

SPORTS DIGEST

Augustana Cross Country Teams Ranked In Top Five

NEW ORLEANS - Augustana University men's and women's Cross Country team's both earned top-5 rankings by the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association NCAA Division II top-25 preseason poll released on Wednesday. The Viking men are ranked No. 3 with a total of 177 points, trailing No. 2 Grand Valley State and No. 1 Adams State, who ended last season one and two respectively. The Augustana women come in ranked No. 5 with 155 points, trailing NSIC rival Minnesota Duluth by 13 points. Grand Valley State took the top spot tallying all eight first-place votes. Among the returning athletes for the Augustana women is sophomore Annie Kruse, a Yankton native who finished 36th in the NCAA Division II Championships last fall. The Vikings last year both finished in the top-5 at the NCAA Championship, with the men placing third and the women placing fifth. Augustana will open the 2015 season hosting the Augustana Twilight on Friday Sept. 4, at Yankton Trails Park. Competition begins with high school JV girls' and boys' races at 6:30 and 7 p.m., followed by varsity races at 7:30 and 8 p.m. The college women's race is set for 8:30 p.m., with the college men's race set for 9 p.m.

SDSU Football Clinic Sept. 12

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota State University football team will host its annual youth clinic in conjunction with the home opener on Sept. 12. The free clinic, which is open to children in grades K-8, will run from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on the practice fields directly east of Coughlin-Alumni Stadium. Children attending the clinic will receive a ticket to that night's game against Southern Utah (6 p.m. kickoff) and a Jackrabbits schedule poster. Pre-registration is encouraged. Online registration is available at GoJacks.com or call the Jackrabbit Ticket Office at 1-866-GO JACKS for more information.

UND Joins NDSU in Paying Stipends For Scholarship Players

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — The University of North Dakota is joining its in-state Division I counterparts in providing stipends to all of its scholarship athletes. UND announced Wednesday it would give players in all sports who get scholarships additional stipends to cover the full cost of attending college, beginning with the 2016-17 season.

The school is already doing so for men's and women's hockey. North Dakota State announced last week it would provide stipends for athletes in all its sports in 2016-17. UND athletic director Brian Faison says the move lets coaches compete against regional schools for recruits. Some mid-major schools have said they would offer stipends in some sports, but NDSU, UND and Liberty University are the only ones that plan to give cost-of-attendance scholarships in all sports.

Milone, Twins Blank White Sox 3-0

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Tommy Milone struck out seven in seven innings and Miguel Sano hit another monster home run to help the Minnesota Twins beat the Chicago White Sox 3-0 on Wednesday night. Milone (7-4) gave up three hits and finished seven innings for the first time since July 8. Trevor Plouffe added two hits and two RBIs and Kevin Jepsen picked up his 10th save for the Twins, who started the day one game behind Texas for the second AL wild card. Carlos Rodon (6-6) gave up two runs and five hits with four strikeouts and three walks in six innings for the White Sox. Sano was named AL rookie of the month for August on Wednesday, but was late to the ballpark so he could get an MRI on his ailing hamstring. The exam revealed a strain, but doctors advised that he could play through

the injury, and the Twins desperately need his big bat in the middle of the lineup. It didn't take him long to make an impact. Sano led off the second inning with a 439-foot blast to dead center that hit half-way up the giant black wall behind the center field fence. It was his 15th of the season in just his 51st game. But when he wasn't homering, Sano wasn't of much use. Hesitant to run on his bad leg, Sano slowly jogged down the first base line on a slow roller to first that the White Sox easily turned into a 3-6-1 double play in the fourth inning. The homer left Sano's bat at 108 mph, but Rodon settled down after that. The left-hander struck out Eddie Rosario three times and got out of a two-on, no-out jam in the fourth without allowing a run. Rodon left after giving up a leadoff single in the seventh to Eduardo Escobar. Catcher

Tyler Flowers' errant pickoff throw to first base when Jose Abreu was not covering helped the Twins load the bases with no outs. Plouffe followed with a two-out, two-run double off Daniel Webb for some insurance runs. Milone allowed one runner to reach second base in a sparkling outing. TRAINER'S ROOM Twins: Closer Glen Perkins was given the night off with tightness in his lower back. ... GM Terry Ryan said RHP Phil Hughes, on the DL with lower back inflammation, will throw a bullpen on Thursday. UP NEXT RHP Kyle Gibson (9-9, 3.82) will pitch for the Twins in the series finale against RHP Jeff Samardzija (8-11, 4.85). Gibson has a 0.56 ERA in 16 innings over two starts against the White Sox this season. Samardzija is 3-1 with a 5.12 ERA in his career against the Twins.

K-State Students Asked To Sign Sportsmanship Pledge

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Kansas State students will have to sign a sportsmanship pledge before they can pick up their tickets for sporting events this year. The pledge requires students to refrain from using profanity and inappropriate chants and to show respect for all athletes, coaches, fans and officials, The Wichita Eagle reported. Students and athletic administrators together came up with the idea of the sportsmanship pledge, the first in the

Big 12 Conference. The pledge followed problems that arose during a Kansas State-Kansas basketball game last season in Manhattan. Students chanted inappropriate language during the game and stormed the court afterward, and one student seemed to intentionally bump a Kansas player. "We want to take the lead in the Big 12 and try to have our student section be representative of the type of environment

that should be present at college sporting events," said Scott Garrett, K-State's senior associate athletic director for external operations. If a student violates the sportsmanship pledge, he or she risks punishment from the school, including having their tickets taken away for the year's remainder. Kansas State officials say students who behave badly during games will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Jacks

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but who will step forward as a top offensive weapon in the backfield — consider: The rest of the team had 461 yards and three touchdowns last season. Another key area for SDSU is at quarterback, where the Jacks will look to replace Summer, the program's all-time leading passer. Zach Lujan saw time in nine games, including seven games in place of the injured Summer, and finished with 1,943 yards, 13 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. That kind of experience could be invaluable, Stiegelmeier said. "I learned years ago, if you want to have someone coming back with experience, the most important position is quarterback," he said. There are certainly other quarterbacks on the roster that have been pushing Lujan during fall camp, but the experience Lujan gained a year ago probably gives him the edge. "His experience and confidence, you can't measure that," Stiegelmeier said. "He's a great leader." The Jackrabbits also return leading receiver

Jake Wieneke, who was the runner-up for FCS Freshman of the Year after catching 73 passes for 1,404 yards and 16 touchdowns. Having graduated Jason Schneider (60-876, 6 TD), the Jacks are also in the market for a No. 2 option at receiver — Trevor Wesley (35-427, 1 TD) could be it. It's on defense, however, where the Jacks are especially experienced. They bring back their top three tacklers, T.J. Lally (117 tackles, 1 sack), Nick Mears (96 tackles, 1 INT) and Jesse Bobbit (90 tackles), as well as the likes of Jimmie Forsythe, Dallas Brown, Cole Langer, J.R. Plote, Shayne Gottlob, Soulek and Je Ryan Butler. "The strength of our team should start out being our defense," Stiegelmeier said. On special teams, SDSU will look to freshman Brady Hale (a Yankton native) at punter and either Jay Carlson or Chase Vinatieri at place-kicker. Particularly in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, which sent five teams to the FCS playoffs last year, experience and depth across the board certainly can't hurt. "I think we have a good shot at being at the top of the conference, which is huge," Soulek said. "It's the best in the country. "If we can stay healthy, it

should be a good year." The Jackrabbits open the season Sept. 5 at Kansas, a program that has a new head coach (David Beatty) and a total of nine wins over the past four seasons. "Our positive is that we've been running the same stuff, and their guys just started running it in the spring," Stiegelmeier said. Follow @jhoeck on Twitter

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for baseball games and scores. Includes American League, National League, and MLB scores.

AREA CALENDAR

Table of area calendar events for Thursday, September 3. Includes Cross Country, Soccer, Golf, and Tennis events.

Table of area calendar events for Friday, September 4. Includes Cross Country, Soccer, Golf, and Tennis events.

Table of area calendar events for Saturday, September 5. Includes Soccer, Golf, and Tennis events.

FOOTBALL

Table of football events including NFL Preseason, Thursday games, and National Lacrosse League fixtures.

TRANSACTIONS

Table of baseball transactions including National League and American Association moves.

NATIONAL LACROSSE LEAGUE

Table of National Lacrosse League fixtures and player news.

Highest Ranking, Early Opener Push No. 2 TCU Past 2014 Snub

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

Trevone Boykin and his buddies at TCU have grown tired of hearing about last season, when the Horned Frogs shared the Big 12 title but were left out of the first College Football Playoff. The second-ranked Horned Frogs finally get to start fresh with an early opener. They are at Minnesota on Thursday night with their highest preseason ranking ever. "The talk is cheap and I'm ready to just go out there and play the game," said Boykin, considered an early Heisman Trophy front-runner after finishing fourth in the voting last season. Funny how perceptions of TCU and its senior quarterback have changed in a year's time. Last August, coach Gary Patterson's team was coming off a 4-8 season and putting in a new up-tempo offense with new co-coordinators. There was uncertainty, at least publicly, about whether Boykin would even be the starting quarterback before what was a record-setting season. "Our mindset really hasn't changed," Boykin said this week. "Our mindset is just like we came off a 4-8 season." Boykin accounted for 4,608 total yards and 42 touchdowns as TCU finished 12-1, capped by a 42-3 victory over Ole Miss in the Peach Bowl after the playoff snub. Minnesota got off to a 6-1 start a year ago on way to their second consecutive 8-5 season. That early loss was 30-7 to TCU when the Golden Gophers had five turnovers in Fort Worth. Now they get a prime-time home opener in the return game of the series that Patterson and good friend Jerry Kill reluctantly

scheduled in the first place. The coaches, both rural Kansas natives, were coy leading up to the game. They didn't even release depth charts until about 48 hours before kickoff. "I think it soaked into our players as soon as the offseason started that we were going to open up with somebody that was either going to be No. 1 or No. 2 in the country," Kill said. "So I think our work habits were different. I think it helped us out tremendously." Some other things to know when TCU and Minnesota play: GOING FASTER: Now that Boykin and the Frogs have a full season of experience in the offense, along with another offseason to work on it with 10 returning starters, the quarterback said they are going to play "as fast as possible. ... We know we have a lot of speed on our side." They will also have more plays at their disposal to start this season than they did in Week 1 last year. "There's going to be a lot of surprises in this ballgame, even from our offense," Patterson said. EXPERIENCED SECOND-ARY: Minnesota has seniors Brian Boddy-Calhoun, Antonio Johnson, Eric Murray and Damarius Travis all back in its secondary. The Golden Gophers held opponents to 194 yards passing a game and came up with 15 interceptions last season. Patterson said Murray was the best cornerback the Frogs faced last season, when they were 0-4-4 trying to throw to speedster Kolby Listenbee when he was covered by Murray. NOT TOP 10: The Gophers' last victory over a top 10 team was 29-17 at No. 6 Ohio State in October 2000, a year after they won 24-23 at

No. 2 Penn State. They have lost their last nine games against top 10 teams. GETTING SHARPER: Gophers junior quarterback Mitch Leidner struggled at times last season, when he completed only about half of his passes. Of his 11 TDs, seven were thrown to departed tight end Maxx Williams. Kill said Leidner has "been unbelievable sharp" in preseason practice of late. "It's the best I've seen him look since I've been here," the coach said. "He's done a really, really good job. ... He's got a boatload of confidence right now and more confidence than I've seen him have since I've been here." DEFENSE: While acknowledging that TCU would be without two key defensive players for the opener, Patterson wasn't saying who they were. But missing from the depth chart was defensive end James McFarland, the team leader last season with seven sacks and the defensive MVP in the Peach Bowl.

Advertisement for KYNT AM 1450 Morning Coffee. Features the station logo and text: 'MORNING COFFEE WEEKDAYS 7:40AM MONDAY THRU FRIDAY Yankton's Home Team!'.

Large advertisement for Yankton Bucks Football. Text includes 'YANKTON BUCKS FOOTBALL WITH THE BEST BROADCAST COVERAGE', 'Tom Pier, John Thayer & Brian Neuman Sidelines Play-By-Play Color Analyst', and 'Commentary Begins Friday Nights at 6pm'. Includes a photo of the analysts and the Bucks logo.