

# PRESS&DAKOTAN

## DAILY DOSE

Opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and pro sports.



**BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK**  
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When I moved to Yankton and to Mount Marty College nearly 25 years ago, I was a shy small-town kid trying to act like neither. I had my plan figured out: teaching math and coaching basketball. One of my freshmen courses was, of course, English composition (or whatever the freshmen English course was called). My professor, S. Cynthia Binder, pulled me in to her office after about a month and suggested I go visit the school newspaper's sports staff to ask if they need help. I never considered myself a writer, and until that semester I had not gotten and 'A' in English since the eighth grade. (Though I will credit/blame my hard-nosed high school English teacher for that. She may not have given many 'A's' but I bet a lot of us got them in college). I honestly didn't have much interest in the writing process at all — it was just something that needed to be done when school required it. I did not get to take literature from S. Cynthia, as she was on sabbatical that semester, but I did take it from Jamie Sullivan, the student newspaper advisor at the time, who helped build on those thoughts about being a writer.

## Sister Cynthia: Thanks For Changing My Plans

A year later Sullivan gave my name to the sports editor of the local newspaper, and writing sports for the paper sounded more fun than delivering pizzas, which was my off-campus job at the time. A semester later, I changed my major to mass communications. Even after I switched my major, S. Cynthia convinced me to do a little tutoring in math, helping inmates at the state prison work release camp at the Human Services Center prepare for their GED. I wasn't able to do that for a long time due to job conflicts, but that was a rewarding experience as well. While I was not one, S. Cynthia also opened many students' eyes by leading educational trips to Europe. I don't believe I ever met anyone who did not appreciate that educational opportunity, or what she put into it. S. Cynthia is stepping away from MMC's faculty this year, ending a 57-year run at the institution. I am sure I am one of many alumni who take this moment to say, "Thank you" for opening our eyes to the world, whether it be the one around us or the one within ourselves. On top of that, I'd like to say "Thank You" for changing the plan I had for my life. I'd have to say that the opportunity you drew me to has been worth it.

## MMC Wins 3200 Relay At Seward

**SEWARD, Neb.** — The Mount Marty College track and field team earned one title and one runner-up finish in the Concordia Twilight meet on Friday in Seward, Nebraska. The foursome of Caitlin Davis, Jordyn Hudelson, Berkley Reiveld and Mandi O'Malley clocked a 9:43.34 to win the women's 3200 relay. For the Lancer men, Joshua Monson finished second in the 5,000-meter run, clocking a 16:19.81. Also for MMC, Jordan Houdek finished 12th in the 400 (52.36), William Lawrence placed 13th in the 400 hurdles (1:12.05) and Christian Petrich placed 13th in the 1,500 (4:21.84). MMC has qualified two women and one man for the NAIA Outdoor Track and Field championships, scheduled for later this month. Monson is qualified in the men's marathon. Abbey VanDenBerg is qualified in the triple jump. Allison Cross is qualified in the shot put.

## Minogue Shares SL Athlete Of Month Honors

**ELMHURST, Ill.** — South Dakota's Yvon Minogue and North Dakota State's Krista Menke shared Summit League Female Athlete of the Month honors for the month of April. Minogue records her first career accolade after battling .538 (35-of-65) during the month as South Dakota had a 13-5 record. She collected a hit in all but three games, including 13 multi-hit contests. She was a perfect 4-for-4 with a double and two runs scored at Creighton on April 8 and went 3-for-3 with a home run, double, three RBI and three runs on April 12 at Fort Wayne. She also added four other three-hit games in April at Creighton (April 8), vs. Omaha (April 17), at North Dakota (April 28) and vs. Kansas City (April 30). For the month, the junior first baseman had a .954 slugging percentage and .583 on base percentage with 22 runs scored, 17 RBI, seven doubles, six home runs and a triple. She added seven walks and just three strikeouts.

She also broke The Summit League single-season records for hits (87) and doubles (26) during the month and currently ranks second and first, respectively, in the nation. Her .481 batting average this season is fifth nationally. Menke tossed a perfect game and four no-hitters for the Bison in April to earn her first Athlete of the Month award.

## Daly Named To CoSIDA Academic All-District Team

**VERMILLION** — South Dakota senior Allie Daly was voted to the Capital One Academic All-District 6 softball team as selected by College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). She is one of two Summit League players to be named to an All-District team. A native of Sioux Falls, Daly maintains a 3.68 grade point average while working towards a degree in psychology with post-graduate plans to pursue physical therapy. Daly enters the Summit League Tournament batting .398 with 13 home runs. She's recorded

57 RBIs to lead the league this season and rank 30th nationally. She ranks fourth in home runs and slugging percentage, and has the seventh-best average due in part to her current 17-game hitting streak. Daly's 41 career home runs are the second-most in Summit League history. The lone catcher on the all-league first team, Daly also leads the Summit League on defense. She has thrown out 19 runners this season. Daly is the first Coyote to be named to a CoSIDA Academic All-District team since South Dakota alumna and former assistant coach Tagney Jones in 2009. Jones was also named an Academic All-American that year.

## Johnson Earns USF Volleyball Honors

**SIoux FALLS** — Platte native Emily Johnson was named both "Most Valuable Performer" and "Best Attacker" for the University of Sioux Falls volleyball program, which announced recently announced its team awards. Johnson, who had a team-best 3.32 kills per set average, was named NSIC All-League second team for the second straight year. Since USF's move to DII in 2012, Johnson has been an outstanding outside hitter as she finished her career with 1,094 kills, and 694 digs, which are both DII school records. Counting her totals in 2011 (transition year to DII), Johnson accumulated 1,545 kills (471, 210) and 1,024 digs (377, 2011). She also owns the school record in aces with 95 (139 overall, 44 in 2011). In 2014, Johnson registered a school record (DII) 398 kills and has three of the top four totals (391, 2013; 305, 2012) all-time with fellow senior Kate Hart, third all-time with her 365 kills this season. In 2014, Johnson also led the team in with a .231 attack percentage and was second in aces (30) and digs (270). USF went 17-14 in 2014, recording a program-best 11 wins in Northern Sun Intercollegiate play (11-9).

## SCOREBOARD

**GOLF**

**REGION 4B**  
May 8 at Yankton

**GIRLS' DIVISION**  
HILLTOPPER & COUNTY CLUB  
TEAM SCORES: Burke-South Central 315, Scotland 324, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 346, Platte-Geddes 347, Ethan 387, Tripp-Delmont 391

STATE QUALIFIERS: 1, Maggie Fisel, Scotland 84; 2, Taylee Indahl, Burke-South Central 98; 3, Niki Nelson, Platte-Geddes 100; 4, Tressa Bull, Burke-South Central 106; 5, Kristina Hlavac, Scotland 107; 6, Kaylin Bohr, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 109; 7, Brooke Deurner, Andes Central-Dakota Christian 110; 8, Hannah Karbo, Burke-South Central 111; 9, Makenzie Karst, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 112; 10, Becca Lehmann, Andes Central-Dakota Christian 116; 11, Payton Schaefer, Tripp-Delmont 118; 12, Mariah VanZee, Platte-Geddes 121; 13, Jenae Gustafson, Ethan 122; 14, Shelby Vissia, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 125; 15, Ripley Schaefer, Tripp-Delmont 125

OTHER FINISHERS: 16, Savannah Boltes, Platte-Geddes 126; 17, Kaleigh Erdahl, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 126; 18, Kaley Feiner, Ethan 132; 19, Emily Stukel, Burke-South Central 132; 20, Ally Feiner, Ethan 133; 21, Katie Winkler, Scotland 133; 22, Kasey Koppal, Platte-Geddes 144; 23, Kaitlyn Schatz, Tripp-Delmont 148; Whitney Fuerst, Tripp-Delmont 167

**BOYS' DIVISION**  
At Fox Run Golf Course  
TEAM SCORES: Platte-Geddes 244, Bon Homme 256, Kimball-White Lake 275, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 294, Corsica-Stickney 298, Scotland 302, Gregory 310, Avon 316, Andes Central-Dakota Christian 322, Ethan 335, Burke-South Central 350

STATE QUALIFIERS: 1, Jayden Van Zee, Platte-Geddes 72; 2, Alec Johnson, Bon Homme 73; 3, J.J. Cooney, Andes Central-Dakota Christian 83; 4, Cotton Pfoester, Platte-Geddes 85; 5, Davon Munsen, Kimball-White Lake 87; 6, Tyler Hoffman, Platte-Geddes 88; 7, JJ Beck, Gregory 88; 8, Bobbi Beach-Pattison, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 88; 9, Tyler Kaul, Bon Homme 89; 10, Tanner Iwan, Scotland 90; 11, Cody Johnson, Platte-Geddes 90; 12, Jon Bakke, Gregory 91; 13, Andrew Roland, Bon Homme 94; 14, Tanner Blasius, Kimball-White Lake 94; 15, Lance Thiry, Kimball-White Lake 94; 16, Kyle Menning, Corsica-Stickney 96; 17, Jed Vissia, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 97

OTHER FINISHERS: 18, Carson Kostal, Corsica-Stickney 98; 19, Trajan Anderson, Kimball-White Lake 98; 20, Cade Fortuna, Gregory 99; 21, Cole Filiau, Avon 101; 22, Hunter Johnson, Corsica-Stickney 102; 23, John Kopp, Avon 102; 24, JR Wagner, Scotland 102; 25, Reed Gerlach, Ethan 103; 26, Carter Libs, Bon Homme 108; 27, Darrin Witt, Burke-South Central 109; 28, Connor Spinar, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 109; 29, Chabul Hall, Scotland 110; 30, Zach Clausen, Ethan 112; 31, Kaden Karst, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 112; 32, Tyler Kopp, Avon 113; 33, Noah Schaefer, Tripp-Delmont-Armour 114; 34, Willie Bentz, Burke-South Central 114; 35, Slater Brodeen, Avon 114; 36, Xavier Marshall, Andes Central-Dakota Christian 115; 37, Clayton Haykin, Burke-South Central 118; 38, Nick Houston, Ethan 120; 39, Gavin Zomer, Corsica-Stickney 121; 40, Graham Thomas, Gregory 123; 41, Dall Drey, Burke-South Central 123; 42, Micah Mitchell, Andes Central-Dakota Christian 124; 43, Luke Kameignik, Andes Central-Dakota Christian 124

**Sunday, May 10**  
IF NECESSARY: 3:30 p.m.

W	L	Pct	GB
19	11	.633	—
18	11	.621	1/2
17	13	.567	2
10	18	.357	6 1/2

**West Division**

Houston	19	10	.655	—
Los Angeles	13	16	.448	6
Texas	12	17	.414	7
Oakland	12	18	.400	7 1/2
Seattle	11	17	.393	7 1/2

**THURSDAY'S GAMES**  
N.Y. Yankees 6, Oakland 5  
Kansas City 7, Cleveland 4  
Detroit 4, Chicago White Sox 1  
N.Y. Yankees 4, Baltimore 3  
Texas 5, Tampa Bay 4  
Houston 3, L.A. Angels 2

**Friday's Games**  
N.Y. Yankees 5, Baltimore 4  
Toronto 7, Boston 0  
Detroit 6, Kansas City 5  
Minnesota 9, Cleveland 3  
Tampa Bay 8, Texas 2  
Cincinnati at Chicago, ppd., rain  
Houston at L.A. Angels, 10:05 p.m.  
Oakland at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

**Saturday's Games**  
Baltimore (Chen 0-1), at N.Y. Yankees (Whitely 1-0), 12:05 p.m.  
Boston (J.Kelly 1-1) at Toronto (Hutchison 2-0), 12:07 p.m.  
Kansas City (Fulthrie 1-2) at Detroit (An.Sanchez 2-3), 12:08 p.m.  
Cincinnati (Undecided) at Chicago White Sox (Undecided), 3:10 p.m., 1st game  
Minnesota (P.Hughes 1-4) at Cleveland (B.Chen 0-0), 3:10 p.m.  
Texas (Detwiler 0-3) at Tampa Bay (Odozizz 3-2), 5:10 p.m.  
Houston at L.A. Angels, 2:35 p.m.  
White Sox (Rodon 0-0), 6:40 p.m., 2nd game  
Houston (Keuchel 3-0) at L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 2-2), 8:05 p.m.  
Oakland (Hahn 1-2) at Seattle (Happ 2-1), 8:10 p.m.

**Sunday's Games**  
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, 12:05 p.m.  
Boston at Toronto, 12:07 p.m.  
Minnesota at Cleveland, 12:10 p.m.  
Texas at Tampa Bay, 12:10 p.m.  
Cincinnati at Chicago White Sox, 1:10 p.m.  
Houston at L.A. Angels, 2:35 p.m.  
Oakland at Seattle, 3:10 p.m.  
Kansas City at Detroit, 7:05 p.m.

**BASKETBALL**

**NBA PLAYOFFS**  
CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS  
Tuesday, May 5  
Atlanta 106, Washington 90, series tied 1-1  
Miami 97, Golden State 90, series tied 1-1  
Wednesday, May 6  
Cleveland 106, Chicago 91  
Houston 115, L.A. Clippers 89, series tied 1-1  
Friday, May 8  
Chicago 99, Cleveland 96, Chicago leads series 2-1  
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday, May 9**  
Atlanta at Washington, 4 p.m.  
Golden State at Memphis, 7 p.m.  
Sunday, May 10  
Cleveland at Chicago, 2:30 p.m.  
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.

**HOKEY**  
**SECOND ROUND**  
Tuesday, May 5  
Chicago 1, Anaheim 3  
Calgary 4, Minnesota 3, OT, Anaheim leads series 2-1  
Wednesday, May 6  
Tampa Bay 2, Montreal 1, Tampa Bay leads series 2-0  
Washington 2, N.Y. Rangers 1, Washington leads series 3-1  
Thursday, May 7  
Montreal 6, Tampa Bay 2, Tampa Bay leads series 3-1  
Chicago 4, Minnesota 3, Chicago wins series 4-0  
Friday, May 8  
N.Y. Rangers 2, Washington 1, OT, Washington leads series 3-2  
Anaheim at Calgary, 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 9**  
Tampa Bay at Montreal, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, May 10**  
N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 6 p.m.  
Calgary at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

**BASEBALL**

**BASEBALL, CLUB HS** Mitchell at Yankton (DH, 1 p.m.); PGDC/WLC at Todd County (2 p.m.)

**BASEBALL, CLUB 910** Sioux Falls Town (Yankton)

**SOFTBALL, GIRLS'** Brandon Town. (Yankton) Fryr Crush, Yankton Fury White

**TENNIS, BOYS'** YHS/Aberdeen Central/Huron at Brookings (10 a.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR** Nebraska Inv. (USD)

**TRACK & FIELD, PREP** Parker Booster Club Inv. (Centerville, Freeman, Marion, Parker, Viborg-Hurley, 10 a.m.); Platte-Geddes Inv. (Andes Central-Dakota Christian, Platte-Geddes, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Wagner, 10 a.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, MS** 65th Yankton Junior High Relays (YMS, 9 a.m.)

**BASEBALL, AMATEUR** Vermillion at Crofton Bluejays (7 p.m.)

**BASEBALL, CLUB HS** Turner-Hutch at Parkston (DH, 5 p.m.); Vermillion at Beresford-Centerville (6 p.m.)

**BASEBALL, CLUB 910** Sioux Falls Town. (Yankton)

**SOFTBALL, GIRLS'** Brandon Town. (Yankton) Fryr Crush, Yankton Fury White

**Monday, May 11**

**BASEBALL, CLUB HS** Yankton at S.F. Washington (6:30 p.m.); PGDC/WLC at Winner-Colome (5:30 p.m.)

**BASEBALL, CLUB JV** Yankton at S.F. Washington (7:30 p.m.)

**GOLF, BOYS'** S.D. Regions — 3B at Yankton (Alcester-Hudson, Centerville, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Parker, Viborg-Hurley); Highway 20 Inv. at Bassett-CC (Nobraska-Venture, 9 a.m.); Randolph Inv. (Bloomfield, Creighton, Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Hartington-Newcastle, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Randolph, Santies, 1 p.m.)

**GOLF, GIRLS'** S.D. Regions — 2A at Bakker Crossing, Sioux Falls (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Vermillion, 9 a.m.); 3A at Hillsview GC, Pierre (Parkston, Wagner); 3B at Yankton (Alcester-Hudson, Centerville, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Parker, Viborg-Hurley)

**TENNIS, BOYS'** YHS at S.F. Roosevelt (1 p.m.); YHS at S.F. O'Gorman (4 p.m.); Vermillion at S.F. Roosevelt

**TRACK & FIELD, PREP** Dell Rapids Inv. (Beresford, 2:30 p.m.)

Academy, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Parker, Viborg-Hurley); Highway 20 Inv. at Bassett-CC (Nobraska-Venture, 9 a.m.); Randolph Inv. (Bloomfield, Creighton, Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Hartington-Newcastle, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Randolph, Santies, 1 p.m.)

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**TRACK & FIELD, PREP** Dell Rapids Inv. (Beresford, 2:30 p.m.)

## AREA CALENDAR

**Saturday, May 9**

**BASEBALL, CLUB HS** Mitchell at Yankton (DH, 1 p.m.); PGDC/WLC at Todd County (2 p.m.)

**BASEBALL, CLUB 910** Sioux Falls Town (Yankton)

**SOFTBALL, GIRLS'** Brandon Town. (Yankton) Fryr Crush, Yankton Fury White

**TENNIS, BOYS'** YHS/Aberdeen Central/Huron at Brookings (10 a.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR** Nebraska Inv. (USD)

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**TRACK & FIELD, MS** 65th Yankton Junior High Relays (YMS, 9 a.m.)

**Sunday, May 10**

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**BASEBALL, CLUB 910** Sioux Falls Town. (Yankton)

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**TRACK & FIELD, PREP** Dell Rapids Inv. (Beresford, 2:30 p.m.)

day DL, retroactive to May 6. Activated C Drew Butera. Optioned C Francisco Pena to Omaha (PCL). Recalled RHP Yogi Pines from Omaha.

**LOS ANGELES ANGELS** — Optioned RHP Efran Navarro to Salt Lake (PCL). Selected the contract of RHP Ryan Matheus from Salt Lake.

**OAKLAND ATHLETICS** — Selected RHP Angel Castro from Nashville (PCL). Optioned RHP R.J. Alvarez to Nashville. Designated OF Alex Hassan for assignment. Traded RHP Chad Smith to the Los Angeles Angels for cash considerations.

**SEATTLE MARINERS** — Activated RHP Tom Wheelmen from 15-day DL. Optioned RHP Dominic Leone to Tacoma (PCL).

**ST. LOUIS BRUINS** — Reinstated RHP Chad Jenkins to Buffalo (IL). Recalled RHP Ryan Tepera from Buffalo.

Placed OF Anthony Vega on the inactive list.

**NATIONAL Football League**  
BALTIMORE RAIDERS — CB Rob Daniel, OT-G QUINTERRUS Eaton, CB Cody Fajardo, LB Jacoby Hale, S Jimmy Hall, WR Josh Harper, TE Gabe Holmes, RB Gus Johnson, S Tevin McDonald, RB Bryllon Mitchell, DT Leon Orr, S Terrell Pirtch, LB Shaw Shirley and WR Milton Williams

**PITTSBURGH STEELERS** — Signed DE Mark Glowinski, DE Obum Gwacham, S Ryan Murphy, OT Tenny Poole, DB Tye Smith, G Kristian Sokoli, LS Nate Boyer, OT Jesse Davis, DB Keenan Lambert, DB Ronald Martin, LB Quayshawn Nealy, RB Thomas Rawls, LB Alex Singleton, DE Tony Slater, RB Rod Smith and DE Tristan Wade. Signed CB Trevor Reed on a workout waiver.

**TENNESSEE TITANS** — Waived-injured TE Brent Brockett.

**WASHINGTON REDSKINS** — Signed OL Takhoy Cofield. Waived OT Xavier Nixon. Arena Football League ORLANDO PREDATORS — Signed QB Brian Zdyndewski and WR Julian Williams. Announced K Christian Reed was assigned to the team on an emergency basis.

**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** — Signed TE AJ Derby, DL Xzavier Dickson, DL Trey Flowers, OL Tre Jackson, OL Shaq Mason, DE Jordan Richards, DT Christian Ringo, FB Aaron Ripkowski and LB Jake Ryan, CB Bernard Black, WR Jake Johnson, QB Jerry Allen, RB Terrence Magee, P Justin Mantoni, S Nick Perry, OT Deondre Francois, CB Julian Wilson and WR Cam Williams.

**CLEVELAND BROWNS** — Signed DL Tyler Loebs, OL Darrian Miller, DE Ante Saunders and DL Dyrain Wyatt.

**DALLAS COWBOYS** — Signed DE Ryan Russell and LB Mark Nzeocha and OT Donald Hawkins. Released LB Donte Dequade and RHP Nick Sheppard.

**ATLANTIC LEAGUE**  
LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed C Dillon Haupt and RHP Nick Struck.

of OL Corey Hilliard. Signed DE Deion Barnes, DE Ryan Russell, RB Synjyn Days, WR George Farmer, WR Antwan Goodley, WR Deontay Greenberry, TE Ray Hamilton, WR Nick Hawke, Shane McDermott, G Daniel Quave, CB Joel Ross, S Tim Scott, OT Jamael Showers, S Ray Vinopal, WR Lucky Whitehead and CB Jason Wilson.

**GREEN BAY PACKERS** — Signed TE Kennard Backman, QB Brett Hundley, DT Christian Ringo, FB Aaron Ripkowski and LB Jake Ryan, CB Bernard Black, WR Jake Johnson, QB Jerry Allen, RB Terrence Magee, P Justin Mantoni, S Nick Perry, OT Deondre Francois, CB Julian Wilson and WR Cam Williams.

**CLEVELAND BROWNS** — Signed DL Tyler Loebs, OL Darrian Miller, DE Ante Saunders and DL Dyrain Wyatt.

**DALLAS COWBOYS** — Signed DE Ryan Russell and LB Mark Nzeocha and OT Donald Hawkins. Released LB Donte Dequade and RHP Nick Sheppard.

## Heller

FROM PAGE 12

own ballpark, instead sharing rickety old Riverfront Stadium with a summer league team in Waterloo, miles of campus.

"He has a plan, and the plan works," said Iowa pitching coach Scott Brickman, who worked with Heller at UNI. "You better be humble in his program, and if you're selfish you're not going to make it."

Heller's extracurricular efforts — from personally raising funds to turning on the sprinklers in the middle of the night in the summer so the grass would stay green — weren't enough to save the program. In the locker room after a season opener, he had to tell his team that the school was cutting the program to save money.

"It was painful, because it was the first time in my life where I was out of a job," Heller said. He was "doing all the little things that nobody sees and maybe nobody appreciates, but trying to do the right thing. And then to realize that it really didn't matter to a lot of people. So you get that feeling

of, 'Why did I do that?' But that's how I am. That's why I'm here now. Because we did things right back then."

Still, Heller called the ensuing summer a "nightmare." His career was uncertain, his family needed a new house and his wife was pregnant with their third daughter.

Another Missouri Valley school, Indiana State, quickly scooped Heller up. He rewarded the Sycamores with their first outright regular-season Valley title and an at-large NCAA tournament berth in 2012.

"I knew that if I ever got to a place where I had a loaded gun, that the playing field was somewhat level, that our system would work better than a lot of people's systems," Heller said.

In the summer of 2013, the chance to prove that at the only Division I program left in Iowa finally came.

The Hawkeyes had been mostly lousy for decades. Heller was hardly the hire Iowa fans were hoping for, either, and the players were on edge following the change.

But rather than run off kids in an effort to jumpstart a languid program, Heller told the current roster that they'd have every opportunity to prove they could be winners. The Hawkeyes went out and won 30

games in 2014.

Iowa has since strung together back-to-back 30-win seasons for the first time in 25 years and could conceivably host an NCAA regional if it keeps winning.

"He came in with arms wide open. He told us that if we believed in him, he'd believe in us. He established his type of baseball here. Being aggressive. Working hard," center-fielder Kris Goodman said. "The major thing is a belief in the teammates... I don't feel like we had that before. We had confidence, but I don't think we had belief."

Iowa has updated its once-inadequate facilities in recent years. But the lion's share of the credit goes to Heller, who picked up something of a personal and professional mantra while at Indiana State. Sitting behind his desk, in low black and gold, a slogan reads "Be Nice! Be Honest! Work Hard! Make Good Choices!"

"Those words have resonated deeply with Heller after his painful departure from Northern Iowa.

"It made me tougher. It made me better. It made me work harder," Heller said. "Any time you go through something that's hard, and you do it the right way, it ends up benefiting you down the road."

## Softball

FROM PAGE 11

"She's got a good skill set. She's become so productive offensively that you have to find somewhere for her."

Besides pitching, Krause played center field, second base and third base during the season.

Janicek, a transfer from Lincoln University, anchored the middle of the Lancer batting order, batting .346 with two home runs, seven doubles and 19 RBI. In GPAC play, she batted a team-best .400 while striking out just three times in 60 plate appearances.

"When we recruited Cassidy, we thought she could come in and really help us out in the DP (designated player) spot," Fernandez said. "Not only did her ability in the four-spot (in the batting order) help, but she

showed the ability to be a leader, being a positive supporter of her teammates in the field."

Kozak, who was also a honorable mention selection as a freshman, moved from shortstop to left field, but kept her offensive prowess. The Tabor native batted .303 with three triples and 14 RBI. Defensively, she made just two errors in her first season in left field while recording four assists.

"I'd take 20 kids like her," Fernandez said of the sophomore. "She bought into what we were doing. We knew she could hit, but she also did a good job defensively in left field."

Jenn and Kelsey Mitera, twin sisters, each made an impact on the Lancers as freshmen.

Jenn, a shortstop, batted .290 with three home runs and 15 RBI. Defensively, she posted a .920 fielding percentage, including .939 in conference play.

Kelsey, a catcher, batted .296 with seven doubles and seven RBI. She also ranked second on the team with five stolen bases. Behind the plate, she posted a .944 fielding percentage and threw out 11 of 40 potential base stealers.

"It's difficult going from high school to the GPAC, but both did a very good job," Fernandez said. "Kelsey does a great job behind the plate. Jenn solidified the left side of our infield."

MMC finished with a 13-26 record, 4-16 in the GPAC. It

marked the most victories for the Lancers since going 13-30 in 2005, and the second-best overall win percentage for the program since it was restarted in 2001.

Midland's Kayla Ritzdorf was named the GPAC Player of the Year. Doane's Ellie Doughty earned Pitcher of the Year honor. Doane's Renae Littrell was named Coach of the Year.

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