



# What's ahead?

## UW Cowboys

The bar has been set embarrassingly low for the state's only 4-year school's football program. This past year's 8-4 record against cupcakes and MWC programs on the decline seemed to satisfy Cowboys fans. Their loss in the insignificant New Mexico Bowl - against a school most thought did not even have a football team but only a men's basketball squad - likely did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the brown and gold followers.

The UW head coach, Dave Christensen, is just waiting for another DUI for Missouri's head coach, Gary Pinkel. DC was just "rewarded" with a new 5-year contract but that isn't worth the paper it's written on. One good year got Joe Tiller a ticket to ride - maybe this one good year (albeit it accumulated against teams that couldn't beat a good high school team) will lead him away. Not to fear, though. Dennis Erickson is available. UW has proven that deserting ship does not banish a coach. See Larry Shyatt. Wyoming, Clemson, Wyo.

coach when UW scraped him off the bottom of the trash heap.

The UW women's team is not doing as well as we're all accustomed to. This was a year that Joe Legerski had to rebuild, not just reload. He had one returning player with significant experience and lost Hillary Carlson and Aubrey Vandiver, two exceptional talents. Both from Wyoming, by the way. Joe has proven that there are talented D-1 basketball players with Wyoming roots and would have again this year but for the lingering back problems of Kristen Sheffler. This year's team has Kayla Woodyard from Sheridan and four girls from Colorado, including the feature player Chaundra Sewell - the only returning player with much playing time last year.

Legerski will bring this team around as he has those in the past. This group will struggle this year but become competitive, albeit it short-handed, most of the season.



## Colorado Rockies

The Rockies acquired two players off the Minnesota Twins roster. Both should be valuable additions to the disappointing team. Whether Jim Tracy can get their best out of them, both are proven big leaguers and are likely to excel under any manager. Kevin Slowey is a right handed pitcher that should be the third or fourth starter in the Rockies rotation.

The key addition, though, is right fielder Michael Cuddyer. Although 32, he should have several productive seasons left in him. At Coors Field, he should hit 35-40 homeruns each season and will challenge Carlos Gonzalez for the club lead in outfield assists. He can throw. Cuddyer is also a very good first baseman and can fill in there when Todd Helton needs a rest or if Helton cannot hold to the standards he sets for himself.

The Twins have Joe Mauer and Justin Morneau so Cuddyer was unlikely to become the team's star anytime soon. He was, however, voted the Twins MVP in 2011 and has, for three straight years, been chosen as the Twins player who best exemplifies determination, hustle, tenacity, competitive spirit and leadership both on and off the field. A class act.

Note (above) the number Cuddyer has worn with the Twins (5). That belongs to CarGo. He can wear "7" when Seth Smith is traded.

## Denver Broncos

As this article is being written (December 18th, 10:53 am), the Tim Tebow-led Broncos have won six in a row and are 7-3 this year under Tebow and 8-5 overall. Later today they play the New England Patriots of Bill Belichick/Tom Brady renown and that success could end. Until it does, Tim Tebow has mesmerized the country. And the two camps, those who love him and those who hate him, may be evenly divided. If he didn't demonstrate his faith so strongly, he would be idolized by some of those who hold that against him. To some, domestic abuse and/or drug use is preferable to holding strong religious beliefs. So it goes.

## Green Bay Packers

As a diehard Packers fan (from growing up in northern Wisconsin) even during their non-glory years (and they were many), I have mixed emotions about their loss today to the Kansas City Chiefs. First, I have long said that they were not good enough to warrant going undefeated. If you look at the records in the NFL this season, you will notice that, going into today's game between the Pack and Chiefs, there were no other teams with only one or two losses. There were a few with three losses. That makes the Packers such an exception in this season as to be nearly meaningless.

I have also always believed that every team will suffer a loss somewhere along the way (only one team - the 1972 Miami Dolphins went undefeated) and it is preferable that the loss come during the first 16 games, not during the playoffs when it's one and done. Those Dolphins, by the way, played only 14 games during the regular season - not the 16 played now. Their three post-season wins were by 6, 4, and 7 points - hardly dominance.

The Packers have lost. They play the Bears and Lions in the final two games. They must win one of those games for home field advantage through the playoffs. Last season, on their way to the Super Bowl win, they qualified for the SB in Chicago, then won three games on the road.



## UW basketball

At this point in the men's season, they are 12-2 and cannot get a vote for the Top 25. Why? Because they haven't beaten anyone with any credibility. About the only patsy not on the schedule to help the returning Larry Shyatt pile up an impressive won-loss record is Coeur d'Alene Culinary College. They have defeated the likes of Maryland Eastern Shore, Utah Valley Blacksmith Tech, and Sioux Falls School of Cosmetology. The only "real" program they've beaten is Colorado. Of the first 14 games (one counted as an "exhibition"), 11 were in Laramie. Of those 11 games, none had an attendance of more than 4,650 and the game that brought UW's record to 11-1 (counting the exhibition) drew 3,996. Wasn't anemic attendance the major reason for ridding UW of Schroyer? This year's team has some talent. It may win some MWC games. But, to surrender integrity by recycling Larry Shyatt is not the way to rebuild the program. Granted, no one will hire him away again - he was unhirable as a head



## Lindsey Vonn

The Golden Girl is divorcing her husband and winning again. Although rumored to have a "thing" with Tim Tebow, she says it is just respect and her borrowing the "Tebowing" kneel he has made famous.

## Golf

Tiger Woods can't find his game consistently and the Asian Tour doesn't attract many television viewers. Tiger's niece, Cheyenne Woods, hasn't burned up the courses like he once did (she still may, she's only 21) so all attention can now be focused on 16-year-old Lexie Thompson. She's the youngest qualifier for the Women's Open (12) and the youngest LPGA winner (16).

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