

Upcoming Sports Schedule

USD Men's Basketball hosts Oral Roberts
 VHS Wrestling at SF Lincoln
 VHS Girls and Boys Basketball hosts Tea Area
 USD Women's Basketball hosts Southern Utah

7 p.m. Dec. 30
 10 a.m. Dec. 30
 2 p.m./5 p.m. Dec. 10
 7 p.m. Dec. 30

Tanager Girls' Basketball at Sioux City East
 Tanager Boys' Basketball at West Central
 Tanager Bowling vs. Washington
 Tanager Wrestling at Brandon Valley
 Tanager Gymnastics at Stanley County

4 p.m. Jan. 3
 5 p.m. Jan. 5
 4 p.m. Jan. 6
 10:30 a.m. Jan. 7
 12 p.m. Jan. 7

Coyotes coast past Peru State

By Jeremy Hoeck

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Needing to rediscover a flow on offense, the South Dakota men's basketball team did that and more.

Twelve three-pointers and a blistering start helped that cause. The Coyotes used a 69-percent effort from the field in the first half to cruise past NAIA Peru State 103-63 on Wednesday night in the DakotaDome.

Eight players scored for USD (5-6), which rebounded from Sunday's overtime loss to Canisius in dominating fashion.

"We're trying to do some different things to make our game more versatile," said forward Ricardo Andreotti, who had 14 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks. "We just wanted to find our flow."

"We were able to find the open guys and hit those shots we didn't last time."

The Coyotes – playing their final non-conference game before returning to Summit League action next week – put five players in double figures.

Charlie Westbrook led the way with 21 points, while Jordan Boots (19), Brandon Bos (15) and Louie Krogman (13) also keyed the offense.

"It's great to have that balance," Westbrook said. "We looked really good, came together and got it done."

Peru State (1-13), an NAIA team from Peru, NE, was playing without its leading scorer Derrick Williams – averaging 23.2 points. Yet, it mattered little in the thrashing.

"We respected this team, and knew we had to play the same way we would for any team," Andreotti said. "We have two big games coming up after break and we needed to start right now."

After the game's opening three minutes, there was no drama – the shots started falling in bunches for USD.

An Allen Saint-Gelais three-pointer put the Coyotes in front early, and a 26-8 run over the next 10 minutes put the game out of reach.

Eight players scored in the first half for USD, which took a commanding 60-32 lead into the break.

Of course, when you shoot nearly 70 percent from the field, it's hard not to feel good about the offense.

The second half was more of the same, as the Coyotes were able to bring in reserves for the final stretch.

An area of concern this season for USD has been rebounding, but Wednesday's 45-27 edge in that category likely eased some of those worries – for now.

"We wanted to take a step defensively," Westbrook said. "We worked on some things that we might do when we get back from break, and it worked out for us."

"Hopefully that helps us get more wins."



South Dakota's Steve Tecker slams the ball home during the Coyotes' home victory over Peru State, Wednesday at the DakotaDome.

(Photo by James D. Cimburek/P&D)

Tanager boys fall to Mustangs 68-47

By Parker Knox
 Sportswriter

Tri-Valley scored the game's first nine points and was never seriously threatened in handing Vermillion its first loss of the boys basketball season Dec. 20.

The visiting Mustangs ran away to a 20-9 first-quarter lead. While the Tanagers rallied to within 27-19 in the second period, Tri-Valley quickly regained complete control and led 34-21 at the half en route to a 68-47 victory.

Any hope of a second-half rally quickly evaporated when the Tanagers committed two quick turnovers and missed four free throws to start the third quarter. Tri-Valley, a smooth team which handled the ball well, began to keep the clock moving, taking only high-percentage shots. The Mustangs' largest margin was 23 at 68-45 in the game's final minute.

Free throws might have enabled Vermillion to make the contest a bit closer, but except for Austin Krier's seven of eight from the stripe, the rest of the team could hit on only four of 13. Tri-Valley also sank three long-range field goals in 14 tries while the Tanagers didn't sink a single three-pointer.

With two previous starters sidelined for disciplinary reasons, Anthony Leber and J.T. Sorensen, who had been impressive in the Tanagers' three season-opening wins, earned starting roles. Quick to come off the bench, too, were three other young players---Nick Jensen, Jayce Huska and Carter Andre.

Krier scored 19 points and Sorensen 11 to lead Vermillion offensively. Rebounds were even at 20 for each ballclub. Sorensen was the Tanagers' leader off the boards with six.

Vermillion, after a home non-conference contest against Tea Area last night (Thursday), will be on the road twice next week, starting with a Big 8 Conference tilt at West Central on Thursday. VHS leads the Big 8 standings at the moment with a 3-0 record. The following night the Tanagers play at Parkston in a boys-girls doubleheader.

Vermillion girls defeat Tri-Valley with astounding second half

By Parker Knox
 Sportswriter

As astounding a second half as girls basketball fans are likely to see for some time propelled Vermillion to a stunning 48-31 win over No. 5-rated and previously unbeaten Tri-Valley at the VHS gym Dec. 20.

The victory kept the Tanagers perfect at 4-0 heading into a home girls-boys doubleheader against Tea Area last night (Thursday). Next week Coach Nick Mayer's girls will be at Sioux City East Tuesday and at Parkston Friday.

This was one of those games that the same Tanager girls likely would not have won a year, two years, or three years ago, but now that the once-young athletes have become, in many cases, seniors and juniors, their leadership and experience have begun to pay off in close, tough games.

Trailing 13-10 in the early going, the Tanagers went on a 10-0 run finished off by a Josie Huber three-pointer and a Blair Gilkyson field goal. But that 20-13 lead vanished in the wake of a 13-0 Tri-Valley surge in the second quarter, fueled by four treys from the Mustangs' Chelsea Amundson. Four points by the Tanagers' Kelly Amundson kept her team close, however, and it was 29-24 for Tri-Valley at the intermission.

The Vermillion defense focused on Chelsea Amundson in the second half, and as a result she didn't score again. For that matter, neither did any of her teammates!

A 15-0 third quarter for the Tanagers featured four three-point daggers – two by Lexi Regnerus and one each from Kelly Amundson and Josie Huber. It was 39-29 for VHS after three periods.

After a Beth Szymonski basket increased the lead to 41-29 early in the final stanza, the Tanagers began to wait for good shots, killing clock time in the process as they carefully took care of the ball.

Still having not scored in the second half, Tri-Valley turned to a press with four minutes left. That succeeded only in sending the Tanagers to the free-throw line where they capitalized. Vermillion finished the night with a mark of 15-of-19 from the free-throw line while Tri-Valley reached the stripe only once in the entire game and missed that one.

The Mustangs did score in the second half but not until 36 seconds remained in the game and the Tanagers had gone on a 24-0 run since halftime.

Kelly Amundson led the VHS scoring column with 14 points. Eight from Regnerus and six from Szymonski all came in the second half. Gilkyson also scored eight with Val Robinson contributing four, Josie Huber three and Bailey Carlson two.



SECOND PLACE!

The Vermillion seventh grade boys basketball team earned second place at the Harrisburg Winter Days Basketball Tournament on Dec. 18. Vermillion beat both the Sioux Falls Chargers and the Sioux Falls Thunder before falling to the Sioux Falls Dominators in the final championship game. Members of the seventh grade boys team (from left to right) include Sam Jensen, Nick Svendsen, Zeke Robinson, Billy Mount, Levi Taggart, Riley Peters, Logan Peterson, Braidon Tucker and Kyle Johnson. The team is coached by Heath Johnson and Greg Peters.

Coyote Tom Compton named FCS All-American

South Dakota football standout Tom Compton has been named to the Phil Steele 2011 FCS Postseason All-America team, it has been announced. The award is the latest in the string of postseason accolades for the Coyote offensive lineman.

Compton (Rosemount, MN) earned first-team honors from Phil Steele – the only Great West Conference player to do so – after another outstanding season as the Coyotes' starting left tackle. He anchored an offensive line that helped lead the Coyotes to 6-5 record in 2011, including a

thrilling 30-17 win over then-standout Tom Compton has been named to the Phil Steele 2011 FCS Postseason All-America team, it has been announced. The award is the latest in the string of postseason accolades for the Coyote offensive lineman.

Compton was a three-time All-Great West Conference selection, including earning first-team honors in 2010 and 2011. He was named to the Associated Press All-America first team earlier in December and was also named the Great West Offensive Lineman of the Year in a voting by the league's

media.

Compton has completed his eligibility at South Dakota and

now has turned his attention to preparing for April's NFL draft.

Cheryl Hill's Open House Retirement Party
 3-5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6
 Department of Social Services Office
 114 Market St., Suite 102
 Cheryl will be retiring after 30 years with DSS.
 Please come and wish her a "Happy Retirement!"

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