

Former Air Force Guard Mooney Lands At South Dakota

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Matt Mooney had plenty of suitors for his talents over the past seven weeks.

The 6-foot-3 guard from Chicago had received his release from the Air Force men's basketball program and began looking for a new destination – somewhere where he could spend the next four seasons, one as a redshirt and three as a difference maker.

One of the first schools to jump

on the Mooney train? The University of South Dakota.

Fast forward to last week when Mooney visited the Vermillion campus for three days, a visit that eventually led him to verbally commit to the Coyote program on Monday.

"After visiting South Dakota, I just realized that it was the place for me. It sunk in right away," Mooney said in a phone interview Tuesday.

Mooney, who listed Colgate (N.Y.) and Evansville on his final list, played in 29 games last season

for Air Force, which competes in the Mountain West Conference. He averaged 6.9 points in 19.2 minutes per game.

Mooney will have to redshirt the 2015-16 season at USD, but will then have three seasons of eligibility. He will join fellow transfer Trey Dickerson (Iowa) as eligible additions for the 2016-17 season.

While on his visit last week to Vermillion, Mooney was able to see first-hand the ongoing construction of USD's 6,000-seat basketball and volleyball arena, which will open in

time for the 2016-17 season.

"The new facility looks like it'll be phenomenal," he said. "That's exciting. The campus is really nice, and being a school of ten thousand is pretty cool."

As part of his visit to USD, Mooney was also able to spend time with current Coyote players Casey Kasperbauer and Logan Power, which no doubt helped attract Mooney to the program.

"It's a place I could see myself for a couple years, with those kind of people," he said.

Spending time, even if for a few days at the time, around USD head coach Craig Smith – known by now to Coyote fans for his energy and enthusiasm – certainly didn't hurt Mooney's decision. Smith guided the Coyotes to a 17-16 record last season and the program's first-ever win in the Summit League tournament.

"There's no doubt he's bringing the program in the right direction," Mooney said. "His drive and commitment, and he believes in

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ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

ABOVE: The Parkston Trojans hoist the Class A girls' championship trophy on Tuesday in Madison after winning a fourth straight title. Parkston has finished first or second in each of the past seven seasons.

BELOW: Parkston's Sydney Bormann won first place overall at the girls golf Class A State Tournament for the second straight year and third time in four seasons. Teammate Sydney Weber placed second for a second straight year.

A Girls

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day one, 82 on day two and a combined 165 for the tournament and teammate Sydney Weber in second with 86, 81 and a combined 167.

Samantha Langford (87, 82, 167) of Madison finished third and Mary High (88, 84, 172) came in fourth.

Parkston's Jayden Borman shot a 103 in round one, 92 in round two and 195 overall, Sierra Stands had 103, 101 and 204 and Kenzie Lee had 114, 118 and 232.

"These girls love the game of golf," Hockett said. "They practice and play it all year round."

For Vermillion, Moran earned an 11th place medal shooting an 98 in round one,

84 in round two and 182 overall.

"I started off really well and I had a couple bad holes but I shook it off," Moran said. "It's the best round I've had at this course, so it was pretty decent for me today."

Kate Brockevelt finished with 96, 101 and 197 overall, Kayla Stammer had 103 and 96 for 199, Emily Schmitz shot 111 and 102 for 213 and Audrey Miiller shot 115 and 98 for 213.

After improving one place from last year, the Tanagers are looking to build on that for next year.

"Next year, we're only losing (Miiller)," Moran said. "So, us top few girls can improve a lot and we can be a top runner for next year for sure."

The Trojans are graduating two seniors from this year's squad in Stands and



Lee and will be looking for a fifth state title at next year's tournament with the returning front runners.

"Two Sydney's are back and Jayden is back and we

have a bunch of other young girls out here watching and supporting," Hockett said. "We had good support from everybody."

But their fans knew not to



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

The lead group during Tuesday's final round of the S.D. State Class B Girls' Golf Championship at Hillcrest Golf & CC wait to tee off. The foursome includes (L-R) Burke-South Central's Taylee Indahl, Scotland's Maggie Fiscel, Hamlin's Molly Koisti and Deubrook Area's Kayla Ovali.

B Girls

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"Yeah I didn't mean to hit it that far right, but it all worked out in the end I guess," she said.

Koisti said she was just focused on improving her score from the previous day.

"The goal for today was just to do better than yesterday and see where that got me," she said.

Koisti stated how she plans on trying to get an ever better finish at next year's state meet.

"I will try and put in some work this summer and we'll see what happens," she said.

Fiscel, a sophomore at Scotland and a defending champion, said it was nice to finish with a top spot and she congratulated her opponent on winning the tournament.

"It feels good but I didn't play the best game I could. I give credit to Kayla for playing a great game. She deserved to win," Fiscel said.

Fiscel said there are some things she would improve



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Hamlin's Molly Koisti drops the club in celebration after her chip shot on No. 17 went in the hole during Tuesday's final round.

upon before the next state tournament.

"Get my chips closer. Work on my putts and work on my swing," she said.

Burke-South Central edged out Howard for second place by three strokes with a score of 624.

Adrianna Weeldreyer of Newell finished fourth and Taylee Indahl of Burke-South Central finished fifth to round out the top five.

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NFL To Change Extra-Point Kicks To Longer Distance

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The NFL is moving back extra-point kicks and allowing defenses to score on conversion turnovers.

The owners on Tuesday approved the competition committee's proposal to snap the ball from the 15-yard line on PATs to make them more challenging. In recent seasons, kickers made more than 99 percent of the kicks with the

ball snapped from the 2.

"There was strong sentiment coming out of our meetings in March that something had to be done with our extra point," said Texans general manager Rick Smith, a member of the competition committee that proposed this specific rule change. "From a kicking perspective the try was over 99 percent (successful), so we tried to add skill to

the play.

"It was also a ceremonial play."

The accepted proposal places the 2-point conversion at the 2, and allows the defense to return a turnover to the other end zone for the two points, similar to the college rule. The defense can also score two points by returning a botched kick.

B Boys

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fourth individually shooting 166, Colten Plooster who shot 169 for a share of eighth place, Riley Hoffman shot 182, and Coby Johnson shot 183. Van Zee and Plooster both contributed two rounds of scoring for the team while Hoffman and Johnson contributed one.

"It always hurts, we were hoping to finish in the top spot today but overall we're excited about the finish in second," Platte-Geddes coach Frank Cutler said.

"We had some chances but you have got to give Hamlin the credit, they played outstanding on the front nine and won it right there."

Bon Homme and Aberdeen Christian finished in a tie for third with a score of 528. McCook Central/Montrose rounded out the top five with a score of 536.

On the individual side J.J. Cooney was able to win the first state golf title in Andes Central/Dakota Christian history, shooting 151 for the tournament, just seven over par

"You know I was just playing my game, it was just another day at the office," Cooney said. "Driver to the fairway and wedges to the green."

"I was going for 150, that was the goal, but I'll take a 151."

Cooney was able to win by 10 strokes over Eureka's Jordan Maier. Alec Johnson,



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Ethan Jaeger of Great Plains Lutheran coaxes a putt from the fringe into the cup on No. 18 during the final round of the South Dakota State Class B Boys' Golf Championships on Tuesday at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course.

from Bon Homme, finished in third shooting 161, while Platte-Geddes' Jayden Van Zee and Aberdeen Christian's Cramer Johnson tied for

fourth shooting 166 to finish in the top five.

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Memorial Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, May 25th, for the Memorial Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

Out On The Town - 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 20
 Tuesday, May 26 newspaper - 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 20
 Wednesday, May 27 newspaper - 5 p.m., Thursday, May 21
 Thursday, May 28 newspaper - 5 p.m., Friday, May 22

There will be no newspaper on Monday, May 25, 2015

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