

Pelini: 'If They Want To Fire Me, Go Ahead'

Nebraska Coach Frustrated By Questions After Another Blowout Loss

BY ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Bo Pelini says he hasn't been told if he'll return for a seventh season as Nebraska's head coach and that he isn't spending any time worrying about it. "If they want to fire me, go ahead," Pelini told reporters after the Cornhuskers' 38-17 loss to Iowa on Friday to finish the regular season 8-4. "I believe in what I've done. I don't apologize to you. I don't apologize to anybody, myself or this staff. My record, our record since I've been here, speaks for itself. And this program is heading in a good direction. "You choose not to think so, that's your prerogative. All I know is myself, this staff, the people who have been associated with this program since

I've been here can look themselves in the mirror and feel good about what they've done." Though Pelini is 57-24 at Nebraska, his performance has been heavily scrutinized in the wake of bad losses to UCLA and Minnesota. The question is whether first-year athletic director Shawn Eichorst believes Pelini is moving the program in the right direction. Pelini is under contract through 2017 and makes almost \$3 million per year. The Huskers haven't won a conference championship since 1999, and they were eliminated from the Big Ten Legends Division race two weeks ago. In addition to a run of blowout losses dating to 2011, Pelini came under fire in September after an audio of his profane tirade against

Nebraska fans went public. Eichorst, who has a policy of not commenting on a coach while his or her team is in season, has given no hint about how he's leaning. Pelini's volatile sideline antics, which have been kept under wraps most of the season, were back in full force Friday. He was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct in the third quarter after he protested a pass-interference call on linebacker Zaire Anderson. Pelini took off his hat and nearly hit linesman Steve Matarante as he punched the air with his left fist. Pelini said the official flagged him because he got too close to him, but made it clear — with the help of an expletive — he thought it was a bad call. "I've never seen anything like that

before," Pelini said. "I've done a lot worse than that, and I saw (Iowa coach) Kirk Ferentz over on the other side acting a lot worse than I act. I didn't see a flag come out on him. The bottom line is they knew they blew the call. They blew it. They blew that call over there on that third down. And everybody in the stadium knew it. They didn't man up enough to pick that flag up." The Huskers (5-3 Big Ten) won their fewest regular-season games since 2008, Pelini's first year, and lost three home games for the first time since 2007 under Bill Callahan. Iowa (8-4, 5-3) capitalized on field position, starting seven of its 15 possessions inside the Nebraska 50, and converted two of the Huskers' three

Rudock Passes For 2 TDs, Iowa Tops Nebraska

BY ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — After the final seconds ticked off, Iowa's players stampeded from their sideline to the other to take ownership of the Heroes Game trophy. A few minutes later in the locker room, the players held their helmets up and let out a primal scream for about 10 seconds that could be heard throughout the bowels of Memorial Stadium. Yes, the Hawkeyes were in a partying mood after they beat Nebraska 38-17 to complete one of the great turn-arounds in major-college football.

A year ago, the Hawks ended a four-win season with a 13-7 loss to Nebraska. Iowa (8-4, 5-3 Big Ten) has doubled its win total and is in position to receive a berth in the Outback Bowl on New Year's Day. "Complete opposite. That's the story of the day," receiver Kevonte Martin-Manley said. "We finished 8-4 with a win. It's a complete 360. This is one of the best wins I've been a part of since I've been here." The Huskers (8-4, 5-3) finished with their fewest regular-season wins since 2008, coach Bo Pelini's first year as head coach, and lost three home games in a season for the first time since 2007 under Bill Callahan. The focus at Nebraska now shifts to whether first-year athletic director Shawn Eichorst will retain Pelini, who was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct for protesting a pass-interference call in the third quarter. Pelini is 57-24 and under contract through the 2017 season. He's paid almost \$3 million a year. "If they want to fire me, go ahead," Pelini told reporters after the game. "I believe in what I've done. I don't apologize to you. I don't apologize to anybody, myself or this staff. My record, our record since I've been here, speaks for itself. And this program is heading in a good direction. "You choose not to think so, that's your prerogative. All I know is myself, this staff, the people who have been associated with this program since I've been here can look themselves in the mirror and feel good about what they've done."

Jake Rudock threw for two touchdowns, including a 24-yarder to Martin-Manley right after Iowa had stuffed Nebraska on a fake punt in the third quarter. The Hawkeyes converted two of Nebraska's three turnovers into touchdowns and got a short field for a third TD after the failed fake punt. Seven of Iowa's 15 possessions started on the Cornhuskers' side of the 50. The Hawkeyes have won four of five after a 4-3 start. Their four losses this season have come against teams that have a combined record of 42-3. "Our focus — as it has been since the end of last November — was just to try to improve, working hard and maximizing our opportunities," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "This is kind of the formula we've tried to use. The reason why it has materialized is because our players have done the work that they have to do." Mark Weisman ran 24 times for 72 yards and two touchdowns for the Hawkeyes, and Rudock was 9 of 15 for 126 yards and two TDs. Rudock left late in the third quarter with a sprained knee. Ameer Abdullah carried 23 times for 85 yards, the first time in nine games that he failed to rush for 100 yards. Ron Kellogg III, making his first career start, was 19 of 37 for 199 yards and a touchdown. He was intercepted twice in the first quarter. Rudock's backup, C.J. Beathard, went three-and-out on his first full series, but the Hawkeyes got the ball right back when Abdullah fumbled at the Iowa 39. Jordan Canzeri went 37 yards on first down, and Weisman scored from the 2 to put the Hawkeyes up 31-17. Beathard ran 4 yards on a bootleg for the final margin.

International Archery Event Coming To Yankton

Yankton will once again host a prestigious international archery event. The International Field Archery Association (IFAA) will hold its World Field Archery Championships from Aug. 4-8 at the Easton Archery Complex in Yankton. Also next summer, Yankton will host the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) Outdoor National Field Championships from July 30-Aug. 3. Earlier this year in April, Yankton hosted the IFAA World Indoor Archery Championships, and has previously hosted USA Archery and other NFAA tournaments. For more information of the World Field Archery Championships, visit www.ifaa-archery.org.

Iowa St, West Virginia Meet In 2013 Finale

BY JOHN RABY
AP Sports Writer

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Not long after Paul Rhoads finally thawed out from the coldest game in the history of Iowa State's home stadium, the Cyclones' coach recalled a night eight years ago at West Virginia that was more bone chilling. Rhoads was Pittsburgh's defensive coordinator when the Panthers played in the Backyard Brawl in blustery snow and single-digit readings on a Thanksgiving night. "The coldest game that I've ever coached was in Morgantown in 2005, Pitt-West Virginia," Rhoads recalled. "That one was colder because the wind that was blowing that night." Still, Rhoads said last week's 34-0 win over Kansas was cold enough. The game started in 8-degree conditions and kept getting worse, and Rhoads said the win that snapped a seven-game losing streak has mentally prepared Iowa State (2-9, 1-7 Big 12) for

CYCLONES | PAGE 9

Miracle Open Season Sunday



Yankton Miracle goalie Renee Cross, 1, prepares to stop the puck during a game against Mitchell. The Miracle open the 2013-14 season on Sunday at home against Watertown. Start time is 11 a.m.

P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton Returns 9 For '13-14

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
james.cimburek@yankton.net

A season after starting with nearly no returning players, the Yankton Miracle girls' hockey team returns nine regulars as it opens the 2013-14 season Sunday at Alcoa Arena. "We're looking forward to getting started," said Yankton head coach Michael Freeman. "We're expecting more than last year but, when you get seven new kids it takes a little time." Of the nine returning players, Elizabeth Rueppel and Katelyn Stewart have three or more years of starting experience. Renee Cross returns for her third year as the starting goalie. While the experienced players could fill almost two lines, Freeman plans to spread the experience across all three lines in order to help the younger players along.

"We have so many new players, we have to get some of the new with the old," he said. "Playing hockey is a learning sport — it's chaos out there. You have to have experience out there." Returning players Samantha Straatmeyer and Anna Lyman will handle duties at center, with a number of newer players joining Stewart, Hannah Johnson and Baylee Prather at the other forward positions. Prather will also see time as a defender. Veronica Turner, Katelyn Lyman, Taylor Weber, Abby Weber and Isabelle Plath will see time at forward, according to Freeman. Plath was on the roster "Ronnie (Veronica) is new, but she has a wicked backhand," Freeman said. "T.J. (Taylor) and Abby are twins and, when you put them on the same line, they play fairly well together."

Veterans McKenna Van Winkle, Erica Westerman and Rueppel will lead the defense. "We'll keep more of our experience on defense," Freeman said. Freeman is hopeful that newcomer Catherine Peraklis can help the defense as well. "Kate plays defense in soccer," he said. "Hopefully we'll see some of those abilities transfer over." Another newcomer is Victoria Weiland, who is in training in goal. "Tori came in very focused. She wants to play goalie," Freeman said. "She's come in and has been able to push Renee." Freeman said that he and his coaching staff have been impressed with the team's preseason workouts. "It's been some of the best practices at the beginning of the season that we've had," he said.

JV Girls' Schedule		
Dec. 1	Watertown	11 a.m.
Dec. 7	Sioux Center	3 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Rushmore	5 p.m.
Dec. 15	at Rushmore	9:15 a.m.
Dec. 21	Brookings	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 22	at Sioux Falls	12:45 p.m.
Dec. 29	at Watertown	2 p.m.
Jan. 4	at Brookings	1:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	Aberdeen	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Aberdeen	9 a.m.
Jan. 19	Sioux Falls	9 a.m.
Jan. 25	at Sioux Center	12:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	at Mitchell	7 p.m.
Feb. 8	Oahe	7 p.m.
Feb. 9	Oahe	noon
Feb. 21	Mitchell	7 p.m.

State — Feb. 28-March 2 at Sioux Falls

The Miracle open the season Sunday at home against Watertown. Start time is 11 a.m. You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

Basketball: Coyote Men Ready For Home Opener

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — Twenty-one days and four games after its season started, the University of South Dakota men's basketball team will finally play at the Dakota-Dome. The Coyotes, 1-3, will host Graceland University, an NAIA school from Iowa, at 4:15 p.m. today (Saturday) as part of a doubleheader in Vermillion. The USD women will play Wyoming at 2 p.m. "Nothing like going on the road for three weeks," said interim men's head coach Joey James, with a thick layer of sarcasm Friday. Since their season opener Nov. 9, the Coyotes have already criss-crossed the country, with two games in New York, one in Wyoming and the other last Monday at Texas State. The last trip, though, provided USD — and James — its first win, a 57-56 rally in San Marcos, Texas. After flying back to Vermil-

lion, the Coyotes suddenly didn't have to sit tight for a day only to hit the road again. They were able to stay in one spot. Finally. "I told our guys, 'Hey, I know it's Thanksgiving break, but it's nice to get back in front of our fans,'" James said Friday. "We want to give them (fans) an idea of what this team is like; what it's going to be like." Of course, being back at home means that fans, for the first in 25 years, will see a new head coach on the Coyote bench. "It's a different guy on the sideline, but I'm not going to make a big deal out of it," James said, with a chuckle. "We'll come out and have some fun." So far, though, inconsistency has been the main theme for USD. Junior guard Brandon Bos (13.5) and senior post Trevor Gruis (11.3) have combined to average nearly 25 of the team's 55.5 points scored per game.

Next has come Adam Thoseby (5.5), Tyler Larson (5.3) and Tyler Flack (5.0). Point guard Trey Norris is averaging 4.8 points on just 22 percent shooting. The hope is, being at home for two games — USD hosts Utah Valley next Monday — will help alleviate some of those concerns, James said. "It's good to get home, to practice in our building, sleep in our own beds," he said. "We just want to get back into a routine here." Graceland, located in Lamoni, Iowa (just north of the Missouri border), is the first of three lower-level games this season for the Coyotes. USD will also host Iowa Wesleyan on Jan. 4 and Peru State on Feb. 4. Back in the 2008-09 season, USD's first at the Division I level, the Coyotes held off Graceland 78-66. The necessary evil of scheduling NAIA games (the Summit League allowed USD

CYOTES | PAGE 9

Chattanooga Downs IUPUI

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Z. Mason had 27 points and nine rebounds to lead Chattanooga over IUPUI in the final round of the Las Vegas Invitational on Friday. Mason led all five Chattanooga starters in double figures. Casey Jones added 14 points and nine rebounds, Gee McGhee scored 14 and Greg Pryor and Lance Stokes had 13 each. Mason was 12 of 18 from the floor and 3 of 5 from 3-point range. Chattanooga (3-5) led 45-33 at half but IUPUI (1-7) closed the gap to 58-56 on Donovan Gibbs layup with 10:59 to go. The Mocs answered with a 10-2 run and led by no less than 8 after that. Chattanooga out-rebounded the Jaguars 37-21. IUPUI had only eight turnovers but allowed Chattanooga to shoot 58.8 percent from the field. Ja'Rob McCallum was 8 of 13 for a career-high 25 points for the Jaguars. Ian Chiles had 15 and Khufu Najee 13.

PEPPERDINE 68, DENVER 56: ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — After spotting Denver a 5-0 lead to start the game, Pepperdine allowed only 10 more points in the first half, led by 23 at intermission and cruised to a 68-56 victory on Friday at the Great Alaska Shootout. Stacy Davis scored 22 points on 8-of-9 shooting and has now scored 20 or better in five of six games. The Waves (5-2) hit 25 of 35 field goals and set a Shootout record with their 71.4-percent accuracy. Brendan Lane added 12 points for Pepperdine. The hot shooting helped the Waves overcome 15 turnovers. Jalen Love scored 20 points, including four 3s, for the Pioneers (0-4), who came back from as many as 24 down in the second half to 12 at the final buzzer. The cold-shooting Pioneers hit just 19 of 56 shots for 33.9 percent, 8 of 23 from 3-point range. Brett Olson scored 10 for Denver. CAL POLY 70, NORTH DAKOTA 43: EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — Brian Bennett scored a season-high 16 points as Cal Poly held North Dakota to 23.4 percent shooting from the field and won 70-43 on Friday night. The Mustangs (2-3) went on a 19-0 run in the first half to lead 30-7, and continued to pull away. UND (2-2) scored just

HOOPS | PAGE 9

HUSKERS | PAGE 9