

Three Oklahoma recruits sign with USD

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — Naturally, when you think of Oklahoma, you instantly think University of South Dakota football, right?

Until this year, there wasn't a pipeline between the two states. However, the latest recruiting class for USD shows that the Coyotes are making a serious effort to hit an area virtually untouched by fellow FCS schools.

Among the 19 recruits announced Wednesday as part of National Signing Day, three hail from Oklahoma. All three are defensive backs, and two are from the same high school.

How was USD able to hit Oklahoma in such a way?

First-year defensive coordinator Jason Petrino previously coached at Central Oklahoma and brought with him to Vermillion an intimate knowledge — and relationships — of high school talent.

"He had a head start knowing about these kids, and obviously he knew what

he was talking about," coach Joe Glenn said. "There aren't any schools at our level down there, so it's kind of an untapped spot."

In all, USD signed five recruits from Iowa, three each from South Dakota and Oklahoma, two from Missouri and Florida, and one each from Nebraska, Wisconsin, Wyoming and California.

The fact that USD signed as many kids from a state nine hours away than from South Dakota is telling, though only in the sense that the competition for Oklahoma recruits does not involve other FCS schools.

"In my short time there, I noticed that there are no FCS schools within the state, and none in Nebraska or Kansas," Petrino said. "That stuck in my head. There are a lot of talented kids there, and most are getting overlooked."

Saying that USD "set the trail" for recruits in that area, Petrino said the Coyote coaching staff literally compared some of the kids they were already pursuing to some of the available talent in Oklahoma.

Chief among their targets was Ricky

Reeves, a 2-star rated defensive back. Reeves was on the radar of a lot of FCS schools and got late interest from Big 12 schools to be a walk-on, Petrino said.

"For us, it's awesome that we can get a guy of his caliber," Petrino said. "The secondary was definitely a need for us. Being able to fill in needs like that is what I get really excited about."

Zeke Lewis, another defensive back, was teammates with Reeves at Midwest City High School and led the state in tackles, while Will Armstead — another defensive back — hails from Broken Arrow, Okla.

Though it comes from a player without any national rankings, one of the notable gems in the class is Roberts, who led the state of Wyoming in rushing yards (2,688) as a senior.

Roberts, the Wyoming Gatorade Player of the Year, scored 38 touchdowns for Sheridan coach Don Julian, who was on Glenn's staff at Wyoming from 2002-06.

His sister Madisen is a senior on the Coyote women's swim team, while his older sister, Christin, swam for USD

two seasons ago.

"I've spent a lot of time the dome, watching my sisters swim, so it's always been a school I wanted to be interested in," Roberts said by phone. "I was never sure if I'd ever get a chance at a place like that."

The clincher, as Roberts put it, was talking with Glenn, who sold him on the idea of coming east.

"Coach Glenn is a great guy. As soon as I talked to him on the phone, I knew he'd be a great coach to play for," Roberts said. "I always liked South Dakota, they're definitely on the rise."

Going by national rankings, the biggest prize for the Coyotes was Chris Wiseman, a 3-star rated defensive end from Lee, S Summit, Mo.

Wiseman was an early verbal commit to USD, but pulled that commitment after Ed Meierkort was fired in late November. However, in mid-January, Wiseman recommitted to new coach Glenn.

USD signed three other recruits who garnered national recognition — Matt Miller, a 2-star tight end from Omaha, Neb., Jasper Sanders, a 2-star

transfer running back from Butler (Kan.) Community College, and Mike Meinert, a 1-star offensive lineman from St. Joseph, Mo.

The three South Dakota recruits include Sioux Falls Washington teammates Devon O'Farrell (LB) and Keyen Lage (SS/LB), as well as walk-on Jeremy Henderson of St. Thomas More.

In all, the Coyotes got National Letters of Intent (NLI) from all but two of their verbal commitments. One exception was Florida linebacker Marquise Piton, who instead signed with Eastern Kentucky.

"I'm totally happy with the guys we got," Glenn said. "We didn't get them all, but that's all right. When you have a lot of plates spinning, once in a while one falls off."

Saying that USD likely won't sign any additional recruits in the spring, Glenn pointed out that the process still does not stop.

"Recruiting is like shaving. If you don't do it every day, you look like a bum," he said. "We recruit every day. We'll get started on next year already."

Late game heroics help Tanagers seal win against Watchdogs

By Parker Knox

Sportswriter

Though they led by a seemingly comfortable 17 points in the second quarter against a team with a 2-10 record, Vermillion's boys had to come up with late-game heroics to subdue Beresford Tuesday night.

The Watchdogs had come all the way back to take a 56-55 lead with two minutes to go, but VHS scored the game's last eight points to win, 63-56, and end a five-game losing skid.

The Tanagers are now down to five remaining regular-season games, and the two home games that are left will determine the Big 8 Conference title. VHS hosts Madison tonight and Harrisburg next Friday. The Tanagers, now 4-2 in league play, need victories in both contests to gain at least a share of the conference championship.

In between VHS goes to Dakota Valley Tuesday at play the Panthers, District 8A's current top-seeded team. VHS finishes on the road at Wagner and Canton later in February.

A 15-1 run late in the opening quarter and extending into the second had left the Tanagers ahead 28-11. It was still 36-23 at halftime. But a sloppy third period full of turnovers, careless play, and three-for-15 field-goal shooting allowed Beresford to creep back into the game. The Watchdogs were within 44-39 after three periods and gradually closed the gap, mainly on the strength of freshman Oliver Doeden, a bench player who scored his team's first 11 points of the final quarter.

A three-pointer by Doeden gave Beresford a 56-55 lead, but Tanner Anderson's basket on an offensive rebound with 1:41 left restored sanity to the situation.

After the Watchdogs missed on the first shot of a one-and-one situation, both teams were then in the double bonus so far as free throws were concerned. Jayce Huska took advantage, nailing a pair with 45 seconds left. Anderson's steal and layup with 21 seconds to go sealed the deal. The fact that the same Beresford player missed three free throws seconds later

helped. Austin Krier added a pair with seven seconds left to end the potential nightmare.

Krier had 21 points, Nile Morecraft 10, J.T. Sorensen eight, Anderson seven, Anthony Leber five, Huska four and Nick Jensen for the Tanagers, who now stand 7-7 for the year. Doeden, with 13 in the fourth quarter, led Beresford with 23, and Trevor Anderson added 16.

"Our hats off to Beresford. They played hard," Coach Jay Drake said later. "We didn't play well in the third quarter and gave them life. To our credit we battled back and got a win in the end, but we left ourselves in a position where one single play could have meant a loss."

Against the state's best Class "A" team last Thursday, it was a tale of two halves for the Tanagers. In the first two quarters they put on their best performance since December and led the Quarriers by 23-22 with 1:10 left in the half.

A turnover led to a Dell Rapids basket just before halftime, and that was a forerunner of what was to come. Dells scored the first five points of the third period, then after a Nile Morecraft field goal, went on a 7-0 run. Then after a Caleb Miller basket, the Quarriers had a 9-0 run. By that time the decision had been rendered. While Dells was going on a 21-point quarter, the Tanagers were missing 12 of 14 field-goal attempts, thanks in large part to the Dells defense.

When the game ended at 61-36, Dell Rapids, with so many weapons in its potent arsenal, had scored 37 second-half points while restricting the Tanagers to 13. Michael Schmidt with 21 points and Bryce Koch with 16 led Dells offensively. Cole Langer had 11 rebounds and seven assists.

Morecraft with 10 and Nick Jensen with eight led VHS scoring. Austin Krier had six, Tanner Anderson five, Jayce Huska three, Miller two and Anthony Leber two. Morecraft with six and Jensen with five led VHS rebounders as Dells dominated the boards 31-19. Anderson had five assists.

Girls' astounding third quarter too much for Beresford

By Parker Knox

Sportswriter

Vermillion's girls came stampeding out of the halftime intermission to score 21 points in the next five minutes, 30 seconds, and 27 points in all in an astounding third quarter, en route to a 57-40 thumping of a veteran Beresford club that had also lost only twice this season.

The battle now becomes which of the teams will have home-court advantage come district tournament time later this month. Vermillion has the edge momentarily with a 12-2 record, and Beresford is at 12-3, but the remaining schedules would seem to give the advantage to the Watchdogs in that regard.

The Tanager girls' schedule is down to five games remaining before tournament time. The first two are on the road at Sergeant Bluff-Luton tonight (Friday) and Dakota Valley Tuesday. The VHS girls will be home next Thursday and Friday against West Central and Harrisburg, respectively. The season ends with a date against No. 1 Wagner.

"We will possibly see Beresford again," Coach Nick Mayer said. "We would like to, so we have to keep this in perspective. They are a dangerous team, but this win will give us confidence."

As the Tanagers were making the net sizzle with nine-of-11 field-goal shooting during their third-quarter surge, they sank five three-point buckets, three by Lexi Regnerus and one each from Kelly Amundson and Val Robinson. Beth Szymonski had eight points in that quarter alone.

From a 49-36 deficit heading into the fourth period, Beresford, last season's state "A" tournament runners-up, got to within 11 of the Tanagers but no closer. The lead was built back up to as many as 18 points on a put-back by Robinson and five more points from Amundson. Then the Tanagers were able to coolly waste clock time.

Amundson with 16 points, Regnerus with 14 and Robinson with 13 gave VHS solid offensive balance. Szymonski and Josie Huber added six points apiece. Alison Klostergaard had 15 and Taryn Twite 10 for Beresford.

"We looked for that one extra pass to give teammates better shots," Mayer said, "and we took care of the ball and got 11 steals, too."

Last Friday the girls rebounded from their second loss of the season the previous night — 54-46 at West Central — by thoroughly whipping Canton, 49-26.

It took a few minutes for both teams to find their shooting eyes, and the first quarter ended 8-6 for the Tanagers, but in the second period a trio of three-pointers from

bench players — two by Bailey Carlson and one from Josie Huber — lit the fire for Vermillion. It was 24-12 by halftime.

Canton partially recovered and crawled to within eight midway through the third quarter, but the Tanagers immediately regained their momentum, scoring the period's final seven points to lead 38-23. The lead soared to as many as 23 by game's end.

Kelly Amundson was high scorer with 14, including the team's final seven fourth-quarter points. Beth Szymonski contributed 11, Val Robinson eight, Carlson seven, Josie Huber five, Mackenzie Huber three and Lexi Regnerus one. Heather Willet led Canton with 10.

At West Central the Tanagers led at halftime by 26-21. With the Trojans concentrating on Amundson inside, the Tanagers took their offense to the perimeter and shot a total of 25 three-point attempts. Unfortunately most of them misfired. On the other hand, West Central hit 11 treys and capitalized on crucial free throws down the stretch.

Robinson and Regnerus with 11 each and Szymonski with nine were Vermillion's high scorers. Brooklyn Ketcham with 21, Madison Kuehl with 17 and Allie Macdonald with 13 led West Central's offense.



Beresford's Jessica Bogue (33) manages to slow down but couldn't stop Vermillion's Kelly Amundson (31) during Tuesday's basketball action in the VHS gym. Amundson led a balanced scoring attack with 16 points for the night.

(Photo by David Lias)

phone > data > video > television advertising >

Custom Solutions for Custom Customers.

Most communications companies offer you a one-size-fits-all solution because it's easy for them. Not because it's better for you.

Midcontinent Business Solutions™ knows one size fits no one. So we deliver custom phone, data and video solutions for every one of our unique customers, with the kind of choices in service and pricing that businesses need to thrive. After all, it's better to have one unique solution to fit your business, instead of making your business fit into one solution.

To Midcontinent Business Solutions™, every customer is custom.

> BUSINESS BROADBAND PACKAGES

Up to 6 mos. service

FREE

with speeds of up to 100 Mbps x 15 Mbps

Business Broadband Service starts at just

\$65 PER MO.

for up to 30 Mbps x 5 Mbps

Just call 1.800.888.1300 or visit midcontinent.biz

Midcontinent
Business Solutions

Making Your Business Better.

Limited time offer. Some restrictions apply. Contract or contract extension required. Video package is Basic Cable with set top box and does not include public viewing packages. An HDTV is required to receive HD programming. Actual Internet speeds may vary depending on your computer's capacity and web traffic. Speeds may also be impacted by third party equipment (such as your computer or router). All services not available in all areas. To find out what services are available in your area, visit midcontinent.biz.

The Spa at Wynnie Mae's
120 W. Main St., Ste. 102, Vermillion

is excited to announce the addition of **Amy Schultz**

Amy is an award winning stylist with 30 years experience in creative cuts and color. Available by appointment Mondays & every other Saturday. Call 605-658-1234

INTRO SPECIAL...Color Foil, Haircut & Finish \$65 long hair extra

Hurry In For A Lennox Rebate Up To **\$2200**

Efficient and Comfort
only from... **LENNOX**
and... **Larry's**

Innovation never felt so good.™

920 Broadway
Yankton, SD
665-9461

HEATING & COOLING