

Vermillion Powers Past Bon Homme, Roncalli

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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With last Tuesday's season opening loss behind them the Vermillion High School girls' basketball team won two consecutive games in two consecutive days for a big confidence booster heading into a week-long break.

Friday night, the Tanagers traveled to Tyndall where they downed the Bon Homme Cavaliers 61-33 then followed that up with a 45-20 win over the Aberdeen-Roncalli Cavaliers at the Tea Area Classic Saturday afternoon.

"I think our girls gained a lot of confidence Friday night," said Vermillion head coach Jon Brooks. "After (the loss) Tuesday they were down a little bit and then (Friday) night a lot of kids scored. We had kids who just looked like they were settled in a little better and I think that carried over to Saturday."

At Bon Homme, Vermillion saw points from 11 different players including 10 points from Autumn Barnett and eight from Twila Sweeney, Shantel French, Kasey Jensen and Haleigh Melstad.

"We were able to get off to a quick start," said Vermillion head coach Jon Brooks. "Our pressure defense helped us create turnovers and get transition buckets. I thought we played with good energy, which was a point of emphasis heading into the game. We also had 11 girls score. It is always nice when a lot of kids can get into the game early in the season so we can see them play."

The Tanagers energy, and defensive domination, carried over into Saturday's win when the team turned right around to play their second game in less than 24 hours.

"Our big focus with (Saturday) was the fact that we played (Friday) night, got home

late and had to drive up (to Tea Saturday) morning, so we were really focusing on just being mentally ready to go," Brooks said. "I told the girls right after the game today that I was really proud of them for the fact that we came out ready to play."

The Tanagers were more than ready to play and held Aberdeen-Roncalli to just 20 points in the game with the top three Roncalli scorers gaining only four points each.

The Tanagers were familiar with Roncalli's offensive strategy and were able to adjust their defense to match.

"Looking at them coming in, (Aberdeen-Roncalli) runs a really good half court offense, man-to-man," Brooks said. "They run a lot of one-four high sets, a lot of back screens, so we wanted to take them out of their (man-to-man) offense. So, that's why we went zone most of the game. It seemed like we had them confused a little bit and the pressure really worked, so I think it was just the fact of taking them out of what they really wanted to do."

The zone defense worked well enough that each quarter ended with Vermillion ahead by at least 10 points.

Vermillion's offense was equally as dominant as the defense with Barnett and Melstad hitting 12 points each, while Sweeney had eight and Madisen Martinez scored six. Barnett was also 4-for-4 at the free throw line and Martinez was 2-for-2.

"(Barnett and Melstad) are kind of our two big perimeter scoring threats," Brooks said. "Twila did well down low and Kasey (Jensen) got some looks, just missed a few shots, but when we got Kasey and Twila working down low and we got Haleigh and Autumn scoring on the perimeter that makes our offense tough to stop."

Vermillion has a full week to recover and practice on improving their offensive strategy, but jump right back into game play with another set of back-to-back games on Dec. 21-22.



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Vermillion's Maddie Regnerus looks for a pass in the Tanagers 45-20 win over Aberdeen-Roncalli at the Tea Classic Saturday afternoon.

"We need to stir some things up offensively, indefinitely," Brooks said. That was our main focus. A couple of the offenses that we are trying to run, we're just not quick enough with them yet."

On Monday, Dec. 21, the Tanagers tip off against Sioux City North, Iowa at 7 p.m. and return the next day, Tuesday, Dec. 22, against Tri-Valley at 3:45 p.m. Both games

are scheduled to be played in Vermillion.

"It's something you tell the girls, you win and you think you did everything right, but you don't" Brooks said. "There are still things to improve on. We still have some things to improve on this week and with playing three games (last) week we haven't had a whole lot of practice time, so next week will be nice for us."

Tanagers Go 0-2 In Brandon Valley, 3-0 In Tri-Valley

Vermillion High School wrestling competed in two meets this past week in Brandon Valley and Tri-Valley.

The Tanagers traveled to Brandon Valley last Thursday and dropped two duals to Brandon Valley and Yankton, then traveled to Tri-Valley to sweep the Tri-Valley quad for three wins.

Vermillion has now won four of it's six duals.

In Brandon Valley, Lucas Anglin defeated Jarrett Rueb of Yankton by major decision and Jack Smith of Brandon Valley by decision.

Trey Hage suffered his first loss of the season to Spencer Huber of Yankton. Hage lost by decision 5-2. He came back to pin Jorey Sorenson of Brandon Valley in 52 second for a win.

Ryne Whisler, Jacob Husby and Brody Surrell all earned pins against Yankton, but Vermillion fell as a team 40-31 to the Bucks.

Brandon Valley also topped the Tanagers 49-24.

Carter Kratz and Hunter Christopherson each won by pin for the four Tanager wins in the dual.

At the Tri-Valley quad, Vermillion beat West Central 45-33, Alcester-Hudson 77-6 and Tri-Valley 57-21.

Anglin pinned Carter Heumiller of West Central and defeated Logan Serck by decision, but suffered his first loss of the season to Trevor Klinnert of Tri-Valley.

Hage pinned two of his opponents and earned a third win by forfeit to go undefeated on the day.

Brett Culver, Noah Westergaard, Noah Walker, Surrell, Husby, Riley Beach, Kobe Culver and Kratz all earned pins on the day.

The Tanagers are back in action on Monday, Dec. 28, at the Sioux Falls Lincoln Invitational.

Brandon Valley Quad:
YANKTON 40, VERMILLION 31: 106 -

Lucas Anglin V maj. dec. Jarret Rueb 13-2; 113 - Ryan Whisler V pin. Taten Bahm 0:42; 120 - Jacob Husby V pin. John Sawyer 0:34; 126 - Cody Vornhagen Y pin. Riley Beach 0:38; 132 - Spencer Huber Y dec. Trey Hage 5-2; 138 - Bashir Abdalkreem Y by forfeit; 145 - Noah Walker V dec. Jamee Bruegman 6-0; 152 - Luke Lammers YHS pin. Logan Simmons 4:30; 160 - Carter Kratz V by forfeit; 170 - Ray Wermers YHS dec. Brett Culver 16-7; 182 - Jordan Lucht YHS dec. Noah Westergaard 9-7 OT; 195 - Brock Folkers YHS pin. Hunter Christopherson 4:33; 220 - Brody Surrell V pin. J.C. Holton 2:51; 285 - Reese Anderson YHS pin. Joe Wagner 0:47

BRANDON VALLEY 49, VERMILLION 24:
106 - Lucas Anglin V dec. Jack Smith 6-2; 113 - Creighton Klinkhammer BV pin. Ryne Whisler 0:57; 120 - Jacob Husby V dec. Kobi Terpstra 7-2; 126 - Dawson Kremlacek maj. Dec. Riley Beach 16-4; 132 - Trey Hage V pin. Jorey Sorenson 0:52; 138 - Tyler Small by forfeit; 145 - Jackson Pletten BV pin. Noah Walker 2:23; 152 - Chase Smith BV pin. Logan Simmons 2:08; 160 - Carter Kratz V pin. Dodge Waldera 3:18; 170 - Levi Sternburg BV dec. Brett Culver 11-5; 182 - Lincoln Ode BV pin. Noah Westergaard 1:45; 195 - Hunter Christopherson V pin. Hunter Shamatt 1:25; 220 - Andrew Sorenson BV pin. Brody Surrell 1:08; 285 - Sam Krohnke BV pin. Joe Wagner 2:54.

Tri-Valley Quad:
VERMILLION 45, WEST CENTRAL 33: 106 - Lucas Anglin V pin. Carter Heumiller (time not given); 113 - Caden Ideker WC dec. Ryan Whisler (score not given); 120 - Jacob Husby V by forfeit; 126 - Riley Beach V by forfeit; 132 - Trey Hage V pin. Clayton Haisch (time not given); 138 - Caden Farmer WC pin. Tyson Hage (time not given); 145 - Austin Ideker WC pin. Noah Walker (time not given); 152 - Jonah Rechtenbaugh WC

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VHS Gymnastics Opens Season In Wagner

Carter Williams earned a second place all-around at the Wagner Invitational gymnastics meet in the season opening competition for the Vermillion High School gymnastics team.

"Carter Williams, our top returner, started off her first meet with a 2nd place All-Around finish and 1st place finish on the uneven bars, which was a wonderful reflection of the time she put in during the off season to improving her bar routine," said Vermillion head coach Shannon Fitzsimmons.

Williams placed first on the uneven bars, second on the vault, fifth on the floor and sixth on the beam for the only Tanager to place in the top six at the meet.

"Our focus was just getting our young and new girls experience and doing the best

we could as a team with the skills we have at this point," Fitzsimmons said. "We believe we can steadily grow meet by meet as a team this year. Our goal is to keep working hard in the gym to be our best in February."

Vermillion placed fourth overall at the meet out of six teams with a combined score of 112.800.

The Tanagers next competition is when Vermillion hosts the Winter Wonderland Invitational on Wednesday, Dec. 30, with a scheduled start time of 11:30 a.m.

Wagner Invitational:

Team scores: 1. Chamberlain bars: 28.240
beam: 29.600 Floor: 34.000 Vault: 33.400
Total: 125.240; 2. Wagner/BonHomm 24.650
27.300 34.800 32.550 119.300; 3. West Central

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