

Cross Country: USD'S Eichkorn 154th At Nationals

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—South Dakota senior Amber Eichkorn raced to a 154th-place finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championships at E.P. Tom Sawyer State Park. Eichkorn crossed the finish line in 21 minutes, 13.6 seconds for 6,000 meters. It was Eichkorn's second consecutive NCAA Cross Country Championship appearance. She also qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championship in the 10,000 meters last June.

The Summit League had two competitors in the championship meet, with North Dakota State's Erin Teschuk placing 26th in 20:18.4 for All-America honors.

Notre Dame's Molly Seidel won the individual title in 19:28.6. In the team race, New Mexico easily took the crown by placing all five scorers in the top-25 for 49 points. Runner-up Colorado scored 129 points.

Kansas State Rallies Past USD

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State used a huge second half to roll past South Dakota 93-72 in men's basketball action on Friday.

USD (1-3) led 42-39 at the half, but the Wildcats used a 54-30 edge in the second half to pull away.

Barry Brown scored a team-high 18 points off the bench to lead Kansas State (3-0). Stephen Hurt, Justin Edwards and Dean Wade each had 15 points, with Edwards and Wade also recording eight rebounds. Kamau Stokes added five assists in the victory.

For USD, Shy McClelland scored a game-high 20 points and had four assists to lead USD. Freshman Dan Jech netted 13 points off the bench. Trey Norris had eight points, six rebounds and six assists off the bench. D.J. Davis also had eight points.

USD plays its home opener on Tuesday, taking on NCAA Division II South Dakota School of Mines. Start time is set for 7 p.m. at the DakotaDome, the opening game of the final season for basketball in that facility.

Tsakakis Named Academic All-American

AUSTIN, Texas—South Dakota senior midfielder Elena Tsakakis has been named to the Capital One Academic All-America second team selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Tsakakis is the second Coyote in program history to be named an Academic All-American and first since 2006. South Dakota's Katie Freeman earned the honor in 2006. It is South Dakota's 54th honor across all sports.

With three teams of 11 athletes, Tsakakis is one of nine midfielders to earn Academic All-America honors. Tsakakis played an integral role in the Coyotes' midfield, working as both a defender and advancing the ball to the strikers. She totaled 4,101 minutes on the pitch for her career, which ranks 15th in program history. Tsakakis tallied seven goals and five assists over four seasons. She also helped the Coyotes advance to the Summit League Tournament for the first time in 2015.

Tsakakis is one of two Summit League players to earn the distinction. Senior defender Kaily Cox of Oral Roberts was also named to the second team.

A native of Edina, Minn., Tsakakis maintains a perfect 4.00 grade-point average as a biology major. She also has a double minor in sustainability and French.

To be eligible for Academic All-America consideration, a student-athlete must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.30, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at her current institution, and be nominated by her SID.

Finnegan

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songs that we went up there and performed with a thousand other kids from around the state."

According to the show choir coach Trisha Fisher, Finnegan is a leader who teaches choreography.

"She is a hard worker and someone I can always count on," Fisher said. "She stays busy, but has managed everything really well."

Along with dance and show choir, Finnegan is a member of student council, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and

the school's volleyball team, where she plays middle hitter.

"Amanda is an extremely involved Tanager with a diverse activity resume including volleyball, theatre, and student leadership," Freidel said. "She is an excellent student and all around great person."

Congratulations Amanda on being named Tanager of the Week.

If you know a high school student deserving of recognition in athletics or otherwise, suggestions for Tanager of the Week can be sent to Elyse Brightman at elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net or by calling 605-624-4429.



FILE PHOTO
South Dakota's Brittany Jessen was named the Summit League Setter of the Year.

Jessen Named Setter Of The Year In Summit League

South Dakota senior Kelsey Biltoft, junior Audrey Reeg, sophomore Brittany Jessen, and freshmen Hayley Dotseth and Lauren Mattison were named to 2015 All-Summit League Volleyball Teams, which the league announced Thursday night.

"I'm blown away at the awards these individuals received," said South Dakota head coach Leanne Williamson. "I knew that they deserved it, but it is great to see that the other teams in the league also saw the need to honor them."

"I'm proud of each of these players, but individual awards are only won when the team works together towards a common goal and fights for success day in and

day out. I'm proud of this team for helping these players reach their goals."

Jessen and Reeg were selected to the All-League Team. Biltoft was named to the Honorable Mention Team. Dotseth and Mattison were selected to the All-Freshmen Team.

Jessen was also named the Setter of the Year, the first time a South Dakota player has ever won the award. She kept the Coyote offense going with 1,169 assists and averaged 10.82 per set, second in the Summit League. She had a career-high 61 assists in a five-set win over IPFW on Nov. 14. She had 12 double-doubles in assists and digs. Jessen also contributed 270 digs, 103

kills, 37 total blocks, and 35 service aces.

Reeg led the Coyotes with 390 kills while averaging 3.61 per set, fourth in the Summit.

Biltoft led the Coyote defense with 122 total blocks, 21 were solos. Her average of 1.13 blocks per set is tied for second in the Summit.

Dotseth was third on the team in kills with 225 and added 195 digs. She had 21 total blocks, 18 assists, and seven service aces.

Mattison played libero all season long and led the team with 399 digs, 3.69 per set which was sixth-best in the Summit. Mattison had 21 games with double-digit digs and six times she had 20 digs or more. She also added 78 assists, 16 service aces, and two kills.

Setters

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recorded a match-high 45 assists and added eight digs and four kills.

Freshman libero Lauren Mattison had 16 digs.

In the first set, the Pioneers jumped out to a 5-0 lead. Schmid and Principato combined for a block and each swatted down a kill during the run. Denver stretched its lead throughout the set and won 25-13. Denver carried that momentum into the second set and won 25-14 to take a 2-0 lead in the match.

The Coyotes fought back in the third set. With Denver leading 16-12, South Dakota went on a 13-3 run. During the run, Reeg recorded five straight kills all coming from Jessen. Biltoft swatted down the final kill and the Coyotes claimed set three 25-19.

Denver led South Dakota 2-1 heading into the fourth set. The Coyotes scored five straight points and had a 13-9 lead, but the Pioneers came back and tied the set at 16. Denver scored

the next five points to take a 21-16 lead and eventually won the set 25-21.

The Coyotes' season ends in the semifinals of the Summit League Tournament for the third straight year. The team has won at least 15 matches the past three years.

USD TOPS NDSU IN FIRST ROUND OF SUMMIT TOURNAMENT

DENVER — The University of South Dakota volleyball team moved its record to .500 on the season and extended its season for at least one more day with a 22-25, 25-17, 25-20, 16-25, 15-10 victory over North Dakota State in the quarterfinals of the Summit League Volleyball Tournament on Friday at Hamilton Gymnasium on the campus of Denver University.

USD had four players in double figure kills, including Summit League Setter of the Year Brittany Jessen, who finished with 13 kills, 10 digs, 46 assists and three assisted blocks. Audrey Reeg had a team-best 18 kills and had three blocks (one solo). Lindsey Brown had 11 kills and four assisted

blocks. Hayley Dotseth added 10 kills.

Also for USD, Lauren Mattison had 19 digs and Kaitlyn Hastings had 11 digs.

NDSU, which finished with a 19-12 record, was led by 17 kills from Jenni Fassbender and 16 kills from Emily Minnick. Emily Miron posted 14 kills. Monica Claxton had 40 assists and 10 digs. Brianna Rasmussen had 15 assists and 13 digs. Mikaela Purnell had 32 digs for the Bison.

USD, now 15-15, advances to face top-seeded Denver today (Saturday) at 6 p.m. CT.

Denver swept the season series with USD. The Pioneers won 3-1 in Denver on Oct. 4 as USD dropped to 0-4 in Summit League play. USD went 7-3 to finish league play, including a 3-0 home loss to Denver on Nov. 3.

Oral Roberts played Omaha in the other quarterfinal on Friday evening, with the winner playing second-seeded IUPUI in the second quarterfinal tonight.

The winners will play on Sunday at 3 p.m., with the league champion earning a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Hoops

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three points after one quarter and took a 38-33 lead into halftime.

Fifteen straight points at one point in the third quarter by USD solved those issues. From there, the rout was on.

Twelve of the 13 players in uniform scored for the Coyotes. Newcomer Jasmine Trimboli had 11 points, senior Margaret McCloud scored 10 points (all in the second half), while senior Heidi Hoff and newcomer Caitlin Duffy both added nine points.

In short, it was much the same story as last season for USD.

"Now that we have everything and we're starting to get on a roll, I think it's huge," Hemiller said.

With its home opener out of the way, USD returns to the road for this weekend's Florida Atlantic Thanksgiving Tournament.

The key to coming home with a couple wins? Doing exactly what they did Monday, according to Seekamp.

"We had a good mix of where the shots were going

from, and I think that's going to be a big thing for us," she said. "We have people that can score in multiple ways and from multiple areas on the court."

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MARQUETTE (0-4)
McKayla Yentz 4-8 1-1 11; Natisha Hiedeman 7-15 0-0 18; Allazia Blockton 5-18 0-0 10; Amani Wilborn 2-6 1-2 5; Shantelle Valentine 3-5 0-0 6; Danielle King 4-8 1-1 9; Sandra Dahling 0-0 0-0 0; Erika Davenport 2-3 0-0 4; Olivia Moskari 2-4 0-0 6; Ines Mata 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 29-67 3-4 69.

SOUTH DAKOTA (1-3)
Tia Hemiller 5-7 2-2 15; Kelly Stewart 2-7 3-3 7; Margaret McCloud 5-5 0-2 10; Caitlin Duffy 3-6 0-0 9; Nicole Seekamp 6-12 3-6 16; Jasmine Trimboli 4-6 1-2 11; Allison Arens 1-4 2-2 4; Jaycee Bradley 1-3 0-0 2; Bridget Arens 1-2 0-0 2; Madeline Homoly 0-0 0-0 0; Kate Liveringhouse 2-3 0-0 4; Heidi Hoff 3-5 0-0 9; Abigail Fogg 4-5 0-0 8. TOTALS 37-65 11-17 97.

MARQUETTE 18 33 49 67
SOUTH DAKOTA 21 38 71 97
Three-Pointers: USD 12-21 (Hemiller 3-3, Hoff 3-3, Duffy 3-4, Trimboli 2-3, Seekamp 1-2, A. Arens 0-1, Bradley 0-2), Marquette 8-25 (Hiedeman 4-9, Moskari 2-4, Yentz 2-6, King 0-1, Wilborn 0-2, Blockton 0-3). Total Rebounds: USD 37 (Hemiller 9), Marquette 29 (Valentine 7). Assists: USD 29 (Seekamp 12), Marquette 11 (Valentine 3). Turnovers: Marquette 15, USD 11. Personal Fouls: Marquette 16, USD 12. Fouled Out: None. Attendance: 1537.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
South Dakota's Kelly Stewart goes up to pressure a shot attempt by Marquette's Allazia Blockton during their women's basketball game on Monday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
South Dakota head football coach Joe Glenn cracks a smile during the press conference announcing his retirement, held on Monday in Vermillion. Glenn, a USD Hall of Famer as an athlete, coached the Coyotes for four seasons.

Glen

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press conference with a rendition of the school song.

"Joe has elevated this program in ways that aren't easily seen from those outside the department," said Herbst, now the athletic director.

There had been rumblings about Glenn's eventual retirement, but it was a decision he battled with a "hundred times."

"I couldn't get it figured out," Glenn told the crowd. "We just had to let it play out."

Ultimately, the desire to spend more time with his family — wife, Michele, two children and four grandchildren — was the deciding factor.

"I've had my chances; I've had my turn at being a head coach," Glenn said. "It's time for somebody else to do this job. And we'll get the right person."

The news of Glenn's retirement was relayed to his players via text message on Sunday afternoon, and asked Monday about their initial reactions, players sounded more appreciative of Glenn's impact than they were surprised.

"He's been like a dad to all of us," junior linebacker John Wessel said. "He's the guy when you come on your official (visit), you sit down and talk with."

"He's the one you immediately commit to. He was the guy you wanted to play for."

But just as it would be with any coaching change, the idea that Glenn won't be there to wrap an arm around players during practice or high-five them after a big play will take some getting used to, players said.

"It didn't quite set in for a while, but it has now," junior running back Trevor

Bouma said. "I feel like I could've gone to him about anything in life."

"I'm thankful for all he's done for me, but at the same time, we have to move on and get ready for the next season."

And now, for the second time in four years, USD is in the market for a new football coach.

Stopping short of openly advocating for his associate head coach Wes Beschorner, Glenn certainly backed the 33-year-old. It was Beschorner who Glenn had supported during those 2011 conversations with the USD administration.

"Wesley and I have been connected at the hip since I came here," Glenn said. "We have shared thousands of stories, thousands of experiences on the road recruiting, talking about everything I've ever learned about this game."

The administration has also promised the staff, Glenn said, that they will all receive an interview with the next coach, will remain on contract until they find something else, and will attend a national coaching convention.

Ask Beschorner, though, and he'll give you a straight answer: He wants the job.

"Obviously I want to respect the process and everything, but it's something I've been working toward since I showed up in 2001," he said.

And likewise, the USD program has been working toward the FCS playoffs since Glenn came aboard before the 2012 season. The Coyotes were likely one win short of the post-season — having either beaten South Dakota State or Illinois State.

At the end of the day, that was Glenn's goal, he said.

"It didn't happen as quick as we hoped it would," he said. "But I know this team's on the right path. Just keep on keeping on."

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