

Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and pro sports.



Based on the headline, you might think that this is a misplaced Christmas column. It's not. This is the time of the year that partly has you pulling your hair out, partly running on pure adrenaline and partly in awe of the greatness you're seeing.

In the last month, we've seen three local girls win individual state cross country titles, Crofton sweep cross country team titles and some outstanding post-season performances in football and volleyball. We've also seen the start of new seasons for college basketball, including new eras for both the University of South Dakota and Mount Marty College men. We also saw the futures of area athletes be announced with Wednesday's National Signing Day.

Beginning today, we'll see champions crowned in South Dakota prep football and Nebraska prep volleyball. Next week, South Dakota's volleyball teams take center stage, with the Nebraska prep football finals giving us the final appetizer before Thanksgiving.

'It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year'

Even though it means a lot of 15-hour days for myself and a few for my partner in crime, Jeremy Hoek, it's hard not to be excited about everything that's going on in the area.

In the middle of it all, I had the opportunity to share my excitement with some of our future leaders down in Wausa, Neb., at their high school career day. I had the chance to share some of my experiences, and hopefully piqued a couple of individuals' interest in journalism. (I do need to remember two things if I do it again: get more of my top photos on the laptop, and bring "bribery" items — things to hand out.)

Spending the better part of 90 minutes getting to talk about my job was a good reminder that, even though I am pulling my hair out and probably pushing myself harder than my physical therapist might like right now, I couldn't think of anything else I'd rather be doing than being in the thick of the championship chaos that is October and November. (Or February and March. Or May.)

That said, DakotaDome, here we come. I'll be there for seven of the eight games (7 high school and State-U).

And, yes, it really is the "most wonderful time of the year."

SCOREBOARD

VOLLEYBALL		Houston	2	7	0	222	170	248
NEB. STATE TOURN.		Jacksonville	1	8	0	111	115	291
Nov. 14-16 at Grand Island								
CLASS C2		Cincinnati	4	5	0	600	234	186
First Round, Nov. 14, at GI Northwest		Cleveland	4	5	0	444	172	197
No. 2 Hastings St. Cecilia (23-8) vs. No. 7 Lutheran High Northeast (23-9), 9 a.m.		Baltimore	4	5	0	444	188	189
No. 3 Crofton (23-4) vs. No. 6 Palmyra (23-5), 11 a.m.		Pittsburgh	3	6	0	333	179	218
No. 1 Freeman (25-5) vs. No. 8 Ord (20-11), 2 p.m.								
No. 4 Humphrey-Lindsay Holy Family (30-2) vs. No. 5 Guardian Angels Central Catholic (29-4), 4 p.m.								
S.D. STATE A TOURN.								
Nov. 21-23 at Aberdeen								
First Round, Nov. 21								
No. 1 Belle Fourche (29-3) vs. No. 8 Sioux Valley (19-11), noon								
No. 4 Winner (25-3) vs. No. 5 Wagner (26-6), 1:45 p.m.								
No. 3 S.F. Christian (23-2) vs. No. 6 Pine Ridge (27-3), 6 p.m.								
No. 2 Dakota Valley (23-2) vs. No. 7 Sisseton (20-6), 7:45 p.m.								
S.D. STATE B TOURN.								
Nov. 21-23 at Huron Arena								
First Round, Nov. 21								
No. 1 Warner (30-1) vs. No. 8 Herold-Selby Area (20-11), noon								
No. 4 Alcester-Hudson vs. No. 5 Harding County (26-5), 1:45 p.m.								
No. 3 Chester Area (26-2) vs. No. 6 Lyman (24-8), 6 p.m.								
No. 2 Arlington (31-1) vs. No. 7 Kimball-White Lake (19-7), 7:45 p.m.								

FOOTBALL		Seattle	9	1	0	900	265	159
S.D. FINALS		San Francisco	6 <td>3 <td>0 <td>667</td> <td>227</td> <td>155</td> </td></td>	3 <td>0 <td>667</td> <td>227</td> <td>155</td> </td>	0 <td>667</td> <td>227</td> <td>155</td>	667	227	155
Thursday, Nov. 14		Arizona	5 <td>4 <td>0 <td>566</td> <td>187</td> <td>198</td> </td></td>	4 <td>0 <td>566</td> <td>187</td> <td>198</td> </td>	0 <td>566</td> <td>187</td> <td>198</td>	566	187	198
CLASS 9A: No. 1 Leola-Frederick (11-0) vs. No. 3 Potter County (10-1), 11 a.m.		St. Louis	4 <td>6 <td>0 <td>400</td> <td>224</td> <td>234</td> </td></td>	6 <td>0 <td>400</td> <td>224</td> <td>234</td> </td>	0 <td>400</td> <td>224</td> <td>234</td>	400	224	234
CLASS 9AA: No. 2 Arlington (10-1) vs. No. 4 Bridgewater-Emerly-Ethan (10-1), 2:30 p.m.								
CLASS 11A: No. 3 West Central (9-2) vs. No. 1 Madison (11-0), 7:30 p.m.								
Friday, Nov. 15								
CLASS 11AA: No. 1 Pierre (9-1) vs. No. 2 Watertown (7-3), 7:30 p.m.								
CLASS 9B: No. 1 Hamlin (11-0) vs. No. 2 Avon (11-0), 11 a.m.								
CLASS 11B: No. 3 Parkston (10-1) vs. No. 5 Canton (10-1), 2:30 p.m.								
Saturday, Nov. 16								
CLASS 11AAA: No. 1 S.F. Lincoln (10-0) vs. No. 2 S.F. Roosevelt (9-1), 7:30 p.m.								
NEB. PLAYOFFS								
Class C2								
Semifinals, Nov. 19								
Dornphan-Trumbull (11-0) at Battle Creek (11-0), 5:30 p.m.								
Aquin's Catholic (9-2) at Malcolm (9-2), 7 p.m.								
Class D1								
Semifinals, Nov. 18								
Exeter-Milligan (11-0) at Creighton (11-0), 5 p.m.								
Hemingford (11-0) at Overton (11-0), 2 p.m. CT								
Class D2								
Semifinals, Nov. 18								
Amherst (10-1) at Stuart (10-1), 2 p.m.								
Falls City Sacred Heart (11-0) at Wymont (11-0), 3 p.m.								

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE		Indianapolis <th>6</th> <th>3</th> <th>0</th> <th>667</th> <th>222</th> <th>193</th>	6	3	0	667	222	193
AMERICAN CONFERENCE		Tennessee	4 <td>5 <td>0 <td>444 <td>200 <td>196</td> </td></td></td></td>	5 <td>0 <td>444 <td>200 <td>196</td> </td></td></td>	0 <td>444 <td>200 <td>196</td> </td></td>	444 <td>200 <td>196</td> </td>	200 <td>196</td>	196
W L T Pct PF PA								
New England								
5 4 0 556								
169 231								
Miami								
4 5 0 444								
193 209								
Buffalo								
3 7 0 300								
199 259								
South								
W L T Pct PF PA								
Indianapolis								
6 3 0 667								
222 193								
Tennessee								
4 5 0 444								
200 196								

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, November 14		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
FOOTBALL, PREP S.D. State Finals at Vermillion (9A) — Leola-Frederick vs. Potter County, 11 a.m., SDPB; 9AA — Arlington vs. Bridgewater-Emerly-Ethan, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11A — West Central vs. Madison, 7:30 p.m., SDPB		
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Saturday, November 16		
FOOTBALL, COLLEGE South Dakota State at USD (1 p.m., KVHT-FM, Midco Sports Network)		
FOOTBALL, PREP S.D. State Finals at Vermillion (11AAA) — S.F. Lincoln vs. S.F. Roosevelt, 7:30 p.m., SDPB		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 10 a.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Sunday, November 17		
BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S USD at North Dakota (2 p.m., KVHT-FM)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Western Illinois (2 p.m.)		
7. Greg Biffe, 2,301.		
8. Clint Bowyer, 2,297.		
9. Joey Logano, 2,287.		
10. Kurt Busch, 2,285.		
11. Ryan Newman, 2,259.		
12. Casey Kahne, 2,252.		
13. Carl Edwards, 2,250.		

Friday, November 15		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
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VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Monday, November 18 <td></td>		
New England at Carolina, 7:40 p.m.		

Tuesday, November 19		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Wednesday, November 20 <td></td>		
New England at Carolina, 7:40 p.m.		

Wednesday, November 20		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Thursday, November 21 <td></td>		
New England at Carolina, 7:40 p.m.		

Thursday, November 21		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Friday, November 22 <td></td>		
New England at Carolina, 7:40 p.m.		

Friday, November 22		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Saturday, November 23 <td></td>		
New England at Carolina, 7:40 p.m.		

Saturday, November 23		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Sunday, November 24 <td></td>		
New England at Carolina, 7:40 p.m.		

Sunday, November 24		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		

Monday, November 25		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		

Tuesday, November 26		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Wednesday, November 27 <td></td>		
New England at Carolina, 7:40 p.m.		

Thursday, November 28		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Friday, November 29 <td></td>		
New England at Carolina, 7:40 p.m.		

Friday, November 29		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		
Saturday, November 30 <td></td>		
New England at Carolina, 7:40 p.m.		

Saturday, November 30		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		

Sunday, December 1		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		

Monday, December 2		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		

Tuesday, December 3		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		

Wednesday, December 4		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		

Thursday, December 5		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb. State Tour. at Grand Island		

Friday, December 6		11B — Parkston vs. Canton, 2:30 p.m., SDPB; 11AA — Pierre vs. Watertown, 7:30 p.m., SDPB
SOCCER, MEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conf. Championship		
SWIMMING & DIVING, COLLEGE UW-Stevens Point Border Battle (USD, 6 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD at Nebraska-Omaha (7 p.m.)		
VOLLEYBALL, PREP Neb.		