

MVFC Notebook

Coyotes Take Win Streak To No. 11 Northern Iowa

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The model that Southern Illinois has used for upset wins on the road the past two weeks is naturally one that the USD football team would like to emulate.

And for good reason. The Coyotes (3-3, 2-1), winners of two straight Missouri Valley Football Conference games, could use some of that road magic for Saturday's contest at No. 11 Northern Iowa — which lost at home to unranked SIU last weekend.

While USD is on its first winning streak in the Valley, the Panthers (4-2,

0-2) are suddenly looking up from the bottom.

"They're trying to get some mo back, and we have a little mo, so it should be a good game," USD head coach Joe Glenn said in Tuesday's media teleconference.

Northern Iowa, to that end, started the season with four straight wins, including ones over FBS Iowa State and ninth-ranked FCS McNeese State. Then came a conference loss to two-time national champion North Dakota State and last Saturday's loss to Southern Illinois.

"They're coming off a couple losses, we're coming off a couple wins, so I hope we can play a little bit

better. A little more mistake free," Glenn said.

"We've made some mistakes that kept other people around in our games, when we had a chance to get a couple 2-score leads. We just can't quite get to that point."

Glenn said his "favorite part" of UNI's defense is its 3-man front, with Xavier Williams (Jr., 6-4, 311), Chris Jepsen (Sr., 6-3, 260) and Collin Albrecht (Sr., 6-4, 255).

That presence up front have helped the Panthers to the nation's fourth-best scoring defense (15.8), including an average of 137 rushing yards and 188 passing yards per game.

A big part of USD's early success in the league is because of its defense.

The Coyotes rank sixth nationally in total defense, led by the nation's best passing defense (105.0).

"I think we're pretty athletic compared to a year ago," Glenn said. "We can run pretty good. Indiana State was over 300 yards a game passing, and they got 82 yards in our game."

"We're nationally ranked, so we must be doing something right."

The challenge facing the Coyotes is slowing down an explosive UNI offense that is led by quarterback

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SDSU Women Picked To Win Summit Hoops Title; USD 3rd

ELMHURST, Ill. — After claiming its record fifth-straight tournament title and fourth regular season title in six years, South Dakota State was selected as the 2013-14 women's basketball pre-season favorite. The pre-season poll was released Tuesday morning.

The Jackrabbits collected 27-of-30 first-place votes and 319 points in the voting conducted by the league's head coaches, SIDs and media. Fort Wayne's Amanda Hyde was selected as the pre-season Player of the Year.

IUPUI, which finished second in the regular season a year ago, earned the final three first-place tallies and collected 276 points. Last season's tournament runner-up, South Dakota placed third with 224 followed by Fort Wayne in fourth place with 179 points. League newcomer Denver, Western Illinois, Omaha and North Dakota State rounded out the poll.

Hyde was selected as the Preseason Player of the Year after earning Player of the Year and first team All-Summit League honors last season. She became the first player in Fort Wayne history to receive the league's top award after scoring a league-high 18.6 points per game. She was also named the Division I-AAA ADA Scholar-Athlete of the Year and earned Capital One Academic All-America Second Team distinction.

Accompanying Hyde on the first team are IUPUI's DeAira Goss (12.4 ppg, .406 FG%), 2013 Newcomer of the Year Western Illinois' Ashley Luke (10.6 ppg, 7.2 rpg), last season's Tournament MVP South Dakota's Nicole Seekamp (14.9 ppg, 3.3 apg) and Denver's Morgan Van Riper-Rose (13.3 ppg, .909 FT%).

The Jackrabbits also placed two players on the pre-season all-league team, highlighted by junior wing Megan Waytashek on the first team. A junior from Lino Lakes, Minn., Waytashek put together a breakthrough season during the 2012-13 campaign, finishing second on the team in scoring with an average of 13.6 points per game. A first-team all-Summit League selection last season, Waytashek scored 30 or more points in two league games.

The second team is composed of reigning Defensive Player of the Year in IUPUI's Dee-Dee Bellamy (1.3 spg, 1.6 apg), South Dakota's Polly Harrington (11.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, .490 FG%), Omaha's Ericka House (9.0 ppg, .335 3FG%), South Dakota State's Steph Paluch (2.5 apg, 6.5 ppg in '11-12) and Fort Wayne's Haley Seibert (2.9 apg, .865 FT%).

The Summit League concluded the 2012-13 season with a No. 21 ranking in the College Basketball News RPI, three teams in postseason tournaments and its best non-league winning percentage in 10 years. New women's tournament records were also set last year for total and championship game attendance.

The regular season begins Nov. 8, with the 14-game, double round-robin league schedule starting Jan. 9. The 2014 Summit League Women's Basketball Championship will be held March 8-11 at the Sioux Falls Arena in Sioux Falls, S.D. for a record sixth consecutive year.

Lackey Lifts Boston Over Detroit 1-0

DETROIT (AP) — Once again this October, one run was enough.

The Boston Red Sox scored it — and now they lead an AL championship series that seemed to be slipping away last weekend.

John Lackey edged Justin Verlander in the latest duel of these pitching-rich playoffs, and Boston's bullpen shut down Detroit's big boppers with the game on the line to lift the Red Sox over the Tigers 1-0 Tuesday for a 2-1 advantage in the ALCS.

Mike Napoli homered off Verlander in the seventh inning, and Detroit's best chance to rally fell short in the eighth when Miguel Cabrera and Prince Fielder struck out with runners at the corners.

"This game had the feel it was going to be won or lost on one pitch," Boston reliever Craig Breslow said. "Lackey kept us in the game. Every inning where he was able to throw up a zero gave us a lift."

Despite three straight gems by their starters, the Tigers suddenly trail in a best-of-seven series they initially appeared to control. Game 4 is Wednesday night at Comerica Park, with Jake Peavy scheduled to start for the Red Sox against Doug Fister.

Peavy set the tone Tuesday during a pregame news conference, when he sounded miffed that so much of the attention was focused on Verlander before Game 3.

"It's been funny for me to watch all the coverage of the game coming in," Peavy said. "Almost like we didn't have a starter going today. Our starter is pretty good, too."

Lackey backed that up and then some.

He allowed four hits in 6 2/3 innings, striking out eight without a walk in a game that was delayed 17 minutes in the second inning because lights on the stadium towers went out.

"I think that little time off gave him a chance to slow down a little bit. He was excited and pumped that first inning," Boston catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia said. "Kind of getting excited with his slider, throwing a little too hard and leaving it over the middle, but he was still pretty effective."

It was the second 1-0 game in this matchup between the highest-scoring teams in the majors. Dominant pitching has been a running theme throughout these playoffs, which have included four 1-0 scores and seven shutouts in the first 26 games.

Lackey pitched poorly his first two seasons in Boston after signing an \$82.5 million, five-year contract in December 2009. Then he missed all of 2012 following elbow ligament-replacement surgery.

He's been better this season, and he kept the defending AL champions off balance Tuesday by effectively changing speeds.

Napoli's first at-bat in the majors was against Verlander on May 4, 2006, at Comerica Park. He homered then, too.

High School Volleyball

Cavs Edge Scotland

SCOTLAND — The Bon Homme Cavaliers started strong and needed a fifth-set win to defeat the Scotland Lady Highlanders 25-12, 25-8, 22-25, 11-25, 15-8 in high school volleyball action Tuesday.

For the winning Cavaliers (15-5), Alie Adams led with two kills, 28 assists and 11 digs. Caitlyn McLouth had 14 kills, four blocks and 11 digs. Liz Kubae had seven kills and four aces and Sha wana Rezac made 11 digs.

In the loss for Scotland (6-12), Amber Alvey led the team with two kills, 19 assists, 10 digs and four aces. Carkey Skorepa had 14 kills, 13 digs and two aces. Jessica Thum had six kills, ten digs and two aces and Jaycie Geiman had two kills and 13 digs.

Next Bon Homme will play Corsica-Stickney in Tyndall and Scotland will play at Tripp-Armour-Demont Thursday.

BON HOMME (15-5)25 25 22 11 15
SCOTLAND (6-12)12 8 25 25 8

Alcester-Hudson 3, Irene-Wakonda 0

WAKONDA — Fourth-ranked Class B Alcester-Hudson swept past Irene-Wakonda in three sets, 25-14, 25-15, 25-15 on Tuesday night in Wakonda.

Sierra McConnell led Alcester-Hudson (22-2) with 14 kills, four digs, and two aces. Sheina Doering added 12 kills, while Courtney McKeep posted 31 assists. Dana Schenk led Irene-Wakonda (3-14) with eight kills and two aces. Bailey Hinseth posted 10 assists, eight digs, and four kills in the loss.

Alcester-Hudson will host Marion on Monday in Alcester. Irene-Wakonda will host Centerville in Wakonda next week.

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Jamie Jensen, 3, of Alcester-Hudson goes up for a kill over the block of Irene-Wakonda's Dana Schenk during their match Tuesday night in Wakonda. The visiting Cubs won 3-0.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

College: Minnesota Moves Forward With Coach Kill Away

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — In his first full press conference as acting head coach at Minnesota, Tracy Claeys was quick to point out that he doesn't see himself as the head coach at all.

The defensive coordinator is filling in while Jerry Kill undergoes further treatment for epileptic seizures that caused him to miss the second half of a game against Western Illinois in September and the entire game at Michigan on Oct. 5. Kill took a leave of absence last week to meet with doctors to try and get a better handle on his condition.

"I really don't look at it as (being the) head coach," Claeys said on Tuesday. "It's Jerry Kill's program. It will always be his program."

There is no timetable for Kill's return to the sideline, but Claeys did say that he does not expect him to be there when the Gophers (4-2, 0-2 Big Ten) play at Northwestern (4-2, 0-2) on Saturday.

Claeys said he spoke to Kill on the phone on Monday night for the first time since he left

the team to seek more in-depth help on dealing with his seizures. Kill told Claeys that he was "feeling good" and the two friends talked about the team's performance two weeks ago at Michigan and some things to focus on going forward as the team looks for its first Big Ten victory.

Claeys has coached with Kill for nearly two decades, but he brings a more even-keeled demeanor to the sideline than the fiery Kill. Those differences aside, Claeys said he feels comfortable in the role, which he has filled each time Kill has not been there because of a seizure.

"I really am. I'd rather not be here," Claeys said. "With coach, the thing that we can't replace is he's a good friend and great fan of the kids. That's where we miss him, having him around on the practice field. But we've had to do it before as a staff and I feel very

comfortable and very confident."

Kill and his main assistants, including Claeys as defensive coordinator and Matt Limegrover as offensive coordinator, have been together longer than any staff in the nation. Claeys has filled in for Kill when seizures have caused him to miss game action a handful of times, including four times in three seasons at Minnesota.

But they've never been in this position before. Each time Kill went down with a seizure in the past, he returned to work the next week without missing a beat. This time around, no one is sure when Kill will be able to return to the team. When the university announced Kill's leave last Thursday, Claeys said he wouldn't be stunned if he saw Kill show up on the sideline in Evanston, Ill., ready to take over against Northwestern.

It doesn't look like that will happen, and when he does come back is anyone's guess. The players, meanwhile, can only refer back to the experiences they've had with Kill



Kill

Junior High Cross Country



A number of Crofton, Neb., runners competed at the Nebraska State Junior High School Cross Country Meet. Pictured are (from left) Jason Arens, Jessica Lange, Sydney Tramp, Mikeana Stevens, Kara Eskins, Haley Arens, Tanner Arens, Tyler Janssen and Jayne Arens.

Galaxy Cup Success



The Yankton Blaze went 3-1 in the U12 boys' division at the Galaxy Cup soccer tournament, held in Spencer, Iowa, last weekend. Team members include (from left): Trace Jensen, Coach Doug Budig, Tyler Johnson, Christian Budig, Austin Frick, Josh Loest, Luke Schulz, Jakob McBride, Kyler Lillie, Nick Gregoire, Mason Gregoire and Coach Kary Gregoire. Not pictured are Cooper Cornemann, Reid Binde, Zach Roesler and Coach Max Roesler