

UPCOMING SPORTS SCHEDULE

Tanager bowling vs. SF Washington at Yankton	4 p.m. Jan. 25	USD hosts Bill Hillenbrand Track Meet	10:45 a.m. Jan. 26
Tanager girls basketball hosts Canton	6:15 p.m. Jan. 25	USD women's basketball hosts SDSU	7 p.m. Jan. 30
Tanager wrestling quad at Beresford	5 p.m. Jan. 28	USD men's basketball at SDSU	7:05 p.m. Jan. 31
Tanager gymnastics at Wagner	6:30 p.m. Jan. 28		
Tanager boys & girls basketball at Beresford	4 p.m. Jan. 29		
USD women's basketball at IUPUI	2 p.m. Jan. 26		

Tanagers roll over West Central

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Rebounding from a pair of losses to two of the state's best Class "A" teams, Vermillion's boys rolled West Central Tuesday night, 63-43, to improve to 9-3 and stay unbeaten in Big 8 Conference play with a 5-0 record.

Next up for Coach Jay Drake's Tanagers, after what promised to be a physical challenge at Dell Rapids last night (Thursday), will be a road game at Beresford Tuesday to climax a girls-boys doubleheader.

Coach Jerry Carda's Watchdogs are a young, rebuilding team that stands at 3-9 with wins over Tri-Valley, Irene-Wakonda and Marion, two losses to Dell Rapids and single defeats at the hands of Bon Homme, Harrisburg, Viborg-Hurley, Tri-Valley, Dakota Valley, and Elk Point-Jefferson. The only Beresford senior is 6'3" center Matt Wiebers, and Carda has only three juniors - 5'11" guard Kory Diefendorf, 6'3" forward/center Austin Meester and 6'0" forward Reggan Huot.

The Tanagers are fighting against a depth problem caused by injuries to Anthony Leber and Jayce Huska as well as a compact part of the schedule. Last night's Dells contest was Vermillion's fifth game in 10 days.

But once they got past a nine-turnover first quarter that ended with West Central going on a 7-0 run to take a 16-15 lead, things began to click for the Tanagers. They trailed 24-22 midway through the second stanza when Austin Krier, who turned an ankle in the early going, returned to action. He immediately scored his own field goal, then beautifully fed J.T. Sorensen for another. Krier then canned a three-pointer. Those baskets ignited the Tanager defense as well as a 13-0 offensive run that extended into the third period.

A lone West Central basket was then followed by an 11-0 run in an 18-point third period during which Tanner Anderson had 10 points, Tanner Settles five and Sorensen four.

The VHS margin reached 29 points late in the game before the Trojans cut it down against the Tanager bench.

Beautiful balance marked the VHS scoring column: Settles 12 points, Anderson 12, Nick Jensen 11, Sorensen 10, Krier nine, Carter Andre seven and Jeremiah Johnson two. Drew Maras had 10 for West Central, Brayden Swartwout eight and Cameron Stone seven.

Saturday's game at the Hanson Classic in the Mitchell Corn Palace was a game of buzzer-beaters, but the last one went to Sioux Valley for a 42-40 win over Vermillion. Krier's long bomb beat the halftime buzzer, and the Cossacks had a buzzer-beater at the end of the third period. A Spencer Hanson basket from underneath after an in-bounds pass with four seconds left provided the winning margin.

Sorensen scored 15, Krier eight, Settles six, Anderson five, Jensen four and Andre two. Sorensen led



Tanager Nick Jensen's constant presence under the hoop was just too much for West Central. He scored 11 points in Tuesday night's contest in the VHS gym. (Photo by David Lias)

rebounders with eight. Anderson had four steals and three assists and Krier three assists.

Sioux Falls Christian's unbeaten and top-rated Chargers dealt the Tanagers a 67-52 loss here Thursday. Down 29-19 at halftime, VHS got back to within six in the second half but no closer against the talented 11-0 SFC club, which was led by Carson Long's 19 points, Jordan Baker's 16 with eight rebounds and Cody Van Holland's 13 points. Krier had 15, Andre 13, Sorensen 12, Settles five, Jensen four and Anderson three for Vermillion, which was led on the boards by Sorensen's seven and Jensen's six. Krier had six assists and Sorensen three steals.

Earlier last week the Tanagers prevailed in a close game at Elk Point-Jefferson, 47-38. The Huskies' 6-0 late run pulled them to within 41-38. The EP-J strategy was to get VHS to the free-throw line. Once they got there, the Tanagers won the game there as Anderson sank four in a row to increase the lead to a comfortable 45-38 with 33 seconds left. The defense rose to the occasion and kept EP-J without any shots to close the gap.

Settles scored 10, Krier nine, Sorensen nine, Jensen eight and Anderson eight.

The Tanagers' win over West Central kept them atop the Big 8 standings, but Madison is also still perfect in the league at 4-0. The Tanagers and Madison still have to play each other twice, the first one coming next Friday. Vermillion's other remaining league game is against Harrisburg.

Meanwhile, VHS is also in a battle with Dakota Valley for top seed and host of district tourney play. While VHS is now 9-3, Dakota Valley was 9-1 through last weekend but still has to play Sioux Falls Christian and Dell Rapids among others. Vermillion and Dakota Valley have a huge game against each other coming up on Feb. 5.

Lavin crushes state record

The Vermillion Area Swim Team has been in season since September and the season so far is going better than expected. The numbers of swimmers on the team are near record highs, there are many swimmers in practice every day, and most importantly, the kids are swimming fast and having a lot of fun.

Highlighting the first half of the year was the rewriting of the record books in South Dakota swimming by Vermillion's Maddie Lavin. Lavin, 12, destroyed the previous overall state record in the girl's 11-12 200-yard butterfly on Dec. 9, 2012 in Lincoln, NE. Her new mark of 2:23.07 beat the old record set in 2001 by over 11 seconds.

She also holds state top times in the 50 and 100-yard butterfly, 100 backstroke, 500 freestyle, 200

freestyle, 100 freestyle, and 200 individual medley.

Jacob Krier has also climbed the ladder in South Dakota swimming. The VHS sophomore now has the state's top times in the 100 and 200-yard freestyle events in the boys 15-16 age division. Krier had an outstanding meet in Lincoln as well where he set seven personal bests and many new team records. He is now two-tenths away from qualifying to the Speedo Sectional Championships held in Waukesha, WI, this March.

Many other VAST swimmers have qualified to the state meet in March and shown amazing improvement. Seth Druin, who joined the team earlier this summer, has now qualified to the SD State Championships in the 50 and 100-yard freestyle events. So

far since September, Druin has dropped 6.65 seconds in the 100 freestyle.

This season, VAST has had quite a lot of new, younger swimmers on the team. Douglas Sharples-Schmidt, 7, from Wakonda, is one of those swimmers looking to keep having fun and dropping time. In Yankton on Jan. 5, he successfully completed his first 200-yard freestyle.

Newcomer Liz Hallaway, who is from Alcester, has dropped significant time in many events during the season. She qualified to her first Tri State Championships in her first year of swimming in VAST's last meet in Yankton.

Kaleb Mollman is another new face on the team this year and his hard work is paying off. Mollman has already dropped nearly 29

seconds off his best time in the 200-yard freestyle this season.

VAST is in the middle of a very busy month of January. After visiting Yankton on Jan. 5, VAST returned to the pool in Sioux City on Jan. 12-13 and then jumps into the pool against some tough competition in Sioux Falls on Jan. 25-27. Four VAST swimmers will represent the team at the Midwest All Star meet held in Lawrence, KS Jan. 12-13 as well. Maddie Lavin, Madisen Martinez, Lexie Malimanek and Annika Holdhusen have been selected to the South Dakota All Star Team. This selection only meet features some of the fastest swimmers in the region from Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, South Dakota and Colorado.

6 VHS grapplers earn medals Saturday

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Six of their nine men brought home place medals, including two championships, as Vermillion's wrestlers competed Saturday at West Central's invitational in Hartford.

Coach Hazen Bye's Tanagers have a rare free Saturday this weekend but will be back on the mats with a vengeance next week. On Monday VHS will join Dakota Valley for a triangular at Beresford. VHS will be home for a dual with Crofton Thursday, then goes to the Big 8 Conference meet at Hartford next Saturday, Feb. 2.

For the second straight Saturday Regan Bye and Brett Bye won back-to-back championships at 145 and 152 pounds, respectively. Carter Kratz placed fourth at 138, Alex Osborne fifth at 170, Seth Heine fifth at 182 and Kyle Seibel sixth at 106.

Regan won three distinctively different matches to get his title.

He pinned Roosevelt's Jared Neuheisel in 3:20 in the quarterfinals, won by technical fall 16-0 over Hunter Kjose of Lennox in the semifinals and took out the tournament's No. 2 seed, Zach Russman of Aberdeen Central, 5-4, in the championship match.

Brett had a similar path to his gold medal. He pinned Milbank's Chris Loutsch in 2:40 in the quarters, dominated Wade Secrest of Roosevelt 21-6 in the semis and likewise beat a No. 2 seed, Aberdeen's John Frisco, by a 14-7 count in the finals.

Kratz rolled into the semifinals in his weight class with an 8-2 decision over Nick Christensen, Huron, and a 9-7 win over Mitchell's Ethan Parr. In the semis, however, Kratz ran into Aberdeen's Griff Hieb, who would go on win his title as well as the tourney's most outstanding wrestler designation. Kratz was pinned by Hieb in 3:26 but came back in the next round to pin face Christensen again and pin him this time in 2:43. That set up the

third-place match where Kratz lost 14-5 to West Central's Cole Tirrel.

Osborne also reached the semifinals, decisioning Huron's Connor Gose 2-0 in the first round and pinning Milbank's Jeremy Schuelke in 3:14 in the quarters. Osborne lost there to top-seed Francis Boehmer of Roosevelt 17-0, lost in a rematch against Gose 15-4, then won his fifth-place match over Mike Hauke, Chamberlain, 10-3.

Heine began his day by losing by pin in 3:59 to Derick Neuman, Roosevelt, but rebounded with a 7-0 shutout of Mitchell's Preston Skinner. Heine then lost 6-0 to Dan Marlette of Washington but won his fifth-place match by pinning Zach Ford, Lennox, in 41 seconds.

Seibel, wrestling his first varsity matches of the season, won his first two - 6-5 over Trent Francom, Huron, and by pin in 4:30 over Nick Wright, Milbank. Seibel then lost by pin in 54 seconds to Carter Lohr, Roosevelt,

and by 6-2 decision to Francom. In the fifth-place match Seibel was pinned in 0:53 by Austin Ideker, West Central.

The Tanagers had three other men on the mats at West Central. At 160 pounds Brandon Hertz pinned Thomas Swanson, Chamberlain, in 2:20 in the quarters, lost 3-0 to Aberdeen's Zach Melcher in the semis and lost to Roosevelt's Dorian Simpson 3-1. Noah Westergaard lost twice at 195 pounds - son a 1:54 pin to top-seed Dustin French, Huron, and on a 5:01 pin to Chase Morin, Roosevelt. Jayson Dugan at 220 pounds was pinned twice - by Alex Capell, Roosevelt, in 1:42 and in 0:25 by Huron's Jeremiah Johnson.

Vermillion lost a 64-9 dual at Canton earlier last week. The nine Tanager points came on three decision wins - 5-2 by Carter Kratz over Derek Dilts at 138, 5-2 by Brett Bye over Alex Davies at 152, and 2-1 by Alex Osborne over Jayden Broughton at 170.

Gymnasts prepare for Wagner meet

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

The state gymnastics meet is still three weeks away, but the Vermillion Tanager gymnasts will close their regular season Monday.

The Tanagers and West Central will meet in Wagner.

The Tanagers competed with the Yankton-Bon Homme and Chamberlain teams last week where the

Tanagers were third with a 122.7 score.

In the all-around standings Rory Tucker placed eighth at 32.15 and Morgan Hower ninth at 31.15.

In individual events Tucker tied for third in floor exercise and was fourth on the beam. Hower was 10th in the vault and on the bars.

On the JV side Vermillion was third with 84.45 points. Shayla Kiertzner placed second and Morgan Graham tied for third in floor exercise.

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