



**SPORTS**

December 25, 2015 www.plaintalk.net

# Gymnastics Second In Home Opener

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN  
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The first-meet-nerve were settled, but the Vermillion High School gymnastics team met a dealt with a different set of nerves in last Thursday's home opener triangular with Sioux Falls Roosevelt and West Central.

"When you have your first home meet and you have a lot of your friends and most of your parents here, it gets your nerves going a little bit because you want to show them all the hard work that you have been doing. It kind of felt like another first meet because it's your first home meet and the girls had some jitters to work out," said Vermillion head coach Shannon Fitzsimmons.

Sioux Falls Roosevelt swept the events and came out on top of the team scores with 128.6. Vermillion placed second of the three teams with a score of 114.3 and had at least one girl place in the top six in every event. West Central placed third with 111.4.

"We had some highs, we had some lows, but that's really what you're going to get early on in the season and some of our young girls that gained a lot of experience at a pretty big meet last (Saturday) were much more comfortable today," Fitzsimmons said.

Vermillion freshman Carter Williams placed second in the vault scoring a 9.0, third on the bars, 7.65, and floor exercise, 8.9 and earned a fifth place overall with a combined score of 32.05, just .1 behind fourth place.

Peyton Larson landed a beam routine that earned her a 7.45 and third place in the event. Larson came in just behind Williams in the overall in sixth place with a combined score of 28.6.

"We had some girls stick beam routines that have never stuck them in their life, at least not with that difficult of a routine," Fitzsimmons said. "It was nice to see and they were very excited. Some of those girls were Kaya Lewis, Thomlin Petcam and Peyton Larson, (they) all had really big days on beam and floor for us and that really helped us out overall."

Sioux Falls Roosevelt's Madisyn Waltjer placed first on four of the five events and was the all-around champion scoring 34.5. Roosevelt's Jordyn Thoene placed first on the beam with an 8.1.

Theone ended the night tied for second with Alyssa Anderson of West Central with a score of 33.2.

The overall, Vermillion's team score is a slight improvement from the opening meet in Wagner last Saturday where the Tanagers scored 112.8 as a team for a fourth place finish out of six schools.

"What we tried to do was just do a little better than we did Saturday," Fitzsimmons said.

The nerves of the young team may have shown in Wagner, but the Tanagers have brushed those off and are now ready to compete.

"I think that the first meet probably helped them calm down and they were ready to go out there and not so afraid of the events (Thursday)," Fitzsimmons said. "They were ready to go out there and show off what they can do for the home crowd."

Vermillion hosts the Winter Wonderland meet on Wednesday Dec. 30 giving the team a week and a half to prepare for its next competition.

"We'll have some time before Winter wonderland where we really get back to work and try and add another skill or two for everyone for winter wonderland or just stick our routines a little bit better for a big home meet," Fitzsimmons said.

Sioux Falls Roosevelt-West Central-Vermillion Triangular:

Bars: 1. Madisyn Waltjer, SFR, 8.55; 2. Jordyn Thoene, SFR, 8.2; 3. Carter Williams, Ver, 7.65; 4. Sydney Cork, SFR, 7.65; 5. Alyssa Anderson, WC, 7.55; 6. Emily Nix, SFR, 6.5.

Beam: 1. Jordyn Thoene, SFR, 8.1; 2. Alyssa Anderson, WC, 7.8; 3. Peyton Larson, Ver, 7.45; 4. Madisyn Waltjer, SFR, 7.4; 5. Sydney Cork, SFR, 7.25; 6. Lindsey Eggabraaten, WC, 6.75.

Floor: 1. Madisyn Waltjer, SFR, 9; 2. Alyssa Anderson, WC, 8.95; 3. Carter Williams, Ver, 8.9; 4. Sydney Cork, SFR, 8.85; 5. Jordyn Thoene, SFR, 8.4; 6. Emily Nix, SFR, 7.9.

Vault: 1. Madisyn Waltjer, SFR, 9.1, 2. Carter Williams, Ver, 9; 3. Alyssa Anderson, WC, 8.9; 4. Jordyn Thoene, SFR, 8.5; 4. Bailey Sides, SFR, 8.5; 6. Emily Nix, SFR, 8.4; 6. Sydney Cork, SFR, 8.4.

All-Around: 1. Madisyn Waltjer, SFR, 34.05; 2. Alyssa Anderson, WC, 33.2; 2. Jordyn Thoene, SFR, 33.2; 4. Sydney Cork, SFR, 32.15; 5. Carter Williams, Ver, 32.05; 6. Peyton Larson, Ver, 28.6.

Team Scores: 1. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 128.6; 2. Vermillion, 114.3; 3. West Central, 111.4.



Carter Williams on the beam for Vermillion High School at the home opener last Thursday night.

## Westergaard's Results Reflect Positive Attitude

### Tanager Of The Week

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN  
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Vermillion High School wrestler Noah Westergaard began wrestling in seventh grade for an activity he had never tried before. Now, as a senior, he says he stayed for the comradery.

"Say you go off and you wrestle someone, later you can still be their friend even if you beat them really bad or they beat you really bad. It's just like a good connection between everyone and then just the brotherhood in the room is really nice," he said.

Last week at the Tri-Valley quad, Westergaard won all three of his matches and defeated two of his opponents by pin. The third was won by forfeit.

"My mind kind of blanks out," he said. "I don't really hear or think of anything other than the match that's going on."

Westergaard is one of two seniors on this year's wrestling team and also serves as one of five captains who were selected by teammates for the season.

"Some guys lead with intensity alone, but Noah is a leader that's intense at times, but it is also obvious that he is having fun," said head wrestling coach Joe Delvaux.

This year, he wrestles in the 182 pound weight class, but has spent his years bouncing between classes. As a freshman, he wrestled at 195, went up to heavy weights, 220-285, as a sophomore, was back at 195 as a junior and is now in the 182 class.

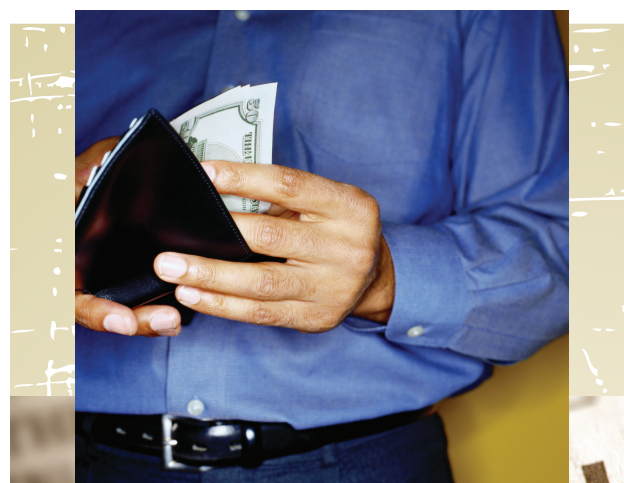
"This is his first year wrestling this light. In the past he wrestled 220 and heavy weight. He is finding out that wrestling at 182 is faster and sometimes more technical," Delvaux said.

No matter which class he is in, Westergaard seems to find a way to win and has placed in multiple tournaments and even qualified for the state tournament last year.

"Noah Westergaard is just a kid who, I think, is just happy to be successful in wrestling," Delvaux said. "He's wrestled guys that weighed like 285 when he weighed 190, so he's just really happy to be in the room all the time. He has a very upbeat attitude. He doesn't take things too serious. He



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK  
Senior wrestling captain Noah Westergaard was chosen as Tanager of the Week for his success at last week's Tri-Valley quad meet, going 3-0, and his positive attitude while competing on the mat.



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