

# Coyotes Set To Begin First Full Division I Season

South Dakota Opens With Preseason Game At Yankton's Laddie E. Cimpr Arena Wednesday

**BY JEREMY HOECK**  
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VERMILLION — The phrase "what's old is new again" might as well be hanging inside the DakotaDome locker room. Thanks to a combination of returning talent, transfers and freshmen, the University of South Dakota women's basketball team is looking to usher in the school's first full Division I season with a conference title.

The key, Ryan Williams said, will be getting all those pieces to play together as one group.

"It'll take time to develop chemistry, but trust me, this is a fun team to watch," the second-year head coach said. "It's almost like a slow cooker. It's a process, but when it's done, it'll be a neat product."

That product will kick off USD's first season in the Great West Conference, a Division I league that boasts six other members across the country.

Following a year in the independent ranks, where USD finished with an 18-11 record, the Coyotes can now return to a conference title battle.

"It'll be great to play for something," Williams said. "It's a nice incentive for our girls and their intensity. There will be a greater purpose behind this season."

Though the Coyotes were picked fourth in the preseason coaches poll, the other conference schools may still have a hard recognizing the 2009-10 USD squad.

With four transfers, three freshmen and one other key returner figuring to see significant minutes this season, USD may appear as a whole new team.

"Being (chosen) fourth doesn't

put the targets on our backs," senior forward Kara Iverson said. "The other teams have never seen most of our girls. We'll probably sneak up on them."

The players opposing teams will remember include USD's three returners, Kara Iverson (Sr., F, 6.2 points, 2.9 rebounds), Jasmine Mosley (Sr., C, 9.4 points, 5.1 rebounds, 105 assists) and Annie Roche (So., G, 9.2 points, 102 assists).

Another key returner will be seeing her first action in nearly two full years. Amber Hegge (So., F), who returns from a redshirt season, last saw action in USD's 2007-08 run to the Division II national title game.

USD also boasts a quartet of transfers, including two who redshirted last season, who should all play a big role for the Coyotes this season, Williams said.

- Teresa Case (Jr., G), a native of Sioux Falls, previously played at Wayne State College (Neb.), where she spent two seasons under coach Williams, who also came to USD. Case redshirted last season at USD and has two years of eligibility remaining.

- Jackie Hiebert (So., G/F), a native of Maple Grove, Minn., came to USD last year from D-I Ohio University. She played in 29 games for Ohio in her freshman season.

- Abby Kinder (Jr., G) comes to USD from Danville (Ind.) Area CC, where she was named the Midwest Athletic Conference Player of the Year last season.

- Jamie Young (Jr., F) transferred to USD from Clarendon College in Texas. As a sophomore last season, she averaged 6.5 points and 6.6 rebounds per game.

Among the four freshmen the

Turn to **GAME** on Page 10



Senior Jasmine Mosley is the top returning scorer for South Dakota, having posted 9.4 points and 5.1 rebounds a game a year ago. She was also the team leader in assists, averaging 3.6 per game.

**SOUTH DAKOTA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

**2009-10 Season Schedule**

Wed, Nov 11	vs. Winona State (exh.) (Yankton)	7 p.m.
Sun, Nov 15	Wisconsin-Green Bay (Sioux Falls)	3 p.m.
Tue, Nov 24	Iowa Wesleyan (Vermillion)	7 p.m.
Sun, Nov 29	at Wichita State (Wichita, Kan.)	2:05 p.m.
Thu, Dec 3	at Nebraska (Lincoln, Neb.)	7:05 p.m.
Sun, Dec 6	at Santa Clara (Santa Clara, Calif.)	4 p.m.
Thu, Dec 10	Black Hills State (Vermillion)	7 p.m.
Sun, Dec 13	at Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls, Iowa)	3:05 p.m.
Sun, Dec 20	Mount Marty (Vermillion)	1 p.m.
Tue, Dec 29	at Cal State Northridge (Northridge, Calif.)	9 p.m.
Sat, Jan 2	at Colorado State (Fort Collins, Colo.)	3:05 p.m.
Tue, Jan 5	at Iowa State (Ames, Iowa)	7 p.m.
Sun, Jan 10	Seattle (Vermillion)	1 p.m.
Sat, Jan 16	North Dakota * (Vermillion)	6 p.m.
Mon, Jan 18	at SIU Edwardsville (Edwardsville, Ill.)	2 p.m.
Thu, Jan 21	at Utah Valley * (Drem, Utah)	5:30 p.m.
Sat, Jan 23	at North Dakota * (Grand Forks, N.D.)	5 p.m.
Mon, Jan 25	Sioux Falls (Vermillion)	7 p.m.
Thu, Jan 28	at Houston Baptist * (Houston, Texas)	5:30 p.m.
Sat, Jan 30	at Texas Pan-American * (Edinburg, Texas)	2:15 p.m.
Sat, Feb 6	at Seattle (Seattle, Wash.)	4 p.m.
Thu, Feb 11	Chicago State * (Vermillion)	6 p.m.
Sat, Feb 13	New Jersey Tech * (Vermillion)	6 p.m.
Mon, Feb 15	at South Dakota State (Brookings)	7 p.m.
Thu, Feb 18	Utah Valley * (Vermillion)	6 p.m.
Sun, Feb 21	SIU Edwardsville (Vermillion)	2 p.m.
Thu, Feb 25	at New Jersey Tech * (Newark, N.J.)	4 p.m.
Sat, Feb 27	at Chicago State * (Chicago, Ill.)	2 p.m.
Thu, Mar 4	Texas Pan-American * (Vermillion)	6 p.m.
Sat, Mar 6	Houston Baptist * (Vermillion)	6 p.m.
Mar 10-Mar 13	at Great West Championship (Drem, Utah)	TBA

\* Great West Conference game

**About The Coyotes**

**2008-09 RECORD:** 18-11

**STARTERS LOST (4):** Bridget Voerger (16.7 ppg, 9.7 rpg), Ashley Wieman (11.7 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 98 three-pointers), Maggie Youngberg (7.6 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 62 three-pointers)

**OTHERS LOST:** Natalie Carda (2.7 ppg, 2.4 rpg), Kelli Fargen (2.4 ppg, 1.7 rpg), Kembra Schomer (2.0 ppg), Michelle Dirks (1.3 ppg), Haley Juhnke (1.6 ppg), Amy Robinson (0.3 ppg), Hannah Youngberg (0.3 ppg)

**STARTERS RETURNING (3):** Jasmine Mosley (Sr., 9.4 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 3.6 apg), Annie Roche (So., 9.2 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 3.5 apg), Kara Iverson (Sr., 6-1, F, 6.2 ppg, 2.9 rpg)

**ALSO RETURNING:** Amber Hegge (So., 6-1, F, redshirted in 2008-09; 7.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 54 blocked shots)

**TRANSFERS:** Teresa Case (Jr., 5-6, PG, Transfer from Wayne State, redshirted in 2008-09), Jackie Hiebert (So., 5-9, G/F, Transfer from Ohio University, redshirted in 2008-09; Abby Kinder (Jr., 5-10, G, Transfer from Danville Area CC), Jamie Young (Jr., 6-1, F, Transfer from Clarendon College)

**FRESHMEN:** Emily Guenther (6-1, F, Southeast Polk HS, Altoona, Iowa); Sam Mehr (5-9, G, Eastview HS, Apple Valley, Minn.); McKayla Knudson (6-1, F, South Sioux City, Neb.); Pamela January (5-9, G, Edinfield, Minn.)

## Vermillion's Roche Brings Energy To South Dakota Lineup



Vermillion native Annie Roche brings "fire" to the Coyote lineup from her point guard position.

**BY JEREMY HOECK**  
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VERMILLION — Though fans may only see a blur of white and red, and defenders may only see the back of her jersey, Annie Roche claims there is indeed a method to the madness.

Put simply, it's energy. The speedy sophomore guard for the University of South Dakota women's basketball team has brought an intensity and "fire" — as her coach puts it — that, at times, is unmatched by opponents.

"My adrenaline gets going sometimes, and I forget to stop," the Vermillion native said with a chuckle.

"I always think, 'Maybe I should slow down a bit.'"

That thought has served as a microcosm of Roche's brief career for the Coyotes. The former Vermillion Tanagers prep standout redshirted at USD during the 2007-08 season, and then became the team's primary ball handler last season, when the Coyotes went 18-11.

Roche averaged 9.2 points and 2.2 rebounds in her first sea-

son on the court for USD, and led the team in minutes.

Yet, it was the work Roche put in between games that may be her biggest strength, according to her coach.

"Nobody's put in more gym time than Annie," second-year coach Ryan Williams said. "She's our hardest worker and most dedicated player."

"That's amazing when you can say that about one person."

But even before Roche developed into the devil-may-care guard who caused problems for Division I opponents last season, she was once an unassuming freshman watching a veteran USD squad play in the D-II national title game.

"Before last year, I didn't know what my role would be," she said. "But the more games I played, the easier things got. There were a lot of ups and downs, though."

Among the ups for Roche last season were 14 double-digit point games — including a

career-high 17 against Colorado Springs — and a six-assist out-pout in the season finale against North Carolina.

"She really grew up last year," Williams said. "She learned to score the ball quite well, and showed she can step back and knock down a three."

Though just a second-year freshman, Roche was second on the team with 102 assists, yet says she was still hesitant at times.

"I was pretty apprehensive about some things last year, but now, I know what to expect," she said. "I'm not quite as nervous anymore."

Though she displayed an ability to continually find lanes to the hoops, Roche found herself in odd situations last year, her coach said.

"She's always been able to put it on the floor and get to the basket," Williams said. "But she had to learn to make the right decision when people stop her. That was a growing area of improvement for her."

As she prepares for the 2009-10 season, which begins with a Nov. 11 exhibition in Yankton, Roche finds herself as a returner on a team that boasts seven newcomers who figure to see time.

"We've got so many new girls, so it'll be new in some ways," she said. "I love the transfers (Teresa Case, Jackie Hiebert and Abby Kinder) we brought in, and I'm pumped to have Amber (Hegge) back."

The Coyotes open the regular season Nov. 15 with a game against Wisconsin-Green Bay in Sioux Falls.

USD will also face Wichita State, Nebraska, Santa Clara, Northern Iowa, Colorado State and Iowa State in its non-conference slate before Great West Conference play begins next January.

"Playing teams like that early in the season is a good thing," Roche said. "We'll know for sure where we stand before the conference season."

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