



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Mount Marty's Cassidy Hanson, left, attacks against the defense of Hastings' Katie Zoucha, 12, and Jess Osterhaus during their Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball match on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

Lancers Drop Two In Tourney Tune-Up

Volleyball: MMC Headed To GPAC Tournament As Eighth Seed

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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With a post-season matchup with sixth-ranked Northwestern looming in a week, the Mount Marty College volleyball team found a way to prepare.

Play two matches in one day: first a tough Great Plains Athletic Conference matchup against a tough Hastings squad, then a non-league draw against an even tougher University of Jamestown (N.D.) team, ranked 18th in this week's NAIA poll.

Both, though, resulted in setbacks for the Lancers — 25-19, 25-22, 25-18 to Hastings, and 25-23, 25-17, 25-18 to Jamestown — Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

The long day, though, was good preparation for the challenge of facing

the sixth-ranked Raiders, said setter Caitlyn Ilg, one of six Lancer seniors honored between the two matches.

"It's nice to get that practice in," she said. "We still have DWU first, but it's good to be prepared."

With two tough matches in the same day, MMC went deeper into its bench than in recent matches.

"Everyone we put in played well. I thought they all stepped up," said MMC head coach Candice Climer. "In past years, we were in a position where we didn't have that depth."

Thanks to Morningside and Dakota Wesleyan also losing on Saturday, MMC clinched the final spot in the GPAC post-season tournament, which begins on Saturday, Nov. 8. MMC (11-20, 3-12 GPAC) cannot catch the seventh seed, meaning

the Lancers will travel to GPAC regular season champion Northwestern in the quarterfinals.

The opportunity for a post-season appearance is exciting, especially for seniors like Ilg.

"I've never played in a tournament. Even in high school I never made state," she said. "It's exciting, especially since we've been able to start that here."

The Lancers finish the regular season on Tuesday at DWU. While MMC does not need to beat the Tigers to get in the tournament, avenging a loss to DWU would be a good way to enter the post-season.

"It would sure help us with momentum," Climer said. "Confidence-wise,

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USD Women Celebrate Summit League XC Championship

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Since joining the Division I ranks in 2008, the University of South Dakota women's cross country program had always been in the mix for league titles in two different conferences.

It took until year seven, but the Coyotes finally captured a league championship.

Spurred by four runners in the top six, USD easily took first place at the Summit League meet on Saturday in Fargo, North Dakota. The Coyotes, with 29 total points, ended North Dakota State's three-year reign over the women's field.

Those runners wearing red were shouldering much more than just the 2014 race, according to seventh-year head coach Dan Fitzsimmons — who was named women's Coach of the Year.

"They weren't just representing the team, they were representing everyone who helped us through the transition," he said Sunday. "They were running with a lot of emotion."

"Now that it's over, there's a lot of pride because they were the first ones."

The Coyotes had previously finished second, second and fourth while members of the Great West Conference, and since joining the Summit League in 2011, had gone fifth, second and third.

"We were close before, but in a way, it's a long time in the making," Fitzsimmons said.

Erin Teschuck of North Dakota State surged late to finish first in the 6K race with a time of 21:17.4, but the Coyotes went 2-3 with juniors Amber Eichkorn (21:30.5) and Katie Wetzstein (21:48.0), respectively.

Fort Wayne had the fourth runner, but USD put freshman Bethany Kozak (22:04.4) and junior Kelsey Barrett (22:18.3) next across the line to all but secure the title — and surprise their coaches.

"I don't think any of us would have expected four runners in the top six," Fitzsimmons said. "We had a hunch we could have three in the top seven."

There were brief moments of panic for Fitzsimmons, though.

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MMC Stuffs Dakota State



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Mount Marty's Cheyenne Lambley gets past the Dakota State defense for a layup during their women's basketball game on Sunday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Mount Marty College women's basketball team had all 11 players find the scoring column and forced 27 turnovers in a 77-59 victory over Dakota State on Sunday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

Alex Kneeland scored a game-high 17 points in her MMC home debut. Raquel Sutura finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Holly Hegge posted 11 points and eight rebounds. Kellie Winckler added seven rebounds off the bench in the win.

"Overall we played well as a team," Sutura said. "There was some first home game excitement. In the second half we got a little more into the flow."

Besides the home-opener jitters, there were also some nervous energy and adjustment for senior guard April Winne, playing her first home game since the 2012-13 season. She missed all of last season due to injury.

"It was awesome. I had missed it," she said. "I was a little rusty, and I moved to the '3,' which I've never played before. It's a transition for me."

BreeAna Olson led Dakota State with 11 points. Jayda Swenson and Madison Walford had 10 points each, with Walford also grabbing 11 rebounds. Sharee Galbraith added nine points and 12 rebounds for the Trojans.

Dakota State shot 39 free throws, making 27, and had a 55-43 edge on the boards.

"I think we can play better defense than what we did," said MMC head coach Tom Schlimgen. "This is going to be a good one to evaluate."

MMC led wire to wire, using a 12-2 run early in the first half to surge to a 25-12 advantage. The 12 Lancer points came in true Lancer fashion: two three-pointers from Sutura and one each from Cassidy Gebhart and Holly Hegge.

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North Dakota State Tops Coyotes For Fifth Straight Win

FARGO, N.D. — North Dakota State's Jenni Fassbender recorded 21 kills and 13 digs to lead the Bison past South Dakota volleyball 25-17, 25-20, 20-25, 25-18 in the Bentson Bunker Fieldhouse on Sunday.

The Bison (12-14, 6-6) took advantage of 25 South Dakota attack errors in the match and held advantages in blocks (12-4) and aces (9-5). Fassbender finished the day with a .410 attack percentage and led the Bison in digs. Hadley Steffen added 10 kills, Monica Claxton tallied 35 assists and Emily Miron finished with eight blocks.

Five Coyotes (15-10, 9-3) recorded at least eight kills with Sydney Dimke's 13 leading USD's attack. Kendall Krittenbrink added 12 kills and Audrey Reeg had 10 kills to round out the Coyotes with double-digit kills. Brittany Jensen had 47 assists and eight kills while Riley Haug led USD defensively with 19 digs.

NDSU, who has won five-straight matches, had a .370 attack percentage in the first two sets of the match. The Bison tallied 29 kills and six errors on 62 attacks in the first two sets, while USD had 27 kills and 14 errors on 76 at-

tacks during that stretch. Fassbender led NDSU with 11 kills while Miron had six blocks. Melissa Firtko led USD in those sets by recording six of her nine kills in the match.

South Dakota took set three behind six kills from Reeg and five from Dimke. The Yotes recorded 17 kills, had a .400 attack percentage and led by as many as seven in the frame. Fassbender tallied another six kills for NDSU.

NDSU took the final set by tallying 13 kills, four aces and just one attack error. USD had 16 kills in the set but

aided the Bison with eight attack errors. Fassbender had four kills in the final set while Steffen added three. Jensen and Krittenbrink had four kills each in the final set for USD.

With the loss, South Dakota dropped to third place from a first place tie with Denver and IUPUI in the Summit League standings. Denver swept Western Illinois to move to 10-2 in league play while IUPUI was off on Sunday.

The Coyotes will be back in action on Friday when they host Denver in The Den at 7 p.m.

Abdullah Injured As Nebraska Rolls Past Purdue 35-14

BY ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — With Ameer Abdullah out most of the game with a knee injury, Nebraska slogged through a win over Purdue and now has two weeks to get their Heisman Trophy hopeful healed for the No. 17 Cornhuskers' showdown with Wisconsin.

Imani Cross, Abdullah's backup, ran for two short touchdowns in a 35-14 victory Saturday that moved Nebraska into sole possession of first place in the Big Ten West.

The Huskers (8-1, 4-1, No. 15 CFP) are a half-game ahead of Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin after their third straight win. The question now is whether Abdullah will be able to play against the Badgers in what could be the game of the year in the West.

"We're very optimistic," coach Bo Pelini said.

Cornerback Josh Mitchell, who had two of Nebraska's three sacks, said he spoke with Abdullah after

also

■ USD, SDSU Fall On The Road In MVFC Action.
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tough. He'll be back."

Abdullah, who came into the game third nationally in rushing at 156 yards a game, mildly sprained and bruised his left knee on the Huskers' second possession while recovering Tommy Armstrong Jr.'s fumbled snap at the Purdue 1-yard line. Abdullah returned to carry one more time, losing 5 yards, and didn't return.

The senior has run for at least 200 yards in a nation-leading four games and has 1,250 for the season.

With Abdullah out, Nebraska continued to pound away with the run as winds gusting to 30 mph made it tough to pass. Cross carried

the game and is confident the Husker star will be ready.

"He's going to be all right," Mitchell said. "He's a warrior. He wanted to be out there and play if he could. He's

20 times for 66 yards and Terrell Newby added ran nine times for 42.

The Huskers had a season-low 297 total yards after playing much of the game on a short field. Their average starting field position was their own 49.

"I thought our defense played great, they really did," Purdue coach Darrell Hazell said. "They were put in some bad situations."

In addition to his fumble, Armstrong threw two interceptions and was just 8 of 21 for 118 yards. He did run for 70 yards, including a 29-yard TD.

"I'm embarrassed," Armstrong said. "The way we played, we should have lost. I feel like I failed. We got a win, but we play a team like Wisconsin or Iowa, it's not going to be pretty."

Purdue (3-6, 1-4) converted only 2 of 16 third downs, but stayed in the game into the fourth quarter.

Austin Appleby hit Cameron Posey for a 23-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 28-14, and the Boilers were set up in Nebraska terri-

tory again when Landon Feichter intercepted his second pass of the game. But Purdue turned the ball over on downs.

Nebraska tacked on a touchdown on Newby's 7-yard run after Purdue failed to convert on fourth down for the fourth of five times in the second half.

The Boilers had scored 31 or more points in three straight games with Appleby as the starting quarterback. But, he was 18 of 46 for 216 yards as he struggled with a defense that sacked him three times and had nine hurries.

The Huskers started their first three drives at the Purdue 17, 16 and 31, but came away with only seven points.

"Collective ugliness," Nebraska offensive coordinator Tim Beck said, referring to his charges.

Two plays after Kieron Williams blocked Thomas Meadows' punt, Armstrong threw a 17-yard pass to De'Mornay Pierson-El.

Pierson-El ran back Meadows' next punt 42 yards, and the Huskers

had first-and-goal at the Purdue 4 but couldn't punch it in. Armstrong fumbled the snap on fourth down at the 1, with Abdullah getting hurt in the scrum for the ball.

The Huskers were held scoreless after getting another short field when Drew Brown pushed his 46-yard field-goal try wide right for his third straight miss.

Appleby broke a 25-yard run to pull Purdue into a 7-all tie early in the second quarter. Nebraska responded with a 65-yard march that Cross finished with a 2-yard run.

Brandon Reilly partially blocked Meadows' next punt to set up the Huskers at midfield, and Armstrong went 29-yards to put the Huskers up 21-7. Cross scored from the 1 to make it a three-touchdown game in the third quarter.

"We're right there," Appleby said. "Defense plays good and the offense comes up short. Offense plays good, defense comes up short. We've got to play together."