

Dave Boots: Stepping Aside From USD ‘A Good Thing’

Coyote Men Look To Post-Boots Era

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Dave Boots woke up at three o'clock Wednesday morning, the previous day's decision still weighing on my mind.

But no, there were no second thoughts.

A day after announcing his retirement effective immediately after 25 seasons at the helm of the USD men's basketball program, Boots, 57, maintained that he is happy with his decision.

"It's a good thing. There were a few things that went

into it," Boots said Wednesday in a candid interview with the Press & Dakotan. "It certainly wasn't a decision I woke up and decided, 'Let's retire today.'"

"When you get to the end of your career, you start thinking, 'What would be the best time and place to make a decision on this.'"

The news that Boots — winner of 503 games in 25 seasons at USD — was stepping aside caught everyone inside the athletic department by surprise, from administration to assistant coaches and players.

On the issue of why Tuesday, Boots pointed to a couple factors that played into his ultimate announcement: From getting through the Division I transition, to coaching through the end of his son Jordan's career (Jordan was a senior last season), to ensuring that the program was stable.

"I wanted to make sure our program was at least in shape to continue with strong growth, to take that next step, to get back to the winning ways," Boots said. "With the players they have coming back and some of the younger guys, I think they have a good chance.

"I thought it was important to leave the next guy something that he could really work with."

There has been no official announcement by USD on that subject — mostly because the administration didn't expect the news — but Boots was clear Wednesday that he supports long-time assistant coach Joey James as the potential next head coach.

James, who will begin his 11th season on staff this fall, was, like everyone else, surprised at the timing of Boots' retirement.



P&D FILE PHOTO
Dave Boots addresses the team during a time-out during a home game in the 2012-13 season. Boots spoke with the Press & Dakotan's Jeremy Hoeck on Wednesday regarding his retirement, which was announced on Tuesday.

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SDSU Men Announce Season Schedule

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota State men's basketball team released its 2013-14 men's basketball schedule on Wednesday, a slate that includes eight postseason qualifiers from last year, including three NCAA Tournament teams, 13 home games and a home tournament.

After a warm-up contest at home against Dakota Wesleyan on Nov. 1, the Jackrabbits open the season on Nov. 8-9 at the USD Tournament in San Diego, with a game against host San Diego on Nov. 8, and Loyola Marymount on Nov. 9.

The Jacks open the home portion of the schedule on Nov. 14, at home against Montana, one of the three 2013 NCAA Tournament teams on the schedule, the others being at Minnesota on Dec. 10 and at home against Belmont on Dec. 14.

The schedule also includes a home tournament for the Jackrabbits, part of the Legend's Classic, which also includes games at Texas Tech on Nov. 21 and at Stanford on Dec. 1. In the Brookings sub-regional of the Legend's Classic at Frost Arena, SDSU hosts Howard on Nov. 25, preceded by a game pitting Lehigh against Texas Southern. The following day, Nov. 26, the two losing teams from Nov. 25 play, followed by the two winning teams.

SDSU closes its non-conference slate on Jan. 3, 2014 at Buffalo, and then opens Summit League play on Jan. 9, at IUPUI. The league schedule includes games against three teams that qualified for postseason play in 2013, including league newcomer Denver, which won its first round game in the NIT before falling in the second round. Both Western Illinois and North Dakota State earned berths in the CBI Tournament.

The season culminates with the Summit League Championships, which return to the Sioux Falls Arena for a sixth consecutive season on March 8-11.

Times that are not listed are to be determined.

NOVEMBER: 1, Dakota Wesleyan (exhibition); 8-9, at University of San Diego Tour; (8, at San Diego; 9, vs. Loyola Marymount); 14, Montana, 7 p.m.; 18, Southwest Minn. State, 7 p.m.; 21, at Texas Tech; 25-26 Legends Classic (25, vs. Howard; 26, vs. Lehigh or Texas Southern); 29, at UC-Santa Barbara

DECEMBER: 1, at Stanford; 4, Dakota State, 7 p.m.; 10, at Minnesota; 14, Belmont; 18, Wayne State (Web.); 7 p.m.; 21, at North Dakota; 28, at Kansas City

JANUARY: 3, at Buffalo; 9, at IUPUI; 11, at Fort Wayne; 16, Western Illinois, 7 p.m.; 18, Omaha, 4 p.m.; 25, North Dakota State, 4 p.m.; 30, at Denver

FEBRUARY: 1, at South Dakota, 4 p.m.; 6, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m.; 8, IUPUI; 13, at Omaha; 15, at Western Illinois; 22, at North Dakota State; 27, Denver, 7 p.m.

MARCH: 1, South Dakota, 4 p.m.; 8-11, Summit League Tournament at Sioux Falls

Lancers Down Dakota State

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Mount Marty's Caitlyn Ilg, 7, and Laura Groseth go up to block Dakota State's Allison Thielsen, 3, during their college volleyball match on Wednesday at Laddie E. Cimpr Arena. Mount Marty rallied from a slow start to claim a 3-1 victory.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Volleyball: Gayville-Volin Battles Past Marion

MARION — Gayville-Volin opened the 2013 season with a hard-fought 22-25, 25-12, 25-23, 21-25, 17-15 victory over Marion in prep volleyball action Tuesday night.

Genevieve Clark had 10 kills, 20 digs and two ace serves, and Kelia Barta had six kills, 17 digs and two ace serves to lead Gayville-Volin. Rachel Haas posted six blocks and 10 digs. Vanessa Ryken had 24 assists and 12 digs. Viola Ishmael added 13 digs in the win.

For Marion, Erica Schoenwald led the way with 21 kills and 15 digs. Devin Nel-

son had 11 kills and 25 digs. Renae Kayser posted 18 assists, 14 digs and two ace serves. Kaitlyn Engbrecht had 16 assists, 17 digs and five ace serves. Rachel Gamher had 20 digs and two ace serves, and Michele Schoenwald had 14 digs for the Bears.

Gayville-Volin travels to Alcester-Hudson today (Thursday). Marion, 2-2, hosts Irene-Wakonda on Thursday.

Gayville-Volin won the JV match 25-13, 22-25, 15-11.

Gayville-Volin (1-0)	22	25	25	21	17
Marion (2-2)	25	12	23	25	15

Dakota Valley 3, Tri-Valley 0

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Dakota Valley made quick work of Tri-Valley, sweeping the Mustangs 25-9, 25-6, 25-15 in Dakota 12 Conference volleyball action on Tuesday.

Lindsey Smith posted seven ace serves, 27 assists and seven digs to lead Dakota Valley, which scored 18 ace serves as a team. Hannah Bauer had four ace serves, eight kills and a team-high nine digs. Jayde Bergmann had seven kills and four assisted blocks. Morganne Pfaffle had six kills and six blocks (two solo) in the victory.

Dakota Valley, 2-0 overall and in league play, travels to Dakota 12 and Region 4A rival Elk Point-Jefferson today (Thursday).

Tri-Valley	9	6	15
Dakota Valley (2-0)	25	25	25

Hutchinson Named To USD Women's Staff

VERMILLION — South Dakota head women's basketball coach Amy Williams has announced the hiring of Joshua Hutchinson as assistant coach effective immediately.

Hutchinson served as an assistant coach at American University the past three seasons, helping the Eagles to two Patriot League regular season titles and a WNIT berth in 2012. While at American, his duties included working primarily with the team's post players, recruiting potential student-athletes, serving as the academic liaison and overseeing off-season development programs.

Prior to his work at American University, Hutchinson served as the head varsity boy's coach at Christian Academy of Indiana in

New Albany, Ind., from 2008-10. From 2004-08, Hutchinson worked as the assistant varsity boy's coach at national powerhouse Montrose Christian School in Rockville, Md., where he coached current NBA players Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma City Thunder and Greivis Vasquez of the Sacramento Kings. Hutchinson also spent the 2006-07 season at Towson University as the administrative assistant for the men's basketball program.

Hutchinson is a 2004 graduate of Messiah in Grantham, Pa., where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. He was a four-year letter winner on the basketball team, and served as the team captain as a senior. He and his wife, Christina, have an 18-month old son, Niko.

Rough Riders Sweep Yankton

SIOUX FALLS — Sioux Falls Roosevelt swept Yankton in girls' softball action on Tuesday, 6-4 and 11-5, at Sherman Park.

In the opener, Sara Erickson went 2-3 with a home run and two RBI to lead Roosevelt.

Heather Hauer went 3-3 with a run scored and a RBI for Yankton. Jennifer Feilmeier went 2-3 with a double and a run scored. Andi Sprakel and Brooke Loecker each had a hit and a run scored.

Lexy Koltz earned the win, striking out five. Jaclyn Arens took the loss.

In the nightcap, Anne Rickert and Dani Fucs each doubled and singled, and Taylor Deutsch had two hits for Roosevelt.

Arens had a hit and three RBI, and Bailey Kortan and Sprakel each had a hit and a RBI for Yankton.

Page Wize picked up the win. Madison Dangler took the loss.

Yankton plays at home on Sunday, facing Vermillion at 12:30 p.m. and Lennox at 3:30 p.m. at Ser-toma Park. Vermillion beat Lennox in a 2 p.m. contest.

Jayhawks' Heeney Becomes Leader Of Defense

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Last season was filled with unfamiliarity for Kansas linebacker Ben Heeney.

On the one hand, he earned significant playing time on defense for the first time since his junior year at Hutchinson (Kan.) High School. On the other, he experienced losing.

A lot of losing.

"I've won three games since I've been at KU, and I won 45 or so at Hutch," said Heeney, now a junior and one of the leaders of the Jayhawks' defense. "The culture at Hutch was to win state. That was the only thing that anyone was focused on. If we didn't win state it was an unsuccessful year."

Heeney was part of three state champion teams in high school, but has yet to win a Big 12 game in Lawrence. The Jayhawks, who open

the season Saturday night against South Dakota, haven't won a conference game since November 2010 — against Colorado, now a member of the Pac-12.

While the Jayhawks trudged to a 1-11 finish in Charlie Weis' first season as coach, Heeney was one of the rare bright spots. He made 112 tackles and led the team with 12 tackles for loss, and was voted second-team All-Big 12 by The Associated Press for his efforts.

Still, it took a while for Heeney to feel like he had a role on the Jayhawks.

At Hutchinson, Heeney was an all-state running back, scampering for more than 2,000 yards his senior year. On defense, he played strong safety. So when he arrived at Kansas as a freshman, Heeney thought he

would get a healthy dose of playing time at one of those positions.

It didn't take long for reality to set in.

"My freshman year, I felt like I was not really being wasted," he said, "but in a sense, kind of. Coming in they told me the only way I wasn't going to redshirt was if I was going to get significant defensive snaps, which I got zero my freshman year."

All that happened under Turner Gill, who had turned Heeney into a linebacker before he was fired after a miserable 2-10 season. Weis was hired in December 2011 and kept Heeney at the same spot, but this time the soon-to-be sophomore had a legitimate shot to earn playing time.

Not only did Heeney win a job,

he seized the opportunity — even though he now admits that he was mostly playing by instinct as he grew acclimated to life in the Big 12.

Perhaps realizing his raw potential, Kansas linebacker coach Clint Bowen came up with three areas where Heeney needed to improve this season: his foundation for enhanced leverage, eliminating false steps in order to play faster, and the confidence to make better reads.

"Where he is, I always tell him, if you play like you did last year and you made whatever it was, 90 tackles, you probably should have made 120," Bowen explained. "This year if he makes 120, he probably should have made 150, because there's always those missed ones out there."

Heeney doesn't focus on the number of tackles he makes,

though. After all, somebody has to make them, and often if it comes down to the linebacker it's because someone up front didn't do his job.

In truth, the number that gnaws at Heeney is three: Kansas' win total his first two seasons.

Heeney, who's grown a gnarly beard this season, dismissed the notion that he's become the leader of the defense, insisting that it takes all 11 players to make a stand. But despite having just one year of real playing time under his belt, he was voted a captain by his peers.

"There's no doubt that he'll be one of the main factors in not only performance but in leadership," Weis said. "He looks like a caveman, but he's ready to go. I might institute a cut your beard policy before too long."

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