

# USD-NDSU Game In Sioux Falls Approaching A Sellout

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VERMILLION — A University of South Dakota ticket official says Saturday's football game between the Coyotes and North Dakota State in Sioux Falls is nearing a potential sellout.

As of Monday afternoon, there are just under 2,000 tickets remaining for the 6

p.m. Missouri Valley Football Conference showdown at Howard Wood Field, according to Brad Simons, USD coordinator of ticket operations and sales.

"We had a lot of orders over the weekend, and we've been very busy all day," Simons said. "It's definitely picking up."

Though NDSU fans have been steadily ordering tickets since the game was moved to Sioux Falls, Simons said he ex-

pects the game to approach a sellout of 10,000 fans or come close to that figure.

He also said USD fans and other people in Sioux Falls have done a bulk of their ordering online, through USD's new ticketing system.

"That's helped us reach out to those people," Simons said.

The Coyotes (1-5, 0-3) have lost four straight games coming into the matchup

with the defending FCS national champion Bison (5-1, 2-1). Previously top-ranked NDSU — now No. 4 in the media poll — is also coming off a loss, a 17-14 home upset at the hands of Indiana State.

Saturday night's game will be televised by Midco Sports.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)

## Neb's Pelini: Winning Will Take Care Of Everything

BY ERIC OLSON  
AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The collective eyebrows of Nebraska fans were raised when coach Bo Pelini publicly challenged his Cornhuskers to go 6-0 in their remaining regular-season games.

It's not that the goal is too ambitious — even though no Nebraska team since 2001 has won six straight in the same season. No doubt, Big Red backers hungry for a first conference championship in 13 years hope it can be accomplished.

What caught people off guard is that Pelini issued his challenge moments after the humiliating 25-point loss at Ohio State, and it seemed to run counter to the coaching profession's one-game-at-a-time mantra.

Nine days later, Pelini wasn't backing off. The Huskers (4-2, 1-1 Big Ten), coming off a bye week, start their mission Saturday at Northwestern.

"It's week to week. I don't change our process," Pelini said Monday. "But I know this: if you win out, you control your own destiny. That's what I meant. It's nice to be in a position where you control your own destiny. The only way we keep control of our own destiny is winning out."

Winning out would assure the Huskers a Legends Division title and a spot in the Big Ten championship game on Dec. 1 in Indianapolis.

It's no small task. After Northwestern, Michigan visits Lincoln and then there's a trip to Michigan State. The Huskers finish with Penn State and Minnesota at home and a road game against Iowa.

Pelini said he doesn't worry about possible losses being detrimental to his team's psyche. He reminded reporters that his expectation at the start of each season is to win every game. That, he said, is the big picture.

Day to day, Pelini said, he challenges each player to improve. Week to week, he said, he challenges his players to get ready for the next opponent.

Pelini's big-picture message after the 63-38 loss at Ohio State resonated with the players.

"We didn't need Bo to say it," receiver Tim Marlowe said. "We know we slipped up in Columbus and the only way we can guarantee we go to Indianapolis is winning out. Obviously, there are other ways to do it. But if we just win the next six games we'll be in Indianapolis and, ultimately, that's where we want to be. We want to bring this state a conference championship."

The Huskers go into Saturday behind Iowa (4-2, 2-0), Michigan (4-2, 2-0) and Northwestern (6-1, 2-1) in the Legends.

Tight end Ben Cotton said in past years players and coaches would not have put as much onus on themselves to win every game. That's because there was an expectation things could fall into place if teams ahead of them would lose, he said.

Cotton said the attitude is different now.

"We all appreciate Bo's honesty, that we have to take care of our business from here on out or we're going to be sitting here while two other teams are in Indianapolis," Cotton said. "We know if we want to get there, we've got to win every game, we've got to win every quarter, we've got to win every snap. We have to take control of it because no one else is going to give it to us."



P&D FILE PHOTO

Sioux Falls Washington fans, behind, and players celebrate after the Warriors clinch the 2010 state football championship with a win over Sioux Falls O'Gorman. Sioux Falls public schools have won six consecutive Class 11AA football championships, with Washington playing for the title each of the past five seasons. In part one of our "AA Divided" series, we take a look at what the Sioux Falls programs have done to make themselves the elite football programs in the state.

# Many Factors In S.F. Football Success

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a three-part series looking at the gap between the Sioux Falls schools and the rest of Class 11AA in the sport of football. Part two will appear in the Thursday, Oct. 18 edition. Part three will appear in the Saturday, Oct. 20, edition.



When Matt Christensen was playing in the DakotaDome in back-to-back seasons for Yankton, stopping Sioux Falls Lincoln — then the first-round opponent for the Bucks' football season nearly every season — wasn't a challenge.

"Defending Lincoln in the '90s wasn't that difficult," he said. "Be bigger, stop them, win by 50 and move on."

Back then, beating the Sioux Falls public schools wasn't that much of a challenge. From 1988 — the year after Washington lost to Rapid City Stevens in the Class 11AA finals — to 2003, the last time a non-Sioux Falls program won the title, Lincoln, Washington and Roosevelt combined to win just 12 playoff games in 35 tries against non-Sioux Falls foes and were regularly on the wrong end of some ugly scores.

How things have changed. Since 2004, the three Sioux Falls public schools are a combined 31-5 against teams from outside the Sioux Falls area and have combined to win six consecutive state titles. In those games, the Sioux Falls teams have outscored their opponents 37.5-12.3. Roosevelt, last season's state champions, have won 13 consecutive games against non-

Sioux Falls opponents, and Washington, the Rough Riders' championship opponent in 2011, have won 11 straight against those schools away from the state's largest city.

The balance has shifted so drastically that the South Dakota High School Activities Association approved a change in classifications, moving the state's eight largest schools — including Roosevelt, Lincoln and Washington — into a new class, 11AAA. The bottom eight schools in size will be left in Class 11A, but will have the opportunity to "petition" into the higher class. If a team petitions up, the smallest team in 11AAA will have the opportunity to drop down to 11AA.

Many school officials and pundits across the state have said that the Sioux Falls schools have become the dominant football force in the state because they are "just bigger." But the state's largest school, Rapid City Central, has never played for a state football title.

### Starting Young

Under head coach Chad Garrow, Brandon Valley has made a connection with its youth programs. The current Eastern South Dakota Conference member has children involved in South Dakota Junior Football, a football program based out of Sioux Falls. Yankton joined that program in 2012.

But Christensen, now Brandon Valley's defensive coordinator, said Garrow and the Lynx do even more.

"Garrow does a nice job of doing little kid camps, mini-camps," he said. "Just last Tuesday, we brought some of our players down to the Junior Football games. We showed up with Chase Marso, Matt Vandenberg, Tony Tripp, Joe Sandoval and Erik Ode."

"Stuff like that matters to those young kids. It builds football morale."



P&D FILE PHOTO

Members of the 2011 Sioux Falls Roosevelt football team raise the championship trophy after their victory over Washington. Roosevelt has claimed three of the last six state titles, and was the first Sioux Falls public school to win a Class 11AA football title.

### Changing A Culture

When Aaron Beavers arrived at Sioux Falls Lincoln, the season typically ended with a loss to Yankton.

And, typically, it wasn't pretty. From 1990 to 2006, the Patriots' season ended against the Bucks eight times by an average score of 42-7.

Beavers arrived at Lincoln 12 years ago, and spent two years under Mike Kleindinst — who had built the great Brandon Valley teams of the 1980s and 1990s — before taking the reins himself.

"Mike did an excellent job of starting the ball rolling," Beavers said. "The biggest thing that we had to overcome was the culture of Lincoln football. We were a fine arts school with good track, golf, basketball ... basically everything other than football."

When Kleindinst and Beavers

got to Lincoln, very little of the athletes' focus was on making the team better.

"Many of their goals were individual. They just wanted to start," Beavers said. "It was shocking that no one was talking about a city, conference or state championship."

To build that team-first attitude, the Patriots' coaching staff started young.

"We focused on the younger squads so that, when they became seniors, the culture would be changed," Beavers said. "We thought we could come in and convert the older kids, but that wasn't the case. There were some great kids, but the commitment as a team wasn't there."

Beavers also worked to bring in assistant coaches who would have a similar philosophy.

"We believed in surrounding our players with good guys, such as our coaching staff, then mak-

ing accountable," he said. "Those kids will work hard for you if they can see that you are putting in that same effort and character into the program."

Roosevelt and Washington built their coaching staff in similar fashions, said Mark Meile, the program director and supervisor for the Sioux Falls School District.

"Our coaching staffs have been stable, and they all had a long line of success before they got here," he said. "We hired Kleindinst away from Brandon Valley. That gave Lincoln a jolt, and he had the foresight to hire Beavers. Brian Hermanson (Washington) was a long-time assistant who never gave up. Kim Nelson (Roosevelt) was very successful at Milbank and Rapid City Central before he came to Washington. (Nelson was at Washing-

## VB: Crofton, Wausa Make Knox Final

CROFTON, Neb. — The Crofton Lady Warriors and Wausa Lady Vikings will play today (Tuesday) for the championship of the Knox County Volleyball Tournament after semifinal victories on Monday in Crofton, Neb.

Play today will begin with the fifth place match, featuring Niobrara-Verdigre against Santee, at 5:30 p.m. Bloomfield and Creighton will follow with the third place match, a 6:30 p.m. start. The title tilt will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m.

### Semifinals

**Crofton 2, Bloomfield 0**  
CROFTON, Neb. — Crofton's Maria Wortman