

Coyotes Complete Three Game Sweep Of Fort Wayne

By Jeremy Hoeck
For the Press and Dakotan

The new scoreboard at Nygaard Field in Vermillion was put to work Saturday. Shelby Keil and Matley Jones made sure of it.

The University of South Dakota softball tandem combined to go 12-for-14 with three home runs each as the Coyotes erupted for 30 runs in a Summit League doubleheader sweep of Fort Wayne April 11-12.

“It’s easier to get pumped up and get it when everyone’s doing it,” said Keil, a sophomore from Colorado, who had three home runs and six RBI in game two.

Keil went 5-for-6 with seven RBI in the doubleheader, while Jones — a senior — went 7-for-8 with three homers and 10 RBI.

In all, the Coyotes (14-21-1, 5-3) slugged nine home runs on the windy day and scored 20 runs in a game — game two was 20-2 — for the second time in a week.

“I don’t think I could’ve done it without the feedback from everyone else,” Keil said. “I’ve been struggling a little bit, so it’s nice to have a good day.”

The Coyotes, to that end, stayed hot with the bats.

After hitting seven home runs in a doubleheader split with Creighton three days earlier, USD did two better, but this time in conference play — which made the offensive output even more enjoyable.

“Against anybody, we want to play well, but these are the games that actually matter right now,” said head coach Amy Klyse, whose team won by scores of 10-2 and 20-2.

Senior Allie Dally, along with juniors Yvon Minogue and Katie Cochran, all added one home run on the day for the Coyotes, who now have 47 on the season.

Keil’s production, though, may have been the biggest surprise of the day.

The Longmont, Colorado native came into the doubleheader batting .214 with four home runs on the season.

“I think she’s figured things out in the

mental game,” Klyse said. “She works better when she’s relaxed.”

“She had a great day at practice (Friday); that’s how she was hitting off me,” the coach added.

With windy conditions favoring hitters, both USD pitchers never let Fort Wayne (3-32, 2-9) get going. Game one starter Rachel Cue allowed six hits in the 5-inning contest, while game two pitcher Madison Frain surrendered four hits in the 5-inning affair.

Forty-two runs. Forty-seven hits. Fourteen home runs.

That was the offensive output over the weekend for the University of South Dakota softball team, which finished off a 3-game Summit League sweep Sunday of Fort Wayne.

What made the weekend even more fun?

“Winning is the best part about this whole weekend,” said senior Matley Jones, who was 9-for-11 with five home runs and 14 RBI in the series.

In moving to 6-3 in conference play, the Coyotes didn’t slow down Sunday after Saturday’s 30-run, 9-home run performance. Not with the wind in their favor.

They swatted five more in the finale, with Jones hitting two and senior Katie Dinning adding a solo homer which ended the game at 12-4 in the fifth inning.

“Honestly, our team’s been hitting the crap out of the ball,” Jones said. “It’s awesome to be a part of it and see the energy in the dugout, knowing the next person will get a hit.”

There was plenty of homers to go around in the past week for the Coyotes.

In last week’s doubleheader at Creighton, USD hit seven home runs, which means it has now slugged 21 homers in its last five games — scoring a total of 68 runs.

At some point, head coach Amy Klyse had to shake her head and laugh at the ridiculousness, right?

“Yeah, but it’s a fun ridiculous,” Klyse said, smiling. “They hit off me like that all



The University of South Dakota softball team completed a three-game sweep of Fort Wayne over the weekend at home. The Coyote’s scored 42 runs in the series from 47 hits.
JEREMY HOECK / FOR THE PRESS AND DAKOTAN

the time. For me, it’s kind of like, ‘Yeah, been there before.’”

If the Coyotes are likely to earn a conference Player of the Week honor this week, Jones could have competition.

Junior Yvon Minogue was 14-for-17 (an .824 average) with three home runs and eight RBI, and Sunday eclipsed USD’s single-season doubles (21) record.

“It might be the best week we’ve ever had since I’ve been here,” Klyse said. “It’s great to see.”

In out-scoring Fort Wayne 42-7 in the series, the Coyotes showcased their offensive depth — eight of the nine batters Sunday had at least one hit.

“It’s hard for us to stop,” Jones said.

“Once one gets it, we don’t want to be the one to stop it.”

Junior pitcher Madison Frain went all five innings Sunday, allowing zero earned runs in five innings to even her season record at 8-8.

The Coyotes have a mid-week game Wednesday at Minnesota before hosting Omaha in a Summit League series this weekend.

The ultimate goal for USD is to earn a No. 1 or 2 seed for the 6-team conference tournament, set for May 6-9 in Fargo, North Dakota. The top two seeds receive a first-round bye.

“Hopefully we made some type of statement,” Jones said.

Vermillion Track Competes At Canton Relays

By Elyse Brightman
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Vermillion High School’s Maddie Lavin took first place in three events at the Canton Relays track meet Tuesday afternoon leading the Tanagers to a fourth place finish.

Ashley Schulz, Maddie Gregoire, MaKenna Koble and Lavin took first place in the medley relay team with a time of 4:24.10 beating out second place Canton by almost 30 seconds.

Lavin also placed first in the 1600m and 3200m with times of 5:18.68 and 12:00.26 respectively.

Katie Kost placed second in the 400m run with a time of 1:04.11 closely followed by teammate Rachel Brady finishing second with a time of 1:05.15.

The team scored a total of 69 points finishing fourth in a field of seven.

On the boys’ side, the team scored a combined total of 56 points putting them fifth in a field of six teams.

The Centerville boys and girls track teams competed in the Turner County Relays on Friday, April 10.

Nick Wixon was Centerville’s top runner on the boys side placing first in the 1600 meter and 3200 meter runs with times of 5:01.51 and 11:36 respectively. Wixon also placed second in the 800 meter with a time of 2:12.20.

Christian Gruschin threw 44 feet five inches in the shot put competition earning a first place finish.

Tyrell Martz placed second in the 300 meter hurdles running a time of 46.07 and tied for second in the pole vault by jumping 10 feet three inches.

Levi Gruschin ran a 55.69 in the 400 meter dash placing third.

Trace Sikkink placed third in the high jump by jumping five feet six inches.

Overall, the team scored 129 points earning a second place finish on the day.

For the girls, Rebecca Hybertson jumped eight feet nine inches in pole vault and Val Sunderland threw 34 feet 11.5 inches in the shot put earning them both first place in their respective events.

The girls team scored 59 points on the day putting them at 6th place out of six teams.

USD Holding Women’s Football Clinic

By Elyse Brightman
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A lot of women like to watch football, but very few, if any, are able to see how a college team prepares for Saturday games.

To help understand the game, The University of South Dakota (USD) is holding a women’s clinic for a little insight.

“It’s a way for our players and coaches to be able to reach out to some of the female fan base,” said Luke Groth, director of football operations. “It’s a way for them to come and get a little hands on with Coyote football and be around our coaching staff, ask questions and come and have fun.”

The Coyotes will host the clinic on Friday night in the DakotaDome from 5:30-8:45 p.m. It’s open to any interested women.

“We show (participants) around the dome a little bit, we get in the weight room,” said Groth. “(Last year) we had some of (the players) working out in there and showing (the participants) some of the things we do on a daily basis. We had an equipment presentation last year, talked about some of the protective pads -- helmet, shoulder pads and some of the pads guys wear underneath the



jersey.”

This will be the second year for the women’s clinic. Last year it attracted 75 participants.

Head coach Joe Glenn and the coaching staff take the women through position drills, including running through bags and cones to how to take a hand-off. Coaches also use classrooms to teach football basics including positioning and offensive and defensive philosophy.

“We’re teaching people who don’t know a thing about football all the way up to people who have been watching football their whole life,” Groth said.

Head strength and conditioning coach Jevon Bowman will show a

presentation in the weight room and put participants through a mock work-out.

Many of the players attend the clinic and help run the drills, demonstrating what the team does when people aren’t there to watch.

“We give insight on how we get ready to workout, how we warm up and then we walk through some things,” said sophomore offensive lineman Sam McLeran. “We come

down on the field and we have different groups of drills, like we have some quarterback stuff, some defensive stuff, (offensive) line stuff, and we rotate through. We have some fun with it.”

The clinic is an opportunity for players and coaches to interact with fans in a casual, fun setting.

Junior offensive lineman Niles Banks says it’s fun to see the reaction of the women while they learn something new and to answer any questions they might have.

Participants are asked to wear casual clothes and tennis shoes since physical participation is encouraged though not required. More information about the clinic can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/usd-clinic>.

The night concludes with a post-clinic social at Howler’s Bar and Grill with coaches and players.

“There’s room for everybody to be a coyote,” said McLeran.

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