



Tribute to Teachers

By Edén Hemmingson
Alcester-Hudson High School

Teachers: they’ve built us up, taught us to expand our minds, to explore our ideas, and they’re always there for encouragement or constructive criticism. School has been a major chunk of our lives so far, and we’ve been able to form an amazing bond with our educators.

When we’re freshmen, high school is scary, the older students are scary, the coursework is scary, but we find comfort in trying out every extracurricular and being open minded with any subject. We meet teachers who are always looking forward to helping us achieve our absolute best and applaud us for the tasks we do well. They have an incredible impact on our young minds.

As sophomores, we start to work at finding something we’re good at. Science and math could be any student’s toughest subjects, until we get a teacher that can present it in a way that makes the formula or the idea just click. After hard work, the teachers can see it when their students

light up after figuring it out, and that is when they encourage us to keep going. It feels good, it feels like accomplishment.

Juniors tend to take on a huge lot of classes in an attempt at a slack senior year. This can be one of the most overwhelming years of high school and the struggle can bring a student’s self-esteem down quite a bit.

Not only do we, as juniors, have to get stellar grades in our tough subjects, we now have to start worrying about the ACT and other college information to prepare for another four years of schooling. Some teachers notice when students aren’t themselves, and they offer some encouragement, some positive words, and always provide extra help to the best of their abilities.

Senior year is the year for finishing up required credits and preparing to go to college. We start to realize in this year that we won’t be seeing our favorite teachers everyday next year. We start to realize we’ll have new educators to help us find ourselves in college.

It’s a weird--and sad--feeling, saying goodbye to the teachers that taught us the rhyme to remember a math formula, and the teacher that introduced us to our favorite books and poetry, or the teacher that had us memorize every president of the United States (which in turn, has been incredibly helpful).

“I have had a few amazing and influential teachers help to make me the person I am today,” said Alcester-Hudson senior, Cheyenne Sorlie. “They push me to do my best and their confidence in me has really made getting through high school a lot easier.”

Of course we can always keep in touch, yet we will still miss their teaching strategies and tricks. This article is a tribute to all of our best teachers. We as high school students appreciate teachers who respect us, who love to teach, and teachers who encourage us to shoot for our full potential making us feel like we can conquer anything.

Thank you, teachers, you’re here to educate the future and you’ve brought your A-game.

YELL It Out at Capitol

By Elizabeth Peterson
Beresford High School

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to attend YELL, Young Elected Legislative Leaders, at the state capitol. This event has been sponsored by the South Dakota Democratic Party (SDDP) for the last 3 years. “YELL brings high school students together from across South Dakota to the state capitol for a mock legislative session with Democratic leaders and political insiders.

Draft bills to chart South Dakota’s future, debate with real South Dakota legislators, and develop leadership skills for college,” states the SDDP website.

Friday, March 20th, we took off towards the capitol with the South Dakota Democratic Party chair, Ann Tornberg. When we got to the capitol, there was a brief welcome meeting

and lots of pizza, followed by caucus groups to create bills. Each caucus was assigned one bill that was passed in the last legislative session and given the option to amend, repeal, or keep the bill the same.

Each caucus was also asked to create two original bills. It was really interesting hearing everyone’s opinions and what issues really matter to them.

The next day, we started early with a committee meeting to talk about various bills and hear testimony on them.

At that point, amendments could be proposed and the bill could be moved onto the floor to be voted on. The most exciting part of the weekend happened Saturday afternoon, when we got to sit in the House of Representatives and have our mock legislative session there. We learned a lot about the parliamentary procedure

that happens during the legislative session in Pierre.

The whole experience was both educational and fun. I met a bunch of really interesting people and learned about how my government here in South Dakota works.

It actually has made me consider paging during the next session!

Next year YELL will be held on the first weekend in April, and will still be free to those interested in participate in it. I highly recommend this for high school students who are politically active and for those who have no idea about politics.

It would further the interest of those who are already politically involved, and hopefully make more knowledgeable voters in those who are not.

I hope to see some new faces there in 2016!

USD SOFTBALL TAKES 2 OF 3 AT IUPUI

INDIANAPOLIS--IUPUI avoided being swept at home by blanking South Dakota 7-0 Sunday in the final game of a three-game series at IUPUI Softball Field.

Jaguar starter Brooke Boetjer (13-8) allowed two

singles to Coyote catcher Allie Daly, a double to Matley Jones, and that was it in earning her 13th win of the season. Boetjer, who lasted just two innings in her start Saturday, struck out three and walked two Sunday.

Offensively, IUPUI (19-10, 3-3 Summit) hit three home runs off Coyote starter Rachel Cue.

Jones netted her 11th double of the season to

lead off the top of the sixth. It extended her hitting streak to 14 games, which ties Yvon Minogue for the longest streak by a Coyote this season. Jones is batting .408 (20-for-49) during the streak.

South Dakota (10-18-1, 2-1) begins a three-game series Friday against North Dakota State in Fargo, N.D.

- *Courtesy of USD Sports Information*

VHS GIRLS’ GOLF OPEN SEASON WITH WIN

The weather was finally starting to look like spring on Tuesday when Vermillion High School’s girl’s golf team held its first match of the season.

The Tanagers started its season on a high note when they beat Region 1 opponent Madison High School by 13 strokes 389-402 at Madison Country Club and came away with three of the top four individual scores.

Madison’s Samantha Langford was the day’s leading scorer with an 80.

Sophomore Kyleigh Moran was second overall and the top scorer for the Tanager’s with a total of 92 strokes.

Senior Audry Miiller was third overall with a 97 and junior Emily Schmitz was a close fourth with 98.

Kate Brockevelt and Allison Odens both shot a 102, Alex Carr shot a 114 and Kara Mulheron shot a 135.

The win is a good sign a good confidence booster as Madison was coming off a third place finish at last year’s state to Vermillion’s fifth place.

Thought the first match of the season saw Vermillion with its first win, head coach Kirk Hogan knows his team still has more potential than was on display Tuesday.

“It was a win for us, but obviously we need to play better than that,” Hogan said. “It was great that we got a match in but now we know what we have to work on.”

The Tanagers next match is Thursday at regional opponent the Elk Point Jefferson Invite at the Elk Point Country Club beginning at 9 a.m.

Thursday’s results will be available on the Plain Talk’s website plaintalk.net once they are released.

Vermillion’s first home match is scheduled for Monday April 13 against Lennox.

■ SPRING, From Page 7A

as well and placement and blocking,” Miller said.

Fundamentals seem to be the main focus of the players.

“I think basically that’s what we’re trying to do with special teams offense and defense, is get back to the fundamentals of everything and work more on our technique with the system that we’re running. The system will fall into place as long as we get our techniques and things down,” said junior line-backer Keyen Lage.

However, Glenn isn’t focusing on any certain area to improve on, but instead he is looking to develop the team as a whole.

“We need to work on) every area right across the board,” said Glenn when asked about the focus of the spring practices. “We ended up our season, in our last game, with two seniors playing that were healthy. We, right now, have, coming into that class, 17 seniors, right behind them 20 juniors.”

He’s hoping the age and experience of returning players as well as the raw talent of new recruits will make for a perfect combination to improve from last season.

“Most of our recruits are here and so I think they want it,” Glenn said.

“I hope the talent level is capable of winning at our level but regardless, those are the guys we’ve got. They’ve got to keep working to get to be the best they can possibly be.”

The Coyotes also have 20 redshirt freshmen from last year practicing with the team this spring.

“There’s a lot of them in there and we think a lot of those guys can help us,” Glenn said. “They didn’t run our plays much last year, they were on the scout team, so now they’re running our plays learning South Dakota’s offense, South Dakota’s defense, South Dakota’s special teams and it might take them a little while.

“This is a really critical time for those guys that are working their way into our program.”

A few changes in the coaching staff were made in the offseason including defensive line coach Marquice Williams adding special team coordinator to his duties. Williams is coming into his third year with USD.

“He’s gone to camp with the Chicago Bears the last



Sophomore wide receiver Cole Lindhout runs with the ball as sophomore linebacker Peter Hubert goes for a tackle.
ELYSE BRIGHTMAN / THE PLAIN TALK

two summers for a period of time and he’s worked with their special teams so he’s brought a lot of the Chicago Bears flavor with him from his time having worked with the Bears in fall camp,” Glenn said.

Along with Williams, Marty Biagi has been brought on to coach corners.

Biagi comes from the University of the South in New Orleans and spent time coaching in Arkansas. Glenn is pleased with the new techniques Biagi has brought to the corners in

the secondary.

“I think they brought some life into the coaching staff a little bit with some coaching points and some spirit so I think things are going real good,” Glenn said.

Teams are allowed only 15 practices in the spring and 29 in August before the fall season starts where they will face four-time defending national champions North Dakota State and national runner-up Illinois State as part of the Missouri Valley Football Conference slate.

COYOTE TRACK EXCELS

University of South Dakota track and field returned home from a weekend full of competition at three different meets with nine event wins and eight athletes in the nation’s top-25.

Three of South Dakota’s top national marks were set at the prestigious Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays in Austin, Texas.

The meet was highlighted by junior Amber Eichkorn becoming the second Coyote in school history to win at the relays. Eichkorn captured the 5,000-meter run in 16 minutes, 18.95 seconds, a time that now ranks eighth in the nation.

In the high jump, senior Megan Glisar cleared a new school record height of 6-0 ¾ for the third-highest mark in the country.

■ OPEN, From Page 7A

highlighting the frame.

“It’s kind of a wake-up call,” Christopherson said. “I feel like once we got down, we stayed down. This tells us that we are going to have to pick it up.”

The ending showed the Tanagers’ willingness to keep fighting.

“We always play hard, that’s not going to change,” Brown said. “Everything that hurt us today are things we can control – dropped balls, not hitting the ball hard, mental mistakes in the field. We just have to get better from there.”

Gault left the contest impressed with the traits that a team can build off of.

“I am more concerned in games like this where we see effort and hustle, things we can control,” Gault said. “I was impressed with the way the guys handled themselves. They tried to battle back.”

The Tanager JV team

dropped a 6-4 decision to Dakota Valley following the varsity contest.

VHS 010 22 - 5 7 1
DVHS 227 4X - 15 8 2
VERMILLION (0-1)
Carter Kratz 1-3,
Brandon Mockler 0-3, Jack Brown 1-3, Travis Weber 1-2, Cole Anderson 1-2, Hunter Christopherson 1-3, Kaedyn Brown 0-1, Nate Robertson 1-3, Jake Odens 1-2, Jefferson Galvin 0-1

■ DAKOTA VALLEY (2-0)

Brady Dam 2-3, Austin Carter 2-3, Luke Schmitt 0-3, Jack Graves 1-3, Grant Meier 1-2; Bryce Schroeder 0-0; Alex Carter Dickson 1-2; Luke Johnson 1-1; Kyle Windeshausen 0-1.

Jacob Odens, Hunter Christopherson (3), Brandon Mockler (4) and Nate Robertson; Travis Ohi and Jack Graves

WP- Ohi, LP- Odens
HR- Meier, Dam;
2B - Weber, Anderson;
Dam, Carter, Meier RBI - Kratz, Anderson; Carter 2, Schmitt 2, Windeshausen, Dam 5

■ BOXES, From Page 1A

planning.

“These guys at the TKE house just do a terrific job,” Hamois said. “You don’t know how much work is involved until you’re involved and when we’re tearing down that ring everyone in the house is there.”

Each boxer competed in one fight of three rounds with the winner earning a medal. All the officials were licensed and certified for

the safety of the boxers and the event is sanctioned by USA Boxing which draws fighters from all across the region.

“Some of the boxers there are some of the best in the area,” Hamois said. “It’s got a great reputation and over the years it’s one of the most attended amateur events in South Dakota.”

Most of the fighters had never competed in boxing before and only did so in the name of charity.

“I just thought it looked like fun and it’s for a good cause,” said USD junior

Jhett Cihak. “I only did two practices, but they encourage you to do as many as you can.”

Cihak, a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, also said how the event brings the whole Greek community at USD together.

“Probably 50 percent of the crowd is fraternities and sororities,” he said.

Hamois was the official in the ring and one of the coaches who trained the boxers leading up to the event.

“What’s impressive is these guys standing in

there and doing this in an environment they’re not comfortable with,” Hamois said. “Anybody with the courage to step into the ring has earned something more valuable than a medal, they earned our respect.”

Overall, the night went smoothly with no major injuries.

“We didn’t have as many fights (as past years), but we had quality,” Hamois said. “You don’t see the highest level of skills at these events, but that doesn’t diminish the competition.”



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