

Press & Dakotan

DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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It's been 20 years since the Minnesota Twins waved their "Homer Hankies" to a second title in five years. That same year, the Minnesota North Stars lost in the Stanley Cup Finals, the squad's final trip there before heading to Dallas.

It's been over 30 years since the Minnesota Vikings lost their fourth Super Bowl without a Lombardi Trophy. Minnesota hasn't won an NBA title since 1959, just before the Minneapolis Lakers moved to Hollywood.

But the state could see its professional title drought draw to an end tonight (Friday), as the Minnesota Lynx hold a 2-0 lead in a best-of-5 series against the Atlanta Dream in the WNBA Finals.

At Least One Minnesota Pro Team Can Win It All

Yes, I said "WNBA."

The run was set in motion when the Lynx got the top overall pick in the 2011 draft and took Maya Moore, the Connecticut standout who approached goddess status during her career with the Huskies. Teamed with former LSU star Seimone Augustus and former Minnesota star Lindsey Whalen, the Lynx have made a run like her NBA brothers could only hope for. Minnesota took two of three from S.D. native Becky Hammon and San Antonio, then disposed of Phoenix in two lopsided games before taking the first two games against Atlanta.

Wednesday's win drew over 15,000 at Target Center, 5,000 more than a highly-anticipated season opener that featured Moore's debut, and less than 2,000 behind their NBA counterpart's home finale, a 15th consecutive loss.

Hopefully the Lynx can finally give Minnesota fans something to cheer about.

Yankton's Koletzky, Wirth Earn All-Tourney Honors

SIoux FALLS — Two members of the Yankton Gazelles were named to the Class AA all-tournament team for the South Dakota State Fastpitch Football Tournament, held Sept. 30-Oct. 1 in Sioux Falls.

Senior pitcher Katie Koletzky and junior first baseman Jessica Wirth were honored for the Gazelles, who finished fourth in the tournament.

Freshmen Bucks Bound Line

The Yankton Bucks freshman football team shut out Brandon Valley in all but one quarter in their contest Thursday coming away with a 35-13 win.

The Bucks again won the game through their explosive ground attack amassing 400 yards rushing and 500 yards total offense.

Sioux Falls Native Named To USA Men's Fast Pitch

SIoux FALLS — Zach Warne of Sioux Falls is one of 17 athletes named to the 2011 USA Softball Men's Fast Pitch National Team, the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced Thursday.

The athletes, selected for the team by the Men's Fast Pitch National

USD Softball Named 2010-11 NFCA All-Academic Team

VERMILLION — The South Dakota softball team has been selected as a 2010-11 All-Academic squad by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, it has been announced. The Coyotes had a

3.435 team grade point average (GPA) for the 2010-11 academic year,

13th best in all of NCAA Division I.

"It is a great achievement for our players," South Dakota head coach Amy Klyse said. "Our schedule has required a lot of travel, and considering how much we are on the road, it shows our players' commitment to their academics."

The NFCA Academic Awards program honors both collegiate and high school teams for their submitted GPAs for the 2010-2011 academic year. As a second component of the program, all submitted student-athletes who achieved a 3.50 GPA during last academic year are named as a NFCA All-Academic Scholar Athlete. The individual honorees will be announced Friday on NFCA.org.

The Coyotes, who surpassed 20 wins for a third straight year in 2011, open the 2012 season in February at a tournament to be determined.

Booster Meeting Monday

The Yankton High School Athletic Booster Club will hold its monthly meeting Monday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Summit Activities Center meeting room.

Booster Club members are encouraged to attend. If you are not a member and are interested in supporting YHS athletics, feel free to attend.

Contact Andrea Hecht at 665-4640 for more information.

NU Backup Lineman Out For Season

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska backup offensive lineman Jake Cotton will be out for the season after tearing ligaments in a knee.

Coach Bo Pelini said Thursday that Cotton was injured when someone fell on the back of his leg at practice early this week. Pelini said Cotton tore his anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments and has had surgery.

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER

S.D. STATE TOURN.

Oct. 6-8 at Mitchell

CLASS A & GIRLS

First Round, Thursday

Sioux Falls Lincoln 4, Pierre 2

S.F. Roosevelt 4, S.F. O'Gorman 0

Aberdeen Central 1, Rapid City Central 0

R.C. Stevens 3, Yankton 0

Semifinals, Friday

R.C. Stevens vs. S.F. Lincoln, 2 p.m., Field 3

Consolation, Friday

S.F. Roosevelt vs. Aberdeen Central, 4:30 p.m., Field 1

CLASS AA BOYS

First Round, Thursday

Spearfish 2, S.F. O'Gorman 1

S.F. Roosevelt 3, S.F. Washington 1

Aberdeen Central 2, R.C. Central 1

S.F. Lincoln 4, Watertown 1

Semifinals, Friday

S.F. Lincoln vs. Spearfish, 2 p.m., Field 5

S.F. Roosevelt vs. Aberdeen Central, 4:30 p.m., Field 7

Consolation, Friday

Watertown vs. S.F. O'Gorman, 9 a.m., Field 9

S.F. Washington vs. R.C. Central, 11:30 a.m., Field 8

CLASS A GIRLS

First Round, Thursday

St. Thomas More 2, Groton 1

Sturgis 3, Belle Fourche 2

Harrisburg 1, Vermillion 0

West Central 5, Mitchell 0

Semifinals, Friday

West Central vs. St. Thomas More, 2 p.m., Field 3

Sturgis vs. Harrisburg, 4:30 p.m., Field 2

Consolation, Friday

Mitchell vs. Groton, 9 a.m., Field 10

Belle Fourche vs. Vermillion, 11:30 a.m., Field 8

CLASS AA BOYS

First Round, Thursday

James Valley Christian 4, Harrisburg 1

Groton 3, Vermillion 0

S.F. Christian 5, Freeman Academy 0

Huron 3, St. Thomas More 2

Semifinals, Friday

Huron vs. Groton, 2 p.m., Field 9

James Valley Christian vs. S.F. Christian, 4:30 p.m., Field 8

Consolation, Friday

St. Thomas More vs. Vermillion, 9 a.m., Field 6

Harrisburg vs. Freeman Academy, 11:30 a.m., Field 10

TENNIS

S.D. STATE GIRLS TOURN.

Team scores — Roosevelt 258, Aberdeen Central 210, Aberdeen Rockville 200, O'Gorman 194, Watertown 189, Pierre 180, Washington 160, Brandon Valley 148, Lincoln 124, Mitchell 94, Vermillion 89, St. Thomas More-Rapid City Christian 82, Madison 62, Brookings 44, Milbank 30, Rapid City Central 28, Huron 0, Spearfish 0.

First round — Hannon Brenden (AC) def. Brandt Niedert (MI) 6-0, 6-0; Kaitlyn Selby (RCS) def. Lydia Lucchesi (BK) 6-1, 6-3; Amanda Hegd (SFL) def. Eriq Lejeun (Pie) 6-3, 6-1; Claire Jones (Ver) def. Hannah Lightfoot (SFR) 6-3, 6-1.

Second round — Morgan Brower (OG) def. Megan Dunn (SP) 6-1, 6-0; M. Gunderson (AR) def. Berley Daer (SFW) 4-6, 6-2; Vanessa Rockne (Yan) def. Brenden 6-4, 6-3; Catherine Gibbons (STM) def. Selby 6-2, 6-1; Sydney Larson (SP) def. Hegd 6-1, 6-1; Brittany Karan (SFR) def. Jones 6-1, 6-2; Allie Larsen (SFL) def. Erin Buse (BV) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; Lori Foltz (Wat) def. Halle Habicht (Hur) 6-0, 6-0.

Third round — Hayley Rubin (BV) def. S. Swenson (M) 6-0, 6-0; Kate Wollman (Pie) def. Sarah He (BK) 6-0, 6-1; Reba Barlund (MI) def. Megan Larson (SP) by withdrawal; Kristen Tize (Wat) def. Courtney Wells (MI) 6-1, 6-0.

Fourth round — Taylor Messinger (RCS) def. Gabi Schmidt (SFL) 6-0, 6-0; Jenna Stroutis (AC) def. Valerie Robinson (Ver) 6-0, 6-2; Mical Johnson (SFW) def. Wozan 6-3, 6-2; Kara Bunkers (SFR) def. Nozman 6-0, 6-1; Alexis Haakdaahl (STM) def. Barlund 6-2, 6-1; Lexie Kimisch (Yan) def. Tize 6-1, 6-1; Kaitlyn Deller (AR) def. Miranda Douglas (RCC) 6-0, 6-0; Jenna Czamecki (OG) def. Erin Isackson (Hur) 6-0, 6-0.

Fifth round — Haley Rubin (BV) def. Michelle Johnson (Hur) 6-3, 6-1; Danielle Roemen (M) def. Lauri Anderson (BK) 6-2, 6-4; Kendra Carosimo (MI) def. Kasey Weathers (RCC) 6-0, 6-1; Lexie Henderson (Yan) def. Abby Weiss (Ver) 6-1, 6-4.

Sixth round — Sam Czamecki (OG) def. Mariah Hencks (Wat) 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2; AbbyBurke (Pie) def. Emma Johnson

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Harrisburg 1, Vermillion 0

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S.F. Christian 5, Freeman Academy 0

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AREA CALENDAR

Friday, October 7

CROSS COUNTRY, PREP

Big Sioux Conf. at Elk Point (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Bloomfield, Creighton, Crofton, Niobrara-Verdigré, 4 p.m.)

FOOTBALL, PREP

YHS at S.F. Washington (6 p.m.), KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM; Allen at Osmond; Bloomfield at Newcastle; Crocker-Slackney at Avon; Creighton at Windsor; Crofton at Neigh-Oakdale; Dakota Valley at Dell Rapids; Freeman at Alcester-Hudson; Gayville-Volin at Baltic; Harrisburg at Vermillion (KVTK-AM); Hartington Cedar Catholic at Laurel-Concord-Catholic; Lynch at Santee; Menno at Marion (PN); Niobrara-Verdigré vs. Clearwater-Orchard at Orchard; Parker at Irene-Wakonda; Parkston at Bon Homme (KKYA-FM); Rapid City at Harrison; Scotland at Gregory; Sioux Falls Christian at Beresford; Tripp-Delmont-Armour at South Central; Viborg-Hurley at Watertown; Wagner at Elk Point-Jefferson; Wakefield at Ponca; Wausau at Chambers; Wynot at O'Neill St. Mary's

SOCCER, WOMEN'S USD

at Oakland (6 p.m.)

SOCCER, BOYS' S.D. STATE TOURN.

at Mitchell

TENNIS, GIRLS' S.D. STATE TOURN.

at Sioux Falls (8:45 a.m.)

VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S USD

at PFW (6 p.m.)

VOLLEYBALL, GIRLS' J.V. YHS

at Watertown (4:30 p.m.)

SOCCER, WOMEN'S MMC

at Concordia (5:15 p.m.)

SOCCER, BOYS' S.D. STATE TOURN.

at Mitchell

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