

Former Baylor Assistant Turns EIU Into Offensive Force

Eastern Illinois Preps For Playoff Game At SDSU On Saturday

BY JEREMY HOECK

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In the case of Eastern Illinois, a coaching change led directly to a record-setting season and a playoff berth.

The man in charge? Dino Babers, a former Big 12 assistant.

The biggest change? A switch to an up-tempo, high-yardage offense.

"I was excited about it, in the off-season when it first came about," EIU junior quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo said this week in a

media teleconference. "We have a great group of receivers and running backs, and I really felt like we weren't taking ad-

vantage of the last couple years.

"But this new offense really showed what could happen."

Eastern Illinois (7-4), the champions of the Ohio Valley Conference, will bring that offense to Brookings for Saturday's 2 p.m. FCS first-round playoff game at South Dakota State.

Babers came to Eastern Illinois after four seasons as an offensive assistant at FBS Baylor, which produced some of the nation's top offenses. In short fashion, the Panthers improved from 2-9 last season to 7-4 and a league title this fall.

Crediting his 16 seniors for "buying into the new program," Babers said he has been impressed with the way they have adapted to a brand new system — specifically on offense.

"Usually you go as your seniors lead you," he said. "And for those young men to have loyalties with the old regime and to switch loyalties and totally buy in our philosophy one of the reasons we're

here where we're at."

Where the Panthers are has a lot to do with their offense.

Thanks to one of the most potent passing units in the FCS, Eastern Illinois ranks sixth nationally in total offense (480.45) and seventh in scoring offense (38.9 ppg).

Naturally, comparisons to Oregon might be in order, right?

"We're the junior varsity of Baylor University," Babers said, instead. "A branch of that offense. That's who we emulate."

The Panthers boast two Walter Payton Award finalists in junior quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo and junior receiver Erik Lora. Garoppolo ranks fifth nationally in total offense per game (328.1), while Lora set an FCS record with 124 receptions.

Babers compared Garoppolo, a native of Arlington Heights, Ill., to another former Eastern Illinois quarterback:

Tony Romo, now with the NFL's Dallas Cowboys.

"As Jimmy goes, we go," Babers said. "He's a big-time quarterback. If he keeps developing at the rate he's developing, he'll have an opportunity to play beyond his years."

Under Babers' new up-tempo offense, Garoppolo has attempted at least 30 passes in every game, twice reaching 60. With such a quick-strike offense, the Panthers don't have the ball much — EIU ranks second-to-last nationally in time of possession.

When Eastern Illinois does have the ball, however, its fast-paced style leads to opposing defenses getting worn down, Garoppolo said.

"By the middle of the third quarter to the end of the quarter, you can start to see the (defensive) linemen hunched over, trying to catch their breath," he said. "We've even see guys fake a couple injuries against us to slow us down."

When Garoppolo passes the ball, there's a good chance it's headed for

Lora. The native of Miami, Fla., set an FCS record for catches (124) and leads the nation in yards (1,531) and yards per game (139.18).

Lora set a conference record with 21 receptions in an overtime win Sept. 22 over Murray State.

"I've had 27 wide receivers play in the National Football League, had guys a lot more talented than Erik Lora, but I'm not sure if I've had anyone work as hard as Erik Lora works," Babers said.

Hard work is something the EIU offensive forces on defenses, as well, especially when it comes to the pace, Lora said.

"The biggest key is tempo, keeping the offense hot, keeping the plays going, and making defenses tired," he said. "If we keep the pace coming, they can't call defenses and we get them out of position."

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also

See Our GameDay Graphic On The SDSU-EIU Game.

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media teleconference. "We have a great group of receivers and running backs, and I really felt like we weren't taking ad-

Deubrook Stars Lead 9AA All-State Football Team

BY ROGER MERRIAM

Watertown Public Opinion

WATERTOWN — The dream season continues for Deubrook Area High School's football team.

The Dolphins recorded comeback wins over Potter County in the quarterfinals and Gregory in the semifinals and held off Howard 25-22 in the state Class 9AA championship, capping a perfect 12-0 season with the school's first state football title.

Five Deubrook Area players spearhead the South Dakota Football Coaches Association's Class 9AA All-State football team released today by the South Dakota Sports-writers Association.

"It was just again a magical, phenomenal season," Deubrook Area head coach Adolph Shepardson said.

Record-setting senior running back Ryan Knutson, senior tight end Cory Byers, junior wide receiver Dustin Trooien, senior guard Dallas Murphy and senior line-backer Tyler Jensen each earned All-State honors for the Dolphins. Juniors Kay Glatzer and Riley Hanson were honorable-mention selections.

Twenty of the 24 players on the squad are seniors.

Offense

• Quarterback — Jaden Bartling, sr., Gregory. He rushed for 1,825 yards and 23 touchdowns and completed 80 of 140 passes for 1,570 yards and 26 TDs.

"He was an invaluable player to our team's success," said coach Brian Allmendinger. "At times, he carried the team through his determination and efforts."

• Fullback — Anthony Huber, sr., Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan. A returning All-State selection at fullback, Huber rushed for 1,114 yards and 19 touchdowns.

"Anthony is very coachable. He blocks well and has good vision," said coach Jeff VanLeur. "He has been a leader for us the past two seasons."

• Running Back — Ryan Knutson, sr., Deubrook Area. The 150-pound Knutson 10.56 yards per carry during a remarkable season that included 2,434 rushing yards and a state-record 40 rushing touchdowns.

"Ryan is a humble, hard-working and greatly-skilled player," said Shepardson. "He is a model student-athlete."

• Running Back — Jake Kirsch, sr., Kimball-White Lake. A two-time All-State selection, Kirsch rushed for 1,282 yards and 20 touchdowns.

"Jake is an all-around good football player who did a lot of things for us on the field, including a captain, and was a leader off the field as well," said coach Dale Taylor.

• Wide Receiver — Dustin Trooien, jr., Deubrook Area. The state-champion Dolphins ran the ball a lot, but Trooien was a weapon in the passing game — hauling in 31 passes for 544 yards and three TDs.

"Dustin has great hands, high points the ball and uses his hands to catch," said Shepardson. "He also has a great effort blocking. He is a stud wide receiver."

• Wide Receiver — Andrew Taggart, jr. Gregory. A key target for Bartling and the Gorillas, the junior caught 17 passes for 373 yards and seven TDs.

"Andrew runs good routes and has the tremendous ability to make plays while the ball is in the air," said Allmendinger.

• Tight End — Cory Byers, sr., Deubrook Area. The 6-foot-6 Byers was indeed a big target for the Dolphins, catching 14 passes for 231 yards and six touchdowns.

"Cory was our team leader," said Shepardson. "He had a great senior season."

• Guard — Dallas Murphy, sr., Deubrook Area. The 6-foot-5, 240-

Bluejays Too Much For USD



South Dakota's Nicole Seekamp passes out of a Creighton double-team by Sarah Nelson, behind, and Marissa Janning, 23, during their women's basketball game on Tuesday at the DakotaDome.

BY CHRIS RILEY
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VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota women's basketball team hung with reigning Missouri Valley Conference champion Creighton but the Coyotes' 25 total turnovers proved to be too much to overcome as the Blue Jays escaped the DakotaDome with a 53-49 victory on Tuesday night in USD's home opener.

While committing only nine turnovers themselves, Creighton used its trap defense to pressure USD to make numerous costly mistakes.

"They forced us into uncharacteristic turnovers," Coyotes head coach Amy Williams said. "Their pressure really got to us."

Despite never trailing and leading by as many as 13 points in the first half and nine midway through the second, the Blue Jays were not able to put the Coyotes away as junior transfer Polly Harrington kept USD in the game with her hot shooting.

Harrington led the Coyotes, who fall to 1-3 with the loss, with 23 points off of 80 percent shooting, including a 3-3 effort from beyond the three-point arc. Despite her strong performance, Harrington's thoughts echoed that of her head coach.

"Turnovers killed us tonight," Harrington said. "They (Creighton) were strong with the ball and didn't turn it over."

At one point in the first half, Harrington accounted for 14 consecutive USD points and later sank a pair of free throws to pull the Coyotes within three points of Creighton with 9:19 left to play. But, the Blue Jays responded with a 6-0 run and led by at least five from that point forward until Harrington sank her final trey at the buzzer.

Junior forward Sarah Nelson led the Blue Jays with 23 points and seven rebounds. No other Creighton player was in double figures as Carli Tritz and Marissa Janning each added eight points.

"They are well-balanced," Williams said of Creighton. "They have lots of kids who can hurt you on any given night and that is what makes them so dangerous."

The only Coyote besides Harrington with double digit points was senior Tempestt Wilson with 12. Wilson added six rebounds while Nicole Seekamp recorded seven rebounds and five points.

As they had done in their previous three games to open the season, USD once again out-rebounded its opponent. The Coyotes pulled down 41 boards compared to Creighton's 25.

"We continued to dominate rebounding," Williams added. "That is a mentality that we will have to take into every game."

After trailing 31-23 at the half, USD did manage to shoot 50 percent from the field in the second half, something that Williams attributed to the players settling down a little more in their DakotaDome debut.

Tuesday's contest versus Creighton (2-1) wraps up a four-game stretch again postseason qualifying teams from a year ago to open USD's season. The Blue Jays received a 2012 NCAA Women's Tournament automatic bid via their conference championship last season. Williams said that the tough early games will only work to prepare her team for their upcoming conference schedule.

"We need to work on things so this was a good challenge early for us," Williams said. "I think the Summit (League) will be tough

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MMC Women Earn Tough 55-51 GPAC Road Win At Dordt

SIoux CENTER, Iowa — Holly Hegge scored a team-high 16 points off the bench to lead Mount Marty to a 55-51 victory over Dordt in Great Plains Athletic Conference women's basketball action on Tuesday at DeWitt Gymnasium.

Hegge went 5-8 from the field and 5-7 from the line for the Lancers. The Crofton, Neb., native also had five rebounds.

Also for MMC, Taylor Forsch

scored 15 points, including 13 in the first half, and Brittany Little had nine points and six rebounds.

For Dordt (3-5, 1-1 GPAC), Kara Van Dyke had 21 points and 11 rebounds. Beresford native Elise Mareah had eight points and seven rebounds.

Dordt led 13-9 early, but the Lancers outscored the Defenders 20-4 over the next eight minutes to claim a 29-17 lead. Dordt fought

back to lead by as many as five in the second half, 39-34, but MMC would not trail again after taking the lead with 7:11 to play.

MMC, 3-3 overall and 1-1 in the GPAC, gets its first conference home game next, hosting defending national champion Northwestern on Nov. 28. Start time is 6 p.m.

MMC also won the JV game, claiming a 70-55 decision. Centerville native Samantha

Blake had 13 points and eight rebounds to lead MMC. Tara Des Lauriers had 11 points. Erica Dreckman added 10 points as all 11 Lancers who dressed for the contest scored.

MMC JV, 3-1, travels to Norfolk, Neb., to face Northeast Community College on Monday.

MOUNT MARTY (3-3)

Alexa Berg 1-7 2-2 4, April Winne 1-8 5-8 7, Taylor Forsch 5-11 2-4 15, Allison DeKam 0-7 1-4 1, Brittany Little 2-5 5-5 9, Alyssa Whelham 1-4 0-0 3, Kelli Norrid 0-1 0-0 0, Holly Hegge

5-8 5-7 16. TOTALS: 15-51 20-30 55.

DORDT (3-5)

Kayla Broekhuis 1-6 0-2 3, Jasmin Schelhaas 3-6 0-2 9, Kara Van Dyke 8-14 4-8 21, Brianna Spronk 1-6 0-0 2, Elise Mareah 4-9 0-0 8, Emily Neuman 0-1 1-3 1, Jessica Jelsma 2-4 0-0 4, Robyn Blount 0-1 2-1, Bethany Hulst 0-0 0-0 0, Myah Hulst 0-2 0-0 0, Jamie Kok 1-6 0-0 2. TOTALS: 20-55 5-15 51.

At the half: MMC 32, DC 24. Three-Pointers: MMC 5-14 (Forsch 3-4, Whelham 1-2, Hegge 1-3, Little 0-1, Berg 0-4), DC 5-17 (Schelhaas 3-6, Broekhuis 1-4, Van Dyke 1-3, Neuman 0-1, Spronk 0-2, Kok 0-1). Rebounds: DC 47 (Van Dyke 11), MMC 35 (Little 6). Personal Fouls: DC 28, MMC 14. Fouled Out: Broekhuis. Assists: DC 9 (Spronk 3), MMC 6 (Winne 3). Turnovers: DC 23, MMC 14. Blocked Shots: DeKam 3, DC 3 (Myah Hulst 2). Steals: MMC 9 (four with 2), DC 7. Attendance: 355.

No. 3 Dordt Holds Off MMC EICHFELD NAMED S.D. REC COACH OF YEAR

SIoux CENTER, Iowa — Cliff Warner and Trevor Wolterstorff combined for 41 points to lead third-ranked Dordt to an 86-72 victory over Mount Marty in Great Plains Athletic Conference action on Tuesday at DeWitt Gymnasium.

Warner scored 21 points, hitting 4-6 from three-point range, and had five assists for Dordt (7-1, 1-1 GPAC). Wolterstorff had 20 points on 9-13 shooting and added eight rebounds. Jordan Vogel and Chris Sievers had 12 points each. Kyle Lindbergh added 10 points and seven rebounds in the win.

For MMC (3-4, 0-2 GPAC), Jeff Larson scored 14 points off the bench on 6-8 shooting. Saladin Smith netted 11 points. Austin Harms and Jose Pena-Benjamin each had eight points for the Lancers.

Dordt used a 15-3 run midway through the first half to pull away.

MMC heads to Mankato, Minn., for an exhibition with NCAA Division II Minnesota State-Mankato on Saturday. Start time is 6 p.m.

Dordt also won the JV game 60-

47.

MOUNT MARTY (3-4)
Saladin Smith 4-12 2-11, Chris Richardson 2-5 0-0 6, Scott Odekirik 0-2 4-4 4, Joe Hieb 2-3 1-2 5, Austin Harms 3-7 2-4 8, Scott Sellers 1-1 2-2 5, Jose Pena-Benjamin 4-10 0-0 8, T.J. Johnson 2-7 0-0 5, Jeff Larson 6-8 2-2 14, Chevy Fischer 2-5 0-0 6. TOTALS: 26-60 13-16 72.

DORDT (7-1)

Cliff Warner 5-9 7-10 21, Shawn Keizer 2-3 0-0 5, Trevor Wolterstorff 9-13 2-6 20, Kyle Lindbergh 4-6 2-2 10, Jordan Vogel 4-6 4-4 12, Rees Beaver 0-1 0-0 0, Nathan Rindels 0-0 0-0 0,

Austin Katje 1-5 0-0 3, Tyler Wolterstorff 1-2 1-2 3, Chris Sievers 4-6 4-6 12.

At the half: DC 43, MMC 30. Three-Pointers: MMC 7-17 (Fischer 2-3, Richardson 2-3, Sellers 1-1, Smith 1-3, Johnson 1-4, Hieb 0-1, Harms 0-1), DC 6-16 (Warner 4-6, Keizer 1-2, Katje 1-5, Lindbergh 0-1, Beaver 0-1, Tyler Wolterstorff 0-1). Rebounds: DC 38 (Trevor Wolterstorff 8), MMC 22 (Smith 4, Larson 4). Personal Fouls: MMC 25, DC 17. Fouled Out: None. Technical Fouls: Harms. Assists: DC 18 (Warner 5), MMC 10 (Smith 3). Turnovers: DC 24, MMC 17. Blocked Shots: DC 7 (Sievers 4), MMC 1 (Fischer). Steals: MMC 17 (three with 3), DC 5 (Trevor Wolterstorff 2). Attendance: 1,018.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE 81, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE 72: BROOKINGS (AP) — Nate Wolters scored 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead South Dakota State over Southwest Minnesota State 81-72 on Wednesday night.

Chad White scored 19 points, including 5 of 7 from 3-point range. Tony Fiegen had 10 rebounds for the Jackrabbits (4-2).

The Mustangs kept the game close and took a 31-30 lead with under 5 minutes to play in the first half. The Mustangs shot 50 percent from the field for the first half. The Jackrabbits shot 38.9 percent. But it was the Jackrabbits who had a 38-33 lead at halftime.

The Mustangs had four players in double figures. Matt Azager scored 13 points, shooting 5 of 5 from the field. Lavione West had 12, and William Giddings added 11. Nick Smith had 10 points, eight rebounds for the Mustangs.

Southwest Minnesota State is a Division II team. The Jackrabbits have won 19 consecutive games at home.

NEBRASKA 61, TULANE 57: LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Andre Almeida's dunk with 1:45 left put Nebraska up for good and the Cornhuskers turned back Tulane 61-57 Wednesday night.

Nebraska (4-0), which led for nearly the entire first half, saw Tulane (3-2) take the lead on Jordan Callahan's jumper with 16:53 left which made the score 40-39. The Green Wave stayed in front until Almeida hit a 6-foot set shot with 4:51 left to put Nebraska up 56-55.

Almeida's dunk broke a tie at 57-57. Almeida was the final basket of the game. Jordan Callahan missed three free throws with 1:06 remaining after having been fouled on a 3-point attempt. Nebraska's Dylan Talley missed a driving shot. Josh Davis and Callahan each missed shots in the final 40 seconds for Tulane.

Ray Gallegos hit a pair of free throws with 3.5 seconds left to seal the win for Nebraska.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Paul Eichfeld of Yankton has been named the Recreation Coach of the Year by the South Dakota State Soccer Association. The honor was presented to him by SDSSA Board of Directors member Dave LaCombe at a recent Yankton Youth Soccer Association meeting. Eichfeld has coached youth soccer for eight years, the past five in Yankton. He has coached a U-14 boys' travel team, and is now coaching his daughter's U-8 team. He started playing soccer at the age of 5 and continued playing in Pennsauken Youth and High School levels in NJ, and went onto Philadelphia College Of Textiles and Sciences in Philadelphia, playing Division I in 1983.