

# Men's Basketball at USD edges Nebraska-Omaha for first win

By Jeremy Hoeck

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Following two sub-par offensive outputs, the South Dakota men's basketball team needed a spark.

Something to get the Coyotes rolling.

For now, put a check mark next to that goal.

"We're a developing team. We have a lot of work to do," said coach Dave Boots, whose team edged Nebraska-Omaha 83-81 in a nail-biter Sunday afternoon at the DakotaDome.

The Coyotes (1-2) moved freshman guard Brandon Bos into the starting lineup and gave Nimrod Hilliard – another freshman – 25 minutes at the point guard spot.

"The kids are working hard, we're just not hitting all cylinders with defense or the offense right now," Boots added of the home opener. "It was certainly a team win."

Not only did the Coyotes beat their future Summit League rivals, they bettered their season scoring average by nearly 30 points.

Oddly enough, it was two free throws by Trevor Gruis with 6.3 seconds left that proved to be the difference.

"It was close and guys made some plays at the end, but we shouldn't have ever been in that position to begin with," said Gruis, who scored 15 points and hauled in six rebounds.

"It was definitely nice to get that win in a tough situation like this."

Nebraska-Omaha (1-3), in its first year in the Division I transition, got a combined 42 points from Mitch Albers (23) and Alex Welhouse (19) – a duo that made life miserable for the Coyote defense all day.

A three-pointer by Welhouse with 2:10 left tied the game at 79. Albers later hit two free throws to put UNO ahead 81-79 with 1:43 left.

USD's Steve Tecker hit a corner jumper at the 46.0 second mark to tie the game at 81. The Mavericks had a couple of chances under the basket with 15 seconds left, but couldn't convert.

The Coyotes drove down the court, got the ball to Gruis, who was fouled. Nebraska-Omaha's C.J. Carter drove down the court and had a reverse layup deflected away by USD's Ricardo Andreotti – sealing the tight win for the Coyotes.

"We pulled out a close game; sometimes it's hard to do in college," said senior guard Louie Krogman, who scored a team-high 16 points – all in the first half. "Trevor made two huge free throws, but we've got to play better in the second half."

"It should have never been that close, but you live and you learn."

Chief among those areas of improvement was defense, according to Boots. UNO made seven of its first eight shots to start the second half,

with most coming on layups or looks under the basket.

"Our man to man defense was not good; that was not acceptable," Boots said. "Believe me, we have spent most of our time in the fall and early practices just continually working on that area."

"You've got to have great athletes to be a great defensive team, and we're not all the way through with that."

The offense, however, showed more direct signs of progression – compared to the losses at Nebraska and Eastern Washington.

With Hilliard doing most of the point guard duties, Krogman was able to play the off-guard position, which he said could be the plan moving forward. Hilliard posted eight points, four rebounds and three assists in his debut.

Charlie Westbrook scored 15 points and dished out six assists, while Jordan Boots added 11 points off the bench. Fellow reserve Steve Tecker recorded nine points and eight rebounds.

"We had better spacing on the floor," Krogman said. "I think we attacked a lot more on the dribble and guys made better decisions."

The Coyotes return to road action on Tuesday for an 8 p.m. matchup at Wyoming.



South Dakota's Trevor Gruis shoots over the top of Nebraska-Omaha's Mitch Albers during their men's basketball game Sunday at the DakotaDome. Gruis hit two free throws with 6.3 seconds left to seal an 83-81 Coyote victory.

(Photo By David Lias)



MEIERKORT

## Meierkort's contract not renewed

University of South Dakota Athletic Director David Saylor announced Tuesday that head football coach Ed Meierkort's contract will not be renewed. The current contract expires June 30, 2012.

A committee will be formed immediately to begin a national search for a new head coach, according to Saylor.

The move comes on the heels of a 6-5 record in the 2011 season and is right before the Coyotes will move from the Great West Conference to the Missouri Valley Football Conference as their transition to NCAA Division I is complete this year.

"I thank Ed for his hard work during his eight years with the South Dakota football program," said Saylor following the announcement. "With the Division I transition almost complete and entering the Missouri Valley Football Conference next year, I felt it was important for the program to have a new direction in leadership."

Meierkort was hired in 2004 and guided the Coyotes through the transition to a 54-35 record in his eight seasons at the helm of the Coyote program. He led the Coyotes to the NCAA Division II playoffs in 2006 as they went 1-1 in the playoffs with a win at Northwood (Mich.), prior to the transition in 2007. In 2010, Meierkort led the Coyotes to a 41-38 upset at Football Bowl Subdivision and Big Ten Conference member Minnesota.

Prior to coming to South Dakota, Meierkort was the head coach at University of Wisconsin-Stout where he compiled a 55-55 record in 11 seasons from 1993-2003. In his 19 seasons as a head coach, Meierkort has compiled a 109-90 record.

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## Vermillion Area Swim Team turns heads in Sioux Center

Nineteen swimmers from the Vermillion Area Swim Team made the hour-long trip to Sioux Center, IA, Saturday, Nov. 12 and impressed more than their coach.

VAST swimmers accounted for 30 first-place finishes throughout the day, along with an impressive list of new best times.

Two swimmers from VAST didn't even lose an event. Eight-year-old Megan Muriuki and 10-year-old Isabel Telleria each won five out of five events in their age groups.

Gabe Telleria, 8, and Madisen Martinez, 12, each added three wins.

The end of the day proved to be probably the best part. After nearly all the spectators and swimmers left after the last relay, the 500-yard freestyle was swum as the last event of the day. In this event, swimmers need to complete 20 lengths of the pool. Nine-year-old Hunter Lavin stepped to the blocks to swim the event, which turned some heads at the pool.

"He asked me in practice about two weeks ago to swim this race," said Head Coach Mike Moran. "I was reluctant to let him at first, but since he really wanted to go for it, I let him and he wowed a lot of people who stuck around to watch the race. I am really proud of him – that is not easy for any 9-year-old."

A big cheer came from the crowd when Lavin touched the wall. He finished first in his age group with a time of 8:15.98, in a heat that featured two other boys who were six years older.

The team put together some great relays for the day as well. In the 8 and Under division, Muriuki teamed up with Annika Granaas, Tally Allison and Kayleen Job to win the 100 Freestyle Relay. In the mixed gender 10 and

Under 100 Medley relay, Allison, Job, Muriuki and Gabe Telleria finished in 3rd place.

In the 9-12 age group, the mixed gender 200 Freestyle Relay winner was the all-girls team from VAST. Madisen Martinez, Abril Telleria, Lexie Malimanek, and Maddie Lavin touched the wall first in 2:05.55. Taking 3rd place in the same relay in the 9-12 division was the team of Isabel Telleria, Brady Martinez, Hunter Lavin and Anna Van Holland. They finished with a time of 2:34.93.

VAST gets a break from meets until Dec. 3, when the team travels to Sioux City, Iowa, to take part in the Sioux City Mariners Tri-State meet. A week after that, some swimmers from VAST will be going to Lincoln, Neb., to swim in the Greater Nebraska Swim Team Winter Invite, featuring some of the fastest swimmers in Nebraska and the region.

### VAST RESULTS SATURDAY NOV. 12, 2011 ALL SEASON CENTER, SIOUX CENTER, IOWA

Tally Allison (age 7), Female 8 and Under — 43.79Y, 50/Free, 2nd place; 24.98Y, 25/Breast, 1st place; 1:50.12Y, 100/IM, 1st place; 21.94Y, 25/Back, 1st place; 1:43.89Y, 100/Free, 2nd place

Toria Andre (age 9), Female 9-10 — 43.59Y, 50/Free, 16th place; 3:45.65Y, 200/Free, 1st place; 56.41Y, 50/Back, 14th place; 1:50.84Y, 100/Free, 10th place

Alison Brennan (age 12), Female 11-12 — 39.11Y, 50/Free, 9th place; 54.68Y, 50/Breast, 3rd place; 1:03.81Y, 50/Back, 10th place; 1:30.64Y, 100/Free, 8th place

Annika Granaas (age 8), Female 8 and Under — 52.60Y, 50/Free, 5th place; 36.81Y, 25/Breast, 7th place; 2:22.87Y, 100/IM, 3rd place;

26.28Y, 25/Back, 5th place; 25.65Y, 25/Free, 7th place

Olivia Granaas (age 9), Female 9-10 — 52.76Y, 50/Free, 21st place; 1:11.81Y, 50/Breast, 18th place; 2:17.39Y, 100/IM, 15th place; 51.89Y, 50/Back, 12th place; 1:59.88Y, 100/Free, 12th place

Anna Hakemer (age 13), Female 13-15 — 30.57Y, 50/Free, 5th place; 2:28.28Y, 200/Free, 5th place; 1:31.49Y, 100/Breast, 5th place; 1:22.46Y, 100/Back, 5th place; 1:09.76Y, 100/Free, 4th place

Kayleen Job (age 7), Female 8 and Under — 48.71Y, 50/Free, 3rd place; 26.91Y, 25/Breast, 2nd place; 25.41Y, 25/Back, 4th place; 23.59Y, 25/Free, 4th place

Jacob Krier (age 15), Male 15 & Over — 25.90Y, 50/Free, 2nd place; 2:05.83Y, 200/Free, 3rd place; 57.11Y, 100/Free, 1st place; 5:48.27Y, 500/Free, 1st place

Hunter Lavin (age 9), Male 9-10 — 40.18Y, 50/Free, 5th place; 52.68Y, 50/Breast, 3rd place; 1:44.42Y, 100/IM, 3rd place; 52.96Y, 50/Back, 6th place; 8:15.98Y, 500/Free, 1st place

Maddie Lavin (age 11), Female 11-12 — 2:44.41Y, 200/Fly, 1st place; 2:23.01Y, 200/Free, 1st place; 1:13.73Y, 100/IM, 3rd place; 1:17.09Y, 100/Back, 2nd place; 6:17.02Y, 500/Free, 3rd place

Lexie Malimanek (age 12), Female 11-12 — 30.26Y, 50/Free, 2nd place; 38.63Y, 50/Breast, 1st place; 1:13.40Y,

100/IM, 2nd place; 2:41.02Y, 200/Back, 1st place; 6:08.40Y, 500/Free, 2nd place

Brady Martinez (age 9), Male 9-10 — 39.44Y, 50/Free, 4th place; 55.76Y, 50/Breast, 4th place; 1:51.15Y, 100/IM, 7th place; 58.82Y, 50/Back, 11th place; 1:39.94Y, 100/Free, 3rd place

Madisen Martinez (age 12), Female 11-12 — 32.27Y, 50/Fly, 2nd place; 2:58.81Y, 200/Breast, 1st place; 36.92Y, 50/Back, 1st place; 1:06.72Y, 100/Free, 1st place; 6:50.63Y, 500/Free, 4th place

Kyleigh Moran (age 13), Female 13-14 — 30.82Y, 50/Free, 6th place; 2:25.74Y, 200/Free, 4th place; 3:05.18Y, 200/Breast, 1st place;

1:21.39Y, 100/Back, 4th place; 6:30.99Y, 500/Free, 1st place

Megan Muriuki (age 8), Female 8 and Under — 35.33Y, 50/Free, 1st place; 45.15Y, 50/Fly, 1st place; 51.45Y, 50/Breast, 1st place; 45.13Y, 50/Back, 1st place; 1:23.39Y, 100/Free, 1st place

Abril Telleria (age 12), Female 11-12 — 36.60Y, 50/Free, 8th place; 3:20.47Y, 200/Breast, 2nd place; 1:29.01Y, 100/Back, 4th place; 1:20.18Y, 100/Free, 6th place; 7:46.89Y, 500/Free, 5th place

Gabe Telleria (age 8), Male 8 and Under — 21.31Y, 25/Fly, 1st place; 3:28.23Y, 200/Free, 1st place; 59.52Y, 50/Breast, 1st place; 22.55Y, 25/Back, 3rd place; 17.94Y, 25/Free, 2nd place

Isabel Telleria (age 10), Female 9-10 — 36.54Y, 50/Free, 1st place; 49.12Y, 50/Breast, 1st place; 1:29.05Y, 100/IM, 1st place; 1:32.87Y, 100/Back, 1st place; 1:21.44Y, 10/Free, 1st place

Anna Van Holland (age 10), Female 9-10 — 46.23Y, 50/Fly, 1st place; 49.68Y, 50/Breast, 3rd place; 1:36.27Y, 100/IM, 4th place; 1:23.60Y, 100 Free, 2nd place

## sudoku Solution

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6	9	8	4	7	5	3	1	2
4	1	2	6	8	3	7	5	9
5	7	3	2	1	9	4	8	6
9	8	4	5	6	2	1	3	7
2	6	7	8	3	1	9	4	5
3	5	1	9	4	7	6	2	8
8	4	9	1	5	6	2	7	3
1	3	6	7	2	8	5	9	4
7	2	5	3	9	4	8	6	1

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