

Volleyball: Coyotes Finish ‘Den’ Era On High Note

USD Overcomes Slow Start To Beat SDSU

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION – Kelsey Biltoft knows no other home court.

There is no sense of what used to be. She wasn’t around when the University of South Dakota volleyball team used to play its home matches down on the DakotaDome floor.

To Biltoft, the appropriately-named Coyote Den – the second-floor location of home matches since 2012 – was exactly that: Her home. She won’t be around when USD moves next door to its new 6,000-seat arena next fall.

“I definitely think it’s so cool,” said Biltoft, who was one of four seniors honored before Sunday afternoon’s match against South Dakota State – won by the Coyotes 3-1 (19-25, 25-18, 25-16, 25-13).

“I would have loved to play in the arena, but I’ve loved the den. I’ve loved how close and in your face the crowd is.”

The Coyotes had made the move upstairs during the summer of 2012, but it was more than simply laying out a wood floor. The administration and Dome staff had to haul up some bleachers (enough to seat a couple hundred fans) and other gameday equipment.

The decision to move paid off for the Coyotes, who finished their four-year stay at the Den with a 23-10 record.

With Sunday’s match marking the end of that stay, in addition to it being Senior Day and a match with the rival Jackrabbits, the Coyotes understandably came out a little shaky.

“It was the last game in the den, us seniors’ last game at home, and I think everyone was a little nervous,” Biltoft said. “Finally after that, we made the decision that, ‘No, this is not OK.’”

South Dakota State used its aggressive serving and a .357 hitting percentage to win the first set, and even carried that over to early parts of the

second set.

“We had a conversation after game one of just being sick of playing below our standards,” USD coach Leanne Williamson said. “At some point, I think you have to make a decision that you’re not going to do it anymore. You’re in control of how you play.”

What was the team’s reaction?

“They all looked at me and said, ‘Yes, we’re sick of this,’” Williamson said.

And so, the Coyotes turned the tide.

They went on to hit .357 in the second set, .308 in the third set and .395 in the deciding fourth set to capture the victory – and in the process, exacting revenge on SDSU which had won the first meeting.

“Yeah, the tide did change on us,” said SDSU hitter Mikala Hora, a Yankton native. She would finish with a team-high 14 kills on a team-high 42 swings.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
South Dakota’s Lindsey Brown, 10, attacks against the defense of South Dakota State’s Mikala Hora during their Summit League volleyball match on Sunday at the Coyote Den in the DakotaDome. USD won 3-1 in the final match to be played at the ‘Den.’

MMC Women Seventh, Men 10th In GPAC

CRETE, Neb. – Mount Marty College finished seventh in the women’s division and tenth in the men’s division in the Great Plains Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships, held on Saturday and hosted by Doane College.

The 11th-ranked Dordt women claimed their fourth straight GPAC title, and NAIA automatic berth, with 44 points. Nebraska Wesleyan finished second, followed by 20th-ranked Morningside. Hastings, which was tied for 22nd in the final NAIA poll, finished fourth.

Marissa DeWiselare from Doane was the individual medalist with a time of 18:12.83 on the 5k course. Kayla Byl of Dordt earned a second place finish (18:33.14).

Mount Marty was led by the sixth place finish from Mikayla Prouty (18:54.72). Jordyn Hudelson (19:53.16) placed 32nd, Mandy O’Malley (20:03.60) finished 41st, Berkley Rietveld (20:09.42) placed 43rd and Kelsey Sutura (20:53.63) placed 62nd for the Lancers’ scoring. Also for MMC, Kristin Mahony (22:05.43) finished 82nd, Kiana Hoff (22:14.04) finished 86th, Tiffany Tramp (22:46.03) placed 91st, Billie Wicks (24:05.41) finished 9th and Mikaela Lenz (24:11.61) placed 100th for the Lancers.

In the men’s 8k race Jordan Wheeler from Nebraska Wesleyan was the individual champion with a time of 25:23.16 and paced the Prairie Wolves to the team conference title with 45 points. Northwestern, ranked 19th in the final NAIA poll, was second with 74 and will represent the GPAC at the NAIA National Cross Country Championships as NWU is Division III for cross country. Morningside, ranked 21st, placed third with 79 and Concordia was fourth with 121 points.

MMC was led by the 42nd place finish of Christian Petrich (27:46.86). Gage Blaschke (28:37.40) placed 64th, Nick Wixon (29:28.63) placed 76th, Samuel Voigt (30:32.36) placed 84th and Kyle Pardun (30:45.63) placed 86th to round out the Lancer scoring. James Reeves (33:34.85) placed 97th, Vincent Raia (35:35.92) placed 98th and William Lawrence (35:50.35)

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Still Kicking



MICHAEL HAMMOND/P&D
South Dakota wide receiver Brandt Van Roekel, left, looks back at Southern Illinois cornerback Ryan Neal on the way to an 80-yard touchdown during Saturday’s Missouri Valley game at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

USD’s Glenn Scores 200th Win As USD Keeps Playoff Hopes Alive



MICHAEL HAMMOND/P&D
South Dakota quarterback Ryan Saeger, right, out-runs Southern Illinois cornerback Jefferson Vea during Saturday’s Missouri Valley game at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION – It’s been a long journey for Joe Glenn to reach 200 wins.

He was hired at his alma mater University of South Dakota four years ago with a career record of 188-100-1, and four years later, he reached the 200-win mark – in his 28th season as a head coach.

While basking in his team’s 34-31 come-from-behind victory Saturday over Southern Illinois, Glenn was asked about his milestone. And in typical Glenn fashion, he credited the people who have accompanied him along the way.

“It means something,” he told the media, “but honestly, it’s the kids and the coaches that I identify with.”

The 66-year-old Glenn – also in his usual way – joked that if you coach a thousand games, there’s a good chance you’ll reach 200 wins. For the record, Glenn’s career record

now stands at 200-132-1, with a mark of 12-32 at USD. He became the 76th coach in NCAA history with at least 200 victories.

From Doane College to Northern Colorado to Montana to Wyoming and then to USD, Glenn has coached at nearly every level of college football and over 28 seasons has certainly developed enough relationships to remember them well.

“You remember not so much the wins, but the players, the people that support you, people you work with to get the wins and help you,” he said.

Asked about Glenn’s milestone, a handful of USD players said Saturday they had no clue until after an assistant coach filled them in after the upset win at North Dakota State three weeks ago.

“I’ve been here four years and I had no idea he was that

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SDSU Sends Out Coughlin-Alumni With Win Over No. 2 Illinois State



MAKENZIE HUBER/JACKRABBIT SPORTS SERVICE
South Dakota State wide receiver Brandon Andrews scores a touchdown against Illinois defender Davontae Harris (10) Saturday during a Missouri Valley Football Conference game at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium in Brookings. The Jackrabbits improved to 7-2 by defeating the No. 2-ranked Redbirds 25-20.

BY TYLER TEAL
Jackrabbit Sports Service

BROOKINGS – South Dakota State bid a fitting farewell to Coughlin-Alumni Stadium on Saturday, outlasting No. 2-ranked Illinois State 25-20 to tighten things up at the top of the Missouri Valley Football Conference standings – just in time for the final two weeks of the season.

The Jackrabbit victory in the final game in the history of the 53-year-old stadium erased Illinois State’s perfect conference mark and dropped the Redbirds into a first place tie with North Dakota State at 5-1. Hot on their heels are the Jacks, who improved to 4-2 in the Valley standings.

All three teams are 7-2 overall.

“I’m really proud of our

football team,” SDSU coach John Stiegelmeier said. “They did a lot of things we asked them to do and they did them pretty well against a really good Illinois State team.”

While that might be true, things were a little tense early on – and at the end – for the 9,081 fans who helped close out the Coughlin-Alumni era at SDSU. The stadium is being rebuilt and will reopen next fall as the Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

Illinois State, which lost a close decision to North Dakota State in last season’s national championship game, took a 7-0 lead with 9 minutes, 23 seconds left in the first quarter on a 5-yard pass from quarterback Tre Roberson to wide receiver Anthony Warrum.

The touchdown was set

up when SDSU starting quarterback Zach Lujan threw an interception. The turnover deflated the crowd and the Jackrabbit sideline.

But SDSU scored three straight touchdowns to storm back, gain control and take a 19-7 advantage (extra points were not a Jackrabbit specialty on this day). Freshman quarterback Taryn Christian, who relieved Lujan in the first quarter, provided the spark.

“We just got into a groove,” Christian said. “We hurt ourselves a few times, then we got a few big plays, got a few calls, and just got rolling from there.”

SDSU linebacker Jesse Bobbit also helped turn the momentum. The junior from Palatine, Ill., picked off a Roberson pass and returned it 23 yards to set up the Jack-

rabbits’ first score. Bobbit finished the day with three tackles, the interception and half a tackle for loss.

“I don’t think he (Roberson) saw me,” Bobbit said of the interception. “[I] ended up in the right place and it was a good feeling when I got things going.”

Of Bobbit’s takeaway, Stiegelmeier said: “That’s the biggest play of the football game, and it’s the biggest lesson for a player. Any play can win a football game.”

But just when it looked like the Jackrabbits might get comfortable, Illinois State responded. A 70-yard scoring strike from Roberson to Warrum midway through the third quarter pulled the Redbirds to within 19-14.

The Jacks answered early

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