



# News Release

Ramkota Hotel, 3200 W. Maple St., Sioux Falls, S.D. 57107  
 Phone: 605.338.0907 Fax: 605.338.1889  
 Jon J. Martin, Assistant Commissioner  
 E-mail: info@northcentralconference.org  
 Web: www.northcentralconference.org

Release No. 15  
 March 5, 2007

## North Central Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player

**Dylan Grimsley**  
**South Dakota**

## North Central Conference Men's Basketball Standings

*Standings Through Sunday, March 4*

	NCC Games				All Games				Streak
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA	
Minnesota State	10	2	948	882	26	4	2345	2019	L1
South Dakota	10	2	969	852	23	6	2298	1996	W4
St. Cloud State	7	5	942	958	19	10	2256	2101	L1
Minnesota Duluth	6	6	878	889	16	13	2141	2014	L1
Augustana	3	9	847	849	16	12	2051	1854	L6
Nebraska-Omaha	3	9	783	879	12	16	1978	2017	L3
North Dakota	3	9	830	888	11	17	2024	2003	L5

NABC Ranked Teams (Feb. 27) - No. 7 Minnesota State

### Last Week's Results

**Wednesday, February 21**  
**North Central Conference Tournament**  
**Wednesday, February 28**  
 #4 Minnesota Duluth 85, #5 North Dakota 63  
 #3 St. Cloud St. 63, #6 Nebraska-Omaha 52  
 #7 Minnesota St. 80, #2 Augustana 63

**Saturday, March 3**  
 Minnesota State 78, St. Cloud State 73  
 South Dakota 60, Minnesota Duluth 56

**Sunday, March 4, Vermillion, S.D.**  
 Championship  
 South Dakota 97, Minnesota State 86

### This Week's Schedule

**NCAA North Central Region**  
**Winona, Minn.**  
**Saturday, March 10**  
 #1 Winona State vs. #8 St. Cloud State  
 #2 Minnesota State vs. #7 Fort Lewis  
 #3 Metro State vs. #6 Adams St.  
 #4 South Dakota vs. #5 Nebraska-Kearney

**Sunday, March 11**  
 WSU/SCSU winner vs. USD/UNK winner  
 MSU/FLC winner vs. MSC/ASC winner

**Tuesday, March 13**  
 Championship Game

**Three Teams Get Second Season** - Three teams from the North Central Conference have been selected to the NCAA Division II Basketball Championships it was announced Sunday by the NCAA.

NCC men's teams that qualified are #2 Minnesota State, #4 South Dakota and #8 St. Cloud State. The tournament will be hosted by top-seed Winona State at McCown Gymnasium Saturday-Tuesday.

Other teams making the men's regional are: #3 Metro State, #5 Nebraska-Kearney, #6 Adams State and #7 Fort Lewis. Regional winners from each tournament will advance to the Elite Eight March 21, 22 and 24 in Springfield, Massachusetts.

## This Week's Double-Doubles

Name Date Stats  
None

## Double-Double Honor Roll (Double digits in points, rebound or assists)

Total To Date .....		38
Name	Team	Num.
Bryan Foss	UMD	6
Emmanuel Little	UND	6
Dylan Grimsley	USD	5
Nick Olson	AC	4
Matt Schneck	SCSU	2
Atila Santos	MSU	2
Steve Smith	USD	2
Eric Bergstrom	SCSU	1
Mitch Gosson	MSU	1
Rane Mergen	USD	1
Eric Hall	USD	1
Mark Kruse	UND	1
Tony Thomason	MSU	1
Keith Price	UNO	1
Tyler Cain	USD	1

## NCC Pre-Season Media Poll

PI	School (First-place votes) .....	Total
1.	Minnesota State (5) .....	62
2.	St. Cloud State (4) .....	61
3.	South Dakota (1) .....	53
4.	Minnesota Duluth .....	32
5.	Augustana .....	29
6.	North Dakota .....	24
7.	Nebraska-Omaha .....	19



**South Dakota Wins NCC Tourney** - Nothing went according to Hoyle last week except that the #1-seed in the NCC tournament, South Dakota, prevailed to claim the league's automatic berth. Here is a recap of the championship game:

South Dakota captured its second North Central Conference Postseason Tournament championship in the past three years thanks to a 97-86 victory over Minnesota State in the title game played in front of 2,712 fans in the DakotaDome. The victory guaranteed the program a spot in the upcoming NCAA Division II National Tournament which begins next Saturday.

USD will find out later tonight who and where it will play in the first round of the North Central Regional tourney. This is the first time in school history that the Coyotes have captured the regular season and postseason conference championships in the same season, and also extends USD's school record to four straight appearances in the NCAA Division II National Tournament, and is the 12th trip to "The Big Dance" in school history.

South Dakota adds this NCC Postseason Tourney title to the crown in captured in 2005, which interestingly enough also came over MSU. The 23rd victory on the year also moves this year's club into a tie for fourth-place on the school's all-time single-season victory list.

Dylan Grimsley was named the *NCC Postseason Tournament Most Valuable Player* after scoring 18 points on 7-of-10 shooting and grabbing seven rebounds while dishing out four assists.

Dustin Little led all scorers with 22 points - just two shy of his career-high - while making 8-of-10 attempts from the field and all five from the free throw line. Little also added five rebounds and a career-high four steals.

Jesse Becker came off the bench to pour in 21 points on 7-of-12 shooting, including three-of-four from beyond the arc, and dished out six assists in the win. Also coming off the bench to reach double-digits in scoring was Mitch Begeman who tallied 14 points while making five-of-seven shots from the floor, including three-of-five from three-point range.

Steve Smith was the fifth Coyote to hit double-digits in points with 16 points to go along with seven rebounds, which tied Grimsley for the team lead. Smith made six-of-seven attempts from the charity stripe and added a pair of blocked shots. Minnesota State had four players hit double-digits in scoring, led by Paris Kyles' 21 points. Luke Anderson had 17 points and five rebounds while Tony Thomason went for 16 points. Jake Morrow added 12 points for the Mavericks while Mitch Gosson grabbed a game-high eight rebounds along with scoring seven points.

South Dakota shot a blazing 61.4% from the floor during the course of the game, and made 7-of-13 three-point attempts (53.8%). The Coyotes were also credited with four blocked shots to just one for the Mavericks. USD enjoyed a 33-30 advantage on the boards, including a 23-16 edge on the defensive glass.

The Coyotes got out to a fast start in the game with an 8-2 opening salvo just 3:43 into play. Minnesota State answered right back with a 9-2 run of its own to take its first lead of the game at the 14:42 mark at 11-10. A little over two minutes later, the Mavericks found themselves holding a 15-14 lead until a jumper by Grimsley and a lay-up by Becker on back-to-back possessions put USD up for what ultimately proved to be for good.

MSU closed the gap to just one point on three separate occasions through the remainder of the half. However, it was the host Coyotes that were able to hang onto the lead and took a 43-40 advantage into the break.

The difference in score between the two schools hovered in the one-to-two possession range for most of the early part of the second half, with South Dakota leading 54-50 six minutes into play. At that point, the Coyotes ripped of eight consecutive points with a lay-up by Grimsley sandwiched in-between trifectas by Begeman and Becker, and suddenly USD found itself up a dozen points at 62-50 with 12:51 remaining.

Minnesota State started to chip away at that deficit, and with 11:14 to go closed to within eight points at 67-59. Once again though, South Dakota responded with a 9-2 run to take its largest lead of the game to that point, leading 76-62 with 8:52 left on the clock. From that point, the lead stayed in the double-digit range until only 40 ticks remained and the Mavericks closed to eight points. But it was a case of too-little, too-late for the defending conference tournament champions as MSU returned the crown to the Coyotes after the final buzzer sounded and South Dakota had an 11-point victory under its belt.