

SPORTS DIGEST

St. Pierre Nominated For Cliff Harris Award

SIoux FALLS — When University of Sioux Falls head football coach Jed Stugart talks about his senior All-American cornerback Solomon St. Pierre, the immediate thoughts is the Wagner native's humility and team oriented persona.



St. Pierre

St. Pierre, who Wednesday was named a nominee for the second straight year for the Cliff Harris Award as defensive player of the year, was a big play performer who helped lead #16 USF to its first-ever NCAA Division II playoff appearance.

For Stugart, St. Pierre was a quiet leader who made noise on the field.

"Solomon has been a special player for our program," said Stugart, noting that the Wagner native has received numerous looks from NFL scouts. "He cares deeply about his family and his teammates, which shows me a lot about the person he is. I couldn't be more proud what kind of man Solomon has become. He is much more than of the elite defensive players in the country," he said.

A shutdown cornerback, St. Pierre was part of a program that has recorded four straight winning seasons at the NSIC level with a combined mark of 34-11 and nine-win seasons in three of the past four years. In fact, while St. Pierre has been at USF, the Cougars have risen to national prominence, including national rankings in 22 consecutive polls.

St. Pierre finished his career to 22 interceptions, an all-time mark at USF and four more than John Fuller, 1982-85, who had 18. A criminal justice major, St. Pierre had a league-best (5th nationally) nine picks and 21 interceptions in the final 24 games of his career.

A six-time All-American cornerback, St. Pierre ranks first nationally for career interceptions among active players in NCAA at all levels. St. Pierre has 24 passes (2.0 per game) defended in 2015 which ranks third nationally and second in the NSIC. He sits fourth among active players in the NCAA with 62 passes defended. St. Pierre,

who tied the season record for interceptions with 10 in 2014, finished the 2015 season with 22 solo stops, nine assisted tackles and 31 overall stops as well as 15 pass breakups, a forced fumble and TFL.

Named first team All-NSIC for the second straight year, he is the only player in NCAA DII with nine or more interceptions in consecutive seasons.

Meyer, Tsakakis Named

Academic All-Summit

ELMHURST, Ill. —South Dakota seniors Kasha Meyer and Elena Tsakakis have been named to the 2015 Academic All-Summit League Team, as announced by the league office Wednesday. North Dakota State placed a league-high three honorees on the team, while IUPUI, Oral Roberts, and South Dakota each had two.

Meyer and Tsakakis collect the academic award for the second consecutive season.

A defensive starter from Lincoln, Neb., Meyer anchored the Coyote back line throughout the year. She earned second-team all-Summit League honors and a spot on the Summit League's all-tournament team. Meyer tallied 4,977 minutes on the pitch in her career, which is the fourth-most in program history. She also stepped up to become an integral part of the Coyote attack on set pieces towards the end of the season. In the Coyotes' final home stand, Meyer put away the game-winners against Summit League foes IUPUI and Western Illinois. Meyer carries a 3.96 grade-point average as a health science major. She has a double minor in chemistry and interdisciplinary sciences.

A midfielder from Edina, Minn., Tsakakis worked both as a defender and advanced the ball to the strikers. She totaled 4,101 minutes on the pitch for her career, which ranks 15th in program history. Tsakakis tallied seven goals and five assists in four seasons. In addition to the academic all-league honors, Tsakakis was named a CoSIDA Academic All-American yesterday afternoon. Tsakakis maintains a perfect 4.00 grade-point average as a biology major. She also has a double minor in sustainability and French.

Both Meyer and Tsakakis helped the Coyotes earn a spot at the Summit League Tournament for the first time in program history.

To be eligible for the Academic All-Summit League Team, a student-athlete needed to have a minimum grade point average of 3.30, completed at least one full academic year at the institution and competed in at least 50 percent of their team's competitions. The 11 student-athletes were selected to the team based on votes by the nine institutions' faculty athletic representatives and sports information directors.

NSIC Fall All-Academic

Teams Announced

BURNSVILLE, Minn. — The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference announced that 636 student-athletes have earned NSIC All-Academic Teams honors for the 2015 Fall athletic season.

Several student-athletes from the region were honored, including Annie Kruse (So., Augustana, Yankton) in women's cross country; Blake Perryman (So., Northern State, Dakota Dunes), Nick Schmit (Jr., Wayne State, Randolph, Nebraska) and David Schoenfish (Jr., U of Sioux Falls, Parkston) in men's cross country; Terry Huber (Jr., Sioux Falls, Yankton); Nick Murphy (Sr., Northern State, Elk Point) and Scott Shanks (Sr., Northern State, Elk Point) in football; and Ivy Pearson (Jr., Augustana, Alcester) in volleyball.

To be eligible for this honor, the student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or higher. Furthermore, the athlete must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at her/his institution (true freshmen, red-shirt freshmen and ineligible athletic transfers are not eligible) and must have completed at least one full academic year at that institution.

South Dakota Announces

2016 Track & Field Slate

VERMILLION — South Dakota director of track and field/cross country Lucky Huber has announced a 2016 schedule featuring three home meets and trips to Big Ten, Big 12, and

Pac-12 schools.

South Dakota opens the 2016 season inside the DakotaDome as alumni return for the Dakota Realty Alumni Meet on Jan. 16.

The two other home meets on the schedule will be held at the new outdoor track facility. Fans can get a first look at the new facility at the USD Twilight on April 19, prior to the Coyotes hosting the 2016 Summit League Outdoor Championships May 12-14.

The Coyotes remain within the Midwest for most of the indoor season, including a pair of meets at in-state rival South Dakota State, Minnesota's Jack Johnson Classic, the Iowa State Classic, a trip to Colorado for the Air Force Team Challenge, and a tune-up at Nebraska in preparation for the Summit League.

The Yotes will look to capture Summit League titles for the fourth-straight year on the men's side and for the first time on the women's side at the Summit League Indoor Championships hosted by Fort Wayne, Feb. 26-27.

Indoor competition wraps up March 11-12 at the NCAA Indoor Championships hosted by Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. The top-16 individuals in their respective events qualify for the meet.

Road trips to Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, and California kick off the Coyotes' outdoor season. South Dakota will face the top competition in the nation at the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays and the Mt. SAC Relays.

Closer to home, the Coyotes compete at Nebraska's Husker Spring Invite, the Sioux City Relays, Mt. Marty's Twilight Meet, and the Howard Wood Dakota Relays.

South Dakota travels to a pair of regional relay meets leading into the end of the season. The Coyotes race at both the Kansas Relays, held at the site of the NCAA West Preliminaries, and the Drake Relays.

The Summit League Outdoor Championships are to be hosted by South Dakota May 12-14.

Individuals ranked in the top-48 of their respective events at the conclusion of the outdoor season will advance to the NCAA West Preliminary held in Lawrence, Kan., May 26-28. The first 12 finishers from each event at that meet advance to the NCAA Championships in Eugene, Ore., held June 8-11.

South Dakota will also host three Olympic Trial qualifier meets during May and June. Qualifiers for the U.S. Olympic Trials will compete July 1-10 at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore.

The complete 2016 track and field schedule is available on GoYotes.com.

JV: Lancer Women Top

DWU

MITCHELL — Mount Marty College downed Dakota Wesleyan 78-70 in JV women's basketball action on Tuesday.

Mikayla Prouty scored 17 points, helped by 7-7 shooting from the free throw line, to lead MMC. Karissa Chamley netted 15 points, Kelsey Sutura (Taber) scored 13 points and Jenna Kittler (North Sioux City) had 12 points in the victory.

Also for MMC, Ashley Green and Sammy Kasowski each had six rebounds.

MMC, 2-2 in JV action, plays an alumni team at home on Dec. 5.

Coaches: Send In Winter

Sports Information

The 2015 Press & Dakotan Winter Sports Preview will be released in the Friday, December 11 edition.

Coaches of winter sports are asked to send in their team information forms as soon as possible. Forms may be sent by fax to 605-665-1721. Information may also be e-mailed to sports@yankton.net.

Forms were sent to the schools earlier this summer. Coaches who have not received their winter sports information forms may call 1-800-743-2968, ext. 106, or e-mail sports@yankton.net.

We Want To Hear From You

If you have any sports-related story ideas, upcoming events or comments, feel free to contact us at sports@yankton.net or by mail at 319 Walnut, Yankton, S.D., 57078.

Be sure to include all pertinent information, including your name, phone number and your story idea or comment.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

NCAA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Saturday, Nov. 28

Western Illinois (6-5) at Dayton (10-1), 11 a.m.

Fordham (9-2) at Chattanooga (8-3), noon

The Citadel (8-3) at Coastal Carolina (9-2), 1 p.m.

Southern Utah (8-3) at Sam Houston State (8-3), 2 p.m.

South Dakota State (8-3) at Montana (7-4), 2 p.m.

Colgate (7-4) at New Hampshire (7-4), 2:30 p.m.

Duquesne (8-3) at William & Mary (8-3), 2:30 p.m.

Eastern Illinois (7-4) at Northern Iowa (7-4), 4 p.m.

Grand Valley State (10-2) at Ferris State (11-0), Noon

Tuskegee (9-2) at North Alabama (9-2), 1 p.m.

Emporia State (10-2) at Henderson State (11-1), 1 p.m.

Colorado State-Pueblo (11-1) at Midwestern State (Texas) (10-1), 2 p.m.

Humboldt State (10-1) at Northwest Missouri State (10-2), 2 p.m.

NAIA PLAYOFFS

Quarterfinals, Saturday, Nov. 28

Montana Tech (10-1) at Saint Francis (Ind.) (10-0), 11 a.m.

Southern Oregon (9-2) at Baker (Kan.) (11-1), noon

Marian (Ind.) (9-2) at Grand View (Iowa) (11-1), noon

Tabor (Kan.) (11-1) at Morningside (Iowa) (11-1), noon

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

W L T Pct PF PA

New England 10 0 0 1,000 323 182

Buffalo 5 5 0 500 244 227

N.Y. Jets 5 5 0 500 234 208

Miami 4 6 0 400 205 249

South

W L T Pct PF PA

Indianapolis 5 5 0 500 224 248

Houston 5 5 0 500 208 228

South Dakota State-Montana winner at North Dakota State (9-2), 2:30 p.m.

Jacksonville 4 6 0 400 211 268

Tennessee 2 8 0 200 182 233

North

W L T Pct PF PA

Denver 8 2 0 800 266 186

Pittsburgh 6 4 0 600 236 191

Baltimore 3 7 0 300 225 249

Cleveland 2 8 0 200 186 277

West

W L T Pct PF PA

Denver 8 2 0 800 222 183

Kansas City 5 5 0 500 257 198

Oakland 4 6 0 400 240 259

San Diego 2 8 0 200 213 282

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

AREA CALENDAR

Friday, November 27

BASKETBALL WOMEN'S

Florida Atlantic Thanksgiving

Tourn. USD vs. Appalachian State

(1:30 p.m., KVHT-FM)

Saturday, November 28

BASKETBALL MEN'S USD

at Sacramento State (5:30 p.m., KVHT-FM)

BASKETBALL WOMEN'S

Florida Atlantic Thanksgiving

Tourn. USD vs. TBD, KVHT-FM)

FOOTBALL COLLEGE FCS

Playoffs First Round

HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV Aberdeen

at Yankton (DH, 3 & 7 p.m.)

HOCKEY, PEWEE Brookings

at Yankton 6 (DH, 1:15 & 5:30 p.m.)

Sunday, November 29

BASKETBALL MEN'S USD

vs. Eastern Washington at Sacramento, Calif. (4:30 p.m., KVHT-FM)

HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV Aberdeen

at Yankton (9 a.m.)

HOCKEY, BENTLEY Yankton at S.F. West (10:30 a.m.)

HOCKEY, PEWEE Sioux

Center at Yankton C (11 a.m.)

Oakland at Tennessee, noon

St. Louis at Cincinnati, noon

Minnesota at Atlanta, noon

N.Y. Giants at Washington, noon

Tampa Bay at Indianapolis, noon

San Diego at Jacksonville, noon

Miami at N.Y. Jets, noon

Arizona at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.

New England at Denver, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 30

Baltimore at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 3

Green Bay at Detroit, 7:25 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 6

Arizona at St. Louis, noon

Seattle at Minnesota, noon

Jacksonville at Tennessee, noon

San Francisco at Chicago, noon

N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants, noon

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, noon

Houston at Buffalo, noon

Baltimore at Miami, noon

Cincinnati at Cleveland, noon

Denver at San Diego, 3:05 p.m.

Kansas City at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.

Carolina at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m.

Philadelphia at New England, 3:25 p.m.

Indianapolis at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 7

Dallas at Washington, 7:30 p.m.

NU-Iowa

FROM PAGE 6A

went for a touchdown two weeks ago, and Ferentz said he'll be on the lookout for any trick plays the Huskers might have added during their bye week. "I'm sure they'll have something for us, and it really gets down to playing good, sound funda-

mental football," Ferentz said. "That's how you stop those types of things, and if you don't, if you leave the door open a little bit, you can be victimized by those, and we have in the last couple weeks."

IOWA HUSKERS/NEBRASKA HAWKEYES: Nebraska has two Iowans on its roster — receivers Lane Hovey of Adel and Gabe Rahn of Le Mars. Iowa has three Nebras-

Jacks

FROM PAGE 6A

an FBS squad. The Jackrabbits appeared on pace for a first-round bye heading into the regular season finale at Western Illinois but dropped a heartbreaker in double overtime.

Jackrabbits coach John Stiegelmeier said players quickly got over their disappointment and are ready for the challenge of taking the field in one of college football's loudest environments. "We're excited to be in it and we're excited to have a game in Montana," he said. "We expect to play our best football of the year."

Key for South Dakota State will be getting the ball into the hands of wide receiver Jake Wienke, a sophomore from Maple Grove, Minnesota, who has caught 66 balls for 1,344 yards and 11

touchdowns this season. Stiegelmeier said Montana plays a ton of man-on-man schemes, and Wienke always steps up in big games.

"If they go 1-on-1 coverage, he's got to have a good game," Stiegelmeier said.

Stitt said the Grizzlies will have to find a way to contain Wienke, but Stitt has a lot of confidence in the way his corners are playing.

"We put them on an island every week and they're coming up big," he said.

Gustafson has put up solid numbers since returning from a lower leg injury suffered in the Grizzlies' Sept. 19 game at Liberty. He's thrown 120-205 for 1,460 yards in 2015 with 9 touchdowns and 5 interceptions

But the Grizzlies will be facing a tough, experienced defense that has allowed just 16.7 points per game and really doesn't show any weakness, Stitt said.

"You don't look at their defense and go, 'Wow, we've

kans on its roster — line-backer Cole Fisher of Omaha and defensive linemen Drew Ott (injured) of Trumbull and Nathan Bazata of Howells.

BLACK FRIDAY TRADITION: This is the 26th straight season Nebraska will have a Black Friday game. The Huskers have played Oklahoma, Colorado or Iowa on the day after Thanksgiving every year since 1990 and are 19-6 in those games.

got to stop this guy or that guy," he said. "They've got very good players in every position and are solid — all 11 of them."

The Jackrabbits on offense have an efficient quarterback, a solid offensive line and a tough running back, Stitt said.

But the O-line will have to contend with Grizzlies defensive end Tyrone Holmes, a senior from Eagle Point, Oregon, who leads the FCS with 14 sacks.

"He's a great player," Stiegelmeier said. "So tackles get ready, backs get ready, tight ends get ready. Know that you're facing one of best of the nation."

Saturday marks the eighth meeting of the two teams.

Montana has won all seven games, including a 61-48 win over South Dakota State in the first round of the 2009 FCS playoffs.

The winner will face North Dakota State next Saturday in Fargo.

9AA

FROM PAGE 6A

Wide receiver — junior Chase Kortan of Bon Homme. He amassed 2,048 all-purpose yards this season in scoring 26 touchdowns and 176 points. He had 58 receptions for 749 yards and carried the ball 142 times for 1,054 yards rushing. "Chase has great athletic ability and also leads by example during the offseason," Bon Homme coach Byron Pudwill said. "Chase is a four-sport athlete and carries a 3.94 grade-point average."

Tight end — senior Brady Tiede of Woonsocket-Wessington Spring-Sanborn Central. He had 10 catches for 197 yards and three touchdowns this season for the Blackhawks, who averaged 43 points per game and had team totals of 1,174 passing yards and 2,673 rushing yards. He earned honorable mention all-state honors in 2014. "Brady has probably been the most solid player we have had the last three years. He's not overly flashy, but does his job," Kolousek said. "He's a great blocking tight end and a wonderful kid who is willing to do whatever to help the team."

Guard — senior Garrett Larson of Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central. Helped the Blackhawks to 2,814 yards rushing and 1,311 yards passing this season. He was a 2014 all-state selection at defensive end. "Garrett has tremendous drive and works in the weight room constantly," Kolousek said. "He goes hard all time and encourages all his teammates to play as hard as

he does. He is very knowledgeable about the game plan and is a very fundamental lineman."

Guard — junior Dylan Hines of Wolsey-Wessington. He helped the Warbirds to 5,569 yards rushing this season and was named as the Lineman of the Game in the Class 9AA championship game. "Dylan is a coaches' dream to have as a player and a person. He is very coachable and easy to work with," Hooks said. "Dylan is a leader on and off the field. He is only a junior, but plays like a college player."

Center — senior Noah Huber of Clark-Willow Lake. He helped anchor the offensive line from his center position. He was an honorable mention all-state selection in 2014. "Noah is a very versatile football player. He has the size, strength and ability to play anywhere on the offensive and defensive lines," Clark-Willow Lake coach Joel Huber said. "He has great footwork for a player his size and just does not get beat."

Long snapper — senior Josh Anderson of Chester Area. He was error free on a total of 71 snaps this season. "Josh's work ethic is second to none, he was my coach on the field and a fierce competitor," Benson said. "He's one of the most coachable kids that I have had the pleasure to coach."

Defense

Tackle — senior Desmond Graves of Miller. He recorded 47 tackles this season, including 20 solo stops. He had 11 tackles for a loss, six sacks, two punt blocks, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries. "Desmond is a big kid who plays hard all