

WOMEN

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home and in the friendly confines. It's incredible. One thing I learned when we went to the NCAA tournament was that Coyote fans are crazy. They are really supportive and I love that. We are very fortunate to be in a community and a state that supports basketball and women's basketball. Any opportunity we have to play in front of them is awesome."

The Coyotes have almost a week off following their home date with the Anteaters. Their next game is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 30 in Milwaukee against Marquette University.

A look back at the Kansas game

LAWRENCE, Kan. - Chelsea Gardner's double-double of 24 points and 11

rebounds led the Kansas Jayhawks to a 68-60 win over the South Dakota women's basketball team in Allen Fieldhouse on Sunday afternoon.

Overall, the Coyotes led or tied the Jayhawks for 19 minutes and 27 seconds. The game had 11 lead changes and was tied 17 times.

Nicole Seekamp was the Coyotes leading scorer with 21 points while Raeshel Contreras added 17 points. Post player Margaret McCloud recorded her seventh career double-double with 10 points and 15 rebounds.

Outside Gardner, Kansas received 15 points from Natalie Knight and 11 points from Lauren Aldridge. All of Aldridge's points came off of free throws.

Kansas made more free throws than USD shot, shooting 28-for-36 from the charity stripe while USD made 16 of its 21

attempts.

Seekamp scored 14 points in the first half, shooting 5-for-11 with a pair of 3-pointers. South Dakota had more offensive rebounds (16) than defensive (11) during that half and had its largest lead of three points with 7:43 remaining. However, Kansas took a 33-32 lead at halftime behind 13 points from Gardner.

Contreras was USD's leading scorer in the second half with 12 points on 4-for-5 shooting. The Coyotes withstood a 13-5 run by Kansas out of the break, and fought back with a 12-1 run of their own over a seven minute stretch to take a 49-47 lead with 8:35 remaining. South Dakota held the Jayhawks to 0-for-9 shooting and forced three turnovers during that stretch.

Kansas scored 15 of the last 20 points in the game, and scored its last 11 points from the free-throw line.

- Courtesy of USD sports information

A look back at Drake win

DES MOINES, Iowa - Raeshel Contreras scored 24 points and hit a game winning 3-pointer with 19 seconds remaining to lift the South Dakota women's basketball team to a season opening 83-78 win over Drake in the Knapp Center on Friday night.

Contreras was USD's (1-0) leading scorer and rebounder, adding nine rebounds to her scoring effort. Kelly Stewart and Bridget Arens both came off the bench to add 15 points and 11 points respectively. The USD bench outscored Drake's 41-11.

South Dakota was also able to turn 15 offensive rebounds into a 19-3 advantage in second chance points.

- Courtesy of USD sports information



USD seniors (l-r) Melissa Firtko, Kendal Kritenbrink, and Riley Haug were honored at the final home game of the USD volleyball season on Sunday. The three seniors played their last even home match in the Coyote Den.

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a little longer.

This is a special team already, and we are looking forward to continuing our season one step at a time," Williamson said.

Championship Schedule

Friday, Nov. 21 - Quarterfinals

3:30 p.m. - Match One: (4) Oral Roberts (15-14, 9-7) vs. (5) North Dakota State (14-16, 8-8)
6 p.m. - Match Two: (3) South Dakota (18-11, 12-4) vs. (6) Fort Wayne (13-19, 7-9)

Saturday, Nov. 22 - Semifinals

3:30 p.m. - Match Three: (1) Denver (24-6, 13-3) vs. Winner Match One
6 p.m. - Match Four: (2) IUPUI (19-12, 13-3) vs. Winner Match Two

Sunday, Nov. 23

3 p.m. - Championship Match: Winner Match Three vs. Winner Match Four

A look back IUPUI match

South Dakota volleyball's rally from a 2-0 set deficit came up short as the IUPUI Jaguars claimed a share to the Summit League regular season title by topping the Coyotes 25-18, 25-23, 23-25, 20-25, 15-11 in The Den on Sunday. The match was USD's Senior Day celebration and the regular season finale.

Both teams entered the match in a three-way tie with Denver for first place in the league, and the loss drops USD (18-11, 12-4) to third-place in the final standings. The Coyotes will play Fort Wayne (13-19, 7-9) in the first round of the league tournament starting on Friday at 7 p.m. The tournament will be held on the campus of IUPUI.

The Jags (19-12, 13-3) snapped USD's 17-match home win streak against league opponents. Prior to Sunday, the Coyotes last home loss in league play was a 3-0 loss to Western Illinois on Oct. 14, 2012.

Four Coyotes recorded double-digit kills with Kendall Kritenbrink's 19 kills leading the way. The other three players to reach double-digit kills also had double-doubles. Audrey Reeg finished with 14 kills and 18 digs, Sydney Dimke added 14 kills and a career-high 22 digs and Melissa Firtko had 12 kills and 10 total blocks.

Brittany Jessen also finished with a double-double with 58 assists and 16 digs. Riley Haug was USD's leading defender with 24 digs.

Meredith Farkas tallied 21 kills and 17 digs while Kaitlyn Hickey added 16 kills and 17 digs to lead the Jaguars. Kelly Wachtel and Logan Walling both added 11 kills, Alexis Mapes tallied 45 assists and Beth Howard finished with 27 digs.

IUPUI had a hitting percentage of .409 over the first two sets, and entered the break with 33 kills to just six attack errors. The Jags led by as many as eight in the first set and never relinquished the lead in the second set after a four consecutive points gave them a 13-10 edge.

The Coyotes came back in the third set by tallying 18 kills with seven of those coming from Kritenbrink. They followed up by leading the fourth set from start to finish.

Farkas recorded seven kills in the final set as the Jags scored six of the match's final eight points. IUPUI gained seven points off of Coyote errors and never trailed during the set. Jessen and Firtko led the Coyote attack with two kills each.

Sunday's match was the home finale for USD's three seniors: Kritenbrink, Haug and Firtko. All three were recognized in a pre-match ceremony. Kritenbrink will leave USD as its all-time kills leader, Haug will leave as one of the program's top-10 digs leaders and Firtko departs as one of the top-10 blockers in program history.

- Jeremy Hoeck, the Press and Dakotan

HALT

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"There is some of that going on, people look to see what goes on head-to-head," Glenn said. "They want to see who wins and they count on that a lot. That means a lot to a lot of people.

"When you play your arch rivals you want to win and that's the bottom line. We need a win and we need a win so badly. To get one against our arch rivals it would be even sweeter."

They need something sweet after a season that included the Coyotes playing one of the toughest schedules in the country.

Now they hope to survive one more contest with a depleted roster beset by a number of injuries.

"We're a young team and right now we are starting the game with two seniors playing," Glenn said. "They just want a win and we worked too hard not to taste the fruits of victory. We are going to go out there and play the level best."

A look at the Illinois State game

Injuries, old ones and new ones, played a direct role in the latest setback for the University of South Dakota football team.

Missing three starters on the offensive line and each of the top three running backs, the Coyotes could do little else but watch as backups tried to hold their own against a top-10 opponent.

Ultimately, No. 7-ranked Illinois State took advantage, surging late to pick up a 45-26 Missouri Valley Football Conference victory over the Coyotes on Saturday afternoon at the DakotaDome.

"You could look on our bench and see that we look like a wounded unit on MASH, guys on crutches, guys in slings," said head coach Joe Glenn, whose team has now lost 11 straight league games.

Facing a patch-work offensive line, Illinois State (9-1, 6-1) out-gained the Coyotes 293-20 on the ground - keyed by 221 yards and two scores from standout Marshaun Coprich.

The combination of Coprich and quarterback Tre Roberson, who combined for 297 yards and three touchdowns, helped the Redbirds build a 204-yard edge in offensive production.

And still, the Coyotes had a chance.

"Once we calmed down and got that awe factor out of the way that he's a great running back, we were able to be gap sound and play with a lot of confidence," junior linebacker Keyen Lage said.

The Coyotes recovered three fumbles, and scored 14 points off those takeaways, but ultimately came up one drive short of a premier upset of a playoff-bound team.

Once down 21-0 in the second quarter, South Dakota rallied to get within 28-20 on a Kevin Earl 2-yard touchdown run and two-point conversion on the first play of the fourth

quarter.

The Redbirds, though, scored on their next two drives and never looked back.

"We believed we were going to win the ball game, no doubt," said Earl, who threw for 295 yards and two touchdowns. "There's no lack of confidence."

"Down just one score, anything can happen."

Scoreless on its first five drives, the Coyotes found an offensive - and defensive -- spark late in the second quarter.

South Dakota went touchdown pass (Earl to Kayl Barkley), fumble recovery on defense, then long touchdown pass (Earl to Eric Shufford). And the defense again recovered a fumble, giving the offense a chance to further dig into a 21-12 deficit.

Things returned to normal a bit when Illinois State intercepted a long Earl pass on the ensuing drive, and the Redbirds cashed it in with a 32-yard touchdown pass to Cameron Meredith to extend the lead to 28-12.

Nearing the end of another rough season, the Coyotes readjusted some goals for the final stretch, Glenn said. Chief among those was making plays in the second half.

"I know the score doesn't reflect it, but our team played better than we have been," Glenn said.

Following a scoreless third quarter, the Coyotes scored on the first play of the fourth quarter when Earl ran in from two yards out. The ensuing extra point was blocked, but USD recovered it for a 2-point conversion, to get within 28-20.

And that pretty much sealed the deal.

Illinois State responded with a 19-yard field goal, and following a USD punt, scored on a Roberson 9-yard run to go up 38-20 with 3:19 remaining.

Earl scored on a 1-yard run with 1:56 left, but the



The University of South Dakota's defense, in red, will have to step up big this weekend if the Coyotes hope to pull off a big road win at South Dakota State on Saturday in Brookings. USD hopes to end a seven-game losing streak.

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conversion pass failed, and the Redbirds added an interception return for a score from Josh Burch with nine seconds left to pad its margin.

"We just keep focusing on our job at hand," Earl said. "It doesn't matter what the score is, we're always going to be fighting until the last down."

It's just that injuries have popped up in a hurry for the Coyotes.

The list of those wounded included a new - and key - addition Saturday: Sophomore kicker/punter Miles Bergner left in the second quarter with a concussion and never returned.

Glenn, a passionate boxing fan, used a familiar analogy to describe his attempts to convince the medical staff to allow Bergner to return - "I see guys get punched in the first round, and they don't go back in the corner and have the doctor look at them."

Ultimately, though, the coaching staff was forced to approach freshman Ethan James of Vermillion about handling the kicking

duties. That meant burning his redshirt for essentially a half, and potentially two more if Bergner doesn't return next week.

The Coyotes will close out the season Saturday at South Dakota State University looking to avoid a winless league slate for the second time in three seasons.

Before bragging up the rivalry game as the "biggest game in the state, I don't care what they say," Glenn said the key for his squad is to find an extra gear to compete with the Jags.

"Everybody's got to play at a higher level than they're at," he said. "You have to be playing at mach one, there's no doubt."

- Jeremy Hoeck, the Press and Dakotan

Advertisement for New Underwood School District #51-3, including meeting information and a website link.

Advertisement for The Nutcracker Ballet by Linda Haar, featuring showtimes, location, and ticket information.

Large advertisement for UNLV vs SDSU men's basketball game on December 13, 7:05 PM, at the Sanford Pentagon.