NEW ERA BEGINS FOR JACKRABBIT BASKETBALL
Henderson begins men’s rebuild, women move on without Miller, Guebert

SEE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL PREVIEW ON A11
SEE MEN’S BASKETBALL ONLINE AT SDSUCOLLEGIAN.COM
School of AGS opens opportunities for humanities

BRIANNA SCHREURS
Reporter

Christi Garst-Santos hasn’t done much reading lately. The Cervantes and Spanish literature scholar has had to cast aside her usual intake of reading to lead the newly established School of American and Global Studies (AGS) as its director.

After a two-year process, the school went live on July 1, 2019, and houses 12 programs: American Indian studies, French, German, global studies, history, Lakota, legal studies, philosophy, political science, religion, Spanish and workplace intercultural competence. There are currently 686 students in AGS.

“I like to say that we’re (the) intellectual and cultural core of SDSU,” Garst-Santos said. “They are disciplines that make you a better thinker and that make you interculturally competent—all those soft skills employers are looking for.”

An American and Global Studies school is unique in the state and region of South Dakota. Usually, according to Garst-Santos, you find these schools within larger universities like the University of Minnesota or Michigan.

Combining language studies with programs like political science and legal studies under one roof provides new opportunities for students. The new school has many upcoming initiatives to support students who want to learn more about policy and culture.

These programs aren’t live yet, but Garst-Santos is working in her role to flesh out the details. Programs she is working on establishing include: a polyglot certificate (for students who study multiple languages), a lobbying and advocacy certificate, a Wizipan leadership and sustainability certificate and a medical humanities minor.

“Of course, we kept all of our existing majors, minors and certificates, but really, we did it with the eye of asking what new programs could we create in the future that we couldn’t on our own,” Garst-Santos said.

Another certificate underway is in Lakota. Once established, it’ll be the first time Lakota and Native American studies will be under the same program, which is important since language and culture are closely linked.

It would be a professional certification for any student who wanted to work with natural resource management, land issue real estate or teaching in South Dakota.

“Our hope is, whether it is through an AGS minor or one of our certificates, that you’re building a skillset to act appropriately when communicating with one of our native American neighbors,” Garst-Santos said. “This is something that opens up a lot of possibilities.”

Another opportunity is providing students with a “unique perspective,” Garst-Santos said.

“All students who graduate from the school will have that intercultural component. We know that employers are asking for those things; employers are looking for people who are culturally self-aware but also have culture-specific knowledge, have the ability to shift perspective and we know that they’re also not always finding them.”

Employers are seeking out culturally competent employees, according to Diversity Best Practices in 2018. 58% of all 124 organizations require interview slates for job openings to have diverse applicants, and 75% of organizations train recruiters to ask culturally competent questions with a diverse application.

Read the full story on sdsucollegian.com.
Burgers, briskets, brats and more at the Meats Lab

SAMMI SCHRAG
Agriculture Reporter

Tucked away in the northeast corner of campus lies the SDSU Meats Lab, where making restaurant-quality steaks and wild-flavored brats is not only delicious, but also educational.

What is it?
The SDSU Meats Lab is an academic learning tool used for class purposes and research projects. The lab brings in live animals and goes through the process from slaughter to storefront. Students are able to gain hands-on experience in the meat industry.

Who uses it?
Classes such as Intro to Meat Science, Sheep Production, Animal Science 101 and Livestock Evaluation use live animals and carcasses to gain first-hand knowledge and skills. The livestock and meat judging teams go through classes to improve their judging skills. The storefront is open to the public, and students on campus are more than welcome to check it out.

When is it open?
Located in the Animal Science building, the storefront is open every Thursday and Friday from 1 - 5 p.m.

How many students are employed?
There are currently 12 students employed by the SDSU Meats Lab. Clay Newton, senior Animal Science major, has worked at the meat lab for four years. “The people I work with are great down here,” he said. “And also, the experience of getting to know the professors better than other students is a plus.”

What do they sell?
With competitive prices compared to local grocery stores, the lab has a wide variety of meats to choose from.

- Beef - steaks, brisket, beef patties
- Pork - pork loin, ribs, bacon
- Lamb - loin chops, stew meat
- Processed meats - brats, smoked sausage, beef sticks
- Pet toys - dog bones

Their steaks are dry-aged, which seems to get better reviews compared to the wet-aged steaks at most grocery stores, said manager Adam Rhody.

MEAT MYTHS

Myth #1 - Washing meat before you cook it is a helpful food safety tip.

FALSE. There is no need to wash your meat before you cook it, particularly chicken. All it does is spread bacteria.

Myth #2 - Hot dogs come from scraps on the floor.

FALSE. The meat industry is highly regulated. Hot dogs are made of lower-grade muscle trimmings and fatty tissues.

Myth #3 There are hormones and antibiotics in meat that are bad for your health.

FALSE. There are withdrawal periods on all antibiotics. In fact, there are generally less hormones in beef and pork than other foods.

Source: Dr. Kyle Grubbs, SDSU Meat Science Professor
Welp, it’s November. While folks in other states might simply be enjoying brisk weather and preparing for Thanksgiving, for us, it means we get to welcome snow.

It might seem that we did this just months ago, and at this point, driving in these conditions should be muscle memory—but that’s not the case.

In just the first hour of snowfall this winter season, the Brookings Police Department reported seven accidents.

We at The Collegian understand that driving in winter conditions can be slippery and dangerous. But, we also acknowledge that drivers don’t always put themselves in the best position to drive safely.

Here are some things that we, as an editorial board, would like to see.

Clear your windshield. We get that it’s cold out. We’ve been in that position where we’re pondering just turning on our windshield wipers and getting on with our lives. But, truth be told, this is neither effective nor safe. Get out of your car and clean off the whole windshield.

Don’t just stop there, though. Clear your entire car, including the rooftop. Drivers who don’t do this risk snow and ice flying off their cars and hitting or blinding others. Be courteous and make sure that your car is cleared of snow so other drivers don’t have to worry.

Stay off your phone. Seriously. This shouldn’t even have to be said at this point, but here we are. Being on your phone in perfect road conditions is bad enough, but being on your phone on icy road conditions is a whole ‘nother level of stupid. Be smart, put your phone down and focus on getting to your destination safely.

Don’t tailgate. While we all like tailgating before football games or other sporting events, leave it there and not on the road. Not only is tailgating dangerous for you, but also for everyone else on the roadways. You never know when the car ahead of you might need to slam on its brakes. Either one of you could slide when trying to stop.

If you are on campus and your car dies, the University Police Department is there for you. Call UPD at (605) 688-5117, and ask for a jump start. UPD offers free jump starts to cars on campus. Be sure to thank the hardworking officers, as well.

But, there’s ways to prevent your car from needing a jumpstart.

Start your car regularly, don’t be lazy. If you don’t drive on a regular basis, still go out and let your vehicle idle for 10-15 minutes once in a while when it’s cold for long periods of time. If you don’t, your car will almost positively need a jumpstart, which isn’t fun for you or the person jumping it.

Prepare yourself for the commute. Start your car early to give the engine time to warm up, make sure you leave enough time to scrape the ice from the windshield and, since the weather conditions are going to slow down travel, schedule more time on your commute so you aren’t overdriving the conditions to make it to your destination on time.

And, by all means, buy a shovel and a winter emergency kit just to cover all the bases.

We at The Collegian hope you get to your destinations safely this winter and take every precaution necessary to do so.

The Collegian Editorial Board meets weekly and agrees on the issue of the editorial. The editorial represents the opinion of The Collegian.
Founded in the fall of 2018, Down the Rabbit Hole: Conspiracy Theory Club is a recent addition to the many organizations on campus. In a short time, the club has become a part of the community at SDSU.

Amanda Husted, the club’s current president, bonded over conspiracy theories with her friends during her freshman year. Husted and her friends had no intention of starting a club until Husted spoke with TRIO SSS Retention Adviser Karin Burdick.

Husted casually mentioned the idea of a conspiracy club, and Burdick enthusiastically suggested that the proposal become a reality.

After completing and getting their constitution approved by Student’s Association – the club was officially recognized by the university by the end of Husted’s freshman year.

When the club started last year, the executive board was unsure of what to expect or if anyone was even going to come. However, during the club’s first meeting, more than 50 people attended.

Already, members were jumping into a conversation about the conspiracy presentation. The executive board was nervous but gained confidence over time.

“There is a lot of time that goes into a presentation,” Husted said. “There is so much to get into when you fall down the rabbit hole.”

The club has covered the Moon Landing, Titanic, Pyramids, Area 51, Princess Diana, Jonestown, the Denver Airport and The Zodiac Killer.

The purpose of the club is to provide community and entertainment for students who wish to learn more about and discuss — not debate — conspiracy theories. There isn’t a consensus, so your group members are able to leave the meetings with their own opinions.

Members Jessica Flanders and Reid Dettbarn look forward to the meetings. For Flanders, conspiracy theories are eye-opening and she is considerate of the possibilities. Dettbarn has become a little more apt to pointing fingers. Both members have been with the club since the first meeting.

“It’s fun watching people’s expressions and body language change, even in the skeptics,” Husted said. “It’s shocking and exciting to consider all the possibilities and to think critically about it.”

Dettbarn and Flanders still remember their first meeting and how welcoming the club was. Both members were sitting at the back of the room until they were pulled forward by the discussions.

They both enjoyed the community of friends and connections they’ve built with people from all majors through their discussions.

President Dunn praised the club during New Student Orientation, and they were named “Outstanding New Student Organization” in the spring of 2019.

The final two meetings of the semester will be held at 7 p.m., Nov. 17 and Dec. 8 in Wagner 114.

During the Nov. 17 meeting, the club plans to discuss “The Kennedy Family Curse,” and in the Dec. 8 meeting, the club will discuss the conspiracies surrounding the “Illuminati.”
How to: Origami butterflies

KELSEY WERPY
Reporter

Origami is the art of folding paper. It doesn’t require scissors, glue or tape – only paper. I use Origami as a stress-relieving technique as well as an art form, and my go-to Origami creation is a butterfly.

To make a butterfly, you will need a square piece of paper. I recommend using a standard-sized sticky note.

Follow along with these steps to make a butterfly of your own:

**Step one:** Fold your piece of paper or sticky note diagonally. If you are using a sticky note, keep the glue part on the inside as you fold.

**Step two:** Unfold your first diagonal crease, then fold the paper diagonally the other direction.

**Step three:** Unfold your second diagonal crease, and fold the paper across horizontally.

**Step four:** Unfold your first horizontal crease, then fold it horizontally toward the other side. At the end of this step, unfold that crease.

**Step five:** Now you should see a snowflake-like shape made out of the four creases on your paper. Take your paper and fold it horizontal ways.

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**PLEASE RESPECT OUR POLICY**

Use of tobacco products (cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, smokeless tobacco, vapor-based products, etc.) is not permitted on any University property, including all campus grounds inside and out, parking areas, vehicles, and student housing.

Sponsored By SDState Health and The Wellness Center
**Step six**: Take the creased edges of the horizontal fold and push both of them inside of the paper. This should create a triangle.

**Step seven**: Turn the triangle so it faces downward. The triangle has four flaps, so take the front two flaps (one flap on each side) and fold them downward at about a 45-degree angle.

**Step eight**: Take the bottom point of the paper and fold it around the back of the wings creating a crease at the back.

**Step nine**: Take that point and fold it down over the top in front. Then finally, fold the entire butterfly at the middle crease for stability.

You should now have an Origami butterfly!

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**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**HEALTH & SCIENCES**

**CAREER FAIR**

Thursday, November 7, 2019

Volstorff Ballroom, The Union

10 AM - 2 PM

Sponsored by SDSU Office of Career Development

For more information and list of registered organizations, log into Handshake

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**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

**STUDENTS STUDYING:**

- Natural Sciences: Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Human Biology, Microbiology, Physics
- Health & Nutritional Sciences: Athletic Training, Community & Public Health, Exercise Science, Nutrition & Dietetics, Pre-Professional Programs, Nursing
- All Majors Are Welcome

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR:**

- Full- and Part-Time, Internships & Graduate/Professional School

Collegian photos by KELSEY WERPY
Sudoku

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Across
1 Code name
2 Fragrant oil
3 Beet, e.g.
4 Decorate
5 Charter
6 Poetic homage
7 Newspaper
8 Bag thickness
9 Bard's before
10 Writer Urus
11 Vacant
12 Barnyard male
13 Country estate
14 Bane
15 Alternative
16 Set apart
17 Papal name
18 Floor cleaner
19 Hair line
20 Untrue
21 Ceremony
22 Picnic crasher
23 Bonanza finds
24 Attaches with
25 Arizona heat
26 Repeat marks
27 Heartfelt
28 Unrefined, like oil
29 Steamy
30 Meager
31 Alternative
32 Devise
33 Features
34 Bane
35 Hearty
36 Bane
37 Untrue
38 Knowing
39 Gull relative
40 Beard
41 Hindu honorific
42 Confine
43 Choir voice
44 Vowel sound
45 ___-chi (martial art)
46 Defensive
47 Scent
48 City on the Tiber
49 Vowel sound
50 Defense
51 Bay window
52 Quaint dance
53 Not at work
54 Darjeeling, e.g.
55 Mix
56 Night spot
57 Galleyslaves
58 Reef material
59 Call for help
60 Stockholm
61 Native
62 Used a broom
63 Bacon, eggs, sausage and hashbrowns rolled into a Big Burrito from Einstein's Bros Bagels.
64 This instant
65 Unrefined, like heart
66 Puddinglike
dessert
67 Valedictory
68 Used a broom

Down
1 Defensive
2 Scent
3 City on the Tiber
4 Hindu honorific
5 Confine
6 Choir voice
7 Gull relative
8 ___-chi (martial art)
9 Venom source
10 Take offense at
11 Give and take
12 Mine entrance
13 Count on
14 Big rig
15 Bay window
16 Quaint dance
17 Not at work
18 Darjeeling, e.g.
19 Mix
20 Night spot
21 Galleyslaves
22 Reef material
23 Call for help
24 Stockholm
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27 Bacon, eggs, sausage and hashbrowns rolled into a Big Burrito from Einstein's Bros Bagels.
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31 Scent
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34 Confine
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38 Venom source
39 Take offense at
40 Give and take
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42 Count on
43 Big rig
44 Bay window
45 Quaint dance
46 Not at work
47 Darjeeling, e.g.
48 Mix
49 Night spot
50 Galleyslaves
51 Reef material
52 Call for help
53 Stockholm
54 Native
55 Used a broom

Solution on next page

LIFESTYLES

Einstein’s Big Breakfast Burrito impresses

KEATON GRUBER, ROBERT KOWITZ AND MATTHEW HARRIS
Food Columnists

This week brought many great surprises as we continued the search for the most delicious and unique foods around the South Dakota State University campus. We decided to head inside the Student Union to Einstein Bros. Bagels to give it a try.

Upon reaching a consensus, we ordered the Big Breakfast Burrito and the Chocolate Chip Coffee Cake.

The burrito challenged our stereotypes of food at coffee shops and gave us hope for all of the possibilities that the rest of the menu has.

Not only are both of these alliteration-titled foods fun to say, they are also packed with surprises.

The Big Breakfast Burrito is the Big Baller Brand of coffee shop foods.

This big boy is filled with all your breakfast food favorites including sausage, eggs, hash browns, bacon, salsa, green chiles and cheese all wrapped up tightly in a flour tortilla shell.

These ingredients mix together perfectly to satisfy with every bite. Although this burrito looks innocent, one must beware of its kick. The green chiles deliver a punch that is not for the faint of heart.

If you’re not a big fan of spice, just ask for it without green chiles so you can join in on the boatload of hearty foods packed so nicely into this burrito.

After a very enjoyable burrito, we moved onto the Chocolate Chip Coffee Cake.

This cake is packed with goodness and more calories than we really care to know. The outside of this little round cake was perfectly crunchy.

Diving deeper, we discovered the soft, moist inside of this little cake. As if the cake isn’t enough, there’s a heap of chocolate chips to sweeten up the whole thing. It held up to the excitement, delivering on every level.

This pairing of items was extremely filling but so tasty that you can push through the pain. To get your hands on the burrito, you will find yourself with quite the wait, since Grubhub currently doesn’t display the burrito.

This is especially true during busy times of the day, as we found it took about 23 minutes from the line to food-in-hand. Though this is a long time for someone in a hurry, if you have the time, it’s worth the wait.

As we sat down and ate our burrito and cake, we noticed something wonderful: The cheese from the burrito kept the hot pieces of food together. The cake was moist enough to generally keep everything together, and even the pieces that did fall stayed in the wrapping.

Next time you’re at Einstein Bros. Bagels, consider taking the time to get the hearty Big Breakfast Burrito for $6.29 and the Chocolate Chip Coffee Cake for $2.39.
One year away: A look ahead to upcoming 2020 presidential election

The 2020 presidential election is right around the corner, and we are awaiting the most polarizing election of our generation. With the nation so divided, this election may further split our country apart.

Now, with 17 Democratic candidates remaining and four Republican candidates, the Democratic National Committee’s best bet is Joe Biden. The former vice president under the Obama administration has the name recognition and highest polling numbers. He is also the most moderate candidate out of the entire DNC candidates.

This will also help gather the “center-to-left” American voters. Candidates such as Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders and Kamala Harris are all too far-left to grab moderates.

With the Republican Party holding on to President Donald Trump, it’s very rare for a president to be beaten while in office. In total, it has only happened twice in our country’s history. The last time being George H. W. Bush, who lost to Bill Clinton in 1992. Trump is also predicted to win key swing states in the upcoming election, according to Moody’s Analytics, which has been correct since 1980, except in 2016.

Even with the impeachment inquiry and media biases against Trump, the Democratic Party will have a hard time taking the Oval Office away from Trump. Democrats are split between the more moderate Joe Biden followers and the further-left Sanders or Warren supporters. However, Democrat voters will turn out in numbers to the ballot box as they do not want a repeat of 2016.

They must win this impossible impeachment inquiry. If they continue to fail in their quest to impeach Trump, the Democrats will start to lose credibility. Conservative voters have been awakened by Trump and his polarizing rally tactics. He has reduced unemployment numbers, and the United States has the lowest Black unemployment rate in its history, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. He has hit the heart of working-class Americans and empowered the once-silent majority. Conservatives are proud, loud and ready to win the 2020 presidential election.
In 19 regular season games this season, the South Dakota State women's soccer team found the back of the net 28 times—10 of those goals came off the cleats of Leah Manuleleua.

The senior forward has been key in the Jackrabbits' success. She's scored the lone goal in six of the Jacks 14 wins.

Goal scoring has become Manuleleua's calling-card, but it isn't something she's had to practice.

"I feel like it comes so much more natural than I realize," she said. "I was thinking about the goal the other day. I wasn't even looking up, I could just see her from my tunnel vision. It's just a natural instinct to shoot and try to score."

But Manuleleua's talent didn't initially land the California native in Brookings.

Manuleleua grew up in Madi, California, with her two brothers, one sister and her parents. She started soccer in middle school but hasn't always played forward—this change came during her junior year of high school.

To start her collegiate career, Manuleleua played a season for San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, California. During this season she was approached by an opponent coach, who had heard from SDSU's head coach Brock Thompson that he needed a forward.

It was a tough decision for Manuleleua, but she made the switch to become a Jackrabbit in 2017.

"I got recruited from one of Brock's friends," Manuleleua said. "Brock was talking to him (about) how he needed a forward, and then he had given him my contact info."

In her three years of Division I soccer, Manuleleua has been named all-conference twice and is on her way to earning the title for a third time.

On top of that, she has scored over 20 goals for the Jacks, placing her in the top five in school history. Along with goals, Manuleleua has 10 assists, 149 shots and has played over 3,000 minutes on the pitch.

Her production isn't an accident. She was a goal scorer before battling through injuries and has continued to be elite at finding the back of the net, leading the Summit League in goals this season.

"She is very professional in how she approaches training and very confident in what her ability is," Thompson said. "I think the biggest thing for her is she made it a little bit simpler and focused on giving her best effort and having a great attitude. In the end, I think that is a really important key to her production."

Though accomplishments have piled up during her time in Brookings, Manuleleua recognizes the role her teammates have played in her success.

"I definitely think it is everyone ... helping me," Manuleleua said. "It wouldn't be possible without having good midfielders, other good forwards, Maggie as a great keeper and great defenders."

However, being a student-athlete while pursuing a degree in nursing comes with its ups and downs. She specifically expressed the struggle of traveling for away games.

"We leave, I miss class and we don't get home until 2 a.m."

Manuleleua said, "Then I have a clinical all day following. (There's a) time management aspect ... being able to be on the road and do homework but still be able to hang out with teammates."

Manuleleua's favorite aspect of being a Jackrabbit is the connections she's made with teammates, coaches and community members. Those same people who have made her time in Brookings special also realize the special talent and person wearing No. 11.

"Leah is incredible," Thompson said. "The thing that I am the proudest of with Leah is I don't know if we have a teammate that celebrates the success of others with any more excitement and enthusiasm than she does."

During practice, Thompson talks about leaving a legacy, which is something he knows Manuleleua has worked hard to accomplish since day one.

Through the season Manuleleua's focus has been having fun and going out on the best note possible. She manages to do this by controlling her attitude and effort. She prepares for games and practices, rather than outcomes, has fun and works hard on leaving her legacy on the pitch.

"We've got a number of good attacking players," Thompson explained. "We talk all the time about leaving a legacy and those that come after Leah will be better because of what she's done in our program."

There's just one part of Manuleleua's legacy missing.

Despite entering the conference tournament with a top-two seed, the Jacks have fallen short of winning the Summit League each of the past two seasons.

But, Manuleleua and her fellow seniors look to make good on one last opportunity. The Jacks play Oral Roberts in the conference semifinals 6 p.m. Nov. 7, at Fishback Soccer Park. If they win, they'll play for the conference title Saturday against either Denver or North Dakota.

"I feel like it is definitely different this year since we are seniors," Manuleleua said. "We really want to go out on the best note possible, so I just feel like we all came with a different mindset mentality. We're going to get it done this year. We have to—it's our last year."
LANDON DIERKS
Sports Editor

And so it begins — another Summit League title defense for the South Dakota State women’s basketball program.

Coach Aaron Johnston’s squad reached new heights in the 2018-19 campaign, but the players remaining from the first Sweet 16 appearance in program history aren’t satisfied.

“We obviously have some new faces, new roles and a new team from last year, but we still have the same kind of expectations and standards that this program has always set,” said junior Myah Selland. “We really buy into what this program means and why we all want to be here, so the expectations are still there.”

If the 2019-20 roster hopes to replicate or improve upon last season’s unprecedented success, it’ll have to do so without perhaps the most decorated set of seniors to graduate from SDSU.

Macy Miller and Madison Guebert, who have their names etched all over the SDSU and Summit League record books, along with Sydney Palmer, were key pieces on NCAA Tournament teams in 2016, 2018 and 2019.

This year, the leadership and captain roles fall to Selland and senior Tagyn Larson. Both were named to the All-Summit League preseason first team, with junior Tylee Irwin being named to the second team.

Despite the individual preseason accolades and winning the Summit League nine times in 11 years as a Division I institution, the Jackrabbits are not the popular choice to bring the conference title back to Brookings.

Rival South Dakota topped the preseason poll while SDSU settled for second, though both teams received votes in the initial AP Top 25 poll. While the players claim they don’t look into the preseason ranking too much — after all, no one has played a game yet — Larson believes it adds a little something extra to play for.

“You can’t just look at it and not get a little motivated by being second, especially with USD up top,” Larson said.

When it comes to making up for the considerable production Miller and Guebert added during their time in yellow and blue, Johnston’s crew has kept it in perspective. Multiple players will have to work in unison to fill the void.

“Obviously Macy and Madi were huge players and very successful here,” Larson said. “I don’t think it’s a matter of replacing them, because that’s very hard to do, but adjusting and trying to figure out what’s going to work for our team this year is huge for us.”

Now entering his 20th season leading the Jacks, there’s little doubt Johnston’s team will compete — after all, he’s never had a team finish with a losing record. However, after being backcourt oriented with Miller and Guebert, the frontcourt will see an increased role this season.

“I think we’ll score differently and need to score differently,” Johnston said. “I think we will, hopefully, still score at the same efficiency and pace, but it won’t be so many quick 3s or point guard penetrations like we got from Macy.”

With depth in the frontcourt, the Jacks will likely have a size advantage over many of the teams they face this season, especially in conference play.

SEE WOMEN’S ON A12
PROJECTED STARTING FIVE

RYLIE CASCIO JENSEN
Senior | Guard | 5-10
2.6 points per game
3.0 assists per game
1.9 rebounds per game

TYLEE IRWIN
Junior | Guard | 6-0
7.5 points per game
1.7 assists per game
3.7 rebounds per game

MYAH SELLAND
Junior | Forward | 6-1
12.1 points per game
3.2 assists per game
5.2 rebounds per game

TAGYN LARSON
Senior | Forward | 6-2
10.5 points per game
1.7 assists per game
6.4 rebounds per game

PAITON BURCKHARD
Sophomore | Forward | 6-0
6.1 points per game
0.8 assists per game
3.3 rebounds per game

KEY RESERVES

LINDSEY THEUNINCK
Tori Nelson
KALLIE THEISEN

Preseason mid-major top 10
1. Drake
2. South Dakota
3. Rice
4. Gonzaga
5. Ohio
6. Boise State
7. FGCU
8. Princeton
9. Marist
10. South Dakota State (tie)
10. Missouri State (tie)

From A11

WOMEN’S

In the exhibition drumming of St. Cloud State, the Jacks started four players 6-foot or taller — the lone exception being 5-foot-10 senior guard Rylie Cascio Jensen.

Taking advantage of that size is something Johnston and his staff will look to do when the opportunity presents itself.

“Our length I’ve noticed in practice,” Johnston said. “We deflect a lot more passes and block a lot more shots right now. We rebound probably a little better than we did last year. We’re just really long and physical, so we have to find ways to use that.”

Just as it has done the past several seasons, SDSU will face a challenging slate of nonconference games.

The Jacks will take on fellow traditional mid-major powers in Florida Gulf Coast, Central Michigan and Green Bay, as well as teams in the AP Top 25 such as No. 1 Oregon, No. 16 Notre Dame and teams receiving votes like Drake, South Florida and Marquette.

Last season, tackling a similar collection of nonconference opponents resulted in the deepest NCAA Tournament run in program history — that’s hardly a coincidence.

“The more you play against those elite teams in the country, the more it feels normal,” Johnston said. “Sometimes when you play that level of competition, you have to get over the psychological or mental part of playing those kinds of teams. So, every time we do that it’s not just for show, we get a lot of experience in what we need to improve on.”

That top-flight experience will be critical in getting the younger players up to speed, especially freshmen Kallie Theisen and Tori Nelson — two new faces Johnston says are ready to come in and contribute right away.

In the interim, the Jacks will rely on five returning playmakers, the same quintet that started the lone exhibition contest — Larson, Selland, Cascio Jensen, Irwin and sophomore Paiton Burckhard.

“Now, the team is ready to put all the talk of preseason polls, tough schedules and moving on from losing two of the best players in program history to rest and prove what this roster can do.

“I’m excited,” Selland said. “It’s been a good preseason and I’m looking forward to putting it all together and starting to play some games.”