

# Abbott: Cost Of Attendance A ‘Necessary Move’ At USD

South Dakota Becomes Fourth FCS School To Offer ‘Full Cost Of Attendance’

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION – Nine years ago Jim Abbott proclaimed that University of South Dakota athletes and fans “deserve a competitive experience.”

That was during an announcement that USD would be making the move to Division I.

As the next decade has progressed and regional schools began offering what is referred to as “cost of attendance,” Abbott – USD’s president – said he realized his university needed to keep pace.

“It seems to be a necessary move to meet the competition,” Abbott told the Press & Dakotan on Friday, hours after USD announced it will provide cost of attendance stipends in all 17 sports beginning with the 2016-17 season.

The additional aid for Coyote student-athletes is a sign, the presi-

dent said, that USD is committed to succeeding at the D-I level.

“I don’t see much point going into a machine gun fight with a bow and arrow,” Abbott said. “If it’s a machine gun fight, you want to be able to be equal to the competition.”

And to that end, USD becomes the fourth FCS school – third in the Dakotas – to make such an announcement. Liberty (Virginia) was the first, and North Dakota State and the University of North Dakota followed suit.

While there may have been a rush to keep pace, USD had already said last week. It was just a matter of getting all the ducks in a row.

And once they were – after consultation with Vice President of Finance (Sheila Gestring), as well as financial aid officers and Herbster – USD forged ahead.

“It would’ve been easy to sit back

and say we’re not there yet, and make some excuses, but they didn’t do that,” said Lucky Huber, USD’s director of track and cross country.

“We made a commitment to be the best Division I school we can be, and we have to applaud them for that.”

What does Friday’s announcement mean?

Put simply, cost of attendance is the gap between the full cost of attending a school and the value of tuition, fees, boarding, and textbooks – the traditional definition of a scholarship.

Adopted on Aug. 1, new NCAA rules now allow for scholarships to include expenses such as academic-related supplies, transportation and other personal incidentals.

In the case of USD, those benefits would be valued up to \$4,145 per full scholarship, which is approximately 4-6 percent of the overall athletic department budget, according to

Herbster.

“At the end of the day, this is a commitment to the program, and to the student-athletes,” Herbster said.

While each situation is a “moving target” as Herbster put it (not every scenario will require the full amount), the max impact on the athletic department budget would be \$775,115 – realistically, less than that, for the 187 total scholarships.

How will USD go about raising that money? Donations, Abbott said.

“I have every reason to believe our athletic boosters; the Howling Pack, will step up like they always have to make sure we remain competitive,” he said.

Although certain amenities like a new weight room & sports medicine space, and cost of attendance don’t necessarily translate directly to improved success, they are all re-

## What Does ‘Full Cost Of Attendance’ Mean?

“College athletes in those conferences who receive full scholarships will now collect additional funds to cover the difference between what their athletics scholarship traditionally covered and the additional expenses that come from attending their school. So in addition to tuition, fees, books and room and board, the scholarship will also include expenses such as academic-related supplies and transportation, among others. The value of those benefits can differ from campus to campus.” — NCAA.org

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

The Yankton Bucks celebrate after a Rayden Terca touchdown run during the first half of their Eastern South Dakota Conference football game with Mitchell on Friday at Yankton’s Crane-Youngworth Field.

# Bucks Hold Off Mitchell

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Seven points.

That was all that separated Yankton and Mitchell on Friday night, but the Bucks don’t really care for now, they wanted the outcome: A win.

“We’ll take it,” said head coach Arlin Likness, whose team overcame some mistakes and a Kernels rally to notch a 21-14 victory at steamy Crane-Youngworth Field.

In winning a close game for the second straight week, the Bucks (2-0) once again survived. Despite leading by two touchdowns into the fourth quarter, Yankton needed a short run with a minute left to keep the ball and run out the clock.

“It all came down to mental toughness,” said senior quarterback Rayden Terca, who accounted for all three touchdowns — a pair of 1-yard runs and a 61-yard scoring pass.

“We knew they would come in here and try to beat us, so we had to be ready.”

Far from a clean first half on either side, the Bucks nonetheless reached the end zone twice — both times thanks to a long fourth down conversion to near the goal line.

On its first drive, Yankton got a

35-yard pass from Terca to Tanner Frick on 4th & 3. Terca then scored on a 1-yard run on the next play.

The Kernels responded, and as they did all game, they utilized their speed at the skill positions.

Spencer Neugebauer scored on a 24-yard run at the 4:28 mark, but the drive was helped by a pass interference call on the Bucks.

Yankton then faced a 4th & 21 on its next drive, but a Reid Sawatzke pass to Sheldon Gant for 21 yards later resulted in another Terca 1-yard touchdown run.

It was only the beginning of the impact from Terca, who was making his second varsity start.

“It feels great,” he said. “Words can’t describe how it feels to be out there playing like that.”

“At the end of the day, we got the win.”

It just took a while. And to survive a scare.

Yankton padded its lead on a 61-yard touchdown pass from Terca to Blake Savey at the 9:54 mark of the third quarter, at the time giving the Bucks a commanding 21-7 lead.

Yankton, however, went turnover on downs, punt and fumble on its next three possessions, giving the Kernels a chance for the rally.

“We missed some opportunities,” said Likness, who referenced

Yankton’s final drive of the first half when the Bucks marched all the way down to the Mitchell 3-yard line but didn’t score.

“That’s the kind of stuff that can’t happen.”

The Kernels took advantage, getting a 35-yard touchdown pass from Kanin Nelson to Sam Michels with 1:56 to play, bringing Mitchell within 21-14.

Yankton recovered the onside kick and needed a 2-yard Terca run on fourth down to keep the ball with the Bucks, thereby preserving the win.

Terca was one of a number of players who came in and provided a boost for the Bucks.

“We had some guys step up because of some injuries; a lot of guys playing both ways,” Terca said.

For the Kernels (0-2), meanwhile, they came up literally two plays short — recovering that late onside kick and potentially scoring, to tie the game.

“The difference was they were able to make a big play on us,” Mitchell coach Kent VanOverschelde said. “We’re the kind of team that can’t survive if we’re giving up big plays like that.”

Up next for the Bucks is a

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton quarterback Rayden Terca looks upfield on a run during the Bucks’ Eastern South Dakota Conference matchup with Mitchell on Friday at Crane-Youngworth Field.

## USD Opens At Kansas State Today

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION – While family members around him wore the purple and white in support of the Kansas State Wildcats, Aaron Ramsey preferred the black and gold of the Missouri Tigers.

## also

■ Check Out Our ‘Game Day’ Page With Info On The USD, SDSU And Husker Games. **PAGE 13**

The native of Stilwell, Kansas – south of Kansas City – is, however, quite familiar with Kansas State. He

knows all about Manhattan; the “Little Apple.” He went to football team camps at KSU. He was even recruited by the Wildcats.

Ramsey will, after all these years, have his chance to play a college football game at Kansas State. The only thing is, he’ll be wearing the red and white of the University of South Dakota.

“It’s definitely like coming home for me,” Ramsey said of tonight’s (Saturday) 6:10 p.m. season opener in Manhattan.

Ramsey, a 6-foot-3 tight end, is one of six players on the USD roster from the state of Kansas who grew up less than three hours from Manhattan. While on different ends of the Division I scale, USD and Kansas State – of the Big 12 – do have some recruiting overlaps in that area of the country.

Although there are few instances where a recruit would chose Kansas State over, say, USD, life does come full circle every once in a while.

“It’s crazy how that works out,” Ramsey said.

Eleven months ago, though, there was a pretty good chance he wouldn’t be able to play at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Ramsey, a converted quar-

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