

Upcoming Sports Schedule

USD Men's Basketball hosts Oral Roberts	7 p.m. Dec. 30	Tanager Girls' Basketball at Sioux City East	4 p.m. Jan. 3
VHS Wrestling at SF Lincoln	10 a.m. Dec. 30	Tanager Boys' Basketball at West Central	5 p.m. Jan. 5
VHS Girls and Boys Basketball hosts Tea Area	2 p.m./5 p.m. Dec. 10	Tanager Bowling vs. Washington	4 p.m. Jan. 6
USD Women's Basketball hosts Southern Utah	7 p.m. Dec. 30	Tanager Wrestling at Brandon Valley	10:30 a.m. Jan. 7
		Tanager Gymnastics at Stanley County	12 p.m. Jan. 7

VAST has 22 first-place finishes in Yankton

The Vermillion Area Swim Team is back from the holiday hiatus and completed its first meet of the new year. Many swimmers have been working hard during the break toward making the South Dakota State meet and beyond.

Their hard work showed when VAST swimmers touched the wall first 22 different times during the day. Leading the way for VAST were Jacob Krier (boys 15-16), Lexie Malimanek and Madisen Martinez (girls 11-12), who finished first four different times on the day.

Seven-year-old Tally Allison finished in first place three times during the day in the 8-and-under division. Six-year-old Raphael Sternadori finished in first place in the 6-and-under 50-yard freestyle, his first ever first-place finish. Sternadori has been a member of the team for the last year.

Not only did VAST swim to 22 first-place finishes, but some VAST swimmers also recorded huge drops in their personal best times. Ashley Kniefel dropped just over 24 seconds in the 50-year butterfly, along with getting closer to the South Dakota state qualification time in the 50-year freestyle. First-year swimmer Alison Brennan dropped 16.5 seconds in the 50-yard backstroke, and Tristan Meadows dropped just over 10 seconds in the 50-year freestyle.

Anna Van Holland dropped just over 11 seconds in the 50-yard backstroke and touched the wall in second place in the girls' 9-10 age division with a time of 41.60. She also qualified to the state meet with that swim. This marked the sixth event in which she is qualified.

As of today, VAST has 16 current swimmers qualified to the South Dakota State Meet, which will be held in early March in Rapid City.

VAST continues its season this weekend in Sioux City, IA, for the annual SiouxLand Sharks Invitational. The two-day meet is a bigger one in this area, with teams from as far away as Omaha in attendance. VAST is sending 24 of its 35 swimmers to this meet.

For more information, please see the Vermillion Area Swim Team's new website: www.teamunify.com/sdvast.

Winning streak ends for Tanager girls Friday, followed by win Tuesday

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

A season-opening winning streak of six games came to an end for the Vermillion girls last Friday, but Tuesday night saw what was hopefully the start of a new one.

The Tanagers lost at highly-rated Parkston, 54-50, but rebounded with a 54-39 triumph over Madison, their third Big 8 Conference triumph of the year and their second over Madison.

Next week will find the Tanagers home again on Tuesday against Elk Point-Jefferson in a girls-boys doubleheader. The girls, who played Lennox here last night (Thursday), go to Lennox next Friday.

When the Tanagers fell behind Parkston by eight points at the end of the third quarter and by 10 moments into the fourth, it seemed the contest might be over. But in four blinks of an eye, Vermillion raced from a 46-36 deficit into a 47-46 lead with a stunning 11-0 run. It started with Bailey Carlson's two-pointer, continued with a pair of treys from Val Robinson, and concluded with Carlson's three-pointer.

However, Parkston

answered, quickly taking a 48-47 lead, then followed with a layup after a costly VHS turnover. Another three-point basket by Robinson at the 0:45 mark brought the Tanagers to within 52-50, but Parkston added a pair of free throws in the remaining seconds for the eventual four-point victory margin.

"To play an upper-echelon team close says a lot about our girls," Coach Nick Mayer said.

"It's a loss, but one loss doesn't define a season. We shot well and put in a good effort, and we got contributions from a lot of kids."

The Tanagers recovered from a shaky start to trail by only 14-12 after a quarter. They led briefly at 18-17 before Parkston's eight-point run gave the Trojans a seven-point advantage. From a 27-23 halftime lead Parkston again extended its edge through the third stanza on the strength of four three-point field goals.

Parkston's Marie Malloy had 20 points, 14 rebounds and five assists, and Logan Wagner scored 14. For the Tanagers Robinson had 21 points and eight rebounds. Lexi Regnerus contributed

12 points and Carlson 10.

The Tanagers committed 11 turnovers – seven of them in the first half – to only four by Parkston.

On Tuesday Vermillion and Madison scrapped and clawed with each other for 2 1/2 quarters until a sudden 13-0 explosion put the game in the Tanagers' hands for good. An Amundson feed to Blair Gilkyson started the run, then came successive treys by Josie Huber and Regnerus twice. The quarter ended with a Tanager in-bounds play with :00.7 on the clock. Amundson caught the ball, whirled and fired, scoring to give VHS a 43-29 lead.

In the final period a pair of steals and subsequent layups by Robinson, coupled with seven free throws in eight attempts, kept the Tanagers comfortably ahead.

Amundson had an earlier buzzer-beater, too. She fired a long three-pointer at the end of the first period, and it found the net for a 16-7 lead. Madison, however, outscored the Tanagers 17-8 in the second quarter to earn a 24-24 halftime tie. It was still only 30-29 for VHS midway through the third until the 13-0 run put it away.

It's hard to beat having



Vermillion Tanager Lexi Regnerus (21) drives the ball down the court during basketball action in the VHS gym Tuesday night against Madison. Regnerus led the Tanager offense with 16 points in the team's 54-39 win over the Bulldogs.

(Photo by David Lias)

four players in double figures. Regnerus scored 16 points, Robinson 11, Szymonski 10 and Amundson 10 along with

Josie Huber's five and two from Gilkyson. Holly Fiegen with 14 and Chloe Nordling with 11 led the Bulldogs.

Tanager boys have back-to-back wins over West Central, Parkston

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Vermillion stayed unbeaten in out-of-town games in boys basketball last week, winning at West Central and Parkston on back-to-back nights.

The Tanagers survived a night of 50 percent free-throw shooting – 13 out of 26 – by sinking nine of them in the fourth quarter to pull away from West Central for a 40-32 victory. The win gave Vermillion a 4-0 record at the halfway point of the Big 8 Conference race.

A dominant 22-9 first quarter at Parkston paved the way toward a runaway 60-34 win that left Coach Jay Drake's ballclub with a 5-2 record heading into this week's road games at Bon Homme and Lennox. Next

week the Tanagers will be home Tuesday against Elk Point-Jefferson and on the road next Thursday at Sioux Falls Christian.

"The big difference tonight," Drake said after the West Central win, "was that we played eight guys, and they kept battling and gave a gutsy effort."

He was pleased that his team attacked the basket, trying to get as many free-throw opportunities as possible. "We could afford to make a few more than we did," Drake added.

From a 5-4 deficit the Tanagers went on a 10-0 roll that included five points on two baskets by Austin Krier, four points from Nile Morecraft and a Caleb Miller

free throw. West Central immediately answered with a 10-0 run of its own that covered 6 1/2 scoreless minutes for the Tanagers, but a Tanner Settles field goal left VHS down by only 17-16 at halftime.

West Central committed five turnovers in the first half of the third period, but the Tanagers couldn't capitalize, scoring only eight points of their own in that period to the Trojans' four. The teams exchanged baskets as the game wore on, a pair of Krier free throws with 1:21 looming large as the Tanagers went up by 36-30 at that point. West Central had only one basket the rest of the way while Nick Jensen sank three of four free-throw tries and Krier added

one more to extend the final margin to eight.

Krier led the team with 19 points, Morecraft had seven, Settles five and J.T. Sorensen, Miller and Jensen three each. Vermillion's 27-21 rebounding advantage was led by six boards each by Jensen and Morecraft and four by Anthony Leber. Jayce Huska and Settles had two assists apiece.

At Parkston on Friday the Tanagers made 11 of 18 free throws, but their accuracy at the stripe wasn't nearly so crucial because the team had 22 field goals in 40 attempts, including five three-pointers.

The game turned into Vermillion's immediately as the Tanagers soared from a 3-3 tie into a 16-3 lead, a 13-0

lead during which six different men scored. Three-point shots by Settles and Huska highlighted a second period in which the Tanagers upped their lead to 35-16 at the intermission.

Sorensen had seven points during a 10-0 run late in the third period that took the score to 52-27. Jensen had six of the Tanagers' eight fourth-quarter points.

Eight different players scored, topped by Sorensen's 13, Settles' 10, and Krier's 10. Leber added seven, Huska six, Morecraft six, Jensen five and Miller three. Leading Tanager rebounding work was Morecraft with six. Settles' effort included seven assists and four steals.

We're online too!
www.plaintalk.net

Don't forget to make your 2011 IRA contribution.

Curt Robinson
Financial Advisor
23 Market Street
Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-2028

Member SIPC
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

YANKTON MONUMENT CO.
Family Memorials
by Gibson

AMBER WESTERGAARD

325 DOUGLAS AVENUE, YANKTON, SD 57078
OFFICE (605) 664-0980 • 1-800-658-2294
Cell (605) 610-6992 • www.gibsonmonuments.com

Bigger Value. Better Bundle.

\$69 Per mo./12 mos.

You Save \$370.00
over 12 mos. - reg. price \$111.99/mo.*

You get more for your money with the Midcontinent Duo Bundle.

- Midcontinent Basic Cable**
- More than 75 standard channels
 - 50+ HD channels and a FREE HD receiver
 - On Demand and HD On Demand
 - A Premium Movie Package, FREE for 3 months
 - No contracts, ever!

- MidcoNet Xstream® Wideband**
- **ESPN3** through MidcoNet Xstream® Wideband 1.0
 - Up to 30 Mbps downloads and 5 Mbps uploads
 - As much as 5 times faster than other providers

Add a basic phone line to your bundle for only \$9.95 per mo for 12mos.



1.800.888.1300 • midcocomm.com
Visit one of our Customer Service Centers. Find a location near you at midcocomm.com.



Midcontinent
COMMUNICATIONS

This limited time offer is available to new and upgrading residential customers only. Offer and services not available in all areas and some restrictions apply. Number of available channels may vary by area. Taxes and fees not included. Promotional pricing applies to first month of service after installation. An HD TV is required to view HD programming. Customer is responsible for modem purchase or lease required for MidcoNet Xstream® Wideband. Modem lease price is \$3/month for standard modem or \$5/month for wireless. 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). Free installation (reg. \$35) is included with the Basic Cable and MidcoNet Xstream® Wideband 1.0 bundle. *Each Premium Package (HBO, Cinemax, Starz/Encore, Showtime) are valued at \$16.00 per package/month. The promotional offer is valued at \$48 (\$16 for one premium/month x 3 months). After expiration, the premium package selected will be billed at a retail rate. HBO®, Cinemax® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. STARZ® and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC ©2011 SHOWTIME Networks, Inc. All Rights Reserved. SHOWTIME, THE MOVIE CHANNEL, FLIX and related marks are trademarks of Showtime Networks, Inc., a CBS Company. Offer expires 4/15/2012.