

Brady, Cassel Set To Square Off For First Time

Brady Took Cassel Under His Wing When They Played Together For Patriots, Duo Remain Friends

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Take away the super model wife, the Ugg boots commercials and the three Super Bowl trophies.

Take away the two MVP awards and the guest appearances on "Saturday Night Live" and "The Simpsons."

Take Tom Brady back to his first days in the NFL as a sixth-round draft pick with almost no expectations for his career, and therein lies the foundation for his friendship with Minnesota Vikings quarterback Matt Cassel.

Cassel was a seventh-round pick of the New England Patriots in 2005 and Brady saw a little bit of himself in the former USC quarterback who never started a game in college. Brady quickly took Cassel under his wing, pushing him, prodding him, investing time in a kid no one knew anything about.

"He's had to fight his whole career and I think that's what makes him a special player," Brady said. "Things were never easy for him in high school. They weren't easy in college. Certainly when he got to the professional level, they weren't easy. There was a lot of competition that really tested his mettle and it

served him really well over the course of his career."

The two became fast friends, with Cassel stepping in for an injured Brady in 2008 and leading the Patriots to a 10-5 record over the final 15 games. Cassel left to become a starting quarterback with the Kansas City Chiefs in 2009 and the two will be opponents on the field for the first time on Sunday when the Vikings (1-0) host the Patriots (0-1).

"Tom and I have remained close friends throughout this entire process," Cassel said Wednesday. "I think even in the offseason, we play golf together, we see each other, we

see each other's families and it's a relationship that I'm very fortunate to have. He's a guy that I bounce stuff off of. We talk every other week. We probably won't talk this week, I'm guessing."

The diplomacy Cassel expresses publicly on this and any other subject is straight out of the Patriots playbook. He of course watched how Brady broke down film, exploited opponents' weaknesses and read defenses. But Cassel also spent four years watching Brady take hold of the locker room, respond to the demanding New England media and keep the team together in good times and bad.

"There's a number of different things I took away from Tom, but one of the main things was his leadership and how he approached his leadership, his work ethic," Cassel said. "And each and every day, his accountability to knowing the offense and being accountable."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick watched the two quarterbacks work together over the years and benefited from that relationship when Brady went down with a knee injury in the first game in 2008. In stepped the unknown Cassel, who threw for 3,693 yards, 21 touchdowns and 11

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Wayne Hands Panthers First Loss Of Season

WAYNE, Neb. — The Wayne Blue Devils outlasted Dakota Valley 25-21, 30-32, 14-25, 25-22, 22-20 in an interstate volleyball showdown on Tuesday.

Madison Frevert had 25 kills and eight blocks (three solo), and Lexi Sokol had 21 kills to lead Wayne. Emma Evetovich recorded 56 assists. Tarah Stegemann and Alyssa Schmale each had 20 digs. Peyton Roach added 18 digs in the victory.

For Dakota Valley, Meredith Lammers had 23 kills, four solo blocks, 27 digs and eight ace serves to lead the way. Elizabeth Lammers had 17 kills and 32 digs. Shayla Johnson posted nine kills. Lindsey Smith had eight kills, three ace serves, 11 digs and 68 assists. Jordyn Younger had 21 digs. Alyssa Hughes added 11 digs.

Wynot 3, Allen 2

WYNOT, Neb. — Cortney Arkfeld had eight kills and 18 digs and got plenty of help as the Wynot Lady Blue Devils snuck past Allen 21-25, 25-21, 18-25, 25-18, 15-8 on Tuesday night.

Skylar Arkfeld had seven kills and four blocks, while Jenna Heine had six kills, 13 set assists, three ace serves and 26 digs.

Also for Wynot (2-1), Olivia Wieseler and Danielle Wieseler had 21 digs apiece.

For Allen, Gabby Sullivan had 16 kills and 13 digs to lead the way. Lindsey Sullivan finished with 58 assists. Lexi Oswald had 14 digs and Rachel Kneifl added 10 digs for the Eagles.

Wynot will host Viborg-Hurley in a cross-state matchup tonight (Thursday). Allen hosts Bloomfield and Wausa in a triangular tonight.

ALLEN (1-5).....25 21 25 18 8
WYNOT (2-1).....21 25 18 25 15

Crofton 3, Cedar Catholic 0

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Crofton downed Hartington Cedar Catholic 25-11, 25-10, 25-20 in Mid-State Conference volleyball action on Tuesday in Hartington, Nebraska.

Maria Wortmann had 14 kills, 10 digs and three blocks (one solo), and Allison Arens and Monica Arens had six kills each to lead Crofton. Kelsey Sanger had three ace serves. Brittany Guenther posted 16 assists, with Allison Tramp recording 15 assists. Allison Arens had a team-best 16 digs in the win.

Abby Steffen had six kills and Alexis Arens had 13 digs to lead Cedar Catholic. Emily Feilmeier and Haley Becker each had seven set assists. Brianna Lammers added 10 digs for the Trojans.

Crofton hosts O'Neill on Thursday in MSC action. Cedar Catholic plays in the Wakefield Tournament beginning on Thursday.

CROFTON (3-0).....25 25 25
CEDAR CATHOLIC (1-5).....11 10 20

Hartington-Newcastle 3, Wausa 0

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Hartington-Newcastle swept Wausa 25-9, 25-17, 25-12 in Lewis & Clark Conference volleyball action on Tuesday.

Savannah Scoville had eight kills and Sophie Noecker had four ace serves and 16 digs to lead a balanced Hartington-Newcastle attack. Abby Lammers had 12 assists and Ryley Eickhoff had 14 digs in the victory.

For Wausa, Tara Munter had three kills and Tori Clausen had four solo blocks to lead the way. Krissy Kumm added six digs and two ace serves.

Hartington-Newcastle hosts Wynot on Sept. 16.

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Inspiring Message



A group of young student-athletes listen intently during the FCA Evening of Champions on Wednesday at the Yankton High School Theater. The event drew several student-athletes from Yankton and Mount Marty College, as well as from several surrounding communities.

SDSU Coach Brings FCA Message To 'Evening Of Champions' Event

BY JEREMY HOECK
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A chance encounter in an African third-world country may change the way Scott Nagy coaches during his next season.

While on a mission trip to Burundi this summer, Nagy — the head men's basketball coach at South Dakota State — couldn't believe his ears at something a 14-year-old girl in his group said.

What did she say? That she was especially worried about the trip.

"I thought, 'What does she know about worrying?'" Nagy said during Wednesday night's Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) 'Evening of Champions' event at Yankton High School.

Instead, the all-time wins leader in Jackrabbit men's basketball history realized that his second experience in Africa was one of those unexpected moments when his faith in God was strengthened.

"I remember calling my wife that night and saying, 'Is this why God brought me here? To listen to a 14-year-old tell me not to worry?'" Nagy said.

"Spiritually, I came home, and it was so good for me." Nagy, SDSU's coach since 1995, was part of a 20-person group that traveled to Burundi for humanitarian purposes, as well as a chance to work with basketball coaches in that region to help develop their programs.

An admitted stickler to schedules, Nagy said his experiences in Africa — including a previous trip to Zimbabwe — not only helped reaffirm his faith in God, but opened his eyes to trust.

"I know what it comes down to it, if I'm worrying, I'm not trusting Jesus," he told the crowd. "He is trying to tell you, 'Even when it looks bad, trust me.'"

That's easier said than done, Nagy admitted, particularly once his seasons begin every November.

"I'm a fairly intense guy," he said. "I don't see the things that are done right, I see the things that are wrong."

"Through these 19 seasons, I've worried through them. I've stressed them through."

And still, Nagy's teams have found success across two NCAA levels.

The Texas native guided the Jackrabbits to eight Division II national tournament appearances (including a region title in 1997), and following some rough years at the start of the D-I transition, led SDSU to back-to-back Summit League crowns in 2012 and 2013.

As he prepares for season No. 20, Nagy said he didn't expect to find life advice in a third-world country across the globe this summer.

"Hopefully this can be the first year in 20 that I go through a season without worrying," he said. "I'm looking forward to it."

A text from a friend shortly after returning home from Africa about developing a strategy helped Nagy realize he needs to change his routine during the season.

"I can't just do the same things and expect different results," he said. "I'm going to need some help. But I'm just so thankful for the opportunities God has given me."

Even if they come at times

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South Dakota State men's basketball coach Scott Nagy addresses the crowd during the FCA Evening of Champions on Wednesday at the Yankton High School Theater.

Action On The Field Powers Lights At Soccer Field

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Kids streaking back and forth on a soccer field in scorching tropical heat promises to produce something more than buckets of sweat.

Billed as Brazil's first player-powered soccer pitch, a field inaugurated Wednesday in a Rio de Janeiro slum harnesses the kinetic energy of players' movements to provide nighttime illumination.

Soccer legend Pele was on hand for the pomp-filled event in the Morro da

Mineira slum, which saw a local youth team put the system to the test.

Under the project, sponsored by Royal Dutch Shell, around 200 energy-capturing tiles developed by British startup Pavegen were installed the width and breadth of the field and covered by a layer of AstroTurf. Working in conjunction with solar panels also installed around the field, the player-powered tiles feed electricity to a system of floodlights overhead.

While the head of Pavegen, engi-

neer Laurence Kemball-Cook, took pains not to reveal the exact science behind the tiles, his father and the company's chairman, Richard Kemball-Cook, said they use a system of cogs. When stepped on, the cogs spin like tops and act like generators, he said.

Each tile now costs about \$500, but the price is falling as the 35-employee company refines its manufacturing process, Kemball-Cook said.

Pavegen has installed similar tiles

in train stations in Europe, shopping centers in Australia and Terminal 3 of London's Heathrow Airport, Laurence Kemball-Cook said, but the soccer field is a first.

"We've effectively turned this community into a real-life science experiment," he said. "I believe this technology can be one of the future ways we illuminate our cities."

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