

TOURNEY CHAMPS



The Vermillion sixth grade boys basketball team headed north to an eight-team bracket tournament in Castlewood. Their first opponent was against Milbank, in which they won 18-8. Their next game was against home team Castlewood, and won 22-12. The final championship game was against Sioux Valley. Vermillion won 22-21 and were champions of the tournament. The team is coached by Jim Brady and Farron Pratt. Pictured are (from left, top row) Rylan Pratt, Bradyn Rusher, Carter Larson, Nate Brady, (bottom row) Bottom Row: Daniel Fuller, Riley Johnson, Gabe DeJong and Josh Prescott.

Region 2A wrestling tourney wraps up Friday

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Wrestling survival is on the line at the Vermillion High School gym tonight (Friday) as the final session of the Region 2A Tournament has its first faceoff at 6 p.m.

On the line are berths in next week's state "A" tournament at Aberdeen. The top four placers in each weight class qualify for that event, and those wrestlers will be determined tonight. The regional began with a 5 p.m. session last night (Thursday).

Matmen from Tea Area, Harrisburg, Dakota Valley, Sioux Falls Washington, Brandon Valley, Sioux Falls Lincoln, Yankton, Lennox and Vermillion are competing for the coveted state tourney trips.

For the Tanager wrestlers the

regular season ended with a win and a loss in a triangular at Harrisburg last Friday. The win was a major one, however, as the Tanagers by defeating Harrisburg, 42-30, clinched the Big 8 Conference regular-season duals championship.

Vermillion won seven of the 12 weight classes actually wrestled, and one of the most exciting of those wins came at 138 pounds where Nate Samudzi won his first-ever varsity match with a pin in 4:38 over the Tigers' Matt Hudson.

Kyle Seibel got the ball rolling for VHS with an 8-7 decision over Taylor Dalen at 106 pounds. Carter Kratz won big-time over Bryce Zamora at 120, accumulating points to the tune of 17-1 for a technical fall.

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VHS gymnastss competing at State A in Brookings

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

By placing second in the four-school Region 2A gymnastics tournament at Wagner last Friday, Vermillion's gymnasts qualified as a team for state tournament competition at the Swift Center in Brookings today (Friday).

The Tanager team will also be well represented in the Class "A" individual competitions at Brookings Saturday as Vermillion qualified four athletes on the beam, four in floor exercise, three in the vault and three on bars as well as one in the all-around competition.

At the regional Madison won the team title with a 144.200 score, and the Tanagers were next at 121.650. Wagner scored 115.150 and West Central 97.025.

The Tanagers had trailed Wagner by approximately five points in a meet the previous week, so earning the state tournament trip over the Red Raiders by a margin of more than six points made it a superb day for Vermillion gymnasts.

In the all-around competition where the top five advance to state, freshman Jamie Moos earned that fifth and last spot with a 30.725 score.

On the uneven parallel bars where VHS had its second-highest team score of the entire season, three gymnasts advanced to state by placing among the top

12. Moos was eighth at 7.5250, junior Morgan Hower tied for ninth at 7.4750, and eighth grader Cheyenne Mallory was 12th at 7.0500.

Four Tanagers advanced on the balance beam, including junior Jade Fostvedt with a 7.8500 score, junior Rory Tucker at 7.5500, senior Cassie Donahoe at 7.1750 and Moos at 7.1250. They placed seventh through 10th, respectively.

VHS will also have four gymnasts in the floor exercise event Saturday, including Tucker, seventh at 8.3250; junior Alexis Reich, eighth at 8.0750; Fostvedt, 10th at 7.8750 and Moos, 12th at 7.8250.

Three vaulters qualified, including Moos, ninth at 8.2500; sophomore Anna Hammond, 10th at 8.000, and Mallory, 11th at 7.9250.

Here are scores of VHS gymnasts who competed at the regional but who did not advance to state:

Vault: Hower, 13th, 7.8500; Reich, tie-14th, 7.8000; eighth grader Maddie Mockler, tie-14th, 7.8000.

Floor exercise: Mallory, 14th, 7.6250; Hower, 17th, 7.3750.

Beam: Mockler, 13th, 6.7500; Hower, 16th, 6.5000.

Bars: Hammond, 14th, 5.7750; senior Ellie Glover, 15th, 5.6250; Mockler, 18th, 4.8500.

All-around: Hower, eighth, 29.200; Mallory, 13th, 22.600.

Tanagers cling to narrow lead in fight for District 8A top seed

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Vermillion's girls won two of three games last week, improving their record to 15-3 as they headed to Wagner to face the top-rated Red Raiders Tuesday night in the regular-season finale.

As this week began, the Tanagers had a narrow lead over Beresford in the fight for top seed in the District 8A Tournament, which starts with semifinal play Tuesday night. The Watchdogs' final game was against Sioux Falls Christian last night (Thursday). Whichever team finishes with home-court advantage will face No. 4 seed Elk Point-Jefferson while the other will get Dakota Valley in the semifinals.

The district championship game is set for next Thursday at the home court of the higher-seeded participant.

Also left to be determined this week was the Big 8 Conference championship. A Thursday night loss to West Central last week, 47-42, cost the Tanagers a chance for an outright title. But a 56-50 win over Harrisburg the following night left them at 6-2 for the league season. In order for Vermillion to come out with a share of the conference title, West Central (6-1) would have had to lose to Lennox last night (Thursday).

The win over Harrisburg seemed safely certain during the first three quarters Friday, but the Tigers came up with 20 points, including four three-point baskets, in the fourth period to draw to within three points at 53-50 with 26 seconds left. Kelly Amundson sank both ends of a one-and-one opportunity, and Beth Szymonski added one free throw for the final six-point margin.

Earlier VHS had dominated, leading 19-8 after a quarter, 33-18 at the half and 43-30 after three stanzas. One of the evening's great sources of pleasure for Coach Nick Mayer was Blair Gilkyson's 6-of-8 night of field-goal shooting. She finished as high scorer with 15 points. Amundson had 13, Lexi Regnerus contributed nine, Val Robinson seven, Josie Huber and Szymonski five each, and Bailey Carlson and Mackenzie Huber two apiece. Szymonski led rebounders with nine, and Robinson had five assists.

For Harrisburg Morgan Beamer had 14 and Brittany Blakney and Alex Johnson 11 points each.

Against West Central, who handed VHS two of its losses this year, the Tanagers were cool from the field in the first half, but a 17-7 advantage in the third lifted them into the lead by 33-28. West Central rebounded to finish strong, hitting crucial shots in the fourth



VHS's Josie Huber scores two of her five points of the night as the Tanagers defeated Harrisburg 56-50 Feb. 10 in the Vermillion High School gym.

(Photo by David Lias)

period to outscore VHS 19-9 and win by five.

Amundson had 20 points and 10 rebounds while Szymonki had seven points and eight boards.

Two nights earlier at Dakota Valley the Tanagers had a comfortable lead that extended from 26-16 at halftime to 38-24 after three quarters. However, VHS scored only four

points the last 12 minutes and turned the ball over several times, giving the Panthers a chance. They did climb to within nine, but VHS was on target from the free-throw stripe down the stretch.

Regnerus and Amundson had 10 points each, Robinson nine, Josie Huber seven, Szymonki four and Mackenzie Huber two.

VAST swims at Last Chance in Sioux Center, Iowa

Swimmers looking to qualify to end-of-the-year meets had their chance this past weekend in Sioux Center, IA.

Their last chance.

The Vermillion Area Swim Team sent a large number of swimmers to Sioux Center for the Tri-State Last Chance meet. The meet helps all swimmers try to qualify in more events to the South Dakota State meet as well as the Tri-State League Championships. Both meets will take place in the next few weeks.

Leading the way once again was 11-year-old Maddie Lavin. Lavin swam to victories in all five of her individual events in Sioux Center. In her first event, she narrowly missed the South Dakota state record in the 200-yard butterfly. She touched the wall 1.5 seconds slower than the state record, which has been held since January of 2001.

The only other VAST swimmer to sweep all of his individual events was 8-year-old

Gabe Telleria. He kept his great season going by winning the 25-yard butterfly, 50-yard breaststroke, 100-yard individual medley, 25-yard backstroke and the 25-yard freestyle.

Ten-year-old Anna Van Holland turned in a great meet as well. The second-year swimmer placed first in four out of five events in the day. She

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Anderson-Kahl earns first letter

Alex Anderson-Kahl, a 2008 graduate of Vermillion High School, earned his first letter for his contributions as a member of the 2011 Luther College football team. The award was presented at the Luther College football banquet held Feb. 4, in Peace Dining Center located on the Luther College campus.

Anderson-Kahl is the son of Ed Anderson and Julie Kahl of Vermillion, S.D.

Luther College is a four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and is located in Decorah, IA. The Norse compete in 10 men's and nine women's intercollegiate sports.

More information on Luther College athletics can be found on the athletic web site at <http://sports.luther.edu>.

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