



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&amp;D

South Dakota's Tyler Flack slams the ball home during the second half of the Coyotes' 84-59 victory over Waldorf on Saturday at the DakotaDome. Flack finished with 14 points, seven rebounds and eight blocked shots in the win.

## USD Tunes Up For League Opener With Win Over Waldorf

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — In nearly every facet of analysis, there wasn't much to nit-pick about with the improvement Saturday night by the University of South Dakota men's basketball team.

The offensive flowed better, the turnovers were trimmed from a season-high to a season-low and rebounds were controlled. Not to mention a game that was never really in doubt.

An 84-59 victory over NAIA Waldorf College at the DakotaDome was just the kind of tuneup the Coyotes (3-3) needed before Thursday's Summit League opener at home against Western Illinois.

"With what we're trying to do offensively, I think we did some better things tonight," USD coach Dave Boots said. "We had some more movement, more cutting, more screening. The guys did nice a job sharing the basketball."

More specifically, the Coyotes didn't give the ball away. A night after committing 22 turnovers, they had just six — one in the second half — on Saturday.

There were other areas of focus, however, especially on the glass.

"Coach was getting on us about offensive rebounds, that we gave up too many last game," said junior Karim Rowson, who scored a game-high 15 points. "We focused on that, plus the turnovers; we can't have that many and expect to win."

Contributions from a variety of sources will also play into such outcomes, Boots said. Five Coyotes reached double figures — in all, nine scored — and freshman forward Tyler Flack had easily the best all-around game.

The 6-7 wing from Lakeville, Minn., flirted with a triple-double recording 14 points, seven rebounds and eight blocks, and as his coach pointed out later, didn't try to do too much.

"We ran a lot better motion today, guys were moving around, setting screens and it gave us better shots," Flack said. "That's how we're going to be better, if we're all together."

The opening half was proof of that, not to mention significantly cleaner than the previous night for the Coyotes, to the tune of just five turnovers.

A bulk of the first half for USD was played in transition, with the hosts leading by as many as 21 points — the first at 37-16 at the 2:44 mark — and by a 43-23 cushion at half-time.

"This just gives everybody more confidence," Rowson said. "Everyone wants to get out there and play and have fun. When you can bring in new guys and keep it going, that's a good sign."

There was plenty of that in the second half, when the Coyotes shot 55 percent and led by double digits the entire 20 minutes. Waldorf (1-6), a program from Forest City, Iowa, got as close as 14 with 8:35 remaining.

With his team up big, Coyote senior point guard Juevol Myles put together another big game with 12 points, six assists and no assists. That last number was the biggest after Friday night's struggles.

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## Veteran Gazelles Gymnastics Team Opens Season Today

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE

sports@yankton.net

This year the Yankton-Bon Homme Gazelles gymnastics members are taking advantage of an experienced group with the goal of putting themselves on the podium at the state competition.

To begin the season, the team will compete at Sioux Falls Washington today (Monday).

Head coach Luke Youmans said the team hasn't been on the podium since 1998, but they have a big advantage this year since there weren't any senior who graduated last year, and there is only one senior on the team now.

"We brought back our entire varsity team, which significantly helps as far as having continuity," he said. "We knew what we had last year, and last year is back in the gym this year.

We're in a really great place right now for the future of our program."

As well as being able to work with the same group of girls, Youmans said each member has been working harder than in the past.

"The tide has turned in gymnastics where you can't just be a one season gymnast anymore and expect to be successful. Rapid City Central and Wattertown are so good because they operate a club that runs year round," he said.

Junior Ashtyn Haak said she and her teammates put in a lot of hours over summer. She's looking forward to a good season with new skills.

"I'm excited because I feel we're going to grow as a team this year," she said. "Right after the season ended last year, we joined club and have been working all summer long. We all want to get new skills, but we know we can't we get new skills if we're not

actually in the gym doing what we need to do."

To prepare for Monday's meet, the gymnasts spent their Thanksgiving break in the gym. Youmans said it's important for the beginning of this season to start where last season ended.

"We're trying to get to the point where we're able to go out and be confident about what we're doing on Monday," he said. "We took a whole season last year to get to a place where we were getting a little more competitive, and we want to begin where we left off."

Senior Charlotte Taggart is excited to compete in the first competition of the year, and will be watching for new things to bring back.

"It'll be good to see the routines, see what we are doing well, but also how the judges are judging the other routines," she said. "For that first

meet you really just have to throw yourself out there. You don't know what you're going to get judged on, you don't know what to expect for your scores. You just have to build up after you have that first competition under your belt."

Youmans is also looking forward to putting the seventh and eighth grade members on the varsity team this year.

"There aren't a lot of sports where seventh and eighth graders are part of your varsity team," he said. "In gymnastics, so many of these kids have been coming up from our club since they were second and third graders. Now they're going to step into the high school season and have that ability as a varsity athlete as middle schoolers."

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at [twitter.com/ENiebrugge](https://twitter.com/ENiebrugge)

## JACKS MARCH ON TO FARGO



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&amp;D

SDSU running back Zack Zenner rushes through a hole opened by his linemen in route to one of his three rushing touchdowns and 295 yards rushing during the Jackrabbits' victory over Eastern Illinois.

## SDSU Rolls Past Eastern Illinois, Earns Rematch With No. 1 NDSU

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

shauna.marlette@yankton.net

BROOKINGS — It was a day of firsts for the South Dakota State University (SDSU) football team as the Jackrabbits faced off against the Ohio Valley Conference Champions, Eastern Illinois Panthers (EIU) in the opening round of the FCS playoffs, with SDSU rolling to a 58-10 victory.

Hosting a playoff game at Coughlin Alumni Stadium in Brookings for the first time ever, the Jackrabbit's running back Zack Zenner rushed for a team record 295 yards and three touchdowns, followed by backup Reggie Gandy who added 151 yards and two touchdowns of his own. On the day SDSU put up 580 total yards of offense, a season high.

"I don't think anyone can doubt who the better team on the field was today," said Panther head coach Dino Babers said in a press conference following the game. "South Dakota State has an excellent team on both sides of the ball. They are very physical. ... They got a heck of a ball club."

The Panthers who averaged nearly 39 points a game this season, were held to only 10 points on the game behind a defensive performance that SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier said was as close to a perfect game as he has seen his team play.

In what has become typical for the Jackrabbits defense, EIU was able to move the ball and gain yardage but was not able to put points on the scoreboard. For the fifth time this season, the defense gave up 10 or less points.

"I don't know if we've had a defense

that does their job more consistently than these guys," said Stiegelmeier. "Sometimes, you have a special player that makes a lot of plays and your defense looks good. But these guys are 11 guys playing as a unit. In that sense, I think they're really, really good."

Babers agreed saying his team knew what to expect coming into the game.

"You could see how physical they were on film, but they wore you down," he said. "In the first quarter it seemed like we were going to be able to play with them, but they just wore us down. They had a lot of strength and physicality. We need to go back and find some of that in the weight room this off season and come back next year."

In the first quarter the first 10 minutes saw the teams exchanging possessions, when Zenner broke free for his first touchdown of the game, a 68 yard run to the endzone and got the scoring started. Two plays later, Winston Wright intercepted EIU's quarterback, Jimmy Garoppolo who completed 25 of 41 passes for 221 yards on the day. The Jacks offense stalled at EIU's 22 yard line and settled for a field goal bringing the score to 10-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter saw the Jacks pound the ball and dominate the time of possession scoring another field goal and three more touchdowns. The third coming as time expired, was set up when Andrew Brown blocked a Panther punt which was recovered at the EIU 9 yard line.

SDSU took a 34-3 lead into the locker room.

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## Seekamp, Hoff Lead USD Past Seton Hall

MALIBU, Calif. — South Dakota women's basketball dropped Seton Hall 71-55 behind Nicole Seekamp's 20 points and Heidi Hoff's 16 points to record the program's first win over a Big East program.

The win gave South Dakota third-place in the Pepperdine Holiday Tournament, and moved the Coyotes to 2-4.

Seekamp and Hoff both recorded career high point totals, while Polly Harrington came up one point short of a double-double with 13 rebounds and nine points. Alexis Yackley recorded a season-high five assists, as well as six points and four rebounds.

South Dakota's bench, led by Hoff, outscored the Pirate bench 33-3. Margaret McCloud also came off the bench to add seven points and four rebounds.

Despite losing, Seton Hall (2-4) had four players reach at least 10 points. Ka-Deidre Simmons had 14 points, Alexis Brown had 13 points,

and Brittany Morris had 12 points. Alexandra Maseko had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Before Seton Hall, South Dakota had beaten only one school currently in the Big East. USD beat Notre Dame twice, topping the Irish 76-61 at home on Jan. 14, 1980, and again 67-60 at Notre Dame on Nov. 22, 1980.

USD will host Idaho State (3-2), the defending Big Sky champions, on Thursday night at 5 p.m. SETON HALL (2-4)

Alexandra Maseko 4-5 3-6 11, Chizoba Ekedigwe 1-3 0-0 2, Brittany Morris 2-7 8-12, Alexis Yackley 2-5 1-3, Nicole Seekamp 5-11 7-8 20, Tia Hemiller 1-4 0-0 3, Sam Mehr 1-1 0-0 3, Jasmine McCall 0-1 1-4 1, Terry Green 1-3 0-0 2, Margaret McCloud 1-4 5-6 7, Jene Johnson 0-4 0-0 0, Breanna Jones 0-0 0-0 0.

TOTALS: 17-47 21-30 55.

SOUTH DAKOTA (2-4)

Pam January 0-4 0-0 0, Polly Harrington 2-6 5-6 9, Tempest Wilson 1-5 0-0 3, Alexis Yackley 2-5 1-3 6, Nicole Seekamp 5-11 7-8 20, Tia Hemiller 1-4 0-0 3, Sam Mehr 1-1 0-0 3, Margaret McCloud 1-4 5-6 7, Heidi Hoff 6-12 2-2 16, Lisa Loeffler 2-5 0-0 4. TOTALS: 21-57 20-28 71.

At the half: USD 36, SH 21. Three-Pointers: USD 9-23 (Seekamp 3-7, Hoff 2-5, Hemiller 1-1, Mehr 1-1, Yackley 1-3, Wilson 1-4, January 0-1, Harrington 0-1), SH 0-8 (Green 0-3, Richardson-Smith 0-2, Brown 0-2, Morris 0-3). Rebounds: USD 36 (Harrington 13), SH 36 (Maseko 10). Personal Fouls: USD 23, SH 21. Fouled Out: Brown. Technical Fouls: Webb, McCloud. Assists: USD 11 (Yackley 5), SH 8 (Morris 5). Turnovers: SH 20, USD 13. Blocked Shots: SH 3, USD 2. Steals: USD 7 (Hemiller 2, Hoff 2), SH 7 (Maseko 2, Brown 2).

### Sunday

IOWA 75, NO. 12 WEST VIRGINIA 70: MIAMI (AP) — Jaime Priddy made all 17 of her free throws and scored 19 points as Iowa rallied from a seven-point halftime deficit to defeat No. 12 West Virginia 79-70 Sunday at the FIU Thanksgiving Classic.

Thirteen of Priddy's free throws came in the second half, when the Hawkeyes (5-2) used a 24-8 run to lead 67-60 with 2:12 remaining.

She made eight free throws in the final 45 seconds.

Morgan Johnson also scored 19 points, including 14 in the second half, for Iowa, which made 27 of 30 free throws (90 percent) after half-time. The Hawkeyes also were sharp from the field after the break, making 59.1 percent (13 of 22), while the Mountaineers (3-2) made just 30.8 percent (12 of 39).

Taylor Palmer scored 23 points and Christal Caldwell 17 for West Virginia, which also lost Friday to LSU.

NO. 22 KANSAS 58, CREIGHTON 48: OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Monica Engelman and Carolyn Davis had 12 points apiece and the Jayhawks defeated the Bluejays.

Davis also had seven rebounds, Angel Goodrich had nine assists and CeCe Harper scored 10 points for the Jayhawks (5-0).

McKenzie Fujan, Carl Tritz and Sarah Nelson all scored 11 points for Creighton (2-2).

### Area Notes

WAYNE STATE 82, ST. AMBROSE 47: WAYNE, Neb. — Jordan Spencer scored a game-high 19 points and Shantel Lehmann had 10 points and 15 rebounds to lead 10th-ranked Wayne State (3-0) past St. Ambrose 82-47 on Saturday.

Devan Griffin scored 12 points off the bench for St. Ambrose (5-3).

### Xavier Holds Off Drake 74-70

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Semaj Christon scored 16 points, one of five Xavier players in double figures, and the Musketeers defeated Drake 74-70 Sunday in the consolation round of the DirecTV Classic.

Dee Davis had 15 points, Justin Martin and Jeff Robinson scored 13 apiece and Isaiah Philmore contributed 10 points for Xavier (5-1), which won two of three games in the tournament. Christon also had seven assists and Martin grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

Joey King led all scorers with 21 points for the Bull-

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SIoux FALLS 78, DAKOTA STATE 64: SIOUX FALLS — Chrissy Strassburg (Elk Point) had four points and a team-high six assists to help Sioux Falls to a 78-64 victory over Dakota State on Saturday.

Mikenna Greathouse led USF (3-1) with 19 points and 16 rebounds. Katy Pillar had 17 points and nine rebounds for DSU (2-4).

S.D. MINES 73, DAKOTA WESLEYAN 69: RAPID CITY — Katie Strandhorn scored a game-high 25 points as NCAA Division II S.D. Mines downed Dakota Wesleyan 73-69 on Saturday.

Mallory Shanahan had 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead NWU (1-3).

each had 17 points for DWU.

PARK 54, DOANE 47: PARKVILLE, Mo. — Park (3-5) held Doane to 31.5 percent shooting and got a game-high 18 points from Brianna Beridon in a 54-47 victory over Doane on Saturday.

Cali Bellar scored nine points and Hannah Dostal had eight points and 12 rebounds for Doane (5-4), which led 26-16 at half.

LORAS 75, NEBRASKA WESLEYAN 60: Katie Langmeier had 16 points and 10 rebounds to lead Loras (4-0) past Nebraska Wesleyan on Saturday.

Mallory Shanahan had 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead NWU (1-3).

## Yankton's Christensen Among 11 Selected To S.D. Sports Hall

SIOUX FALLS — Referee and Yankton native Pal Christensen is one of 11 people who have been selected for induction to the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame, announced on Sunday.

Christensen, a Yankton High and Yankton College grad, refereed more than 6,000 high school and college events in a career that spanned more than 50 years.

He refereed high school boys and girls basketball for 35 years and prep football for 50 years, starting in 1947. He refereed in the North Central Conference - 27 years in basketball and 35 in football. He refed in the SDIC even longer: 39 years. He refed at the first state girls basketball tourney as well as the first state football championships. He once worked 22 games in one eight-day period. He refed 6-, 8-, 9- and 11-man football. He worked games in eight conferences, including the Missouri Valley Conference and Western Athletic Conference, two NCAA Division I conferences. He received the National High School Official of the Year award in 1991.

Golfing great Kris Tschetter and Olympian Rod DeHaven highlight the 2013 induction class. Also chosen were basketball coaches Gary Munsen, Don Meyer, Lyle "Dusty" LeBeaux and Curt Fredrickson. Other honorees are football-basketball-track coach Bob Schroeder, basketball player Harold Thune, softball pitcher LeRoy Carlson, referee Pal Christensen and football player/baseball coach James A. "Pev" Evans.

Tschetter lives in Warrenton, Va.; DeHaven in Brookings; Munsen in Mitchell; Fredrickson and Meyer in Aberdeen; LeBeaux in Porcupine; Schroeder in Sioux Falls; Thune in Murdo; and Evans in Rapid City. Carlson is being honored posthumously.

The 11 will be inducted at a banquet April 13 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Ticket information will be released at a later date. With this class of inductees, the hall will boast a membership of 236.