

USD Women's Basketball Schedule Released

NCAA Qualifiers Creighton, Idaho State Among Home Foes For Coyotes

BY JEREMY HOECK
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When Amy Williams assumed her duties as the University of South Dakota head women's basketball coach in June, she inherited a 2012-13 schedule that was nearly completed.

Following some late maneuvers, Williams and her staff put the finishing touches on that docket this week.

"I was pretty fortunate that when I got here, it was mostly in place," she said Tuesday after USD officially announced its schedule. "It was a waiting game to get everything finalized on paper.

"We were patiently waiting to show it off."

Highlighting the schedule — that opens Nov. 9 at Cleveland State — are six post-

season tournament teams, including NCAA qualifiers Creighton (Nov. 20) and Idaho State (Nov. 29) at home.

The Coyotes will also play NCAA qualifier Kansas State (Dec. 9), WNIT entrants Drake (Nov. 11) and Utah State (Dec. 20), and WBI runner-up Northern Iowa (Nov. 15).

USD will also play a Thanksgiving holiday weekend tournament at Pepperdine (Calif.) on Nov. 23-24, along with Seton Hall and Wyoming.

"Right away, I felt like it's a great challenge," she said of the schedule. "It's kind of an exciting mix with a lot of teams that are experienced and have post-season success.

"It's challenging, but we wouldn't have it any other way."

Last season under coach Ryan

Williams, USD was 23-8, including a 12-6 mark in the Summit League, and earned a berth in the WNIT — losing at home to Colorado in the second round.

Seven of those wins came against post-season tournament teams, proving to Amy Williams that her new squad held its own.

"I like to tell my players that to be the best, you have to play the best," she said. "It's a tough road, but it will get us prepared for our conference schedule."

The Coyotes will open Summit League action at home against Nebraska-Omaha (Dec. 30), the newcomer to the conference. Oral Roberts and Southern Utah left the league after last season.

Among the tournament teams USD will match up with, four ended last season in the top 100 in the Ratings Percentage Index (RPI). Kansas State led the way at

No. 17, followed by South Dakota State (60), Idaho State (71) and Creighton (73).

Williams was quick to credit assistant coaches Ryan Larsen and Brooke Atkinson — who remained at USD in the transition — for putting together a schedule that is back-loaded with contracts.

Boise State, Utah State and Cleveland State will be among the teams returning to Vermillion for the 2013-14 season, Williams said.

"It's really unique," she said. "We're on the front end of a lot of home and home contracts, so we'll pretty fortunate down the road."

In the present, however, the Coyotes are looking to a pair of returning starters in guards Alexis Yackley (Sr.) and Tempest Wilson (Sr.). USD also returns Sam Mehr (Sr.), Pam January (Sr.), McKayla

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University Of South Dakota Women's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 9	at Cleveland State	4:00 PM
Nov. 11	at Drake	2:00 PM
Nov. 15	atNorthern Iowa	noon
Nov. 20	Creighton	7:00 PM
Nov. 23	Pepperdine (Pepperdine Tour.)	5:30 PM
Nov. 24	Seton Hall/Wyoming (Pep. Tour.)	3:00 PM
Nov. 29	Idaho State	5:00 PM
Dec. 1	Utah Valley	5:00 PM
Dec. 6	Dakota State	7:00 PM
Dec. 9	at Kansas State	TBA
Dec. 15	Peru State	5:00 PM
Dec. 20	at Utah State	1:00 PM
Dec. 22	at Boise State	2:00 PM
Dec. 30	Nebraska-Omaha*	2:00 PM
Jan. 3	at North Dakota State	7:00 PM
Jan. 6	at South Dakota State	2:00 PM
Jan. 12	at Kansas City*	2:00 PM
Jan. 17	Fort Wayne*	7:00 PM
Jan. 19	Oakland*	2:00 PM
Jan. 24	at Western Illinois*	7:00 PM
Jan. 26	at IUPUI*	TBA
Jan. 30	South Dakota State*	7:00 PM
Feb. 2	North Dakota State*	7:00 PM
Feb. 9	Kansas City*	2:00 PM
Feb. 14	at Oakland*	5:30 PM
Feb. 16	at Fort Wayne*	1:00 PM
Feb. 21	IUPUI*	7:00 PM
Feb. 23	Western Illinois*	2:00 PM
Feb. 28	at Omaha*	7:00 PM
Mar. 9-12	Summit League (Sioux Falls)	TBA

* = Summit League game

Gazelles Battle Past Arrows

WATERTOWN — Mikala Hora and Kelsey Fitzgerald combined for 39 kills and Yankton rallied from a five-set deficit to win 25-20, 27-29, 22-25, 25-21, 16-14 in a volleyball thriller Thursday night in Watertown.

The Eastern South Dakota Conference (ESD) matchup saw the Gazelles trail 2-1 in the match, only to rebound with two straight wins. And in the deciding fifth set, Watertown led 9-4 before Yankton rallied again.

"It wasn't always pretty, but we saw a lot of fight in our girls tonight," Yankton coach Leasa Woodward said. "For a young team to constantly dig out of holes like that, it was great to see."

Hora recorded 20 kills, two blocks, three ace serves and 15 digs, while Fitzgerald posted 19 kills, three blocks and 15 digs.

"Both played well at the net and back, which is what you want to see," Woodward said. "They served well, and that's something they both have wanted to work on."

Brooke Wuebben added seven kills and 18 digs for Yankton, while Maria Binder had 48 set assists and 14 digs, and Becky Frick chipped in with seven kills and two ace serves.

The Gazelles, now 2-2, rebounded in a big way from last Saturday's 3-0 loss at Aberdeen Central.

"After what happened in Aberdeen, this was a big one for confidence and for experience," Woodward said. "When we were in the fifth set, we had a lot of new girls out there."

Yankton returns home to host Mitchell on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at the Summit Center.

Watertown won the junior varsity match Thursday 25-21, 25-16. Yankton got five kills from Emily Bos and six digs from Haley Mines.

The Arrows also won the sophomore match 25-18, 25-20. Joselyn Salvatori had four kills and Mines added 11 digs.

Watertown won the freshman 'A' match 25-15, 25-13. Yankton won the 'B' match 25-18, 13-25, 25-20 behind four ace serves from Julie Soto and three kills from Darian Miller.

Area Matches

Dakota Valley 3, Alcester-Hudson 1

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Kylie Martin pounded out 19 kills to lead Dakota Valley to a 25-16, 25-14, 19-25, 25-18 victory over Alcester-Hudson in prep volleyball action on Tuesday.

Jayde Bergmann had 11 kills and four ace serves, and Lindsey

Smith posted 46 assists for Dakota Valley, 8-1 and ranked fourth in the latest South Dakota Sportswriters Volleyball Poll. Martin added six digs in the win.

For Alcester-Hudson, Sierra McConnell led the way with nine kills and two ace serves. Courtney McKee posted five kills, seven blocks, 13 digs and 12 assists. Shenia Doering added 14 digs for the Cubs.

Dakota Valley hosts Canton in Big Sioux Conference action on Thursday. Alcester-Hudson, 3-2, hosts Parker Thursday.

ALCESTER-HUDSON16 14 25 18
DAKOTA VALLEY25 25 19 25

Bon Homme 3, Tripp-Delmont-Armour 1

TYNDALL — Caitlin McLouth had a big night with 13 kills and six solo blocks as Bon Homme beat Tripp-Delmont-Armour 23-25, 25-18, 25-16, 25-17 in volleyball action Thursday night in Tyndall.

Emily Pechous had six kills for the Cavaliers (5-4), while Alie Adams posted 25 set assists and Jody Kriz had 20 digs.

In the loss for the Nighthawks (2-4), Kelli Batterman and Cara Finck each had three kills, while Jessica Sandau had six set assists. Rachel Mora led the defense with 12 digs and LaNae Fuerst added 11 digs.

Both teams are in action Thursday, with Bon Homme at home against Irene-Wakonda and TDA at Freeman.

TDA won the JV match 26-28, 25-19, 15-13.

TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (2-4)25 18 16 17
BON HOMME (5-4)23 25 25 25

Marion 3, Hanson 1

MARION — Erica Schoenwald posted 15 kills to lead the Marion Bears past Hanson 25-16, 23-25, 25-23, 25-19 in Cornbelt Conference action Tuesday night in Marion.

Kylie Hughes added 11 kills and 23 digs for the Bears (7-1), who moved to 2-0 in league play. Ashley Rosenwald-Muller had eight kills and 31 digs, Katherine Luke had 23 set assists and Katilyn Engbrecht chipped in with 25 digs.

The loss for Hanson (5-3), Kyndi Cheeseman had seven kills and 14 digs, Erika Nelson had seven kills and four blocks, and Cassidy Graham added seven kills. Abby Kayser led the defense with 17 digs.

Hanson won the JV match 25-19, 25-17.

Both teams are in action Thursday, with Marion hosting Centerville and Hanson visiting Avon.

HANSON (5-3, 1-1)16 25 23 19
MARION (7-1, 2-0)25 23 25 25

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THE NIGHT AT THE NET

ABOVE: Yankton's Mikala Hora slams a spike against Watertown's Holly Becking (12) and Ashton Foust (15) during their Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball match on Tuesday in Watertown. Yankton battled back to score a 3-2 decision over the Arrows. (Rich Remmers/Watertown Public Opinion)

LEFT: Bon Homme setter Alie Adams, 3, gets the ball to a teammate during the opening frame of the Lady Cavaliers' home volleyball match with Tripp-Delmont-Armour on Tuesday in Tyndall. Bon Homme rallied from a first-set setback to claim a 3-1 victory. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)

Harrisburg Blanks Tanagers 6-0

HARRISBURG — Morgan Darner, Kennedy Van Heerde and Katie Underberg each scored two goals as the Harrisburg Tigers shut out Vermillion 6-0 in girls' club soccer action Thursday in Harrisburg.

Courtney Halling and Nicole Pierson combined to earn the shutout for Harrisburg, while Hailey Halling, Shouri Dirks and Van Heerde all contributed an assist.

Harrisburg also won the JV game 2-0.

Nathan Pays Off Bet As Romo

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Texas Rangers closer Joe Nathan can do a pretty good impersonation of Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo.

The pitcher and New York Giants fan had no choice.

Nathan paid off a bet with fellow reliever and Cowboys fan Mike Adams by donning a full Romo uniform, including pads and football cleats, during the Rangers' batting practice before Tuesday night's game against Cleveland.

It was the Rangers' first home game since the Cowboys' season-opening 24-17 victory at the Giants last Wednesday.

Briar Cliff Sweeps Mount Marty

BY VANCE JANAK
P&D Correspondent

The Mount Marty Lancers continue to be a work-in-progress.

Tuesday night's Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball opener against Briar Cliff was another learning experience, as the Chargers used their attacking offense and solid overall play to beat the Lancers 25-15, 25-20, 25-19 at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

Mount Marty's eighth straight setback drops the Lancers to 1-8.

"We're still trying to work out some little things," Mount Marty coach Candice Climer said. "We're young and we're just trying to figure out how to play with each other. We just had some little, dumb errors out there."

Briar Cliff used multiple attackers to tally 46 kills — double the total the Lancers recorded — and took advantage of many Mount Marty miscues to reel off scoring runs of four or more points in each set. Those spurts provided the Chargers (7-5, 1-1 GPAC) the separation they needed to take control of what were close sets.

"That's again something we've got to work on," Climer said. "We can't let them have points in a row like that."

The Lancers struggled to stop the Chargers' attacks in the first set. Lindsey Jardine and Breanna Nogelmeier combined for three kills to open the match, giving Briar Cliff a first-set advantage they never relinquished. Kally Iedema led the Chargers with 15 kills while Monica Boeding and Nogelmeier each recorded 10 kills.

"I think we were working really hard without the ball," Briar Cliff coach Jill Muhe said of the Chargers' successful attacks. "So we were putting ourselves in good spots so that we were then able to see where everyone was and we could avoid them or go around them."

Many of the Chargers' kills in the first set were partially blocked out of bounds or into the net. Climer said the Lancers needed to be in better position in order to block successfully.

"We just weren't sealing the net," Climer said. "They weren't getting their hips toward the net. We talked about it in the second set. It got a little bit better."

So did the competitiveness of the second set.

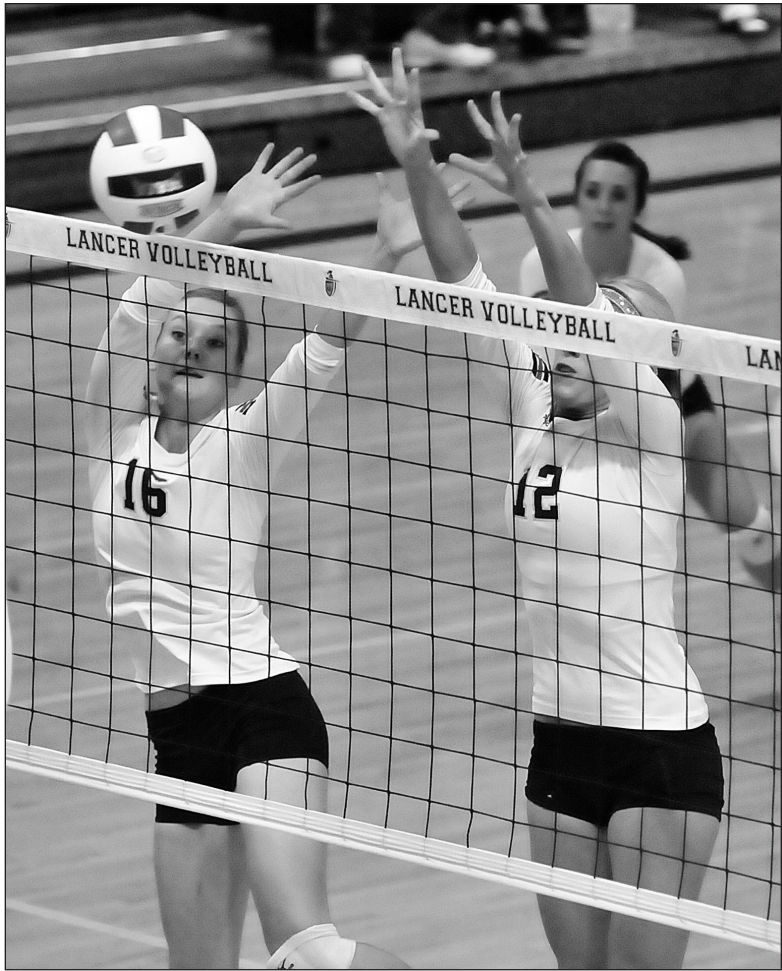
The Lancers took their first lead of the match (6-5) on a Katie Lingscheit block. Mount Marty held a 9-8 lead before Briar Cliff used a 13-5 run to take a 19-8 lead, easily enough separation to take the set.

Mount Marty played some of its best volleyball in the final set. The Lancers overcame a 12-10 deficit to lead 13-12 on a Caitlyn Illg tip, a Lingscheit kill and Courtney Miller's ace serve.

Briar Cliff, however, scored six straight points, squashing the Lancers' hopes of forcing a fourth set.

Although the Lancers dropped their eighth straight match, Climer said her squad remains upbeat.

"No, they are actually doing really well," she said. "Every time we're in there, they have their heads up. We had three five-setters in a row (earlier this season). ... We've got to get the win. That's the toughest thing when you're trying to turn a program around and they aren't used to that win. They aren't used to it so that's something we're working on."



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

The Mount Marty College double block of Lexie Branson, left, and Amanda Dirksen deflects the ball during Tuesday night's GPAC volleyball opener against Briar Cliff at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.