USD Hopes Playoffs Are Still A Possibility

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — After last Saturday's loss at Northern Iowa, Joe Glenn made clear that yes, his University of South Dakota football team is still thinking

'We're not giving up yet, not at all," Glenn told the media that day in Cedar

Falls, after a 20-7 loss. And he shared the same message to

his squad after Tuesday's practice. Put simply: No, the Coyotes (4-4) with their 2-3 Missouri Valley record and three games left — don't think reaching

the FCS playoffs is out of the question. "I think it's something we can definitely get to, and it's something we'll work toward," sophomore offensive lineman Ed Kennedy said Tuesday.

"We'll aľways aim for that high mark." With two of their final three games remaining at home (starting Saturday against Southern Illinois), the Coyotes would most likely need to win at least two of them.

And given that two — South Dakota State and Illinois State — are top-15 teams, the potential for resume-building wins remains for USD.

"We have two games left at home, against really good teams, but we're better in the Dome," Glenn said Tuesday. "It's good to be home.

YOLLEYBALL

If we can pick up where we left off, we should have a shot."

In 30 previous seasons, seven Missouri Valley teams got into the playoffs with three or more conference losses. Two of those teams — North Dakota State in 2010 and Indiana State in 2014 got in with a 4-4 record.

In other words, USD needs to take care of business at home over the next two Saturdays, before a season-ending trip to second-ranked Illinois State. Two wins in that stretch would put the Coyotes at 4-4.

The main reason USD is even in a position where it can talk about playoffs with a serious tone is because of the Oct. 17 win at North Dakota State — the fourtime defending national champion.

'If we win a couple more games, hopefully people take into consideration the conference we play in and some of our big wins," USD junior defensive end Colin Mertlik said.

Heading into this weekend's action, the Missouri Valley likely has four playoff berths. Illinois State (5-0) and North Dakota State (4-1) are both likely top-8 seeds, but from there, the league has two teams (South Dakota State, Western Illinois) at 3-2 and five at 2-3.

Put another way: There's a lot of sorting out to do in the league.

The South Dakota double block of Kelsey Biltoft, 13, and Hayley Dotseth, 5, deflect a shot by Denver's Kayla Principato

Denver Sweeps Coyotes

to work on.

percentage.

during Tuesday night's Summit League volleyball match at the DakotaDome.

For every win over first-

place IUPUI comes a puzzling

State. For every performance

like last Saturday's sweep of North Dakota State comes a

"And right now, I don't

"At some point in time

It's that up-and-down na-

ture that has USD (5-7) sitting

in sixth place in the Sum-

mit League standings — six

teams make the tournament.

talking about," senior middle

Kelsey Biltoft said. "It's about

making little changes faster.

"I definitely see what she's

know what team is going to

show up," Williamson said.

'That's been our Achilles

they've got to make a deci-

3-0 loss at South Dakota

result like Tuesday.

heel all year.

sion to be better."

SOUTH DAKOTA YOLLEYBAL

'I think we have a fantastic confer-

'Our last home game was a good one. ence," Indiana State coach Mike Sanford said Tuesday. "To me, I think we should have a bunch of teams in the playoffs.

'How that's going to be decided by the committee, I have no idea.

Sanford's Indiana State squad was the fifth Missouri Valley team selected to the playoffs last year, and the Sycamores got in with a 7-5 regular season record.

Is that a model USD uses? 'That's actually something we can always use," Kennedy said, referring to Indiana State's improvement from one win in 2013.

But whether or not a 4-loss team reaches the playoffs this year will ultimately be determined by the FCS playoff selection committee.

"I hope people who make those decisions understand the quality of the play that our league represents, and the fact that a team that can scratch out wins in this league is awfully good," Western Illinois coach Bob Nielson said.

Back in Vermillion, the Coyotes maintained Tuesday that for now, their focus is on Southern Illinois. But yes, playoffs is something they all think about.

"Getting there is a goal we've had since the beginning of the season, and I think it's still within our grasp," Mertlik

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GIDAL KAISER/PIERRE CAPITAL JOURNAL Sully Buttes' Jacob Howard tackles Parker's Zamuiel Centeno during their Class 9A semifinal football game on Mon-

Chargers Ground Pheasants 42-6

BY GIDAL KAISER

day in Onida.

Pierre Capital Journal

ONIDA – Sully Buttes showed no outburst of emotion at the final buzzer.

Perhaps the final score, 42-6, played a reason. Maybe it was the sudden eruption of points: Two of

three second-quarter touchdowns occurred in a 2-minute span. Both third-quarter scores were registered nearly 2:30 apart.

The No. 2 seed Chargers (9-1) reached territory the program has not seen in five vears – Saturday's Class 9A semifinals – yet closed Monday's quarterfinal win against Parker (6-4) with a businesslike final huddle. Players then spent a few minutes mingling with family and friends before retreating to the locker

"We just try to stay calm and humble," junior tailback Brady Hill said. "We're just figuring it out, I guess.

'We've never been in this position before. But it's cool.' Head coach Mark Senftner posited another theory

'The game was well in hand, and the last two games we played went down to the wire," he said. "We had a little

breathing room tonight.' Hill scored three times in the second half on runs of 10, 1 and 24 yards. Pressed into the main role nearly a month ago after senior tailback Shiloh Perkins suffered a kidney injury, Hill garnered one of his best games to date with 156 yards on 27 carries.

'Ît's a great opportunity, and this is a great team," he said. "We keep coming together, playing together and it shows on the scoreboard."

Hill's dominant second half – he ran for 99 yards in the final two quarters, and triggered a running clock with 6:21 left in the third came on the heels of Scott Senftner's breakout second quarter.

The senior quarterback ran for a pair of 1-yard touchdowns 10 minutes apart, and added a 5-vard strike to classmate Cody Nelson with 3:22 remaining in the half. Senftner also threw a pair of two-pointy conversions and ran one in.

He completed 12 passes for 179 yards.

"Our offensive line did a heck of a job tonight from the start," Senftner said. "Brady's a heck of a runner, and he hits the hole hard. Our receivers hit on hard routes.

credit to those guys. I get the credit, but they deserve it. They make us look good."

Sully Buttes accumulated 387 yards of offense. Nelson gained 96 combined on four carries and six receptions while Clay Feller caught four passes for 80 yards and ran once for four. Greer Hofer caught two passes for 44; his 24-yard reception led to Hill triggering the running clock.

The Senftners also raved about the Chargers' defense.

Parker was held to four gains between 20 and 35 yards, with its 35-yard score on a double-reverse pass with a minute remaining in the third. The Pheasants acquired just 200 yards. "We knew they were

going to do a lot of sweeps outside," Scott Senftner said. "A lot of motion, a lot of movement every time.

"They had some good plays, which they're going to do because they're a good team. But we did a good job of selling out and taking away what they do.

Colome 38,

Alcester-Hudson 36

COLOME - The Colome Cowboys rallied from an early 20-8 deficit to beat Alcester-Hudson 38-36 in the Class 9B football quarterfinals on Monday in Colome.

Reed Harter rushed for 144 yards and four touchdowns, and was 5-7 passing for 118 yards and another score to lead the Colome offense. Holden Thieman made three catches for 98 yards and Nate Krumpus caught a

touchdown pass in the win. For Alcester-Hudson, Grant Johnson rushed for 189 yards and a score, and passed for 224 yards and four touchdowns to lead the way. Samuel Jensen caught four passes for 89 yards and three scores. Logan McConnell caught six passes for 70 yards, and Eli Skoglund had a touchdown catch for the

Harter made 13 stops and Wiley Heath was in on 11 stops for Colome. Will Cahoy was in on nine stops in the

Grant Johnson had a hand in 18 stops and Mitchell Johnson was in on 13 tackles, 2 1/2 for loss, for Alcester-Hudson. Alex Pulscher and Jensen each had a hand in 10 tackles. ALCESTER-HUDSON..... COLOME.....

S.D. VB

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — Leanne

Williamson spent 15 minutes

coming up short in a frustrat-

What was the message

from the University of South

"It's just about figuring

out who they want to be as

a team," said Williamson,

whose Coyotes suffered

a 3-0 loss to second-place

Denver in Summit League

action Tuesday night at the

Particularly since the

Summit League season

"It's a question we pose to

Dakota volleyball coach?

talking with her team after

ing conference sweep.

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DakotaDome.

them quite often."

Menno 3, Freeman 0

MENNO – The Menno Wolves swept Freeman 25-15, 25-18, 25-9 in the first round of the District 9B Volleyball Tournament on Tuesday at Menno High School.

The Wolves (11-12), the tournament host, will take on second-seeded Freeman Academy on Thursday. Freeman ends with an 0-20

Tara Spencer had nine kills and five ace serves, and Marissa Buechler had 10 assists and 11 digs to lead Menno. Courtnee Edelman had six ace serves and 12 digs, and Ashton Vaith had a team-best 17 digs in the

For Freeman, Karli Maske had 19 digs and eight kills, and Lacey Wipf had eight assists and 13 digs to lead the way. Journey Mehlhaf had eight kills and Ashley Glancer had 15 digs for the Flyers. MENNO (11-12)..... FREEMAN (0-20)...

District 11B Tripp Delmont-Arm. 3,

Corsica-Stickney 0 TRIPP- Jeana Nuss had

17 digs for Tripp Delmont-Armour on Tuesday night in Tripp which helped Tripp Delmont- Armour defeat Corsica Stickney. The final scores were 25-21, 25-18, and 25-12.

In the win for Tripp Delmont-Armour, Erica Koster had 18 digs and Brianna Stoebner had nine service points.

For Corsica Stickney, Haley Keizer had nine assists and Brittany Bamberg had

Tripp Delmont-Armour's next match will be at Platte on Thursday against Platte-

Geddes. corsica-stickney (2-21)......21 18 12 tripp delmont-armour (7-17)....25 25 25

District 12B

Gregory 3, Marty 0 GREGORY — Alexa Hannahs had 24 set assists on Tuesday night in Gregory which allowed Gregory to get past Marty. The final scores

were 25-15, 25-11, and 25-7. In the win for Gregory, Hannah Juracek had 11 kills and two ace blocks. Maddie Eklund had 14 digs.

No stats were reported for

"We just didn't do that.

and that's something we need

best hitting team, controlled

the pace from start to finish

against the Coyotes and

finished with a .365 hitting

In fact, the Pioneers got

a .778 clip from Ruth Okoye

(7 kills, 0 errors on 9 swings)

and a .706 effort from Sarah

Schmid (13 kills, 1 error on 17

The Coyotes, meanwhile,

"If they want to have suc-

got 12 kills on 35 swings from

Audrey Reeg, and the next

cess here at the end of the

season, they've got to figure

out who they want to be as a

highest figure was Haley

Jorgensen's eight kills.

Denver (10-3), the league's

Marty. Gregory's next match will be against Colome in the 12B district match on Thursday. MARTY (2-15) GREGORY (5-22)..

District 2AA

Harrisburg 3, Wash.n 0 29 digs on Tuesday night in Harrisburg which helped Harrisburg get past Sioux Falls Washington. The final scores were 25-20, 25-20,

and 25-21.

In the win for Harrisburg, Avery Thorson had 19 set assists, Samantha Slaughter had 15 kills and Karli O'Connor recorded 12 set assists.
For Sioux Falls Washington, Emily
VanBeckern had 22 digs and Hailey Olson had

14 set assists.
On Saturday, Lincoln will host Washington and Harrisburg will host Brandon Valley.

SIOUX FALLS WASHINGTON (17-17).....20 20 21
HARRISBURG (18-3)......25 25 25

Lancers

program and know that team

is coming out every single

Williamson said.

A road trip to Western

Illinois looms for the Coyotes

on Friday before a quick turn-

In total, USD has four regu-

"That's something we as a

"It's one thing to say you

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team have to dig down deep

and decide to make a change,

and once we do, we have to

stick with it," Biltoft said.

want to, but it's another to

lar season matches remaining

with which to find the next

gear.

around for Sunday's home

match with South Dakota

FROM PAGE 7

actually do it.'

everything offensively and defensively. The Lancers took the set with a score of 25-16 and earned every point. The ladies looked composed and played with the energy of school children at recess. Dysthe, Thege, Cross, and Kloth were able to fire home some rockets and well-placed passes to the back court.

The opening of set three saw the momentum shift in favor of the Tigers for the first 15 points. After three kills from Laura Cattle the Lancer's regained their focus and

pulled the win 25-22. The set was decided by pure desire to win and the energy that was displayed by both teams.

"I think that at home, especially with the struggles we've had that we just play well,' said Mount Marty Head Coach Frank Hebenstreit.

Looking back at this game the Lancers did just that. They fought for every ball and played with the heart of champions. On top of that, the Lancers were looking to get even with their rivals after losing to them in five sets earlier this season.

"I think we came in with a presence and a focus about us, a determination to win," said Kutcha.

Dakota Wesleyan ended their night with 21 kills by Lauren Tadlock and 22 digs by Maggie Stehly. Michelle Van Epps provided an impressive 49 assists for the Tigers.

Laura Cattle led the Lancer offense with 17 kills, Allison Cross added 12 more. Amber Dysthe provided 38 digs.

Mount Marty has an outside chance of still making it to the conference tournament, that will be decided on Thursday.

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7:40 am MVCA (Lauren Nelson) 8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods

(Chef Staci) Thursday, November 5 7:40 am Yankton Conv/Vis Bureau (Stephanie Moser) 8:20 am Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm)



Save up to **S**