

COYOTE SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



KAYL BARKLEY



Height: 6-3
Hometown:
Conway Springs, Kansas
Jersey Number: 89
Position: Tight End

COLIN BUSCARINI



Height: 6-1
Hometown:
Arlington Heights, Illinois
Jersey Number: 37
Position: Linebacker

DEREK CHANCELLOR



Height: 6-5
Hometown:
McCook, Nebraska
Jersey Number: 65
Position: Offensive Line

KEVIN EARL



Height: 6-6
Hometown:
Lincolnshire, Illinois
Jersey Number: 14
Position: Quarterback

RYAN HILLIER



Height: 6-1
Hometown:
Lee's Summit, Missouri
Jersey Number: 4
Position: Linebacker

DREW IDDINGS



Height: 6-6
Hometown:
Rapid City, South Dakota
Jersey Number: 94
Position: Defensive Line

NICK JACOBS



Height: 6-4
Hometown:
Delano, Minnesota
Jersey Number: 56
Position: Defensive Line

KEYEN LAGE



Height: 6-3
Hometown:
Sioux Falls, S. Dakota
Jersey Number: 33
Position: Linebacker

MICHAEL LILLY



Height: 5-9
Hometown:
Santa Ana, California
Jersey Number: 2
Position: Defensive Back

THOMAS MCGUIRE



Height: 6-5
Hometown:
Ames, Iowa
Jersey Number: 70
Position: Offensive Line

NICK MEYER



Height: 5-11
Hometown:
Elk Grove Village, Illinois
Jersey Number: 13
Position: Wide Receiver

NICK OLSON



Height: 6-3
Hometown:
Richfield, Minnesota
Jersey Number: 79
Position: Offensive Line

MASON RUIZ



Height: 6-3
Hometown:
Tulare, California
Jersey Number: 52
Position: Defensive Line

ERIC SHUFFORD



Height: 5-11
Hometown:
Rialto, California
Jersey Number: 11
Position: Wide Receiver

KYLE STAPLES



Height: 5-11
Hometown:
Fresno, California
Jersey Number: 44
Position: Linebacker

CHRIS TYLER



Height: 6-2
Hometown:
Omaha, Nebraska
Jersey Number: 26
Position: Defensive Back

USD Cross Country Eyes Summit League Title Repeat

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION – On the verge of what could shape up to be a historic season for her team, Amber Eichkorn prefers to look ahead.

Not that the University of South Dakota senior doesn't mind talking about last year, it's just that she looks at the 2014 Summit League cross country title in a different way. Sure, Eichkorn's team may now be the hunted instead of the hunters, but in her eyes, she hasn't reached her goal yet.

"I try not to think about that," she said, smiling. "I'm a person that thinks, 'I haven't won my race in the Summit League yet, so there's not the target on my back.'"

"I'm still chasing that goal. It's all about looking forward."

Eichkorn, second at last year's Summit League meet, leads a team that returns eight of its nine runners from the conference meet for head coach Dan Fitzsimmons. His program put together the following resume last fall:

* Women won the Summit League title, finished seventh at the Midwest Regional meet and for the first time sent a runner (Amber Eichkorn) to the Division I national meet.

* Men finished third at the Summit League meet and sent five runners to the regional meet.

Now, the question becomes: What can the Coyote women do for an encore?

"We know we've got the target on our back, and now we want to take that next step and do it twice," said senior Katie Wetzstein, who was third at the conference meet. "The bar has been raised."

And with the number of runners the Coyotes have back, that bar could again get pushed.

Eichkorn and Wetzstein lead a group that includes Bethany Kozak (So., fifth at conference), Kelsey Barrett (Sr., sixth), Nicole Schmidt (Jr., 13th), Bailey Oettel (So., 22nd), Jessica Feldman (Jr., 28th) and Erin Wetzstein (So.).

The Coyotes, who also have seven freshmen on the roster, certainly have the depth to again contend for a conference title, but as Fitzsimmons cautioned, they're not the only team in that position – runner-up North Dakota State and third-place South Dakota State both return their top three runners.

"Some of the other teams we'll be going up against return almost their entire squads," he said. "As much as on paper that looks really impressive, we've made it our focus to just get better."

That will be the key for a particularly young men's team.

Although the Coyotes return five of their conference meet runners, they'll also be looking to work in a large freshman class (six).

"As you can see, the numbers. That's the first thing we noticed too," senior Mubarik Musa said. "We've got a very high quality and I think for the next couple years, they'll become a major part of improving this team."

Third at the Summit League meet last fall, the Coyotes bring back Musa (fifth), Isaac Allen (Sr., sixth), Mach Dojiok (R-Jr., 21st), Brice Cowman (So., 27th) and Aaron Breyer (So.).

The combination of experience and youth could make for an interesting fall, as the Coyotes progress toward the conference meet. What does that depth mean?

"I don't know," Fitzsimmons said, smiling. "I just know it's more fun going to the start line with twelve bullets than when you only had five bullets, like we did at the region meet."

One of those bullets is a familiar face: Cowman, a Yankton native.

"Freshman year is all about survival, and he survived," Fitzsimmons said. "He's bridged that gap. He'll be one of those guys we look to count on."

With so many experienced runners to count on, are the Coyotes progressing up the Division I ladder like they were hoping?

"I don't know if a coach is ever where they want to be," Fitzsimmons said. "And I certainly feel like we're not where I'd like to be."

About the only comparison the coach could use is evaluating where the runners are now as to where they were a year ago at this time.

"That's the challenge," Fitzsimmons said. "You know you start over, but you don't want to completely start over."

The Coyotes will open their season Friday at a North Dakota State meet in Fargo.

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Cost Of Attendance Decision Looms For USD

BY JEREMY HOECK
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North Dakota State's decision to offer full cost of attendance to student-athletes in every sport next year has already reverberated around the region.

Is such a decision at the University of South Dakota inevitable?

Yes, said athletic director David Herbster.

"We will do it," he said a couple hours after NDSU's announcement. "But we're probably not going to rush anything because of (Thursday)."

Scholarship support will be increased in baseball, men's golf and men's track & field to bring every NDSU program to the maximum number of allowable scholarship level.

Outside of the traditional tuition, fees, room, board and books, schools can now offer additional support for such things as academic related supplies, transportation and other expenses.

Eventually, Herbster and his counterparts in the Summit League will make a similar announcement, he said, but Thursday's news from Fargo won't rush a decision at USD. Patience is required until certain questions – namely, how to pay for it? – are answered.

"It's not going to change our timeline," Herbster said. "We're still looking at the best way to implement it."

During Summit League meetings, it was made rather clear that no school would be attempting full cost of attendance for the 2015-16 school year, Herbster said.

The only surprise Thursday?

"It doesn't surprise me they announced it, but probably one of the things that did surprise me is that they're the second FCS school that's done it across the board," Herbster said. Liberty was the first.

North Dakota State estimates that the additional cost will be up to \$3,400 per full scholarship, and that the money will be raised through private donations.

While that certainly puts on onus on donors to step up to the plate, it's up to each individual school to determine just what that cost would be, Herbster said.

In advance that it would eventually offer full cost of attendance, USD estimated its own amount for the 2014-15 school year. That number was in the \$4,100 neighborhood, but will figure to rise each year, Herbster said.

While the cost of attendance issue can present recruiting disadvantages for schools that don't offer it, that doesn't necessarily mean USD is suddenly behind the eight ball.

"We're not necessarily going to be knocking heads with Michigan or Texas in recruiting, but certainly against some of the same schools in the Missouri Valley," Herbster said.

"The last message you want to give you recruits is that we don't think enough of you to provide you cost of attendance," he added.

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