

Coyotes drop game at Western Illinois

It was a tale of two halves for the South Dakota men's basketball team as it dropped a 67-44 Summit League contest at Western Illinois Tuesday evening at Macomb, IL. With the loss, the Coyotes fell to 5-9 on the year and 0-5 in conference play, while Western Illinois improved to 7-5 overall and 2-2 in conference play.

The Coyotes were led by 18 points by senior Charlie Westbrook (Milwaukee, WI) who was the lone Coyote in double figures. He was 8 of 12 from the field and led the team with six rebounds. Senior Louie Krogman (White River) had six points, while freshman Nimrod Hilliard added five.

As a team, the Coyotes shot 40.9 percent from the field on 18 of 44. They were just 2 of 12 from beyond the arc and 6 of 12 from the line. South Dakota shot 63.2 percent in the first half, but went just 6 of 25 from the field in the second half and 0 of 8 from beyond the arc after opening the game 1 of 4 from range.

WIU shot 54.3 percent on 25 of 46 from the field and 6 of 11 from beyond the arc to go along with 11 of 16 from the line. Obi Emegano led all-scorers with 20 points as was 9 of 12 from the field, while Ceola Clark was 7 of 10 from the field, including a game-high 5 of 7 from beyond the arc for 19 points and he had seven assists. Terrell Parks chipped in 10 points and a game-high nine rebounds.

The Leathernecks scored the first four points, but the Coyotes came back with the next six as they began the game 5 of 7 from the field for 71.4 percent. Westbrook had four early points to lead the team as it was down 12-11 with 8:45 remaining in the half.

Boys fall to Tea Area Titans 52-43

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Vermillion's boys basketball team, home for three of the season's first five games, began a four-game stretch on the road last night at West Central, hoping to stay perfect in the Big 8 Conference.

Tonight the Tanagers play at Parkston as part of a girls-boys doubleheader. Next week Vermillion goes to Bon Homme Tuesday and to Lennox Friday. Their next home game is against Elk Point-Jefferson on Jan. 17.

Last Friday the Tanagers were down by only a point, 23-22, at halftime, but a strong third quarter by Tea Area lifted the Titans into command of the game, and they were able to keep that lead the rest of the way toward a 52-43 win.

It was Vermillion's second straight loss after starting the campaign with three victories.

Eighteen turnovers crippled the Tanagers' chances at beating Tea Area, and so did a less-than-stellar night at the free-throw line where VHS sank only nine of 20 attempts.

Austin Krier went 7-of-15 from the field, including 3-of-7 from long-range, and 2-of-3 at the stripe for a team-high 19 points. Anthony Leber contributed 11 points, but then the scoring dropped off to five by Caleb Miller.

Vermillion had a rebounding edge of 24-21, led by J.T. Sorensen's strong 10-board game, eight of them coming at the defensive end. Miller was next-high with six rebounds.

A 17-10 advantage in the third quarter gave Tea Area a 40-32 lead after three stanzas, and that margin held up for an eventual nine-point triumph.



Vermillion's Tanner Settles tumbles over a Tea Area player while attempting to steal the ball during action in the Vermillion High School gymnasium Friday night.

(Photo by David Lias)

Tanager girls' defense keeps winning streak alive against Sioux City East

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

When one's shooting percentage is cooler than usual, it's up to the defense to step to the forefront. Because Vermillion's defense did just that, holding Sioux City East to one fourth-quarter point, the Tanager girls are undefeated through six games after a 37-30 triumph in Sioux City.

The VHS girls will share a doubleheader with the boys at Parkston tonight (Friday), before spending next week at home - Tuesday against Madison and Thursday against Lennox. Both of next week's contests are Big 8 Conference games, and the Tanagers already stand at 2-0 in league play.

In the case of the Parkston girls, the Tanagers will run into the state's fourth-ranked team.

At East's gym Tuesday, five Kelly Amundson points and three three-point baskets - one each by Beth Szymonski, Val Robinson and Lexi Regnerus - lifted the Tanagers from an early 4-0 disadvantage, which would prove to be their largest deficit all night long. From a 14-10 first-period lead, the Tanagers

and the Black Raiders exchanged second-quarter baskets as Regnerus, Amundson, Bailey Carlson and Amundson again each scored, and each time East answered. It was 22-21 at the half.

A pair of treys in the third by East's leading scorer, Tara Schwaderer, gave her team a 29-26 lead, but two Amundson baskets righted the ship, the latter shot giving the Tanagers a 30-29 third-quarter lead, and VHS would not trail again.

Both teams missed good chances to score as the fourth quarter wore on, the Tanager defense frustrating East while the VHS girls themselves couldn't get their three-point tries to fall.

Blair Gilkyson's steal and lay-up made it 32-29. Robinson's steal led to a possession on which she was fouled for a free throw and a 33-29 advantage. The only East point of the entire period was a Schwaderer free throw.

Vermillion gained breathing room on a basket by Amundson with 2:20 left. From then on the Tanagers coolly played keep-away until East was forced to foul. Amundson's free throw at

0:52 made it 36-30, and Szymonski's free toss with 14 seconds left sealed the deal.

Amundson led the offense with 16 points. Regnerus had seven, Robinson six, Szymonski four, Carlson two and Gilkyson two.

"We didn't make as many shots as we would have liked," Coach Nick Mayer said in his post-game interview, "but the girls did a good job of working the ball around after East began to concentrate on Amundson inside. We took good care of the ball till we did get a shot."

Mayer admitted the game may not have been too spine-tingling for fans to watch as the two teams stuck to their zone defenses, "but we'll take a win on the road any time."

Last Friday the Tanagers improved to 5-0 with a convincing 60-37 win at home over Tea Area. Phenomenal success at, first of all, drawing opposition fouls and then, once at the stripe, sinking free throws was a major factor as the Tanagers made 20 of 21 attempts from the line. But Vermillion likely would have won anyway, considering their strong work on the boards and

scrappy play throughout.

A 13-8 second quarter lifted the Tanagers from a 19-11 first-quarter advantage into a 32-19 halftime lead. A 9-0 run toward the end of the third period transformed an 11-point lead into a 20-point margin, and by that time the Titans were out of luck. Vermillion then had a 15-point fourth period, 11 of them from Val Robinson, in extending the lead to the final 24-point spread.

Kelly Amundson had a dynamite game of 22 points, nine rebounds and three steals. Robinson contributed 21 points, Josie Huber had eight points off the bench and Beth Szymonski seven.

Morgan Heirigs led Tea Area with 18 points and seven boards.



Blair Gilkyson keeps the ball safe from a Tea Area defender while driving down the court in the Vermillion High School gymnasium Friday. The Tanagers defeated the Titans 60-37.

(Photo by David Lias)

Hegge, Boss post big games as South Dakota Downs Southern Utah

By Keith A. Brockberg
P&D Correspondent

After Thursday night's 66-53 loss to Oral Roberts, University of South Dakota's head coach Ryn Williams promised that his team would respond.

They did so on Saturday as they picked up their first home win in the Summit League as the Coyotes outlasted the resilient Southern Utah Thunderbirds 81-69 at the DakotaDome Saturday afternoon.

"Southern Utah did a good job of taking it at us and we had a tough time making stops," Williams said. "They were a little frustrating but our team definitely responded."

The Coyotes weren't frustrated as they used a 12-0 run to take a 14-2 lead.

Jodie Boss scored twice from the block while blocking a pair of Thunderbird shots on the other end as the Coyotes were dominating the court's full 90 feet.

Tempestt Wilson and Alexis Yackley each tacked on 3-pointers during the run.

The T-Birds made their first field goal of the game at the 13:28 mark as Hailey Mandelko cued up from the corner for a 3-pointer.

Mandelko's shot sparked a 7-0 Thunderbird run as Kimie Hawkins followed with a hoop on a drive and Carli Moreland worked for an offensive rebound and bucket, trimming USD's lead to 14-9.

A 9-2 spurt from the Thunderbirds further cut into the USD lead.

Brenna Gates knocked down a pair of free throws and scored on a down-low dish from Moreland. Hawkins converted a short jumper and Mandelko swished another trey, and suddenly the Coyote lead was just 27-25.

Amber Hegge scored eight points in the final 2:32 of the half, keeping the Coyotes in front 36-31 going into the break.

Hegge had 17 points at the half to lead all scorers while Mandelko, Southern Utah's top-scorer with 12.5 points-per-game, led the Thunderbirds with 11 points.

With Hegge too much for Southern Utah to handle one on one, the 6-1 senior kicked out to Annie Roche, who was left wide open as the T-Bird defense collapsed on Hegge. Roche swished the shot and USD's lead was again manageable at 45-37 with 15:59 to play.

But as they were all afternoon, the Thunderbirds would not go away.

Southern Utah closed to within five at 55-50 after a trey from D.J. Norman at the 11:10 mark, and to 59-56 on a jumper

from Norman with 8:49 remaining.

Up stepped Kelly Stewart, a 6-0 freshman who has played 17 minutes over her last five games, including a 1-minute cameo against Oral Roberts Thursday.

Stewart coolly swished a 3-pointer, her first shot of the game, giving the Coyotes a 62-56 lead.

From there, the Coyotes never looked back.

Stewart made six of six free throws, Hegge assisted Boss on a bucket, and Alexis Yackley scored from downtown, and the Coyotes pocketed the 81-69 win for their second league victory of the season.

"They definitely stayed it in for a long time, so we really had to toughen up in the second half, but we're happy for the win," Hegge said. "Kelly knocked down a really big shot and she made some free throws; it was really a team effort."

Stewart finished with nine points in her 14 critical minutes on the floor.

"Kelly had great minutes;

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