

# Fredrick Shines In Extended Role

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Given an opportunity to carry the ball in more plays, Michael Fredrick didn't disappoint.

The University of South Dakota freshman running back ran for 129 yards on 22 attempts with one touchdown in Saturday's 40-10 rout of Missouri State.

With top rusher Trevor Bouma out for the season following an arm injury, Fredrick was faced last week with the prospect that he was going to now see extended action during his first season of college football in one of the most competitive FCS leagues in the country.

"I knew all week in practice, I had to step my own level of performance up," said Fredrick, a native of Miami, Florida. "I knew I had to carry my team."

Fredrick got his first taste of Missouri Valley Conference action with an 8-carry effort in a loss to Youngstown State, but he then carried the ball 19 times for 90 yards the next week at Western Illinois.

And the next week in USD's upset win over North Dakota State, Fredrick carried the ball five times – for six yards. Suddenly he was getting the ball more than 20 times, and that's likely to continue the rest of the season.

As each game passes, he said the pace of play has slowed down – typically a common hurdle for freshmen.

"I'm more focused now, I've got the rhythm now in the conference," Fredrick said. "As a freshman, you hear Missouri Valley and you know it's a challenge. Playing these seven games, it's been very helpful."

It's also helped that Fredrick has already started to benefit from USD's strength program, head coach Joe Glenn said Saturday.

"I think he came here at about 155 pounds," Glenn said.

Looking at a roster and seeing Fredrick is listed at 165, the coach added, "He's more than 165."

Fredrick was one of five running backs signed to USD's 2015 recruiting class, and he was one of three to see action in Saturday's win. Nate Gunn added 46 yards and a touchdown, while Shamar Jackson – also a receiver – ran the ball once.

In all, the Coyotes ran for 249 yards, but it was Fredrick's efforts that loomed the largest.

"You can just see he's taken to the weight room," Glenn said. "He's really serious about this; about football. He's humble, and I think that's one of my favorite parts about him."

That, and he's only started to scratch the surface on his potential, the coach added.

"He's just going to get better, you know that," Glenn said. "He's just barely put his toe in the water."

"That's a good get for us."

## Area Player Scores

Taylor Lambert was a member of USD's 2013 recruiting class as a walk-on linebacker. It was going to take quite a bit for the former Dakota Valley High School standout to see action in a conference game, let alone score a touchdown.

For good measure, he did both Saturday.

Lambert, a sophomore and now a fullback, caught a 5-yard touchdown pass from backup quarterback Brian Woodward during the fourth quarter of Saturday's win over Missouri State. The game had already been decided by that point, but Glenn raved later about seeing Lambert score.

"The Rocket" just never says anything, he just plays

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# USD Prepares For Northern Iowa's Dual Threat QB

BY JEREMY HOECK

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There is a section in this week's Missouri Valley Football Conference weekly notebook entitled 'Running Wild.'

In previous years, that title would have likely been followed by impressive statistics being piled up by the many talented running backs across the league.

This year, however, it deals with running quarterbacks. Twenty-four percent of the total rushing yardage has come from the legs of quarterbacks – an increase of 12 percent a year ago.

And the University of South Dakota is about to get its first taste of one of those true dual-threat quarterbacks this Saturday at Northern Iowa.

His name: Aaron Bailey.

The junior transfer from the University of Illinois has put together three 100-yard rushing efforts – including each of the past two weeks – this season for Northern Iowa. In last Saturday's win at South Dakota State, in particular, Bailey carried the ball 23 times for 169 yards and a touchdown.

"How you defend him is probably a little different than maybe a pocket passer," head coach Mark Farley said Tuesday. "Everybody's got their own choice how to defend those guys."

"For us, he's given us latitude to do some things on offense that maybe some other quarterbacks can't."

And now that's something USD (4-3, 2-2) will have to defend for the first time season.

In their first seven games, the Coyotes did not line up across from a quarterback who is as big of a threat on the ground as he is throwing the ball. In fact, the most damage a quarterback has done running the ball against USD's defense was Kansas State's Joe Hubener – 9 carries, 38 yards.

The only touchdown the Coyotes have allowed to an opposing quarterback was to North Dakota State's Carson Wentz, and he finished the game with 8 yards on 5 carries.

That is likely to change Saturday with Bailey, who was a four-start recruit out of high school in Illinois.

"You've got to be gap sound," USD head coach Joe Glenn said Tuesday. "You have to know whatever your scheme is and how you want to defend the option."

It's not an exact science, either. Defensive players have to be responsible for their own particular assignments and must also be cognizant of the dive up the middle.

In last Saturday's 40-10 rout of Missouri State, the Coyote defense allowed one big play on the ground, and that was a 60-yard scamper up the middle. That's something that can't happen against the 6-foot-2, 226-pound Bailey, according to Glenn.

Bailey leads Northern Iowa with 110 rushing attempts for 639 yards and five touchdowns. He also passed for 775 yards and five scores.

"He's as good as advertised; the guy's really good," Glenn said. "You're always concerned when you've got a big athlete like that who can run fast."

# Samudzi, Barnett Named To All-State Selections

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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Two members of the Vermillion High School girls' soccer team were named to the All-State selections by the South Dakota High School Soccer Coaches Association this past week.

Senior co-captain Natasha Samudzi and Autumn Barnett were selected were both selected to the Class A team along with 22 other players from across the state.

"The girls used their excellent leadership to, not only bring the best out of their teammates, but also to make memorable moments happen when our team was struggling," said Vermillion girls' soccer head coach Shannon Fitzsimmons. "Every day they practiced with enthusiasm and played with determination. Our team could not have asked for a more perfect combination of captains."

Samudzi, selected to the first team All-State, was the team's leading scorer at forward with 19 goals and one assist in the regular season, plus two goals in the Tanager's playoff appearance

against West Central. Her speed and quick feet up front was a nuisance to opposing defenders.

"Natasha is persistent in her pursuit to score and has all the tools necessary to make that happen every time she gets the ball, which make her a constant threat for opposing teams to shut down," Fitzsimmons said.

Barnett, selected to the second team All-State, played at center midfield for the Tanager's this season. Her physical presence, ball control and ability to find the feet of the forwards made her a standout in the field during the season. She finished the season with three goals and three assists.

"Autumn's undeniably impressive ball control helped control the center of our field," Fitzsimmons said. "As much as Autumn impacted our offense, she made just as big of plays defensively for us this season."

Both players are looking at playing soccer next season at the collegiate level, though final decisions have not been made.

Class A 1st Team All-State Selections: Karlee McKinney, 11, Tea Area,

Striker; **Natasha Samudzi, 12, Vermillion**, Striker; Jessica Ryan, 12, Belle Fourche, Striker; Harleigh Stange, 10, Groton, Striker; Lauren Sparrow, 12, Spearfish, Striker; Ashley Eickman, 12, West Central, Striker; Cassidy Kirsch, 11, St. Thomas More, Midfielder; Ciara Duffy, 12, St. Thomas More, Midfielder; Anna Boer, 12, Sioux Falls Christian, Midfielder; Delaney Carlson, 12, St. Thomas More, Defender; Gillian Watkins, 11, West Central, Defender; Hailee Fischer, 10, West Central, Goalkeeper; Olivia Janssen, 12, St. Thomas More, Goalkeeper.

Class A 2nd Team All-State Selections: Kindra Clark, 11, Garretson, Striker; Rachel Ely, 12, West Central, Striker; **Autumn Barnett, 12, Vermillion**, Midfielder; Caitlyn Miner, 12, Spearfish, Midfielder; Kady Duffloth, 12, Spearfish, Midfielder; Kara Morford, 12, Spearfish, Midfielder; Marissa Dahlvang, 12, Belle Fourche, Midfielder; Aubrey Schwebach, 11, Tea Area, Defender; Joni Hofer, 11, Tea Area, Defender; Michaela Boer, 12, Sioux Falls Christian, Defender; DeLynne Zevenbergen, 11, Sioux Falls Christian, Goalkeeper.

# Coyotes Win Final Two At 'Plex

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN AND JEREMY HOECK

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## USD 2, IUPUI 1

After an hour and a half delay due to lightning, the South Dakota women's soccer team scored two goals for a 2-1 comeback win over Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis (6-11-0) in Summit League action Friday afternoon. The game time was changed from 5 p.m. to a 1:30 p.m. kickoff because of the threat of thunderstorms in the evening.

"(I tell them) to just keep themselves ready to play because you never know how long it's going to be, you don't know if you've even going to play the game," said USD head coach Mandy Green.

South Dakota struggled to maintain possession of the ball through the first 35 minutes of play and allowed a goal with just under 18 minutes in the first half putting IUPUI up 1-0.

With seven minutes remaining, the referee blew the whistle because of lightning in the area and both teams and fans cleared the field.

"I thought the first 35 minutes were not great by us," Green said. "That rain delay was probably the best thing that happened to us."

The game resumed after 90 minutes finished through a series of downpours causing slippery conditions.

After the delay, the Coyotes stepped up play by creating scoring opportunities, winning air balls and shutting down IUPUI's attack.

"I loved that we came out and turned things around the way we did," Green said. "We came out and we settled in and started connecting passes and started to not let them knock us around as much. We got some attitude, we got some feistiness in us and we were playing like we wanted to win."

A free kick from Brittney Baker about 45 yards out from the goal found the head of forward Corey Strang to even the game at one with 59 minutes left to play.

With less than five minutes in the game, USD senior Kasha Meyer headed in the winning goal off a corner kick by Taylor Nivala.

"It's always great to get a win so it was great to see us battle through that and find a way to win."

USD, now 6-5-2 on the season and 1-3-1 in the Summit League, plays its last home game of the season, and last game at the USD Soccer Complex before moving to the new complex, Sunday at noon against Western Illinois (2-11).

## USD 4, Western Illinois 2

It was Senior Day. It was the final game at the USD Soccer Complex.

More than that, though, the biggest storyline for the University of South Dakota soccer team on Sunday was its



Senior Corey Strang dribbles the ball to the center of the field in the University of South Dakota's win over IUPUI Friday afternoon in Vermillion.

ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

pursuit of a Summit League Tournament spot.

That certainly added an extra level of intrigue for the home game with Western Illinois, but the eventual 4-2 victory – in dramatic fashion – suddenly has the Coyotes in a very realistic position to qualify for the postseason tournament.

"I've been here three years, and this has never happened," said junior Corey Strang, who scored a pair of second-half goals for USD which rallied from an 2-0 halftime deficit.

"Even the seniors, it's new for them too," she added. "This is our year, though."

A year after finishing eighth – out of nine teams – in the league standings, the Coyotes (7-11, 4-3) strengthened their hold on fourth place in the standings with one game left. The top four teams qualify for the league tournament. Sunday's win was made even sweeter with news that fifth-place Fort Wayne (2-4-1) lost earlier in the day.

Picked seventh in the preseason poll, USD is suddenly in brand-new territory.

"Honestly, it's like we don't even know what to do," said defender Kasha Meyer, one of seven seniors honored before the game. "But it's awesome."

"It's definitely a fun position to be in."

Midway through the game, however, it was Western Illinois that was playing like the team fighting for something. The last-place Leathernecks (2-13, 1-5) got goals from Gina Scaffidi and Kayla

Kirkwood to lead 2-0 at halftime.

During USD's halftime conversation, there were no hints of panic. The Coyotes, as Strang would point out, were in a similar position on Friday, down 1-0 at half to IUPUI, only to rally for a 2-1 victory.

"We didn't even really say anything. We had been in that position so many times," Strang said. "We had nothing to say; we knew what everyone was going to say."

Ten minutes later, the barrage started.

Strang brought USD within 2-1 on a tap-in goal off a Taylor Nivala corner kick. In the 78th minute, Strang scored again on a penalty kick, tying the game at 2-2.

It was even before that, though, that the Coyotes felt confident the comeback was on.

"For us, when we get one goal, that just lights the fire for us," Strang said. "I knew the second we got that first goal, we were going to get it."

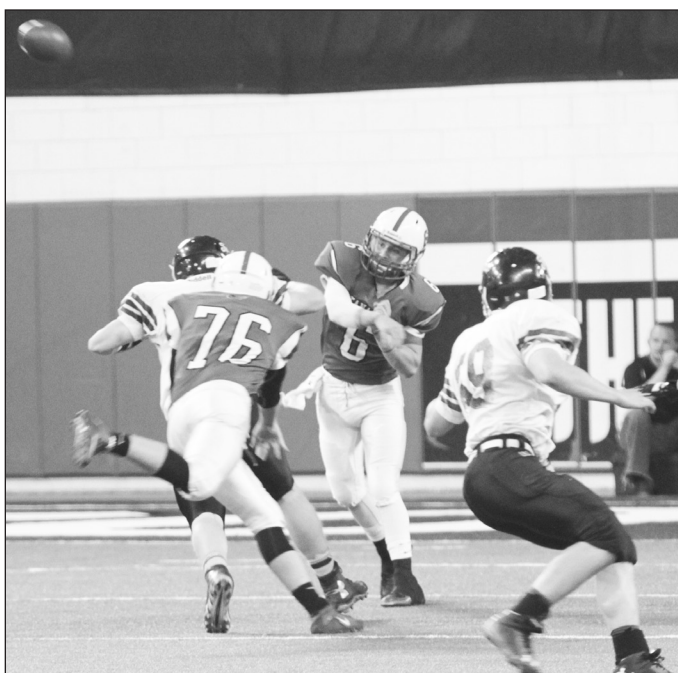
A minute later, Meyer put the Coyotes ahead 3-2 on an unassisted goal – her second of the season, and one that set off a wild celebration.

Then, in the 81st minute, USD freshman Sammie Villlock scored on a shot from about 40 yards out, not only completing the comeback but completely turning the tide of the game.

And perhaps, USD's season.

"We knew we could do it. We knew that we just had to do it together," head coach Mandy Green said. "We had to change our energy; our attack mode."

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Vermillion High School quarterback Carter Kratz throws downfield during the Tanager's final game of the season against West Central last Thursday night in the Dakota Dome. Kratz threw for 51 yards in the game.

# Tanagers

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which Homan says isn't the number of wins they would like to see, but is pleased with the improvements he has seen throughout the season from the players, most of whom will be returning next year.

The Tanager's leading rushing Noah Walker ran for 430 yards this season, and will return next year for his senior season.

Junior quarterback Carter Kratz also will return for his senior season after throwing for 960 yards this year with seven touchdowns.

"We lost some games and that happens," Homan said. "We have a lot of things moving forward to next year. We basically return everybody back except for a few seniors that played on our line."

The graduating seniors include wide receiver Matt Ouellette, who accounted for seven of the Tanager's 16 total touchdowns throughout the season, as well as 425 receiving, 120 rushing and 664 kick returning yards.

Offensive lineman Mitchell Sand will be another big loss for Vermillion on the defensive side. Sand was a main component in Vermillion's defense mustering 44.5 tackles on the season.

"Obviously, Ouellette at wide receiver and Mitchell Sand on our line is going to be a huge loss, but we have guys that have stepped up all year and I think we have some good people that could possibly replace those roles and help us to move forward."