

# Pelini Apologizes For Profane Rant About NU Fans

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Hours after Bo Pelini fired back at criticism from one of the Nebraska program's all-time greats, he had to apologize for a profane rant in which he criticized "fair-weather" Cornhuskers fans.

The sports website Deadspin.com on Monday posted the 2-year-old audio of the Cornhuskers' coach going off on fans and newspaper reporters after a game.

Pelini's problematic Monday came on the heels of yet another brutal loss for the Huskers. UCLA wiped out an 18-point deficit in Lincoln and beat Nebraska 41-21 on Saturday.

The Deadspin audio caught Pelini speaking off air with Husker Sports Network play-by-play man Greg Sharpe before his postgame radio interview following Nebraska's win over Ohio State in October 2011. Pelini had been criticized by fans and media in the days leading to the Ohio State game for the Huskers' performance the week before in a 31-point loss at Wisconsin.

In the audio, Pelini repeatedly uses an expletive to refer to what he calls "fair-weather" fans.

"I want to sincerely apologize for my comments from two years ago which became public today," Pelini said in a statement released by the

school Monday night. "I take full responsibility for these comments. They were spoken in a private room following the Ohio State game. I was venting following a series of emotional events which led to this moment. That being said, these comments are in no way indicative of my true feelings. I love it here in Nebraska and feel fortunate to be associated with such a great University and fan base. I again apologize to anyone whom I have offended."

Nebraska Chancellor Harvey Perlman said he was disappointed by the comments.

"We are taking some time to consider it and what impact it would have on the university," Perlman

said. Perlman declined to answer whether Pelini was in danger of losing his job.

Athletic director Shawn Eichorst said he talked to Pelini about the rant.

"I am disheartened and disappointed by the 2011 comments published today attributed to Coach Pelini about our dedicated and passionate fans and supporters," Eichorst said in a statement. "I have spoken with Chancellor Perlman and I have addressed the situation with Bo and expressed our deep concern."

Pelini has been coach of the Huskers since 2008. He is 51-21 at

Nebraska, but has yet to win a conference title at a program that for decades was a perennial national contender.

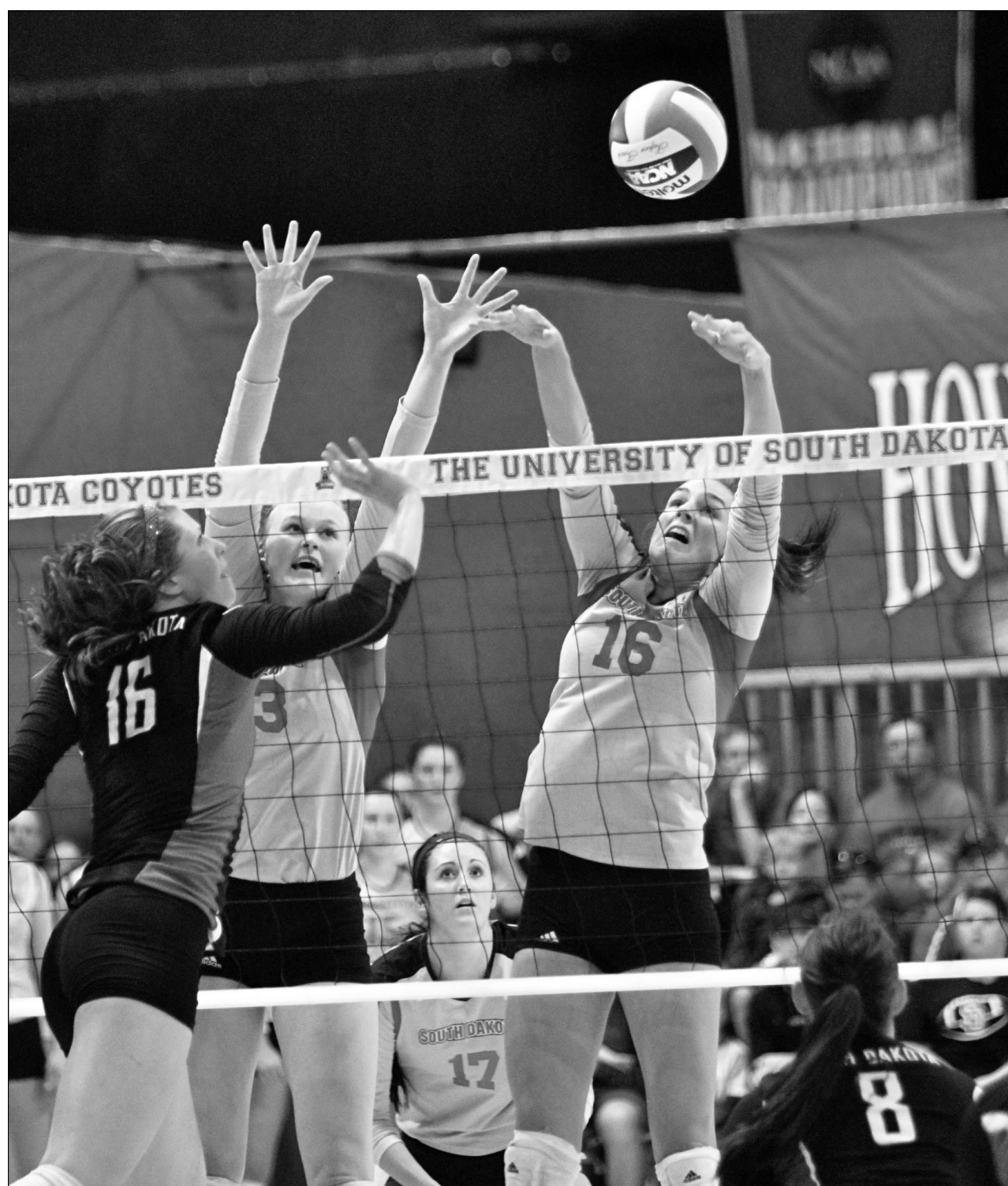
Even before the audio of his temper tantrum became public, Pelini had made a misstep that likely had many Nebraska fans upset.

During his weekly news conference, Pelini responded to criticism from former Huskers quarterback Tommie Frazier, saying if Frazier doesn't like how he's running the program, he doesn't need his support.

Frazier, who led the Huskers' unbeaten national championship

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# USD Drops UND In Home Opener



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

Vermillion's Melissa Firtko, 3, and Amber Aschoff go up to block North Dakota's Ronni Munkeby, left, during their non-conference volleyball match on Monday at the "Coyote Den" in the DakotaDome in Vermillion. USD claimed a 3-1 victory to improve to 9-3 on the season. USD faces seventh-ranked Hawaii in the Wichita State Tournament on Thursday.

## Volleyball: Coyotes Improve To 9-3 With 3-1 Victory, Face Hawaii Next

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — Yes, it was possible for a team coming off an impressive tournament title at Montana State to have nerves on its own home court.

Just not enough to slow down its momentum.

In front of a capacity crowd at its intimate setting in the DakotaDome, USD beat North Dakota 3-1 (21-25, 25-19, 25-19, 25-17) on Monday night.

Off to its best start in five years, the Coyotes (9-3) survived some early jitters to win their seventh match in eight tries.

"There's not only excitement, but we've been playing pretty well," head coach Matt Houk said. "And we have to come home now and everyone gets to watch us do this. We had to shake that out a little bit."

That USD did, overcoming 14 attack errors over the first two sets by recording a total of six over the final two.

In doing so, the Coyotes continued their non-conference surge two days after winning the Montana State Bobcat Classic.

"I think we're just keeping our pace and pushing it," senior setter Tori Kroll said. "Usually bigger teams don't know how to come against faster players, and we have a faster offense."

That offense produced three players with at least 10 kills, led by junior Kendall Kritenbrink (18), sophomore Sydney Dimke (12) and sophomore Kelsey Biltoft (10).

In the past, USD would have struggled to score if Kritenbrink — who recently eclipsed 1,000 career kills — had an off night, Houk said. What was the key adjust-

ment Monday for the Coyotes?

"It was definitely our blocking, that separated us from them," Kritenbrink said. "We were ready for them, we blocked really (last) weekend, so that's helped us out."

North Dakota committed only two attack errors in set one, while the Coyotes had seven errors.

USD also had seven errors in set two, but adjusted better to the UND attack — helped by nine errors by the visitors.

There were no such issues for the Coyotes in set three (just one error) and USD dominated the net in the final stretch to win 25-19.

Ditto for set four. Clearly those early jitters were history.

"When we got past that, we got focused and played our game," said Kroll, who had 41 set assists. She went over 1,000 for her career last Saturday.

With their home debut out of the way, the Coyotes return to the road this weekend for the Wichita State Shocker Classic. There, USD will face a pair of top-25 squads in No. 7 Hawaii and No. 23 Creighton, along with the host school.

Equating USD's underdog chances to the 1980 USA 'miracle' hockey team, Houk said his team has already embraced that challenge.

"We're going to find out how tough we are this weekend," he said. "Any given night, if you play your best volleyball and lay it all out on the line, you have an opportunity."

Added Kroll, "We get to have that competition and see if we're ready for that."

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).

# Dayton: Wilfs Should Pay Vikings' Share Of Stadium

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota Vikings owners Zygi and Mark Wilf should have to pay a large portion of the team's share of a new football stadium from their own pockets instead of using money made from fees charged to season ticket holders, Gov. Mark Dayton wrote Monday in a letter to the government authority supervising its construction.

The Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority is in final negotiations with Vikings officials over use and development contracts for the \$1 billion, downtown Minneapolis stadium. A financial analysis released last week by the authority found the Wilfs have sufficient personal resources to cover the \$477 million team share.

As part of the stadium funding plan that lawmakers passed in 2012, the Vikings are allowed to sell personal seat licenses, which give the holder the

right to buy tickets for specified seats in a stadium for any event, including NFL games. Personal seat licenses are common throughout the NFL and have been used as a way for teams to pay for new stadiums.

But in a letter to authority chairwoman Michele Kelm-Helgen, Dayton expressed concern over a recent Minnesota Public Radio News report that concluded the Wilfs would likely be able to cover most of the \$477 million without spending their own money. Instead, they could use the seat licenses, naming rights to the stadium and a roughly \$200 million NFL contribution.

"I strongly urge you to negotiate a final financial agreement, which requires the Vikings' owners to provide a significant share of their financial contribution from their own resources, and not from Vikings' fans through the sale of expensive personal seat licenses,"

Dayton wrote to Kelm-Helgen.

Vikings spokesman Lester Bagley said the price of seat licenses is among a handful of items still at issue in the team's negotiations with the authority. "These licenses were discussed during the legislative process, they were anticipated and authorized by the legislation," Bagley said.

The state of Minnesota and city of Minneapolis are covering the remaining \$498 million in stadium costs.

It's not the first time Dayton and the Vikings have tangled over the issue, with the governor repeatedly warning the team to keep prices for such licenses low. Dayton has grown increasingly critical of the Wilfs in recent weeks, particularly after a New Jersey judge found them guilty of fraud — a ruling that prompted a financial review the governor cited in his letter.

In his letter, Dayton acknowledged

that the stadium bill allowed seat licenses to be part of the team's financing. But, he wrote, "those revenues were not intended to replace the need for the team's owners to make a significant equity or capital contribution."

Dayton also wrote that he believes the legislation gives the authority, and not the team, the final say on the maximum price for seat licenses. The Vikings' Bagley did not take issue with that interpretation, but both he and Kelm-Helgen said seat licenses were trying to find a mutually agreeable solution.

"It's really hard to speculate on this right now because we're right in the middle of negotiations," said Kelm-Helgen, a former top aide to Dayton whom he picked to lead the stadium authority.

More than half of NFL teams sell personal seat licenses, though prices range widely depending on the market.

Kelm-Helgen said she believed seat licenses at the new Vikings stadium should reflect that the Twin Cities is a smaller market.

The Twins charged \$1,000 to \$2,000 annually for a small number of premium seats at Target Field, while the university charges season ticket buyers at TCF Bank Stadium an annual fee of \$100 to \$500. The fee is in addition to the cost to buy tickets.

Dayton noted that the financial review of the Wilfs reportedly shows they "could finance their share of the stadium's costs with little or no revenues from stadium builder's licenses."

"Therefore," he added, "I strongly urge you to keep those prices at an absolute minimum."

Officials hope to break ground on the new stadium in early November and begin using it in the 2016 football season.

## Highlanders Top Freeman 3-1

SCOTLAND — The Scotland Highlanders claimed a 25-19, 25-19, 19-25, 25-14 victory over Freeman in prep volleyball action on Monday.

Carley Skorepa had 14 kills and four ace serves to lead Scotland. Kayla Rokusek had seven kills. Amber Alvey had 25 assists, Jaycie Geiman had four ace serves and Jessica Thum had 13 digs in the win.

Shelby Jensen had nine kills and Nicole Hinckley had six kills, five blocks and three ace serves to lead Freeman. Mady Pravecek had 16 assists for the Flyers.

Scotland, 3-1, heads to Andes Central on Thursday. Freeman, 1-3, travels to Bridgewater to face Bridgewater-Emery on Thursday.

FREEMAN (1-3).....19 19 25 14  
SCOTLAND (3-1).....25 25 19 25

### Marion 3, Dell Rapids St. Mary's 0

MARION — Erica Schoenwald had 12 kills and 11 digs to lead Marion to a 25-10, 25-16, 25-19 victory over Dell Rapids St. Mary's in prep volleyball action on Monday.

Devin Nelson had nine kills, 13 digs and three ace serves, and Kaitlyn Engbrecht had 18 assists, 12 digs and seven ace serves for Marion. Renae Kayser posted 13 assists and 10 digs in the win.

Ally Mullaney led St. Mary's with six kills and six blocks. Kaitlyn Vortherms had 16 digs, Amber Hansen had 13 digs and Kelly Michel had 10 digs for the Cardinals.

Marion, 6-2, travels to Hanson today (Tuesday). St. Mary's, 2-7, hosts Lake Preston on Thursday. Marion won the JV match

25-15, 25-19.  
DELL RAPIDS ST. MARY (2-7).....10 16 19  
MARION (6-2).....25 25 25

### Wausa 3, Bloomfield 0

WAUSA, Neb. — The Wausa Vikings notched a 25-22, 25-13, 25-22 victory over Bloomfield in Lewis & Clark Conference volleyball action on Monday.

Kenna Fiedler had four kills, two ace serves and 34 digs to lead Bloomfield. Britany Kerbel had 23 digs, Lexie Hauger had 18 digs, Karly Jensen had 17 digs and Amanda Goeden had 16 digs for the Queen Bees.

No stats were reported for Wausa.

Bloomfield travels to Winside on Thursday. Wausa travels to

WAUSA (4-2).....25 25 25  
BLOOMFIELD (0-6).....22 13 22

## Close Encounter



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton catcher Brooke Loecker, left, tries to tag an O'Gorman baserunner during the opening game of their softball doubleheader on Monday at Yankton's Sertoma Park. Results were not available at presstime. The Gazelles travel to Sioux Falls Washington on Thursday.