

# Q&A: Burgard Excited About Return To Sideline

## Former S.F. Lincoln Coach Named MMC Assistant Earlier This Summer

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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The last time Robin Burgard stepped off the basketball floor in an official capacity, his Sioux Falls Lincoln boys' squad was celebrating a state championship.

That was in 2009. Six years later, Burgard will return to the bench, this time at the collegiate level and this time as an assistant coach at Mount Marty College. He was hired last week as the top assistant for Lancers head coach Andrew Baker, whose program is seeking an ascent up the ladder in the Great Plains Athletic Conference.



Burgard

For Burgard, he was ready to get back into basketball after a 20-plus year career that including 18 seasons as an assistant at Sioux Falls Lincoln and five seasons as the head coach. He had originally stepped aside from coaching to spend time with his family, and to watch his son Cameron play for the Dakota Schoolers (from 2010-13).

Shortly after putting out feelers for available openings in the area, Burgard interviewed at Mount Marty two weeks ago and was on campus a few days later.

In addition to his basketball duties, Burgard was also hired as the college's Residence Hall Director and will help the athletic department in other capacities. He spoke with the *Press & Dakotan* on Monday about returning to basketball and his desire to help the Lancers (winners of six games over the past two seasons) progress.

**What have you been up to since leaving Lincoln?**

I left coaching so I could be around my kid and watch him play a little bit. Now he's in college at the University of Minnesota, so my wife said I needed to get a job.

**How did the Mount Marty College position come up?**

I wanted to get back into coaching once everyone was off doing

their own thing, and this all fell into place at the right time. Obviously I like Yankton, and having a chance to visit with Coach Baker, it seems like we have a lot of similar beliefs. I think it's going to be a great fit.

**So you're pretty familiar with Yankton?**

When I used to scout at the (Yankton) high school, I used to stop in and see coach (Jim) Thorson's practices.

**Today is the first day of classes at Mount Marty. Does that mean you've been running around like crazy?**

It's been the busiest time of my other part of the job, getting everyone in their dorms and getting their keys. We got that done as of (Sunday), now they're off and running going to classes.

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**With the Residence Hall Director position, did that happen first? Or how did that come up?**

I think they wanted it to be together. I had nowhere to live down there, so it worked out well. I'll be trying to come back to Sioux Falls when I can to spend time with my wife, but I'll be down there as much as I can. Once we get started (with basketball), it's getting everyone going. We've got a great group of freshmen coming in, so there will be plenty of new stuff to do.

**Did you want to get into the college game?**

I always had that little interest in the back of my mind that I wanted to give college a try and see what

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## Sano Storm



RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS

Minneapolis Twins' Miguel Sano (22) homers in the 7th inning, scoring two runs as he rounds third base and is congratulated by coach Gene Glynn as the Twins played the Astros at Target Field on Sunday in Minneapolis, Minn. The Twins won 7-5. Sano has 13 home runs and 40 RBI in just 49 games.

# Twins Rookie Shows Power, Discipline At Plate

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Torii Hunter, Minnesota's 40-year-old right fielder in his 17th full major league season, was at the plate last week with the bases loaded.

Miguel Sano, the rookie slugger, was shouting more than simple encouragement from the dugout.

He was giving Hunter hitting advice.

"Make him come to you! Make him come to you!" Sano bellowed, cautioning Hunter against chasing a pitch outside the strike zone.

Twins manager Paul Molitor called the scene "a little bit comical," the way the 22-year-old Sano earnestly warned Hunter to be patient.

"But it was good, because I think how he was thinking Torii should be thinking was how he thinks when he's

the guy doing that," Molitor said, "which is not easy to do when you're a young guy in a big situation."

The Twins have put Sano in plenty of those big spots already in his not-quite-two-month-long career, and the broad-shouldered Dominican has delivered more than his share of big hits.

In just 49 games, Sano has 13 doubles, 13 home runs, 40 RBIs and a whopping .989 on-base-plus-slugging percentage while facing a majority of off-speed pitches. He hasn't played enough to officially qualify, but the only American League hitter with 50 or more at-bats and a better OPS percentage than Sano is two-time AL MVP Miguel Cabrera.

Called up at the beginning of July from Double-A Chattanooga, Sano might not have enough time to beat out front-runner and Houston As-

tros shortstop Carlos Correa for the AL Rookie of the Year award. Still, a better prize for Sano would be powering the Twins to an AL wild card. With a 67-63 record, the Twins were 1 1/2 games behind Texas for the second spot before the Rangers played Monday night.

Cabrera, now with the Detroit Tigers, won a World Series as a rookie at age 20 with the Marlins. That got Hunter daydreaming, as much of a long shot the Twins might be to make it that far.

"Not saying he's going to have the same numbers or end up like Miggy or anything like that, but his body type and everything, his presence, is like Miggy," Hunter said. "A lot of similarities. Put it that way."

Sano's discipline at the plate, despite never playing in Triple-A, has made

the Twins the most proud. Though his 74 strikeouts in 206 plate appearances are alarmingly high, a rate putting him on pace to lead the major leagues while playing a full season, Sano has shown discipline beyond his years.

He has 33 walks, roughly one every six times he steps in the batter's box. With an average of 4.34 pitches per plate appearance, Sano is behind only Los Angeles Angels star Mike Trout (4.39) among AL players with 200 or more plate appearances.

"Every at-bat I try to read the pitcher and try to look for my pitch," Sano said recently. "When they make a mistake I need to make them pay for that."

With Trevor Plouffe at third base and Joe Mauer at first base, the Twins have used Sano mostly as a designated hitter. His 6-foot-4

and 260-pound frame has shaped the perception that's his permanent role, but the Twins have long touted his sufficient athletic ability to be a long-term corner infielder once there's an opening. He was signed at age 16 as a shortstop, after all.

Sano's legacy will ultimately be with the bat, though, no matter how he fares in the field. Again, Sano hasn't yet collected enough at-bats to qualify, but his .287 batting average is by far the best for the Twins.

"He's going to get his home runs by being a good hitter," Molitor said. "When he gets a little greedy, sometimes he's been paying a price for that. I wouldn't blame him with that skill set to try to take a shot now and then, but just being a good hitter is what's making him valuable."

## K-State Ready To Name QB Starter, Texas Tech Still Either/Or

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS  
AP Sports Writer

Kansas State coach Bill Snyder knows which of his four quarterbacks will be the Wildcats' new starter.

Snyder plans to name Jake Waters' replacement during his campus news conference Tuesday.

Texas Tech's Kliff Kingsbury is taking a different approach in revealing whether Davis Webb or Patrick Mahomes will be starting again. The Red Raiders' depth chart lists the quarterback as Webb or Mahomes after both started multiple games last season.

"They've had a great camp. ... Both guys deserve to be the starter," Kingsbury said Monday during the first Big 12 coaches teleconference of the season.

When asked who would start Saturday against Sam Houston State, Kingsbury said one of them will "jog out there for the first snap, and that will be it."

At K-State, three players emerged from the spring competing for the starting spot, and a junior college transfer joined the mix during pre-season practice. Snyder said it was a competitive camp and that he has faith in all four quarterbacks.

Some more details from the first Big 12 coaches' call of the season:

### EARLY STARTERS

Second-ranked TCU, fourth-ranked

### coming up

■ USD Faces K-State, SDSU Faces Kansas To Open 2015 Football Season. **SATURDAY**

Jerry Kill. Oklahoma State plays Thursday at Central Michigan, and Baylor goes to SMU on Friday.

### IMPACT FRESHMEN

While freshman running back Joshua Thomas is in line to play at Iowa State because of need, and "hasn't disappointed," coach Paul Rhoads said freshman Carson Epps is probably more impressive since he has gotten noticed among a talented group of receivers.

Freshman receiver Jovon Durante could have an early impact at West Virginia. Coach Dana Holgorsen said Durante has outstanding speed and route-running ability. Durante also likely will be part of the return game.

### EXTRA POINTS

— Mason Rudolph made a quick impression as Oklahoma State's starting quarterback the final three games last season, including a comeback victory over Oklahoma and a bowl win. But coach Mike Gundy warns there will still

be some growing pains.

"He's been a really interesting player, because he's only had three games in his career and there's been a lot of talk about where he's going," Gundy said. "We want him to learn to play within himself, and not try to do too much."

— Charlie Strong has a better feel and comfort level with his players going into year two at Texas — and the players better know their head coach. But the preparation level is much the same.

"Even this time a year ago, you were prepared because you had all preseason to get ready to go play," he said. "You're just playing a different opponent."

A year ago, it was North Texas in Strong's debut. This season, it's a Saturday night game at No. 11 Notre Dame.

— Bob Stoops is ready to see Oklahoma's offense in Saturday's opener against Akron. Stoops hired offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley to bring back the kind of Air Raid offense that the Sooners helped make popular in the Big 12.

"I'm very pleased with it, but that's only practices and scrimmages," he said.

— New Kansas coach David Beaty said the team's confidence in new quarterback Montell Cozart is evidenced with him being elected a captain.

## Pierre's Severyn Lands At USD

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The search for the "right fit" has taken Kaitlyn Severyn down Interstate 29 to her new home.

From Brookings to Vermillion. From South Dakota State to the University of South Dakota.

Severyn, a Pierre native and 6-foot guard/forward, has landed on the women's basketball roster at USD, where she will finish out her college career for the Coyotes.

"Personally, the fit and USD and with the girls was what I needed," Severyn said Monday night.

Neither program sought to make waves with Severyn's decision, but nonetheless, the former Pierre T.F. Riggs standout is listed on the USD roster — after months of discussion.

"When it boiled down to it, she said, 'I'm going to come to USD one way or another,'" USD head coach Amy Williams said Monday. "She wasn't ready for her basketball career to be over."

Although she redshirted last season at SDSU, Severyn will also have to sit out the upcoming

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## XC: Coyotes Looking For Big Things In 2015

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — On the verge of what could shape up to be a historic season for her team, Amber Eichkorn prefers to look ahead.

Not that the University of South Dakota senior doesn't mind talking about last year, it's just that she looks at the 2014 Summit League cross country title in a different way. Sure, Eichkorn's team may now be the hunted instead of the hunters, but in her eyes, she hasn't reached her goal yet.

"I try not to think about that," she said, smiling. "I'm a person that thinks, 'I haven't won my race in the Summit League yet, so there's not the target on my back.'"

"I'm still chasing that goal. It's all about looking forward."

Eichkorn, second at last year's Summit League meet, leads a team that returns eight of its nine runners from the conference meet for head coach Dan Fitzsimmons. His program put together the following resume last fall:

- Women won the Summit League title, finished seventh at the Midwest Regional meet and for the first time sent a runner (Amber Eichkorn) to the Division I national meet.

- Men finished third at the Summit League meet and sent five runners to the regional meet.

Now, the question becomes: What can the Coyote women do for an encore?

"We know we've got the target on our back, and now we want to take that next step and do it twice," said senior Katie Wetzstein, who was third at the conference meet. "The bar has been raised."

And with the number of runners the Coyotes have back, that bar could again get pushed.

Eichkorn and Wetzstein lead a group that includes Bethany Kozak (So., fifth at conference), Kelsey Barrett (Sr., sixth), Nicole Schmidt (Jr., 13<sup>th</sup>), Bailey Oettel (So., 22<sup>nd</sup>), Jessica Feldman (Jr., 28<sup>th</sup>) and Erin Wetzstein (So.).

The Coyotes, who also have seven freshmen on the roster, certainly have the depth to again contend for a conference title, but as Fitzsimmons cautioned, they're not the only team in that position — runner-up North Dakota State and third-place South Dakota State both return their top three runners.

"Some of the other teams we'll be going up against return almost their entire squads," he said. "As much as on paper that looks really impressive, we've made it our focus to just get better."

That will be the key for a particularly young men's team.

Although the Coyotes return five of their conference meet runners, they'll also be looking to work in a large freshman class (six).

"As you can see, the numbers. That's the first thing we noticed too," senior Mubarik Musa said. "We've got a very high quality and I think for the next couple years, they'll become a major part of improving this team."

Third at the Summit League meet last fall, the Coyotes bring back Musa (fifth), Isaac Allen (Sr., sixth), Mach Dojiok (R-Jr., 21<sup>st</sup>), Brice Cowman (So., 27<sup>th</sup>) and Aaron Breyer (So.).

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