

## The End Of An Era



P&D FILE PHOTO  
Dave Boots, facing, addresses his team in the huddle during a University of South Dakota home men's basketball game. Boots resigned on Tuesday, ending his 25-year tenure at the helm of the Coyotes.

# Boots Leaves USD After 25 Seasons

BY JEREMY HOECK  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

After twenty-five years, a new coach will be leading the USD men's basketball program.

The news Tuesday that Dave Boots is retiring immediately after a 503-win career with the Coyotes was met with surprise and shock by all involved.

"It was tough for him to tell us and tough for us to hear," said Trevor Gruis, one of two seniors on the 2013-14 roster.

The 57-year-old Boots amassed a resume full of success: 618 career wins in 32 seasons, seven conference titles, 11 post-season appearances.

And one out-of-the-blue announcement.

"He came down this morning, sat in my office and said he wanted to retire," athletic director David Herbst said Tuesday night. "It was as simple as that."

"It was one of those things

Dave Boots									
Anoka Ramsey CC (Coon Rapids, Minn.)									
1981-82	15-7				1999-2000	22-6	NCC champs	NCAA Reg.	
					2000-01	22-6	NCC champs		
					2001-02	19-8			
Augsburg College (Minneapolis, Minn.)					2002-03	19-9			
1982-83	18-8	MIAC runner-up			2003-04	22-10	NCAA Regional		
1983-84	19-7	MIAC champs			2004-05	27-6	NCC runner-up	NCAA Reg.	
1984-85	21-7	MIAC champs			2005-06	20-10	NCAA Regional		
1985-86	18-8				2006-07	23-7	NCAA champs	NCAA Reg.	
1986-87	13-12				2007-08	22-7	NCAA Regional		
1987-88	11-14				2008-09	20-9	Division I transition begins		
University of South Dakota (Vermillion)					2009-10	22-10	GWC champs	CIT Tour	
1988-89	17-15				2010-11	18-15			
1989-90	22-10	NCAA Regional			2011-12	10-18	First in Summit League		
1990-91	20-10				2012-13	10-20			
1991-92	19-9	NCC runner-up			Coaching History				
1992-93	25-5	NCC champs	NCAA Elite 8		Institution	Years	Record	Perc.	
1993-94	24-6	NCC champs	NCAA Elite 8		Anoka Ramsey	1 (1981-82)	15-7	.682	
1994-95	20-7				Augsburg	6 (1982-88)	100-56	.641	
1995-96	20-7				South Dakota	25 (1988-13)	603-235	.681	
1996-97	18-11	NCC runner-up			NCAA Total:	31	603-291	.674	
1997-98	19-8				Career Total:	32	618-238	.675	
1998-99	23-6	NCC champs	NCAA Reg.						

where you had to ask him to repeat it; I couldn't believe it."

Neither could many of those who follow the program. Boots, who came to USD in 1989, said in a statement that the time had come for a change. A replacement was not named in Tuesday's announcement.

"The time has come for a new face and new voice to

now lead," Boots said. "Peggy and I want to thank everyone who supported us and made our experience so enjoyable."

"USD was truly a special place for our family."

His family inside the basketball program was asked Tuesday afternoon to meet Boots on the DakotaDome football field for a brief meeting.

"We had no idea what it

was about," Gruis said. "We could tell something wasn't right; that it was going to be something serious."

Then came the news.

"There were blank stares from all of us. It was like, 'Did we just hear that right?'" Gruis said.

Making sure to point out that Boots was not fired or forced to retire, Gruis said seeing such emotion from their normally stoic coach really drove home the shock.

"He said it wasn't hard for him to walk away from basketball, but it was hard to walk away from us," Gruis said. "That really hit home for us; that he really cares about his guys as sons."

Even as Boots talked about his love for his players and how he was sad to leave this group, the news was still shocking, according to junior guard Brandon Bos.

"It was a complete 360," Bos said. "He told us, 'This is going to be really hard for me to tell you guys.'"

"It was really hard to hear,

because we could see it was tough for him."

Especially after such a lengthy career.

Boots' teams recorded 16 seasons of at least 20 wins, and twice advanced to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight — in 1992-93 and 1993-94.

Since the Coyotes jumped to the Division I level in 2008-09, Boots amassed an 80-72 record. USD won the Great West Conference title in 2010, but has struggled through two years in the Summit League — going 20-38.

"I feel bad for his last two couple seasons, that we didn't win more," Gruis said. "I think he gets a bad rap, honestly."

"He's a family guy and a great mentor," Gruis added. "People don't see that; how much he loves his players."

One of his former players, Yankton's Jeremy Kudera, agreed, saying Boots was more than simply a coach.

"Obviously, I have mixed feelings. He's done some amazing things and it's tough

to see him go," said Kudera, an orthopedic surgeon at Yankton Medical Clinic.

"But I think those closest to him knew the time was coming," he added. "It was just a matter of when."

The timing is what surprised him, Kudera said.

"I'm sure Dave is anxious to spend time doing other things," Kudera said. "It's just such a sad day. He's been the face of that program, and in a lot of ways, that athletic department, for a long time."

The Coyotes are primed for a climb in the Summit League in 2013-14, thanks to four returning starters — Gruis, Bos, Casey Kasperbauer (So., G) and Karim Rowson (Sr., G).

USD's roster will also see three key redshirts, Trey Norris (So., G), Adam Thoseby (So., G) and Tyler Larson (R Jr., G) become eligible.

The program also added a group of highly-touted fresh-

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## MVFC Notebook: FCS Upsets 'Glaringly' Got Kansas' Attention

BY JEREMY HOECK  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

How did Kansas football coach Charlie Weis address the list of FCS upsets last weekend?

By pointing to his team's first opponent, the University of South Dakota.

Saying Monday that the North Dakota State upset of Kansas State last Friday "glaringly got our attention," Weis — whose Jayhawks host USD on Saturday in Lawrence — said he took the chance to use the weekend FCS upsets as a teaching tool.

"We had a team meeting (Sunday), and that was the

first rattle out of my mouth. 'Did you watch these games, fellas? Did you see what was going on out there? This is what happens.'

"You think you can show up and roll over people, it doesn't work that way."

Yet, for those FCS programs, they dealt blow after blow to their higher-scholarship, higher-level brethren.

The Big 12 Conference was dealt two of those losses, as Northern Iowa upset Iowa State, a day after Kansas State lost. The most notable game of the weekend came when Eastern Washington defeated No. 25-ranked Oregon State.

On those upsets, Weis pointed to months-long preparation for those games as perhaps a reason why FCS teams hang with the 'big boys.'

"Time is a great equalizer," Weis said. "Any time you have that much time to prepare for an opponent, I think you better be ready, because anyone can win in a game like that."

Enter USD.

Winners over UC Davis by a 10-7 score on Saturday, the Coyotes are hoping that it can pick up one of those upsets, on top of the \$400,000 check it will receive for playing at Memorial Stadium.

"I'm glad we got a game," USD head coach Joe Glenn said Tuesday. "I think it helps you, you get some things ironed out, get the kinks out."

"I hope that plays to our advantage," he later added.

Even with USD's season-opening win, neither team has really had many advantages to take advantage of over the past year. Kansas was 1-11 last year, with the only win coming against South Dakota State. The Coyotes, of course, are coming off a 1-10 season.

All the while knowing the Kansas game was looming, USD went out and recruited a handful of players from the

Kansas City area. The Coyotes boast six players from Kansas and five from Missouri.

With so many players from that area, did the Kansas game come up in recruiting?

"Absolutely, with every one of them," Glenn said, without hesitation.

"That's one of the reasons that area is good for us," he added. "Kansas and Kansas State are the only division one teams in the state, and it's a very populated state."

The numbers would agree with Glenn. That state boasts

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### USD's Glenn At QB Club Today

The Yankton Quarterback Club will meet Wednesday at noon at the Elks Lodge, 504 West 27th Street, Yankton.

This week's speaker is University of South Dakota football coach Joe Glenn, who will talk about the Coyotes and their on-going season. USD, 1-0, travels to Kansas on Saturday.

The public is invited to attend.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Yankton's Becky Frick attacks over Sioux Falls Lincoln's Steph Buss (9) and Kristin Nassen during their volleyball match on Tuesday at the Summit Center.

## Volleyball: Lincoln Sweeps Gazelles 3-0

BY JEREMY HOECK  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

In only their second match of the season, the Yankton Gazelles volleyball team is, by all accounts, improving.

The early rough patches, though, are still being worked through.

Sioux Falls Lincoln finished strong in all three sets in sweeping Yankton 25-18, 25-17, 25-18 on Tuesday night at the Summit Center.

Though it was the season opener for the Patriots, it was a step forward for the Gazelles (0-2) — who were close through the halfway point of all three sets.

"We definitely struggled, but overall, we improved from Wattertown," said first-year Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste.

"We felt like we played with them through a large majority of the sets, but they have a level of confidence to finish strong."

Lincoln broke an 18-all tie in the first set with a 7-0 run to win, and in the second set, surged from a narrow lead to win.

The Gazelles put together a nice run in the third set to lead 14-12, but a seven-point surge by the Patriots helped propel them to the deciding win.

"Once we get down, then we all get down on ourselves," said Yankton senior Brooke Wuebben, who notched four kills, five ace serves and 10 digs.

"We just need to stay positive in the whole match."

A number of players saw

the floor for the Gazelles, who were again led offensively by sophomore Becky Frick with seven kills. She added nine digs and two blocks on defense.

Sophomore Hannah Bockholt chipped in with four kills, while junior setter Paige Thiemann posted 18 set assists.

"We're still figuring out what our lineup is eventually going to look like," Beste said. "We're giving a number of girls chances to see what they can do."

With a match looming Thursday night in Huron, the Gazelles know what needs to improve, Wuebben said.

"We did a lot better, but we just need to keep the energy up," she said. "Our serve receive was awesome and our defense looked pretty good."

The Gazelles were victorious in the junior varsity match, 25-19, 25-19. Sophie Drotzmann had four kills, while Morgyn Jaquith had eight set assists and Kaylee Wootton posted seven digs.

Yankton won the sophomore match 25-17, 25-12 behind eight kills from Danielle Salvatori and 15 assists from Julie Soto.

Lincoln swept the freshmen matches, winning the 'A' showdown 25-16, 25-21. Kami Cornemann had five kills and four aces for the Gazelles. In the 'B' match, Lincoln won 25-14, 25-11.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).