



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Scotland's Chase Mogck, 22, blasts through a hole on the way to a 52-yard touchdown against Sully Buttes during their Class 9A semifinal football game on Saturday in Onida. Sully Buttes downed Scotland 22-12 to advance to the championship.

Chargers Hold Off Scotland For 9A Finals Berth

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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ONIDA – After Scotland's 22-12 loss to Sully Buttes in the Class 9A football semifinals on Saturday in Onida, Highlanders head coach Ryan Robb took a moment to look back on how far his team has come in the past three seasons.

He couldn't help but be excited.

"I can't say enough good things about them. This is a completely different team," Robb said. "This is going to make us stronger. We lose five important guys, but this is going to make us stronger."

Senior quarterback Tanner Iwan led Scotland, rushing for 101 yards and a touchdown. Chase Mogck, who rushed for 90 yards, had the other Highlander score.

Both Scotland touchdowns came in the third quarter, after Sully Buttes had built a 22-0 halftime lead. The Chargers rode the arm of their 6-3, 230-pound quarterback, Scott Senftner, and his favorite target, the speedy Cody Nelson. The pair connected 11 times for 243 yards and two touchdowns as Senftner finished 17-28 passing for 332 yards. Senftner scored the other Char-

ger TD on a 3-yard keeper. "We just ran the stuff we normally run," said Sully Buttes head coach Mark Senftner. "Cody is quick off the line and does a good job of running routes."

Coach Senftner said the quarterback and receiver built their connection in the off-season.

"I'm happy for those two," he said. "They spent a lot of time working together."

Nelson broke loose on the Chargers' opening possession. After Shiloh Perkins took a Scott Senftner swing pass for 11 yards on third-and-9, Nelson got behind the Highlander defense for a 60-yard score.

Four more Nelson catches, including one for 33 yards, put the Chargers in position for a 3-yard power run into the endzone by Scott Senftner early in the second quarter. On the next Charger possession, a 30-yard catch by Nelson set up his leaping catch in the endzone for a 15-yard score.

But Sully Buttes would not get on the endzone again.

"We had to make a change on (Nelson)," Robb said. "We moved Chase (Mogck) over the top of him."

Obviously, the Highlanders found a rhythm just before

halftime, but the game clock stopped the drive at the Charger 23. After forcing a three-and-out to start the second half, the Scotland offense took advantage, getting to midfield before Iwan broke free for a 53-yard score.

"We had to get our pad level down and pick up our effort," Robb said of the second half surge. "We made one little change, pulling a guard, but it was just about effort, getting our pads down."

Another stalled-out Sully Buttes drive gave Scotland the ball near midfield. On the first play, Mogck blasted through a hole and ran 52 yards for the score.

Scotland got another quick stop, but saw their drive stalled due to a bad snap on third-and-short. The Chargers responded with one last drive, setting up a first-and-goal before stalling out. Scotland tried to rush up the field but could not connect on what would be their final drive.

"They are definitely a good football team," Coach Senftner said of Scotland.

Sully Buttes will make its fourth state finals appearance in program history, the first since 1990. The Chargers will face Canistota, the top-ranked

team in the class for almost the entire season.

"Everyone has talked about them all year. They've been number one all year," Coach Senftner said. "Nobody's talking about us."

Scotland finished with an 8-3 record, twice as many victories as a season ago and one game away from the program's first finals berth since 2007.

"We're going to lose five important guys," Robb said, referring to Iwan, Logan Fischer, Josh Vaith, Caleb Pedersen and Kreg Kepplinger. "But this is going to make us stronger."

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SCOTLAND.....0 0 12 0 — 12
SULLY BUTTES.....8 14 0 0 — 22
First Quarter
SB — Cody Nelson, 60-yard catch from Scott Senftner (Nelson from Senftner), 8:51
Second Quarter
SB — Senftner, 3-yard run (run no good), 9:12
SB — Nelson, 15-yard pass from Senftner (Senftner run), 6:30
Third Quarter
S — Tanner Iwan, 53-yard run (run no good), 6:58
S — Chase Mogck, 52-yard run (run no good), 2:34
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING: Scotland — Tanner Iwan 9-101, Chase Mogck 12-90, Logan Fischer 10-26, Chandler Diele 4-3; Sully Buttes — Brady Hill 19-36, Shiloh Perkins 2-10, Scott Senftner 7-5, Cody Nelson 2(-5)
PASSING: Scotland — Tanner Iwan 2-8, 5 yards, 0 INT; Team 0-1, 1 INT; Sully Buttes — Scott Senftner 17-28, 332 yards, 0 INT
RECEIVING: Scotland — Logan Fischer 1-5, Chandler Diele 1-0; Sully Buttes — Cody Nelson 11-243, Shiloh Perkins 2-21, Brady Hill 1-27, Clay Feller 1-26, Greer Hofer 1-10, Cameron Ogle 1-5



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Scotland's Chase Mogck pokes the ball from Sully Buttes' Shiloh Perkins just outside the endzone during their Class 9A semifinal game on Saturday in Onida. The ball rolled out of bounds in the endzone, resulting in Scotland getting the ball on their own 20-yard line.

Coyotes

FROM PAGE 7

close," senior defensive lineman Drew Iddings said. "He kept it to himself; he's all about the team."

"He didn't really care that he was in the 200 club, he just wanted to see us succeed."

The sight of Glenn putting his arm around players or high-fiving them during practice has been just as common as the sight of him wearing a white visor during a game.

That's certainly the Glenn his players know.

Senior linebacker Keyen

Lage recalled Glenn coming to his home in Sioux Falls after being hired at USD in 2011, when Lage — and fellow Sioux Falls native Devon O'Farrell — had already committed.

"He just cares so much about us," Lage said. "He doesn't care about that 200 wins, he just cares so much about his players."

"And I think it's rubbing off on the players, and that's what makes it so special for us."

Ramsey Comes Up Big

Prior to Saturday, USD tight end Aaron Ramsey hadn't been counted on much in the passing game. In the run game, sure, his blocking was critical.

But in terms of hauling in a pass, Ramsey — a former quarterback — had a season best of three catches and hadn't caught a touchdown pass.

In Saturday's win over Southern Illinois, however, Ramsey came up clutch. He caught five passes for 49 yards, but none bigger than his 5-yard touchdown grab with 3:09 left in the fourth quarter, which put the Coyotes ahead for good.

"We told Ramsey earlier in the week that we'll need him to play big in this game for us," quarterback Ryan Saeger said, "and that's exactly what he did."

Tight ends haven't commonly been used in USD's pass-

ing attack over the last handful of years, they've instead been counted on to block. And this season, the Coyotes have utilized four tight ends, with Ramsey, Josh Hale, Kayl Barkley and Ethan Fenchel — together they have 20 catches and one touchdown.

Ramsey, who is fourth on the team with 13 receptions this season, has had to work to see more time, Glenn said.

"They've been on him to work a little harder and push himself a little bit more," the coach said.

And whatever he has done paid off for Ramsey.

"This is the first time I've seen the old Aaron," Glenn said.

"Somewhere you've got to make a play and gain some confidence. He found it today, he sure did."

Jacks Up Next

By virtue of their first November win since 2011, the Coyotes now head into next Saturday's showdown with South Dakota State with something extra to play for — as do the Jackrabbits.

With playoff implications at stake, the game will mark the first time since the rivalry was renewed in the Missouri Valley that USD and SDSU meet with more than anything rivalry related on the line.

"It'll be a lot riding on it,

I think," Glenn said. "They're still alive, we're still alive."

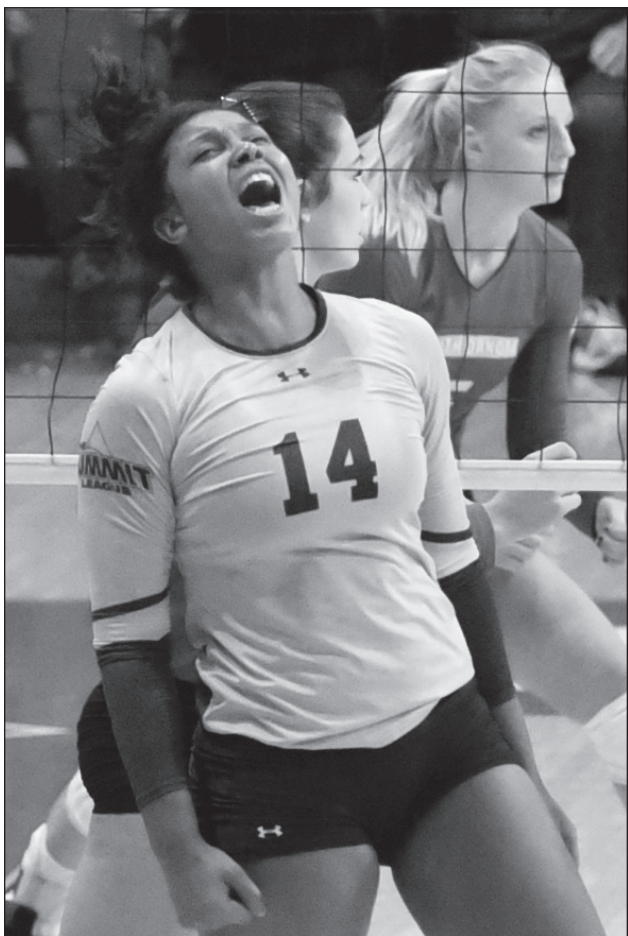
By virtue of their win Saturday over second-ranked Illinois State, the Jacks (7-2, 4-2) are probably already assured of an at-large berth in the FCS playoffs — the FBS win over Kansas certainly helps their case.

The Coyotes (5-4, 3-3), on the hand, likely need to win their remaining two games to get an at-large selection.

"If we can just help ourselves," Glenn said. "If we can get seven wins and win on a run, then why not us."

"We've got a win over some team (NDSU) up north; that has to mean something."

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota State's Mikala Hora celebrates after a kill during the Jackrabbits' Summit League volleyball match at South Dakota on Sunday in Vermillion. Hora, a sophomore from Yankton, had a team-best 14 kills, but USD claimed a 3-1 victory.

State-U

FROM PAGE 7

"We came out and served really well; we were ready to play. Our serving got a little high and a little less aggressive," Hora added. "We fought hard, and that's all you can ask for."

For Hora, having the opportunity to even be on the court to experience the highs and lows with her teammates again is a joy, she said. She missed most of last season with an injury, but is back healthy this season as SDSU's kills leader (243).

"It's exciting, because

after that injury, I was just happy to be on the court," Hora said. "Progress is always the key, and our thing has been 'push forward.'"

The Coyotes, themselves, have also been pushing forward since the Summit League schedule began.

Sunday's win keeps USD (7-7) in sixth place, which is at least where it wants to stay: The top six teams qualify for the postseason tournament.

To ensure the Coyotes keep pace, they've had to find other offensive weapons following the season-ending injury to Sydney Dimke. The offensive performance Sunday was proof that USD has

figured some things out. Hayley Dotseth led the way with 13 kills, while Biltoft (who hit .611) and Audrey Reeg both had 11 kills. Haley Jorgensen chipped in with eight, setter Brittany Jensen had seven and Lindsey Brown had six.

"That's something we talked to Brittany about, that more people get involved, so it's not the same two people," Williamson said. "That's really when we play our best, when we have three or four hitters contributing."

The Coyotes will close the regular season with a road trip to Indiana, where they will face IUPUI on Friday and Fort Wayne on Saturday. The

Summit League tournament will be held Nov. 20-22 in Denver, Colorado.

Meanwhile, Hora and the Jackrabbits will continue searching for signs of progression under first-year head coach Nicole Cirillo. After going 0-16 in Summit League action last season, SDSU is 3-11 this season.

"With this group of girls we have, I love every second of it," Hora said. "Win or lose, my teammates are always there."

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