



***2020-21***  
***SUMMIT LEAGUE***  
***YEAR-IN-REVIEW***



**SUMMIT LEAGUE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS****MEN****Baseball**

North Dakota State

**Basketball**

Oral Roberts

**Cross Country**

South Dakota State

**Golf**

Denver

**Soccer**

Denver (regular season)

**Swimming & Diving**

South Dakota

**Tennis**

Denver

**Indoor Track & Field**

North Dakota State

**Outdoor Track & Field**

North Dakota State

**WOMEN****Softball**

South Dakota State

**Basketball**

South Dakota

**Cross Country**

South Dakota State

**Golf**

Denver

**Soccer**

Denver

**Swimming & Diving**

Denver

**Tennis**

Denver

**Indoor Track & Field**

North Dakota State

**Outdoor Track & Field**

North Dakota State

**Volleyball**

South Dakota

**SUMMIT LEAGUE ALL-SPORT AWARD WINNERS****COMMISSIONER'S  
CUP**

South Dakota State

**DR. WILLIAM  
STEINBRECHER  
MENS ALL-SPORT**

North Dakota State

**DR. HELEN SMILEY  
WOMENS ALL-SPORT**

South Dakota State

**SPORTSMANSHIP  
AWARD**

Omaha



# TOP MOMENTS

## THE SUMMIT LEAGUE 2020-21



### Women's Basketball December 6 & 8

#### ***South Dakota State makes appearance in AP & USA Today/WBCA Coaches Polls***

South Dakota State earned a spot in the Associated Press regular-season poll for the first time in 11 years, coming in at No. 22. A day later, South Dakota State moved to No. 21 in the USA Today Coaches Poll. The last time the Jackrabbits appeared in either of the two major Division I women's basketball polls was a 22nd-place showing in the final USA Today Coaches Poll of the 2018-19 season.

### Women's Basketball February 5

#### ***South Dakota sets record for most consecutive league wins***

South Dakota set the record for most consecutive league games won dating back to Feb. 28, 2019. The Coyotes reached 24 consecutive league wins before falling to South Dakota State in the series opener with the Jacks on Feb. 5th. The record was previously held by Northern Illinois who earned 22 consecutive league wins during the 1992-93-1993-94 seasons.



### Women's Basketball February 6

#### ***Western Illinois' Grace Gilmore ties league's single-game scoring record***

Western Illinois' senior guard Grace Gilmore knocked down a career-high six three-pointers and 10 points from behind the charity stripe en route to tying the league's single-game scoring record with 46 points in the series opener with Omaha on Feb. 6. Her 46 points were the third-most by a player in the NCAA this season.

### Men's Basketball February 13

#### ***Oral Roberts' Abmas drops 42 points against South Dakota State***

Oral Roberts' sophomore Max Abmas scored a career-high 42 points on 14-of-20 shooting from the floor in the series-opening 103-86 victory over South Dakota State. He went 5-for-8 from beyond the arc to become the first Golden Eagle to score 40-plus in a game since the 2007-08 season. The 42 points were the most by a Summit League player in a game this season and the third-most by a Division I player.



### Men's Soccer March 2

#### ***Oral Roberts' ranked No. 24 by the United Soccer Coaches Poll***

The Golden Eagles were ranked as high as No. 24 in the United Soccer Coaches Poll. Additionally, ORU started the season 7-0, which was the best start to a season in program history.

### Men's Tennis March 3

#### ***Denver rises to 33rd in national Oracle ITA rankings***

The Denver men's tennis team rose one spot to 33rd in the latest Oracle ITA Division I rankings, the Crimson & Gold's highest mark since the team was ranked 25th in 2010.



**Women's Tennis****March 3****Denver enters national rankings at No. 46**

The Denver women's tennis team entered the national rankings in early March, owning the No. 46 spot in the Oracle ITA Rankings after opening the season with a 6-3 record. To help propel the Pioneers to a national ranking, they defeated a pair of Power Five opponents through the first half of the season with a 5-2 win at Kansas and a 4-3 win vs. Colorado.

**Track & Field****March 4****Bison Track and Field trio win Midwest Region honors for indoor season**

North Dakota State throwers Akealy Moton and Alex Talley, along with associate director of track & field Justin St. Clair, earned USTFCCA regional awards for the 2021 indoor season. Moton was named the women's Midwest Region Field Athlete of the Year, while Talley claimed the same accolade on the men's side. St. Clair was chosen as the men's Midwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year – his eighth regional honor since 2016.

**Cross Country****March 5****South Dakota State men earned fifth straight title, women captured first title since 2008**

The South Dakota State men, ranked No. 8 in the Midwest Region, and the Jackrabbit women captured the 2021 Summit League Cross Country Championships. The Jackrabbit men scored 22 points after earning four of the top-five spots. The women also scored 22 points sweeping the top-four spots at the league championships.

**Women's Basketball****March 10****Selland, Sjerven named finalists for Becky Hammon Award**

South Dakota State forward Myah Selland and South Dakota center Hannah Sjerven were named finalists for the Becky Hammon Mid-Major Player of the Year award presented by Her Hoop Stats. Selland and Sjerven were two of five women to be named a finalist for the award, whittled down from 10 semifinalists.

**Women's Basketball****March 15****#SummitWBB lands two in 2021 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament**

For the third time in league history, two teams represented The Summit League at The Big Dance as Summit League Tournament Champion South Dakota and regular-season Champion South Dakota State earned spots in the field of 64 in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament. SDSU and USD also achieved the feat in 2019, while Northern Illinois and Green Bay represented the league at the 1994 NCAA Tournament.

**Men's Basketball****March 21****Oral Roberts reaches NCAA Sweet 16**

The Golden Eagles became the first men's basketball program to reach the Sweet 16 in league history after defeating No. 2 Ohio State in overtime 75-72 and No. 7 Florida 81-78 in the second round. It marks the second appearance in the Sweet 16 for the Golden Eagles and ORU became just the second No. 15 seed to advance to the Sweet 16 joining the 2012-13 FGCU squad.

**Women's Tennis****March 30****Denver women's tennis sees three in ITA rankings**

The University of Denver women's tennis program appeared in both the ITA Singles and Doubles rankings that were released on March 30. In singles, Anna Riedmiller ranked 116th, posting a 9-1 record. Camille Verden Anderson and Britt Pursell were the 59th ranked doubles tandem in the country with their 6-1 record heading into that week's competition.

**Men's Basketball****April 1****Oral Roberts' Abmas garners Lou Henson Award as nation's top mid-major player**

Oral Roberts' Max Abmas was the recipient of the 2021 Lou Henson Award. The 6-foot-1 sophomore led the nation in scoring, averaging 24.5 points per game and ranked third nationally with 4.0 made three-point field goals per contest. He scored 30 or more on seven occasions and was the only player in college basketball to score 40 or more points in a game twice.





## Women's Basketball

April 3

### ***South Dakota State's Selland claims WBCA All-America Honorable Mention***

South Dakota State's Myah Selland became the first Jackrabbit to receive WBCA All-America Honorable Mention honors. Jennifer Warkenthien was an AP All-America Honorable Mention selection in 2009. Selland was named Summit League Player of the Year, an All-Summit League First Team selection and a finalist for the Becky Hammon Mid-Major Player of the Year this past season. The Letcher, S.D. native led the Jackrabbits and the Summit League with 19.2 points per game, including 19.5 points per game in Summit League play.

## Track & Field

April 10

### ***South Dakota's Anderson qualifies for Olympic Trials***

South Dakota senior Zack Anderson cleared the Olympic Trials qualifying height to win the high jump at the South Dakota Challenge at Lillibridge Track Complex and Gottsleben Field. At the time, Anderson tied the NCAA lead by clearing 7-5 (2.26m) on his first attempt. The winning height was a personal best for Anderson and extended his school and facility record.



DENVER



## Swimming & Diving

April 17

### ***South Dakota men, Denver women capture #SummitSD championship titles***

For the eighth consecutive year, the Denver women's team stood atop the podium, while the South Dakota men captured its first #SummitSD title in program history. The Pioneer women won their title with a team score of 1,052.5 points, while the Coyotes men won with a team score of 915.5 points. It was the first time since 1998 and only the fifth time in league history that two separate universities took home the team titles in the same championships as Western Illinois (men) and Buffalo (women) were the last pair of teams to split titles.

## Volleyball

April 21

### ***KC's Brecka, USD's Juhnke earn Honorable Mention All-American Honors***

Kansas City's Melanie Brecka and South Dakota's Elizabeth Juhnke were named to the All-American Honorable Mention team as selected by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Brecka led the Roos in kills in all 17 matches this year, breaking the 20-kill mark seven times, including a career-high 26 in the Summit League Semifinals against South Dakota. She posted nine double-doubles in kills and digs on the year. Juhnke led the Coyotes and the Summit League in total kills (346), kills per set (4.17), total points (392), points per set (4.72) and total attacks (960). She provided 14 double-doubles on the season as South Dakota posted a 15-7 overall record and finished 12-3 in the Summit League.



## Women's Golf

April 26

### ***South Dakota State's Toscano earned five individual tournament titles during senior campaign***

South Dakota State senior Teresa Toscano won five individual tournaments during the 2020-21 campaign, including The Summit League Championship in late April. She won that event by two strokes to earn Championship MVP honors and also captured medalist honors at the Jackrabbit Invitational, the Pizza Hut Lady Thunderbird Invitational, the Bama Beach Bash and the Stampede at the Creek. Toscano posted top-20 finishes in all eight events she competed in and was inside the top 10 in seven of those as she finished with the league's top stroke average of 72.60.

## Women's Soccer

April 27

### ***Denver Tops Loyola Chicago 3-1 in NCAA First Round***

The Denver women's soccer team came from a goal down to defeat Loyola Chicago 3-1 in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament. Sami Feller, Sydney Sharp and Kaitlyn Glover got on the scoresheet for the Pioneers in the victory, which was the program's first since advancing to the round of 16 in 2012.



## Men's Soccer

April 29

### ***Omaha downs No. 23 UNC-Greensboro for first NCAA Tournament win in program history***

The Omaha Mavericks made history defeating No. 23 UNC-Greensboro in the first round of the NCAA Men's Soccer Tournament, 3-2. It marks the first NCAA tournament win for Omaha, who would fall to No. 4 Stanford in overtime in the next round.

## Softball

April 24 and April 30

### ***South Dakota State's Tori Kniesche throws two no-hitters in less than a week***

South Dakota State Pitcher of the Year Tori Kniesche threw a pair of five-inning no-hitters in the span of a week – April 24 vs. South Dakota and April 30 against Creighton. Against the Coyotes, Kniesche struck out 11 batters and walked one and against the Blue Jays, she struck out 10 batters and walked one.



**Men's Golf****May 1-3****Oral Roberts' Howes claims Championship MVP honors by seven strokes**

Oral Roberts' Jack Howes earned 2021 Summit League Men's Golf Championship MVP honors by claiming the top spot in individual play. Howes shot three consecutive rounds in the 60's to claim medalist honors by seven strokes. His 206 (-10) total tied for the second-lowest 54-hole total in Summit League Championship history as he led the Golden Eagles to a second-place finish in the team standings.

**Men's Soccer****May 13****Omaha Kametani named first All-American in program history**

Hugo Kametani earned the first men's soccer All-American nod in Omaha history after he earned third-team honors. Kametani led the Mavericks and the Summit League with 19 points and nine goals this season and three game-winning goals to his credit.

**Softball****May 13****South Dakota State's Tori Kniesche included in top-15 of NFCA/Schutt Sports Division I National Freshmen of the Year**

South Dakota State pitcher Tori Kniesche was included in the top-15 of 2021 NFCA/Schutt Sports Division I National Freshman of the Year. A right-hander from Wayne, Nebraska, Kniesche ended the regular season with a 19-1 record and a 1.50 ERA. She was named The Summit League Pitcher of the Year after limiting the opposition to a .139 batting average and striking out 158 batters in 107 innings pitched.

**Track & Field****May 13-15****Student-athletes break 14 Summit League Outdoor Track & Field Championships meet records**

In the three days of the 2021 Summit League Outdoor Track & Field Championships, there were a total of 14 broken meet records. It marks the most broken records since 2017 when seven records were broken.

**Softball****May 21****South Dakota State captures victory in NCAA Tournament debut**

Making its NCAA Softball Tournament debut against Stanford, SDSU captured a 7-1 victory over the Cardinal in the opening round in Fayetteville, Ark. Cylie Halvorson hit a pair of home runs to drive in five runs and Grace Glanzer pitched a complete-game effort.

**Women's Golf****May 21-24****Zanusso caps stellar season with top-10 finish at NCAA Championship**

Denver sophomore Anna Zanusso turned in the best finish ever by a Summit League women's golfer at the NCAA Championship, tying for ninth at the 2021 event. The sophomore fired a 2-under 70 in the final round of play, bringing her 72-hole total to 288 (even par). She closed out her sophomore season with three straight top-10 finishes, including a third-place showing at The Summit League Championship.

**Men's Basketball****May 28****#SummitMBB trio makes league history with Academic All-America nods**

For the first time in Summit League history, a trio of men's basketball players were named Academic All-Americans by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and Omaha's Matt Pile became the first league player to earn the honor three times in a career. Pile was joined on the first team by Oral Roberts sophomore Max Abmas, while South Dakota State's Matt Dentlinger rounded out the trio by being named to the third team.

**Baseball****May 29****North Dakota State breaks records during 2021 season**

No. 2 seed North Dakota State defeated top-seeded Oral Roberts 11-6 in the winner-take-all game of the 2021 #SummitBSB Championship presented by U.S. Air Force Special Warfare, securing their school single-season record 41st win of the season. The Bison also set a school record with 20 Summit League wins and entered the NCAA Tournament with the most road wins in the nation with 25.





## NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

## Indoor Track &amp; Field

## Justin St. Clair, North Dakota State

USTFCCCA Midwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year



St. Clair, in his 10th year at NDSU, has now claimed eight Midwest Region coaching honors since 2016. He coached five men's entries to the NCAA Indoor Championships this season, accounting for 16 percent of the men's throwers at the national meet. The Bison men finished the indoor season ranked No. 1 in the national Event Squad Rankings for both the shot put and weight throw, with four Bison surpassing 60 feet in the shot put and three beyond 68 feet in the weight throw this season.

## Indoor Track &amp; Field

## Akealy Moton, North Dakota State

USTFCCCA Women's Midwest Field Athlete of the Year

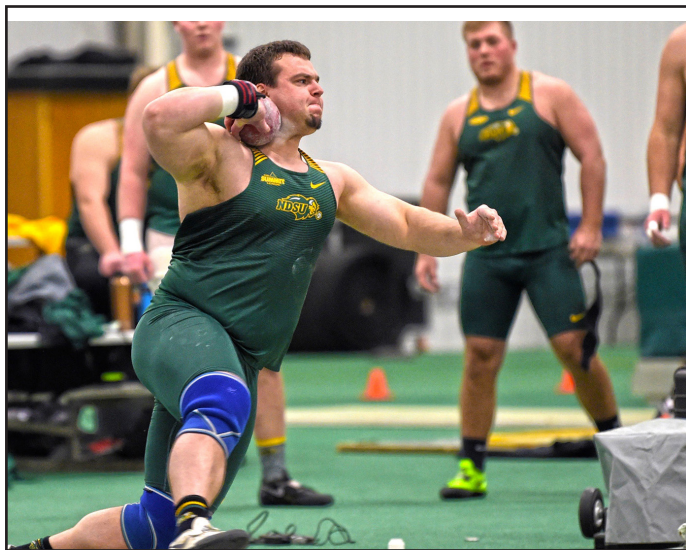


Moton was ranked third in the NCAA – and 23rd in the world – in the shot during the indoor season. She set the all-time Summit League record on Feb. 13 at the Iowa State Classic, throwing 59-3 (18.06m). Moton was undefeated in the shot put this season through six meets entering the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championship where she placed fifth and captured the third All-America honor of her career.

## Indoor Track &amp; Field

## Alex Talley, North Dakota State

USTFCCCA Men's Midwest Field Athlete of the Year



Talley was the only man in the nation this season to rank in the NCAA's Top 25 for both indoor throwing events. He ranked No. 3 in the weight throw and was tied for fifth in the shot put entering the NCAA Indoor Championships in Fayetteville, Ark. Talley was also named The Summit League Championships Field MVP after winning both events at the conference meet.

## Men's Basketball

## Max Abmas, Oral Roberts

Lou Hensen Mid-Major Player of the Year



Oral Roberts' Max Abmas is the recipient of the 2021 Lou Henson award. The 6-foot-1 sophomore led the nation in scoring, averaging 24.5 points per game and ranked third nationally with 4.0 made three-point field goals per contest. He scored 30 or more on seven occasions and was the only player in college basketball to score 40 or more points in a game twice, including a 42-point effort against Summit League regular-season champion South Dakota State on Feb. 13.

**ALL-AMERICANS**

| Name             | School             | Sport              | Organization        | Team       |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Melanie Brecka   | Kansas City        | Volleyball         | AVCA                | HM         |
| Hugo Kametani    | Omaha              | Men's Soccer       | United Soccer       | Third      |
| Max Abmas        | Oral Roberts       | Men's Basketball   | AP                  | HM         |
| Kevin Obanor     | Oral Roberts       | Men's Basketball   | CollegelInsider.com | Lou Henson |
| Elizabeth Juhnke | South Dakota       | Volleyball         | AVCA                | HM         |
| Myah Selland     | South Dakota State | Women's Basketball | WBCA                | HM         |
| Teresa Toscano   | South Dakota State | Women's Golf       | WGCA                | HM         |

Key - (AP) Associated Press; (AVCA) American Volleyball Coaches Association; (WBCA) Women's Basketball Coaches' Association; (CollegelInsider.com) Lou Henson Mid-Major



Hugo Kametani earned the Omaha men's soccer program's first All-American nod in program history, as he was named a third-team All-American. Kametani led the Mavericks and the Summit League with 19 points and nine goals this season. He added an assist, 36 shots, 18 shots on goal and three games winners.



South Dakota State's Teresa Toscano became the first Jackabbit women's golfer to earn WGCA All-America honors. She finished inside the top-10 in seven events she competed in this season. Toscano captured five individual titles, finished runner-up and tied for seventh. She posted a 72.35 stroke average this season and recorded an 8-over 224 (75-75-74) to win Summit League Championship by two strokes.

**ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS**

| Name            | School             | Sport              | Major                    | Organization  | Team   |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Natalie Beckman | Denver             | Women's Soccer     | Mathematics & Psychology | United Soccer | Second |
| Matt Pile       | Omaha              | Men's Basketball   | Medicinal Chemistry      | CoSIDA        | First  |
| Max Abmas       | Oral Roberts       | Men's Basketball   | BioMedical Chemistry     | CoSIDA        | First  |
| Matt Dentlinger | South Dakota State | Men's Basketball   | Mechanical Engineering   | CoSIDA        | Third  |
| Myah Selland    | South Dakota State | Women's Basketball | Exercise Science         | CoSIDA        | Second |



**ALL-DISTRICT / ALL-REGION**

| <b>Name</b>         | <b>School</b>      | <b>Sport</b>     | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Team</b>                               |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|---|
| Natalie Beckman     | Denver             | Women's Soccer   | United Soccer       | All-West Region First<br>All-Region First |
| Taylor Parker       | Denver             | Women's Soccer   | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Samantha Feller     | Denver             | Women's Soccer   | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Will Palmquist      | Denver             | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Jacob Stensson      | Denver             | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Liam Johnson        | Denver             | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Kengo Ohira         | Denver             | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region Second                    |
| Tina Boe            | Denver             | Volleyball       | AVCA                | Midwest Region HM                         |
| Melanie Brecka      | Kansas City        | Volleyball       | AVCA                | Midwest Region First                      |
| Rocky Kreuser       | North Dakota State | Men's Basketball | NABC                | District 12 Second                        |
| Mia Reedtz Olesen   | Omaha              | Women's Soccer   | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Margaret LaVigne    | Omaha              | Women's Soccer   | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Hugo Kametani       | Omaha              | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Nil Ayats           | Omaha              | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region Second                    |
| Sadie Limback       | Omaha              | Volleyball       | AVCA                | Midwest Region First                      |
| Sydney Nuismer      | Omaha              | Softball         | NFCA                | Midwest Region Third                      |
| Lucca Rodrigues     | Oral Roberts       | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Dante Brigida       | Oral Roberts       | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Miles Motakef       | Oral Roberts       | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region Second                    |
| Josselyn Petel      | Oral Roberts       | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region Second                    |
| Reed Berry          | Oral Roberts       | Men's Soccer     | United Soccer       | All-West Region Second                    |
| Max Abmas           | Oral Roberts       | Men's Basketball | USBWA               | All-District 8                            |
|                     |                    |                  | NABC                | District 12 First                         |
| Kevin Obanor        | Oral Roberts       | Men's Basketball | NABC                | District 12 First                         |
| Alexis Mitchell     | South Dakota       | Women's Soccer   | United Soccer       | Second                                    |
| Elizabeth Juhnke    | South Dakota       | Volleyball       | AVCA                | North Region First                        |
| Stanley Umude       | South Dakota       | Men's Basketball | NABC                | District 12 Second                        |
| Gabby Vivier-Hannay | South Dakota State | Women's Soccer   | United Soccer       | All-West Region First                     |
| Baylor Scheierman   | South Dakota State | Men's Basketball | NABC                | District 12 Second                        |
| Tori Kniesche       | South Dakota State | Softball         | NFCA                | Midwest Region First                      |
| Jocelyn Carrillo    | South Dakota State | Softball         | NFCA                | Midwest Region First                      |
| Cylie Halvorson     | South Dakota State | Softball         | NFCA                | Midwest Region Second                     |
| Emma Osmundson      | South Dakota State | Softball         | NFCA                | Midwest Region Second                     |
| Kelsey Lenox        | South Dakota State | Softball         | NFCA                | Midwest Region Second                     |
| Grace Glanzer       | South Dakota State | Softball         | NFCA                | Midwest Region Third                      |
| Savannah Rodriguez  | Western Illinois   | Softball         | NFCA                | Central Region Third                      |

**ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT / ALL-REGION**

| <b>Name</b>     | <b>School</b>      | <b>Sport</b>       | <b>Major</b>             | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Team</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Natalie Beckman | Denver             | Women's Soccer     | Mathematics & Psychology | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Will Palmquist  | Denver             | Men's Soccer       | Finance & Data Analytics | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Filip Rebraca   | North Dakota       | Men's Basketball   | Economics                | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Ellie Schneider | North Dakota State | Women's Soccer     | Biological Science       | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Rocky Kreuser   | North Dakota State | Men's Basketball   | University Studies       | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Kaitlyn Guhl    | Omaha              | Women's Soccer     | Biomechanics             | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Ed Gordon       | Omaha              | Men's Soccer       | Business Administration  | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Matt Pile       | Omaha              | Men's Basketball   | Medicinal Chemistry      | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Max Abmas       | Oral Roberts       | Men's Basketball   | BioMedical Chemistry     | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Rachel Preston  | South Dakota State | Women's Soccer     | Nursing                  | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Matt Dentlinger | South Dakota State | Men's Basketball   | Mechanical Engineering   | CoSIDA              | First       |
| Myah Selland    | South Dakota State | Women's Basketball | Exercise Science         | CoSIDA              | First       |

**NATIONAL AWARD WATCH LISTS**

| <b>Name</b>    | <b>School</b>      | <b>Sport</b>       | <b>Watch List</b>  |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Paul Mills     | Oral Roberts       | Men's Basketball   | Hugh Durham Award  |
| Max Abmas      | Oral Roberts       | Men's Basketball   | Lou Henson Award   |
| Noah Freidel   | South Dakota State | Men's Basketball   | Lou Henson Award   |
| Kevin Obanor   | Oral Roberts       | Men's Basketball   | Lou Henson Award   |
| Myah Selland   | South Dakota State | Women's Basketball | Becky Hammon Award |
| Hannah Sjerven | South Dakota       | Women's Basketball | Becky Hammon Award |

**NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK AWARDS**

| <b>Name</b>  | <b>School</b>      | <b>Sport</b>       | <b>Organization</b>    | <b>Date</b>   |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Noah Freidel | South Dakota State | Men's Basketball   | CollegiateInsider.com  | Dec. 7, 2020  |
| Max Abmas    | Oral Roberts       | Men's Basketball   | CollegiateInsider.com  | Feb. 15, 2021 |
| Myah Selland | South Dakota State | Women's Basketball | College Sports Madness | Feb. 15, 2021 |
| James Davis  | Denver             | Men's Tennis       | UTR ITA                | Feb. 17, 2021 |

## SPORT-BY-SPORT RECAP

## BASEBALL

**Regular Season Champion** ..... Oral Roberts  
**Tournament Champion** ..... North Dakota State

**Player of the Year** ..... Bennett Hostetler, NDSU  
**Pitcher of the Year** ..... Isaac Coffey, ORU  
**Newcomer of the Year** ..... Joshua Cox, ORU  
**Coach of the Year** ..... Ryan Folmar, ORU

- Oral Roberts won its 19th regular season title in 21 tries since joining the Summit League. Righthander Isaac Coffey was named the Pitcher of the Year after leading the league with nine wins and a 2.81 ERA.
- North Dakota State secured its school record 41st win of the season in a winner-take-all title game at the 2021 Baseball Championship. The Bison defeated top-seeded Oral Roberts 11-6 securing their second tournament trophy in program history.
- NDSU also set a school single season record for league wins with 20 while ORU failed to win the tournament for the first in 19 tries as the No. 1 seed.
- Shortstop Bennett Hostetler was named the Player of the Year to become the second Bison to earn that distinction. He led the league in batting average (.391) and hits (79).

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

**Regular Season Champion** ..... South Dakota State  
**Tournament Champion** ..... Oral Roberts

**Player of the Year** ..... Max Abmas, ORU  
**Defensive Player of the Year** .. Brandon McKissic, KC  
**Sixth Man of the Year** ..... Grant Nelson, NDSU  
**Freshman of the Year** ..... Tyree Ihenacho, UND  
**Newcomer of the Year** ..... A.J. Plitzuweit, USD  
**Coach of the Year** ..... Todd Lee, USD

- Oral Roberts wore the glass slipper at the 2021 NCAA Tournament as the Golden Eagles advanced to the Sweet 16 before falling to No. 3 Arkansas by just two points. They were the first Summit League team to make it to that point in the tournament since Valparaiso in 1998 and only third all-time (Cleveland State; 1986).
- ORU sophomore Max Abmas became the second league player to be named the Lou Henson Mid-Major Player of the Year after he led all Division I players in scoring at 25.2 ppg.
- Abmas and teammate Kevin Obanor were both named Lou Henson Mid-Major All-Americans.
- South Dakota State won the regular season title and has now won at least a share of that trophy in each of the last four seasons and six of the last seven dating back to 2015.

## SOFTBALL

**Regular Season Champion** ..... South Dakota State  
**Tournament Champion** ..... South Dakota State

**Player of the Year** ..... Cylie Halvorson, SDSU  
**Pitcher of the Year** ..... Tori Kniesche, SDSU  
**Freshman of the Year** ..... Grace Glanzer, SDSU  
**Coach of the Year** ..... Krista Wood, SDSU

- South Dakota State secured its first regular season and tournament titles in program history, as they tied a program record with 43 wins.
- Player of the Year Cylie Halvorson paced the Jacks' offense with a league-leading 20 home runs and 62 RBI with a .357 batting average.
- Pitcher of the Year Tori Kniesche led the league in both wins (22) and earned run average (1.59). During the regular season, Kniesche limited the opposition to a .149 batting average and struck out 196 batters in 141 innings pitched.
- Omaha advanced to its first Summit League championship title game in program history.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**Regular Season Champion** ..... South Dakota State  
**Tournament Champion** ..... South Dakota

**Player of the Year** ..... Myah Selland, SDSU  
**Defensive Player of the Year** .. Hannah Sjerven, USD  
**Sixth Woman of the Year** ..... RaVon Nero, KC  
**Freshman of the Year** ..... Tierney Coleman, ORU  
**Newcomer of the Year** ..... Heaven Hamling, NDSU  
**Coach of the Year** ..... Aaron Johnston, SDSU

- For the third time in League history, two Summit League schools made the NCAA Tournament. South Dakota went as an automatic bid with South Dakota State earning an at-large berth.
- South Dakota State's Myah Selland led the league in scoring (19.5/19.2) and acquired a season-high six player of the week accolades.
- South Dakota State became the fourth team in league history run the table during the regular season. The Jackrabbits finished with a 14-0 league record finishing undefeated for the first time in program history.
- Second-seeded South Dakota made it back-to-back Summit League Women's Basketball Championships for the first time in program history, knocking off Omaha 66-43 in the tournament title game.

**MEN'S SOCCER**

**Regular Season Champion** ..... Denver  
**Tournament Champion** ..... Denver

**Offensive Player of the Year** ..... Dante Brigida, ORU  
**Defensive Player of the Year** .. Fitzroy Cummings, UNO  
**Goalkeeper of the Year** ..... Cooper Clark, KC  
**Newcomer of the Year** ..... Hugo Kametani, UNO  
**Co-Coaches of the Year** ..... Ryan Pore, KC

- Denver captured the regular season crown, finishing with a 6-2-0 record to amass 18 total points and claim their seventh regular season crown in eight tries since joining the league prior to the 2013-14 season.
- Due to Covid-19 protocols, Omaha replaced Denver in the NCAA Tournament.
- Omaha made history defeating No. 23 UNC-Greensboro in the first round of the NCAA Men's Soccer Tournament, 3-2, marking the first NCAA win for the Mavericks.
- Omaha's Hugo Kametani earned the programs first All-American nod, as he was named a third-team All-American. Kametani led the Mavericks and the Summit League with 19 points and nine goals this season. He added an assist, 36 shots, 18 shots on goal and three games winners.

**MEN'S GOLF**

**League Champion** ..... Denver  
**Individual Champion** ..... Jackson Howes, ORU

**Golfer of the Year** ..... Jackson Solem, DU  
**Newcomer of the Year** ..... Jack Johnson, NDSU  
**Coach of the Year** ..... Trake Carpenter, DU

- First-year head coach Trake Carpenter led Denver to its second consecutive Summit League Championship as the Pioneers bested the field by eight strokes.
- Denver was led by Golfer of the Year Jackson Solem, who finished runner-up at The Summit League Golf Championship and led the league with a 71.9 stroke average.
- Solem was joined on the all-tournament team by fellow Pioneers John Sand (3rd) and Carson Griggs (4th).
- Oral Roberts Jack Howes posted three rounds in the 60's to claim Championship MVP honors as he won his first collegiate tournament by seven strokes (206; -10).
- Kansas City's Corey Teaford rounded out the all-tournament team after tying for fourth in the Roos return to the league.
- North Dakota State's Jack Johnson was named the Newcomer of the Year and led the Bison with a 73.94 stroke average and posted a pair of top-10 finishes.

**WOMEN'S SOCCER**

**Regular Season Champion** ..... Denver  
**Tournament Champion** ..... Denver

**Offensive Player of the Year** ... Natalie Beckman, DU  
**Defensive Player of the Year** ... Gabby Vivier-Hannay, SDSU  
**Goalkeeper of the Year** ... Meia Reedtz Rehde Olesen, UNO  
**Newcomer of the Year** ..... Sophia Green, UNO  
**Coach of the Year** ..... Brock Thompson, SDSU

- No. 1 Denver captured its third league tournament title in four years, blanking third-seeded Omaha 3-0 and made their 12th NCAA Tournament appearance.
- Denver junior forward Natalie Beckman's assist on Kaitlyn Glover's opening goal in the title game was the 13th assist of her season, breaking the Summit League single-season record of 12 previously held by four players.
- Denver came from a goal down to defeat Loyola Chicago 3-1 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament and captured its first win in the NCAA Tournament since 2012.
- The Pioneers ended the regular season ranked as high as 22nd in the College Soccer News Poll.

**WOMEN'S GOLF**

**League Champion** ..... Denver  
**Individual Champion** ..... Teresa Toscano, SDSU

**Golfer of the Year** ..... Teresa Toscano, SDSU  
**Newcomer of the Year** ..... Katarina Drocarova, DU  
**Coach of the Year** ..... Lindsay Kuhle, DU

- South Dakota State's Teresa Toscano won five medalist honors and had seven top-10 finishes during her final collegiate season. Her fifth individual title came at The Summit League Championship where she won by two strokes.
- Toscano finished her decorated career with 14 weekly/monthly golf honors, which is the second most in league history and was named the Golfer of the Year.
- Denver won the 2021 Women's Golf Championship, giving the Pioneers back-to-back titles and six since joining the league prior to the 2013-14 season.
- Head Coach Lindsay Kuhle garnered her sixth Coach of the Year honor while freshman Katarina Drocarova was named the Newcomer of the Year.
- Denver's Anna Zanusso turned in the top finish ever by a Summit League golfer at the NCAA Championships after she advanced as an individual with a sixth-place finish at the Stanford Regional. She tied for ninth in Arizona and finished her season with three straight top-10 finishes.



**MEN'S TENNIS**

**Regular Season Champion** ..... Denver  
**Tournament Champion** ..... Denver

**Player of the Year** ..... Volodymyr Zakharov, ORU  
**Newcomer of the Year** .... Volodymyr Zakharov, ORU  
**Coach of the Year** ..... Ricardo Rubio, DU

- The Pioneers rose up to a season-high No. 33 in the latest Oracle ITA Division I rankings, the Crimson & Gold's highest mark since the team was ranked 25th in 2010.
- Denver's junior duo of James Davis and Matt Summers were at one point ranked the 42nd-best doubles tandem in the country according to Oracle/ITA Division I men's rankings.
- Denver's Davis was at one point in the season ranked No. 94th in the country in the national singles rankings.
- Davis represented the league in the 2021 NCAA Men's Singles Championships where he matched up against No. 10 Adam Walton. He finished his 2021 campaign with a 14-4 overall singles record.

**INDOOR TRACK & FIELD**

**Men's Champion** ..... North Dakota State  
**Women's Champion** ..... North Dakota State

**Men's Track Athlete** ..... Brithton Senior, USD  
**Women's Track Athlete** . . Jennie Baragar-Petrash, NDSU  
**Men's Field Athlete** ..... Alex Talley, NDSU  
**Women's Field Athlete** ..... Akealy Moton, NDSU  
**Men's Coach** ..... Stevie Keller, NDSU  
**Women's Coach** ..... Stevie Keller, NDSU

- A league tying-record of twelve student-athletes represented The Summit League at the 2021 NCAA Division I Indoor Track & Field Championships in Fayetteville, Ark.
- North Dakota State's Alex Talley was the only athlete in the nation to qualify in both throwing events. The league had eight first team All-American performances at the NCAA indoor meet and six second team honorees.
- Seven Summit League Championship meet records were broken in Brookings: men's 800m, men's 200m, women's 400m, women's 200m, women's 5,000m, women's shot put record and men's 4x400m relay record.

**WOMEN'S TENNIS**

**Regular Season Champion** ..... Denver  
**Tournament Champion** ..... Denver

**Player of the Year** ..... Anna Riedmiller, DU  
**Newcomer of the Year** ..... Sapir Sela, UND  
**Coach of the Year** ..... Christian Bass, DU

- Denver earned a season-high Oracle/ITA ranking of No. 44 with a 6-3 record and seven matches left on the regular season schedule.
- Denver appeared in both the ITA Singles and Doubles rankings on March 30th. In singles, Anna Riedmiller was ranked 116th, with a 9-1 record at the time. Camille Verden-Anderson and Britt Pursell were the 59th ranked doubles tandem in the country with a 6-1 record.
- Riedmiller represented the league in the 2021 Women's Singles Championships where she matched up against No. 21 Jessica Failla but ultimately fell in a tight straight-set match 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4).

**OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD**

**Men's Champion** ..... North Dakota State  
**Women's Champion** ..... North Dakota State

**Men's Track Athlete** ..... TBD  
**Women's Track Athlete** ..... TBD  
**Men's Field Athlete** ..... TBD  
**Women's Field Athlete** ..... TBD  
**Men's Coach** ..... TBD  
**Women's Coach** ..... TBD

*\*Athletes and Coaches of the Year will be determined following the conclusion of the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships June 9-11.*

- The league saw 74 event entries for the NCAA Preliminary Rounds. Six more than at the 2019 NCAA Preliminary Rounds.
- North Dakota State had 22 entries in the throwing events at the NCAA Prelims--the most in the nation. No other school had more than 15.
- After a Summit League Championship that included 14 broken meet records, NDSU claimed its 11th and 13th consecutive league outdoor titles extended their league record win streak.

**MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING****League Champion** ..... South Dakota**Swimmer of the Year** ..... Zachary Kopp, USD**Diver of the Year** ..... Zach Boyd, SDSU

• South Dakota earned their first #SummitSD title in program history, snapping Denver's run of seven straight league title. The Coyotes earned a total of 915.5 points, outscoring the closest opponent by 88 points.

• After placing first in the 1-meter dive on day one of the championships, South Dakota State sophomore Zach Boyd swept the diving titles, placing first in the 3-meter dive with a score of 329.50 and was named the Men's Diving Championship MVP.

• USD's Zach Kopp was named the Men's Swimmer of the Year after he contributed to five victories during the 2021 Summit League Swimming and Diving Championships and was named the Men's Swimmer of the Championships.

• Kopp captured individual Summit League titles in the 50 Free (20.40) and 100 Back (49.52) and swam on the Coyote title winning relays in the 200 free (1:19.89), 200 medley (1:29.43) and 400 free (3:00.10), two of them setting new school records.

**CROSS COUNTRY****Men's League Champion** ..... South Dakota State**Women's League Champion** ..... South Dakota State**Men's Athlete of the Year** ..... Patrick Kipkemboi, UND**Women's Athlete of the Year** ..... Leah Hansen, SDSU**Men's & Women's Coach of the Year** ..... Rod DeHaven, SDSU

• South Dakota State men, ranked No. 8 in the Midwest Region, and South Dakota State women captured The Summit League Cross Country Championships.

• The win came as SDSU's first on the women's side since 2008, while the men recorded its fifth straight title.

• North Dakota's Patrick Kipkemboi claimed the men's title with an 8K time of 24:57.41 and earned the automatic bid to the NCAA Championships in Stillwater, Okla.

• SDSU's Leah Hansen ran away with the title with a 6K time of 21:45.60 and earned the automatic bid to the NCAA Championships.

• At the NCAA Cross Country Championships, Kipkemboi finished 209th (33:06.6) in the 10K, while Hansen turned in a career-best 21:40.6 6K time, finishing 120th and her finish stands as the seventh-best by any Summit League women's athlete in NCAA Cross Country Championships history.

**WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING****League Champion** ..... Denver**Swimmer of the Year** ..... Aysia Leckie, DU**Diver of the Year** ..... Olivia Gordon, DU

• Denver won its eighth-straight women's swimming & diving title, earning a total of 1,052.5 points and outscoring the closest opponent by 349 points.

• The Pioneers had earned 16 swimmers and diver spots on the All-League Team and won 19 of 21 events.

• Seniors Charlotte Simon and teammate Aysia Leckie both moved in a tie for 12th in league history with six career individual champion performances.

• Denver's Aysia Leckie was named the Women's Swimmer of the Year after claiming the 100-yard freestyle title (50.90) at the 2021 Summit League Swimming and Diving Championships and also garnered three individual All-Summit League accolades and four All-Summit League relay honors.

• Olivia Gordon of Denver was named the Women's Diver of the Year and Championships after she earned an NCAA Zone Diving Qualifying 3-meter score of 294.50 at the #SummitSD Championships.

**VOLLEYBALL****Regular Season Champion** ..... Denver**Tournament Champion** ..... South Dakota**Player of the Year** ..... Melanie Brecka, KC**Defensive Player of the Year** .. Claire Mountjoy, UNO**Freshman of the Year** ..... Ali Hinze, NDSU**Setter of the Year** ..... Alli Schomers, KC**Coach of the Year** ..... Tom Hogan, DU

• No. 3 South Dakota achieved a come-from-behind five-set victory over top-seeded Denver in the title match of the 2020 Summit League Volleyball Championship. The Coyotes earned their second appearance in the NCAA Tournament after clinching the league's automatic berth.

• Four represented the league on the AVCA All-Regional awards. Denver's Tina Boe (HM), Kansas City's Melanie Brecka (First), Omaha's Sadie Limback (First) and South Dakota's Elizabeth Juhnke (First) were all honored for their impressive performances during the season.

• Denver clinched the regular-season crown after snapping Kansas City's 11-match win streak and completing a series sweep. Denver went 13-2 in league play, 8-0 on the road and 14-3 overall.