

Tanager Boys' Golf Playing Steady

BY MARK UPWARD
For The Plain Talk

The Vermillion Tanager boys golf team kept busy this week as they finished second at the Dakota Valley Invitational on August 21 and then fifth at the Dell Rapids Invitational on August 24. The Tanager team was led in each invite by Cooper Williams' rounds of 78 and 80 respectively.

In both tournaments, the Tanagers were eight strokes out of second place. Dell Rapids was the top team at the Dakota Valley Tournament where they posted a team best of 312 and then again at their own tournament in Dell Rapids on August 24 where they posted the winning score of 327.

"We are playing good golf right now at this stage of the season," said Vermillion Coach Kirk Hogen. "We just need to play better by eight strokes in eighteen holes of golf to be right where we need to be. That's eight strokes in four players — two apiece."

The Two Rivers Golf Course is a course that the Tanagers have played many times and it showed in the individual scoring. In addition to Williams' 78 (5th), the team score of 327 was achieved with Paul Schwasinger's 82 (9th), Cole Anderson's 83 (12th) and Sam Craig's 84 (16th). Dell Rapids' Ty Hogland was the medalist of the tournament as he led the Dell Rapids Quarrriers to a first place team score of 312. Sargent Bluff-Luton (333), Tea Area (341) and Sioux Falls Christian (344) rounded out the top five teams at the Dakota Valley Tournament.

"We've been golfing pretty good so far, but we're getting beat by Dells, so we're chasing them right now," said Anderson. "We need to do a little bit better with our putting and chipping so we can bring our scores down closer to Dells."

Dell Rapids was again the best of the tournament as their 327 bested the rest of the teams at the Dell Rapids Invitational held on August 24. Madison (332) was second, Parkston third (333) Dakota Valley fourth (337), Aberdeen Roncalli and Vermillion tied for fifth with a 340. Ty Hogland was the medalist for the Dell Rapids' Invite with his 18 hole score of 73.

This tournament was important for the Tanagers as they will compete on the Dell Rapids Rocky Run Golf Course for their region meet in October. Having experience on any golf course is a distinct advantage when it comes to playing it again in the future.

"Dells was a little new to all of us but I liked the course," said Williams. "I didn't play that well, but as a team we know we can cut a couple strokes here and there and get our scores down to compete with Dells."

"The seniors need to be more consistent with the scores in the lower 80's," said Hogen. "We need that consistency to become competitive in tournaments as we prepare for the second half of the season."

The next action for the Tanagers will be on Tuesday, August 27 in Lennox.

Men's Senior Fun League Hits The Links

FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Twenty eight seniors played Tuesday, Aug. 25th, at The Bluffs Golf Course in the men's senior golf fun league. Six teams competed in a best-ball match.

The team of Tom Miller, Vern Holter, Bob Ulrich, and Louie Fostvedt came in first, shooting a 33 and winning on a tiebreaker. This team had 5 birdies. Ulrich had a 21 ft. birdie on #6 and a 24 ft. birdie on #9. Holter had a 24 ft. birdie on #4, which was the tiebreaker hole. Fostvedt had a 21 ft. birdie on #1 and Miller had a 4 ft. birdie on #8.

Sid Davis, Ray Mount, Elmer Mouny, Alan Clem and Dave Zimmer placed second with the other 32. They recorded 3 birdies and no bogeys.

Tony Glass, Dick Burbach, Shorty Hanson, Guy Button and Milo Gilbertson shot a 33 for 3rd place. Milo made the longest putt sinking a 60 ft. birdie putt on #5.

Two teams tied at 36 and using a tiebreaker, Dennis Iverson, Gary Hohenthanner, Dick Gregory, Don Baer, and John Wirth were in 4th place paring every hole. The team of Bob Solomon, Gene Iverson, Rex Huska, Max Anderson, and Ray Lynn shot the other 36, with two birdies and two bogeys.

Jerry Sommerfeld, Ralph Ramsey, Ken Beringer and Cleland Cook shot a 37.

On Monday, Sept. 1, the golfers will tee off at 9 a.m., and on Tuesday, Sept. 8, begin with a tee-time of 1 p.m.

Girls' Tennis Blanked In Yankton, Mitchell Meets

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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The Vermillion High School girls' tennis team opened the season with four losses in two meets, but head coach Betsy Hughes sees a reason for optimism.

The Tanagers went 0-9 against both Rapid City Stevens and Watertown in the season opener at the Yankton quadrangular meet Saturday in Yankton, and 0-9 in Mitchell against Mitchell and Rapid City Central in Mitchell on Tuesday.

"(Saturday) was challenging," said head coach Betsy Hughes. "The girls look a little rough and we'll develop a little polish with more practice these next couple weeks and be a little more ready for our next matches."

The closest match came at the flight one doubles where Libby Sykes and Alex Rosdail fell 10-3 to Rapid City Steven's Tianna Duda and Alisha Wiedmeier.

"Alex and I really work well together in doubles and we just all bring our own specialties to the team," Sykes said.

At the flight one singles, Sykes went 1-10 against both Tianna Duda from Rapid City Stevens and Rachel Kjetland of Watertown. Brandi Styles was 1-10 in flight two singles against Watertown's Allie Cummings and Katrine Heles was also 1-10 against Abbi Cummings of Watertown.

In doubles, the team of Styles and Shinayne was 1-10 against Allyson Riddle and Jaden Elliot from Watertown.

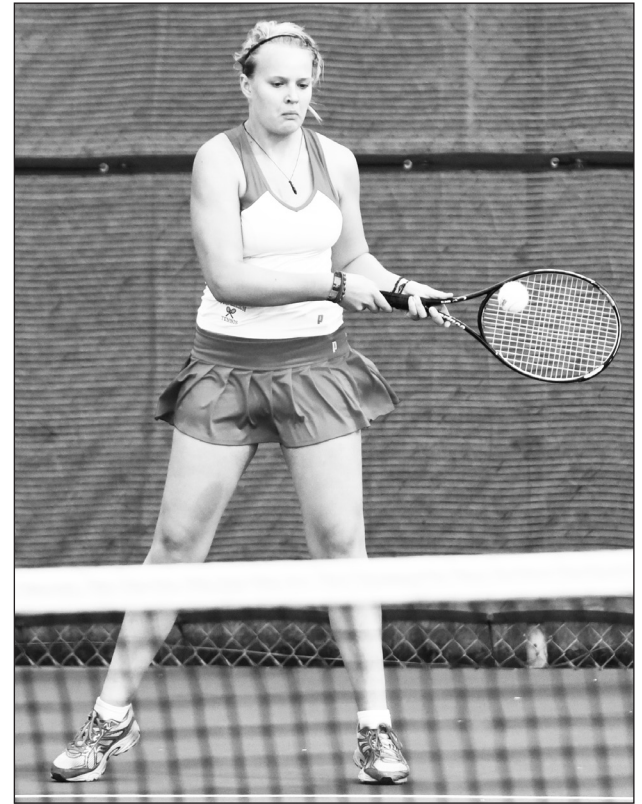
All other matches were 10-0, but Hughes expects to see some different scores at the next match.

"We looked really good at the net, especially at No. 1 doubles, they were playing really aggressive and I was really proud of them for that," Hughes said. "(The) girls are coming out a lot stronger and more consistent right in the beginning."

Improvement was apparent when the Tanagers traveled to Mitchell Tuesday afternoon and though the team went 0-9 against Mitchell and Rapid City Central the games were closer in scores.

The closest match of the day was at flight three singles when Rosdail fell 5-10 to Mitchell's Kaihlen Smith.

Sykes and Rosdail went 4-10 in flight one doubles against Sammy Pooley and Avery Larson of Mitchell.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Vermillion's Libby Sykes hits a shot during flight one singles action against Rapid City Stevens, part of a girls' tennis quadrangular at Yankton on Saturday.

Against Rapid City Central, Jane Ni Struckman Johnson fell to Genesis Reynolds 3-10 at flight five singles and at flight two doubles, Styles and Whipple went 4-10 Sky Hurley and Marianna Robidux.

Vermillion tennis plays its next match at home against Harrisburg on Sept. 3 beginning at 4 p.m.

Freshman Goalie Impressing For South Dakota Soccer

BY JEREMY HOECK
Press and Dakotan

Parker Rytz wanted a change of scenery. Safe to say, she's found exactly that.

From her home town of Encinitas, California — a coastal town north of San Diego — Rytz found her way to the University of South Dakota, a far cry from the hustle and bustle of a major metropolis. But that's just what Rytz, a freshman goalkeeper for the Coyotes, was looking for.

"I wanted to go to the Midwest and experience something new," she said after Sunday afternoon's 3-0 loss to Iowa State in Vermillion.

The daughter of two parents who had attended Grand Valley State University in Michigan, Rytz very nearly went that same route. Ultimately, though, she chose USD, and as the Coyotes (0-2) have already seen through two games, she's making an immediate impact.

Rytz, who at 5-foot-11 is a tall stopper in front of the net, played all 90 minutes in Friday's 1-0 loss at Creighton, and Sunday allowed one goal — with five saves — in 71 minutes of action.

"You never know with a freshman coming in, how they'll be," head coach Mandy Green said. "There were some distribution things she cleaned up (Sunday) that gave me a heart attack against Creighton."

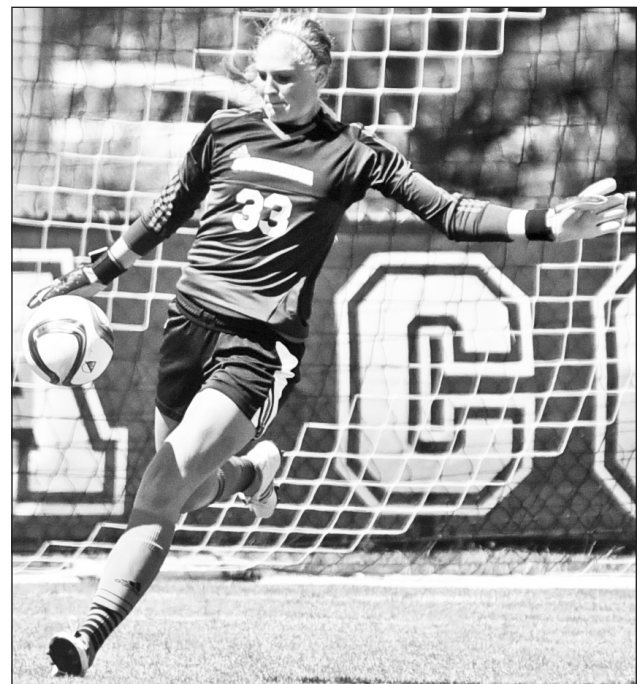
"But she just makes saves."

Such a high-stress position — where you're literally the last line of defense for your team — can understandably be a lot for a freshman to take in, but Rytz insists that she enjoys the responsibility.

"It's been really exciting," she said. "Nerve-racking of course, but I've loved every minute I've been out on the field."

And like many of her freshman teammates, Rytz figures to see a lot of action in her first season.

The Coyotes also have sophomore Sydney Hardin at goalkeeper, as well as freshman Coral Suarez (another California native), but it's been Rytz who has emerged early



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/PRESS AND DAKOTAN

South Dakota goalkeeper Parker Rytz sends the ball up the field during the Coyotes' home-opening soccer match with Iowa State on Sunday at the USD Soccer Field.

— one exhibition games and two regular season games.

"She's learning different things," Green said. "The team has a lot of confidence in her. She's earning more and more playing time every day."

It's the same situation for a number of other Coyote

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Vermillion Boys' Soccer Opens At Freeman Academy

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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Being a sanctioned sport is about more than having a state tournament to play for.

And, this fall, the boys' soccer team at Vermillion High School will learn what it's about as they enter their first season as a sanctioned high school sport.

"One of the biggest benefits of having a sanctioned soccer program is the school transportation," said Vermillion High School's head boys' soccer coach Curt Nelson. "Traveling to and from games as a team really brings the whole group together and takes a little off the plate of the parents."

The team had a bus to ride for the first time on Saturday when the Tanagers opened the season with a 1-0 loss to the Freeman Academy Bobcats at Freeman.

The Tanagers battled to a scoreless first half putting the pressure on the Freeman defense.

"I thought we played well for our first outing, especially

considering this was Freeman Academy's third game. We seemed to out shoot the Bobcats but couldn't put one away," Nelson said.

The Bobcats broke the scoreless game with 20 minutes to play in the second half.

"After that we lost our way and looked a bit panicked," Nelson said.

Freeman's defense settled in and was able to shut out Vermillion's attack, even with multiple corner kick opportunities.

Despite opening the season with a loss, the Vermillion boys' soccer program has a lot to look forward to with the new status of a sanctioned team, including a rise in interest from players.

"This year we have four new student athletes that joined our team because of the new opportunity with a sanctioned soccer program," Nelson said. "It is very exciting to see kids get involved in a sport that they may not have been able to a year ago."

Parents and players worked together to fundraise the

money necessary to make this season possible. Though this may be looked at as more of a rebuilding year with many young players, some are grateful to even have a team, especially with the support of the school behind them.

"The older players understand how close we were to losing high school soccer in Vermillion, which makes them appreciate being a part of another season," Nelson said. "Being a part of a sanctioned league has provided our players with the confidence necessary to play at the skill level of our competition and having 'Vermillion' across the front of our new uniforms reminds us who we represent."

The Tanagers will take on defending state champions Groton Saturday at 4 p.m. as the second game of a doubleheader with Vermillion High School girls' soccer team, which begins at 2 p.m.

"We will have tough competition this year without a doubt, but we will be competitive and work to develop all players, young and old, for the future," Nelson said.

Both the boys' and girls' teams play home games at Cotton Park.

South Dakota Football Captains Announced

Senior linebacker Keyen Lage, senior wide receiver Eric Shufford, junior quarterback Ryan Saeger and junior running back Trevor Bouma have been named captains of South Dakota's football team for the upcoming season as voted on by their peers. The team will also pick a special teams player each week to serve as a fifth captain on game days.

Lage was selected a captain for the second consecutive season. The Sioux Falls native has started 26 consecutive games at linebacker dating back to his true freshman season of 2012. Lage was named Joe Salem Defensive Player of the Year by the team last year after compiling 66 tackles including 5.5 for loss. He has 166 tackles and 6.0 sacks in 35 collegiate games.

Shufford, a native of Rialto, Calif., was an honorable mention all-MVFC choice a year ago after leading the Coyotes with 53 catches for 699 yards and five touchdowns. Shufford was named Henry Heider Most Valuable Player and Dave Triplett Offensive Player of the Year by the team last season, which was his first season as a Coyote. He also returned

punts and kickoffs for USD.

Saeger completed 43-of-80 passes for 570 yards and two touchdowns in four starts last season. The Hartland, Wis., native also ran for 200 yards and four scores in those starts. On the season, Saeger played in six games and passed for 660 yards and three touchdowns. He threw a touchdown and ran for two more in the Coyotes' win against nationally-ranked Northern Arizona.

Bouma, a native of LeMars, Iowa, has run for 1,289 yards and six touchdowns in his first two seasons as a Coyote. He led the team with 781 yards rushing as a redshirt freshman in 2013. He ran for 508 yards and three scores a year ago in seven games. Bouma has caught 38 passes for 272 yards and a score. He was named to the MVFC All-Newcomer Team in 2013.

The quartet will lead the Coyotes onto the field for the first time in 2015 on Sept. 5 when South Dakota faces Kansas State in Manhattan, Kan. The game will serve as the season opener for both teams.



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Members of the University of South Dakota's football team recently elected (left) junior quarterback Ryan Saeger, senior wide receiver Eric Shufford, junior running back Trevor Bouma, and senior linebacker Keyen Lage (not pictured) as the team's four captains for the upcoming season. A special teams player will be selected each week to serve as a fifth captain.