

Verlander Wins AL MVP, 1st Starting Pitcher In 25 Years

NEW YORK (AP) — Detroit's Justin Verlander became the first starting pitcher in a quarter-century voted Most Valuable Player, adding it to the Cy Young Award he won last week.

Verlander earned the American League MVP honor Monday, receiving 13 of 28 first-place votes and 280 points in voting announced by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"Obviously pitchers are not just written off all of a sudden because they're pitchers," Verlander said.

Boston center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury was second with four firsts and 242 points, followed by Toronto right fielder Jose Bautista with five firsts and 231 points, Yankees center fielder Curtis Granderson with 215 and Detroit first

baseman Miguel Cabrera with 193.

"Not even in my wildest dreams had I thought of this," Verlander said. "I want to say this is a dream come true. I can't say that because my dream had already had come true ... to win a Cy Young. And the next dream is to win a World Series. This wasn't even on my radar until the talk started. And then all of a sudden it was a this-could-actually-happen type of thing."

Verlander won the AL's pitching triple crown, going 24-5 with a 2.40 ERA and 250 strikeouts, the most wins in the major leagues since Oakland's Bob Welch went



Verlander

27-6 in 1990. Verlander pitched his second career no-hitter at Toronto on May 7.

Last week, he was a unanimous Cy Young winner. On Monday, he became the first pitcher voted MVP since Oakland's Dennis Eckersley in 1992 and the first starting pitcher since Boston's Roger Clemens in 1986.

"I think that a starting pitcher has to do something special to be as valuable or more so than a position player," Verlander said. "Obviously, having the chance to play in 160-some games in the case of Miguel, they can obviously have a huge impact every day. That's why, I've talked about on my day, on a pitcher's day, the impact we have is tremendous on that game. So you have to have a great impact almost every time out to supersede (posi-

tion players) and it happens on rare occasions, and I guess this year was one of those years."

The 2006 AL Rookie of the Year, Verlander joined the Brooklyn Dodgers' Don Newcombe as the only players to win all three major awards in their careers.

"I think this set a precedent," Verlander said. "I'm happy that the voters acknowledged that, that we do have a major impact in this game and we can be extremely valuable to our team and its success."

Verlander appeared on only 27 ballots and was omitted by Jim Ingraham of The Herald-News in Ohio, who voted Bautista first. Sheldon Ocker of the Akron Beacon Journal voted Verlander eighth.

Ingraham doesn't think pitchers

should be eligible for MVP.

"I'd wrestled with this for a long time. If I was ever going to vote for pitcher for MVP, it would be him this year," Ingraham said. "He hasn't appeared in 79 percent of their games, any starting pitcher really doesn't appear in 79 percent of his team's games in a year."

"Would you vote for an NFL quarterback for MVP if he only appeared in three of his team's 16 games, which would be 21 percent? So that's part of it. Another part of it is I think they're apples and oranges. The guys that are in there every day, there's a grind to a season that a starting pitcher doesn't, I don't think, experience the way the everyday position

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Waverly-SS Trio Lead Class 9B All-State List

BY ROGER MERRIAM
Watertown Public Opinion

WATERTOWN (AP) — There is one very logical reason why Waverly-South Shore's football team left a lot of its foes seeing double this fall.

Senior twins — quarterback Taylor Zemlicka and wide receiver Tyson Zemlicka — were two of the central figures for a Coyote team that went 12-0 and captured the first state football championship in school history.

The Zemlickas and 265-pound senior center Ridge Lindberg are among the 24 players named to the South Dakota Football Coaches Association's Class 9B All-State team released Tuesday.

Taylor, an honorable-mention selection on the All-State team a year ago, capped a stellar career by completing 122 of

186 passes for 2,176 yards and 32 touchdowns. He also ran for 711 yards and 19 touchdowns — establishing a new nine-man state record for total TDs (51) in a season.

Tyson, a repeat All-State selection, was on the receiving end of 44 of Taylor's passes for 789 yards and 16 touchdowns. He is the state's all-time leader in nine-man career receptions, receiving yards and TD receptions.

"I think anybody would have taken just one player like that but to have two ... it was honor to coach those guys. It's something that doesn't come along very often," said Waverly-South Shore coach Billy Kirch. "They're just outstanding players, great athletes and great leaders."

Certainly there were others who contributed to the dominant season for the Coyotes, who outscored their foes 668-118 this season — capped with a 58-24 win over Avon in the state championship game. One of those was Lindberg, who was a force on both sides of the ball.

The All-State squad includes 21 seniors — seven of them repeat all-stars, three from Class 9A and three from Class 9AA in 2010.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Stingy 'D' Has Lancers Rolling



Mount Marty's Austin Harms goes up for a layup in transition during Saturday afternoon's GPAC men's game against Concordia at Laddie E. Cimpr Arena. The Lancers, who host Dordt tonight (Tuesday), rank third in the country in field goal percentage defense and eighth in scoring defense.

Women: Turnovers A Focus After Loss

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Though in a small sample size, the Mount Marty College men's basketball team may actually be ahead of expectations.

Perhaps a scary thought for the rest of the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC)?

Through four games, Mount Marty (3-1, 1-0) has not allowed an opponent to score more than 70 points. As a result, the Lancers rank third in NAIA Division II in field goal percentage defense (.370) and eighth in scoring defense (57.25).

It's quite a start for a team that boasts two transfers — Mitch Ackelson and Scott Odekirk — and another, Will Eddie, with 11 games under his belt a year ago in the starting lineup.

"I've always considered it to be a two-year process, because it seems to take a year for guys to get familiar with what we do," said head coach Jim Thorson, whose team opened GPAC play with a 61-51 victory over Concordia on Saturday.

"And then we've usually seen an amazing difference after that first year," he added. "But this year, the guys have picked it up pretty fast."

Among Mount Marty's non-conference wins this season have been Ashford, an NAIA Tournament team a year ago, and NCAA Division III Presentation.

Then came Saturday, when the Lancers held Concordia to 32 percent shooting, including a 5-of-17 clip on three-pointers. It was that performance that showed MMC might just have what it takes to slow down some of the league's best teams, Thorson said.

"Defense, the way we run it, has been a real critical coaching point, and we've still got a way to go," he said Monday night. "Going into the season, we thought we had a chance to be very good on that side of the court."

Now comes the biggest test of the young season.

Tonight (Tuesday) at 8 p.m., Mount Marty hosts No. 16-ranked Dordt, which ranks fourth in the country in scoring (90.71) and first in defensive rebounds per game (32.0).

The Defenders (7-0, 1-0) boast

"I've always considered it to be a two-year process, because it seems to take a year for guys to get familiar with what we do."

COACH JIM THORSON

four double-digit scorers, led by Trevor Wolterstorff (19.57), who dropped 42 points in a non-conference game on Nov. 12.

"You can have all the technique in the world, but you still have to get in there and make some plays," Thorson said. "They have a lot of guns, that's for sure. It'll take a good team effort to stop them."

Once again leading the Mount Marty offense, and has been proven, the defense, will be Ackelson. The senior transfer point guard ranks sixth nationally in total rebounds per game (10). He also leads the Lancers in scoring (14.75), assists (2.25) and steals (2.5).

"He's been a huge addition for us," Thorson said. "He gives us another scorer that maybe we were lacking a year ago or even before that. What we're looking for is consistency, obviously, and we've been able to count on him in that way so far."

Even with Ackelson's production, the Lancers are still a relatively balanced offensive squad. Three players average double figures in scoring — Ackelson, Austin Harms (11.25) and Spencer Yackley (10.75) — and another, Joe Hieb, averages 9.5 points per game.

"The one area that's been nice to see, our posts are getting great looks," Thorson said. "If we can get some pretty good scoring out of that position every night, then we could be a very solid club."

Women Looking For Improvement

It didn't take long on Saturday to figure out what was going wrong for the Mount Marty women's basketball team.

The Lancers committed 26 turnovers — caused mostly by

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Jacks Men Top Niagara In CBE Classic

MACON, Ga. — Niagara did not go down without a fight on Monday at the CBE Classic in Macon, Ga., but South Dakota State held off a late Purple Eagles rally to secure a 79-71 win, behind 23 points from Nate Wolters.

The Jackrabbits improve to an even 2-2 with the win, and Wolters gets to 997 career points, while Niagara falls to 1-2 on the season.

The Jacks extended its lead to as many as 12 points in the second half, but did let the Purples Eagles make it a one possession

game at 71-68 with 4:01 left to play.

The defense held on, and the Jacks made just enough free throws down the stretch to secure the tournament-opening win.

Along with Wolters and his 23 points, three other Jackrabbits scored in double digits. Tony Fiegen finished with 14 points, Callahan scored a season-high 13 and Brayden Carlson tied a career-high with 11 points. Callahan also tied with Chad White with a team-high seven rebounds.

The Jackrabbits return to action today (Tuesday) against Sam Houston State. The Jacks face off at 3:30 p.m. CT.

NIAGARA (1-2)
Green 7-17 3-4 18, Tanksley 2-5 4-5 8, Gillette 2-3 0-1 4, Mason 0-15 7-11 26, Jordan 2-11 0-0 5, Williams 2-2 0-0 4, Jones 0-2 2-2 2, Langford 1-1 0-0 2, Thomas 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 26-57 16-23 71.

S. DAKOTA ST. (2-2)
Wolters 8-16 6-9 23, Carlson 3-5 4-8 11, White 2-10 5-8 9, Callahan 4-9 3-4 13, Fiegen 6-11 2-4 14, Prince 0-1 1-1 1, Monaghan 0-2 0-0 0, Horstman 0-1 4-6 4, Heemstra 0-2 4-4 4. Totals 23-57 29-47 79.
Halftime—S. Dakota St. 30-28. 3-Point Goals—Niagara 3-12 (Mason 1-2, Jordan 1-4, Green 1-4, Tanksley 0-1, Jones 0-1), S. Dakota St. 4-20 (Callahan 2-7, Wolters 1-3, Carlson 1-3, Prince 0-1, Monaghan 0-1, Horstman 0-1, White 0-4). Fouled Out—Gillette, Jordan, Williams. Rebounds—Niagara 39 (Tanksley 7), S. Dakota St. 38 (Callahan, White 7). Assists—Niagara 10 (Green 4), S. Dakota St. 9 (Wolters 3). Total Fouls—Niagara 33, S. Dakota St. 16. A—161.

College Briefs: SDSU's Sumner Named Rice Finalist

BROOKINGS (AP) — South Dakota State University quarterback Austin Sumner is one of 20 finalists for the inaugural Jerry Rice Award as the top freshman in the Football Championship Subdivision.

Sumner is a 6-foot-5, 230-pound redshirt freshman from Brandon. He started the final eight games for the Jackrabbits and set a Missouri Valley Football Conference freshman record with 2,382 passing yards.

Sumner threw for more than 300 yards in five games, and threw four touchdown passes in a game on three occasions.

He was named conference player of the week after passing for 328 yards and four touchdowns against Southern Illinois on Nov. 5.

The award will be presented on Jan. 6 in Frisco, Texas, on the eve of the FCS national title game.

Basketball: MMC JV Falls At Northwestern

ORANGE CITY, Iowa — Northwestern defeated Mount Marty 88-82 in a high-scoring JV

women's basketball game Monday night in Orange City, Iowa.

Tara DesLauriers led the Lancers (2-2) with 23 points, while Kelli Norrid added 18 points and Sarah Cosgrove chipped in with 11. Holly Hegge recorded 10 points, nine rebounds and five steals, while Cherylene Lambley also pulled down nine rebounds.

SDSU Basketball To Offer Online Ticket Promotion

BROOKINGS — To celebrate the traditional shopping holiday of Black Friday, SDSU Athletics announces the first-ever "Jacks Friday" ticket promotion.

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. this Friday (Nov. 25) fans can purchase half-priced general admission tickets for all Jackrabbit Summit League home basketball contests in December.

The select contests include Dec. 28, Men's basketball vs. IPFW, 7 p.m.; Dec. 29, Women's basketball vs. Oakland, 7 p.m.; Dec. 30, Men's basketball vs. Oakland, 7 p.m.; and Dec. 31, Women's basketball vs. IPFW, 2 p.m.

These tickets will be available exclusively online at GoJacks.com until 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 28.

NDSU's Bohl A Finalist For FCS Coach Of The Year

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota State head football coach Craig Bohl is a finalist for coach of the year in the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision.

Bohl is among 20 finalists announced Mon-

day for the 25th Eddie Robinson Award. The winner will be announced Jan. 6 in Frisco, Texas, the night before the national championship game.

Bohl led the Bison to a 10-1 regular season record and a first-round bye in the playoffs.

NDSU Gets First-Round Playoff Bye

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota State University football team has landed the No. 2 seed in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs and is getting a first-round bye.

NDSU capped a 10-1 regular season with a 37-21 win over Western Illinois on Saturday. The Bison won't play again until Dec. 3, when they will host the winner of a first-round playoff game between James Madison and Eastern Kentucky.

Unbeaten Sam Houston State is the top seed in the playoffs.

Houston Baptist Moving To Southland In 2013

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Houston Baptist is moving to the Southland Conference in 2013.

The league announced Monday that the current Great West Conference member will be eligible for conference championships in most sports starting July 1, 2013.

Houston Baptist rejoined Division I this year and announced last month that it was adding football. The HBU football program will join the Southland in 2014, giving the conference a record nine teams.

MLB: Rangers Sign Nathan, Move Feliz To Rotation

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Joe Nathan and the Texas Rangers have agreed to a two-year contract with a club option for 2014, a move that means closer Neftali Feliz will shift to the starting rotation.

The two-time defending AL champions announced the moves on Monday.

Nathan, who turns 37 on Tues-

day, missed the 2010 season following Tommy John surgery on his pitching elbow and struggled to find his form with Minnesota this year. The four-time All-Star went 2-1 with a 4.84



Nathan

ERA and 14 saves in 48 appearances, losing his job as closer early in the season before reclaiming it later.

The Rangers say they have informed Feliz that he will switch from the bullpen to the rotation, a move that would help offset the loss of free-agent starter C.J. Wilson if he signs elsewhere.



Mount Marty vs. Dordt
6:00 p.m. Women/8:00 p.m. Men • Nov. 22, 2011 • Laddie E. Cimpr Arena • 1105 W. 8th St. • Yankton

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