

# Kool, Jackrabbits Looking For First FCS Post-Season Win

## South Dakota State Hosts Eastern Illinois In First Round Today

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Tyrel Kool was on the field the last time South Dakota State played in the FCS post-season. And yes, he remembers it well.

Kool, a senior wide receiver from Yankton, was a redshirt freshman for the Jackrabbits in 2009 when they lost a first-round playoff game at Montana after blowing a 41-14 lead.

Three years later, he and his senior teammates are back and are ready for some redemption today (Saturday) when Eastern Illinois visits Coughlin-Alumni Stadium at 2 p.m.

"We wanted to get back there. It's something we all wanted to do," Kool, the team leader with 39 receptions, said Wednesday. "We wanted another shot. We're getting that chance now, and hopefully we can make the most of it."

South Dakota State, at 8-3, earned an at-large bid to the 20-team FCS playoffs and will host a post-season for the first time in school history. Never mind that Eastern

Illinois is the champion of the Ohio Valley Conference, the Jacks are amped up no matter who they would have been matched up with, Kool said.

Picked sixth in the pre-season Missouri Valley Football Conference poll, the Jackrabbits instead ignored those predictions and put together a second-place season with just two league losses.

"All we're doing is focused on history," head coach John Stiegelmeier said in a radio interview this week. "We believe in our players; it's a special group of guys. We've got an opportunity to do something even more special."

What would that be?

For starters, it would be the program's first-ever playoff win. Prior to this year, SDSU had qualified for the post-season twice — in 1979 and 2009 — but lost each in the first round each time.

"Everybody is really excited," Kool said. "The guys are focused more than anything. It's a play or go home mentality at this point, and we're ready to get it done."

Eastern Illinois (7-4), on the other hand, is making its 14th playoff appearance since 1981, and first since 2009.

Under first-year coach Dino Babers, who came to EIU from Baylor University, the Panthers have utilized one of the nation's fast-moving and highest-scoring offenses to improve from a 2-win season last year.

"I think that our players had an exceptional year, they did a great job buying into the new program," Babers said this week. "And I give all the credit to them and the man upstairs."

A lot of the credit also goes to junior quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, a Walter Payton Award finalist who has guided the nation's seventh-best scoring offense (38.9 ppg). Eastern Illinois has used that up-tempo style to also average 480.45 yards a game — also highlighted by junior receiver Erik Lora, who set an FCS record with 124 catches.

Stiegelmeier compared Eastern Illinois to Oregon, which has a similar style at the FBS level. Kool agreed, making a compar-

son to another sport.

"They look like a fast-break team in basketball," Kool said. "Their defense is full of athletic guys that fly around and make plays. Everything they do is fast. It's all centered around speed and getting to the ball."

"It's not like they're just some random guys out there, they're a good team."

The Panthers, however, have yet to see a defense like the stingy, limiting style played by SDSU.

Jackrabbits boast the nation's fourth-best scoring defense (15.9 ppg) and rank eighth in total defense, with 297.73 yards allowed per game.

The area of specific dominance, though?

SDSU is tied for second among FCS teams in red zone defense, with opponents scoring just 59 percent of the time inside the Jacks' 20-yard line. That equates to 105 total points allowed (12 TD, 7 field goals) in 32 drives.

"They've got a good front seven, but I like the way our (offensive) line's been blocking for us, so I'm looking forward to that matchup up front with the big guys

going against each other," Garoppolo said this week in a media teleconference.

Babers, while at the same time lauding SDSU's defense, was also weary of what a win Saturday would mean for his Panthers: A trip to Fargo to play top-ranked and defending national champion North Dakota State.

"Some people think that's the best or second best conference in the FCS, so obviously they'll (SDSU) be a heckuva battle for us," Babers said. "We feel like we've got not only one of the toughest draws, and if we happen to get past this game, we've got the toughest draw."

First, though, comes Saturday, Kool pointed out.

"That's one of our mottos, 1-0 every week," he said. "We took our season a week at a time, and that's what you have to do in the playoffs. If we're worrying about North Dakota State, our minds aren't in the right place."

"We have to take care of business."

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# Burkhead Powers Huskers Past Iowa

## USD Survives Wildcats 81-73

BY LUKE MEREDITH

AP Sports Writer

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Winning five straight games mostly without him, didn't mean Nebraska doesn't need Rex Burkhead.

On a cold and blustery afternoon with a spot in the Big Ten title game on the line, Burkhead proved why he's so valuable to the Huskers.

Burkhead scored the go-ahead touchdown in his return from a knee injury and No. 17 Nebraska beat Iowa 13-7 on Friday to claim the Legends Division's berth in the championship game.

The Huskers (10-2, 7-1 Big Ten) will face off against Wisconsin next Saturday in Indianapolis after winning six straight since a loss at Ohio State.

It'll be a rematch of Nebraska's thrilling 30-27 home win over the Badgers in late September.

"I remember after Ohio State, I said what we needed to do, and you all looked at me like I was a crazy man. I probably thought I was a crazy man that night. I believe in this team. Honestly, I'm proud of those kids in that locker room," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said.

Burkhead had to be at the top of Pelini's list.

Burkhead, making his first appearance since aggravating a sprained left knee on Oct. 20 against Northwestern, broke through with a 3-yard TD run to make it 13-7 late in the third quarter. He rushed for 69 yards, all in the second half.

Alonzo Whaley's interception with 2:11 left sealed the victory for Nebraska.

The Huskers defense held the Hawkeyes (4-8, 2-6) scoreless in the final three quarters in windy conditions.

Mark Weisman had 91 yards rushing for Iowa, which finished the season on a six-game losing streak. The Hawkeyes will miss out on a bowl game for just the second time since 2000.

"Nobody's happy about where we're at," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "We fully realize we have a lot of work to do right now."

Nebraska's offense spent much of the day stifled by a stiff wind that gusting up to 40 mph and a surprisingly stout Iowa defense.

Fittingly, quarterback Taylor Martinez and Burkhead teamed up to put the Huskers ahead.

Martinez beat quadruple coverage for an 18-yard completion to Braylon Heard, an impressive hookup considering the conditions. Burkhead was in the end zone a few plays later to give Nebraska a six-point lead with 3:10 left in the third quarter.

Iowa pinned Nebraska at the 1 with 12:03 left, but Burkhead willed the Huskers out of harm's way with runs of 9 and 8 yards into the wind.

Though the Huskers were later forced to punt, Burkhead helped them avoid the worst while burning valuable minutes off the clock.

"I just thought it would be a mental boost for us. I went into the game thinking we're only going to play him if we need him," Pelini said of Burkhead, who rushed for 57 yards in the fourth quarter. "I asked him 'How do you feel about it?' And Rex said 'Let's go.'"

A mild fall in the Midwest came to an abrupt end on Friday.

During the national anthem, the breeze at Kinnick Stadium was so strong it nearly blew over the American flag — and the man holding it. The wind chill hovered in the teens all day.

The conditions made passing a risky venture. Martinez threw for just 63 yards, while Iowa's James



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/PA-D

South Dakota's Juevol Myles splits the Culver-Stockton defense for a layup during the first half of their game on Friday at the DakotaDome. Myles scored a game-high 24 points to lead USD to an 81-73 victory in the contest, the home opener for the Coyotes. USD hosts Waldorf College today (Saturday) at 7 p.m.

## Winner Leads Class 11B All-State Team

BY LUKE HAGEN

Mitchell Daily Republic

MITCHELL — Throughout much of the season, the Winner High School football team dominated its opposition.

In the regular season, the Warriors shut out five of their eight opponents and averaged 43 points per game. By the time the playoff time came up, the first two rounds were much of the same.

Winner cruised, setting up a semifinal matchup with Flandreau. That's when the Warriors finally got pushed, setting up two memorable games and leading to the school's second state title since 2009.

After eking out a 26-21 victory over Flandreau on a late touchdown pass in the semifinals, Winner moved on to the 11B title game to face Tri-Valley, the defending 11B champion.

In what was the closest state championship football game of 2012, Winner rallied from a half-time deficit and got a late defensive stand to beat the Mustangs 13-6. Winner finished its season 11-0, picking up two unforgettable victories in its final two games of the year.

Today, Winner has landed three first-team all-state players in guard Tate Novotny, running back Kyle Bertram and defensive back Ben Connot. Although Winner's final two opponents, Flandreau and Tri-Valley, received more individual all-state players, it was the Warriors

who hoisted the championship.

Flandreau received five all-state selections to lead the 11B first-team list and Tri-Valley had four players.

The list is selected by the South Dakota Football Coaches Association and released by the state's sportswriters association.

Here is a position-by-position capsule of each player:

Quarterback: Lincoln Swenson, Deuel: The senior finished with 2,275 yards from scrimmage and 26 touchdowns. He passed for 1,011 yards, 13 touchdowns and 11 interceptions and had 1,264 yards and 13 touchdowns on the ground.

"He's a leader on and off the field," coach Matt Rosdahl said.

Fullback: Jacob Patterson, Flandreau: A three-year starter on offense, Patterson finished his senior season with 170 carries for 1,185 yards and 15 touchdowns. He caught six passes for 59 yards and finished with 2,784 career all-purpose yards.

"On offense, Jacob is our leading rushing from the fullback position," coach Chad Stadem said. "He is very versatile in our offense, defense and special teams."

Tight end: Dominick Burggraff, Tri-Valley: At 6-foot-2, 230 pounds, Burggraff was a two-year starter on offense.

He moved to the tight end position at the beginning of his senior season and caught nine passes for 133 yards and two touchdowns. He also had Tri-Valley's lone TD in the 11B title game.

"He's the vocal leader of our team," coach Steve Bazata said. "He's a very tough, well-conditioned player who never comes off the field for us."

Wide Receiver: Matt Swallow, Aberdeen Roncalli: Swallow finished with 1,916 yards of total offense, including 840 rushing, 500 receiving and 576 return yards. The senior had 25 touchdowns and averaged 17.8 yards per reception.

"Matt is a very quick and strong athlete who is very explosive and versatile," coach Terry Dosch said.

Wide Receiver: Black Donnelly, Elk Point-Jefferson: The senior had 46 catches for 841 yards and 10 touchdowns, finishing his career with 104 catches for 1,836 yards and 22 TDs.

"Blake is a natural wide receiver," coach Scott Bruning said. "He just has that knack for being at the right place and making the big play."

Center: Austin Olson, St. Thomas More: Olson started 31 straight games for STM, helping the team to a 7-3 record.

The team rushed for 1,904 yards and 27 touchdowns and pass for 1,272 yards and 18 touchdowns.

"He always made a great effort to make himself better," coach Wayne Sullivan said.

Guard: D.J. Johanson, Flandreau: A three-year starter, Johanson was part of a team that

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — If Friday night proved anything, it's that the University of South Dakota men's basketball team needs more time together.

Twenty-two turnovers on offense and lapses on defense made that abundantly clear.

Culver-Stockton, an NAIA program from Missouri, pushed the Coyotes to the limit, but the home team playing its first game of the season in the DakotaDome held on for an 81-73 less-than-inspiring victory.

"We're not on the same page with all these new guys; the chemistry isn't there," USD head coach Dave Boots said. "It's certainly a work in progress."

"You're assuming someone makes that cut and they don't. We just haven't played together enough."

With two freshmen — Casey Kasperbauer and Tyler Flack — and two newcomers — Juevol Myles and Karim Rowson — in the starting lineup, that figures to be a theme for the near future for the Coyotes (2-3). The most pressing issue, though, was ball security.

"We had 22 turnovers; that's clearly unacceptable," junior forward Trevor Gruis said. "That starts with me and Juevol being veteran leaders. I don't think we were ready to come out tonight."

"We came out lackadaisical in the first half and I think that led to our uninspired play."

Though they led for the final 27 minutes (including all of the second half), the Coyotes were never really able to muster any kind of flow — on either end.

USD's biggest lead came with 8:44 to play, when Gruis hit a pair of free throws for a 71-54 cushion. Culver-Stockton, however, went on a 13-3 run to get within 74-67 at the 4:09 mark.

The visiting Wildcats (4-2), with already as many win as last season, got as close as six over the final four minutes. Point guard Marshawn Norris led with 23 points, including five 3's.

"That's us not talking on defense," said Myles, who led with 24 points. "They hit some tough shots, and I give credit to Norris."

He had a hand in his face and a couple guys blitzing on the pick and roll. But it's mostly on us communicating."

Or in this case, not talking.

"Twenty-two turnovers, that's the story of the game," Boots said. "We gave them 23 points off our offense, and that's why the game was the way it was."

Especially early, Culver-Stockton proved it wasn't going to be an easy night for the Coyotes.

A 19-4 run by the hosts gave USD a 21-12 lead eight minutes in, but the Wildcats found success underneath (an 11-0 edge in second chance points being one) to pull in front 24-23.

Myles came back in and the Coyotes jumped back ahead 38-29 with 3:07 left. A Jordan Boots jumper in front of the buzzer put USD in front 42-37 at halftime — thanks to 61 percent shooting.

USD would finish with four players in double figures, a welcome sight for a program seeking such balance. Gruis added 16 points and 10 rebounds, while Rowson had 13 points and nine rebounds, and Steve Tecker scored 11 points.

The Coyotes have beaten NAIA teams by an average of 27 points in 15 games in the DakotaDome since moving to the Division I level.

Last season, though, saw the closest call — USD edged Tabor College 69-63 in what was Dave Boots' 600th career win. Friday night was much the same, and yes, there could be a common theme, Boots said.

"Any time you play an NAIA, your post people have a harder time because a lot of those kids are able to shoot the three," he said. "They pull your defense away from the basket."

The good news, Gruis pointed to later, is that a game like Friday provides a surprising challenge to next Thursday's Summit League opener against Western Illinois.

"I guess there's a good way to look at it and a bad way, it just shows that if we don't do the little things like rebound and ball security, anybody can hang with us," Gruis said. "Definitely in the

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## Pepperdine Downs USD Women

MALIBU, Calif. — Robie Mayberry scored a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds to lead host Pepperdine past South Dakota 70-54 in the opening game of the Pepperdine Thanksgiving Classic on Friday.

Pepperdine, 2-2, will now face Wyoming (3-0) in the final, a 5:30 p.m. Central start. USD (1-4) draws Seton Hall in the consolation game, scheduled for 3 p.m. Central.

Ea Shoushtari also had 14 points for Pepperdine. Tessa Emerson scored 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds off the bench in the win.

For USD, Polly Harrington led USD for the second straight game, finishing with 15 points. Margaret McCloud had eight rebounds off the bench. Nicole Seekamp finished with eight points and seven rebounds.

Pepperdine started the game on a 15-4 run. USD closed to within three, 23-20, but could not come closer.

**SOUTH DAKOTA (1-4)**  
Pam January 2-7 0-2 5, Polly Harrington 6-12 3-5 15, Temppest Wilson 2-6 0-4 5, Alexis Yackley 1-5 0-1 3, Nicole Seekamp 2-9 3-4 8, Tia Hemiller 1-5 2-2 5, Sam Mehr 0-3 0-0 0, Margaret McCloud 1-3 3-4 5, Heidi Hoff 2-5 0-2 6, Lisa Loeffler 1-4 1-2 3, Kellra Wallace 1-1 4-4 6, Monet McNally 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 25-64 12-15 70.

**PEPPERDINE (2-2)**  
Robie Mayberry 5-12 0-0 14, Kelsey Patrick 3-9 2-3 8, Jade McVorton 3-6 1-1 7, Ea Shoushtari 4-7 3-3 14, Shay Cooney Williams 2-8 0-4 4, Grace Leah Baughn 1-2 0-3 3, Alisha Roberts 0-1 0-0 0, Brian Richardson 0-4 1-2 1, Amanda Lovely 0-2 0-0 0, Tessa Emerson 5-6 0-0 10, Kelsey Brockway 1-4 1-2 3, Kellra Wallace 1-1 4-4 6, Monet McNally 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 25-64 12-15 70.

At the half: PU 34, USD 29. Three-Pointers: PU 8-23 (Mayberry 4-8, Shoushtari 3-5, Baughn 1-1, Roberts 0-1, Patrick 0-3, Cooney-Williams 0-5), USD 7-14 (Hoff 2-3, Hemiller 1-1, Wilson 1-3, January 1-4, Yackley 1-4, Seekamp 1-5). Rebounds: PU 47 (Mayberry 10), USD 38 (McCloud 8). Personal Fouls: USD 16, PU 14. Fouled Out: None. Assists: PU 14 (Shoushtari 4, Cooney-Williams 4), USD 11 (Seekamp 3). Turnovers: PU 15, USD 15. Blocked Shots: PU 3, USD 2 (Hoff 2). Steals: USD 8 (Yackley 3, Hemiller 3), PU 5. Attendance 327.

**CENTRAL MICHIGAN 88, SOUTH DAKOTA STATE 62: MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich.** — Central Michigan scored the first 14 points of the game and never looked back in recording an 88-62 victory over South Dakota State in non-conference women's basketball action Friday night at McGuirk Arena.

The Chippewas, playing their home opener, improved to 2-2 overall. SDSU dropped to 3-3 on the season.

Crystal Bradford led all players with 21 points on 9-of-11 shooting from the field, while fellow reserve Niki DiGiulio added 16. Kerby Tamm tallied 15 points — all on three-pointers — while Jessica Green contributed 13 points and six assists, while Taylor Johnson posted a double-double with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Rachel Walters connected on four three-pointers en route to tying a career high with 12 points for the Jackrabbits. Megan Wyattashke also scored 12 points, with Tara Heiser scoring a season-high 10. Leah Diel led SDSU on the boards with eight.

Also for SDSU, Chloe Comemann finished with two points and two assists.

The Jackrabbits return to home action Wednesday against Marquette. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m. at Frost Arena, with the men's game against North Dakota to follow at 8:30 p.m.

**NO. 23 NEBRASKA 74, USC 65: LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Lindsey Moore scored 23 points. Jordan Hooper added 19 and No. 23 Nebraska used a late run to rally for a 74-65 victory over USC on Friday afternoon.

Moore made just five field goals but was 13 of 15 from the line. Emily Cady chipped in 14 points for the Cornhuskers (5-1), who trailed 63-57 after a jumper by USC's Christina Marinacci with 3:49 to play. But the Trojans (2-2) got just one more basket the rest of the way, as Moore's jumper and two free throws ignited a game-ending 17-2 run.

The Huskers' 28-of-32 performance at the line made the difference. USC shot just 16 free throws and made only 10.

Ariya Crook led all scorers with 25 points, including five 3-pointers, for the Trojans. Cassie Harberts had 13 points and eight rebounds, and Marinacci added 10 points.