MIRACLES MADE
State A Thon crushes fundraising goal by raising $179,143.19
SEE STATE A THON ON A8
African Night to shed light on culture

African Students Association organizes food, fashion, poetry, drama

BRIANNA SCHREURS
Editor-in-Chief

Embracing your culture is what African Night is all about this year as members of the African Students Association (ASA) share who they are through dance, fashion, drama, poetry and food.

ASA aims to promote academic excellence and cultural exchange among its members while fostering cordial relationships among all students of diverse backgrounds and the Brookings community.

This year’s event is themed: “Embracing Our African Heritage.” It is from 6-9 p.m. April 14 in the Volstorff Ballroom. Tickets are $10 for students, $15 for adults and $5 for children.

Sean Edeki, ASA President, said the night is important because a lot of people in the U.S. don’t have the right perception of Africa.

“One of the most common things people think Africa is a country, not a continent,” Edeki said. “We want to show that through fashion, food, dance and drama.”

Edeki said ASA has been organizing this event since last year’s but planning really picked up in January with rehearsals for the dances and drama.

The drama is about an African woman visiting her friend in the United States. The woman is told she’s too African or doesn’t talk or dress to match the culture, according to Edeki. In the drama, she learns about embracing her roots no matter where she is.

There will be four dances at Africa Night: The Northern African dance that reflects Ethiopian culture, Congolese dance, Nigerian dance and Ghanaian dance.

Students will prepare vegetable chicken, jollof rice, plantain porridge and spinach stew with plain rice. For dessert, there’s caramelized garri sorbet and African crepes with a smoothie.

All of the elements of African Night were coordinated to show the rich culture and development of Africa and its people.

“There’s a stereotype that we don’t have cars in Africa,” Edeki said. “We want to tell you the flip side and shed some light on Africa.”

Time: 6-9 p.m.
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2019
Place: The Volstorff Ballroom
Tickets: Students $10, adults $15, children $5
Tickets are sold at Info Exchange or at the door.

YOUR GUIDE TO RECYCLING

**NOTE: some offices have paper recycling bins/dumpsters and cardboard dumpsters (not pictured above). If your office has these bins or dumpsters, only white paper can go into the paper bin/dumpster and only corrugated cardboard can go into the cardboard dumpster. If your office does not have either of these dumpsters the corrugated cardboard and white paper can go in the blue bins and dumpsters pictured above.

CRIME LOG

03.30.19
• 10:47 p.m. @ Binnewies Hall. Theft-All Other.

03.31.19
• 11:26 a.m. @ Brown Hall. Suspicious Persons/Vehicle.

04.02.19
• 3:06 p.m. @ Lot 114. Theft-Items From Vehicle.

04.03.19
• 2:18 a.m. @ Schultz Hall. Mail Fraud.
• 9:33 p.m. @ SJAC. Trespass-Real Prop.

04.05.19
• 9:02 p.m. @ Brown Hall. Drug/Narc Violations.

04.06.19
• 7:27 p.m. @ South PAC Lot. Miscellaneous Incident.
• 11:07 p.m. @ 1700 6th St. DUI.

Updated 2018. For more information about campus sustainability visit: www.sdstate.edu/sustainability
Brookings’ own Batman does research in Caribbean

J. MICHAEL BERTSCH
Reporter

When Scott Pedersen finally leaves the lecture hall and cadaver lab behind each May, he does what we all wish we could do for our summer break: fly to the Caribbean.

Though it may seem like an island getaway, this is no typical vacation. Pedersen is a professor for the Department of Biology and Microbiology, teaching undergraduate and graduate level anatomy. For the past 25 years, Pedersen has been traveling to a small group of islands known as the Lesser Antilles to study bats and their habitats.

Pedersen’s interest in bats began while working toward his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“When starting my Ph.D., I realized bats are cool, but nobody else was studying them. Everyone was busy focusing on birds,” Pedersen said. “So, I did my research using bat embryos to see how the developing head was built.”

Pedersen completed his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1993; however, he didn’t go out searching for more bat research. Looking for a way to decompress after 14 years of post-secondary education, Pedersen began work as an assistant professor at the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine in Montserrat, an island of the Lesser Antilles.

“I found my bliss on these islands,” Pedersen said. “At first, I would teach for a couple hours every day, then spend the rest of my time relaxing by the beach.”

However, soon after relearning to relax, the bats called to him again. In 1993, Pedersen began studying the species, habitats and behavior of the bats on the island.

Today, Pedersen aims to observe and describe things that haven’t been seen before, and the ever-changing landscape of the Lesser Antilles provides just that. Since Pedersen’s research began, multiple hurricanes and volcanic eruptions have completely altered the environment of the islands. These destructive events have allowed Pedersen to see the changes in both habitat and behavior of bats in the Lesser Antilles.

What began as a fairly simple project has evolved into a sizable operation. Pedersen now works with a team of geneticists, zoologists, evolutionary biologists and ecologists from universities across the U.S. to complement his background in anatomy. Additionally, Pedersen has trained dozens of the islands’ forestry officers to gather data from across the islands.

Though Pedersen may describe it as “museum work,” the longevity and scope of his research stands out among researchers at SDSU.

Another unique aspect of Pedersen’s research is that it’s funded entirely out-of-pocket.

“Instead of having to cater my research to the interests of an organization and dealing with the stress of writing a grant proposal, I just pay for it all myself,” Pedersen said. “I might spend a couple thousand [dollars] on research tools; but once I get to the islands, living there is very inexpensive.”

Pedersen has been an author for 29 peer-reviewed papers since his island research began.

Pedersen’s most recent paper, “Bats of Saint Lucia, Lesser Antilles,” details the discovery of a new species of bat on the island, Pteronotus davyi. Additionally, it reports post-volcanic habitats of different species, environmental toxicology and bat population.
Students take new PAC stage for production of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’

SYMMONE GAUER
Reporter

With fairies, marriages, a quartet of lovers, some mischief and dreams, the students of South Dakota State University’s Theatre Department prepare for its debut on the brand-new stage in the Performing Arts Center.

Director J.D. Ackman said that he was in SDSU’s 1978 production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and that he had very good memories of the show.

Several cast members said the audience shouldn’t be put off by Shakespeare. They say the play is easy to follow and is relatable. Alex Garcia, a senior theatre major, said it’s “goofy but with heightened language,” and believes this adds to the humor.

“Come with an open ear,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.”

Garcia plays Lysander, one of the four lovers manipulated by the fairy, Puck. Both on and off stage, the students said they have great dynamics with one another.

“We all work together really well,” said Sara Broad, a freshman mechanical engineering major.

Jacob Womack, a junior speech education major, plays a mechanical, or actor, named Nick Bottom, whose head is transformed into a donkey.

“For once I get to overreact,” he said. He also said the characters are over-the-top and loves that it pushes him to go further.

Bradley Herrmann, a sophomore theatre major, and Braden Paulsen, a junior music education and theatre major, discussed their character dynamic. Herrmann, who plays the free-spirited Puck, says it’s like a father-son relationship.

“I kind of have to reel him in, and yet I find joy in it,” said Paulsen, who plays King Oberon. Oberon is always looking out for Puck, even when Puck stirs up trouble.

Students began practice at the tail-end of February and have rehearsed about three hours each day.

According to Ackman, most of the set was constructed by students, who also helped with costumes and makeup.

“They really take ownership,” he said.

Cast members tried on their costumes for the first time on April 1.

“It’s a bit daunting,” said Herrmann, whose character goes shirtless.

Though not something he’s used to, Herrmann says he loves his costume and believes it really “lends to the character.”

When asked about performing in the new theatre, fifth-year senior Taylor Blocker, who plays the role of Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons, said it was “bittersweet,” but she feels lucky to be part of it since she is graduating this semester.

Ackman said he’s excited for the possibilities the new theatre presents.

“Everyone wants a taste of this space right now,” he said.

Ackman hopes to fill the new Performing Arts Center at this weekend’s performances.

Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” performs only once Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m. due to inclement weather conditions.

Tickets are free to SDSU students with an ID. Adults are $20 and non-SDSU students are $13. Box office hours are 12-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, or tickets can be purchased on SDSU’s website.
Take spring cleaning deeper with self-care

Spring cleaning can be more than just organizing the bathroom cupboards and mopping the floors. Make it about cleaning up your life and preparing to head into the upcoming season change with a clear heart and mind.

Thankfully, there are a few ways to make spring a healthier and better season emotionally and mentally.

One of the first, and most important, steps is cutting the toxic people out of your life. There is no better time to end meaningless relationships that bring no value or happiness to your life.

"If you are constantly leaving an encounter with a friend or significant other feeling drained, something is wrong," said freshman exercise science major Alexa Dulas.

An article by the University of Michigan said, "people with strong family or social connections are generally healthier than those who lack a support network."

So, find your true friends and stick with them. At the end of the day you really only need a few close buddies you know will always be there for you.

Sophomore pre-pharmacy major Abby Mathiason said being upfront with the person about the relationship and what isn't working for you is important.

Spring is the perfect time of year to figure out who your people are, and you will be happier once you ditch the ones who bring you down.

The phrase “keep calm and carry on” is way overused, but it does have a great underlying meaning. It is important to take a few minutes out of the day to meditate, pray or reflect in order to relax your mind and take a breather.

“Run or walk or really do anything outside to get the fresh spring air in your lungs.”

"I like to meditate while doing yoga because I feel like it brings back my clear perspective," Mathiason said.

Simple things that give your mind time to unwind and rejuvenate can start or end the day on a positive note.

“My way of reflecting and meditating comes in quiet time spent with God,” Dulas said. “I do this every morning and before bed and it simply consists of time meditating, reading through devotionals and spending time in prayer.”

The third tip to becoming stronger mentally and emotionally is learning to laugh. At first glance, this one might seem easy, but there is a little more to it than you think. Finding ways to lighten up and searching for humor in disappointing, stressful or uncomfortable situations can improve your mental health.

Life sometimes sucks, but learning to laugh through the good and bad times will make it much more enjoyable.

The next piece of advice is to practice saying “no.” It is easy to deny things we genuinely don’t want to do, but it’s tougher when it’s something you want to do.

“I try and prioritize the things I have to do over the things I want to do,” Mathiason said.

Understanding what your schedule can logically fit in and not spreading yourself too thin can mean you need to say “no” to people sometimes.

“Everyday I write a to-do list with the most immediate needs. Then once that list is completed I can do things like spend time with friends, journal or go on my phone,” Dulas said. “It also helps to have the things you want to do sprinkled into the breaks from the things you have to do.”

Making this change, and practicing it as often as you need, will relieve the pressure of constantly having to overcommit, so get ready for your emotional and mental health to flourish.

The final tip is to switch up your diet and exercise. This one is kind of redundant, but it really is true that if you physically are not healthy, your mental and emotional health will also suffer.

Hit up the gym, find some walking paths and trade the DQ Blizzards for protein shakes.

“Run or walk or really do anything outside to get the fresh spring air in your lungs,” Mathiason said.

While you physically take care of yourself, you are also mentally and emotionally taking care of yourself too.
Roommate, best friend in one

Roommates can make or break the college experience.

No perfect formula exists for finding a good roommate, however, knowing what will make the search simpler is key to a stress-free experience. There are options available to make the housing process for college students less hectic.

For many, friendships in high school continue into college. The process of roommate hunting and not knowing who to live with can be challenging. Having the reassurance of knowing and already having a connection with your future roommate can make the transition into freshman year go smoothly.

For freshman roommates Kasidy Tuedt, a music education major, and Faith Baumberger, a human biology major, having a friendship in high school prompted them to share a room in college.

“It works really well to room with someone similar to you — although people say not to,” Tuedt said. “You will do a lot of the same activities, you are interested in the same things and you have a similar schedule.”

Making the transition from friend to roommate isn’t always easy. Knowing one another doesn’t guarantee roommate compatibility, so discussing lifestyle habits is important before you make any commitments.

If a random roommate is the preferred route, helpful tools exist such as themed dorms called Living-Learning Communities (LLC) or Facebook groups where entire classes of students can communicate in an open forum.

According to sdstate.edu, LLC’s give students the opportunity to live with like-minded students.

Additionally, SDSU has Facebook groups for upcoming and returning students. These groups are separated by class years and provide the opportunity to meet and connect with people by describing living preferences and personality traits to find a potential roommate.

Finding a roommate can be unexpected — but sometimes it just seems to fall right into place.

Freshman animal science majors Tess Elliott and Allison Bronk decided to live with one another after hitting it off at orientation.

“We went into orientation not knowing each other at all and both didn’t have a roommate,” Bronk said.

Their friendship formed while signing up for the same classes and taking the time to talk to each other over the summer. Now that school is in session they frequently study, eat and go to the movies with one another.

Overall, majors and interests are important, but communication and compromise are what makes living with a roommate successful.

Sidney Lee, a community assistant, has an inside look at the rooming process and what brings positive or negative results in a pairing.

“It is about having a willingness to compromise.”

SIDNEY LEE COMMUNITY ASSISTANT

People seem to not want to talk about their concerns or issues while living with a new person, so they stay quiet and that is when arguments arise from not talking about it immediately,” she said. “It really does not matter what major you have, it is about having a willingness to compromise.”
How to stay focused, productive until semester ends

AMANDA JOHN
Lifestyles Columnist

With the spring weather fast approaching, many students are probably eager for classes to end and summer to begin.

We are doing our best to attend classes, but the start of school year zeal is gone, and what’s left to think of is the sun and fun we had during spring break.

Here are five tips to cure this ill fated feeling and help finish the semester strong.

1. Water
   I know I probably put this in every article, but that’s because it’s important. You’re going to need to keep taking in fluids during this period. Seasonal changes affect our bodies making it really hard to focus on school work and following the other tips to come. So, drink up.

2. Set small goals
   It’s the end of the school year and you put off writing or drafting all your papers till last minute. Small goals seem highly improbable at this point I’m guessing?
   Well, good news, they aren’t. Aim for goals, such as writing two pages of a paper, going over one lecture review, or simply reminding yourself to check due dates for projects. The Notes app is great for this and offers bullet points so you can feel the satisfaction of getting work done. Not only does this keep you from feeling unmotivated when you are unable to accomplish bigger tasks, it also sets you on a steady path of success.

3. Think big
   Even though we set smaller goals, it’s important to think of the bigger picture. For some of us, it’s graduating. For others, it’s being able to get through another year. Whatever group you fall into, it’s important to remind yourself of exactly why you have to push through the finish line.

4. Power Pumps
   This is what I call all 30-minute breaks, but they are not for everyone. Some people work better with power naps, others with 30-minute internet breaks and some with 30-minute energy boosters. Whatever gets your body to relax and makes your mind receptive to more information is a power pump. We all go through brain drain, where we flood ourselves with more information than it is willing to process. This is where power pumps come in handy, they help you rejuvenate and keep you motivated.

5. Stay positive
   Especially at this point in the semester, think and reward yourself for your previous and present accomplishments. These help remind us that we are capable of accomplishing the goals we have set.

Hopefully these tips serve as a helpful guide to wrap up the semester on a good note. Remember happiness is the greatest form of success.
State A Thon

ANDREW RASMUSSEN

Reporters

With just 90 minutes left during April 6 State A Thon, the stu-
dents were $1,000 short of their goal.

In the final hour of the 12-hour dance marathon, stu-
dents raised $31,000, giving them a grand total of $179,143.19.

State A Thon is an annual event put on by students to support families of children with medical conditions in the area. All funds are used to help families that seek medical care at the Sanford Children’s Hospital in Sioux Falls through the Children’s Miracle Network (CMN).

Last year, State A Thon raised $31,000 for the kids.

“Since 2006 we have raised over $1 million and we’re not stopping here,” junior human biology major Nick Goeman. “You meet your miracle child and their family, you learn the morale dance and then throughout the day there are fun games to help raise more money for CMN all while having a blast with your miracle child.”

Goeman said students don’t, in fact, dance for 12 hours straight, but they do the morale dance about once an hour.

Fundraising starts over the summer and continues until 10 p.m. the night of the event for the final reveal. State A Thon members fundraise by going door-to-door in the community, various tournaments, food sales and social media bingo cards, according to Feyereisen.

“We fundraise all year and then we come together and celebrate with the miracle families that are impacted by these funds,” said Feyereisen.

Kellen said after the Power Hour—during which donations were matched up to $1,000 — everyone stopped dancing and got on their phones to request final donations.

“That final push was crazy,” Kellen said. “They encouraged us to get uncomfortable, and the hardest part for me is asking people for money because I never saw myself benefiting directly from it.”

Kellen was a morale captain, which means she coordinated and taught the team dancers the morale dance.

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CashCourse helps track expenses, spending habits

LORNA WOUNDED HEAD
Guest Columnist

Tracking your expenses helps you know how much you are spending on items and can help you tailor a budget that works for you. If we don’t know where our money is going, we lose the opportunity to spend our money on the things that matter most to us. Consider just be conscious of where your spending add up and you could be surprised how they influence your monthly budget. If you don’t keep up with what you’re spending, you’ll be living in financial fantasy land.

In reality, you have to keep up with what you spend. Tracking your expenses can help make sure you don’t overspend in any area. It also helps you realize those expenses that add up and you can change your spending behavior. Note that you do not have to necessarily eliminate an expense, but just be conscious of where your money is going.

There are plenty of apps that can help in tracking your spending. You do have the ability to take control of your finances with confidence. To learn more about tracking spending tips visit cashcourse.org. CashCourse is an online personal finance website designed for college students. Just complete a simple registration to have access to all the resources.

Throughout the month, you can learn about how to track spending by attending a free Lunch and Learn session at noon on Wednesday, April 17. The 30-minute program is held at Larson Commons, room 104 (TRIO). A light lunch is provided—complete the monthly challenge on the CashCourse website for a chance to win a Jack’s Dining gift card.

Lorna Wounded Head is a Family Resource Management Field Specialist. For questions or assistance about budgeting, contact her at lorna.woundedhead@sdstate.edu

Campus landscape promotes diverse ecosystem

JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN
Columnist

Roses are red, violets are blue, but did you know that campus landscaping is green, too? While April is host to Earth Day and national garden month, South Dakota State University’s Facilities and Services looks at the sustainability of our landscaping year-round.

In fact, since 2009 SDSU has been recognized as a “Tree Campus USA.” This national organization recognizes universities that establish and maintain a healthy tree community. This is also SDSU’s first growing season to be recognized as a “Bee Campus USA,” which recognizes universities that establish and maintain quality pollinator habitats.

It’s not just trees that add to the campus landscaping ecosystem. Look across campus and you are bound to spot a native or pollinator plant. These plants are chosen for their longevity and positive benefit as wildlife habitat. Both maintain a functional ecosystem by offering food resources or habitat to insects, birds or mammals.

You’ll notice too that campus landscaping is covered with a thick layer of mulch, created from campus trees that had to be cut down. Not only does the mulch help reduce weeds and minimize water needs, but it also adds nutrients back to the soil as it slowly decomposes.

Furthermore, campus landscaping includes four bioswales which are designed to remove debris and pollution out of runoff, and bioretention areas. Some of these areas look like general landscaping on the outside, but underneath they provide a natural way to remove pollutants from rainfall prior to entering storm sewer systems. Other areas appear as sunken turf and allow rainwater to collect, slow down and infiltrate to a certain extent. The benefits of these stormwater best management practices include: trapping litter from entering waterways, slowing water velocity, reducing overall flow volumes and rates to storm sewer systems, creating unique ecosystems for plant and animal life, and removing particulate pollution from the storm sewer system.

With multiple bioswales, over six acres of garden beds, and around 2,500 trees on campus, SDSU finds sustainable landscaping a benefit not only to our campus but also the surrounding ecosystem priceless.

We hope as spring comes around and flowers are in bloom, you can enjoy it too. You are welcome to come and join SDSU in celebrating their Tree Campus USA recognition at campus’ annual tree planting event 9:30 a.m. on April 24 in the University Arbor Day Park.

Jennifer McLaughlin is the sustainability specialist at SDSU and can be reached at jennifer.mclaughlin@sdstate.edu.
EDITORIAL
Issue: New York is requiring that groups of people get vaccinated.

The mayor of New York City has declared a state of emergency over a doubled number of measles cases in the Williamsburg area. Since October 2018, 285 measles cases have been confirmed, primarily among members of the Orthodox Jewish community. The state of emergency requires that anyone who lives in zip codes 11205, 11206, 11211 and 11249 get vaccinated for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) or face a $1,000 fine. The MMR vaccine became available on a national scale in 1968.

In the decade before that, nearly every child suffered from measles before the age of 15, and, according to available data, 1129, 11204, 11211 and 11249 get vaccinated for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) or face a $1,000 fine. The MMR vaccine became available on a national scale in 1968.

The Williamsburg area. In the decade before that, nearly every child suffered from measles before the age of 15, and, according to the The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated four million people were infected each year.

According to the CDC, children who don’t receive these vaccines are 35 times more likely to become ill than a vaccinated child.

Members of these Williamsburg zip codes are primarily Orthodox Jews, who have been targets of a radical group’s efforts to demonize vaccinations. Parents Educating and Advocating for Children’s Health (Peach), has been handing out 40-page handbooks that detail the consequences of vaccinating children. It supports its claims with false warnings that vaccines cause autism and contain cells from aborted human fetuses.

If this were true, it would be against Orthodox Jewish beliefs to be vaccinated, and could therefore be justified.

We, at The Collegian, think vaccines are essential to fostering healthy growing environments for children in America, but we don’t think the government has grounds to regulate what people put in their bodies.

This could, after all, be a slippery slope. Once the government starts dictating who puts what in their body, an essential part of Americans’ freedom to choose diminishes.

“Vaccines contain monkey, rat and pig DNA as well as cow-serum blood, all of which are forbidden for consumption according to kosher dietary law,” said Moishe Kahan, a contributing editor for Peach magazine in an email.

While it’s true that vaccines are often grown in a culture of animal cells, the end product is “highly purified” according to an April 9 New York Times article on the subject.

The antivaccine movement is not fueled by extreme liberals, despite popular belief. A new study conducted by the Cornell Alliance for Science found that the most prominent antivaxxers fell at either extreme end of the political spectrum.

Extreme liberals and conservatives believe it should be the parents’ right to choose whether or not to vaccinate their children.

While we don’t think the government should dictate what goes into people’s bodies, we do think there should be more regulation as to which studies are validated. If the U.S. invests in adequate education about the importance of vaccines, perhaps people will set aside falsified studies and take up arms against the epidemics that have historically wiped out entire populations.

The Collegian Editorial Board meets weekly and agrees on the issue of the editorial. The editorial represents the opinion of The Collegian.

SUDOKU
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5 things to look for as Jacks prepare for Spring Game

TRENTON ABREGO
Sports Editor

Following a 44-21 Football Championship Subdivision semifinal loss to the North Dakota State Bison, South Dakota State will kick off another season this weekend.

On Saturday, April 13, the annual spring game will take place – giving Jackrabbit fans a chance to watch the new-look Jackrabbits.

It’ll be quite the transformation for head coach John Stiegelmeier and company.

Here are five things to look for as the Jackrabbits begin the 2019-20 season.

New faces on sideline

During the offseason, Eric Eidsness, the associate head coach and offensive coordinator, headed to Northern Illinois. Eidsness took over as the offensive coordinator for the Huskies.

Clint Brown, who served as the Jackrabbit defensive coordinator for 10 years, took a job at Abilene Christian. Brown will serve as the Wildcats’ defensive coordinator.

Jason Eck, who previously served as the offensive line coach and run game coordinator, was promoted to the offensive coordinator position after Eidsness left.

Brian Bergstrom, who was hired to the South Dakota State staff in March 2017, took over as a co-defensive coordinator. Jimmy Rogers, who has been on the Jackrabbit staff since 2013 also was promoted to co-defensive coordinator.

Other key losses

SDSU graduated three all-Missouri Valley Football Conference first team members. Taryn Christion, Tiano Pupungatoa and Jordan Brown were the three Jackrabbits who graduated.

Jordan Brown attended the NFL Draft Combine and is hopeful to hear his name called during the 2019 NFL Draft. In his four years as a Jackrabbit, Brown played in 51 games in which he racked up 148 tackles, four forced fumbles and eight interceptions.

Quarterback battle

The Jackrabbits will lose Taryn Christion, who topped three offensive stats in Missouri Valley Conference history (passing yards, touchdown passes and total offense) to graduation. Christion is also the Jacks’ all-time leader in both completions and attempts.

Under the reign of Christion, the Jackrabbits went 33-11.

Now, the Jackrabbits will look to fill that hole.

Currently, there are five quarterbacks on the Jackrabbits’ roster.

Two of the emerging candidates to fill the void left by Christion are J’Bore Gibbs and Kurt Walding.

Gibbs, a redshirt freshman led Wendell Phillips Academy High School to two Illinois state titles. As a senior, Gibbs passed for more than 2,000 yards and 24 touchdowns. Gibbs also ran for more than 600 yards and seven touchdowns.

Kurt Walding, a junior from Des Moines, Iowa, is a transfer from Arizona State. Before transferring to the Sun Devils, Walding was at Iowa Western Community College where he threw for 624 yards and six touchdowns. At Arizona State, Walding didn’t play a game, despite being thought as a candidate for the backup position.

Veteran wide receivers

Last season, it was Cade Johnson who stepped up for the South Dakota State wide receiving corps.

Johnson finished the year with 67 receptions for 1,332 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Adam Anderson is also returning for the Jackrabbits and was the second-leading receiver with 718 yards for 47 receptions and seven touchdowns.

The top-five receiving leaders will return for the South Dakota State Jackrabbits.

Running game

Last year, Pierre Strong emerged as the lead back for the South Dakota State Jackrabbits. The Little Rock, Arkansas native ran for 1,116 yards and 11 touchdowns on 117 carries. Strong was selected as the Missouri Valley Football Conference Freshman of the Year.

Mikey Daniel served as the secondary back and put together a solid junior campaign in which he ran for 630 yards and 10 touchdowns on 139 yards.

South Dakota State will be without its third and fourth leading rushers last year in Isaac Wallace and Taryn Christion.

Last season, C.J. Wilson ran for 281 yards and a touchdown on 43 carries.

Jefferson Lee, V is a redshirt freshman for the Jackrabbits who hasn’t seen action yet.

Other than Lee every running back has seen time on the gridiron.

To open the regular season, SDSU will travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota to take on the Golden Gophers.
Basketball at South Dakota State University during the past half-decade has been defined, largely, by the record-setting careers of two individuals: Macy Miller and Mike Daum. Their stories vary greatly and are well-chronicled.

Miller was a known commodity. The guard came from Mitchell High School, where she won South Dakota Miss Basketball as a senior, to Brookings. After a knee injury cost her most of the 2016-17 season, she returned to claim the title of top scorer in Jackrabbit women’s basketball history and earned conference most valuable player honors in back-to-back seasons to finish her career.

Daum’s journey was not always so straightforward. He was an unheralded recruit out of Kimball, Nebraska, who earned a spot on the Jacks roster after making 12 3-pointers in an AAU game in front of then-coach Scott Nagy’s staff.

Daum had to redshirt his first year on campus before earning Summit League Sixth Man and Freshman of the Year honors as well as conference tournament MVP in his redshirt year. His collegiate career took off from there. Daum blossomed into a three-time conference player of the year and one of the most productive scorers in NCAA history.

The pair are two talents Jackrabbit basketball might not see again for some time.

5,422 points
That’s how many Miller and Daum combined for during their time in Brookings.

No male-female duo has scored as many points at the Division I level concurrently as Miller and Daum.

Miller holds the SDSU and Summit League records for career points on the women’s side and Daum tops both lists for the men. Additionally, Daum’s 3,067 points make him seventh all-time in NCAA D-I men’s basketball.

208 wins
Miller and Daum led SDSU to a plethora of wins during their respective careers during one of the most successful half-decades of Jackrabbit basketball.

In their time wearing the blue and yellow, SDSU won more than 74 percent of its games and made eight combined postseason appearances, seven of which were NCAA Tournaments.

Efficiency is key
One doesn’t score as many points as this Jackrabbit pair without making their share of buckets.

Miller averaged just under six makes from the field, one coming from behind the arc, and added almost 3.5 makes from the free throw line per game to post a career average of 16.4 points per contest.
Records fall at South Dakota Challenge in Vermillion

TRENTON ABREGO
Sports Editor

History was made in Vermillion over the weekend.

Coby Hilton, a sophomore from Marshall, Minnesota, ran the 200-meter race in 20.92, toppling a record that stood for 26 years. In 1993, Edmund Estephane set the school record at 21.14.

It wasn’t just the 200-meter where the sophomore excelled. Hilton also ran his career-best time in the 100-meter with a time of 10.50.

That time marks the fourth-best in school history.

Hilton has shown no signs of slowing down after his record-setting indoor season. During the indoor season, Hilton reset his top 200-meter time four times, while eventually running a time of 21.24 at the Summit League championships, which ranked him second all-time in school history.

It wasn’t just Hilton who was atop the podium with a record-breaking time at the South Dakota Challenge.

Jaymie O’Connor, a junior from Châteauguay, Quebec, reset the school record in the 100-meter hurdles. O’Connor topped a 17-year old record and trimmed .10 seconds off when she ran a time of 13.75.

O’Connor is the second Jackrabbit in school history to own both the indoor and outdoor records in both events.

In the 400-meter hurdles, O’Connor ran her career-best (1:05:26), improving by 4.79 seconds.

A freshman also impressed in the outdoor tournament.

In his first 800-meter race of his career, freshman Riley Bauer took the top spot with a time of 1:58.81. Bauer just missed out on the school’s top 10 list by 0.08 seconds. Bauer edged fellow Jackrabbit Kyle Burdick for the top spot.

Up next, the South Dakota State track and field teams will travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota to participate in the Minnesota Spring Open, April 12-13.
Incoming weather moves rivalry series to Omaha

CARSON HERBERT
Sports Reporter

Yet again, South Dakota State will have to wait to play its home opener.

With the National Weather Service issuing a winter storm watch in effect from April 10-12 in Brookings, South Dakota State’s home opener will have to wait, yet again.

Three games have been postponed for the Jackrabbits this season. One against Creighton, which was scheduled for March 20 in Omaha, Nebraska and the two previous opportunities for a home opener on April 3 vs. Dakota State and April 9 vs. Dakota Wesleyan.

SDSU head coach Rob Bishop said the team can’t get caught up with the weather not allowing them to play at home.

“That’s a daily dialogue for us. We just can’t really afford to get emotional about things we can’t control,” he said. “We have to just show up and kind of be where our feet are a little bit, just try and do the best in the moment.”

Wherever the games will be played, the Jacks (14-13, 7-5), currently second in the league standings, will look to regain momentum against their border rivals after being swept in three games by the Summit League-leading Omaha Mavericks April 5-6 in Sioux Falls.

Sophomore infielder Gus Steiger and freshman infielder Drew Beazley enter the weekend as the Jacks’ hottest hitters. Steiger is batting .331 with 24 RBI and Beazley is batting .444 in his last seven games with 10 RBIs.

“They just keep coming up with big hits and having big moments at the plate,” Bishop said. “Gus [Steiger] had some unbelievable plays on defense, as well, especially on the last day of this last series. They are guys who love the game and are definitely a huge part of our team and how we are going to go moving forward.”

Following a series with two late-game collapses on the mound, freshman Riley McSherry, sophomore Bret Barnett and junior Brett Mogen have all been reliable options, only allowing four runs or less this season out of the bullpen.

While Bishop acknowledges Omaha as one of the hottest teams in the country, he also realizes that Jackrabbit pitchers need to be better.

“Some of it we have to take ownership of,” Bishop said. “We need to pitch better and we had guys this weekend who pitched well against that team so we are capable of [pitching well]. The other piece of it obviously is just executing and having our guys that we believe are our ‘end of the game guys’ be a little more consistent.”

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