



April 17, 2015 www.plaintalk.net

Tanagers Top EPJ In Home Opener

By Elyse Brightman
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The Vermillion High School (VHS) Tanager's baseball team is bouncing back from a rough start to the season.

VHS cruised to an 11-1 win in five innings Monday afternoon at home against the Elk Point Jefferson (EPJ) Huskies.

"We had a couple games early on in the season that we just couldn't put the pieces together the right way, and they finally got things figured out," said head coach Jason Gault. "We had a better attitude today. We went in with a lighter more positive attitude. I think having a few days off since our last game helped."

The game's first batter, sophomore Carter Kratz, set the tone and started the scoring off with a standup triple to right field and was brought home a few batters later on a passed ball.

The Tanagers' scored three runs in the second inning highlighted by Jake Odens single down the third base line that turned into a double on a Huskies' error and scored Cole Anderson.

Senior centerfielder Jack Brown kept the score at 4-1 in the top of the

third inning by throwing out a potential Huskies' run at home plate.

In the bottom of the third, Kratz hit a pop up to shallow centerfield that fell between three Huskies' players and drove in a run. The inning ended 6-1.

At the start of the fourth inning, starting pitcher Kratz was replaced by senior John Benson. Kratz pitched three innings allowing one run on two hits with four strikeouts and three walks.

Benson then went 2/3 innings before being replaced by senior Carter Andre who was left with a two outs, bases loaded situation. Andre struck out the side to keep the Tanagers' 5-1 lead.

Brown led off the fourth for the Tanagers with a triple then scored two batters later on a Huskies' defensive error. The next batter, sophomore Hunter Christopherson drove in senior Travis Weber with an RBI single to make the score 8-1.

"You can still work on the little things, even when you've got a big lead, so all those important aspects to the game that we preach — hustling everything out and making plays, minimizing our walks — we can still work on even when we've



Vermillion High School's starting pitcher Carter Kratz in the Tanagers' 11-1 home win over Elk Point Jefferson Monday afternoon.
THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

got a big lead," Gault said.

In the fifth inning, with the 10-1 score, junior Brandon Mockler hit a bases loaded single to deep right field bringing home Joe Miller to end the game at 11-1.

"The three things

you need to do to win a ballgame, we did them well tonight," Gault said. "We hit the ball with guys on base, we threw strikes and we played defense behind our pitchers. No errors and 13 hits, the numbers pretty much speak for themselves. Our guys played well."

Kratz, Christopherson, Miller, Brown, Mockler and Odens all recorded RBIs in the win.

The Tanagers' season now sits at 1-2 with the next home scheduled for Friday, April 17 at 5 p.m. against Dakota Valley. Home games are played at Prentiss Park.

VHS Golf Prevails At Home

By Elyse Brightman
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The Vermillion High School (VHS) girls' golf team pulled off their second win in as many days on Tuesday afternoon in a home dual meet with West Central.

"It was nice to have a good feel of the back nine before today," said junior Audry Miiller.

The Tanager's pulled off a 356-370 win while battling a tough southwesterly wind.

"I felt good except for the wind was challenging," Miiller said. "Depending on the wind speed we have to take away or add clubs or, if it's a certain direction, you have to counter that direction."

Kyleigh Moran led the team in scoring by shooting an 86. Emily Schmitz shot an 88 with Kate Brockevolt one stroke behind at 89. Miiller finished the day with a 93, Kayla Stammer shot 94, Allison Odens a 98, Alex Carr 103 and Kara Mulheron 116.

Alexa From of West Central had the day's highest individual score of the meet with an 82.

On Monday, the Tanager's faced off against Lennox in a home dual meet.

The Tanagers had the top four individual scores of the day lead by Stammer who shot a 41. Moran and Brockevolt tied with 44. Schmitz shot a 48 followed by Miiller with 49 and rounding out the pack was Odens who shot a 54.

The Tanager's combined for a team score of 177 beating out Lennox's 209.

Vermillion's next match is Tuesday April 21 at Tea Area. The next home match is the Vermillion Invitational scheduled for Monday April 27 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Bluffs Golf Course.



Vermillion High School's Kara Mulheron tees off on the 10th hole at the Bluffs Golf Course during Tuesday's dual meet against West Central.
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VOTE FOR YOUR TOP 3 ATHLETES

☐ 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 1989-1994)

☐ Jason Huska (Football, Baseball, Basketball, 1989-1994)

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

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

☐ Annie Roche (Basketball, 2003-2007)

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

☐ Kurt Seibel (Football, 1977-1980)

☐ 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)

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

☐ Randy Rosenquist (Basketball, 1990-1994)

☐ Tyler Starr (Football, 2011-2013)

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



The Vermillion High School boy's tennis team ran into a tough opponent in Brandon Valley as the Tanagers went 0-9 in Tuesday afternoon's dual. The Tanagers' next match is scheduled for Tuesday April 21 at 1 p.m. at home against Sioux Falls Washington and Yankton.

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