

# The Long Wait Is Over For USD, SDSU Football

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — There's been no avoiding the magnitude.

No, the University of South Dakota football team has not shied from proclaiming today's (Saturday) 2 p.m. game at South Dakota State as its biggest at the Division I level.

True, there is nothing beyond pride at stake for the Coyotes (1-9, 0-7), but that's enough motivation for them.

"For it to be set up that if we go up and win and they don't go to the playoffs, for how our season's been, that's

pretty awesome," senior fullback Quintin McMartin said this week.

"We've been looking forward to this game for a long time."

500 days, to be exact. There has been a countdown clock to Nov. 17, 2012, in the USD locker room for the past two seasons, players said this week. As the Coyotes have struggled through their first season in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, the finale was always one on their mind.

"Not to undermine the significance of the other games, but I think a lot of the guys were looking forward to this game as the hopeful zenith of our season,"

junior kicker Kevin Robb said.

"We are incredibly willing to let the rest of the past go, and just focus on this game now."

Part of that focus includes a 'spoiler' role.

The Coyotes, with a win, can all but put a critical dent in SDSU's post-season hopes. The Jackrabbits (7-3, 5-2) need one more victory to reach eight — which would likely earn them an at-large

## chat

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bid to the Football Champion Subdivision playoffs.

"The motivation is at an all-time high, and we have nothing to lose," said USD redshirt freshman offensive lineman Derek Chancellor. "If we could knock them out of the playoffs, that'd be great."

With nine years separating the last meeting and today's showdown, connections between the two programs are limited — other than 18 in-state players for SDSU and 17 for USD.

This season as league partners, however, there is a source of comparison. Each team has lost to North Dakota

State, while USD suffered 3-point losses to Missouri State and Youngstown State — both teams the Jackrabbits beat.

A big key is the differences in the rushing game. The Jackrabbits are led by Zach Zenner, the nation's second-leading runner (1,721 yards), while the Coyotes rank 101st nationally against the run.

Chancellor, from McCook, Neb., also pointed to the other side of the ball as a strong point for SDSU. The Jacks rank ninth nationally in scoring defense (16.7

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S.D. State Volleyball

# Panthers Roar To Final



Dakota Valley's Lindsey Smith, 10, Erica Johnson and Kylie Martin celebrate a point during the Panthers' 3-0 victory over Belle Fourche in the semifinals of the South Dakota State Class A Volleyball Tournament on Friday at the Watertown Civic Arena.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

## Dakota Valley Rolls Past Belle Fourche In Semis, Will Face SFC For 'A' Title

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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WATERTOWN — The Dakota Valley Panthers got off to a slow start in their semifinal matchup with top-seeded Belle Fourche.

It lasted all of three points. Dakota Valley shook off a couple bad points early on the way to a 25-18, 25-6, 25-16 victory over the Broncos in the semifinals of the South Dakota State Class A Volleyball Tournament on Friday at the Watertown Civic Arena.

The win earned the Panthers their first-ever berth in the state finals, and another shot at two-time defending state champion Sioux Falls Christian. The Chargers knocked off Sioux Valley in the other semifinal.

"They've taken it to us," said Dakota Valley head coach Don Craig. The Chargers went 2-0 against the Panthers this season, winning the regular season and in the Big Sioux Conference tournament championship match, both by 3-0 decisions. "They are the two-time defending state champion for a reason. We're excited to have the opportunity to play

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LUKE HAGEN/MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLIC  
Parker's Tessa Weeldreyer, right, spikes the ball around the defense of Lyman during their Class B state tournament semifinal match Friday night at the Corn Palace.

## Arlington Ends Parker's Bid For 'B' Crown

BY VANCE JANAK

P&D Correspondent

MITCHELL — When the points mattered most, Arlington's hitters found the openings in Parker's defense.

After taking the lead in the fifth set in Friday night's Class B state tournament semifinal match on a few Parker hitting errors, Arlington closed out its 3-2 victory at the Corn Palace with Samantha Boeck, Brooke Hennrich and Kimberly VanBoeckern combining for six kills. It was the Cardinals' relentless hitting and some untimely miscues that cost top-seeded Parker its perfect season and a chance at playing for its first state championship.

"It's tough," Parker coach Jill Christensen said after her Pheasants (33-1) lost for the first time since last year's semifinal match to eventual state champion Northwestern. "It's never easy to lose. We're all competitors. They scrapped and they clawed and they hustled. You can't fault the effort."

Like last year, Parker will look to bounce back today at 6 p.m. in the third-place match when the Pheasants take on No. 6 James Valley Christian (22-7). Despite the defeat, Parker senior middle hitter Tessa Weeldreyer said she "couldn't be happier" with the effort the Pheasants gave.

"Arlington's a tough team and my teammates gave it their all," Weeldreyer said. "I couldn't ask for a better team."

The two teams, both playing in their first five-setter of the season, delivered the most entertaining match of the tournament. The stats were nearly even as No. 5 Arlington (32-5) finished with a 66-60 edge in hitting. Its 103 digs were two more than Parker's, and the Cardinals recorded four more (12) ace serves than the Pheasants.

"It hurts but it was bound to happen at some time," Weeldreyer said. "We gave it our all."

The Pheasants couldn't slow down Boeck. The 5-foot-11 junior hitter, who recorded 23 kills in the Cardinals' 3-1 quarterfinal win Thursday against Andes Central, had a tournament-high 35 kills Friday. Hennrich and VanBoeckern each added 10.

Their efforts offset Parker sophomore Allison Sanner's 20 kills, Weeldreyer's 16 and senior Micallane Hanten's 15.

"We knew we had to stop Boeck," Christensen said, "but they had some other girls that stepped up tonight, too. We had a few more hit-

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# Wagner Rebounds, Will Play For Fifth Place Today

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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WATERTOWN — After a tough first-round loss for Wagner, head coach Amy Tyler said we would see the team's character in their consolation semifinal match with Mobridge-Pollock on Friday.

What fans saw was that the Red Raiders start slow, but finish very strong.

Wagner bounced Mobridge-Pollock 25-21, 25-18, 25-7 to advance to a consolation final match against Aberdeen Roncalli in the fifth place match today (Saturday) at the Watertown Civic Arena.

"I was really impressed with our aggressiveness today," Tyler said. "That's what we needed to see. We passed better and we blocked a lot better."

Wagner finished with four blocks in the match, with Alex Dvorak having a hand in all of them. She recorded a solo and three assisted blocks in the win, with Jessa Doom adding two assisted blocks.

The Red Raiders pounded out 39 kills

in the match, with all six Wagner front-row players recording at least four kills. Kim Koupal and Nicole Weber had nine kills each, with Gina Soukup and Dvorak recording six apiece.

"The only way we win is if we get everyone involved," Tyler said. "Jessa did a great job of that later in the match."

Doom, the team's setter, had five kills, including four of the team's first 13 points.

"The team needed a spark. We had to have kills," Doom said. "I decided to take action."

Doom's kills came early in the match, as Mobridge-Pollock built a 15-13 lead. Koupal had three kills as the Red Raiders rallied to take the opening set.

Wagner kept the Tigers in the second game early on, as four missed served helped Mobridge-Pollock stay even through 11 points. From there, the Red

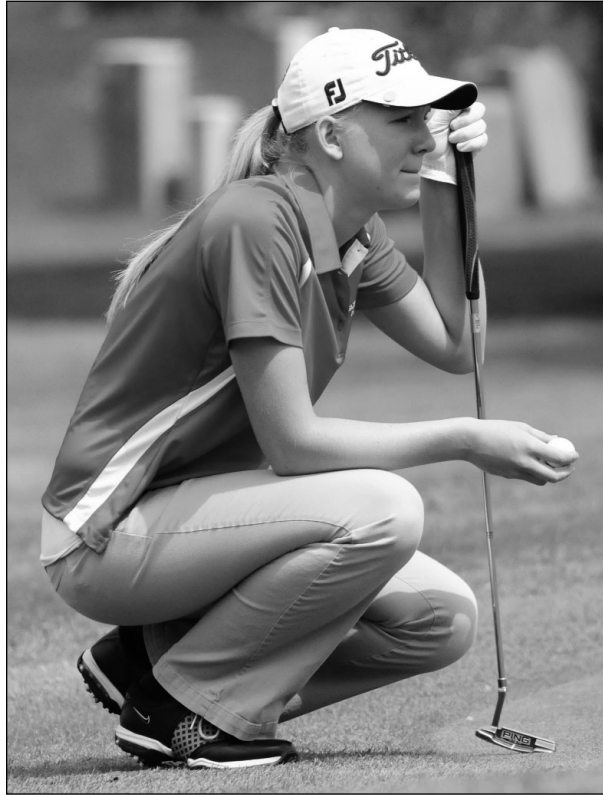


Wagner's Kim Koupal gets low to dig out a ball during the Red Raiders' 3-0 victory over Mobridge-Pollock on Friday at the Watertown Civic Arena.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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# Yankton's Mingo Signs To Golf At Augie



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton's Megan Mingo lines up a putt on Hole No. 17 during her round in the Yankton Girls' Golf Invitational in April. Mingo signed Wednesday to golf starting next year at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Four top-20 finishes at state and a significant summer tour honor landed Megan Mingo on the recruiting radar of more than a couple regional colleges.

Ultimately, the Yankton High School senior chose the NCAA Division II route.

Mingo, who came up one shot shy of a Class AA individual title in May, signed Wednesday to golf at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. An offer from the University of South Dakota was also on the table, she said Friday.

"I liked the bigger city aspect in Sioux Falls, but that the campus was small enough to be comfortable," Mingo said. "The environment was very welcoming, and the coaching staff really had a big impact."

This year's South Dakota Golf Association (SDGA) Junior Golfer of the Year for her age group, Mingo has helped lead the Gazelles to four consecutive top-six finishes at the Class AA state championship in the spring.

Earlier this year, Mingo took second place at the AA tournament,

where Yankton finished third. That followed individual finishes of third (2011), 16th (2010) and 15th (2009) for Mingo at state.

Naturally, she caught the attention of college coaches, Yankton head coach Brett Sime said.

"I think it's a good deal for her," Sime said. "They have a great program, and I'm excited to see her go on to that level. She's been one of the best golfers we've had since I've been here."

There has been little relief from golf for Mingo, who transitioned from the high school season to the SDGA schedule over the summer. She then won four SDGA Junior regional events and finished in the top three in two others.

Experience like that, with competition from some of the top players in the state and across the region helped fine-tune her game, Mingo said.

"It's been just keeping my swing intact; staying in that groove," she said. "We've been working on my chipping and putting, too."

Despite the busy schedule, Mingo was able to visit the Augustana campus this summer and

## USD Beats NC Central 81-69 For First Victory

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Tyler Flack had 21 points and eight rebounds to help South Dakota to its first win of the season with an 81-69 victory over North Carolina Central on Friday afternoon in Wyoming's Global Hoops Sports Showcase.

Karim Rowson and Juevool Myles each added 13 points for the Coyotes (1-2), who trailed 35-30 at the half. Jay Copeland finished with 18 points for the Eagles (2-3).

South Dakota tied it at 37 early in the second half on Myles' 3-pointer, and took the lead on a pair of free throws from Rowson. The Coyotes extended the lead to 56-48 midway through the half on a 3-pointer from senior Jordan Boots, son of coach Dave Boots.

**SOUTH DAKOTA 81, NC CENTRAL 69**

**NC CENTRAL (2-3)**

Copeland, Jr. 6-7 6-9 18, Kidd 7-10 0-0 14, Anyaoran 0-6 1-2 4, Chapman 3-8 0-0 8, Willis 3-10 0-0 6, Ferguson 1-1 2-2 4, Galaya 0-1 0-0 0, Ingram 5-14 5-8 17, Jawara 0-1 1-2 1, Houston 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 25-60 15-23 69.

**SOUTH DAKOTA (1-2)**

Flack 8-13 5-7 21, Gruis 3-7 1-3 7, Myles 4-11 2-2 13, Kasperbauer 4-7 0-0 12, Rowson 4-8 5-5 13, Boots 2-3 0-0 6, Tecker 2-3 2-2 6, Bos 1-3 0-0 3, Robertson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-55 15-19 81.

Halftime—NC Central 35-30, 3-Point Goals—NC Central 4-21 (Chapman 2-3, Ingram 2-9, Houston 0-1, Jawara 0-1, Galaya 0-1, Anyaoran 0-2, Kidd 0-2, Willis 0-2), S. Dakota 10-24 (Kasperbauer 4-7, Myles 3-10, Boots 2-3, Bos 1-2, Flack 0-1, Tecker 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—NC Central 34 (Willis 9), S. Dakota 31 (Flack 8). Assists—NC Central 14 (Chapman 5), S. Dakota 19 (Myles 6). Total Fouls—NC Central 14, S. Dakota 18. A—175.

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