

Basketball | Summit League Media Day

Injuries, Graduation Will Challenge Coyote Women

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Graduation and injuries. Those dreaded terms in the world of college basketball are suddenly front and center for the University of South Dakota men's and women's teams as they approach the 2012-13 season. In varying degrees of severity, each is trying to supplant graduation losses — the men lost a combined 39 points from and the women lost three key players highlighted by Amber Hegge. The Coyote women, however, are now dealing with the injury bug. First-year head coach Amy Williams said during Wednesday's Summit League media teleconference that her team is down to 10 players after five were lost to season-ending injuries. Out for the season are reserves McK-ayla Knudson (Jr., 2.7 ppg), Kelly Stew-

art (So., 4.1 ppg), Taylor Moore (So., 2.0 ppg), as well as freshmen Bailey Milne and Taneesha Greaves. "Those kids are all great players and bring something to the program; they'll be sorely missed," Williams said. "I've really been pleased with the remaining players, and the effort, energy and intensity they've been bringing. "That's where our focus has to lie, on getting those kids ready." As if there wasn't already pressure on a team that went 23-8 and qualified for the WNIT last season, the 10 remaining players will be counted on even more. Seniors Alexis Yackley (6.7 ppg, 4.8 apg), Tempestt Wilson (8.6 ppg), Sam Mehr and Pam January will be counted on for leadership, while junior transfer Polly Harrington, and sophomores Nicole Seekamp and Lisa Loeffler will see increased roles. Freshmen Tia Hemiller, Margaret McCloud and Heidi

Hoff will all see time, as well. The guard-heavy lineup will play an up-tempo style, Williams said, keyed by Yackley and Seekamp — a 5-foot-10 Australian who sat out last season. Seekamp is one the current staff, and former coaching staff, has been high on during pre-season practices. "In my time of coaching, I don't remember being around someone as intelligent as she is," Williams said. "She's the type of kid who can sit over on the sidelines and watch, and then step on the court and run almost any position. "We're certainly looking to her to play a big role in what we do this year." Just as the Coyote women are looking to replace the production of Hegge, Annie Roche and Jodie Boss from a year ago, the USD men also have some big shoes to fill. Charlie Westbrook and Louie Krogman combined to average half of the

team's points per game last season and attempt 49 percent of the total shots. The Coyotes and coach Dave Boots are looking to return to their traditional balanced-scoring ways. "We'll have to, obviously," Boots said Wednesday. "Those two kids dominated our offensive production, and we think we have to do it through a lot more guys. That's always been our system in the past. I think we got caught up in that last year; got unbalanced." The only returning starters for USD are Trevor Gruis (Jr., 11.3 ppg, 6.7 rpg) and Steve Tecker (Jr., 5.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg). Senior Juevol Myles, a second-year transfer from Kansas State, will lead a team that figures to see significant minutes from junior transfer Karim Rowson, and freshmen Tyler Flack, Casey Kasperbauer and Eric Robertson. Myles, a 6-foot-1 Ontario, Canada native, will assume the starting point

guard duties, despite not having played a full season since 2009-10 at Tallahassee (Fla.) Community College. "Physically, he's pretty gifted, but he just hasn't played in a while," Boots said. "It's an issue he'll have to deal with. He sat out last year, came from Kansas State and didn't have a lot of playing time there, so he's got some rust to him." **Goals High For SDSU Men** With four returning starters and eight of its top 10 players, expectations are understandably high for the South Dakota State men's basketball team. The Jackrabbits, coming off a Summit League tournament title and NCAA Tournament appearance, are the pre-season conference favorite under head coach Scott Nagy.

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Chargers Play MMC To 1-1 Draw



Mount Marty's Jenn Granflaten gets past Briar Cliff's Dani Intfen to slam home a rebound to give the Lancers an early 1-0 lead over Briar Cliff during their Great Plains Athletic Conference women's soccer match on Wednesday at Easton Field. Briar Cliff scored late in regulation for a 1-1 tie.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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For nearly 85 minutes, the Mount Marty College women's soccer team held the upper hand on a tough Briar Cliff squad. In the end, the Lancers had to settle for a draw. Briar Cliff's Liz Crimmins floated a long shot into the goal with 4:04 to play in regulation, allowing the Chargers to salvage a 1-1 tie in Great Plains Athletic Conference action on Wednesday at Easton Field. Briar Cliff moved to 6-7-4 overall and 4-3-2 in the GPAC, one point ahead of Northwestern and Concordia for fifth place in the league. MMC moved to 4-11-1 overall, 1-7-1 in the GPAC. Because of Dakota Wesleyan's victory over MMC earlier this season, the Lancers were eliminated from post-season contention. "Even if the post-season doesn't happen, we've seen improvement from day one until now," said Mount Marty head coach Nathan Epp. "They're starting to play more free, and we're seeing better results." Kalynn Sortino stopped the final 11 shots she faced in goal for Briar Cliff. Jennifer Nelson made 13 saves in goal for MMC. Jenn Granflaten's putback of an Allison Erwin shot gave Mount Marty the 1-0 edge just 96 seconds into the match. Erwin's shot from the left side hit the bar and came straight down, leaving the ball

right in front of the goal for a streaking Granflaten to send home. MMC kept the pressure on throughout the opening half, outshooting the Chargers 13-6. The Lancers kept the upper hand until the 66th minute, when Briar Cliff had two corner kick opportunities in under two minutes. From there, the Chargers were able to keep the pressure on the Mount Marty defense. Nelson grabbed several shot before Crimmins floated a shot in above Nelson's reach. The first overtime started as the match did, the MMC controlling the action early and Briar Cliff taking control late. The Chargers took that momentum into the second overtime, but couldn't break the draw. "I was happy with how tough we played in both overtimes," Epp said. "In the past, we would let down in those situations. That speaks volumes for how far we've come." While Briar Cliff held a 24-22 edge in shots, MMC had a 16-15 edge in shots on goal. "I thought we had the better scoring opportunities," Epp said. "We passed extremely well. We did a good job of getting shots. We just weren't able to put that one away." MMC finishes the season on Saturday at Midland.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/ace-man904

Volleyball: Hartington Tops Wynot In L&C Semis

HOMER, Neb. — Michaela Dendinger had 18 kills and Shelby Hochstein added 10 kills as Hartington upended Wynot 25-17, 23-25, 25-17, 25-15 in the semifinals Tuesday of the Lewis & Clark Conference Tournament in Homer, Neb. The Wildcats (20-5) advance to play Osmond for the championship on Friday night at 7 p.m. in Homer. Courtney Hochstein added 37 set assists and 11 digs in the win for Hartington, while Ashley Morten led the defense with 18 digs. Erica Burbach led Wynot with 14 set assists and 14 digs, while Maggie Schulte tallied seven kills and three digs. Jenna Heine added 12 set assists and 10 digs.

HARTINGTON	25	23	25	25
WYNOT	17	25	17	15

Mid-State: Hartington Cedar Catholic 3, Norfolk Catholic 1

PIERCE, Neb. — Hartington Cedar Catholic advanced to the championship of the Mid-State Conference Volleyball Tournament with a 25-18, 25-20, 21-25, 25-16 victory over second-seeded Norfolk Catholic in the semifinals on Tuesday. Katelyn Dickes had 24 kills and 20 digs to lead the Cedar Catholic attack. Lexi Steffen had 13 kills. Emily Schrempf finished with 44 assists and 15 digs. Siera Becker had nine kills and 16 digs. Kallie Leise had a team-best 22 digs in the victory. Cedar Catholic, 24-5, faces Guardian Angels Central Catholic in the finals on Friday in Pierce. Norfolk Catholic, 24-2, faces Crofton in the third place match.

NORFOLK CATHOLIC (24-2)	18	20	25	16
HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC (24-5)	25	25	21	25

Sandoval Blasts Three In World Series Opener

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Pablo Sandoval became just the fourth player to hit three home runs in a World Series game, connecting twice against Justin Verlander and once off Al Alburquerque to boost the San Francisco Giants into a 6-1 lead over the Detroit Tigers after six innings of Wednesday night's opener. Sandoval hit a solo home run to right-center in the first, a two-run, opposite-field drive to left in the third and another bases-empty shot into the center-field batter's eye in the fifth. He joined Babe Ruth (1926 and 1928), Reggie Jackson (1977) and Albert Pujols (2011) as the only players with three-homer games in the Series. Barry Zito, who like Sandoval watched the 2010 Series opener from the dugout, allowed one run and six hits in 5 2-3 innings. Given a 6-0 lead, he gave up an RBI single in the sixth to Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera. Verlander was chased after allowing five runs and six hits in four innings, his shortest start this year. He threw 98 pitches, and Detroit manager Jim Leyland could alter his rotation and start him in Game 4 on short rest instead of Max Scherzer. That would enable Verlander to pitch a possible Game 7, again on three days' rest.

Briar Cliff Pulls Past Lancers 5-1



Mount Marty's Ludwin Arana, right, slides to try to take the ball away from Briar Cliff's Mark Samuelson during their Great Plains Athletic Conference men's soccer match on Wednesday at Easton Field.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Briar Cliff Chargers took control of a match both combatants needed to win, scoring four unanswered goals to claim a 5-1 victory over Mount Marty in Great Plains Athletic Conference men's soccer action on Wednesday at Easton Field. The victory pushed Briar Cliff (2-13-2) within a point of Dakota Wesleyan for the final spot in the GPAC Tournament. MMC fell to 2-15, 0-9 in the league. Joe Greer had two goals and an assist to lead Briar Cliff. Chase Beierman and Dominic Wetzberger each had a goal and an assist. Michael Costello added a goal. Mark Samuelson and Anthony Benitez added assists in the victory. Jose Marquez scored the Lancers' goal. Dan Snider made three saves in goal for Briar Cliff. Seth Anderson stopped nine shots for MMC. Greer headed the ball in off a Wetzberger corner kick to give Briar Cliff the lead 7:30 into the match. The Lancers tied the match 18 minutes later, as Marquez sent a penalty kick past Snider. The Lancers survived several Charger scoring chances before Costello sent home a Samuelson pass off a corner kick with

4:35 left in the half. "Even when we gave up the goal late in the half, I thought we were in good shape," said Mount Marty head coach Nathan Epp. "We were defending the wet sloppy end of the field, going into the wind, and we were down 2-1. I felt at halftime that had we had played solid." Greer got the Chargers rolling in the second half, sending a long shot in just 6:29 into the period. Ten minutes later, Benitez found Wetzberger in front of the goal for an easy score. Beiermann added a score on a pass from Greer seven minutes later. "That second goal had a bigger mental effect than I thought," Epp said. "We didn't try to possess, we were just booting the ball up. You can't win like that." Mount Marty travels to Midland on Saturday for the regular season finale. The Lancers will be looking to end the season on a positive note. "The overall attitude has been great," Epp said. "Even if the post-season isn't an opportunity they'll have, I'd like to see them play hard for 90 minutes." "Hopefully we can build on that into the off-season." You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904

Volleyball Teams Find Bounty Of Talent In Nebraska

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's volleyball identity doesn't end with the powerful Cornhuskers. The program Terry Pettit built into one of the sport's best is just the most visible part of a statewide volleyball culture that rivals any in the nation. The state produces the most Division I women's players per-capita than any besides Hawaii and is on track to have its most major-college scholarship recruits in 2013. Seven Nebraska colleges or universities were ranked this week in the top 25 in their respective divisions, with in-state players making up the bulk of the rosters. Papillion-La Vista South, a suburban Omaha school that features three future Huskers players, was named the top high school program in the country the past two years by ESPN.com and MaxPreps.com. Pettit is widely credited for developing border-to-border interest in the sport, not just for his work as the

Huskers' coach from 1977-99 but for his grassroots efforts to educate high school and club coaches in the area. Pettit, who won 21 conference titles and the 1995 national championship, is now a coaching mentor and leadership consultant based in Fort Collins, Colo. He still follows the volleyball scene in Nebraska and takes pride in the sport's growth the past 35 years. He said he gets too much credit for the sport's ascent in the state. He pointed to a number of longtime high school coaches who shared his passion. "I really do believe it was a collaborative effort," Pettit said. "It wouldn't have worked if the university was only interested in promoting volleyball in the eastern part of the state." The 4,030-seat Nebraska Coliseum in Lincoln is, to be sure, the state's volleyball hub. The Huskers have sold out 173 consecutive matches. Next year, the team will move into a refurbished Devaney Sports Center, which will seat

more than 7,000 for volleyball. The Huskers have their own radio network and all home matches are shown on public television. Coach John Cook said the statewide TV coverage of the Huskers and the state high school tournament has helped sustain interest. "You go to the state tournament, and it's a big, big deal," Cook said. "All the towns come in and NET televises it. We had a kid from a small town visit. She has several other offers, and she's considering walking on here. I asked why, and she said it's every girl's dream to play at Nebraska." Of course, Cook can't sign all of the elite in-state players. This year, there are 69 Nebraskans on Division I rosters, according to RichKern.com, a Lincoln-based website that promotes women's volleyball. That's 40.3 players per-million population, which ranks second only to Hawaii's 56.1 players per million. Five Nebraskans play for the Huskers, second in the Big Ten and ranked No. 4 nationally this week. Six