

## MMC Set For GPAC Meet

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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MCCOOK LAKE — The Mount Marty College men's and women's cross country teams look to cap what has been the best season in program history with their best-ever finishes in the Great Plains Athletic Conference Championships, set for today (Saturday) at Adams Nature Preserve.

The season has been highlighted by the Lancers women's first two team titles at a meet, in consecutive meets at Dakota State and Dakota Wesleyan in September, and sweeps by the Lancer men at those meets. MMC also had two of its better finishes in its home invitational, with each team finishing eighth on Oct. 20, the Lancers' final tuneup for conference.

"I think we've had a really good season," said Lancer head coach Randy Fischer. "Our girls have the best team in school history. We've got a solid top six or seven, with Kaylee Fly leading the way."

Walk-on Katie Smelker (So.) has developed into a solid second runner for MMC. Freshmen Jordyn Hudelson (Elk Point) and Tess Byrd, and senior Brooke Fischer round out the first five. Junior Brittney Mikkelsen and senior Jade Steinberg (Yankton) round out the Lancer women's first seven.

Fly is a returning national qualifier, and Coach Fischer is hoping to see both her and Smelker advance to the NIAA national meet, Nov. 17 in Vancouver, Wash.

"We like our chances of finishing in the middle of the pack," he said. MMC has never finished higher than eighth in the GPAC on the women's side. "If we get sixth, we'll be happy."

For the Lancer men, sophomore Jordan Pater has turned into a strong front-runner, setting the MMC record for 8,000 meters. Sophomore Samuel Lopez has also run well, and Coach Fischer feels both may have a chance to qualify for nationals.

Sophomores Joshua Monson, Mychal Bierwagen and Kevin Cosman (Scotland), and freshmen Gage Blaschke, Ryan Oye and Vincent Raia make the Lancers a young but talented force to be reckoned with.

"We're excited with this team," Coach Fischer said. "We're hoping for top six, but we might see them get fifth or fourth."

MMC, which finished a program-best sixth on the men's side a year ago, will have its hands full in trying to move up in the tough GPAC. Concordia is ranked 20th in the latest NAIA poll, with Morningside 23rd and Dordt receiving votes.

The women's side is just as tough, with Dordt ranked 11th, Concordia 20th and Doane receiving votes.

The top team in each race, not counting NCAA Division III Nebraska Wesleyan, automatically qualify for the NAIA National Meet. Other teams could also qualify based on national ranking. The top five individuals not on a qualifying team, assuming they finish in the top 15 runners (not counting NWU runners), also qualify for nationals.

Nebraska Wesleyan swept the team titles a year ago.

The women's race begins at 10:45 a.m., with the men's race set for 11:30 a.m.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at [twitter.com/aceman904](https://twitter.com/aceman904)

## Cedar Catholic Takes District C2-4 Crown

BY CHRIS RILEY  
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NORFOLK, Neb. — The Hartington Cedar Catholic Trojans punched their ticket to state with a dominating victory in the Nebraska District C2-4 volleyball final in a packed Norfolk High School gym on Friday night.

The Trojans used aggressive play and sound defense to post the 3-1 victory over the Neligh-Oakdale Warriors by scores of 25-13, 24-26, 25-22, 25-12.

"We were so excited, all we wanted to do was come out and win a district title," Trojans standout Alexis Steffen said. "That's all we've been wanting to do since we were freshman and finally we had the opportunity so we wanted to take all our fire and energy."

Steffen, a senior, led Cedar Catholic with 18 kills on the night as the Trojans used multiple runs to jump out to a 21-9 lead in game one before the Warriors were even able to score consecutive points.

"We had three hitters flying at the net," Trojans coach Adam Kuntz added. "That kept their block off balance and it showed in the scores there."

Following a seemingly easy 25-13 first-game victory, the Trojans looked to have game two sealed with a 24-19 lead before Neligh-Oakdale reeled off seven straight points to steal the victory.

"I knew that Neligh-Oakdale was in a situation of win or go home - that was a great comeback by them in the second-round," Kuntz said. "I'm proud of my girls by bouncing back in those next two. I just told them that we did not come this far to fold under the pressure - we need to stick to our aggressive game plan."

Game three was neck and neck as the difference never extended past five points. The Trojans relied on their defense to keep Neligh-Oakdale from mounting a late run though and pulled out the 25-22 victory.

"We started to make some good shots and our defense pulled through and made some nice scrappy plays," Kuntz added.

Game four would be all Trojans as Harting-

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## Coyotes, Penguins Searching For Answers, Victory

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — Somebody will break a long losing streak, while the other will continue a frustrating stretch.

Who turns a corner? Will the University of South Dakota finally pick up its first Missouri Valley Football Conference victory? Or will Youngstown State snap a surprising skid?

One of those questions will be answered today (Saturday) when the Coyotes tangle with Youngstown State, at 1 p.m. out in Ohio — the first game in that state for USD since 1965.

The Coyotes (1-7, 0-5) are coming off consecutive ugly losses, compounded by offensive struggles, defensive let-downs and not much resembling a consistent performance.

"We just need to play all four quarters; put together a strong game," sophomore quarterback Josh Vander Maten said. "Especially in this league, you can't win without a complete game."

Youngstown State is likewise mired in a similar stretch. The Penguins (4-4, 1-4), losers of four straight since a 4-0 record to start the season, have committed eight turnovers in the past two games and have allowed at least 24 points in each of the last six games.

Their only league win was a 42-35 shoot-out with Northern Iowa seven weeks ago, but since then, it's been a rough go for YSU — despite a season-opening upset of Big East member Pittsburgh.

"They've run into the league a little bit like we have," USD head coach Joe Glenn said. They had some nice wins out of conference, but then they hit the meat of our league. They're really dying for a win."

Ditto for USD, which hasn't lost six games in a row since the 1998 team dropped straight. The Coyotes broke an eight-quarter scoreless drought a week ago at Indiana State, a span that included a shutout to North Dakota State.

"We've put together some great drives and made some nice stops on defense, but in this conference it has to be that way the whole time," USD junior linebacker Tyler Starr said. "Every opportunity you get, you can't waste it and make mistakes."

Both USD and Youngstown State rank 90th nationally in turnover margin, each with six fumbles lost and at least six interceptions thrown.

The Coyotes and Penguins, on the other hand, are on opposite end of the penalties issue.

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## USD Sweeps Jacks 3-0

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — It was a match the home squad absolutely needed to win, and the University of South Dakota volleyball team played like it.

Energy, intensity, effectiveness. It was all there for USD.

Running their win streak over their in-state rivals to five, the Coyotes dominated in every facet in sweeping South Dakota State 3-0 in Summit League volleyball action Friday night in front of a packed "Den" at the DakotaDome.

Set scores were 25-14, 25-18, 25-15, but in many ways, the deficit was much more lop-sided. The visiting Jackrabbits, for example, led only twice in the match, with both being one-point leads early in a set.

"You could just see that we showed them how focused we were and how educated we were on what they do," said USD junior setter Tori Kroll, who had 41 assists.

"They were already a little flustered, like they didn't know how it would go."

Still alive for the conference tournament, the Coyotes (12-14, 6-8) came out with easily their best overall performance of the season — earning a season sweep for the second straight year over SDSU (16-11, 8-6).

"We just play together and bring out that fire when we face them," USD sophomore Kendall Kritenbrink, who led with 16 kills, said. "It's always a big one for us and we know that."

While at the same time recording their best attack percentage (.298) since the second match of the season, the Coyotes had their fewest attack errors (8).

USD, which at one point this season lost six consecutive matches, also had the edge in blocks (8-4) against the league leader in that stat.

"For about two weeks, we've been stressing nothing but being aggressive," USD coach Matt Houk said. "Those six matches we lost in a row, we lost all initiative. We sat down and said, 'That's all we need to do.'"

A big part of the SDSU struggles revolved around what wasn't in Vermillion — 6-foot-3 middle Kelli Fiegen, a Parkston native who remains out with an undisclosed injury.

"It just felt like they were missing something," Kritenbrink said. "We know they're better than that. Their right side and middles did a good job, though."

The Coyotes hit .381 with only three errors in the opening set, never letting the Jackrabbits get into system.

Up 16-15, the Coyotes hit another gear to run away with the second set. The Jackrabbits were

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## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS AT 'THE DEN'

ABOVE: South Dakota's Kim Bulaga follows through on an attack during the Coyotes' Summit League Volleyball match against South Dakota State on Friday at "The Den" in the DakotaDome. Bulaga recorded six kills and 10 digs as USD beat the Jackrabbits 25-14, 25-18, 25-15 to complete the season sweep of SDSU. The Coyotes finish the home portion of their 2012 season on Sunday against North Dakota State.

LEFT: Kendall Kritenbrink, 12, digs out a ball for the Coyote defense. Kritenbrink had eight digs, but powered the net attack with a match-best 16 kills and two assisted blocks in the win.

JILANNE DOOM/P&D



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Parker's Tessa Weeldreyer tips the ball over the net during the Pheasants' 3-0 victory over Marion in the championship of the District 7B Volleyball Tournament on Friday at Freeman Academy School. Parker will face Alcester-Hudson on Tuesday in Alcester for the right to go to state.

## Parker Takes District 7B Title

FREEMAN — The Parker Pheasants moved within a victory of a return trip to state with a 25-13, 25-21, 25-13 victory over Marion in the District 7B Volleyball Tournament championship match on Friday at Freeman Academy School.

The Pheasants, 32-0 on the season and winners of 33 straight, travel to Alcester on Tuesday for the Region 4B final. The winner of that match heads to the South Dakota State Class B Volleyball Tournament, Nov. 15-17 at the Huron Arena.

Allison Sanner had 11 kills and Tessa Weeldreyer had nine kills to lead a balanced Parker attack. Micalanne Hanten had eight kills. Amber Dysthe finished with 33 assists and two ace serves. Jaime Haase had six blocks, Morgan Hay had 10 digs and Jessica McKenney added six kills and two blocks in the victory.

For Marion, which finished with a 23-6 record, Kylie Hughes

led the way with 10 kills and 10 digs. Ashley Rosenwald-Muller had eight kills and seven digs. Katherin Luke had 17 assists, Devin Nelson had 12 assists and seven digs, and Kaitlyn Engbrecht had nine digs and two ace serves in the effort.

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|---------------|----|----|----|
| PARKER (32-0) | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| MARION (23-6) | 13 | 21 | 13 |

### Marion 3, Bridgewater-Emery 0

FREEMAN — The Marion Bears advanced to the District 7B final with a 25-11, 25-13, 25-18 victory over Bridgewater-Emery on Thursday.

Josie Schmidt had 10 kills and four blocks, and Erica Schoenwald had nine kills to lead a balanced Bear attack. Kylie Hughes and Ashley Rosenwald-Muller each had seven kills. Devin Nelson had 18 assists, with Katherin Luke recording 17 assists. Kaitlyn Engbrecht added 10 digs in the victory.

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|-------------------|----|----|----|
| BRIDGEWATER-EMERY | 11 | 13 | 18 |
| MARION (23-5)     | 25 | 25 | 25 |

### District 11B

#### Hanson 3, Scotland 0

SCOTLAND — The Hanson Beaverettes defeated Scotland 25-19, 25-15, 25-13 in the championship of the District 11B Volleyball Tournament on Friday at Scotland High School.

The Beaverettes advance to the Region 6B final, Tuesday against Andes Central. Start time will be 7 p.m. at Menno High School.

For Hanson, Kynedi Cheeseman had 13 kills and Erika Nelson had four blocks. Kendra Cheeseman posted 18 assists and seven digs, Kiera Groeger had 11 assists and Lindsay Dey had four ace serves in the victory.

Kennidy Asche and Carley Skorepa each had seven kills,

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