

Coyote Women Defend Summit League Cross Country Title



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
The South Dakota women's cross country team takes the awards stand after receiving the championship trophy for winning the Summit League Cross Country Championships on Saturday in Brookings. It was the Coyotes' second straight league title.

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

BROOKINGS – University of South Dakota cross country coach Dan Fitzsimmons is always looking to the future, whether it is during the off-season, during the season, or at the end of the season. Saturday, though, he was happy to not worry about the future for a day or two. And to hoist another Summit League championship trophy. USD edged host South Dakota State 38-46 on Saturday to win a second straight Summit League women's cross country title. North Dakota

State was third, five points behind the Jackrabbits. IUPUI finished fourth. "The women's race was a four-team race, and then a two-team race as the race shaped up," said a happy Fitzsimmons after the meet. "The kids stepped up that said they would. They said that if they only had to step up one day all year, this would be the time." North Dakota State's Erin Teschuk defended her individual title, finishing the 6,000-meter event in 20:43.91. USD's Amber Eichkorn was second in 21:07.43, her second straight runner-up finish. For Eichkorn, making sure

she didn't finish lower than second was more important than finishing first. "Going into the race, I knew I had to get at least second," she said. "I knew it was going to be a race between me and Teschuk, and that it could go either way. We're both very competitive, and we're both completely different runners. She's more of a 'sit and kick,' that I just had to get out and see what happens, see if I could take the kick out of her." But Teschuk began to pull away, leaving Eichkorn with the choice: try to chase her

SUMMIT | PAGE 9A

Panthers Cool Off USD

Run Game Struggles Sink Coyotes 20-7

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — No matter where and when it tried to run the ball, the University of South Dakota football team couldn't find any space in Saturday's 20-7 loss at Northern Iowa. The inability to establish a run game was an understandable frustration for the Coyotes, who had rushed for 193 yards against North Dakota State two weeks ago and 249 against Missouri State last week. Put another way, Northern Iowa did what no other Missouri Valley Conference team has done this season against the Coyote offense. "I thought we might have a little trouble, but not that much trouble," USD coach Joe Glenn said. The Coyotes, who managed 81 yards after the first quarter at the UNI-Dome, rushed 36 times for 54 yards — a 1.5 average. Their previous low in a conference game this season was 143 yards. The question was raised in the post-game press conference whether USD had considered trying something else, given that the run game wasn't working. Glenn, in response, pointed out that Northern Iowa's punter, Sam Kuhler, twice pinned the Coyotes inside their own 5-yard line in the fourth quarter. In that quarter, USD's three drives began at the 20, 3 and 1-yard line.

COYOTES | PAGE 9A



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
South Dakota running back Michael Fredrick, front, gets away from Northern Iowa lineman Karter Schult during Saturday's game in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Coyotes Blank Fort Wayne, Advance To Summit League Soccer Tourney

FORT WAYNE, Ind.—South Dakota junior Corey Strang put a pair of goals into the net to defeat Fort Wayne 2-0 at Hefner Soccer Complex on Sunday. The victory clinched the Coyotes' spot in the Summit League Tournament. South Dakota (8-11-0, 5-3-0 Summit League) advances to the league's four-team tournament for the first time in program history. USD will take on top-seeded North Dakota State on Thursday at 6 p.m. in Brookings. "I am so proud of what this group has done throughout the year," said head coach Mandy Green. "We had a rough start to the year playing an extremely tough non-conference schedule, but we kept at it. We kept getting better every day, believing that we could do it. We are playing hard, we are playing smart,

and we are playing together better than we have ever done in my time at USD. "Reaching the tournament has been something that we have been striving for since I arrived at South Dakota. This team has worked hard all year and deserves this. We earned this playing hard for and with one another." Strang put the Coyotes on the board in the 35th minute. Freshman Sammie Villwock dribbled into the Mastodon defense to push them off the ball as she dropped the ball to the center of the box where Strang awaited. Strang placed a one-touch shot into the bottom right corner of the net. On the attack again in the 39th minute, Strang had bypassed her defender on the run when she was slide tackled

inside of the box. A foul was called and Strang converted her second penalty kick in as many games. Strang moved into fifth in program history with five game-winning goals and ninth in career goals with 15. She has nine for the season with four assists. The Coyotes outshot the Mastodons 22-9, and placed 14 of those on-target. Fort Wayne goalkeeper Kiley Dunning pulled down 12 saves for the Mastodons. South Dakota sophomore goalkeeper Sydney Hardin notches her fourth shutout of the year. Hardin grabbed two saves and came out to deflect several of the Dons crosses. Fort Wayne concluded its season with a 4-13-2 record (2-5-1 Summit League).

Jacks Blank Missouri State

BY SHAWN MINOR
JackrabbittSportsService

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Missouri State coach Dave Steckel was in a holiday mood Saturday after his team met South Dakota State in a Missouri Valley Football Conference game at rainy Plaster Stadium. Well, sort of. "Happy Halloween. I guess as you can tell by my costume I'm disguised as a football coach today," Steckel said at the postgame press conference after his Bears lost 39-0 to the Jackrabbits. The focus of Steckel's frustration was obvious: SDSU dominated all phases of the game to earn its first road shutout in 17 years and improve to 6-2 on the season, 3-2 in the MVFC.

The struggling Bears, meanwhile, fell to 1-7 overall, 0-5 in the conference and were shut out for the first time since 2008. In a season where developments on the offensive side of the ball have dominated the buzz surrounding the SDSU program, now might be a good time to start talking about the defense since Jackrabbitt opponents have scored a grand total of 25 points in the past four games. "You gotta tip your hat to them a little," Steckel said. "That's a really well-coached defense over there. So we sustained, and what happened was we moved the ball early on them and then we got crushed on third downs." SDSU limited the Bears to

JACKS | PAGE 9A

Volleyball: South Dakota Sweeps Past North Dakota State

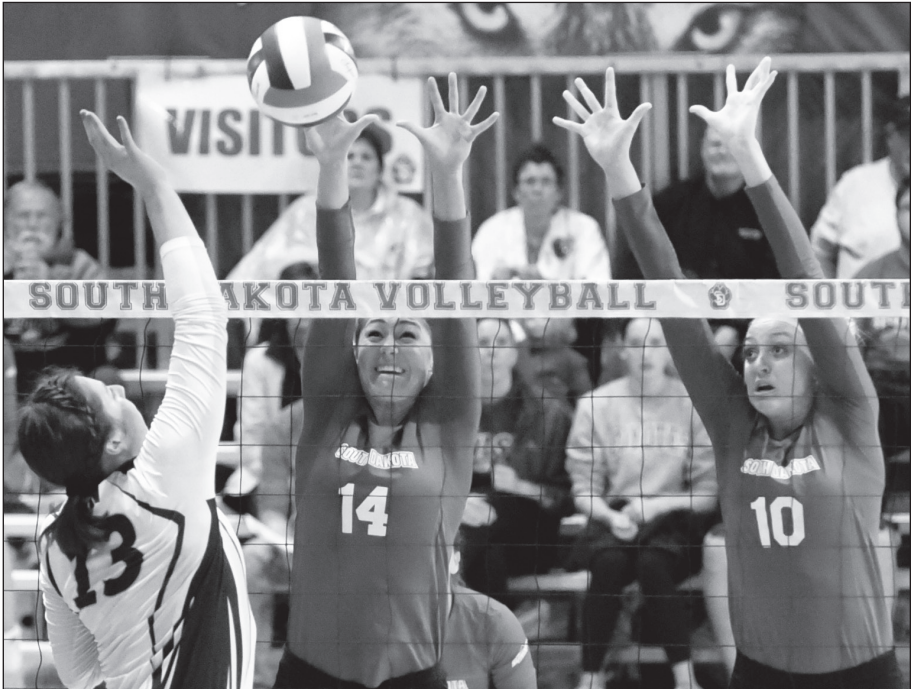
BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
James.cimburek@yankton.net

VERMILLION – As North Dakota State built an early 12-5 lead and stretched it to 17-9, University of South Dakota head volleyball coach Leanne Williamson could not help but think of the Coyotes' 3-1 loss to Omaha on Friday. But the Coyotes settled in and claimed a 25-23, 25-23, 25-16 victory over the Bison in Summit League volleyball action on Saturday at the Coyote Den in the DakotaDome in Vermillion. "This was really big," said USD setter Brittany Jessen. "We need to remain aggressive and take this momentum into Tuesday's match at home." Jessen finished with 42 assists, seven kills and three ace serves for the Coyotes. USD had three hitters with double figure kills: Audrey Reeg (13), Kelsey Biltoft (12) and Haley Jorgensen (11). Also for USD, Lauren Mattison had 18 digs, with Kaitlyn Hastings and Hayley Dotseth

each posting 14. Jorgensen had a hand in three of the team's four blocks (one solo). For NDSU, Jenni Fassbender had nine kills and Emily Miron had eight kills to lead the way. Brianna Rasmusson and Monica Claxton each had 12 assists. Mikaela Purnell posted 20 digs. While the Coyotes hit .292 on the night, including a blistering .429 in the final set, they started slowly, with seven attack errors in NDSU's first 15 points. "I was a little nervous," Williamson said. "We started out playing like we did last night." USD strung together two kills each from Biltoft and Jorgensen to close to four, 18-14. But trailing 23-18, the Coyotes found their groove. Two kills and a block from Biltoft, and some strong serving by Jessen helped USD run off seven straight points to claim the set. "We started to serve more aggressively, take them out of system," Jessen said. "We started hitting more aggressively as well." In set two, NDSU built a 9-4

lead, with Miron and Fassbender leading the way. But USD responded with four straight points to move to within one. Another four-point run put the Coyotes in the lead 17-14, a lead they would not relinquish. "About halfway through the match they decided they were tired of being the team that had to chase down the lead," William said. "I thought we played much better defense." With the third set tied at 10, the Coyotes claimed eight of the next 10 points to put the match out of reach. Besides hitting well themselves in the set, USD also held the Bison to just a .028 hitting percentage. "We took them out of system. It was very much a free ball state," Williamson said. "We had all of our hitters involved." The Coyotes, now 11-15 and 5-6 in Summit League play, enter the final week of the regular season a half-game behind the Bison (15-11, 6-6 Summit) for fifth place in the Summit League

USD VB | PAGE 9A



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
South Dakota's Haley Jorgensen, 14, and Lindsey Brown go up to blocks North Dakota State's Jenni Fassbender during their Summit League volleyball match on Saturday at the Coyote Den in the DakotaDome at Vermillion.