

# SPORTS

**UP NEXT: SOUTH DAKOTA AT NORTH DAKOTA STATE**

► **When:** 2:30 p.m. Saturday ► **Where:** Gate City Bank Field, Fargodome ► **TV:** KVLV (NBC Network) ► **Radio:** 107.9-FM, 1660-AM, 92.7-FM



David Samson / The Forum

North Dakota State's football program is one win from moving into sixth place for consecutive wins in Division I football history.

## A well-oiled machine

North Dakota State quietly moving up in all-time college football history

**By Jeff Kolpack**

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**Fargo**

It's not easy for those directly involved with the program. And even the fans of North Dakota State football for that matter.

But taking a deep breath and recognizing the fact the

Bison are entering historic territory in Division I college football is not something that is part of regular everyday conversation. Or any bar room talk at all.

"We try to remind ourselves all the time here, you have to enjoy it sometimes, too," said NDSU

athletic director Matt Larsen. "It's unprecedented what's going on here in football and the level of success."

Unprecedented in that in the modern era, only the University of Oklahoma put together two better winning streaks. The Sooners won 47 straight from 1953-57 and 31

in a row from 1948-50.

NDSU will be attempting to enter exclusive winning streak company on Saturday when the Bison host the University of South Dakota at Gate City Bank Field at the Fargodome. With 31 wins in a row, the Bison are tied for seventh place with Penn

(1896-98), Pittsburgh (1914-18) and the Sooners' first streak.

Thirty-two would put NDSU alone in sixth place behind the Bison of 2012-14 that won 33 in a row.

Not that anybody is saying anything.

**NDSU:** Page D5



David Samson / The Forum

North Dakota State quarterback Trey Lance has completed 126 of 181 passes for a nation-leading completion percentage of 69.6%. He's thrown zero interceptions and 21 touchdowns.

## Lance only a freshman, but should garner Payton Award consideration

**Fargo**

Former North Dakota State coach Chris Klieman made no bones about promoting his quarterback, Easton Stick, for the most prestigious award in the Football Championship Subdivision last season. Klieman called the senior, at first, "the best player in FCS." As the year wore on, the coach modified it to the "best player in college football."

Klieman must've figured a little hyperbole couldn't hurt.

It made little difference when the votes were tallied for the Walter Payton Award. Stick, the quarterback with the most wins in FCS history and an eventual fifth-round NFL draft choice, was one of three finalists invited to the Payton announcement



**MIKE McFEELY**  
The Forum

in Frisco, Texas, but the award went to Samford quarterback Devlin Hodges.

New Bison head coach Matt Entz will not boost his guys the same as his predecessor, it appears.

When I asked Entz at his Monday press conference whether redshirt freshman quarterback Trey Lance should be in the discussion for this year's Payton Award, given to the best offensive player in FCS, the coach shut me down quicker than it takes Jalen Bussey to sprint 40 yards.

"I think he needs to be worried about winning the football game this week," Entz said. "And I'm going to worry about that."

Lance will have to do the talking and promoting with his play in the final two games of the regular season. Given the way he's performed through the first 10 games, that shouldn't be a problem.

In leading the No. 1-ranked Bison to a 10-0 start going into this Saturday's game against South Dakota at the Fargodome, Lance is putting together a season to rival the best years of former NDSU Division I quarterbacks Stick, Carson Wentz, Brock Jensen and Steve Walker.

**McFEELY:** Page D5

## Gophers now No. 8 in College Football Playoff ranking

**By Andy Greder**

St. Paul Pioneer Press

**MINNEAPOLIS**

The Minnesota Golden Gophers football program climbed nine spots to No. 8 in the latest College Football Playoff ranking Tuesday, Nov. 12, but how they got there and why they didn't go higher is a bigger unknown.

On a macro level, it's clear to see how Minneso-

ta made the biggest jump in the ranking. When ranked 17th, the Gophers knocked off No. 4 Penn State, 31-26, on Saturday. The Gophers never trailed and led by as many as 12 points in the fourth quarter, before staving off a Nittany Lions comeback.

On a micro scale, it's more difficult to decipher how the Gophers (9-0,

6-0 Big Ten) stack up with four programs they trail in the rankings: No. 4 Georgia, No. 5 Alabama, No. 6 Oregon and No. 7 Utah. Each are 8-1.

The CFP's 13-member committee ranks the top three teams first, followed by the next pool of six teams, including Minnesota, for spots No. 4 to 6 and so on.

**GOPHERS:** Page D5

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF RANKINGS

#### Top Ten

1. LSU (9-0)
2. Ohio State (9-0)
3. Clemson (10-0)
4. Georgia (8-1)
5. Alabama (8-1)
6. Oregon (8-1)
7. Utah (8-1)
8. Minnesota (9-0)
9. Penn State (8-1)
10. Oklahoma (8-1)



Jesse Johnson / USA TODAY Sports

The Minnesota Golden Gophers football team holds up the Governor's Victory Bell trophy after defeating the Penn State Nittany Lions on Saturday, Nov. 9, at TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

BRIEFS

Park Christian basketball standout Motschenbacher commits to MSUM

MOORHEAD — Karley Motschenbacher, a Moorhead Park Christian senior, has committed to play women's basketball for Minnesota State Moorhead with national signing day, Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Concordia men's basketball falls short at Wis.-Superior

SUPERIOR, Wis. — A late second-half push came up just short as the Cobbers men's basketball team fell 75-69 to Wisconsin-Superior Tuesday night in nonconference action.

The Yellowjackets raced out to a blistering start, capping the first half on an 8-0 run to take a 15-point lead into halftime. The Cobbers shot 47.8% from the field in the first half but couldn't keep pace.

Bismarck-Mary drops men's soccer program

BISMARCK — After 25 years, Bismarck-Mary is dropping its men's soccer program. It was a financial decision based primarily on geography.

es in Billings, Mont.; Nampa, Idaho; Yankton, S.D.; Lakeland, Fla.; St. Leo, Fla.; and Winnipeg, Manitoba, all of which are about a six-hour drive or farther from Bismarck.

Twins Baldelli named American League manager of the year

MINNEAPOLIS — Twins manager Rocco Baldelli is the American League manager of the year.

Baldelli edged New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone and Tampa Bay's Kevin Cash in a vote by members of the Baseball Writers Association of America.

He is just the seventh first-year manager in MLB history to lead his team to 100 or more wins.

Baldelli, 38, joined Billy Martin (1969), Bill Rigney (1970) and Ron Gardenhire (2002) as the fourth Minnesota skipper to lead the team to the postseason in his first season at the helm.

The St. Louis Cardinals' Mike Schildt was named the National League manager of the year.

Rays' Neander selected MLB executive of the year

Tampa Bay Rays senior vice president of baseball operations and general manager Erik Neander, whose team reached the playoffs despite having the lowest payroll in baseball, was named as Major League Baseball Executive of the Year on Monday.

The award capped a bountiful year for Neander and the Rays. Tampa Bay finished the regular season 96-66 for the seventh-best record in the majors, captured an AL wild-card berth, then knocked out the Oakland Athletics in the wild-card game.

—Field Level Media

TODAY'S LOCAL CALENDAR

Professional National Basketball Association San Antonio at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

TODAY'S TV

College men's basketball Louisiana State at Virginia Commonwealth, 5 p.m., ESPN2 Villanova at Ohio State, 6 p.m., FS1

TODAY'S RADIO

Talk Hot Mic' with Dom Izzo, 9 a.m., 970-AM, 93.1-FM Wings and Rings Coaches Show, 6 p.m., 740-AM, 107.3-FM Hennessey on Hockey, 6:30 p.m., 790-AM, 94.1-FM

FOOTBALL

Table with columns: Professional NFL American Football Conference East, West, South, North. Rows include New England, Buffalo, N.Y. Jets, Miami, Houston, Indianapolis, Tennessee, Jacksonville.

Table with columns: National Football Conference East, West, South, North. Rows include Dallas, Philadelphia, N.Y. Giants, Washington, New Orleans, Carolina, Tampa Bay, Atlanta, Green Bay, Minnesota, Chicago, Detroit.

Table with columns: Week 10 Thursday's Games, Sunday's Games, Monday's Games. Rows include Oakland 26, L.A. Chargers 24, Baltimore 49, Cincinnati 13, Chicago 20, Detroit 13, Cleveland 19, Buffalo 16, Tennessee 35, Kansas City 32, Tampa Bay 30, Arizona 27, N.Y. Jets 34, N.Y. Giants 27, Atlanta 26, New Orleans 9, Miami 16, Indianapolis 12, Green Bay 24, Carolina 16, Pittsburgh 17, L.A. Rams 12, Minnesota 28, Dallas 24.

Table with columns: Monday's late result, Monday's Games. Rows include Seattle 27, San Francisco 24, OT, Seattle 0, San Francisco 10, SF—McLaughlin 39 yard field goal, 6:17, SF—Bourne 10 yard pass from Garoppolo (McLaughlin kick), 2:03.

Table with columns: TEAM STATISTICS, SEA, SF. Rows include First Downs, Total Net Yards, Rushes-Yds, Passing, Sacked-Yds Lost, Comp-Att-Int, Punts, Punt Returns, Kickoff Returns, Interceptions Ret., Penalties-Yards, Fumbles-Lost, Time of Possession.

Table with columns: INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS, RUSHING, PASSING, RECEIVING. Rows include SEA, Carson 25-89, R.Wilson 6-53, Lockett 1-3, R.Penny 2-2, SF, T.Coleman 9-40, Mostert 6-28, Breida 10-18, Garoppolo 2-1.

Table with columns: College Polls, College Football Playoff Rankings. Rows include 1. Louisiana State, 2. Ohio State, 3. Clemson, 4. Georgia, 5. Alabama, 6. Oregon, 7. Utah, 8. Minnesota, 9. Penn State, 10. Oklahoma, 11. Florida, 12. Auburn, 13. Baylor, 14. Wisconsin, 15. Michigan, 16. Notre Dame, 17. Cincinnati, 18. Memphis, 19. Texas, 20. Iowa, 21. Boise State, 22. Oklahoma State, 23. Navy, 24. Kansas State, 25. Appalachian State.

Table with columns: Results/schedule, Major College, Tuesday, Nov. 12, Wednesday, Nov. 13, Thursday, Nov. 14, Friday, Nov. 15, Saturday, November 16, Big Ten Conference, Monday, Nov. 11.

Table with columns: Results/schedule, Monday, Nov. 11, Tuesday, Nov. 12, Wednesday, Nov. 13, Thursday, Nov. 14, Friday, Nov. 15, Saturday, Nov. 16, Sunday, Nov. 17.

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SCOREBOARD

son, 6 p.m. Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference St. Olaf at Gustavus, 1 p.m. Hamline at Augsburg, 1 p.m. Concordia at Carleton, 1 p.m. Rose-Hulman at St. John's, 1 p.m. Bethel at St. Thomas, 1:10 p.m. Great Plains Athletic Conference Briar Cliff at Jamestown, 1 p.m. Morningside at Northwestern, 1 p.m. Hastings at Dakota Wesleyan, 1 p.m. Midland at Dordt, 1 p.m.

High school Results/schedule North Dakota Playoff results/pairings Class 3A state playoffs Friday, Nov. 15 Dakota Bowl Championship At Fargo dome E1 West Fargo Sheyenne vs. W1 Bismarck Century, 6:40 p.m.

Class 2A state playoffs Friday, Nov. 15 Dakota Bowl Championship At Fargo dome W1 Beulah vs. E1 Hillsboro-Central Valley, 3 p.m.

Class 1A state playoffs Friday, Nov. 15 Championship at Fargo dome No. 2 Minot Ryan vs. No. 2 Langdon-Edmore-Munich, noon

Class 5A Semifinals At U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis Thursday, Nov. 14 Lakeville North vs. Champlin Park, 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15 Wayzata vs. Lakeville South, 7 p.m.

Class 4A Semifinals At U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis Thursday, Nov. 14 SMB Wolfpack vs. Hutchinson, 4:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15 Rocori vs. Wilmora, 4:30 p.m.

Class 3A Semifinals At U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis Saturday, Nov. 16 Annandale vs. Dassel-Cokato, 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 Pierz vs. Jackson County Central, 4:30 p.m.

Class 2A Semifinals At U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis Thursday, Nov. 14 Paynesville vs. Minneapolis North, 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15 Barnesville vs. Caledonia, 11:30 a.m.

Class 1A Semifinals At U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis Saturday, Nov. 16 BOLD vs. Browerville-EV, 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 Ada-Borup vs. Blooming Prairie, 11:30 a.m.

Class 9-Man Semifinals At U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis Thursday, Nov. 14 Mountain Iron-Buhl vs. Hancock, 11:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 15 Win-E-Mac vs. Mountain Lake Area, 9 a.m.

Class 8 Region 2 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At Dickinson Trinity No. 1 Hettinger-Scranton def. No. 9 Beach 25-13, 25-9, 25-19

Class 8 Region 3 Tournament At Linton High School Monday, Nov. 11 Oakes def. Strasburg-Zeeland 25-12, 25-18, 25-14

Class B Region 2 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At Grafton High School No. 1 Thompson def. No. 8 Finley-Sharon Hope-Place 25-16, 25-10, 25-16

Class B Region 2 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At Grafton High School No. 1 Thompson def. No. 8 Finley-Sharon Hope-Place 25-16, 25-10, 25-16

Class B Region 3 Tournament At Linton High School Monday, Nov. 11 Oakes def. Strasburg-Zeeland 25-12, 25-18, 25-14

Class B Region 4 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At Devils Lake High School No. 1 Langdon-Edmore-Munich def. No. 9 Dakota Prairie 25-16, 25-9, 25-12

Class B Region 5 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At New Salem-Almont No. 1 Flasher def. No. 9 New Salem-Almont 3-0

Class B Region 6 Tournament At Minot Auditorium Monday, Nov. 11 Rugby def. Minot Ryan 25-21, 25-13, 25-16

Class B Region 7 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At Dickinson Trinity No. 1 Hettinger-Scranton def. No. 9 Beach 25-13, 25-9, 25-19

Class B Region 8 Tournament At Stanley High School Monday, Nov. 11 Ray def. Trenton 25-17, 25-16, 21-25, 25-16

Class B Region 9 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At Dickinson Trinity No. 1 Hettinger-Scranton def. No. 5 Bowman County 25-16, 25-11, 25-22

Class B Region 10 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At Dickinson Trinity No. 1 Hettinger-Scranton def. No. 5 Bowman County 25-16, 25-11, 25-22

Class B Region 11 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At Dickinson Trinity No. 1 Hettinger-Scranton def. No. 5 Bowman County 25-16, 25-11, 25-22

Class B Region 12 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At Dickinson Trinity No. 1 Hettinger-Scranton def. No. 5 Bowman County 25-16, 25-11, 25-22

Class B Region 13 Tournament Monday, Nov. 11 At Dickinson Trinity No. 1 Hettinger-Scranton def. No. 5 Bowman County 25-16, 25-11, 25-22

Wisconsin-Lacrosse 73, Bethel 62 North Star Athletic Association Viterbo 74, Edgewood 59

Great Plains Athletic Conference Briar Cliff 99, Waldorf 68 Concordia (Neb.) 95, Midland 71 Northwestern (Iowa) 99, Mount Marty 84

Big Ten Conference Villanova at Ohio State, 6 p.m. McNeese State at Wisconsin, 6 p.m. Drexel at Rutgers, 7 p.m. Purdue at Marquette, 8 p.m. Providence at Northwestern, 8 p.m.

College women Results/schedule Monday, Nov. 11 Summit League Omaha 92, Peru State 58 Oral Roberts 79, Wichita State 66

Western Illinois 91, Illinois-Springfield 52 Ball State 83, Purdue-Fort Wayne 52 Creighton 61, South Dakota State 48

Wednesday, Nov. 13 Big Ten Conference Niagara at Rutgers, 5 p.m. Maryland at James Madison, 6 p.m. Ohio State at Cincinnati, 6 p.m.

Minnesota-Lacrosse 73, Bethel 62 North Star Athletic Association Viterbo 74, Edgewood 59

College men Results/schedule Thursday, Nov. 14 Big Ten Conference Michigan State at Michigan, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 15 NCHC North Dakota at Denver, 8:07 p.m. Minnesota-Duluth at Miami (Ohio), 6:05 p.m.

College women Results/schedule Thursday, Nov. 14 Big Ten Conference Michigan State at Michigan, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 15 NCHC North Dakota at Denver, 8:07 p.m. Minnesota-Duluth at Miami (Ohio), 6:05 p.m.

College women Results/schedule Thursday, Nov. 14 Big Ten Conference Michigan State at Michigan, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 15 NCHC North Dakota at Denver, 8:07 p.m. Minnesota-Duluth at Miami (Ohio), 6:05 p.m.



# Oak Grove advances to Region 1 title match

By Carissa Wigginton

cwigginton@forumcomm.com

FARGO — The Fargo Oak Grove Grovers are headed to the Class B, Region 1 volleyball title match for the chance to grab a spot in the eight-team Class B state tournament.

With a semifinal victory under its belt, Oak Grove will face the winner of the second-seeded Richland and No. 3 Northern Cass Nov. 12 semifinal match-up. The Grovers will play either the Colts or the Jaguars at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Fargo Civic Center in the region championship.

## Oak Grove 3, Hankinson 1

Oak Grove lost to Central Cass in last year's Class B, Region 1 semifinals, and the Grovers weren't going to miss out on the chance at a region title again.

With a four-set semifinal victory (25-18, 25-23, 25-19, 25-19) over No. 4-seeded Hankinson on Tuesday, the top-seeded Grovers are off to the region championship.

"That was a tough match to get through," Oak Grove head coach Julie Vancura said. "It's exciting, it's fun, it's where we wanted to be. So, we're getting there."

Tuesday's win meant chances, Vancura said.

"You have to do things in order to earn your points, and if you earn your points, you get chances," she said. "And this is what it is, this next match is a chance to get to state, which is one of our goals."

After battling back-and-forth throughout the match, the Grovers defeated the Pirates, who Oak Grove swept earlier this year, by finding open spots on the court, Vancura said.

"They (Hankinson) played amazing defense, and we had to keep changing it up," she said "We finally found a spot that they couldn't defend quite as well and it helped us out."

Hankinson will face Richland or Northern Cass in the third-place match at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center.

After the Grovers notched three unanswered points in the first minutes of the opening set, Hankinson crawled its way back to make it a back-and-



Michael Vosburg / Forum Photo Editor

Oak Grove's Morgan Niemiller celebrates a point against Hankinson during their North Dakota Class B, Region 1 Volleyball Tournament semifinal match Tuesday, Nov. 12, in the Fargo Civic Center.

forth frame.

A consecutive kill and ace by Pirates sophomore outside hitter Kya Mauch fueled the four-points-straight momentum shift, which cut the score to 6-5.

The Grovers fought back with kills by seniors Julia Bogart and Kara Berg, which allowed Oak Grove to hold a seven-point lead at three times throughout the set. But the Pirates didn't hand over the win easily, closing the gap to four points at 22-18.

A Sydney Olson block brought the Grovers to match point, and Oak Grove took the first set 25-18.

Five unanswered points gave the Grovers an early lead right off the bat in the second set. A kill by Hankinson's Jasmin Mauch started a streak of the Pirates' own, and with five consecutive scores, the Pirates had the upper hand at 9-8.

A pair of kills by senior Jasmin Mauch and Alicia Biewer gave Hankinson a set-high two-point lead. The Pirates

and Grovers would play the remainder of the neck-and-neck set within one-to-two points of each other.

Another powerful strike by Jasmin Mauch brought the tied 23-23 set to match point, where Kya Mauch secured the second frame with a kill for the Pirates, who came from behind to win it 25-23.

Like clockwork, the Grovers came out swinging in the third set to tally a quick 5-0 lead. Oak Grove wouldn't hold the lead for long, as the Pirates inched back to tie it at 14-14.

After Hankinson hit the ball out of bounds three consecutive times, the Grovers capitalized with another five-point spurt, and gained a 23-18 lead.

Oak Grove libero Natalia Kellerman capped the third frame with an ace to help lift the Grovers to a 25-19 third-set victory.

With two sets in the Grovers' pockets, the Pirates trailed by one heading into the fourth frame.

Hankinson recovered from a

four-point deficit with a pair of Kya Mauch kills. The Pirates soon tied it up at 7-7, until Oak Grove's Bogart broke the tie with a kill, but the lead wouldn't last for long, as the Pirates and Grovers fought to a 14-14 tie.

Oak Grove wouldn't get the lead back until they were up by four scores at 18-14, thanks to two Bogart strikes again. Bogart tallied 14 kills in the match. A pair of Sydney Olson kills, junior outside hitter, capped the fourth and final set at 25-19 for the Grovers.

The Grovers lost in the region semis last year, but the team doesn't focus on the previous season's outcome.

"We don't talk about last year's season a whole lot, we keep pushing forward," Vancura said. "I think some of (the players) have it in the back of their mind where we kind of ended and fell last year, but we have such a great team unity going on that we just continue to fight and continue to push forward."

## Richland 2, Northern Cass 1

Richland was up 2-1 (25-21, 28-26, 16-25), and 21-17 in the fourth set when this version of The Forum went to press.

Six straight Richland points and a pair of Katlyn Erickson aces gave the Colts an early seven-point lead in the opening set. But the Jaguars quickly cut the lead to 14-12 with a four-point streak.

Northern Cass wouldn't hold the lead for long, as two Megan Roob aces fueled the Colts to an 18-15 lead.

The Jaguars avoided a loss in three set points, cutting Richland's lead from 24-18 to 24-21. A Katlyn Erickson spike finally sealed the deal for the Colts, who won the first fame 25-21.

Richland was first on the board in the second set with a kill by senior middle hitter Kaitlyn Wagner. The Colts and Jaguars went back and forth throughout the frame, with each team not allowing the other more than two consecutive points.

The Colts broke the tie at 13-13 and got away with a three-point lead, which was soon erased by five straight Northern Cass points that were sparked by a pair of sophomore outside hitter Emma Lucas aces.

The frame was tied at 24-24 heading into set point. A Lucas spike made it 25-24, but an out-of-bounds serve by Northern Cass' Macie Danielson tied it up again. Lucas and Richland's Kaitlyn Wagner both added kills, continuing the set to 26-26.

A second pair of sophomore Megan Roob aces clinched the 28-26 set for the Colts.

Northern Cass entered the third set trailing by two.

Five straight points gave Northern Cass a 9-5 lead early in the third set. Lucas' tenth kill of the night and fourth ace to make it 16-10 would cement the Jaguars' advantage.

The Colts trailed by eight heading into the set point. A Sydney Anderson Block secured the 25-16 third set, and Northern Cass walked away with its first set victory of the match.

Lucas opened the fourth set tallying her fifth ace. For the first time, the Jaguars earned an early lead at 5-0.

Carissa Wigginton is a reporter for The Forum and can be reached at (701) 241-5536

## NORTH DAKOTA EAST REGION VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT ROUNDUP

### Fargo Davies 3, Devils Lake 0

FARGO — No. 1-seeded Fargo Davies cruised to a 25-7, 25-16, 25-10 sweep over ninth-seeded Devils Lake on Tuesday in the quarterfinals of the North Dakota East Region volleyball tournament.

Grace Solberg had 13 kills for the Eagles. Kenzee Langlie dished out 37 assists, while Madi Langlie had 20 digs. Maddie Cooper added seven kills, three blocks and three aces.

Davies advanced to the championship semifinals and will face Valley City at 6 p.m. Friday at Fargo South High School. Devils Lake will play Grand Forks Red River in the consolation semifinals at 2 p.m. Friday at Fargo South.

### WF Sheyenne 3, Grand Forks Central 0

WEST FARGO — No. 2-seeded Sheyenne cruised to a 25-10, 25-16, 25-6 victory over No. 10 Grand Forks Central in the East Region quarterfinals.

Jadyn Feist and Monti

Knewton paced the Mustangs defense with a dozen digs each. McKenzie Newton distributed 33 assists, while Knewton led the way with 10 kills. Sydney Smith posted three aces.

The Mustangs will play Fargo Shanley in the championship semifinals at 8 p.m. Friday at Fargo South. Central will play West Fargo in the consolation semifinals at 4 p.m. Friday at Fargo South.

### Fargo Shanley 3, West Fargo 1

FARGO — Third-seeded

Shanley tallied a 24-26, 25-7, 25-15, 25-21 win over No. 6 West Fargo in the East Region quarterfinals.

Lander Friederichs totaled 13 kills and seven blocks for the Deacons. Desi DeKeyser added 13 kills of her own, while Olivia Vetter dished out 43 assists and Hannah Hoedl had 29 digs.

Maddie McKinnon led the Packers offense with nine kills, while Nadia Chwialkowski followed with eight. Maddie Waldera recorded 22 digs and

Katelyn Tveito had 14 assists.

Shanley advanced to the championship semifinals where it will face West Fargo Sheyenne at 8 p.m. Friday at Fargo South. West Fargo will play the loser of Grand Forks Central in the consolation semifinals at 4 p.m. Friday at South.

### Valley City 3, GF Red River 0

VALLEY CITY, N.D. — The No. 4 seed Hi-Liners rolled to a 25-16, 25-15, 25-14, sweep over No.

5 Red River in the East Region quarterfinals.

Macy Olstad had a team-high 16 kills and three blocks to lead Valley City. Cali Halgrimson added 13 kills and Dylann Diegel had 19 digs. Natalie Lemnus chipped in 18 assists.

Valley City is set to play Fargo Davies in the championship semifinals at 6 p.m. Friday at Fargo South. Red River will play loser of Devils Lake in the consolation semifinals at 2 p.m. Friday at Fargo South.

Forum staff reports

# UND football hopeful for return of Bennett, Turner

By Tom Miller

Forum News Service

GRAND FORKS — The University of North Dakota football team has shown the past two games — in a win against Montana State and a last-minute loss at Weber State — that the Fighting Hawks can hang with teams in the Top 10 of the FCS.

It's also worth noting those performances came mostly without two star UND defenders, too.

So the Hawks are encouraged this week as senior captain and defensive end Mason Bennett, as well as outside linebacker Jaxson Turner are back practicing with the team and expected to be in the lineup when UND hosts Northern Colorado at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Alerus Center.

Turner was injured in the 16-12 win over then-No. 9 Montana State on Oct. 26, while Bennett has been out of the line-



Eric Hylden / Forum News Service

University of North Dakota's Mason Bennett reaches to tackle Sam Houston State quarterback Eric Schmid during a game earlier this season at the Alerus Center.

up since the first half of a road win at Cal Poly on Oct. 19.

"We had them out there running around this morning (Monday), so we'll see where it goes,"

UND coach Bubba Schweigert said. "It sure would give a boost to our team.

"They're good players and good leaders. I think they helped in our preparation last week. They stayed

involved, but to have them on the field, it would give us a boost."

UND is also hoping for improved health of starting nose guard Jalen Morrison, who was hurt at Cal

Poly. He traveled to Ogden last weekend but took limited repetitions and finished without a tackle.

Defensive end Graham DeVore, who was a fullback last season, and Griffin Lickfeldt, who red-shirted last year, emerged in the absence of Bennett and Morrison last week.

"Guys in those positions have stepped up," UND linebacker Donnell Rodgers said. "We've been fine, but it'll be great to have (Bennett and Turner) back."

Against Weber State, DeVore finished with a career-high eight tackles, including 1.5 for loss. Lickfeldt had a career-high five tackles, including 1.5 for loss and 1.0 sack.

"I give a lot of credit to the players and defensive staff," Schweigert said. "Guys have taken on that responsibility. You've got to put together the best effort to help the team, whether that's 10 snaps or

50 snaps."

The biggest impact of the return of Bennett and Turner is likely the pass rush.

Last year, Bennett had 9.0 sacks — two shy of the school's single-season record. He had 1.5 sacks in UND's season opener against Drake, but he's been held without a sack since as teams have given the Winnipeg native extra attention in protection.

Turner, a junior from Esko, Minn., had 4.5 sacks through UND's first three games but has been held without a sack the next four and a half games.

UND's pass rush has been an issue for Northern Colorado in the past. In 2018, UND sacked a combination of Conor Regan and Keaton Mott six times. In 2017, UND sacked Jacob Knipp, who's expected to start Saturday, three times before knocking him out of the game in the first half.

# Most picking Gophers for Rose Bowl

## One likes Badgers for Pasadena

By **Andy Greder**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Gophers' bowl projections are coming up roses.

After their 31-26 victory over Penn State on Saturday, Nov. 9, five mainstream predictions have pegged Minnesota to play Utah in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day.

These projections factor in Ohio State as the favorite to win the Big Ten championship — with a potential conference title-game win over

Minnesota in Indianapolis on Dec. 7.

The Buckeyes, who are presumed to be undefeated at that point, would then head to one of the national semifinal games.

Ohio State held the top spot in the first College Football Playoff ranking last week, while the Gophers were 17th. This week's CFP ranking will be released Tuesday night, and the Gophers expect to make a big jump.

"Since January, we've been giving (players) the

pressure that at some point you are going to have a target on your back," Gophers coach P.J. Fleck said Monday. "That is the whole part about the pressure and the expectation. Sooner or later, you have enough pressure and you are succeeding, the pressure is going to get so high that the target becomes bigger and bigger and bigger."

A domino effect forecast from Ohio State in the playoffs would mean the conference's traditional spot in the Rose Bowl goes to the Gophers, based on two ESPN picks

as well as picks from Bleacher Report, Sporting News and Stadium.

One differing view from CBS Sports has Wisconsin going to the Rose Bowl, bumping Minnesota down to the Citrus Bowl against Auburn.

The Gophers haven't played in the coveted Rose Bowl since 1961, while they went to the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Fla., after the 2014 season, losing to Missouri 33-17.

Minnesota, 6-0 in Big Ten play, currently holds a two-game lead in the West division. They

would have to lose one of their next two games to set up a massive all-in game against Wisconsin on Nov. 30.

If the Badgers win their next two games, they would be 6-2 going into the Battle for Paul Bunyan's Axe at TCF Bank Stadium. If the Gophers are, say, 7-1, a Wisconsin win would mean identical conference records, but the Badgers would advance to the Big Ten title game due to a head-to-head tiebreaker. They also would then be the likely candidate for the Rose Bowl.

The Gophers have plenty of work to do before any of these projections come into better focus.

Minnesota opened as a three-point underdog against Iowa (6-3, 3-3) for the 3 p.m. kickoff Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

If Minnesota beats the Hawkeyes, Iowa would be eliminated from the West race, and it would end the Gophers' drought without a win in Iowa City dating back to 1999. The Gophers then play last-place Northwestern (1-8, 0-7) in Evanston, Ill., on Nov. 23 before playing host to Wisconsin.

## GOPHERS

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But CFP committee chairman Rob Mullens is recused from the discussion because he's Oregon's Athletics Director and the Ducks are part of that pool. So, Mullens, the CFP's primary spokesperson, couldn't speak Tuesday directly to how Minnesota stacks up with those teams.

"When you are looking at Minnesota, their schedule (pre-Penn State) was a concern, particularly their nonconference schedule, and just as it laid out through Week 10, they

had only played one team in their league that had a winning record (Illinois)," Mullens said in a conference call with reporters. "But the added win against Penn State, obviously, impressed the committee."

ESPN commentator David Pollock and Kirk Herbstreit felt like Minnesota should have climbed to about No. 6.

Pollack called Minnesota's win over Penn State an "amazing performance" and noted they have been a team "rising consistently," with four blow-out Big Ten wins in the month preceding Saturday's win.

Mullens said "we start with

a clean sheet of paper every week," and Minnesota's win over previously fourth-ranked Penn State "jumped a lot of teams." But Mullens also said they look at each team's season resumes.

Mullens was asked if Alabama, which lost to new No. 1 Louisiana State last week, was put up against Minnesota in the discussion, and again Mullens couldn't answer because he was out of the room.

Bill Hancock, the CFP's executive director, was later asked if a secondary spokesperson would be able to add questions because of Mullen's recusal and

he said they were exploring that for later in the season.

Last week, Minnesota's 17th ranking came behind four one-loss teams and with six two-losses. After that lower ranking, Fleck said he would take note of it and share their placement with his players before the Penn State game.

Gophers safety Antoine Winfield Jr., shared Tuesday afternoon that they take their own approach.

"We know, within our four walls, we're No. 1," Winfield said. "So we just kind of addressed it like that, and we just know that we've got to

continue to get better day in and day out."

That present-day mindset rolls into Saturday when Minnesota plays No. 20 Iowa (6-3, 3-3) at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City. The Gophers then faces last-place Northwestern (1-8, 0-7) next week in Evanston and welcome No. 14 Wisconsin (7-2, 4-2) to TCF Bank Stadium on Nov. 30.

The Hawkeyes slipped two spots in the CFP ranking after losing 24-22 Saturday to the Badgers, which went done one spot because the Gophers leapfrogged jumped them and many others.

## NDSU

From Page D1

"I'm around that program a lot, I haven't heard one player, one coach talk about how many games in a row they've won," Larsen said. "They just don't. It's all about trying to win the next game."

Washington won 40 straight from 1908-14 while Yale is twice tied for third place winning 37 straight from 1887-89 and 1890-93. Toledo won 35 straight from 1969-71 and Penn (1894-96) and Miami (2000-02) are at 34 in a row.

It's debatable on the definition of the modern era of football. Some would say the 1950s when televised games entered the picture. Or the early 1970s when the NCAA separated divisions.

In either case, or in most cases, NDSU would own the fourth- and fifth-best streaks in the modern history of college football with a victory on Saturday.

"The thing that amazes me is how hard it is every single week," Larsen said. "I know



David Samson / The Forum

North Dakota State has the longest active home winning streak in Division I football with 24 in a row.

we say it. And think about it: We get everybody's best shot every week and to not have a letdown is really hard to do with 18-, 19- and 20-year-old kids when they have a lot of other stuff going on in their life. I know it drives people

crazy, it's a cliché, but they truly take it one day at a time."

Like the age of modern football, it's also debatable if the NDSU fan base is appreciating the school's place in NCAA history. The lopsided wins have been met with empty chairs in the dome in

the second half.

Larsen says "a large portion" of the fans recognize the streak.

"I say that because even though folks leave, there are a lot of folks who don't leave," he said. "And those folks want to see the third stringer as

much as they want to see Ty Brooks run for a touchdown. I would say the far majority of our fans do appreciate it. There are folks that probably don't and that's OK. Trust me, I'm disappointed when I see how much time and energy the team puts into it and the success they're having and people leave before halftime. To me, it's their loss but that's OK."

NDSU does own one nation's best winning streak. Alabama's loss to LSU last Saturday leaves the Bison with the longest home active winning streak in Division I football at 24 games. NDSU's last home loss was to James Madison in the 2016 FCS semifinals.

A Bison win on Saturday would also tie the 2012-24 NDSU teams for most Missouri Valley Football Conference wins in a row at 18. Southern Illinois is in third place with 14 in a row in 2008-09.

Not that anybody is talking about it.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Jeff Kolpack at (701) 241-5546. Kolpack's Media Blog can be found at [www.bisonmedia.com](http://www.bisonmedia.com) and [Twitter@FGOSPORTSWRITER](https://twitter.com/FGOSPORTSWRITER)

## McFEELY

From Page D1

Lance is 126 of 181 passing for a nation-leading completion percentage of 69.6 percent. He's thrown zero interceptions and 21 touchdowns. Lance has been sacked only seven times for a total of 20 yards, a credit to NDSU's offensive line for sure, but also indicative of the quarterback's elusiveness and strength. Did you see the play at Youngstown State when he avoided a sure sack by shedding a defensive lineman to throw an easy TD pass? In my mind, it's his signature play of the season.

Lance has 1,792 passing yards. He's also rushed for 637 yards and nine touchdowns, meaning he's accounted for 2,429 total yards and 30 TDs through 10 games.

He is, as a first-year player, the best offensive player on the best team in the country. He is a main reason why the Bison, expected to be more vulnerable this year with the loss of Stick and two dozen other seniors, haven't missed a beat.

That most likely will win him the Jerry Rice Award as the best freshman in FCS, as voted on by a panel of 160



David Samson / The Forum

North Dakota State quarterback Trey Lance is putting together a season to rival the best years of former NDSU Division I quarterbacks Easton Stick, Carson Wentz, Brock Jensen and Steve Walker.

sports information and media relations directors, broadcasters, writers and other dignitaries. It's the same group that votes on the STATS FCS Top 25 poll each week.

Those folks vote on the Payton Award.

They should strongly consider Lance for that honor, too.

It's a heavy lift, considering he's a freshman and the passing and total yards numbers aren't staggering like they are with other quarterbacks. It's entirely possible voters will look strictly at statistics and believe Lance, like they believed with Stick before him, is a simply product

of NDSU's dominance, that he's a game manager. It's not true — the Bison's offense is as explosive as anybody's — but that's how voters might view it.

Or the voters might look at Lance's youth and say, "Wait your turn. You can win the Rice, but the Payton will have to wait."

If there was ever a year

when a freshman should have a shot at the Payton Award, this might be it. If you combine Lance's exceptional season with the rare lack of a clear front-runner, there's no reason the NDSU quarterback shouldn't get a serious look.

In recent years, quarterbacks like Jeremiah Briscoe of Sam Houston State and Devlin Hodges of Samford and receiver Cooper Kupp of Eastern Washington were deemed before the season as players to oust in the race for the Payton. They won the award after big-statistic seasons. This year is different. There was no anointed Payton leader to start the season, meaning the award is as wide open as it's been this decade.

Sacramento State quarterback Kevin Thomson and Montana quarterback Dalton Sneed were both in the thick of the Payton race, but both have had their seasons sidetracked by injuries. Eastern Washington quarterback Eric Barriere will approach 4,000 passing yards in the regular season, but the Eagles have had a disappointing year and won't make the playoffs. UC Davis quarterback Jake Maier, too, can sling it, but the Aggies haven't lived up to expectations.

Ben DiNucci, the senior quarterback on second-ranked James Madison, is improved and having an excellent year, but hasn't generated much buzz as a top QB. Maybe he deserves a closer look, but like NDSU the Dukes are well-balanced without shocking statistics.

Or maybe it's the year when a running back wins the Payton, something that hasn't happened since 2003. But who would it be? James Robinson of Illinois State? Pierre Strong Jr. of South Dakota State? Pete Guerriero of Monmouth, who is the fourth-leading rusher in FCS? All are horses critical to their team's success and all have good stats, but nothing earth-shaking.

It's a weird year. A freshman might be the best all-around quarterback in the nation, worthy of consideration for the FCS's most prestigious award. It's unlikely to happen, considering the all-time great Stick didn't win it. It might even be unlikely voters will seriously consider Lance for the Payton when they submit their ballots Thanksgiving weekend. That'd be a shame, because the youngster deserves at least that.

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