

Vermillion Boys Look To Build On 13-Win Season

BY PETER CHAPMAN
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The Vermillion High School boys' basketball team looks to continue to build off last season's 13-9 record as the Tanagers, led by head coach Jay Drake and assistant coaches Jon Reuvers and Joey Olson, start this season playing in the newly-formed Dakota XII Conference with the season opener hosting Lennox December 17.



TANAGERS: Nick Jensen

Last season five senior players graduated to were key in the Tanager's effort that got the Tanagers to the district championships.

"We lost five key seniors from last year's team that had played many minutes for us the past three seasons," coach Jay Drake said. "We will rely on leadership from Nick, Jayce, and Carter to help us build as a team as the season goes on. As in years past, we must find ways to defend and rebound to keep us competitive with the teams we will play on our schedule. If we can do that and take care of the ball offensively we feel that we can improve and be competitive as the season goes on."

Top returner Nick Jensen was honorable mention all-conference last season and averaged 10 points per game. Jayce Huska and Carter Andre will also be key to the team's leadership on the court.

"We will be counting on leadership from Nick Jensen, Jayce Huska, and Carter Andre. Nick and Jayce have received valuable varsity minutes the past couple of

years and Carter came off the bench for us last year. The three of them are our only players going into the season that have played varsity minutes. We will count on them to provide leadership both in games and in practice to help our younger players grow as player and us as a team," Drake said.

Newcomers to the team are Jeremiah Johnson, Paul Scwasinger, Jefferson Galvin, Cooper Williams, Jacob Manger, Tyrell Harper, Matt Ouellette, Matt Pearson and Brandon Mockler.

"Our athletes are excited for the season. We will have some new faces, but our guys have done a nice job in the off-season of putting in some time in the gym. We should have some competitive practices as we feel we have a number of different players that will be and can compete for time both in our starting line-up and in our rotation," Drake said.

With a group of young tal-

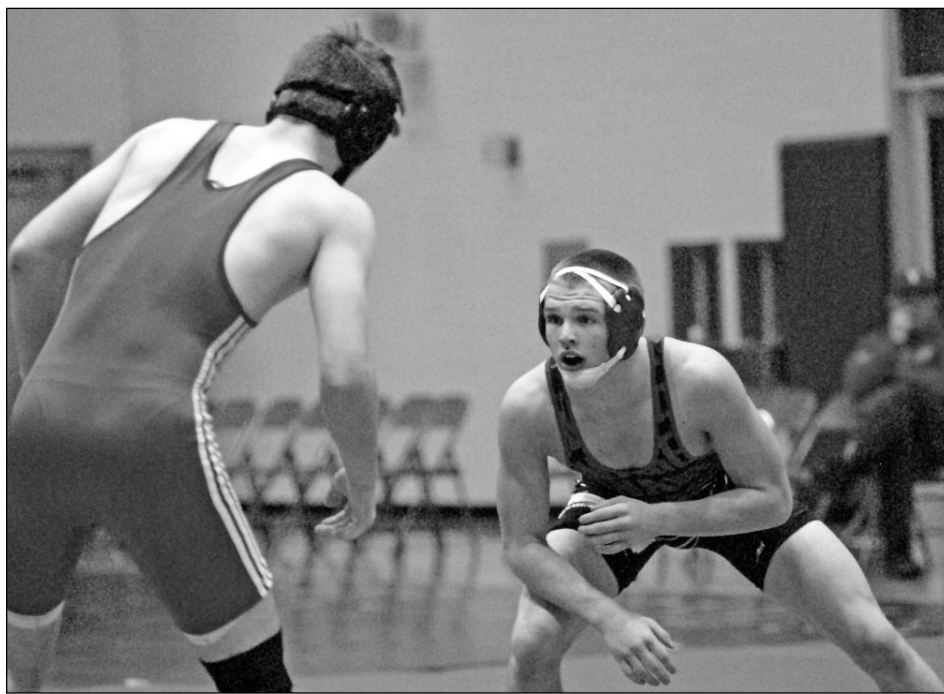
Boys 2013-14 Schedule		
Dec. 17	vs. Lennox	7:45 p.m.
Dec. 19	vs. Wagner	7:45 p.m.
Dec. 30	Parkston Classic	TBD
Jan. 3	vs. Tea Area	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 4	vs. Tri-Valley	8 p.m.
Jan. 7	at Elk Point-Jefferson	7:45 p.m.
Jan. 9	vs. West Central	7:45 p.m.
Jan. 10	at Parkston	8 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Bon Homme	7:45 p.m.
Jan. 17	at Lennox	7:45 p.m.
Jan. 21	vs. Elk Point-Jefferson	8 p.m.
Jan. 23	at S.F. Christian	7:45 p.m.
Jan. 28	at West Central	7:45 p.m.
Jan. 30	vs. Dell Rapids	7:45 p.m.
Feb. 4	vs. Beresford	8 p.m.
Feb. 8	Dakota XII Classic at North Sioux City	11 a.m.
Feb. 11	at Dakota Valley	8 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Wagner	8 p.m.
Feb. 20	vs. Madison	7:45 p.m.
Feb. 28	at Canton	7:30 p.m.

State — March 20-22 at Sioux Falls

ented athletes the Tanagers look to be competitive in the Dakota XII Conference.

"We feel that the Dakota 12 Conference is the best Class A boys basketball conference in the state of South Dakota and will be very competitive from top to bottom. Our goal as a team is to be able to compete within our conference and region by the end of the season when region tournaments roll around," Drake said. "The sooner we figure out how hard we have to play and the quicker our team can mesh chemistry wise will determine how quickly we will be able to contend with some of the teams in our conference and in our class."

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TANAGERS: Regan Bye (right)

Veteran Tanagers Look To Build Off State Success

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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VERMILLION — With six returning state tournament competitors, including "toughest Byes in wrestling," state placers Regan and Brett Bye, the Vermillion Tanagers look to build on their experience and get back into the state tournament trophy hunt.

Regan (41-4) was the 145-pound champion a year ago, with Brett (41-2) third at 152 pounds. This year as juniors, both moved up a weight class, with Brett wrestling at 160 and Regan wrestling at 152.

Also back from last year's state tournament team are senior Seth Heine (182), junior Brandon Hertz (170) and freshmen Kyle Seibel (120) and Carter Kratz (138).

Vermillion also has six seniors, many of which have state tournament experience: Heine, James May (152), Jay-sen Dugan (170) Alex Osborne (182), Zech Westergaard (195) and Dalton Marvin (285). The Tanagers also boast a solid junior class: the Byes, Hertz, Sin-away Marshall (138), Joshua Westhouse (152) and Adam Winslow (285).

"It's wierd," said Vermillion head coach Hazen Bye. "Up to 145 (pounds) we have freshmen or eighth graders, but they're all experienced. They're mature above their grade."

"Above that, we finally have juniors and seniors." Noah Westergaard (195) is the lone sophomore on the roster. Tanager freshmen include Jake Husby (113), Mason Pickett (132), Jonah Fee (138) and Noah Walker (138). Eighth graders on the roster include Trey Hage (son of Yankton coach Ryan Hage, 106 pounds), Riley Beach (106), Blessed Wilson (106), Brett Culver (126), Andrew Pietrzak (126) and Brody Surrell (182). Ryne Whisler (106) is the lone seventh grader listed on the varsity roster.



TANAGERS: Brett Bye (top)

"We've got really good numbers for us," Coach Bye said. "We're excited for the season. We've had two tests so far, and our kids have met the challenge."

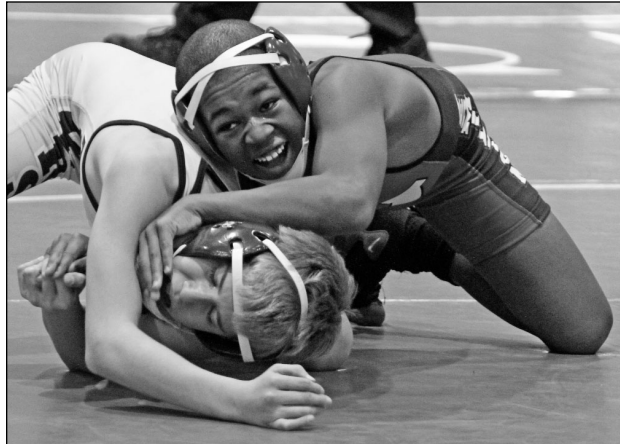
Vermillion opened the season with a dual at Lennox on Dec. 3, then followed with a fourth place showing at the Sioux Falls Roosevelt Rider Invitational on Dec. 7. Brett and Regan Bye, and Osborne won titles in that event, with Hage, Husby and Kratz also wrestling for titles in that event.

"Our kids wrestled up to their level. They competed well," Coach Bye said. "We're happy with the results."

The Tanagers will also be challenged by the move to the Dakota XII Conference. The team will have regular triangulars on Tuesday, culminating in the Dakota XII Conference Championships, Feb. 15 at North Sioux City.

"It's going to be a little different with the Dakota 12," Coach Bye said. "We're going to be seeing tougher competition during the season. The conference tournament will be different, with 11 teams instead of four or five."

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net



TANAGERS: Kyle Seibel (top)



VERMILLION TANAGERS: Josie Huber (23)

Tanagers

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look to learn early in the season and continue to grow throughout the year.

Brooks is also setting lofty goals for his young squad.

"Every year we want to win our conference and region to advance to the state tournament," he said. "We are hoping to be really good by the end of the year as we get more comfortable with our roles by then."

The Tanagers are a part of

the newly formed Dakota XII Conference.

In order for Vermillion to have a good season, they will have to get by area teams like: Elk Point-Jefferson, Tri Valley, and West Central.

The Tanagers began the season against Elk Point-Jefferson on Tuesday, Dec. 10 in Elk Point.

You can follow Nick Robinson on Twitter at twitter.com/RobinsonNick2013. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

Girls 2013-14 Schedule		
Dec. 10	at Elk Point-Jefferson	
Dec. 13	at Bon Homme	7:45 p.m.
Dec. 17	at S.F. Christian	7:45 p.m.
Dec. 20	vs. Crofton	7:45 p.m.
Jan. 3	vs. Tea Area	7:15 p.m.
Jan. 4	vs. Tri-Valley	5:15 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Canton	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	at Parkston	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	vs. Madison	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16	at Lennox	7:45 p.m.
Jan. 17	vs. Sioux City North	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	vs. Elk Point-Jefferson	8 p.m.
Jan. 24	vs. Lennox	7:45 p.m.
Jan. 28	at West Central	6:15 p.m.
Jan. 30	vs. Dell Rapids	6:15 p.m.
Feb. 1	Dakota XII Classic at Madison	11 a.m.
Feb. 4	vs. Beresford	8 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Dakota Valley	8 p.m.
Feb. 13	vs. West Central	7:45 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Wagner	6:30 p.m.

State — March 13-15 at Spearfish

2013-14 Schedule		
Dec. 3	vs. Lennox	
Dec. 7	S.F. Roosevelt Inv.	
Dec. 13	vs. Brandon Valley/Dakota Valley/Yankton	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	Tea Area/ at Tri-Valley	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 27-28	S.F. Lincoln Inv.	
Jan. 7	Elk Point-Jefferson/ at Dakota Valley	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	Dan Pansch Inv. (Brandon)	9 a.m.
Jan. 14	Dell Rapids/at Madison	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Harrisburg Inv.	10 a.m.
Jan. 21	Tea Area/at Lennox	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	West Central Inv.	10 a.m.
Jan. 28	vs. Beresford/Canton	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	at Crofton, Neb.	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	Dakota Valley/S.F. Washington/ at Harrisburg	5 p.m.
Feb. 15	Dakota XII Conf. at North Sioux City	10 a.m.

State — Feb. 28-March 1 at Rapid City

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