Years of Women’s Athletics

Volleyball
Volleyball was the first women’s intercollegiate sport implemented at SDSU in 1965. It was made up of eight student-athletes coached by Pat Hale.

Title IX passed on June 23, 1972.

Basketball
The women’s basketball team beat in-state rival South Dakota 35 - 26 in February of 1967.

Frost Arena opened in February of 1973. Before the arena opened, women’s teams practiced and played in the Barn.

Swim and Dive
Two women divers participated in the men’s swimming and diving team in the early 1970s before a women’s team was formed in 1975.

Softball
SDSU softball won its 700th game in 2015

In 1975, Lavone (Opitz) Nelson became the first female Jackrabbit to receive an athletic scholarship. Nelson was part of the track team.

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Wednesday, November 11, 2015
sdsucollegian.com
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Celebrating 50 years of women’s athletics

Female student-athletes to receive long awaited SDSU varsity letters

SARA BERTSCH
Editor-in-Chief

Fifty years ago, eight women athletes formed the first-ever volleyball team at South Dakota State University.

It was only a matter of time before the university added 10 more women’s varsity sports.

Volleyball, basketball, swimming, track, gymnastics and field hockey were the first women’s sports implemented at SDSU in the 1960s. Soon to follow was swimming and diving, cross country, softball, tennis and golf in the 1970s.

In 2000, the first women’s soccer team was formed and equestrian followed in 2004 becoming the final and most recent women’s sport at SDSU.

Kathie Courtney remembers her time at SDSU when she participated in track and field hockey in the early 70s. But that wasn’t what Courtney remembered most.

She recalled her time as a student athletic trainer. In fact, she was the first woman athletic trainer at SDSU.

“Everything was still really segregated when it came to men and women,” Courtney said. “That’s just the way it was then.”

Courtney remembers traveling with the women’s teams, primarily basketball, while serving as a student trainer.

The team didn’t have enough busses for the entire team many times, leaving several players to take cars to travel to games. Courtney recalled a few times there weren’t any busses, leaving the entire team to drive to the game.

“It was very, very different than what it is now,” she said.

Finding records for women’s athletics is a challenge according to Michele Schmidt, the assistant sports information director.

It was informal, as Schmidt describes it, with little paperwork. She, however, has been working on gathering information on women’s athletics for the past year, talking to several former women athletes.

“From what I’m hearing from the women... they needed bodies. If you could bounce a ball, you were on the team,” she said.

From 1965-66 through 1974-75, women athletes did not receive varsity letters. The University is going to change that.

This weekend the department will be giving varsity letters to athletes who participated during those specific years.

Courtney is especially excited about that, even though she has her own varsity letter and jacket.

“I think it’s awesome they are recognizing that and I understand that we are getting our varsity letters at this thing on Friday,” she said. “I told Michele, I’m probably the only female athlete that ever got a letter and a men’s letter jacket because I actually got a letter for being a student trainer.”

She recalls going to the downtown store to get measured for her jacket. It was common of many male athletes to also go to this store, but when Courtney walked in “their jaws about hit the ground.”

Fifty years ago, women’s athletics was different, but the women were happy with what they had according to Kathey Heylens, the associate athletic director for compliance and senior women’s administrator.

“They were happy though just because they had an opportunity to be organized and play with other females,” Heylens said.

The university is honoring the top-50 female student-athletes on Friday, Nov. 13 during the women’s basketball game. The top-50 athletes were voted on by Jackrabbit Nation this summer.
Spotlight: Current Jackrabbit Women

Jessie Hendricks
Swim and Dive
Senior

Diana Poterveld
Soccer
Senior

Hadlie Overhue
Swim and Dive
Senior

What is your favorite part about being an athlete at SDSU?

Last year my little sister Cassie joined me on the swim team. I am so blessed to be able to compete at the collegiate level with my little sister. In addition, I have gained a second family – all of my teammates.

My favorite part about being an athlete at SDSU is the amazing support system I have. I can turn to my coaches, teammates, professors, administrators and anyone in the Brookings community for support. It is such a tight-knit community that is always willing to lend a helping hand.

I love the fact that I have such a close knit group of truly amazing teammates who are the best support system anyone could ask for. The drive to be the best, both in the sport they are doing and what degree they are seeking at school, makes me want to work harder everyday.

How does it feel to be a part of an organization (women’s athletics) that is celebrating 50 years this year?

I am very blessed to be a part of this exciting time in women’s athletics. So much progress has been made over the past 50 years, and I am excited that I have been able to contribute to a piece of this history.

It is an honor and privilege to be able to contribute to this tradition and do so as a part of a wonderful, supportive university and community. I appreciate all the women who came before me to make it possible for me to have this experience.

I think it is great! Being here the past four years I have seen how each athletics program has grown so much and I am so excited to come back in five or 10 years and see how much it has changed since I have graduated.

Why did you choose SDSU?

When Cassie committed to swim here, I knew I had made the right decision. SDSU has been the perfect school for me.

I chose SDSU because of the entire student-athlete experience I could get here. After meeting the soccer coaches and team I knew the program would be a good fit for me.

I chose SDSU because I liked living in a small town and I loved the atmosphere of it being a college town.
Soccer claims second straight Summit League title
Team will travel to Minnesota for first round of NCAA tournament on Friday

AUSTIN HAMM
Sports Editor

The South Dakota State soccer team didn’t feel like an underdog in the Summit League Tournament, despite coming in as the No. 3 seed, and it showed as they defeated Oral Roberts and North Dakota State in succession to secure a spot in the NCAA tournament for the second year in a row and set up a matchup with the Minnesota Golden Gophers on Friday in Minneapolis.

“We were a missed penalty kick against North Dakota State and ten minutes where we were up 2-1 over Oral Roberts from being the No. 1 seed,” SDSU Head Coach Lang Wedemeyer said. “That kind of showed the team that there is a fine line between winning and how you finish and that we were still very capable of winning the tournament.”

In the semifinals against ORU, freshman Brittany Jensen tallied two goals as the Jacks defended their home field against the Golden Eagles and avenged their loss in Tulsa from earlier in the season.

NDSU advanced to the final by way of a 4-3 double overtime win over the University of South Dakota. The Bison and Jacks had played to a 0-0 draw in their regular season meeting, but the second meeting looked much different, as SDSU cruised to a 3-0 win to lock up the Summit League Tournament title for the second year in a row. Diana Potterveld scored twice in the win, once on a penalty kick and again tapping the ball in off a deflection.

In Minnesota, the Jacks take on an at-large team from the Big Ten. Though the power conference opponent may boast some skilled athletes, Wedemeyer feels the Jacks are up to the challenge and have played a schedule that has prepared them for this type of opponent.

“Kansas and Marquette are fairly comparable opponents,” Wedemeyer said. “Minnesota will probably be the most athletic team we’ve played this year. The Big Ten is a really tough, physical conference where they rely on their athleticism, so we’ll have to take care of that... We feel this is a winnable game.”

SDSU fell 0-3 at Kansas and played Marquette to a 1-1 draw.
In 2014, SDSU fell to North Carolina in the first round of the NCAA tournament. The idea is that experience will help this year’s upperclassmen lead their team into Elizabeth Lyle Robbie Stadium and upset the Gophers, who were ranked as highly as No. 11 nationally this year.

“Anytime that you’ve been able to play in a big tournament like this, the experience will help,” Wedemeyer said.

“They won’t be quite as nervous, they won’t be quite as awestruck. Coming into it they’ll be a little more focused. Last year we played exceptionally well, particularly in the second half. First half we were a little bit of a deer in the headlights, so I think this year that experience will play well for us.”

Though he acknowledges making the tournament is an accomplishment, Wedemeyer knows that making a push in the tournament is the next step for the program.

“One of our goals every year is not only to win the Summit League and get to the NCAA tournament, but to advance...” Wedemeyer said, “that hasn’t happened since 2008. There’s an element of go and try to make something happen this time around.”
Climbing the Summit again
SDSU women’s basketball looks to return to NCAA tournament despite losing key contributors

AUSTIN HAMM
Sports Editor

The South Dakota State women’s basketball team continued their run of success under Aaron Johnston last year, dominating top-seeded South Dakota in the Summit League tournament and making the NCAA tournament for the sixth time in seven years, where they fell to the Oregon State Beavers in Corvallis, Ore. But this year’s Jackrabbits will have a new look.

Lost to graduation are Rachel Walters, Megan Stuart and Megan Waytashek, and Mariah Clarin is out of eligibility after four healthy years on the roster. Also gone is Chynna Stevens, who transferred to the University of San Diego following her sophomore campaign last year. Between the other four, the Jacks are losing 36.3 points per game of the teams 72.2 average. They also lost their top three rebounders from last season in Clarin, Stevens and Waytashek.

Fresh faces and old friends:
Top returners for the Jacks in include sophomores Macy Miller, Second-Team, All-Summit League last year; and Ellie Thompson, who was a Summit League All-Newcomer and All-Tournament team selection. Clarissa Ober is also back, as she looks to take over the starting center spot in her third season on campus.

But the biggest plot twist in returners is Gabby Boever. The guard was granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA and will likely be counted on to be a leader for a Jacks team that has to replace half of their scoring from last season.

Freshmen will likely be counted on to step up and play a key part in replacing that scoring, especially with the 2015 South Dakota and Minnesota Gatorade Players of the year now on board. Madison Guebert (Apple Valley, Minn.) has started both exhibition games and looks primed for a big part in her first year. Sydney Palmer (Pierre, SD) has come off the bench in a reserve guard role, but looks to have a developed shooting touch from the outside that could allow her to provide a nice scoring punch off the bench. Also new is four-star recruit Tonnia Wade (Bloomington, Minn.), but the six-foot forward has not suited up for either of the Jacks’ exhibitions and may be redshirting this season.

Best case scenario:
Miller will continue to establish herself as a top player in the Summit League, using her unique combination of height and athleticism to lead a balanced SDSU lineup that has multiple players that can hurt itself from the inside out shooting the ball.

A traditional multi-headed Jackrabbit attack will balance with an excellent team defense, and the team will gain national notoriety with home wins over the likes of Arkansas and Notre Dame. They can cruise to the Summit League regular season title, roll through the tournament and make the NCAA tourney as a 10-seed or better, giving a good battle to a higher ranked team in the first round, potentially coming away with the program’s second win in the NCAA tournament.

Worst Case scenario:
Position-less basketball may lead to stagnant offense as players stand around and watch one another dribble around and put up off-balance jumpers. Embarrassing losses to power conference opponents will mount, but the Jacks’ talent level can keep them at the 2-or 3-seed in the Summit League tourney. Without a fluid offense, they will fall to a tough USD squad in the final and be left to push for another run through the NIT.
MAKENZIE HUBER
News Editor

There’s more on the line this weekend than SDSU’s pride and the season’s record as the Jacks face off against the University of South Dakota Coyotes at the DakotaDome. A trophy is on the line—specifically, the Corn Cup.

The Corn Cup is part of the three-year-old Showdown Series between South Dakota State and USD. South Dakota Corn Council and Feeding South Dakota sponsor the showdown. Points are racked up for each win the institutions gain at sporting events they face off in. The schools will compete in 20 different events in 17 sports. Although most sports count as one point, football counts for two points with a win. What weighs more heavily than football are the academic points gained for each school based to student athletes’ GPA, which counts for 3 points for each school.

“It’s great to have the competition on the field of play, but we also realize student athletes are here and their main priority is to get an education and to recognize that is pretty cool,” said Justin Sell, director of athletics.

The Showdown Series began in 2012 after USD joined Division I play. The Corn Cup currently rests in Vermillion, but Sell said he is confident SDSU athletes will “play [their] hearts out for it.”

“We take that approach with every game and contest we play and every sport that we play,” Sell said.

The point standings are currently 3-2 in the Jacks’ favor. This weekend’s game will be a deciding factor if SDSU continues to outplay the Coyotes or if USD will tip the scale and lead the showdown on the way to the cup.

Showdown Series

MAKENZIE HUBER
News Editor

SDSU and USD will battle for Corn Cup

SDSU hopes for fourth consecutive win

MAKENZIE HUBER
News Editor

SDSU has won the Summit League Commissioner’s Cup for the past three years, showcasing SDSU’s success in sports across the entire league.

“I like to say it just measures the broad base success of a program,” said Justin Sell, director of athletics. “It’s not just based in one or two sports—you have to be good in all of your sports to have a chance to win the Commissioner’s Cup.”

The 20-year-old competition adds points from men’s and women’s sports ranging from football to basketball to softball, and each sport counts to win the cup.

One story Sell tells to remind student athletes about their important part within the competition is how SDSU won the 2010-2011 Commissioner’s Cup. SDSU took the cup that year with a .5 win over Oakland University because of a softball game.

The Jacks softball team was playing for seventh place in the league against Oakland University. Although the team wasn’t the best in the league, their win over Oakland gave SDSU just the right advantage to win the cup. Once all scores were tallied up, Oakland stood at 97 points and SDSU at 97.5.

Sell said the story is a good way to “pump people up, get them excited and get them focused.”

The Commissioner’s Cup is decided by adding points gathered in men’s and women’s sports. Separately, the men’s division can earn the Dr. William Steinbrecher Men’s All-Sports Award while the women’s division competes for the Dr. Helen Smiley Women’s All-Sports Award.

Sell hopes to keep the title for another year.

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In a realm of such a unique sport, the equestrian team has the same aspects as that of any collegiate sport. This includes multiple physical and riding practices a week and hard-earned appearances at competitions. However, the team also has elements that are not found in other sports.

One such instance of uniqueness, according to senior equestrian and biochemistry major Jessica Taylor, is that the riders don’t know what horse they will be riding when they go to competition. In fact, the team doesn’t even train with the same horses every time in practice.

“We often only ride one horse, so a bond develops between horse and rider,” Taylor said. “On the team, we ride an unknown horse when we compete and practice on different horses everyday, so you have to be a very adaptable rider. It’s like driving 20 different types of cars, but they all have different steering, acceleration and braking.”

The equestrian team acts like any other sport; the team practices several times a week, works out, does community service and has study tables. According to sophomore equestrian and political science pre-law major Alissa Greenwald, the nature of the sport is also competitive.

“Like any sport, having natural ability is nice, but hard work and proper training are really important factors,” Greenwald said. “It takes years for even naturally-gifted riders to get to the level that we compete at.”

Taylor believes riders must practice the sport before the collegiate level in order to compete at their level.

“This is just like basketball or baseball or football where it takes years of practice and experience to excel,” Taylor said. “It is much different than those sports because we have a ball or partner who has a mind of its own and variable cooperation in practice and competitions. It’s just like in baseball where the pitcher reads the catcher’s signs, but with a horse, each one is different, has different cues and we don’t speak the same language. Not anybody off the street can do this.”

Western team captain of women’s equestrian Kelsey Swainston, believes that riding isn’t something that can be learned very quickly.

“Successful riders have a sixth sense of feel and can tell what’s going on underneath them as well as what the horse is going to do next and how they can adjust in order to react appropriately to the horse’s needs in order to get the most out of them,” Swainston said. “I would say that competitive riding, as in what we do here on the team, stems a lot from natural talent because there are some elements that cannot be taught.”

According to Taylor, the off-seasons, which occurs between mid April and up until the beginning of fall semester, is not a cakewalk for the team either.

“We are expected to ride and show all summer with different trainers and many different horses back where we are from, so there isn’t a real ‘off-season.’ It really is a year-round sport,” Taylor said. “I get to do what I love, ride horses, all year long. I really enjoy being pushed to stay in top shape so I ride my best, and I know all the hours in the weight room really pays off.”
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You’re a regular Clark Kent...
Volleyball team shows growth outside of season’s win-loss record

The SDSU volleyball team heads into their final two matches of the season with an overall record of 4-26 and 3-11 in the Summit League. This is an improvement after finishing last year with an overall record of 6-26 and 0-16 in the Summit League play.

Winning three games in conference play is the first step in first-year Head Coach Nicole Cirillo’s rebuilding process.

“We’ve made a lot of big strides and ultimately that is all that I have asked this team, is that we get better, we change the culture, that we work harder every day to get better,” Cirillo said. “As far as a grade, it’s an A, as far as wins go, that’s not our focus so I’m not going to base anything off of that.”

Cirillo believes she is right on track in her rebuilding process.

“Absolutely, we’ve got five seniors that have done a great job leading this year,” Cirillo said. “Even though they won’t be involved in the growth over the next few years, they have helped lay a foundation of what is to come for Jackrabbit volleyball.”

The team will miss out on the Summit League Tournament this year as only the top-six teams make it. Cirillo thinks that is the next step her program needs to take.

“I think that the top six is definitely what you want to go for, for that postseason opportunity,” Cirillo said. “Next year we’ll see what comes, as far as what our goals are, we’ll have a completely different team, but that’s definitely an ultimate goal is the next step is making the postseason.”

With Jackrabbits losing five seniors they will be losing almost half of their roster. This doesn’t worry Cirillo so much on the floor as it does off it.

“They’re a solid group of young women, that have had a rough go around on the athletic side, but that doesn’t negate what they’ve accomplished in the classroom over their careers here,” Cirillo said. “Being able to take on the challenge of having a new coach their senior years, they will be able to pass on that adversity happens and how do you deal with it.”

Even though the program is heading in the right direction, there is still a lot that needs to get better and Cirillo understands that.

“Our biggest thing is to grow our mental side of the game,” Cirillo said. “We’ve shown our skills at moments, but our consistency is what we struggle with right now, and that’s part of the mental aspect, so being able to play the game at a higher level is something we’ll push this spring.”

Kacey Hermann is one of the seniors whose leadership on and off the court Cirillo will miss going forward.

As the season draws to a close, Jackrabbit faithful can look to the teams competitive nature as opposed to their win total to see the progress they’ve made.

Junior Nazya Thies will be looked on to be one of the leaders of the Jacks in 2016 after a solid statistical campaign in her first year at SDSU.
a glance over the years

Coughlin-Alumni Stadium


Largest margin of victory ever on Hobo Day, SDSU beats University of South Dakota 61-0.

In a memorable Hobo Day battle, USD grabbed a 14-13 fourth-quarter lead. SDSU answered with consecutive touchdowns to take a 26-14 lead with 6:40 remaining. SDSU held on to win 26-21, and later that season played in its first playoff game.

The most famous win over USD came October 19, 1985, Coyotes with No. 1 ranking in the nation. SDSU was 3-3 and had built a 22-0 lead, before Jackrabbit reserves gave up two fourth-quarter touchdowns. SDSU ended the game with a safety when USD fumbled into the end zone with 39 seconds to play.

It took two days for SDSU to persevere against Hobo Day opponent Morningside. Harry Forysth remembered, “It started to rain at the beginning of the second half and then it just unloaded. We went over to my office in Frost. We had both coaches and their ADs [athletic directors]. We called the weather service and they said the system was stationary. It poured until 11 p.m.” The game resumed at 1 p.m. Sunday with nine minutes remaining and SDSU leading 13-6. A Morningside touchdown closed the gap to 13-12.

A Beef Bowl crowd of 6,225 saw SDSU beat North Dakota State 42-30 for State’s first win against the Bison in 17 years.

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Coughlin-Alumni Stadium: The end of an era at South Dakota State

DREW CARROLL
Managing Editor

The South Dakota State University football team has come to the end of an era.

The team played in the confines of Coughlin-Alumni Stadium for the past 54 seasons, and now that stadium is being torn down and dug up to make room for Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

“Coughlin-Alumni Stadium was a fantastic stadium for a number of years. People understand it’s time to move forward.” Senior Associate Athletic Director for Facilities and Operations Jeff Holm said.

Work started on Monday to remove the fiberglass and wood benches and the metal frames, and that work should be completed by the end of this week, Holm said. The restrooms and the concession stand underneath the concrete structure of Coughlin-Alumni Stadium will be demolished this week. On Nov. 16, the remaining concrete will start to be knocked down with a crane.

“It will be a slow process. They will not knock very much off at a time because of the new construction going up,” Holm said. “It will probably be a three-week process before the whole thing is down.”

If the Jackrabbits are able to host a playoff game this post-season, Holm said he has a plan approved by the NCAA to move the game from Coughlin-Alumni to Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls. Holm is not sure how the move will affect the attendance at the game, but Head Coach John Stiegelmeier said he is confident his team will not be affected by the change of location.

“We’re going to make it our home. We will go down there and practice; we will stay down there,” Stiegelmeier said. “We won’t bus down there the day of the game because it’s a playoff game, you know, you’re not going to stress your players out. When we walked into Youngstown Stadium, two or three weeks ago, we said, ‘Let’s take it over,’ and I don’t know if we did that entirely, but we had that mentality, so why not right down the road here in Sioux Falls.”
for the new stadium included an enclosed bowl-type seating arrangement, locker rooms and a track. The committee wanted to raise $500,000 for the new stadium in about one year of fundraising, but only raised about $182,000 during that time frame.

After the planning committee failed to raise the $500,000, a $15 student assessment was voted on by students twice in 1959 and then again in January of 1960. The assessment, or fee, would have been used to help the committee raise more money for the construction of the new stadium. After students voted against the fee three times, the project got scaled back according to Hove.

In April of 1961, the SD-BOR approved a plan to construct a stadium that would seat 6,300 people. Construction began in 1961 and the project had a $300,000 price tag. Charles Coughlin, a 1909 graduate of SDSU, donated $50,000 to the project and the remaining $250,000 came from other, smaller alumni donations, resulting in the name Coughlin-Alumni Stadium.

Coughlin-Alumni Stadium TIDBITS

First Game: Sept. 22, 1962 - Arkansas State 9, South Dakota State 7


Overall Record: 179-105 (.630 winning percentage) - games against 64 different opponents; never a tie game at CAS

First Night Game: Sept. 1, 2001 - South Dakota State 34, Ferris State (Mich.) 24

Against MVFC Opponents: 20-8 record

Playoff Record: 1-0 (def. Eastern Illinois, 58-10, on Nov. 24, 2012)

Hobo Day Record: 31-22

Beef Bowl Record: 28-20

Record in Night Games: 28-8


Original Construction: $300,000 - A $50,000 gift from Charles Coughlin, with the remaining $250,000 raised from alumni, students and friends of South Dakota State

Charles Coughlin: The man behind the name

DREW CARROLL
Managing Editor

Coughlin-Alumni Stadium is named after a man that graduated from South Dakota State University in 1909 as an engineer.

Charles Coughlin was the very first inductee into the SDSU Hall of Fame. Coughlin excelled at football, basketball, track and baseball during his time on campus from 1905 to 1909.

Following graduation, Coughlin worked for a telephone company and power plant in Brookings. In 1910, he switched roles and began working for Briggs and Stratton Company of Milwaukee before teaching mechanical engineering at Purdue University. Coughlin returned to Briggs and Stratton in 1922 and eventually became the president of the company.

Coughlin made quite a mark on campus after he left it. Coughlin-Alumni Stadium was made possible by a $50,000 gift from Coughlin. He also gave SDSU the Coughlin Campanile in 1929. The campanile has become one of the most recognizable symbols on the campus of SDSU.

A 22-yard pass from Brad Nelson to Chris Molitor with 39 seconds left gave SDSU a 24-21 win over North Dakota State in the inaugural Dakota Marker game. SDSU’s winning drive went 80 yards in 14 plays, and included two fourth-down conversion tosses in Jackrabbit territory.

The new scoreboard at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium got a workout as the Jackrabbits averaged 45.4 points in seven home games.

North Dakota State came in unbeaten (10-0), but with the Great West Conference title at stake, the Jackrabbits prevailed 29-24. The conference title was the first by a Jackrabbit football team since 1963.

In the first-ever playoff game at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium, Zach Zenner runs wild over Eastern Illinois, racking up a school-record 295 yards on 33 carries as the Jackrabbits posted a convincing 58-10 victory over the Ohio Conference champions.

John Stiegelmeier becomes the Jackrabbit career leader in football coaching victories with win number 114 as South Dakota State records on 41-3 victory over Wisconsin-Oshkosh on Sept. 10.
Jacks say farewell to Coughlin-Alumni with victory

Christion leads SDSU to upset No. 2 Illinois State, hands Red Birds first MVFC loss

AUSTIN HAMM
Sports Editor

The Jackrabbit football team sent Coughlin-Alumni Stadium out in style, as they topped No. 2 Illinois State 25-20 in the final game at what has been the home of South Dakota State football for over fifty years.

It was the Red Birds first conference loss of the year, and just their second overall. Their previous loss had been in the first week of the season at Iowa, currently ranked No. 5 in the FBS College Football Playoff rankings. The win put the Jacks at 7-2 for the year.

“In the locker room, there wasn’t the feeling like so many times there is after a big win, that we’ve arrived,” SDSU Head Coach John Stiegelmeier said. “The feeling was kind of well done, it’s kind of what we planned, let’s keep our focus on the goals.”

Zach Lujan got the start at quarterback for SDSU, but threw an interception on the second drive of the game and gave way to freshman sensation Taryn Christion, who threw for 307 yards and two scores while adding 67 yards on the ground, including a 10-yard touchdown run.

“We really talked about putting a good mark on this stadium, about leaving it with a good mark, and on top of senior night, that was really great to be able to do,” Christion said.

Lujan would come in to throw one pass when Christion was shaken up late in the second quarter, and made it count with a 14-yard touchdown pass to Jake Wieneke, who also had a 74-yard catch and run score from Christion in the second half as he totaled 104 yards on four catches for the day.

ISU was led by All-MVFC quarterback Tre Roberson, who threw for 317 yards and three touchdowns along with rushing for 80 yards on 11 carries.

Though this will be the last time the Jacks take the field at Coughlin-Alumni and the crowd may not have been at record breaking levels, Stiegelmeier knew the value of the fans in one of the Jacks biggest wins this year.

“Great crowd tonight. I don’t care about the numbers, but they were into the game,” Stiegelmeier said. “They make a difference with the energy and the noise, so I really appreciate the Jackrabbits that showed up to the last game at a really special place at South Dakota State.”

The Jackrabbits will play next in Vermillion on Saturday against USD in an already sold out DakotaDome. The Coyotes are 5-4 on the season and 3-3 in MVFC play, but do own a win over NDSU in the Fargodome.

“It’s always exciting during the week, talking about those guys and what they’re doing,” said senior defensive back JeRyan Butler. “They are playing well, but I have no doubt that we will go down there and win and take care of business.”
Jalen Wilson
Sports Reporter

With the autumn season here and the winter weather on its way, the Jackrabbit wrestling team is gearing up for a run at becoming a national qualifier.

High expectations rest on the shoulders of Head Coach Chris Bono and the return of their leader Cody Pack, a highly anticipated season is on the way for the Jacks.

“We are looking to make it to national qualifiers, we need to make sure we have All-Americans and are looking to finish in the top 20 by the end of the season,” Bono said.

Bono is coming into his fourth season as head coach of the Jacks wrestling team with an overall record of 22-28. He is coming off of a winning season in which he led the Jacks to an 11-8 record and finished 7-3 at Frost Arena.

There are some big changes to this year’s wrestling season as the Western Wrestling Conference, which the Jacks have previously wrestled in, has now merged with one of the best wrestling conferences in the nation in the Big 12.

When asked what this meant for his program, Bono said he understood the importance of this jump to major conference.

“It’s big, it’s great for our guys to compete, it helps us in recruiting, scheduling and elevates our program to an elite level.”

This might be one of the toughest schedules the Jacks have had in recent memory due to the competition they will face.

The Jacks have already had a match with Minnesota, which is currently ranked 16th in the nation. The toughest and most gruesome part of the schedule will be Nov. 21 through Dec. 4. They will wrestle three nationally ranked teams in a row and even the No. 1 team, Oklahoma State University, Nov. 27 at Frost Arena.

Coach Bono says that he made the schedule like this for a reason.

“We really want to make sure our guys know the level of competition they will face when they get to the national tournament what to expect,” Bono said.

Returning athlete Cody Pack will lead with way for the Jacks this year according to Bono. This year’s team includes 16 freshmen, making it one of the youngest teams in the conference.

Pack is a three-time national qualifier and was one win away from earning All-America honors last year.

Pack will act as a mentor to this young Jackrabbit squad.

“For our young guys, he is someone that they can look up to and see how he handles things is very, very important,” Bono said.

One freshman Bono said he believes will contribute right away is Anthony Cefolo from Florham Park, N.J. who was a three-time state champion.

After being named the starter, Cefolo has already shown his ability by upsetting the No. 16 wrestler in the 125 pound class this past weekend in Minneapolis.

Nate Rotert, who also was a national qualifier last year in the 197-pound class, earned high praise from Bono.

“We expect him to be an All-American. He’s got the skill level and the work ethic to be one of the top eight in the country.”

Rotert is coming off a shoulder injury but Bono says he should be good to go.

“He is almost a year out from when the surgery was done, I’m not worried about his past injury, just keeping his whole body healthy,” Bono said.

With the great competition, the return of Cody Pack, and a move to one of the best conferences in the nation, the Jacks wrestling season will be one to keep an eye on.
Men’s basketball eyes return to NCAA tourney

ANDREW HOLTAN
Sports Reporter

The SDSU men’s basketball team starts the 2015-2016 season on Friday when they take on Chadron State at 8:30 p.m. in Frost Arena.

The Jackrabbits had a very good season last year finishing with an overall record of 24-11 and were the regular season champions in the Summit League finishing with a record of 12-4.

Although the Jacks came up one point short in reaching the NCAA Tournament, they won their first-ever National Invitational Tournament game when they upset the No. 1 seed Colorado State 86-76 before falling to Vanderbilt 92-77.

They lost their leading rebounder and second-leading scorer, Cody Larson. Four out of the five starters returned, including their leading scorer Deondre Parks, who averaged 14.1 points-per-game. Their starting lineup will include three seniors with George Marshall at point guard, Parks at shooting guard and Jake Bittle at forward. It will also include two sophomores with Reid Tellinghuisen at the other forward and Ian Thiesen at center.

The Jacks added two freshmen guards to their team. Cole Gentry, a point guard from Sioux Falls, and Tevin King, a shooting guard from Chicago. Head Coach Scott Nagy has not announced if either of them will redshirt.

Point guard Keaton Moffit also returned. He will be a key player off of the bench. It seems as though redshirt freshman forward Mike Daum will see a role off the bench.

SDSU was picked to win the Summit League for a second-straight season by both the coaches and the media. Parks, Bittle and Marshall were all part of the preseason First team All-Summit League team.

The best-case scenario: they get through their non-conference schedule with only one or two losses and maybe beat power five schools in TCU, Texas Tech and Minnesota. Then breeze through the Summit League and head into the Summit League Tournament as the No. 1 seed and make the NCAA Tournament as a power mid-major and win a couple games in the tournament.

Their worst-case scenario would be one of their seniors getting injured in the non-conference portion of the schedule. The team struggles to replace them and misses postseason all together.

The Jacks enter the season with a 17-game winning streak at Frost Arena after going undefeated there last season. Their last loss at home was in January of 2014. It looks as if they could go undefeated again this year with a pretty weak non-conference schedule and a down year in the Summit League.

Last year they were predicted to finish fifth in the conference and surprised everyone.
One sport that may be forgotten when thrown in the mix with Division I football, basketball and other sports is college rodeo.

The South Dakota State University rodeo team currently competes in the Great Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. The NIRA has been in existence since 1949.

This fall the Jackrabbits have participated in five regional rodeos. The first was held on Sept. 11 and 12 in River Falls, Wis. The next took place in North Platte, Neb. on Sept. 18 and 19, before the Jacks took some time off.

SDSU took a four-day trip to Iowa to compete in two separate events Oct. 1 through 4. The first stop on the trip found the Jacks participating in an event in Fort Dodge and the second stop was in Ames. SDSU closed the fall season on Hobo Day weekend in Fargo, ND.

On the men's side, Dickinson State University leads the 10-team region and SDSU sits in fourth place at the break. The Black Hills State University women's team currently leads the region while SDSU holds third place.

On an individual basis, the top-eight contestants in the qualifying rounds of each event are awarded a certain amount of points and the top-10 finishers move on to a round that determines the event's winner. Points are awarded to eight participants in the final round.

Two Jackrabbit saddle-bronc riders hold top spots in the region as Cody Miller secured the second spot with 310 points and Bill Chauncey finished the fall season in the eighth spot with 40 points.

James Ellsworth is the lone SDSU cowboy to hold a spot on the leaderboard at the end of the fall season in bareback riding. Ellsworth occupies the third spot in the region with 452 points.

Ryan Knutson leads the Jackrabbit bull riders, as he holds the fourth position in the regional standings with 225 points. Jake Stark sits in the 14th position with 60 points.

Newt Bruley holds the fourth spot in tie-down roping with 220 points, and Cody Heckenlaible is in the sixth spot with 180 points.

Teil Glaus marks the only spot that SDSU holds on the steer wrestling leaderboard as he finished the fall season with 135 points to claim the 11th position in the region.

Bruley leads the Jackrabbit team-roping headers as he sits in third place in the region with 185 points. Glaus trails him by two positions with 170 points.

Gannon Gustafson is the top SDSU heater with 185 points in the third spot in the regional standings. Ty Jurgenson holds the fifth spot with 170 points.

Annie Fulton is the top barrel racer from SDSU and raced her way to the third spot in the region during the fall season with 335 points. Kaitlyn Latham accumulated 236 points to claim the fifth spot.

Sarah Vrchota and Courtney Birkholtz sit seventh and eighth on the region leaderboard in the breakaway roping event with 130 and 126 points, respectively.

Danielle Aus and Jacie Hupp trail BHSU’s Carlee Johnston in the goat-tying standings. Aus holds the second spot with 394 points while Hupp finished the fall season third with 360 points.
Cross country refocusing after faltering at conference meet

JALEN WILSON
Sports Reporter

The Jacks cross country team finished the championship race on Halloween by both squads placing second in their respective meets. This isn’t what the team expected.

“We wanted to be the first program in a long time to win the Summit League in both genders,” said Head Coach Rod DeHaven, who seemed disappointed in his team’s performance in the Summit League Championship. “The goal all year was to get first. We weren’t quite on. It sucks, but life goes on and we will fight another day when regionals come up this weekend.”

The men’s team captured the top three spots in the meet. Senior Trent Lusignan, who missed all of last year due to injury, topped off his comeback campaign by winning his second Summit League title of his career, becoming the ninth men’s runner to acquire this achievement. Coming in second place was junior Joel Reichow, who also missed all of last season with an injury and really has solidified himself as the Jacks number two runner.

Finishing in third place was junior Trevor Capra, who got high praise from his coach.

“Trevor ran an incredible race to get third place, but it was a bit of a struggle after that unfortunately,” DeHaven said.

On the women’s side, finishing second wasn’t as harsh as it was for the men. The women were underrated and overlooked all season due to strong teams at USD and NDSU, but pulled out the second place with the help of senior Samantha Anderson and freshman Rachel King, who finished in fifth and sixth place, only a fifth of a second apart from each other. Coach DeHaven still wasn’t pleased with his team’s performance.

“Happy to beat NDSU and get second, but I still feel it was a slightly missed opportunity,” DeHaven said.

King was awarded the 2015 Summit League Newcomer of the Year award. She was one of the top runners for the Jacks all season and also battled a bad cold midway through the season.

“She has got the potential to be really, really good,” DeHaven said.

The back scoring runners played a huge part in the men’s championship race, as SDSU went 1-2-3 but still fell to IUPUI as the Jaguars had seven runners ahead of the Jacks fourth.
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Swim and dive team continues to make a splash

IAN LACK
Reporter

Track and field. Football. Wrestling. Baseball. Volleyball. Golf. Basketball. The list goes on. South Dakota State offers a wide variety sports. These sports amass various audiences and fans that crowd in fields, courts, tracks and even golf courses. However, one sport is held in a completely different setting.

SDSU’s swim and dive team is made up of 51 athletes, 23 men and 28 women. Each member of the team practices eight times per week, with six of the practices in the Frost Arena pool and two in the Dykhouse Student Athlete Center for weight and cardio training.

Head Coach Brad Erickson began swimming in college at SDSU. When he graduated with his graduate degree in teacher education, he took a position with the Rapid City Racers before accepting the position of head coach for the swim and dive team in 1976. This is his thirty-ninth year coaching the team.

He came to the position right after the swim and dive team separated into the men’s and women’s teams, respectively. Erickson noted that as various university programs were cut, the team was fortunate that they weren’t cut. The co-ed teams practice and compete together.

“For the most part, the women like to train with the guys,” Erickson said. “If they’re able to beat the guys, it’s like a victory for them. At the same time, the guys don’t want to be beat because of their egos. So, there’s a good sense of competition, and we get a great training atmosphere from that.”

When the team travels, they take a 56-passenger bus with their 51 members, three coaches and an athletic trainer. Every person on the team competes at every event they attend.

Bianca Ninneman, a senior, is a student coach for the team and has been with the team for four years. In her freshman year, she suffered an injury and began acting as the team’s student coach. She keeps the same hours that each athlete does, working with the team at practices and managing scheduling for practices.

“Every athlete on the team has their strengths and weaknesses,” Ninneman said. “There are sprinters, people who do mid-distance and then distance swimmers. It depends on what each student is good at that determines what they do at competitions.”

When it comes to these competitions, each school that competes receives a certain number of points. First place for a race awards the team nine points, second awards four, third three, fourth two and fifth place one. This applies for both swimming and diving.

Within swimming, there are four types of races: breaststroke, butterfly, backstroke and freestyle at various distances.

Swimming is graded on distance times while diving is graded on form, angle, speed and other components of the dive. It is quantity within swimming versus quality within diving.

Several school records were broken by the team last year. Among others, both of the 50-meter freestyle records were broken at a conference meet in Indiana in February.

Junior Weston Christensen has been with the team for two years and swimming for 14 years.

“At the time, I got a flyer about it at school and had a friend who swam too and just figured I’d give it a try,” Christensen said.

With eight practices per week in addition to the competitions the team participates in, athletes find that it is not always easy to maintain work, especially with the sport running year-round.

“It’s not easy and it takes a lot of time, but it is doable,” Christensen said. “They provide a lot of resources for you here at SDSU. Our academic advisors are really great resources when we feel overwhelmed because the team takes a lot of time.”

Many of the athletes, especially the swimmers are international students. Garth Wadsworth, a senior, comes to SDSU from Durban, South Africa. There have been several Olympians coming from his high school that have won representing their country.

“If you can’t kick a ball and you can’t catch a ball, you usually end up in swimming,” Wadsworth said. “I’ve been doing it for about 12 years now. It’s been a really positive community on the team.”

The swim and dive team will compete at the University of South Dakota Wednesday, Nov. 11.
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