



P&D FILE PHOTO  
South Dakota senior guard Casey Kasperbauer passes the ball during a home game in the 2014-15 season. Kasperbauer is the top returning scorer for the Coyote men, who open the season on Nov. 13.

## USD Men Look For Scoring Punch

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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A season ago, the University of South Dakota men's basketball team knew what it was getting from its top two players, Brandon Bos and Tyler Larson.

They combined to average 28.2 points per game, which amounted to 40 percent of the team's scoring output.

And now they're gone. It's an offensive – and defensive (they also averaged 11.4 rebounds) – void that the Coyotes are still looking to fill, now three weeks before the season opener.

"Somehow, some way we have to figure out how to score the ball," head coach Craig Smith said during Wednesday's Summit League preseason teleconference.

Has USD found who it can rely on for increased scoring loads?

"Not exactly, to be honest," Smith said with a chuckle.

In all, the Coyotes will return 46 percent of its scoring from last season. While it's not exactly a complete overhaul from a 17-win campaign, it's where the scoring came from that presents an early challenge for USD.

Senior Casey Kasperbauer (9.9 ppg, 43 percent on three-pointers) and Tre Burnette (7.8 ppg, 5.9 rpg) will be counted on for improved production this season. But after that, it's all up for grabs, Smith said.

"We'll lean on those two guys heavily," said Smith, who guided USD to its first-ever Summit League tournament win last season. "Other than that, we're really just a work in progress."

With three other players gone from last season, the Coyotes have seven new faces – four Division I transfers (three will sit out) and three freshmen – from which to find scoring.

Among those back are Trey Norris (5.5 ppg, 2.7 apg), Eric Robertson (5.1 ppg, 3.3 rpg), Austin Sparks (2.3 ppg), D.J. Davis (1.9 ppg) and Duol Mayot (1.1 ppg).

Junior transfer Shy McClelland could provide a boost for the Coyotes, as could junior Tyler Flack who missed all of last season. Sophomore Zach Dickerson and redshirt freshman Logan Power are also available after redshirting last season.

The Coyotes have been, however, bothered by what Smith called a "rash of injuries" during preseason practices. On Monday, for example, the roster of 17 was narrowed to 10 because of those setbacks.

"It's been a fluky deal this year," Smith said. "It's been more of a challenge to figure out who can do what and figure out what lineups will be good."

A trio of long, rangy freshmen certainly gives USD some options, as Smith pointed out.

Dan Jech is competing for "many minutes," Smith said, while Tyler Hagedorn (Norfolk, Nebraska) "can do a lot of different things" and Tyler Borchers has "really been a great surprise for us in a lot of ways."

Naturally, though, an adjustment period is needed for freshmen new to the college game, particularly the Division I level.

"They're true freshmen, so they're a little bit up and down at times," Smith said.

## USD Women: Mix Of Experience

Knowing who to rely on won't be an issue this season for the USD women's basketball team.

The Coyotes, winners of 26 games a season ago, return 70 percent of their scoring. That number, of course, was boosted by the off-season news that Nicole Seekamp was granted a fourth year.

She will now resume her place alongside two other returning starters: Seniors Margaret McCloud and Tia Hemiller, not to mention a host of reserves who have helped develop USD's depth over the past three years.

The challenge for head coach Amy Williams, she said Wednesday, is to mesh all that experience with a group of seven players who have never played in a USD uniform.

"It's been a challenge for my staff and I every day in practice to challenge those upperclassmen and also give the new players the repetition they need," Williams said.

To help in that effort, the coaching staff has spent more time during the preseason working on individual skills, according to Williams.

"In the past, we did a lot more team stuff," she said. "It's been unique, but it's been a fun challenge."

New to the mix this season are Kaitlyn Severyn (transfer), Jasmine Trimboli (transfer), Abigail Fogg (redshirted), Caitlin Duffy (redshirted) and four freshmen – including former Nebraska high school standouts Allison Arens (Crofton) and Jaycee Bradley (Norfolk).

The catalyst, of course, is Seekamp, a two-time Summit League tournament MVP. Last

## Estrada Leads Blue Jays Over Royals 7-1 To Force ALCS Game 6

BY HOWIE RUMBERG  
AP Baseball Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Marco Estrada took the mound with one task: save the season for the Toronto Blue Jays.

He did it, pitching one-hit ball into the eighth inning to give Toronto's tattered bullpen a rest, and the Blue Jays beat the Kansas City Royals 7-1 Wednesday to close to 3-2 in the best-of-seven American League Championship Series.

"It's the start that we needed," shortstop Troy Tulowitzki said. "They're a great team over there. We know that. But this guy kept them off balance and allowed the offense to settle in and get some runs."

Tulowitzki provided three of those runs. He broke the

game open with a bases-clearing double off Kelvin Herrera in the sixth, giving him seven RBIs in the series. Edwin Encarnacion had walked with the bases loaded against Edinson Volquez, who seemed flustered by a couple of close calls against the Royals.

Kansas City totaled 22 runs and 30 hits in the first two games in Toronto, but Estrada faced the minimum 20 batters before Lorenzo Cain walked with two outs in the seventh. Closer Roberto Osuna was perfect in the ninth.

Yordano Ventura will start for the defending AL champions on Friday in Game 6 against David Price, the Game 2 loser.

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JOHN SLEEZER/KANSAS CITY STAR/TNS  
Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Edinson Volquez, left, leaves the mound after being relieved in the sixth inning against the Toronto Blue Jays during Game 5 of the ALCS on Wednesday at Rogers Centre in Toronto.

## Bucks, Tigers Face Off In Another High-Impact Matchup

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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There is no shortage of playoff intrigue for tonight's (Thursday) regular season finale between Yankton and Harrisburg.

And both sides say they realize the magnitude.

The winner will likely secure the No. 2 seed – and home field – for the Class 11AA playoffs, while the loser likely falls into the 4/5 range.

"The guys are pretty focused and understand what's at stake," said Yankton coach Arlin Likness, whose Bucks (5-3) will visit Harrisburg (5-3) at 7 p.m.

"They realize the goals they set early in the season; they have to go through this path to get there."

The Tigers, too, know winning tonight would be step one in their postseason goal.

"There's a lot of implication for this one, and our kids understand that," head coach Brandon White said. "Our kids want to host two games in the playoffs."

Both teams come into the game riding an impressive streak, the Bucks having won their last two games in convincing fashion and the Tigers having won three in a row.

For Yankton, in particular, it erased the sting of back-to-back shutouts with another rout last week, 34-14 over Douglas – a week after rolling over Huron by 27 points.

The Bucks have rediscovered their confidence and have improved in many areas, according to Likness.

"I feel good about where we're at through the roller

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P&D FILE PHOTO  
Yankton quarterback Nate Stephenson looks for a target during the Bucks' matchup with Douglas on Oct. 16. Yankton travels to Harrisburg today (Thursday) to finish the regular season.

## Creighton Hoping Transfers Watson, Huff Can Spark Turnaround

BY ERIC OLSON  
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Even though Maurice Watson Jr. is yet to play his first game as Creighton's new point guard, he doesn't lack confidence.

Watson made that clear Wednesday at the Bluejays' media day when he was asked to describe his playing style.

He said he's a pass-first point guard who'll keep his teammates happy. He was only warming up.

"I know the type of game we play with the 3-point shooters we have, teams are going to be forced to play me one-on-one, and I don't think there is anybody who can guard me one-on-one, who can stop me from getting to the basket," Watson said. "With my improved jump shot, I think I'll be more

efficient, and I'll be knocking down way more jump shots. I do think I'll be aggressive, mainly toward the middle to the end of games when it's that time to take over."

Coach Greg McDermott said he has no qualms with Watson's strong sense of self.

"Sooner or later you're going to have to back it up," he said. "As long as he puts in the work to back up what he says, I can live with some of that."

Watson and fellow transfer Cole Huff will need to play major roles if the Bluejays are going to bounce back from their first losing season since 1995-96. Creighton, which lost eight games in the final minute, was 14-19 and tied for ninth in the Big East at 4-14. The Bluejays were picked to finish ninth again in the Big East's preseason coaches' poll.

Forward Toby Hegner (6.7 ppg) is the only returning starter, guard James Milliken (9.6 ppg) played significant minutes and Geoffrey Groselle (5.4 ppg, 2.5 rpg) and Zach Hanson (3.8 ppg, 2.4 rpg) split time at center. Guard Isaiah Zierden (9.5 ppg), who shot nearly 40 percent on 3-pointers, is back after a knee injury ended his season in January.

Watson, who transferred from Boston University, takes over at the point for three-year starter Austin Chatman. Watson averaged 13.3 points, 7.1 assists and 2.1 steals while leading the Terriers to the NIT in 2013-14. Forward Cole Huff, who transferred from Nevada, averaged 12.4 points and 5.4 rebounds for the Wolf Pack.

"We're more experienced than a lot of teams simply be-

cause Maurice and Cole played meaningful basketball and have been good players at their respective schools they transferred from," McDermott said. "When you add two guys to the lineup that have played as many games as they've played, you probably aren't getting a true reading of exactly what your returning experience is."

Milliken said he's excited to play with Watson and likes his cocksure demeanor.

What about Watson's claim that he's unstoppable one on one?

"Honestly, he's tough," Milliken said. "He's really quick in changing directions. He'll find a way to get around you, and he doesn't miss layups. He might be accurate with that one."

## MMC Roundup: Lancer Teams Fall On The Road

MITCHELL – Dakota Wesleyan's Gemini Wesley scored in the 101st minute as the Tigers beat Mount Marty 1-0 in double overtime in Great Plains Athletic Conference women's soccer action on Wednesday.

DWU had a 17-1 edge in shots on goal, with Abby Behm recording five shots on goal. Behm assisted on Wesley's score.

Alexandria Max had the lone shot on goal for Mount Marty.

CiCi Schneider preserved the shutout in goal for DWU. Courtney True made 15 saves for Mount Marty.

MMC hosts Hastings on Saturday. Start time is set for 2 p.m.

### Men's Soccer: DWU 5, MMC 0

MITCHELL – Adam Jahnel and Yankton native Derek Brenner scored a pair of goals for Dakota Wesleyan in a 5-0 vic-

tory over Mount Marty in Great Plains Athletic Conference men's soccer action on Wednesday.

Yoshi Kogiso had a goal and an assist for DWU. Alex Nelson added a pair of assists.

Melvin Gabel led MMC with three shots on goal.

Gaston Miteff stopped four shots in goal in the win. Rogelio Rodriguez stopped four shots for MMC.

MMC hosts Hastings on Saturday. Start time is set for 4:15 p.m.

### VB: Northwestern 3, MMC 0

ORANGE CITY, Iowa – Northwestern College, ranked 12th in the latest NAIA volleyball poll, claimed a 25-15, 25-18, 25-13 victory over Mount Marty College in Great Plains Athletic Conference action on Wednesday. It was the Raiders' 31st straight

victory over MMC, a series Northwestern leads 40-1.

Karlie Schut led Northwestern (22-5, 10-2 GPAC) with 15 kills. Wagner native Jessa Doom had 34 assists and four assisted blocks. Caitlyn Van Es added seven blocks (two solo) in the victory.

For MMC, Sierra Kloth had seven kills, Laura Cattle had six kills and three blocks (one solo) and Amber Dysthe had 20 assists to lead Mount Marty. Sam Bischoff added five kills.

MMC, now 7-17 overall and 2-10 in the GPAC, hosts Waldorf in a non-conference match on Friday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Start time is set for 7 p.m.

Northwestern also took the JV match, 25-22, 25-22.

### Women's Basketball Signs 6-4 Standout

Shelby Fasching of Winsted,



Fasching

Minnesota, will attend Mount Marty College beginning in the 2016-17 school year and play women's basketball for the Lancers, the institution announced on

Wednesday.

Fasching, a 6-4 forward, has helped lead Lester Prairing-Holy Trinity to sub-section titles and section runner-up finishes the past two seasons, earning three varsity letters and an honorable mention all-league selection last season. As a junior, she averaged 10 points, six rebounds, two blocked shots and one assist per game.

"She is a great example of a student who has been very productive both on and off the court, which we like to base

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