



Vermillion's Morgan Erickson follows through after stealing the ball from an Elk Point-Jefferson opponent by moving the ball down court and finishing with a successful layup Tuesday. (Photo by David Lias)

Tanager girls come oh so close to BB victory Tuesday

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Elk Point-Jefferson broke away from a 19-19 tie midway through the third period and never trailed again, but Vermillion made it uncomfortably interesting Tuesday night in a 40-38 loss to the Huskies at the VHS gym.

The Tanagers faced a 30-24 deficit heading into the final quarter. They crept to within 36-32 with 3:05 remaining and had a shot to cut the deficit down to two points but missed it, and EP-J responded with three points for its biggest lead of the night at 39-32.

Yet the pesky Tanagers couldn't be shaken. Morgan Erickson's basket and subsequent free throw with 29 seconds left made it 39-35. Vermillion fouled immediately, and EP-J helped by not only missing two free throws but also fouling themselves on the rebound of the latter missed shot.

Sierra Allen made one of two free throws to pull VHS within three. The Tanagers fouled deliberately again, and this time the Huskies managed one of two free throws with 15 seconds left. The Tanagers could do nothing more until a meaningless tip-in at the final buzzer cut the final margin to two.

Erickson was high scorer for VHS with 11. Sophie Nehlich-Arobba added 10 and Sarah Day 10. EP-J was led by Chrissy Strassburg's 11 points and nine apiece from Shelby Larsen, Reanna Bertram and Tory McCreary.

Sophie Nehlich-Arobba was credited with nine rebounds, Day seven and Hannah Nehlich-Arobba six.

Last Tuesday the Lady Tanagers fell victim to a scourge of Lennox free throws in a 37-26 loss to the Orioles.

Vermillion scored in the first half-minute of the game but then went a full quarter before scoring again. Down 10-2, the Tanagers crept back to within 17-9 at halftime and 26-19 after three periods.

The Tanagers reduced their deficit to four points early in the fourth quarter but couldn't get key shots to drop. Beth Szymanski scored with 2:35 left to cut the gap to 28-24, but the Orioles were red-hot at the free-throw stripe. In fact, all 11 of the fourth-quarter points scored by Lennox came via free throws, and the Orioles made 13 of 15 for the game.

Shooting only 24 percent from the field for the game, the Tanagers were led offensively by Sierra Allen and Morgan Erickson with seven points apiece. Brianna McEntee had 12 points and Allison McEntee 10 for Lennox.

The VHS girls have a busy weekend, going to Lennox Friday night, then taking on Sergeant Bluff-Luton in the Dakota Valley Classic at 3:15 p.m. Saturday in North Sioux City. Next Thursday the Tanagers play at West Central.

Fourth quarter surge not enough for Tanager win

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

A 23-point fourth-quarter surge might be enough to rally to victory in some games. The problem is that, just prior to that final-period effort Tuesday night, the Vermillion Tanagers had endured an eight-point third quarter.

Though they were still within one shot of tying the game with 26 seconds left, the Tanagers eventually lost to Elk Point-Jefferson, 61-54.

The Tanagers missed nine of 17 free throws, including six in the crucial fourth quarter but yet with a basket here, a basket there, or one less turnover here or there, this was still amazingly a game they could have won. One reason they were still in it till the bitter end was that the Huskies were also atrocious at the stripe, missing half of their 26 tries.

A 7-0 EP-J run to start the second quarter had opened the game up a bit, and the Huskies never trailed after that. Their lead ranged from three points to as many as 12 a minute into the final period.

But Coach Jay Drake's Tanagers, though heavily outrebounded throughout, especially in the paint at both ends of the court, persevered. With under three minutes to go, they still were in arrears by nine points. But three-point daggers by Cole Andre and Kylan Freidel and five points from Jason Rasmussen had VHS with 56-52 with 40 seconds left.

A Husky free throw at the 0:36 mark was answered by two Andre free throws at 0:26, and it was a one-possession game at 57-54. The Tanagers continued to foul quickly, hoping the Huskies would continue their mediocre free-throw shooting. But Brock Zeller and Ethan Pace sank two apiece the rest of the way to keep the Tanagers afloat.

Unofficial rebounding stats showed EP-J with 29 boards, but it seemed they had many more than that, and most of them belonged to bruising 6'5" junior Pace, who also had 19 points. All of his seven field goals came from under the basket where he simply could not be contained.

Freshman Brock Zeller contributed 16 points to Coach Cole Knipping's cause. Guards Ben Staum and Colin Viereck added eight and seven, respectively.

Vermillion's one-two punch of Andre and Freidel accounted for 39 of the team's 54 points—22 and 17, respectively. Rasmussen had seven, all in the fourth quarter, and Tyler Husby five.

Last week the Tanagers saw their



Vermillion's Cole Andre drives the ball downcourt during basketball action Tuesday against Elk Point-Jefferson. (Photo by David Lias)

record drop to 4-4 overall and 2-2 in the league with a pair of Big Eight losses on the road.

In Lennox a 20-6 second-quarter propelled the Orioles into 28-13 halftime lead, and Coach Jay Drake said that, even when things aren't going well offensively, "we have to learn to still hang in there at the other end."

In the second half the Tanagers cut their deficit to single digits a couple of times but couldn't get over that proverbial hump in a 50-38 loss.

Vermillion shot 32 percent from the field, but Lennox, while taking the same number of shots (44), connected on five more than the Tanagers did and outrebounded VHS 27-20.

Jason Rasmussen scored 11 points, Kylan Freidel nine and Tyler Husby eight to lead the offense. Freidel also had seven rebounds and two assists.

At West Central the Tanagers trailed early, 17-10 after one period, but roared to a 28-23 halftime lead and still were ahead 35-34 after three stanzas. However, the Trojans prevailed down the stretch to win by 49-45.

Freidel and Husby had 14 and 10 points, respectively, and three rebounds each. Cole Andre and Austin Krier contributed six points each, Aaron Steele five and Rasmussen four. A prominent statistic, however, was the 30-13 rebounding deficit the Tanagers couldn't offset.

Mike Wenk and Tyler Wickstrom had 14 points each and Devin Albers 11 for West Central.

The Tanagers return to action at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Dakota Valley Classic against Pine Ridge. They will be home twice next week – Tuesday against West Central and Thursday against Dell Rapids.

USD football kicker hospitalized

VERMILLION (AP) — The coach of the University of South Dakota football team said Friday that a kicker who was injured in a skiing accident was "slowly coming out of it."

Coach Ed Meierkort said redshirt freshman Sam Sawyer of Brandon suffered severe head and chest injuries while skiing in the Black Hills last week. He was put in a medically induced coma.

The coach said Sawyer was being weaned from medication Friday and was starting to make gestures. Family members said on a Web site that Sawyer was smiling and responding to some questions.

Meierkort said that until the 20-year-old Sawyer becomes fully alert officials won't know how the skiing accident happened.

LEAGUE BOWLING

Ladies National League January 12, 2010		Sandy Marker		172
Team Name	Won	Lost	Angela Peterson	169
Team BK	40.0	19.0	Mary Mock	168
Whimp's	38.5	21.5	Candie Beninga	164
Lamie's Cleaning	33.0	26.0	High Scr. Series-Team	Score
Pace's	30.0	30.0	Aramark	1659
Aramark	22.5	37.5	Market Street	1579
Market Street	15.0	45.0	Whimp's	1544
High Scr. Game-Team	Score	High Scr. Series	Score	Score
Aramark	561	Dawna Andersen	469	
Market Street	549	Mary Mock	466	
Whimp's	541	Sandy Marker	445	
High Scr. Game	Score	Candace Joy	431	
Dawna Andersen	172	Traci Bartekoske	423	

VHS wrestlers win team title at Harrisburg

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Since the season began, Vermillion's wrestlers have been making the championship session of each of their tournaments their own little Saturday night party.

It happened again in Harrisburg last weekend when the Tanagers placed nine of their men into championship matches and seven of them emerged as champions at the Harrisburg Invitational.

Vermillion accumulated 223.5 points to win the team title, 22 points better than Sioux Falls Washington at 201.5. Farther back were Harrisburg at 156, Fulda/Murray County Central at 128.5 and Madison at 128.

The Tanagers' championship roster included T.J. North at 112 pounds, Lance Burkhart at 135, Bennet Johnson at 145, Tanner Mart at 160, Chris Mart at 171, Nick Mart at 189 and Gerrit Heine at 215. Placing second were Earl Kiertzner at 130 and Will Mart at heavyweight. Brett Bye finished fourth at 103 pounds.

North remained undefeated after reaching his championship match by pinning Milbank's Jordan Redmond in

3:45. Burkhart secured his crown with a 7-5 decision over Jake Devine of Harrisburg. Johnson's title came after a 4-3 decision in his finale against Harrisburg's Mitchell Devine.

Three straight titles from the Mart family all came in dominating fashion with major decisions. Tanner won over Tanner Suess of Scotland, 14-5; Chris whipped Washington's Devon O'Farrell, 13-4, and Nick toppled Jacob Jager of Madison, 20-7.

Heine won his crown with a

5-1 victory over Madison's Mason Riedesel.

Kiertzner settled for second place after a hard-luck 1-0 loss to Washington's Nate Larson in his championship match. Will Mart was pinned in 4:47 by Taylor Harris of Harrisburg in his final match. Bye got to his third-place match where he was pinned in 3:23 by Dylan Larson of Washington.

Coach Joe Delvaux and his grapplers go west to Winner's invitational tournament Saturday. On Monday they will

give local fans the last chance this winter to watch this outstanding team of wrestlers on their home mat when Randolph and Ponca bring their Nebraska teams to VHS for a triangular starting at 5:30 p.m.

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