

Press & Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK james.cimburek@yanpton.net

When Tom Osborne stepped away from the University of Nebraska football team in 1997, I thought Osborne had left a great legacy in Lincoln, Neb. Then, nearly five years ago, he became the athletic director and added to it. Osborne announced that era — which had originally started on an interim basis — was now coming to an end, as of Jan. 1, 2013.

During his tenure as Nebraska's AD, he oversaw major improvement in facilities, a list that includes three projects that are in progress: the Pinnacle Bank Arena, a city of Lincoln project that will serve as home to the

Osborne Leaves Lasting Legacy On Husker Nation

Nebraska basketball teams, the Memorial Stadium expansion project and the development of a Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior research. He also led the planned renovations to the Devaney Sports Center, which will be converted into the new home for the school's top-ranked volleyball team, as well as projects including the Hendricks Training Complex, the Haymarket Park indoor practice facility and the Alloy Strength Complex.

Before that, his resume includes three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and, of course, winning a couple of championships as a head football coach.

There are very few individuals who can claim even one part of Osborne's resume during their lives. Osborne lived three different lives for the state of Nebraska, all different, all impressive.

Who knows, maybe the next stadium the University of Nebraska builds will have Osborne's name on it?

Springfield's Coleman Makes Badlands Circuit Final

MINOT, N.D. — Shawn Coleman of Springfield ranks second in the circuit entering the 2012 Ram Badlands Circuit Finals Rodeo, scheduled for Oct. 4-7 in Minot, N.D.

The Badlands Circuit is made up of the 22 pro rodeos across North and South Dakota. Qualifiers to the Badlands Circuit Finals Rodeo must compete at a minimum of ten rodeos for Dakota residents and 15 for non-residents.

Tickets are available for the Ram Badlands Circuit Finals Rodeo, hosted by the Minot Y's Men's Rodeo. The rodeo, held Oct. 4-7 at the State Fair Center in Minot, determines the year end champion for all pro rodeos in North and South Dakota. The rodeo will pay out approximately \$108,000 and will determine the year end and average winner in each event, who will represent the circuit at the Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo next March. For more information on the rodeo, visit www.minotysmen-rodeo.com or call 701-852-5577.

Harrisburg Girls Earn Road Win

SIoux FALLS — Harrisburg topped West Central 2-1 in girls' soccer action on Tuesday at Yankton Trails Park.

Taylor Kelly scored both goals for Harrisburg. Harrisburg also won the JV match, claiming a 2-0 decision. Goal scorers were Cailyn Schreurs and Kaitlin Reuer. Nicole Pierson earned the shutout.

Menno 'Dig Pink' Night Tuesday

MENNO — The Menno Wolves volleyball team will host their second annual "Dig Pink" night on Tuesday, Oct. 2, in conjunction with the team's home match with Marion.

The blanket toss will again be a part of the event, with donations going to the Side-Out Foundation, which uses the money for breast cancer research, education and patient support.

The Menno team will wear pink uniforms and socks, and encourages fans attending the game to wear pink as well.

MMC 'Think Pink' Night Oct. 3

The Mount Marty College volleyball team will hold a "Think Pink" breast cancer awareness night in conjunction with its Oct. 3 match with Northwestern College. Start time for the varsity match is 7:30 p.m. at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena on the MMC campus.

The team will be sporting special "Think Pink" t-shirts, as well as making shirts available for purchase by the public, with a portion of the proceeds from those sales going to the local cancer center. A free will donation will be collected at the match, with all donations received going to the local cancer center.

The event has raised over \$1,500 in the past two years.

Westling, Four Others Enter S.D. Baseball Hall Sept. 29

LAKE NORDEN — Tickets are still available for the 2012 South Dakota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame banquet scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 29 at the Lake Norden Community Center.

Five new members will be inducted, including former Lake Norden Lakers standouts Paul Raasch of Webster and Mick Hoglund of Dell Rapids. Other inductees are Kent Alm of Aberdeen, Jon Westling of Yankton and Mike West of Philip.

The event begins with a social hour at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., and the induction ceremony to follow. For tickets, contact Rusty Antonen or Paula Bergan (1-800-658-5504), Burl Tulson (881-7809) or Dan Sabers (630-2060).

Women's 600 Bowling Tourney Oct. 13-14

MITCHELL — The South Dakota Women's State 600 Tournament will be held Oct. 13-14 at Village Bowl in Mitchell.

All SD 600 Club members are welcome to participate in this tournament. For more information, entry forms are at your local bowling centers, on the state website at www.bowlsd.com or by contacting Jo Sherman at joasher44@gmail.com or 605-770-4075.

David Wright Breaks Mets Record For Career Hits

NEW YORK (AP) — David Wright has the most hits in New York Mets history.

The slugger reached on an infield single in the third inning Wednesday night against Pittsburgh for his 1,419th hit, snapping a tie with Ed Kranepool atop the team's career list.

Wright pulled into second base thanks to a throwing error on the play and his achievement was shown on the Citi Field scoreboard. The Mets played a few of Wright's highlights on the big video board, including his first major league hit. He received a warm ovation and quickly waved thanks to the skippy crowd before flashing a wide smile toward the New York dugout.

A six-time All-Star, Wright accomplished the feat in 1,256 games from 2004-12. Kranepool played in 1,853 games from 1962-79.

Kranepool was at Citi Field on Wednesday, and the two posed for pictures together during batting practice.

Rockies Star Todd Helton Plans To Play Next Season

DENVER (AP) — Colorado Rockies manager Jim Tracy is welcoming word that star first baseman Todd Helton plans to play at least one more year.

Helton had season-ending surgery on Aug. 10 to repair a torn labrum in his right hip.

Helton told The Denver Post that he intends to return in 2013 to play out the final year of his contract. He turned 39 last month.

Tracy says he thinks Helton can bounce back with a good season. Helton is a lifetime .320 hitter, but batted a career-low .238 in 69 games.

Yastrzemski On Next Triple Crown: Somebody's Got To Do It

BOSTON (AP) — Former Red Sox outfielder Carl Yastrzemski says being in a pennant race will help Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in his attempt to win the Triple Crown.

And Yaz should know: He's the last player to lead his league in batting average, homers and RBIs in the same season. Yastrzemski did it in 1967, when the "Impossible Dream" Red Sox clinched the AL pennant on the last day of the season.

Yastrzemski told reporters after a pregame ceremony that he was so focused on the pennant race that he didn't even realize he won the Triple Crown until the day after the season ended.

Cabrera entered Wednesday leading the AL in batting average and RBIs. He is one behind Texas' Josh Hamilton in homers. The Tigers were tied for first in the AL Central.

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes sections for Yankton Bowl, Mounshiners, and Saturday Mixed.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes sections for Monday Mixed, Hillcrest Golf & CC, and Ladies 9-Hole Mixel.

GOLF

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes sections for Hillcrest Golf & CC, Ladies 9-Hole Mixel, and Couples Season Finale.

FOOTBALL

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes sections for Yankton Middle School and American League.

BASEBALL

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes sections for American League and National Conference.

AREA CALENDAR

Table listing various events, dates, and times. Includes sections for Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday events.

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes sections for Chicago, Detroit, Arizona, and San Francisco.

AUTO RACING

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes sections for NASCAR Sprint Cup and AP Nebraska Rankings.

AP NEBRASKA RANKINGS

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes sections for National Football League and American Conference.

Advertisement for Roger's Family Pharmacy. Features a logo, address (218 West 4th), phone number (605-665-8042), and a slogan "A tradition of trust".

Osborne

From Page 8

"I wouldn't say things were awful, but things were a little fragmented and some people quit and some were thinking about quitting."

So it was a kind of a difficult time, but people pulled together very quickly.

Dale Jensen, a major athletic donor, said Osborne was exactly the man Nebraska needed at the time.

"Pederson tried to do everything he could to reinvent the program to his own liking," Jensen said. "It had its own life. You can't reinvent the program. Quite frankly, I can't think of one other person who could have stepped in with the credibility Tom had to right the ship."

Perlman called the circumstances around Nebraska athletics "unfortunate" before Osborne took over.

"There was considerable anxiety among the fans and supporters of Husker athletics," Perlman said. "I think the last five years have demonstrated Tom's ability to bring those constituents together."

Perlman said Jed Hughes, a consultant from the Korn/Ferry International search firm, has been hired to identify candidates to succeed Osborne. Perlman said he has already conducted some interviews.

Perlman said he would keep details of the search and identities of candidates private. He said he hoped to make a hire "reasonably soon."

"I think Nebraska is an important enough place in intercollegiate athletics that we should be able to attract the very best to this position," Perlman said. "I can tell you that individuals who currently hold high positions in intercollegiate athletics will not participate in a public search."

Besides the success his Cornhuskers football teams enjoyed from 1973-1997, Osborne served in Congress and lost a gubernatorial bid before returning to the university in 2007. In addition to hiring Pelini, who led the Huskers to the

Big 12 championship game in 2009 and 2010, Osborne brought in Tim Miles from Colorado State to coach men's basketball and former major-leaguer Darin Erstad to coach baseball at his alma mater.

Though Osborne fired him, Callahan told The Associated Press he was happy for his former boss and wished him well.

"The old coach did retire. He's paid his dues," Callahan said. "He's got such a great love for Nebraska that I thought he was going to probably be there forever... I think he's a smart man, one of the greatest football, college football, coaches in the history of the game."

Each of the 25 Nebraska football teams Osborne coached won at least nine games, and three of his last four teams won national championships. He left coaching after the 1997 season with a career record of 255-49-3, an 83% winning percentage that ranked fifth all-time among Division I coaches, and 13 conference titles.

He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1998. Osborne turned to politics after his coaching days. By overwhelming margins, voters in the western Nebraska district elected him to the House of Representatives in 2000, 2002 and 2004. In perhaps the greatest upset in Nebraska political history, Osborne lost to incumbent Dave Heineman in the 2006 Republican gubernatorial primary.

Osborne finished his third term after the crushing defeat, then returned to the university to teach classes in leadership and business ethics before he took over the reins of the athletic department.

"I feel we're well positioned," Osborne said. "We worked hard on the culture and part of that has not just been internal. We've tried to link this place with the former players... Whatever we've accomplished couldn't happen if we didn't have a united fan base. It would be hard to find one equal to our fans around the country. It allows a program in a state of 1.8 million to be competitive with programs in densely populated areas."

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AP Sports Writer Stephen Hawkins in Dallas contributed to this report.

GV Girls

From Page 8

tainly didn't hurt, Clark said. "Even with all those sports, I've been able to get training in," she said. Clark is also on the school's volleyball team.

Beyond competitive sports, the Raiders sought other ways to work together toward their end goal — a state title.

"We ran a lot more together during the summer; did a lot of running in the heat," Nelson said.

From Page 8

Clark has already shaved nearly a full minute off her time from last year's state meet — which was 15:47.07. She ran a 15:02 at the Freeman Flyer Invitational two weeks ago.

In that same meet at Freeman, Nelson ran a 15:57, likewise nearly a full minute better than her 2011 state meet clocking of 16:38.17.

Buffington, who has seen his share of stellar track athletes in his career (including Emma (Erickson) Ladwig and Parker Erickson), said he was not surprised that Clark and Nelson emerged on the scene so quickly.

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Advertisement for Steamway Cleaning & Restoration. Features a woman cleaning a carpet, a thought bubble saying "I've been thinking... Now's a good time to get the carpets cleaned.", and contact information: 665-5700, 1-800-529-2450.