



SPORTS

November 13, 2015 www.plaintalk.net

USD Keeps Playoff Hopes Alive

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Drew Iddings was once a 6-foot-9 high jumper in high school. It was an event where his explosion and vertical hops came in handy. Both traits were on full display Saturday, but in a meaningful college football game. Iddings forced a fumble that turned into the go-ahead touchdown and later blocked the potential game-tying field goal as the University of South Dakota rallied past Southern Illinois 34-31 in Missouri Valley action at the DakotaDome. Not a bad final 5 minutes and 29 seconds for the senior defensive lineman from Rapid City. "Coaches preach it all the time, the fourth quarter is where we win the game," Iddings said. "And it played out today." The victory not only kept USD (5-4, 3-3) alive in the FCS playoff hunt, but it was the 200th career win for head coach Joe Glenn. Reflecting on the milestone after the game, the 66-year-old veteran coach deflected praise, saying that he wanted the win for his players. "I'm not humble pie, but this game today meant a lot more than that today to me," Glenn said. No more was that more evident than the series of plays by Iddings in the waning minutes. With Southern Illinois up 31-27 and facing a third down with 5:29 remaining, Iddings sacked quarterback Mark Iannotti and the ensuing fumble was recovered by USD's Andrew Van Ginkel. Six plays later, the Coyotes scored on a Ryan Saeger 5-yard pass to tight end Aaron Ramsey. In what felt like one of those

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TANAGERS AND YOTES



COURTESY PHOTO
This photo taken after the University of South Dakota defeated Southern Illinois last Saturday in the DakotaDome shows all the Vermillion High School graduates involved with the game. Back Row: Krissy Zalud, 2012; Hope Knedler, 2015; Daniel Bellis, 2014; Ethan James, 2014; Nick Jensen, 2014; Britney Sweeney, 2015. Front Row: Jayce Huska, 2014; Hailey Freidel, 2015; Marley Hanson, 2015. Not pictured: Garret Olson.

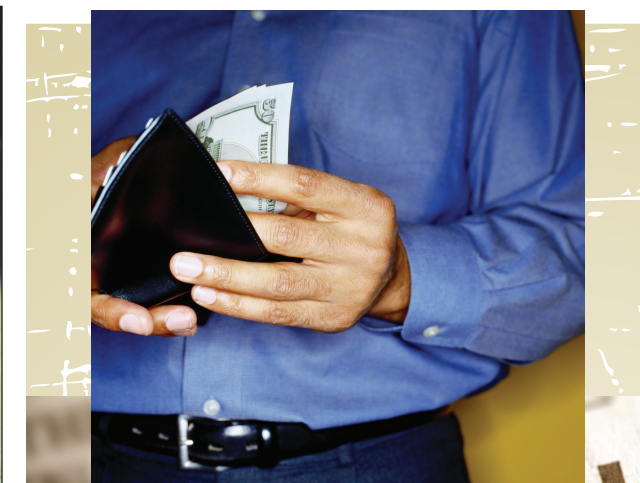
North Dakota Escapes South Dakota in 2 OT

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BROOKINGS — A cross into the wind ended what was an evenly-played, intense playoff soccer game. And it also ended the season for the University of South Dakota. Britney Monteon's shot 27 seconds into double overtime lifted top-seeded North Dakota State past the Coyotes 4-3 last Thursday night at the Summit League Soccer Championships in Brookings. All the drama built up by the previous 100 minutes came to a sudden end for the Coyotes, who were in the tournament for the first time. "It was an awesome game," senior defender Kasha Meyer said. "We could've given up right after the first goal, but that shows much this team wanted it." Picked seventh in the preseason poll, the Coyotes took the conference by storm, going 5-3 in league play including four straight wins to close the season to reach the 4-team tournament. And yet, despite three goals — two by junior Corey Strang — and plenty of other good looks up top, USD came up just short against a tournament-tested squad. "I was so proud of this team," head coach Mandy Green said. "This was the best game we played all year, and that's the way it should be come tournament time." But yet, it's the Bison who move on to Saturday's noon championship game against defending champion South Dakota State. "The first time we've had to battle back in the second half and we did a really good job of it," NDSU coach Mark Cook said. "There was no quit in this group."

the tournament can't be a one-time thing, according to Meyer — one of seven seniors on the roster. Senior Taylor Nivala scored USD's first goal, in the 19th minute. "I expect to see them at this tournament every year now, and I think they'll do it," Meyer said. "I hope we've left a legacy." Having won two conference games last season, the Coyotes vaulted to a 5-3 record this season, and coupled with their performance Thursday — not to mention the new soccer complex which opens next fall in Vermillion — may have garnered some extra attention across the league. "We can do it," Green said. "The girls know we can do it, and I hope we opened some eyes that we're striving to be here every year. "It was just really hard to lose this one, because we had a chance." NDSU went on to face South Dakota State University in the championship match after the Jackrabbits topped Oral Roberts University 3-1 in the other semifinal match. In the championship match, SDSU defeated NDSU 3-0 to the Summit League title and move on the play Minnesota on Friday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m.

PHOTOS BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
Top Right: USD's Corey Strang puts away a penalty shot to give the Coyotes a 2-1 lead over NDSU during the semifinals of the Summit League tournament in Brookings.
Bottom right: USD's Kasha Meyer looks for a pass during the Summit League tournament semifinal match against NDSU last Thursday night in Brookings.



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