

■ DAZE

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help the home team stay in contention.

"It's good to have open shots and stuff, but it's also good to get your teammates involved as well," Haleigh Melstad said. "If you get them involved early it really helps and at the end of the game when people are looking to shoot."

It was quite an entertaining start to things as the two teams showed some early offensive proficiency. Thanks to six points from Kayla Kieler and the five points of Claire Johnson the Panthers led 14-12 after one quarter of play.

Haleigh Melstad led Vermillion with five first-quarter points.

It was a high-paced affair throughout the first half as a dozen different players combined from both teams to get on the board as Dakota Valley held a slim 29-26 edge going into the break.

The Panthers took advantage of a rain shower of Vermillion turnovers to start the third quarter and led 35-26 at the 5:17 mark of the third period.

It was a pivotal stretch for the Panthers, who were anything but a defensive juggernaut, but used the run to kick start a blistering second half offensive performance.

"Without the beginning of that third quarter, those are the spurts you have to get rid of," Brooks said. "If you get rid of it you are right there with them. You keep working and working anything can happen at (Region Tournament) time."

At the tail-end of the third quarter, Vermillion got under control and eliminated their passing and dribbling faux pas but Dakota Valley answered each Tanager hoop with one of its own.

That ability to answer each challenge was parlayed into a 50-38 lead going into the fourth quarter.

The Panthers came into the contest having also scored 75 points at region leaders Elk Point-Jefferson the previous Saturday in a two-point win and Tanager fans got a firsthand look at how.

Dakota Valley attacked inside and out and never relented on the assault as it kept Vermillion far in its review mirror to pull away despite some solid fourth quarter play by the Tanagers.

The Panthers just had too much.

"Our energy was there and we played hard, but there were times where we fell asleep for a half second and that really hurt us," Haleigh Melstad said. "(Dakota Valley) has people that can score from every single spot."

"We are trying to figure out how to put both (offense and defense together). It will come and it might take time, but we have to get it together if we want to go to the places we want to go. It takes all of us.



Tanager Sydney Peters (21) made some hair-raising plays on Tuesday against Dakota Valley, Alas, her and Peters' teammates' efforts weren't enough to avoid a 73-64 loss to the Panthers.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK
They are a good basketball team, but we could be the best team in the region if we put it together and everybody wants to win."

Dakota Valley girls def. Vermillion 73-64
DVHS 14 15 21 23 - 73
VHS 12 14 12 26 - 64

DAKOTA VALLEY

Claire Johnson 14, Abby Faldmo 14, Kayla Kieler 12, Sara Bohan 3, Haley Hoffman 18, Peyton Wingert 2, Anne McCabe 4, Jessica Feilmeier 6.

VERMILLION

Haleigh Melstad 25, Sydney Peters 2, Rachel Finnegan 0, Tori Gregoire 0, Autumn Barnett 5, Kasey Jensen 9, Twila Sweeney 10, Kyleigh Melstad 9, Hailey Freidel 2, Maddie Regnerus 2, Shantel French 0.

Panthers Continue Winning Ways Over Tanagers

The game was a track meet to start, but then the Panther boys began to grind out their possessions a bit longer after the intermission and that was enough to keep the Tanagers at bay in a 56-48 Dakota Valley win.

"That's the tough thing and it's disappointing from the standpoint of our schedule," Vermillion head coach Jay Drake said. "You look at the Madisons and the (Sioux Falls) Christians and they are very good and great programs and DV has been good but they are the only team on our schedule we haven't beaten in seven years."

"It's disappointing because we had a chance tonight and let it get away. In the fourth quarter you could tell they wanted it more and had the confidence. We have to figure out the way to battle through that."

Cooper Williams paced Vermillion (7-10) with 17 points while Carter Andre

Williams still had the hot hand after a run of solid performances and his 12 first-half points kept Vermillion up at the halftime 32-28.

The Panthers (7-9) flexed the hex in the third quarter running past the Tanagers to a 42-39 lead late in the third quarter.

Vermillion entered the fourth quarter down 44-41.

Two John Prochello hoops put the Panthers up 50-46 with 3:23 as the Tanagers took a time out.

A minute-plus later the DV lead grew to eight and a Panther victory was in hand.

It was a frustrating defeat for the Tanagers who thought this match-up in this year was the one where they would break through and end their rival's dominance in the series

"We obviously knew we had to stop their dribble penetration which led to a couple of threes and they hit seven in the first half," Drake said. "In the second half they just broke us down off the dribble penetration. A big key was we were down one possession in the fourth quarter and we had terrible offensive possessions. Trying to put yourself in position down the stretch and instead we are turning it over and not getting shots it puts a lot of pressure put on you to score (late in the game)."

Both Tanager teams are back in action next Tuesday with a doubleheader against Wagner.

Dakota Valley boys def. Vermillion 56-48
DVHS 13 15 16 12 - 56
VHS 15 17 9 7 - 48

DAKOTA VALLEY

Tyler Johnson 14, Luke Schmitt 10, Robert Rosenquist 5, Jayse Kittler 9, Jack McCabe 7, John Prochello 11.

VERMILLION

Cooper Williams 17, Paul Schwasinger 2, Jeremiah Johnson 5, Carter Andre 10, Brandon Mockler 2, Matt Ouellette 2, Jefferson Galvin 10, Riley Peters 0.



Madisen Martinez (34) and Vermillion Junior Varsity Girls' Basketball team rolled to a 16-0 record this season with a relatively easy win over Dakota Valley on Tuesday night.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

classes.

Regan remained undefeated for the season and improved his record to 41-0 going 4-0 in the tournament. Regan received a BYE in the first round and then won his next three matches by decisions. In the championship match, Regan won by decision over Kasey Klapprodt (39-4) from Rapid City.

"Regan beat the defending state champion in the final match and that win helped him to be named the Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament," said Coach Bye.

Brett Bye improved his record to 34-0 for the season. Brett also received a BYE in the first round and then went on to pin his next opponent from Brookings, defeated Wisam Najdawi (Sioux City North) by a major decision, and then won by fall in the championship match defeating Gavyn Angerman from Millard South.

Hage wrestled very well at 120 pounds and made it to the championship round by winning his first two

matches with pins and a decision in the third round match. In the championship match, Hage (36-5) wrestled Zac Charity (44-0) from Millard South. Charity outpointed Hage 10-4 to win the match by decision.

Kratz (30-9) made it to the first place match by winning his first two matches by fall and then had a 12-7 decision over Omaha Millard South's Ryan Kostszewa (36-8). In the first place match, Kratz lost a heart breaker in "sudden victory" overtime. If the third period ends in a tie, one minute is put on the clock, both wrestlers start in the neutral position, and the first wrestler to score a point wins. Tied at three apiece at the end of regulation,

Kratz and Kyle Yasgar (39-3) from Sioux Falls Roosevelt went into overtime. Kratz lost the match to last year's state champion Yasgar in sudden victory 5-3 when Yasgar scored a takedown.

Other Tanager wrestlers placing in the Yankton Invitational were Riley Beach (22-19) at 106. Beach finished the tournament in sixth place. In the 113 pound weight class, Jacob Husby finished the tournament in seventh place. In the 126 pound division, Kyle Seibel placed in sixth place.

The Tanagers compete in the Dakota XII conference tournament in Dell Rapids Saturday with the competition set to begin at 10 a.m. for the Tanagers.



Vermillion High's Rachel Finnegan attacks the hoop Friday night during the Tanagers' 59-42 defeat at Sioux City North.

ALAN DALE / THE PLAIN TALK

Tanagers Lose Grip on Victory Late at North

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

SIoux CITY, Iowa - A string of seven solid quarters of offensive basketball dating back to Monday came to an unfortunate end Friday night in Sioux City.

Taking on a beatable Sioux City North Stars squad, the Vermillion High Tanager girls' basketball team went toe-to-toe for three quarters before the bottom fell out on a golden opportunity for a road win against a much bigger school.

A 21-6 fourth quarter run by the Stars blew up what was a close game and handed the Tanagers a 59-42 defeat in what was a much closer game that the score indicated.

It was also one the Vermillion girls (6-11) could have easily won.

"The first half they were running their zone and we got good shots, we thought we should have been up more at halftime," Vermillion head coach Jon Brooks said. "Coming out in the second half we were really excited to play and I thought we executed offensively. I would like to see our shot chart and see how many layups we missed. Those are great looks and we have to be able to knock them down."

Haleigh Melstad and Twila Sweeney scored 14 points apiece while the rest of the Tanagers combined for only 14 total points themselves.

"I think our mental toughness has to get better," Brooks said. "The other team goes on a 6-0 run and we let that affect us so much. Our girls are frustrated because they know they did good things, got the stuff we wanted to run and understand we got really good looks. We are really in a shooting slump right now."

Vermillion's newfound offensive prowess continued in the first quarter as they took a 14-12 lead after eight minutes. Melstad banged

home two triples and Sweeney cleaned up inside with two deuces to help the Tanagers lead early.

A Hailey Freidel follow up at the first half buzzer gave the Tanagers a 24-19 lead heading into the break.

Down seven early in the third quarter the Stars rallied to take a 30-28 lead at the 5:06 mark of the period thanks largely to two and-ones.

North led 38-36 heading in to the fourth quarter as both offenses heated up, especially Sweeney who had a run of six points to keep the Tanagers in contention.

The Stars scored the first six points or the fourth quarter to go up 44-36 with left 5:49 in the game, inducing Brooks to call timeout.

Vermillion's offense couldn't wiggle out of the cooler and North was able to hold on to its advantage as the clock moved south of the 3-minute marker,

The Stars wrapped up the game with a solid display from the free throw line as they completed a masterful performance there shooting 16-for-20 in the game.

"They made their free throws and we missed ours," Brooks said. "We'd get offensive rebounds and we just didn't make enough bunnies."

Sioux City North def. Vermillion, 59-42

VHS 14 10 12 6 - 42
SFN 12 7 19 21 - 59

VERMILLION

Haleigh Melstad 14, Rachel Finnegan 3, Sydney Peters 6, Tori Gregoire 2, Kasey Jensen 0, Kyleigh Melstad 0, Autumn Barnett 1, Shantel French 0, Twila Sweeney 14, Haleigh Freidel 2.

SIoux FALLS NORTH

Shauna Folchert 18, Maycean Schueth 2, Breonia Ferris 13, Madison Huggins 6, Mercy Oyadare 14, Hayley Gibson 3, Jasilyn Lauderdale 3.

■ WRESTLING

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(153.5), Sioux City North from Sioux City, Ia. was fifth with 127.0 points.

The remaining nine teams in the tournament were Vermillion sixth (124.5), Douglas seventh (100.0), Sioux City East eighth (96.0), Rapid City Stevens ninth (82.0), Mitchell tenth (81.0), Yankton eleventh (59), Sioux Falls Lincoln twelfth (47), Dakota Valley thirteenth (35) and Sioux Falls O'Gorman (30).

"This was a great tournament for us as a team and for the fans in the bleachers," said Coach Bye. "It has great competition for the wrestlers and with all four mats in the same gym, the fans can watch all the wrestling without moving around."

Top finishers for the Tanagers were individual champions Regan Bye in the 160 pound class and Brett Bye in the 170 pound class. Trey Hage and Carter Kratz finished runner up in their respective weight

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