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Legends Choices are In; Voting Starts in Two Weeks

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

One step down, the more exciting step left to go.

Now that the nominations are in, The Plain Talk's new series, The Legends is ready to find out who the readers believe are the five greatest athletes to ever grace Vermillion.

Nearly two dozen athletes were chosen to be considered and now is the time for the readers and sports fans to decide who the Top 5 Greatest Legends are as we begin, what is a hoped for, yearly, summer series.

The voting will begin on April 18 at 12:01 a.m. and will continue through June 23 (we have extended the time) at 11:59 p.m.

On April 17 we will release a short brief detailing where to go to vote online and submit your input. Votes can also be emailed or called in, or via postal mail. Look for forms in both The Plain Talk and Broadcaster Press as well.

A person can vote for as many as three athletes. The vote would be tiered 1-3, with a voter's No. 1 choice earning 10 points, a No. 2 earning seven points, and a No. 3 earning four points.

We would also ask for reasons why you voted so we can add them to the stories that come out in late July and early August.

Essentially, who the readers vote for will be the stories that the Plain Talk staff writes.

To make this work we will need a lot of votes to make this credible.

A first-place person receiving 10 points won't justify the work we would need to put in here so we encourage you to make this first part of the Legends series a success by spreading the word, sharing via social media, or word of mouth.

We hope this will create

a success that carries over into 2016 when Part II, The Teams is planned.

Thanks for your support up to this point and now let's make it even grander!

Vermillion HS and University of South Dakota

Kevin Cusick (Track, Football, Wrestling, 1972-1975 and 1975-1980)

Tony Glass (Football, Track, 1965-1966, 1966-1970)

Doug Hanson (Basketball, 1998-1999, 2003-2004)

Jeff Huska (Football, Baseball, Basketball)

Jason Huska (Football, Baseball, Basketball)

Chuck Iverson (Basketball, 1967-1969 and 1970-1974)

Jason Leber (Football, Baseball, Track, Basketball, 1990-92, 1993-96)

Annie Roach (Basketball, 2003-2007)

Mike Schurrer (Football, Wrestling, Track, 1973-1975, 1975-1979)

Kurt Seibel (Football, 1977-1980)

Vermillion HS
Ashley Bjorkman (Basketball, 2000s)

Alicia Brown (Track, Basketball, 2004-2008)

Glynis Bye (Track, 1977-1980)

Hazen Bye (Wrestling,

1981-84)

Lonna Larson (Basketball, 1990s)

Ben Leber (Football, 1996-1998)

Mark Manning (Wrestling, 1975-1980)

David Reich (Football, 1983-1986)

Kevin Seibel (Football, Wrestling, Track, 1976-1979)

University of South Dakota

Dave Baade (Football, Wrestling Track, 1964-1967)

Randy Rosenquist (Basketball, 1990-1994)

Tyler Starr (Football, 2011-2013)

William (Steve) Stevenson (Track, 1948-1953)



The University of South Dakota head football coach Joe Glenn addresses his team after Saturday's practice.

ELYSE BRIGHTMAN / THE PLAIN TALK

Coyote Football Hits Spring With Purpose

By Elyse Brightman
The Plain Talk

The University of South Dakota football team began their spring practices Thursday despite some snowfall and near freezing temperatures in hopes of moving forward from last season's 2-10 finish.

"Everybody wants to get better, you can see that everywhere. It's a whole new attitude we have, is that, we weren't satisfied with last season and we want more," said sophomore tight end Matt Miller.

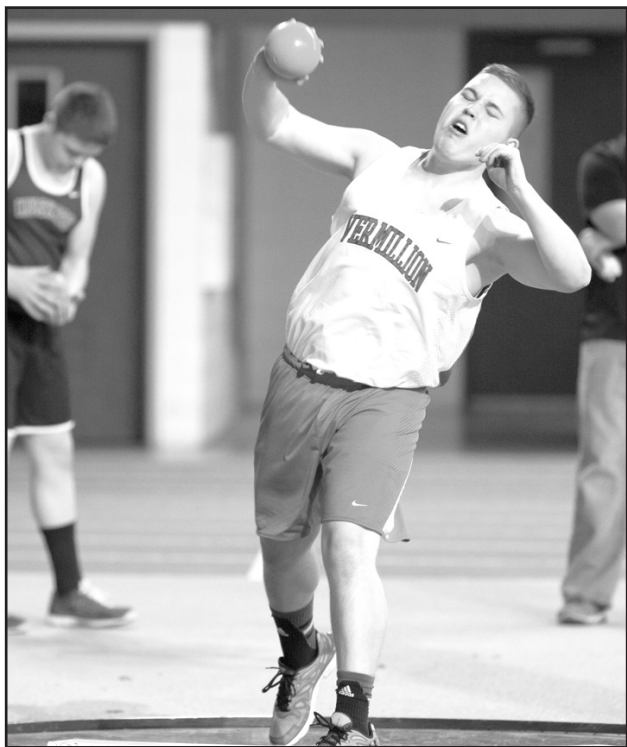
They followed that up with a second practice on Saturday and third Tuesday.

"I think we're off to a good start - the thing you can measure easiest of all is their spirit and their attitude," said head coach Joe Glenn. "The attitude and just the effort and the spirit, really good. The guys, they're working at it. We get better by working hard and that's what they're doing."

By Tuesday the Coyotes were practicing in full pads. "We have a big focus on foot work and fundamentals

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RIGHT ON TRACK



The Vermillion track team, including Noah Westergaard, hosted the Early Bird Track Meet at the Dakota Dome this past Tuesday afternoon to get the outdoor season off to a light start. "It's a mini meet, we don't run all the events," said head coach Leni Billberg. "We throw kids into a lot of events so they get a good workout but we ran really well." The Tanagers invite a number of teams to attend as a fun transition into the outdoor season. Official times and scores were not kept, but Billberg said freshman Maddie Lavin and 8th grader Rachel Brady both ran great races at the meet. "Jeremiah (Johnson), we actually put him in five events when you can normally only do four if it were a sanctioned meet and he did the high jump, he ran the 220, the 400, he ran two relays, you know a really fun day for us," Billberg said. These unofficial meets also give the younger runners a chance to be seen by coaches. "We have a lot of young boys and they ran really hard today," Billberg said. "A really refreshing way to hit our outdoor season."

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK



Vermillion High School pitcher Hunter Christopherson goes after a Dakota Valley batter in the teams' contest Monday in North Sioux City. The Tanagers fell at DV 15-5 to start the 2015 season with a loss.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Downed at DV, Tanagers Open Baseball Campaign

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

It may not have been an ideal way to open a baseball season, but at least the Vermillion Tanagers have something tangible to work from after Monday's opener at Dakota Valley.

The Tanagers fell behind early and could never mount a serious rally to make a run at the host Panthers as Dakota Valley rolled to a 15-5, five-inning, mercy-rule win on a near perfect day for baseball.

The rivals played this game as a non-region contest.

Vermillion (0-1) finished with seven hits, but a seven-run third inning by the host Panthers was enough for the hosts to pull away.

"It's the first game of the season so it's hard to get any kind of litmus on what we need to work on until we have a game like this," Vermillion Head Coach Jason Gault said. "We know we have to do a better job throwing strikes early in the count and especially against a good hitting team like Dakota Valley. They are probably some of the better ones in the state. Then you leave the ball over the plate and that's where they do their damage."

"I thought we pitched out of some jams. We have to hit and move guys around on base. We have to have no walks or hit batsmen and we had eight or nine, we have to play defense behind our pitchers, and we have to put the ball in play when we have guys in scoring position.

We that below average on a scale and we have things we have to work on."

The contest was the first between the two schools since the Panthers' shocking elimination of the Tanagers during the American Legion playoffs one step short of the state tournament.

"We had to see where we stood with DV and they played a lot better than us and won the game," Tanager senior Jack Brown said. "We were all focused on the game since we have less than a handful of guys that even played in that Legion game last year. We just didn't come to play like they did."

The Panthers struck first with back-to-back doubles by Brady Dam and Austin Carver to start up the bottom of the first inning with a quick 1-0 lead. Leading 2-0 the Pan-

thers loaded the bases with one out against Vermillion starter Jacob Odens, but a thrown out base runner and a strikeout stopped the bleeding.

Travis Weber recorded the first Tanager hit of the season with a double to lead off the top half of the second frame.

Two outs later a tough grounder to the hole by Kaedyn Brown induced a DV error at first and Weber scored to cut the Tanager deficit in half.

A single, hit batsmen, and an infield single by Carter gave DV a 3-1 lead in the home half of the second inning.

The Panthers built a 5-1 lead in their next at-bat when Grant Meier ripped a line drive homer over left field.

Three batters later saw Vermillion face another bases sacked situation and

with no outs to boot, forcing Gault to replace Odens with Hunter Christopherson.

Despite getting the balls in play the Tanagers needed the Panthers still finagled three more runs to go up 8-1 and then a two-out error and a wild pitch gave DV a 11-1 lead after three innings.

Vermillion scored two runs in the top of fourth, highlighted by a Carter Kratz RBI single.

Dam put DV up 15-3 in the bottom of the fourth when he cleared the bases with a no-out grand slam and essentially wrap up the Panthers' second win of the season.

Vermillion scored two final runs in the top of the fifth inning with an RBI double by Cole Anderson

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Vermillion Tanager shortstop Carter Kratz (4) makes a play at second base, tagging out a Dakota Valley runner in Monday baseball action. Kratz and the Tanagers fell 15-5 at Dakota Valley.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK