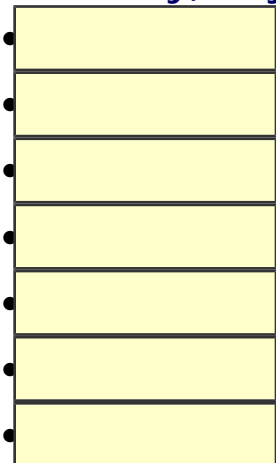


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## USD puts two players in NFL

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VERMILLION - A pair of University of South Dakota football players are heading for the NFL.

Nick Hagemann, a 6-foot-7, 300-pound offensive tackle for the USD Coyotes, signed a free agent contract with the defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers this week. Fellow Coyote teammate A.J. Schnable, a 6-4, 285-pound defensive end, was signed by the Arizona Cardinals as a free agent.

"Nick is an outstanding offensive tackle, who had a great career at South Dakota," said USD head

football coach Ed Meierkort, whose 2005 football team had a 9-2 record and earned a share of the North Central Conference crown. "He has earned his way onto an NFL roster because of his strong work ethic, leadership skills and dedicated effort to the team. The coaching staff, his teammates and

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the University are proud of Nick," said Meierkort.

Hagemann, a three-year starter for the Coyotes, was named second-team all-North Central

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fense set numerous offensive records, including scoring a nation-high 49.7 points and a Division II-best 583.3 yards in total offense per game during the 2005 season. Led by Hagemann, the Coyotes led the NCC and were fourth nationally in rushing at 297.5 yards per game.

Hagemann helped open space for All-American running back Stefan Logan, who has had three-straight 1,000 yard seasons and became USD's career rushing leader (4,251 yards) in three years.

Black Hills State tight end Zac Alcorn was signed on Sunday to a free agent deal with the Green Bay Packers.

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