

Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JEREMY HOECK
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The University of South Dakota sits at 1-9 overall and 0-7 in its debut season in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. In other words, not much has gone right in Coyoteland. Still, there's a chance for USD to erase most of those frustrations with one win. One victory. With South Dakota State needing a win to make the FCS playoff field, the Coyotes can certainly play spoiler on Saturday in Brookings. And in

fell swoop, they can also put a positive capper on an otherwise miserable campaign. Isn't the most dangerous team one that has nothing to play for? If that's true, the Jackrabbits — at 7-3 and 5-2 overall — could be in for a battle. Everybody in the region, and certainly most everyone in the state, acknowledges SDSU as the obvious favorite. The Jacks will be expected to win. That will be a topic of conversation around the DakotaDome this week, how the Coyotes will scheme to upset the Jackrabbits and spoil their playoff hopes. Joe Glenn, himself a former player and coach in this

rivalry, probably won't get much sleep this week as he gears up for another trip to Brookings. On the other hand, yes, one victory doesn't completely erase what has gone wrong for USD this fall. It's not so much talent that has led to the 8-game losing streak, it's been penalties — particularly costly ones. The Coyotes have proven they can compete in their new league, but they just haven't proven they can win. Doing so Saturday in Brookings will therefore be a significant challenge. But again, isn't the most dangerous team one that has nothing to play for?

USD Beats Omaha, Falls Just Short Of Summit League Tourney

OMAHA, Neb. — The Coyotes used a late 8-1 rally to top the Omaha Mavericks in five sets (25-22, 20-25, 21-25, 27-25, 15-9) in their season finale, but were knocked out of the Summit League playoff picture after Oakland topped Western Illinois in four sets.

USD ended the season on a five game winning streak to reach 14-14 overall and 8-8 in the Summit League. The Coyotes will finish the season in a tie for fifth in the conference with North Dakota State and South Dakota State.

South Dakota won the final two sets of the match, committing only four attack errors total in those sets. They forced Omaha (6-22, 1-15 in Summit League) to commit six errors in the last set alone.

Three Coyotes ended the season with double digit kill totals. Kendall Krienbrink had 16 kills, Sydney Dimke had a season high 15 kills, and Kim Bulaga finished her Coyote career with 13 kills.

Krienbrink also had 13 digs for her — double-double of the season. Riley Haug led the Yotes in digs with 19, and Katie Bunkers added 10.

South Dakota held a 13.5 to four edge in blocks for the match. Kelsey Billoft led the Coyotes in blocks with a season-high 10 total blocks. She also added four kills.

On the other side of the net, the Mavericks were led by Michaela Schimmer's 19 kills and Amy Roberts' 28 digs. Kim Bailey and Bailey Baxter both had three service aces.

Saturday's match was the last game for three Coyote seniors: Bulaga, Lindsey Sathre and Bailey Lupardus.

Doane Earns GPAC Volleyball Title

HASTINGS, Neb. — Doane used double-digit kill nights from four different players to upset Hastings 14-25, 28-26, 25-20, 17-25, 15-10, in the championship of the Great Plains Athletic Conference Volleyball Tournament on Saturday.

Emily Max had 16 kills and nine assisted blocks, and Susan Rollman and Abby Sorensen had 12 kills each to lead Doane (28-8). Ashley Axmann added 10 kills. Miranda Wisheart finished with 45 assists and 15 digs in the win.

Kendra Schwein led Hastings (28-4) with a match-high 21 kills. Shayna Schacher had 16 kills, Haley Beardsley had 50 assists and Carissa Kinne had 18 digs for the Broncos.

Hastings Takes GPAC Men's Title

HASTINGS, Neb. — Jordan Green scored both goals, both in the second half, to lead Hastings to a 2-0 victory over Midland in the championship of the Great Plains Athletic Conference men's soccer tournament on Saturday.

The Broncos advance to the NAIA National Tournament opening round, Nov. 17.

N.C. QB Sets Prep Mark In 104-80 Win

DAVIDSON, N.C. (AP) — Will Grier is still trying to get his head around throwing for a national record 837 yards passing

and 10 touchdowns in his team's 104-80 win in a North Carolina high school state playoff game last Friday night.

The Davidson Day High School junior quarterback, being recruited by several top schools around the country, surpassed the mark of 764 yards passing set by Pacific Palisades (Calif.) QB David Koral set in 2000. Davidson Day High advanced to the N.C. Independent Schools' Division II championship game with the win over Harrells Christian.

Grier says "It was craziest thing I've ever been a part of. It was ridiculous."

In the wild game that lasted nearly four hours, the teams combined for 184 points surpassing the existing state mark of 142 set in 1930.

The game ended close to midnight and Grier had no idea he broke any records until the following day.

"My Twitter account just blew up," Grier said. Grier said it seemed like the game might never end, but that the Wildcats felt unstoppable on offense.

They scored on every possession except one.

Chad Grier, Will's father and Davidson Day's head coach, is certainly used to some high-scoring games — Will has thrown 64 touchdown passes this season, one shy of a state record — but he said he's never seen anything quite like what happened Friday night.

"I sure didn't come in with a plan for us to score 104 points, and I sure as heck didn't have a plan to give up 80," Grier said.

No. 16 Nebraska Will Take Wins Any Way They Come

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Style points are the last thing Nebraska cares about right now.

If it takes second-half comebacks — or perhaps a fortuitous call on an opponent's end-zone fumble — to keep the 16th-ranked Cornhuskers on track for the Big Ten Legends Division title, they aren't sweating it. They embrace it.

Nebraska (8-2, 5-1) erased a 14-point halftime deficit to beat Penn State 32-23 Saturday, the Huskers' fourth come-from-behind win in six games.

"Say whatever you want about the Big Ten Conference," receiver Kenny Bell said, "but to win the four games we just won in the fashion that we won them, with the mental toughness we displayed, I'm really proud of this football team. You talk Penn State, Wisconsin, Northwestern, Michigan State. That's one heck of a gauntlet of a schedule to get those four, and to be sitting where we want right now is nice."

A win at home this week against Minnesota (6-4, 2-4) and one at Iowa (4-6, 2-4) the day after Thanksgiving would let the Huskers make good on coach Bo Pelini's public challenge to win out after that blowout loss at Ohio State on Oct. 6.

Michigan has the same conference record as Nebraska, but the Huskers own the head-to-head tie-breaker and have the inside track to playing Leaders champ Wisconsin for the Big Ten title Dec. 1 in Indianapolis.

"We talked about what we needed to do to get to Indy, and that's four down," Pelini said. "We've got two more to go. Just have to stay the course."

Since North Carolina State pulled off the feat six times in 2000, only Nebraska and two other teams (2008 Arkansas, 2005 UCLA) have come back from four second-half deficits of 10 or more points to win, according to STATS LLC.

The breaks have seemed to go the Huskers' way the last three games.

In the 23-9 win over Michigan, their only Big Ten victory that didn't require a comeback, the Wolverines lost star quarterback Denard Robinson to an elbow injury after they had driven inside the 10-yard line late in the second quarter. Michigan trailed just 7-3 at the time. After Robinson went

out, the Wolverines did next to nothing offensively.

In the 28-24 win at Michigan State, the Huskers in the last minute went from trying to set up for a tying field goal to being put in position to win in regulation. That's because Spartans cornerback Darqueze Dennard was flagged for a questionable pass interference with 17 seconds left. Even Bell, the receiver on the play, acknowledged he thought Dennard did nothing wrong. The Huskers scored the winning touchdown with six seconds left.

In Saturday's win over Penn State, officials ruled that Nittany Lions tight end Matt Lehman fumbled before he crossed the goal line in the middle of the fourth quarter. A video review didn't change the call, though that judgment was questioned by Fox officiating analyst Mike Pereira and others. Instead of the Lions getting a touchdown to retake the lead, Nebraska got a touchback.

"We got very fortunate on the one where they fumbled at the half-inch line," defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. "When that happened, you know things are going your way." If anyone suggests the Huskers are lucky this year, Papuchis doesn't want to hear it. He pointed to instances of the breaks going against the Huskers, particularly in 2009.

That was the year Virginia Tech set up the go-ahead touchdown in a one-point win with an 81-yard pass in the last minute, when Nebraska committed eight turnovers in a 9-7 loss to Iowa State and when Nebraska lost the Big 12 championship game 13-12 after officials put one second back on the clock to allow Texas to kick the winning field goal.

"I don't think we got a lot of luck before," Papuchis said. "I didn't blame it on bad luck. So when we win, I'm not going to say it's luck."

Whether it's luck, karma or something else, the Huskers don't believe they can be stopped now. "The pedal is all the way down, whether it's the last four games we played or the next two," Bell said. "The expectation is to win. We don't exhale or take a deep breath now because that leads to losses. We've got three more weeks and then we can take a take a break when we get that month off before we go to the Rose Bowl."

winning the match still doesn't seem real, but knowing her team worked hard throughout the season to get to this point is a great feeling. "It's one of the best feelings we'll ever feel," she said. "It still seems kind of surreal. It doesn't feel like we're state champs — the best team in the state. I think it'll slowly progress to, 'We actually did it.' We knew we could get there if we had hard work and determination throughout the whole season. We put ourselves in a great position to get to this spot."

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/eniebrugge

SCOREBOARD

VOLLEYBALL

S.D. STATE TOURN.

CLASS AA TOURN.

Nov. 15-17 at R.C. Central High School

First Round, Nov. 15 (Times Central)

S.F. O'Gorman (20) vs. Waterloo (9-14), 1 p.m.

S.F. Washington (21-5) vs. Mitchell (15-8), 2:45 p.m.

S.F. Roosevelt (21-5) vs. Huron (14-9), 7 p.m.

Aberdeen Central (19-2) vs. R.C. Stevens (15-12), 8:45 p.m.

CLASS A TOURN.

Nov. 15-17 at Watertown Civic Arena

First Round, Nov. 15

Belle Fourche (31-1) vs. Moberg-Polock (23-6), noon

Dakota Valley (26-3) vs. Wagner (30-3), 1:45 p.m.

Sioux Falls Christian (27-4) vs. Aberdeen North (23-5), 6 p.m.

Pine Ridge (31-1) vs. Sioux Valley (23-5), 7:45 p.m.

CLASS B TOURN.

Nov. 15-17 at Mitchell Center Palace

First Round, Nov. 15

Lyman (16-12) vs. Parker (32-0), noon

Andes Central (29-3) vs. Arlington (30-5), 1:45 p.m.

Herried-Selby Area (28-2) vs. James Valley Christian (21-4), 6 p.m.

Warner (31-0) vs. Timber Lake (24-7), 7:45 p.m.

NEBRASKA STATE TOURN.

Class A

FIRST: Papillion-LaVista South def. Omaha Marian, 25-14, 25-16, 25-15

THIRD: Lincoln Plus X def. Millard West, 25-20, 26-24, 16-25, 23-25, 15-13

Class B

FIRST: Grand Island Northwest def. Gretna, 25-22, 29-31, 25-20, 11-25, 16-14

THIRD: Waverly def. Sidney, 25-11, 25-15, 25-21

Class C-1

FIRST: Kearney Catholic def. Columbus Scouts, 25-19, 21-25, 18-25, 25-17, 15-9

THIRD: Lincoln Christian def. Ogallala, 25-17, 25-25, 25-21, 25-23

Class C-2

FIRST: Hartington Cedar Catholic def. Lutheran High Northeast, 25-15, 14-25, 25-14, 25-22

THIRD: Hastings St. Cecilia def. North Platte St. Patrick's, 28-26, 25-19, 27-25

Class D-1

FIRST: Exeter/Milligan def. Guardian Angels, 25-20, 15-25, 25-13, 25-20

THIRD: Sutherland def. St. Mary's, 28-26, 25-22, 21-25, 25-22

Class D-2

FIRST: Humphrey def. Cedar Valley, 25-19, 25-23, 25-19

THIRD: Gillner def. Mead, 25-14, 25-11, 25-23

FOOTBALL

S.D. PLAYOFFS

NOTE: All championship games being played in the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Look for coverage of all 6 finals in the Press & Dakotan.

Thursday, November 8

CLASS 9A: Canistota 52, Warner 8

CLASS 9AA: DeBourk 25, Howard 22

CLASS 9B: Harding County 50, Colgate 20

Friday, November 9

CLASS 11B: Winner 13, Tri-Volley 6

CLASS 11A: Dell Rapids 47, Harrisburg 0

Saturday, November 10

CLASS 11A: Sioux Falls

Washington 35, Brandon Valley 20

ASSOCIATED PRESS TOP 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 10, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pv
1	Oregon (45)	10-0	1,485	2
2	Kansas St. (14)	10-0	1,451	3
3	Notre Dame (1)	10-0	1,382	4
4	Alabama	9-1	1,259	1
5	Georgia	9-1	1,223	5
6	Ohio St.	10-0	1,212	5
7	Florida	9-1	1,089	7
8	LSU	8-2	1,046	9
9	Texas A&M	8-2	1,031	15
10	Florida St.	9-1	1,024	8
11	Clemson	9-1	907	10
12	South Carolina	8-2	848	12
13	Oklahoma	7-2	798	14
14	Stanford	8-2	786	16
15	Oregon St.	9-1	779	24
16	Nebraska	8-2	549	18
17	UCLA	8-2	541	17
18	Texas	8-2	496	19
19	Louisiana Tech	9-1	374	19
20	Louisville	9-1	322	11
21	Southern Cal	7-3	297	21
22	Michigan	8-1	179	24
23	Michigan	7-3	135	NR
24	Texas Tech	7-3	135	25
25	Kent St.	9-1	93	NR

Others receiving votes: Oklahoma St. 79, N. Illinois 77, Mississippi St. 48, Wisconsin 26, UCF 16, Boise St. 14, Arizona 6, Cincinnati 6, Fresno St. 6, TCU 5, San Jose St. 4, Tulsa 4, Utah St. 4, San Diego St. 3, Northwestern 2, Toledo 1, Washington 1.

USA TODAY TOP 25 POLL

The USA Today Top 25 football coaches poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 10, total points based on 25 points for first place through one point for 25th, and previous ranking:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1	Oregon (44)	10-0	1,480	2
2	Kansas St. (14)	10-0	1,427	3
3	Notre Dame (1)	10-0	1,346	4
4	Georgia	9-1	1,260	5
5	Alabama	9-1	1,243	1
6	Florida St.	9-1	1,143	6
7	Florida	9-1	1,079	7
8	LSU	8-2	1,040	9
9	Clemson	9-1	1,033	8
10	Texas A&M	8-2	967	14
11	South Carolina	8-2	903	11
12	Oklahoma	7-2	799	13
13	Stanford	8-2	793	15
14	Nebraska	8-2	653	16
15	Texas	8-2	615	17
16	UCLA	8-2	494	19
17	Oregon St.	7-2	490	12
18	Louisville	9-1	442	10
19	Louisiana Tech	9-1	413	18
20	Rutgers	8-1	354	20
21	USC	7-3	343	22
22	Boise St.	8-2	161	24
23	Michigan	7-3	144	NR
24	Oklahoma St.	6-3	111	NR
25	Texas Tech	7-3	106	NR

Others Receiving Votes: Northern Illinois 105, Wisconsin 68, Kent State 39, Cincinnati 35, Mississippi State 32, Utah State 20, Central Florida 18, Northwestern 10, San Diego State 8, Tulsa 8; Washington 7; Fresno State 4; Middle Tennessee 2.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

W L T Pct PF PA

New England 6 3 0 .667 299 201

South

W L T Pct PF PA

Houston 7 1 0 .875 237 137

Indianapolis 6 3 0 .667 186 201

Tennessee 4 6 0 .400 219 311

Jacksonville 1 8 0 .111 117 246

North

W L T Pct PF PA

Baltimore 7 2 0 .778 254 196

Pittsburgh 5 3 0 .625 191 164

Cincinnati 4 5 0 .444 220 231

Cleveland 2 7 0 .222 169 231

West

W L T Pct PF PA

Denver 6 3 0 .667 217 189

San Diego 4 5 0 .444 209 191

Oakland 3 6 0 .333 191 284

Kansas City 1 7 0 .125 133 240

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

W L T Pct PF PA

N.Y. Giants 6 4 0 .600 267 216

Dallas 4 5 0 .444 188 204

Philadelphia 3 6 0 .333 156 221

Washington 3 6 0 .333 226 248

South

W L T Pct PF PA

Atlanta 8 1 0 .889 247 174

Tampa Bay 5 4 0 .556 260 209

New Orleans 4 5 0 .444 249 256

Carolina 2 7 0 .222 163 216

North

W L T Pct PF PA

Chicago 7 1 0 .875 236 120

Green Bay 6 3 0 .667 239 187

Minnesota 6 4 0 .600 238 221

Detroit 4 5 0 .444 216 222

West

W L T Pct PF PA