

Coyote men fall to Canisius

Heartland Humane Society to host photo event Nov. 23

MAAC Preseason Player of the Year Billy Baron scored a game-high 27 points and drilled a go-ahead three-pointer with 57 seconds left to lead Canisius to a season-opening 71-66 win against the University of South Dakota Monday evening at the Koessler Athletic Center.

It was the fourth meeting between the two programs in the last four years and the first time the home team has emerged victorious. Baron made just 6 of 15 shots from the field, but had half of the Griffs' 10 three-pointers and went 10 of 11 from the free-throw line.

Senior center Trevor Gruis needed one rebound to become the 11th player in program history to score 1,000 points and pull down 600 rebounds. He got nine boards

Monday and scored a team-high 18 points on 7 of 12 shooting.

"My hat's off to Trevor," said USD head coach Joey James. "He deserves it. He has been a four-year starter for us and we really appreciate all the hard work he has put in as a Coyote."

Gruis gave the Coyotes a 64-62 lead with a one-handed shot in the lane with two minutes to go. Chris Manhertz tied the game with two free throws on the other end, then got a steal on defense moments before Baron hit his long trey from the top of the key.

USD point guard Trey Norris drew a foul and made two free throws to pull the Coyotes within one, 67-66, with 51 seconds left. Chris Perez hit a jumper from the side of the basket with 20 seconds left to

push the Grifs' lead back to three.

James called timeout with 16 seconds to go. Norris took the inbound pass, worked off a high screen and pulled up for 3 from the left side of the key. The shot was short. Baron rebounded and was fouled with five seconds left. His two free throws sealed the win.

Canisius led 21-12 eight minutes into the contest, but the Coyotes pulled within two points, 35-33, before halftime. USD guard Brandon Bos scored 10 of his 13 points in the first half and knocked down three 3-pointers. Tyler Larson's 10 points off the bench gave USD three double-digit scorers.

Jordan Heath had 12 points on 6 of 9 shooting and added eight rebounds for Canisius. Phil Valenti had a game-high 10 rebounds to go with six points.

Photographer Jamie Selves and Slumberland Furniture is teaming up with Heartland Humane Society to host its annual Pet Photos Saturday, Nov. 23, at Slumberland Furniture in Yankton.

The event will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the furniture store on Broadway. Families or individuals wanting to get their photo taken are encouraged to make an appointment by calling HHS at (605) 664-4244. All proceeds will benefit the animal shelter.

"This is a fun event to celebrate the pets in our lives," said Kerry Schmidt, executive director at Heartland Humane Society. "Get your family's picture taken – with or without pets and help support all of our shelter animals this holiday season."

Cost is \$30 for the first pose and \$15 for each additional pose. Participants will receive a CD of

their photos with a photographer release.

Slumberland Furniture is coordinating a pet photo contest in conjunction with the event. Participants will have a chance to win a prize package for the best photo.

For more information, check out www.heartlandhumanesociety.net.

Heartland Humane Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves Yankton and Clay Counties in South Dakota and Cedar County in Nebraska and surrounding communities, protecting and enhancing the lives of companion animals by promoting healthy relationships between pets and people.

For more information, visit Heartland Humane Society at www.heartlandhumanesociety.net.

■ ROTC From Page 01

program will remain, Nelson said.

"It will hurt during the next couple of years," he said. "Some people aren't sure whether USD will have ROTC or not."

Ironically, Wednesday's announcement came as Nelson was meeting with USD faculty and student leaders about losing the school's ROTC program.

Now, Nelson is shifting gears as ROTC enters a new phase. He said he didn't know all the details on the criteria that will be used to judge the ROTC program.

"The 13 schools identified for closure were put on a 24-month probationary status," he said. "After one year, (Army officials) will look at the school. If there is improvement after one year, we will come off probation. If not, they will look at us after another year."

US Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD) had talked with USD and MMC officials about the ROTC closures. Johnson's office provided the Press & Dakotan with the copy of a letter it received this week from Army officials concerning the reversal of its decision.

The schools on probation that don't meet criteria or performance standards after the first year will receive one year's notice of intent to close the unit.

Programs that show improvement or meet evaluation criteria will be retained on probation for a second year. At the end of the 24-month period, those schools will be re-evaluated and either receive one year's notice of intent to close the unit or be retained.

The Army has directed a review of the criteria used to recommend the ROTC closures. "Once complete, the evaluation criteria will be used to reassess all ROTC programs nationwide," the letter said.

USD spokesman Phil Carter said university officials are learning about more information about the probationary status. "We are still waiting on the details and criteria for this future assessment," he said.

MMC President Joseph Benoit said the Army decision means the Catholic college can continue offering a ROTC program not likely otherwise possible.

"This is really exciting news for us," he said. "At least, in the short term, we can move forward with continuing to recruit students, knowing we do have a military science option on our campus."

Benoit said he has been notified that Nelson will call him today (Friday) for further discussion.

Through the collaboration with USD, Mount Marty students are offered military science classes on the Yankton campus by USD

instructors, Benoit said. The MMC students participate in group exercises and other required activities with the USD students at Vermillion.

The Mount Marty students can receive their Army commission while completing their degrees and earning a minor in military science, Benoit said. MMC has graduated seven commissioned officers since 1997, including one student last spring.

While relatively small at MMC, the ROTC program has remained important for the Catholic college, Benoit said. The program offers leadership training and ties in well with the college's liberal arts education and strength in areas such as nursing, he said.

Retaining the ROTC program comes at a critical time, as MMC rolls out its new strategic plan and was recently recognized as a military-friendly college, Benoit said. The ROTC program also brings with it

another opportunity for usage of the GI Bill for veterans and their dependents, he said.

"It's been a really good partnership which has allowed us as a small independent college to have a military science option," he said.

As part of an affiliate program, MMC students remain self-motivated as they take their courses and training away from the other ROTC students at USD, Nelson said.

"Alison Hoffman (of Mount Marty) is one of our top cadets," he said. "She was recently named the Distinguished Military Student (for the local ROTC program)."

For such a reason, Benoit wants to maintain the ROTC presence at MMC.

"We don't want this program to go away," he said. "We want to see this program continue for many, many years."

Nelson sees the discussion about ROTC as just part of a larger discussion about the nation's military future, particularly making do with less.

"We won the first battle, but it's not over," he said, quoting a colleague's thoughts on the recent ROTC decision.

However, Nelson believes his ROTC members provide the best example for recruiting and building up the local program.

"Our cadets are my best resource in getting out the story," he said.

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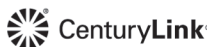
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