

Arlington Puts Six On 9AA All-State Team

Gregory, W-WS-SC Put Three On Team

BY MIKE CARROLL
Huron Plainsman

HURON — The two teams that played for the Class 9AA state title — Gregory and Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central each had three players named to the Class 9AA all-state football team, which is selected by the South Dakota Football Coaches Association.

Making the team for Gregory, which used a 31-8 win to claim the 9AA championship were senior Kurt Braun as quarterback, senior Jonah Beck at linebacker and junior Noah Beck at defensive tackle. Braun was named as the Joe Robbie MVP of the title game.

Senior Austin Messmer at running back and juniors Chase VonEye (defensive tackle) and Garrett Lar-

son (defensive end) were named to the first team for Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central.

Arlington had the most selections of any school in the 9AA ranks, with six. The Cardinals were represented by senior Tanner Lemme (tight end), senior Kyle Stegeman (offensive guard), senior Brody Gilbertson (center), senior Alex Heuer (linebacker), senior Andrew King (defensive back) and junior Luke Weber (special teams player).

Kimball-White Lake had three players earn all-state honors — senior Nathaniel Schroder (offensive guard), senior Turner Blasius (linebacker) and senior Eathan Gaulke (long snapper).

Also being named to the Class 9AA all-state team were senior Matt Johnson of Garretson (fullback),

senior Lance Eide of Deuel (running back), senior Heath Schindler of Elkton-Lake Benton (wide receiver), junior Adam Aughenbaugh of De Smet-Iroquois (wide receiver), senior Kenner Langenbau of Hill City (defensive end), senior Tyler Wagner of Webster Area (linebacker), senior Jordon Grosdidier of Bridge-water-Emery-Ethan (defensive back), and senior Tyson Jenkins of Clark-Willow Lake (punter).

Repeat selections to the 9AA all-state roster included Stegeman, Gilbertson, Blasius, King, Grosdidier and Weber. Braun, Johnson, Eide and Schindler all earned honorable mention a year ago.

Honorable mention for the 2014 season went to Alex Trautman of Elkton-Lake Benton, Jonus Beck of Gregory, Austin Handel of Menno-Marion, Brady Tiede of Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central, Noah Huber of Clark-Willow

Lake, Damon Eagle Star of (Gregory), Jace Pulse of Kimball-White Lake, Payton Jenson of Parker, Jenkings of Clark-Willow Lake, Brandon Warnke of Gregory, Nolan Richie of Webster Area, Lincoln Langrock of Menno-Marion, Broderick Poppinga of De Smet-Iroquois, Cody Nelson of Clark-Willow Lake and Johnson of Garretson.

Offense

QB — Kurt Braun, Gregory: A two-year starter at quarterback had 111 carries this season for 1,087 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also was 44 of 66 passing for 1,097 yards and 20 touchdowns, with just two interceptions and finished with 2,326 all-purpose yards. Finished his career with 2,235 rushing on 321 carries and 33 touchdowns, while going 89 of 163 passing for 2,287 yards and 37 touchdowns.

"Kurt was a tremendous athlete and an exceptional leader," Gregory coach Brian Allmendinger said.

FB — Matt Johnson, Garretson: A three-year starter, who rushed 248 times for 1,927 yards this season and 28 touchdowns. He also scored 16

conversion runs and snagged nine passes for 98 yards and a touchdown. During his four year career (two at 11-man and two at 9-man), he rushed for 3,532 yards and had 171 yards receiving.

"Matt has an outstanding work ethic 365 days a year," coach Kevin Steckler said. "He doesn't know what hurt or injured means."

RB — Lance Eide, Deuel: Four year starter, who had 190 carries for 1,908 yards and 28 touchdowns this season and also had 18 catches for 388 yards and six touchdowns. He rushed for a career-high 276-yard game and had four 200-plus yard games this season. Eide finished his career with 3,240 yards rushing for 44 touchdowns and had 917 yards receiving for 12 touchdowns. He finished his career with 5,694 all-purpose yards.

RB — Austin Messmer, Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central: Rushed 126 times for 1,606 yards and 32 touchdowns and had 18 catches for 298 yards and 1 touchdown. He also had a punt return for a touchdown. During his career he had 2,800 yards rushing with a total of 55 touchdowns.

"Austin was the leader of our team," W-WS-SC coach Jason Koloušek said. "He was a hard worker and incredible athlete, who would do what-

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Nebraska Coach Miles Puts Fun In Program Building

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — It's too early to know what Nebraska will do for an encore after last season's late surge carried the Cornhuskers to the NCAA tournament.

What's certain is that Tim Miles will make it a fun ride.

Miles is as intense as any coach when his team is on the court, and his results through two seasons have been consistent with his reputation as a program builder. It's the way he's gone about his business off the court that has done as much to earn him statewide popularity and breathe fresh air into a program in need of a pulse.

A youthful 48, Miles flashes a quick wit and smile with the fans and media, scores big with his social-media acumen and isn't above hijinks such as submitting a tongue-in-cheek application for the job as leader of the student section at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

Yeah, this guy likes to have a good time. And he said he would be no different if he were, say, an accountant.

"We'd have a fun accounting firm, I think," he said, "as long as they didn't have me doing the math."

After Miles made that comment during an hour-long interview with The Associated Press, he started spinning a yarn about how his personal accountant every year counsels him on the difference between tax avoidance and tax evasion.

That's typical Miles. He tells one story, and it flows into another. He said his people-person persona goes back to his upbringing in a small South Dakota town where his parents ran a weekly newspaper out of the house and folks were always coming and going.

As a result, fan outreach always has come effortlessly.

"What I like about him is that what you see is what you get," said Omaha investment adviser Mick Shonsey, a basketball booster since the 1970s. "There is nothing fake about him. The guy remembers his roots, where he came from. He's a kid from Doland, South Dakota, and he's just as genuine as he can be."

Radio play-by-play announcer Kent Pavelka said Miles was just what the Cornhuskers needed after Doc Sadler was let go following the 2011-12 season. Interest in the program was as low as ever, but new facilities offered hope.

Miles had taken over a dysfunctional Colorado State program in 2007, had the Rams playing in the postseason by his third year and in the NCAA tournament by his fifth. He's using the same template at Nebraska. He prefers a motion offense and demands excellence on defense, and he's attracting higher-level recruits.

"You'll see coaches who are good at X's and O's and don't have much personality," Pavelka said. "You'll see guys who have a lot of personality who haven't done what he's done in terms of affecting the product. His combination of that is what astonishes me. I've never seen anyone who matches what he suggests to the public in reality. It's not some act. You don't see a different Tim Miles on the bus."

It was at Colorado State

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USD Earns First Victory

Coyote Men Showcasing Depth In Early Stages

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Two weeks into its season, one thing is becoming clear for the University of South Dakota men's basketball team.

A lot of guys are going to see action.

Through six games, the Coyotes (1-5) — with eight newcomers and an entirely new coaching staff, led by Craig Smith — are starting to figure out which players can do what in different situations.

And if that means all 12 guys see the floor, as was the case in Wednesday night's home win over Wayne State, so be it.

"I feel like every single guy on our team can contribute," senior guard Brandon Bos said, "even if it's the little things."

"Every single little play helps win games."

Because of two overtime games (one that went three overtimes) early in the season, the minutes may be a bit skewed, but 10 of the 12 players are seeing at least 10 minutes per game.

Three players — Bos, senior Tyler Larson and junior transfer Tre Burnette — have started every game, while four others have started at least one.

"We're just really trying to find the right group, the right personnel to make a run, especially in the Summit League," said Larson, who is averaging 14.5 points and 7.5 rebounds.

Until that point, though, the Coyotes have the remainder of the non-conference season to continue working on rotations.

Both Bos and Smith were quick to point out Wednesday that six games means 20 percent of the season is already completed — roles should be becoming clearer.

"We have some guys that

are starting to trend upward and some that are flat-lining a bit," Smith said. "If you're staying the same, you're probably getting left behind."

The key, though, is staying with those guys who are still trying to find their role, he added.

"We've got to help put them in position to succeed," Smith said. "I feel like we've really bought into our offensive philosophy."

Even if that means the three-point shooting has yet to click. Through six games, the Coyotes making just 29 percent (31-of-106) of their shots from long range.

That wasn't a concern before the season for the Coyotes and eventually certain guys will get rolling shooting the ball, Smith said.

"We will, and I know we will," he said.

USD's Larson

Progressing Well

During his USD's media day speech earlier this month, head coach Craig Smith called senior Tyler Larson a "stat stuffer."

Six games into the season, Smith has been right.

"I wasn't lying," he said Wednesday, with a smile.

Larson, a 6-foot-3 guard from Las Vegas, Nevada, has taken on a bigger role for the Coyotes. He is averaging 14.5 points, 7.5 rebounds and 2.7 assists per game, all in a team-high 33 minutes of action an outing.

A season ago, he averaged 5 points and 3 rebounds in 16 minutes a game, mostly in a reserve role.

"I'm just trying to get everybody involved and be as aggressive as I can," Larson said after Wednesday night's home win over Wayne State. He had 19 points, eight rebounds and six assists in the victory.

"It's my last year, so I fig-

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota's Brandon Bos slams the ball home against Wayne State's Jordan Cornelius during their men's basketball game on Wednesday at the Dakotadome in Vermillion.

No. 2 Wisconsin Rallies Past Georgetown 68-65

PARADISE ISLAND, Bahamas (AP) — Sam Dekker scored 17 points, Nigel Hayes' acrobatic tip-in with 20 seconds left capped his 15-point day, and No. 2 Wisconsin needed to rally in the second half to beat Georgetown 68-65 on Thursday in the Battle 4 Atlantis semifinals.

The Badgers hadn't trailed in the second half this season, but found themselves down 53-44 with 11:36 left. A 22-6 run put Wisconsin (5-0) up for good, and the Badgers could finally exhale when D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera's 3-pointer rimmed out as time expired.

Smith-Rivera, who was 5 for 5 from beyond the arc until the game's final shot, led all scorers with 29 for Georgetown (4-1).

Wisconsin will face Oklahoma in Friday's title game. Georgetown, which got 10 points from Joshua Smith, will play Butler in an all-Big East matchup for third place.

Bronson Koenig tied a career best with 14 points for Wisconsin, which survived despite a six-point, 1-for-8 shooting day from standout center Frank Kaminsky.

NO. 11 KANSAS 76, RHODE ISLAND 60: LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Perry Ellis scored 17 points to help Kansas beat Rhode Island in the opening round of the Orlando Classic. Ellis had 11 points in the opening 20 minutes

to help Kansas cruise to a 43-25 halftime lead. Frank Mason III added 12 points for Kansas (3-1), which has a pair of victories since a 72-40 loss to No. 1 Kentucky on Nov. 18. E.C. Matthews scored 20 points for Rhode Island (3-1), which was coming off a 68-62 overtime victory over then-No. 21 Nebraska on Saturday. Gilyardas Biruta had 16 points and seven rebounds.

Kansas will face Tennessee in the semifinals Friday. Tennessee beat Santa Clara 64-57.

Wednesday

ST. JOHN'S 70, MINNESOTA 61: NEW YORK (AP) — D'Angelo Harrison had a key four-point play and finished with 19 points and five steals to help St. John's beat Minnesota 70-61 on Wednesday night in the NIT Season Tip-Off semifinals.

Harrison converted the four-point play with 2:23 left to give St. John's a 65-59 lead. He saved a loose ball before diving out of bounds, then dived to the right corner and was fouled on a 3-pointer.

Rysheed Jordan added 18 points and eight rebounds for St. John's (4-0). Nate Mason led Minnesota (3-2) with 15 points.

St. John's overcame a 40-31 halftime deficit. BELMONT 78, DENVER 57: NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Craig Bradshaw and Taylor Barnette combined for 49 points to lead Belmont past Denver 78-57 on Wednesday.

Bradshaw made 9 of 19 shots, including four 3-pointers, and finished with 20 points. Barnette hit five shots from behind the arc and had 21.

The duo was also 10 of 11 from the free throw line as Belmont (5-1) made 90 percent of its 32 free throw attempts, compared to 9 of 14 for Denver.

Nate Engesser made seven of his eight 3-point attempts and finished with a career-high 26 points for Denver (2-2). Marcus Byrd added 10.

Belmont built a 34-16 lead by halftime after holding Denver to 5-of-20 shooting. Bradshaw scored 12 and Barnette had 11 in the first half.

Bret Olson scored five points during Denver's 9-2 run to open the second half. But Bradshaw and Barnette scored 12 straight for Belmont to push ahead 48-33 with 12:40 left.

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Nebraska, Iowa Set For Regular-Season Finale

BY LUKE MEREDITH
AP Sports Writer

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — For most of the country, the Nebraska-Iowa game Friday will be little more than a holiday diversion.

It's a meaningless matchup that means everything to the Hawkeyes and Cornhuskers.

Nebraska coach Bo Pelini's status is yet again a hot topic ahead of the Iowa game. Pelini kept his job despite a 38-17 home thrashing against the Hawkeyes last November, and he rewarded new athletic director Shawn Eichorst with a bowl win over Georgia and an 8-1 start in 2014.

But a two-game slide has left the Huskers (8-3, 4-3 Big Ten) in danger of their sixth straight four-loss campaign.

A bad showing in Iowa City could spell the end for Pelini. "I think the last two weeks we didn't play very well. I said this earlier in the year: Some of the things were happening and weren't hurting us. And that's reality. In the last two weeks it's hurt us," Pelini said.

Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz isn't going anywhere, not after signing a huge contract extension in 2010.

But a second straight win over Nebraska — and the 8-4 mark that would go with it — would go a long way toward satisfying a fan base that

thought the Hawkeyes (7-4, 4-3) could have won the Big Ten West.

Both teams enter Friday's game unranked and out of league title game contention. But the circumstances surrounding this year's matchup should help turn this series into the rivalry the Big Ten always hoped it would become.

"We want to win really bad. They want to win really bad," Iowa quarterback Jake Rudock said. "Does that make it a rivalry? It probably does."

Here are a few key things to consider with Nebraska and Iowa set to meet in Iowa City:

ABDULLAH'S DAY? The Big Ten's best backs have done big things against the Hawkeyes in Kinnick Stadium. Indiana's Tevin Coleman had 219 yards rushing on just 15 carries and Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon had 200 in last week's 26-24 win. Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah could be the next back to slice through the Hawkeyes, but he hasn't been the same since he sprained his left knee against Purdue this month.

RUDOCK: Iowa quarterback Jake Rudock has made plenty of strides since the last time he played Nebraska. Rudock has 14 TD passes, a league-low four interceptions and is less than a point behind Ohio State's J.T. Barrett for the Big Ten lead in completion percentage. "It's not only he has ability, but he really works at it hard. The

other part is, can you do that when you get knocked around a little bit?" Ferentz said. "It's really a tough job. Some guys are better than others. He's really doing a nice job."

GREGORY VS. SCHERFF:

The matchup to watch inside will be Nebraska defensive end Brandon Gregory against Iowa tackle Brandon Scherff. Gregory has seven sacks and 10 tackles for loss. But Scherff is one of three finalists for the Outland Trophy given to the nation's top lineman. The Huskers will likely move Gregory around to exploit matchups, but it'll be fun to see Gregory and Scherff square off.

WIDEOUT WOES: Pelini said Monday that Jordan Westerkamp will play after hyperextending his knee in last week's loss to Minnesota. But Kenny Bell, whose 171 career catches are the most in school history, is questionable after sustaining an apparent concussion against the Gophers. "When somebody has a head injury, it's difficult to say," Pelini said.

TICKETS: Iowa and Nebraska's fan bases have long been regarded among the most passionate in the Midwest. But that hasn't translated at the ticket office. Iowa spokesman Steve Roe said Wednesday that just under 3,000 tickets were still available. Kinnick Stadium seats 70,585.