

# Women take second, men third at SDSU XC Classic

**BROOKINGS** – Juniors Amber Eichkorn and Katie Wetzstein finished fourth and fifth, respectively, to lead South Dakota's women's cross country team to a runner-up finish at the South Dakota State Classic in Brookings on Saturday. In the men's race, senior Brant Haase was the individual runner-up as the Coyotes finished third.

Eichkorn finished the 5,000-meter course in 17 minutes and 42 seconds, while Wetzstein followed by seven seconds, finishing in 17:49. The two Coyotes broke up Minnesota's pack of women, preventing the Gophers from achieving a perfect score.

Finishing in 13th for the Coyotes was freshman Bethany Kozak, crossing the line in 18:32. Rounding

out the Coyote scorers were junior Kelsey Barrett and freshman Bailey Oettel. Barrett and Oettel finished together with a time of 18:51 for 20th- and 21st-place, respectively. The women scored 54 points in the race, ahead of Summit League opponents South Dakota State (92), North Dakota State (148) and Omaha (153).

"Special congrats to Brice Cowman and Bethany Kozak for eclipsing our freshman records on the Brookings course," USD head coach Dan Fitzsimmons said. "Also congrats to Amber Eichkorn for equaling Ramsey Fitzsimmons' Coyote All-Time best mark and Mubarik Musa for setting a new junior mark at SDSU."

Haase finished the 8,000-

meters race with a time of 25:25. He trailed meet champion Brendan Sage of South Dakota State by two seconds.

Juniors Mubarik Musa and Isaac Allen finished together in sixth and seventh, respectively. Musa crossed the line in 25:32, while Allen followed by two seconds. For 26th-place, freshman Brice Cowman crossed the line in 26:55. Senior Taylor Huseman followed by four seconds to finish 29th and round out the Coyotes' top-15 finishers.

"Mach Dojiok had the largest improvement on the men's team knocking off 1:12 from his time last year while Kelsey Barrett had the women's largest improvement when she ran 67 seconds faster than she did in 2013," Fitzsimmons said.

"In all, the women had 6 of the top 15 best performances by Coyotes on the SDSU course and the men had four top 15 efforts."

South Dakota's cross country teams will run at home in Vermillion next Friday, Oct. 10, for Charlie's Dakota Days 5k Fun Run at 4 p.m. Registration and meet information is available here.

"The Charlie's Run is a Fun Run/Walk and Community Service Project hosted by our team," Fitzsimmons said. "It is not a competitive event for us, as no other collegiate teams will be present."

- Scott Bormann contributed to the story



USD freshman Taylor Dessler got a chance to showcase her skills last weekend at the Coyotes' intersquad scrimmage. The Coyotes host Minnesota State at 5 p.m. Friday as USD's season gets under way.

SCOTT BORMANN / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

## Coyotes have white out at USD pool

By Scott Bormann  
For the Plain Talk

learning experience for us."

Not wanting to tip off the competition any sooner than they have to, the individual results are being kept under wraps, but there was a pleasant surprise for the team.

"I would say that our distance kids are probably farther along than we really thought that they would be at this point in time," Mohowald said. "Distance kids you typically don't really see come around until the middle of the season and they looked great today. That's a really good sign of where we are at."

The intersquad meet was a great tune-up for the season opener when the Coyotes host the Mavericks of Minnesota State on Friday at 5:00 p.m.

"They are a much improved team," Mohowald said. "Our women will have to show up to get a W. We do feel that if we can improve on some of the things we saw tonight, it's going to be a good meet for us."

"They (Mavericks) are really young. Their two best swimmers are freshmen, and you never know what you are going to get when your best kids are freshmen. I think that it's a big advantage for us to be at home, but we have to take advantage of that and get the job done."

The USD swimmers and divers were unfazed by technical difficulties at the beginning of their Red versus White Intersquad Meet last Saturday.

When the recording of the National Anthem was not being heard through the speakers, the student athletes took matters into their own hands when they sang "The Star Spangled Banner" for the assembled fans.

The competition between the red and white squads was so heated that even the outside temperature was warmer upon leaving the Dakota Dome than upon arriving there a couple of hours before.

"They are (competitive), and there was some pride on the line obviously with not wanting to be on the losing team in an intersquad meet," USD head coach Jason Mohowald said. "That's good to see."

The men's white squad won 145-122, with the women's white squad recording a slender 137-133 victory.

"It went really well," Mohowald said. "They looked pretty fresh for this early in the year. We saw a lot of things that we can work on and get better for the next couple of weeks, so I think all-in-all it was a really good

## SOCCER

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"We haven't played Oral Roberts and NDSU. I know they are big and are good ball winners so we are going to be patient like we were today, find each other's feet and run onto the ball."

Sophomore forward Corey Strang says the Coyotes have to just stay dialed in as this difficult weekend looms.

"It's just going to be a lot of focus for us being on the road all day Thursday and playing in Oklahoma on Friday," Strang said. "Just having focus there and to come back here and defend our home field against NDSU. So it's big."

### SUMMIT LEAGUE STANDINGS (as of Oct. 8)

1. South Dakota State (6-5, 2-0), 2. SOUTH DAKOTA (8-4-1, 1-0-1), 3. Omaha (3-8-1, 1-0-1), 4. Denver (5-6-1, 1-1), 5. North Dakota State (5-6, 1-1), 6. Western Illinois (2-10, 1-1), 7. Oral Roberts (1-5-3, 0-1), 8. Fort Wayne (2-9, 0-1), 9. IUPUI (2-8-3, 0-2).

### A look back at the Fort Wayne win (as seen online)

They have been a team known for having one of the higher scoring offenses in the nation, but there is one well-kept secret about the University of South Dakota women's soccer team too:

These ladies know how to play some defense.

Behind a fourth straight clean sheet and a late Strang goal the Coyotes earned their first Summit League win of

the season with a 1-0 victory over visiting Fort Wayne Sunday at the USD Soccer Complex.

The Coyotes (8-4-1, 1-0-1) bossed the action offensively outshooting the Mastodons 14-2 and had 10 shots on goal.

Yet it was the defense that came up big for USD as possession was relatively equal, but it was the Coyote backline that found ways to keep Fort Wayne from pulling the trigger offensively thus holding them to only a shot per half.

"We have really been focused on a no shot mentality and we are working on the shutout squad," Keller said. "We are trying not to allow any goals against us and that helps our mentality."

"Our goals come from building from the back to our midfield and our forwards make those perfect runs. That's how we get our good goals."

Fort Wayne (2-9, 0-1) could have conceded more shots having turned the ball over on multiple occasion on its half of the field. Thankfully, goalkeeper Sam Pavlika's 10 saves kept them in the match.

"It is obviously great to get a win, but we should have won 4, 5-0 this game with the chances we created and being point blank against the goalkeeper," Green said. "I think we had one conference win total each of the last three years so it's great to get our first against Fort Wayne a team we've never beaten. They were a conference tournament team last year."

"To play as well as we did and get a win at home against a top conference team is a great win for us."

As USD pressed and failed to score, the defense continued its recent run of

squeeze the life out of the other offense's play.

"That is something we have been stressing – getting shutouts," Green said. "Our defenders have been working every day and getting their communication, their shape, and their timing sorted out and have been doing a great job. We had six different defenders in the game today and they are all doing a great job stepping up and working well for each other."

The Coyotes finally got the lead they deserved when Strang curled a shot up and over Pavlika.

"I got a nice throw in from Brittney (Baker) and she just saw me and I turned the defender," the sophomore Strang said. "I shot it and I think it hit off their defense or something. It was a weird angle and I think it dipped down a bit because I thought it was going to hit the crossbar. So that was nice."

"It felt nice to get our goal and to win."

So the Coyotes wrap up the first weekend of Summit League play with a win, a 0-0 tie against Nebraska-Omaha on Friday, and two more shutouts.

Not a bad start.

"The confidence the girls are gaining playing for each other is really starting to show," Green said. "Fort Wayne was a team we were pretty even with last year and Omaha was a team we were pretty even with last year and with some of the things we are doing, outplaying some of these teams is something we have never done in the past. It's nice to see."

USD continues Summit League play Friday in Tulsa, Oklahoma at Oral Roberts. The match is set for a 7 p.m. kickoff.

## DOME

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selves and play at an extremely high level. It definitely helped prepare us for our conference.

"However, our players have worked very hard in pre-season practices and now conference practices. They have fully bought into the system and have bought into playing for each other which makes a big difference. They want to succeed as a team, and they are willing to put in the time to make that happen."

Winning at home has been synonymous with USD as it will try to increase its win streak at the Dome which stands at 13 straight victories.

But, winning on the road at places like Omaha, Indianapolis, and Fort Wayne, has propelled this team into the role of one of the Summit's teams to beat.

"Those wins are very big for us," Williamson said.

"Omaha is always a tough place to play. They play very well at home and they play with a lot of energy and really try to wear you down with their defense. We have never been able to pull out a win at IUPUI until this year. The travel definitely makes it more difficult, but they don't lose very often on their home floor. This win was especially big since the conference tournament is there again this year, and having a win under our belt going into that is a confidence booster."

"(Fort Wayne) is consistently a great team each year, and they have a few really good hitters that are very difficult to stop. To sweep them on their home floor is a big step for us. These wins show that we can be consistent on the road as well as at home, and that is an improvement for us from the previous years."

Western Illinois (3-14, 1-3) may be struggling so far this season, but USD won't take them for granted.

"Western Illinois is a team that improves every year," Williamson said. "They got a big win this weekend against Fort Wayne as well, and they are going to be excited to

play in the Den and try to knock us off during (Dakota Days) week. They are a little unconventional at times, which can make it difficult because it is different from what we are used to seeing. We really take pride in defending our home court, and it will be great to be back home with our fans."

Sunday the Coyotes travel to play Denver (15-3, 4-0) in an early match for Summit supremacy with tip-off set for 3 p.m.

Then Tuesday they host Big 12 team, Iowa State at 7 p.m. at the DakotaDome.

"Denver is a great team that will challenge us from start to finish," Williamson said. "However, I believe that our team is ready for the challenge in their home gym."

"Iowa State is another great opportunity for us. They are a great team. They are athletic and will do some things that we saw out of other teams from pre-season. We are very excited to get a team like Iowa State in our home gym and play some high level volleyball."

### SUMMIT LEAGUE STANDINGS (as of Oct. 8)

1. SOUTH DAKOTA (11-6, 5-0), 2. Denver (15-3, 4-0), 3. Oral Roberts (8-9, 2-2), 4. IUPUI (8-11, 2-2), 5. North Dakota State (7-11, 2-3), 6. Omaha (7-11, 2-3), 7. Fort Wayne (7-10, 1-2), 8. Western Illinois (3-14, 1-3), 9. South Dakota State (6-14, 0-4).

### A look back at Fort Wayne win (as seen online)

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – Kendall Krittenbrink notched 14 kills while Melissa Firtko tallied nine kills as South Dakota volleyball won its fifth straight match with a 25-23, 25-21, 25-21 sweep of Fort Wayne in the Gates Sports Center on Sunday. The Coyotes moved to 5-0 in Summit League play and have won eight of their last 10 matches.

Krittenbrink recorded a hitting percentage of .333 during the match, which is her second-best mark of this season. She also led South Dakota (11-6, 5-0) in total blocks with four. Firtko recorded her ninth kills on 13 attacks and finished with a career-best attack percentage of .692, breaking her old mark of .571 that she set at

Omaha last season.

Sydney Dimke added eight kills to the USD offensive effort while Riley Haug recorded 12 digs to reach double-digits in that stat for the 16th time this season. Audrey Reeg was the only other Coyote to record double-digit digs with 10. Setter Brittany Jessen finished the match with 37 assists, seven digs and three kills.

Fort Wayne (7-10, 1-2) was led by Emily Spencer's 15 kills. Somer Johnson added 10 kills and led the Mastodons in digs with 13. Madison Spence and Mallory Slyder both recorded 19 assists.

USD held advantages in attack percentage (.318 to .219), kills (44-40) and blocks (7-5). The Coyotes also forced Fort Wayne into 17 attack errors while committing 10.

Krittenbrink tallied six kills on 11 attacks in the opening set while Dimke added four kills. South Dakota tallied 16 kills overall during the set and overcame a 9-2 Mastodon run that gave Fort Wayne a 16-13 lead. Five of Krittenbrink's kills came after that run.

The Coyotes finished set two with a 9-2 run. Krittenbrink tallied three kills during that stretch while Fort Wayne committed four errors. Firtko tallied five of the Coyotes' 16 kills during the set, while USD recorded just two attack errors.

Fort Wayne out-killed the Coyotes 15-12 in the third set, but committed eight attack errors during the process. The Mastodons led for one point during the set (17-16) before USD responded with a 9-4 run to end the match.

- Courtesy of USD sports information

### A look back at IUPUI win (as seen online)

INDIANAPOLIS – Outside hitters Kendall Krittenbrink and Sydney Dimke combined for 42 kills as South Dakota volleyball topped the defending Summit League champion IUPUI Jaguars 27-25, 24-26, 19-25, 25-23, 15-13 in The Jungle on Friday night.

Krittenbrink had 25 kills in the match while adding 15 digs and four blocks. It's the

fourth time in the last six matches she has recorded 20-plus kills. Dimke tied a career-high with 17 kills and had just one attack error on 35 attacks. She set a career-high for attack percentage, ending the match at .457.

Audrey Reeg added 10 kills and 10 digs to the Coyote (10-6, 4-0) effort, while Brittany Jessen had 55 assists and 16 digs, Riley Haug tallied 24 digs and Melissa Firtko compiled seven total blocks.

IUPUI (8-10, 2-1) had four players reach double-digit kills, but was led by Kelly Wachtel's 16 kills. Beth Howard had 21 digs and Alexis Mapes had 33 assists for the Jags.

South Dakota out-killed IUPUI 70-63 in the match and held edges in service aces (6-4) and blocks (12-9).

Krittenbrink and Dimke set the pace for the Coyotes early in the match. Krittenbrink had eight kills, seven digs, and hitting percentage of .467 in the opening set, while Dimke added five kills on 10 attacks. The Coyotes and Jags tied 10 times in the set with kills by Dimke and Reeg giving the Yotes the final two points of the set.

Meredith Farkas led IUPUI in the second set with five kills while Wachtel tallied six kills in the third set. The Jaguars never trailed and led by as many as six during the second set. They followed up by holding USD to just 10 kills in the third set while recording 15 kills themselves.

Dimke, Firtko and Krittenbrink recorded four kills each to lead USD to a 25-23 win in set four. The three combined for 12 kills on 19 attacks during the set. As a team, the Coyotes notched 16 kills and a .343 attack percentage while IUPUI had 12 kills and an attack percentage of .150. The teams tied 14 times during set and neither team had a run longer than three points.

Six kills from Krittenbrink and five IUPUI attack errors gave USD the 15-13 win in the deciding set. Krittenbrink's kills came off of 10 attacks. USD had eight kills and four attack errors during the set while IUPUI had five of each.

- Courtesy of USD sports information

## BOUNCE

From Page 5A

Sunday night once we got practicing and ready for next week I was finally on the mend.

"It's tough when you have high expectations and it goes to heck in a hand basket."

The teams were tied at 10 going into halftime, but that changed immensely in the second half.

"At halftime we just scored and we got the momentum on their side," Glenn said. "We were fired up and charged up and ready to go. Then after the game...I don't know if I felt that bad since I've been here. We lost our momentum, we lost our spirit, we lost our mojo."

Against the UNI Panthers, the Coyotes host a team also coming off a loss – a defeat at Indiana State – and remains a dangerous, wounded opponent.

"We have to defend the Dome, we have to, we have to get a win," Glenn said. "They are a balanced team all the way. They can pass it, they can run it, and they can stuff the run. They are one of the top defenses against the run."

The running game has been USD's bread-and-butter but with starting quarterback Kevin Earl back things could air out a bit.

"He had a big game against these guys last year when we won in double overtime," Glenn said of Earl. "They'll want revenge on us. It will be a hard fought game."

"It's great to see him back. It's a shame to see a young man have it taken away from him so he's been in the dumps for five weeks. It's great to see a smile back on his face."

Earl is looking forward to leading the Coyotes again after missing the last four games.

"It's great to put the pads on again since that was the longest I've gone without football," Earl said. "It feels good to get out, run around, and let the ball go. I am really looking forward to this week."

### A look back at SIU loss

CARBONDALE, Ill. (AP) — Malcolm Agnew ran for three touchdowns, Mark Iannotti threw for another and Southern Illinois scored 31 straight points its way to a 41-10 win over South Dakota on Saturday night.

Agnew had 128 yards on 26 carries for the Salukis (5-1, 2-0 Missouri Valley Conference). Iannotti finished with 19-of-32 passing for 264 yards. Thomas Kinney kicked two field goals.

Agnew's first score came on an 11-yard run — following Tay Willis' 75-yard kickoff return — for a 7-3 Southern Illinois lead. South Dakota tied the game 10-10 on a 5-yard run by Jasper Sanders with a minute to play in the first half.

But in the second half it was all Southern Illinois, starting with a Kinney field goal, followed by Iannotti's 32-yard touchdown pass to MyCole Pruitt and two rushing TDs by Agnew early in the fourth. Cameron Walter scored again for the Salukis with 7:14 to play.

Southern Illinois has outscored its six opponents 114-13 in the second half this season. Only Purdue has been able to hold the Salukis to less than 34 points.

"They're billed as a second-half team. I'm believing it," South Dakota coach Joe Glenn said. "They just outplayed us. We got beat in every phase. They did the same things they did in first half, they just did it better."

Ryan Saeger threw 13 of 27 for 191 yards for the Coyotes (2-3, 0-1).

"We just can't miss and we started the second half missing passes," Glenn said. "To get momentum you've got to make some big plays. We just didn't get it done in the second half."

Sanders ran 12 times for 44 yards for USD and Trevor Bouma had 60 yards on 14 carries.

The Salukis rolled up 506 yards of total offense, including 242 on the ground.