

## UPCOMING SPORTS SCHEDULE

Tanager bowling at Brookings	4 p.m. Jan. 18	USD women's basketball hosts Oakland	2 p.m. Jan. 19
Tanager girls basketball at Lennox	4 p.m. Jan. 18	USD men's basketball at Oakland	5 p.m. Jan. 19
Tanager wrestling at West Central	Jan. 19	USD women's basketball at Western Illinois	7 p.m. Jan. 24
Tanager boys basketball: Hanson Classic at Mitchell	1 p.m. Jan. 18	USD men's basketball hosts Omaha	7 p.m. Jan. 24
Tanager Bowling vs. West Central at Yankton	4 p.m. Jan. 22		
Tanager girls/boys basketball hosts West Central	4 p.m. Jan. 22		

# 8 days later, Tanagers face the Orioles again

**By Parker Knox**  
Sportswriter

Now that they have done it once, Vermillion's girls basketball team, just eight days after beating Lennox at home by a 46-39 count, have to try to do it again.

This time the Tanager girls will be on the road in Lennox tonight as they try to improve their Big 8 Conference record to 3-2.

Coach Nick Mayer's ballclub will be at home Tuesday for a girls-boys doubleheader against West Central, then travel to Dell Rapids for another twinbill next Thursday.

The home victory over Lennox last Thursday was a strong response for Mayer's girls after they had sustained a tough loss to previously winless Madison 48 hours earlier.

"We hit huge shots down the stretch," Mayer said of the Lennox win. "The girls responded after that tough loss against a very physical Lennox team. And now we know what to expect from Lennox in this week's rematch."

A 27-27 tie after three quarters was fitting, considering how those first three

stanzas had progressed. A three-point Lennox lead at 17-14 was the biggest point differential between the two teams through all of that play.

The final period started the same way, back and forth. Brooke Schwasinger's three-point bomb with 4:50 left made it 34-33 for VHS, but Lennox immediately went back in front with a trey of its own. From that point on, however, the Tanagers took control of the court, outscoring the Ladybirds 12-0 down the stretch.

Another three-pointer by Schwasinger, a bank shot by Blair Gilkyson, then seven of 10 free throws by four different players accounted for the 12-point run. Lennox had a three-point play by Kayla Kruse in the final minute to reduce the final Tanager margin to 46-39.

The Tanagers had suffered through a five-minute scoring drought at the end of the first period but still were within 8-6 after that quarter. It was 17-16 for Lennox at halftime.

Josie Huber scored 17 points, 14 of them in the first three quarters. On the other hand Schwasinger had 10, eight of them in the final period. Gilkyson had seven points, Mackenzie Huber six, Courtney Johnson two, Allison Heine

two and Sydney Peters two. Kruse had 22 for Lennox.

Vermillion had handled Madison on the home court in December, but last Tuesday at Madison, according to Mayer, "we didn't play the type of basketball that got us five wins up to that point. Our shooting was the difference, but we also had trouble getting to the free-throw line and forcing turnovers."

The Tanagers shot a cool 25 percent at Madison. Their biggest lead was seven after a 10-0 run that extended into the second quarter. Madison led 20-18 at halftime. VHS had a 12-6 edge in the third and led 30-26 heading into the final period, but the Bulldogs, continuing to hit three-point shots, many of them uncontested, led by four with 2:53 left.

A three-point bucket by Josie Huber with just over a minute left got the Tanagers to within a point, and Courtney Johnson's free throw with 19 seconds left tied the game at 37-37 to force overtime.

Two baskets by Schwasinger gave VHS a 41-39 lead, but Madison went on a 10-0 run the rest of the way to win by 49-41.

Madison finished the night with nine three-point field goals and only five two-



Vermillion's Blair Gilkyson (1) steals the ball from Lennox Oriole Tara Kuper (15) during second half action Thursday in the VHS gym. Gilkyson drove the ball down the court to score two of her seven points.

(Photo by David Lias)

pointers while sinking 12 of 17 free throws. Josie Huber led VHS with 21 points, Schwasinger had six, Gilkyson five, Johnson four, Mackenzie Huber

three and Heine two. Of the Tanagers' three losses in nine games through last week, two of them have been in overtime games.

# Tanagers defeat Orioles in nail-biter last Friday

**By Parker Knox**  
Sportswriter

Vermillion's boys basketball team, which entered this week's play with a 7-1 record, will be playing in the company of some of the state's best teams Saturday.

Taking part in this year's Hanson Classic at the Corn Palace in Mitchell, the Tanagers will take on Sioux Valley at 1 p.m. That is the third of eight games to be played there that day, running from 10 a.m. well into the evening.

Sioux Valley's Cossacks, based at Volga, had a 7-4 record through last weekend. Their defeats have been at the hands of such teams as Clark-Willow Lake, currently ranked No. 1 in Class "A" in the state, and perennial state tournament qualifiers St. Thomas More and Elkton-Lake Benton, all by a margin of eight or fewer points. Sioux Valley has also split with McCook Central-Montrose while defeating Howard twice, Baltic, Parker, Garretson and Hamlin. They were to play Chester Area last night (Thursday).

Next week the Tanager boys will be at home Tuesday for a girls-boys Big 8 Conference doubleheader against West Central. Then they go back on the road for a date at Dell Rapids Thursday.

Vermillion stretched its current win streak to four with home wins last week against Bon Homme and Lennox — one a dominating performance, the other a come-from-behind nail-biter.

Everything worked right for the Tanagers against Bon Homme as they roared to a 25-8 first-quarter lead and a 44-23 halftime advantage. By game's end it was 90-63, and no wonder! The Tanagers connected on 40 of 55 field-goal attempts, making 36 of 48 from two-point range and four of seven from three-point distance.

J.T. Sorensen scored 20 points, going 10 of 11 from the field to tie a school record. Nick Jensen scored 18, Carter Andre 14, Austin Krier 12, Tanner Settles 10, Jayce Huska nine, Ethan James three, Tanner Anderson two and Paul Schwasinger two for VHS. As one might imagine, the Tanagers' individual assist totals skyrocketed in this contest — Settles led the way with eight, Krier seven and Huska seven.

Sorensen had four steals, Krier three and Settles three. As the Tanagers outrebounded the Cavaliers 25-15, Sorensen and Huska had five boards each and Jensen and Anderson four apiece.

In the second meeting of the season against Lennox, the current Tanagers accomplished something no VHS team had done for a quarter-century — sweeping home-and-away games from Lennox in the same season. But it was a struggle.

"We knew it would be tough," Coach Jay Drake said later, "because the first game with Lennox was close till the end. As a coaching staff we were proud of our guys. They didn't panic after the early hole they got into and were back in the game by halftime."



Vermillion's Tanner Anderson (23) drives the ball down the court past Lennox defender Joe Hendrickson (34) during Friday's action in the VHS gym. Anderson contributed seven points and four rebounds.

(Photo by David Lias)

A fired-up Oriole squad hit four three-pointers en route to a 19-8 first-quarter lead as the Tanagers were late in getting their games faces on. However, a 16-7 second-quarter edge lifted the Tanagers. A four-point play by Andre just prior to halftime left Vermillion within two at the break.

Sorensen had 10 of his 15 points in the third quarter, a period which saw the score tied six times but the Tanagers leading only once — at 28-26.

Austin Krier's basket to start the fourth quarter gave VHS its second lead of the game at 40-38. Lennox went back in front briefly at 42-40, and after Anderson sank a crucial three-pointer, Lennox went up one more time at 44-43. Krier's basket gave the Tanagers the lead for good, Jensen added two field goals to

make it 49-44. After the Orioles crept back to within three with a basket in the final minute, Krier, fouled in the back court with 21 seconds left, swished two free throws for a 51-46 lead. A Lennox bucket at the buzzer was of no consequence in a 51-48 Tanager triumph.

"Our big guys led us in scoring and rebounding in a very physical game," Drake said.

Sorensen with 15 and Jensen with 11 led the offensive output. Krier contributed nine, Anderson seven, Andre four, Settles three and Huska two. A 31-25 rebounding edge was led by 13 boards from Sorensen, eight from Jensen and four from Anderson.

Krier had four assists and Anderson three, and Anderson also recorded three steals.

# Tanager grapplers will travel to West Central

**By Parker Knox**  
Sportswriter

Saturday means travel day for Vermillion wrestlers at this time of the year, and the Tanagers will hit the road again this weekend for Hartford to compete in West Central's invitational tournament after wrestling a dual at Canton last night (Thursday).

Beresford won the team crown at the Tiger Invitational at Harrisburg last Saturday with 198.5 points, edging Sioux Falls Roosevelt, which compiled 185.5. The Tanagers were sixth of 11 schools with a 123.5 team total score.

Vermillion brought home back-to-back championships at 145 and 152 pounds as Regan Bye and Brett Bye captured the gold medals in those divisions. The Tanagers also had two third-place wrestlers, two in fourth place and one in fifth.

Regan Bye pinned Madison's Wyatt Fender in 2:48 in his championship match at 145. Brett won his crown with a 9-2 decision of Matt Goth, also of Madison.

Carter Kratz placed third at 138 pounds, winning that medal with a 4:28 pin over Harrisburg's Payton Sim. Alex

Osborne placed third at 170, earning that medal with a 6-0 decision over Tea Area's Chris Kuhl.

Brandon Hertz earned fourth-place honors at 160 pounds, losing in the third-

place contest on a 1:51 pin at the hands of Tyler Johnson of Beresford. Seth Heine was fourth man at 182, dropping the third-place match by a pin in 2:27 to Chris Andrews of Beresford.

Jacob Husby placed fifth in the 106-pound class, climaxing his day and earning his medal with a 4:46 pin over John Gehl of Fulda-Murray County Central (Minn.).

# VHS gymnasts face tough Madison competitors

**By Parker Knox**  
Sportswriter

Feb. 15-16.

The gymnastics season is dwindling down to a precious few meets as the season-ending state meet is now less than a month away.

After a dual in Yankton last night (Thursday), Vermillion's gymnasts will next be in action at Wagner, joining West Central there for a triangular on Monday, Jan. 28, the last meet prior to the state tournament in Rapid City on

Last week the Tanagers went to Madison to face the perennially tough Lady Bulldog gymnasts. Madison won the dual by 140.05 to 120.85.

Morgan Hower and Rory Tucker placed fourth and fifth in the all-around standings with scores of 30.55 and 29.65, respectively.

The only Vermillion gymnast to place in the top five of any event was Jade Fostvedt, who was fourth on the balance beam with an 8.2 score.

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