 home runs. Hancock batted .322 with seven home runs and 24 RBI. Cochran batted .312 with six home runs and 27 RBI.

USD finished second in the Summit League regular season standings, going 26-23-1 overall and 13-4 in league play.

Cheyenne Garcia of North Dakota State was selected as Player of the Year while teammate Krista Menke earned her second career Pitcher of the Year award. Omaha's Megan May was named the league's Freshman of the Year and NDSU head coach Darren Mueller was voted Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

Garcia finished the season in the league's top five in batting average (.416), slugging percentage (.753), home runs (13), RBI (51),

runs (60), hits (69), doubles (15), stolen bases (19) and total bases (125). The junior second baseman also finished the regular season ranked tenth in the NCAA with 1.22 runs per game.

Menke was named Summit League Pitcher of the Week a record nine times this season. She tossed four no-hitters, including one perfect game, on her way to winning 29 games and moving one win shy of tying the league's career win record of 93. Her 339 strikeouts are best in the league and second in the NCAA. The senior reached double-figure strikeouts in 21 games this season and moved into third place on the league's all-time strikeout list.

In her freshman season, May put up a league batting average of .342 to go along with five home runs and 24 RBI. The Lincoln, Neb., native posted five 3-RBI games for the Mavericks and had a .979 fielding percentage at first base.

In his 14th season at the helm, Mueller guided his team to its

fourth straight regular-season title and fifth in school history. His squad posted a 16-2 league record and an overall mark of 40-9, the program's highest number of wins since transitioning to Division I.

North Dakota State and South Dakota each placed eight on the all-league teams, most in the league, with NDSU having a league-high five first-team selections.

The 2015 Summit League Softball Championship begins on Wednesday as No. 4 Western Illinois faces No. 5 South Dakota State at 3 p.m. and No. 3 IUPUI meets No. 6 Fort Wayne at 5:30 p.m. CT. After earning first round byes, No. 1 seed and host North Dakota State takes on the winner of Western Illinois/South Dakota State on Thursday, at noon CT and No. 2 South Dakota awaits the winner of IUPUI/Fort Wayne at 2:30 p.m. CT. Double elimination play continues through Saturday's championship game at the Ellig Sports Complex.