



SPORTS

December 11, 2015 www.plaintalk.net



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Vermillion's Carter Kratz grapples with Josh Cid of Sioux Falls Roosevelt in Tuesday night's dual in Vermillion. Kratz won by pin in the 160 match.

Vermillion Edges Sioux Falls Roosevelt

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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Trey Hage and Lucas Anglin both remain undefeated on the season as the Vermillion High School wrestling team upset Sioux Falls Roosevelt 42-34 in the Tanagers first dual of the season Tuesday night at home. The dual was originally scheduled for Dec. 1 and was moved to Tuesday because of inclement weather.

The Rough Riders were ranked second in the Class A preseason coaches poll, but the Tanagers pulled out eight wins, including five pins, for the dual victory.

"This was a dual that, on paper, we're not supposed to win, but we won and we won this dual because everybody did their job," said Vermillion head coach Joe Delvaux.

Hage, a sophomore in the 132 weight class, defeated Tanner Swab by pin. Anglin, an eighth grader in the 106 weight class, defeated Eli Kaldoun by decision. The wins moved both wrestlers to 4-0.

Jacob Husby (120) Carter Kratz (160) Hunter Christopherson (195) and Brody Surrell (285) each earned a win by pin.

Vermillion also earned a win from Brett Culver, 170, who defeated Joey Otta by decision and the team had one win from forfeit to round out the first dual of the year.

"Our kids wrestled outstanding tonight. Everybody wrestled incredibly hard and we believed they could win every match," Delvaux said. "They did what they've been doing all along this year and that was just working really hard and believing they could win every match."

Tuesday's dual came just a few days after the Tanagers placed sixth and the Rough Riders placed third in the Sioux Falls Roosevelt Wrestling Invitation last Saturday.

Anglin went 3-0 at the tournament and took first place at 106 after earning a bye in the quarterfinals, defeating Chaise Neilson of Brandon Valley by fall and defeating Kadoun by decision in the first place match.

"We had really big matches by Lucas Anglin at 106. He wrestled a couple really tough kids," Delvaux said.

Hage also went 3-0 and earned first place at 132 by defeating Clayton Hanisch of West Central by fall.

Kratz and Husby each earned a place in the first place match, but were each defeated for second place. Kratz lost by decision to Chayden Fitzsimmons of Sioux Falls Washington and Husby by major decision to Wesley Weischedel of Lennox.

The overall team score had Vermillion with 146 points. Ryne Whisler (113), Riley Beach (126), Logan Simmons (138), Noah Walker (145), Noah Westergaard (182), and Surrell (220) all earned team points at the tournament.

Vermillion is back on the mat on Tuesday at Tri-Valley for a quadrangular with West Central, Alcester-Hudson and Tri-Valley.

South Dakota Women Stretch Win Streak To Six

BY JEREMY HOECK

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It may as well have been March 3, not Dec. 3.

That was the kind of energy and intensity exuded by the University of South Dakota and Drake for a critical — even if it was early in the season — mid-major women's basketball showdown Thursday night.

The final: USD 92, Drake 87. In overtime.

The hometown Coyotes, who hadn't lost on their home floor in 17 games, picked up the kind of win that will, late in the season, look pretty good on a resume.

"That's an excellent opportunity to be able to make a statement for our program," said USD head coach Amy Williams, whose team won its fourth in a row.

Drake came into the game unbeaten, ranked No. 8 in this week's mid-major poll, and with an official RPI of 13. The Bulldogs had already scored wins against Iowa State, Wisconsin, Creighton, North Dakota and previously-unbeaten UNLV.

They were then handed their first loss. Despite their best efforts.

In a game that saw each team make a clutch three-pointer in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter, USD did enough at the line — it made eight free throws in the final 1:17 of overtime — to come out with the win.

The Coyotes (4-3) have now turned a corner since starting the season with three straight losses.

"We haven't had the best year yet," said senior Nicole Seekamp, who recorded 24 points, five rebounds and five assists. "We started off slow and built up our confidence, so I guess we had nothing to lose coming into the game."

It was three Seekamp free throws — the last two after she got her own rebound on a missed one — in a 4-second span that was the difference in overtime.

Drake's Lizzy Wendell, whose three-pointer forced overtime, hit a three-pointer with 17 seconds left to bring the Bulldogs within 88-87. But that was close as they would get.

With the back-and-forth nature and all the clutch shots between two high-quality programs, it had to feel like a tournament atmosphere, right?

"I was actually thinking about that as I was playing," said USD senior guard Tia Hemiller, who had 10 points, five rebounds and four assists.

"It was awesome to see our teammates making big plays," she added. "That's what it takes to be a championship team."

It also takes the kinds of big-time shots Caitlin Duffy made in the fourth quarter.

The junior newcomer made four three-pointers in the frame, including the go-ahead shot from the corner with 4.1 seconds remaining.

Wendell then answered, however, with a three-pointer of her own to send the game into overtime.

In that short of a span, Duffy's shot went from being the biggest to this point in the season to simply just 'another' shot. In that span, USD went from a wild celebration to having to collect



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Freshman guard Jaycee Bradley had 10 points for the Coyotes as the University of South Dakota handed Portland State a 103-61 at the DakotaDome Saturday afternoon.

itself for another five minutes.

"We could see it, it was right there, and then they hit that three," Duffy said. "You have to find it within yourself to decide that we're going to win."

From there, USD found itself in déjà vu. Two weeks ago, the Coyotes suffered an 84-81 loss at Kansas State of the Big 12 Conference.

"We've been in this situation before," Seekamp said, referencing the Nov. 19 game. "We knew how it felt to be in that position."

Against a long, athletic Drake team, the Coyotes were able to out-rebound the Bulldogs 54-33, thanks to a dominating 27-3 edge in offensive rebounds. That margin played a key role in USD attempting 20 more shots in the game.

It was all effort, Williams said. "We talk about that all the time about a relentless pursuit of offensive rebounds, and I thought our kids really bought into that," said Williams, whose Coyotes host Portland State on Saturday afternoon.

Wendell scored a game-high 26 points for Drake (6-1), while Emma Donahue had a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

**South Dakota 103,
Portland State 61**

In the adjustments that come along with getting used to the pace of Division I basketball, Allison Arens and Jaycee Bradley have already had their share of ups and downs as true freshmen.

On Saturday, there were more ups than downs for the University of South Dakota freshmen guard tandem.

In a game perfectly suited for them to gain some valuable experience, Arens and Bradley earned rave reviews in a comfortable 103-61 win over Portland State at the DakotaDome.

They combined for 20 points, 6 rebounds and 10 assists — each playing at least 17 minutes — for an already deep USD squad.

"Every day they seem to be getting more and more comfortable, and more and more close to turning that corner," said head coach Amy Williams, whose Coyotes (5-3) ran their home win streak to 18.

"It was great for them to have the opportunity to work through some of those kinks today."

Put another way, if there was ever a game to work out any freshman kinks, it was Saturday.

Portland State (0-7), who started three freshmen on a team picked last in the Big Sky, was out-matched from the start.

All 13 USD players saw double-digit minutes of action and everyone scored.

Arens, a Crofton, Nebraska, native, finished with 10 points, 2 rebounds and 6 assists. Bradley, from Norfolk, Nebraska, had 10 points, 4 rebounds and 4 assists.

The third freshman, Madeline Homoly, chipped in with 6 points and 5 rebounds.

Perhaps most important? The experience gained.

"We've all been there. We've all been the young person that comes in and you're playing college basketball; it's not an easy transition," senior Kelly Stewart said.

"It's nice to see our bench have such a presence like that."

That production from the reserves was probably the main theme of the day for USD.

The Coyotes, who get an average of 26 points from their bench, got 51 points from reserves — with Kate Liveringhouse (10 points) joining Arens and Bradley in double figures.

Liveringhouse, in particular, has



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