

Vermillion hosts gymnastics meet

By Scott Bormann

On Dec. 28, Vermillion saw most of the top Class A gymnasts in the state. After a full day of intense competition, there was little surprise at who was bunched atop the leader-board.

Even though Vermillion was sixth in the team scores, they were right in the mix.

Team results: 1: Chamberlain (126.95 pts.), 2: Milbank (123.05 pts.), 3: Britton-Hecla (121.50 pts.), 4: Stanley County (116.55 pts.), 5: Wagner (113.20 pts.), 6: Vermillion (111.50 pts.), 7: West Central (96.85 pts.), 8: Sioux Falls Washington (92.95 pts.).

The individual All-Around champion was Marilyn Nasomwat from Chamberlain with 33.55 points. She placed first in Bars (8.3) and Floor Exercise (9.05), second in Vault (8.7), and fourth in Beam (7.5) to lead her team to victory.

"We had a very strong performance throughout the meet," said Coach Skye Bork. "Our floor and bar routines were the best they have ever been. The girls threw new, higher difficulty vaults elevating our score on the event."

The Tanagers were led in the All-Around by Anneliese Taggart (28.85), Anna Hammond (28.45), Carter Williams (28.2),

Hope Knedler (24.15), and Maddie Lavin (18.25).

"Beam was very tough, though," said Bork. "Every girl fell at least once, and most more than once, which is very significant towards our team score."

Taggart scored 6.3 on Beam, 6.6 on Bars, 7.85 on Vault, and 8.1 on Floor. Hammond scored 5.1 on Beam, 7.1 on Bars, 8.15 on Vault, and 8.1 of Floor. Williams scored 5.0 on Beam, 6.8 on Bars, 8.35 on Vault, and 8.05 on Floor. Knedler scored 4.7 on Beam, 5.0 on Bars, 7.15 on Vault, and 7.3 on Floor. Lavin scored 2.4 on Beam, 3.0 on Bars, 6.75 on Vault, and 6.1 on Floor.

The team's event scores clarify Bork's conclusions on the competition. They scored 31.55 on Bars, 31.50 on Vault, 26.85 on Bars, and 21.60 on Beam.

"We are still not at our best, however," said Bork. "We were still down one athlete to injury, who will help when she's back."

The Tanagers are currently sitting on the bubble as far as qualifying as a team for State. With the top nine teams in the Region meet qualifying, they are in the ninth spot. Vermillion's average score of 116.42 is only 0.53 behind Sisseton, and 1.35 ahead of Wagner.

They have a much better chance of moving up into a safer

place than falling into the dreaded 10th spot. Scoring like they did in their last meet at SF Roosevelt (123.60 pts.) could move them up one, or even two, places.

"We have two weeks until our next meet in Stanley County, which is a significant break between meets to perfect and learn skills," said Bork. "This meet will help to really show what we've got, bringing back injured, and debuting new skills. I'm very optimistic for the next two months."

The Stanley County Invitational will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan 11 in Ft. Pierre.

Firsick named Athlete of the Year by South Dakota Sportswriters

University of South Dakota senior pole-vaulter Bethany (Buell) Firsick has been named College Women's Athlete of the Year by the South Dakota Sportswriters Association for the second time in the last three years. The announcement was made Thursday, Dec. 26.

The honor caps a seemingly perfect 2013 for the fifth-year student-athlete from St. Louis. Firsick became the state of South Dakota's first Division I national champion in June when she won the pole vault competition on the final jump of the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, OR. Firsick's winning vault was 14 feet, 7 1/4 inches which she reached while competing with a torn ligament in her left shoulder.

In early July, Firsick, along with teammate Alexa Duling, were named first-team CoSIDA Academic All-Americans. In late July, Firsick was named Division I Outdoor Field Scholar Athlete of the Year by the United States Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA).

Before earning those achievements, Buell won her fifth conference championship in the event.



FIRSICK

She won the Summit League's indoor pole vault title held inside the DakotaDome in February, and went on to place sixth at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Fayetteville, AR. It was the third of four All-America performances Firsick has turned in as a Coyote.

On July 6, Bethany married Zach Firsick in a ceremony held in Clayton, Mo. Both attended Rockwood Summit High School in Fenton, MO. Zach graduated with honors from USD in May with a degree in economics. Bethany is set to begin her final year of competition for the Coyotes in January.

Vermillion wrestlers in the fray at Floyd Farrand Invitational

By Scott Bormann

After two days (Dec. 27-28) of intense grappling in the Sioux Falls Lincoln gym, the annual holiday 18-team tournament crowned 14 individual champions and the Parkston Trojans as the team champions.

Luckily for all except three of their victims, since Parkston is a Class B school, they do not have to fight past them at State. Parkston, behind a pair of individual champs and 10 other place winners, scored 220 points. This easily put them well ahead of second-place Sturgis who scored 179 points.

Sioux Falls Roosevelt in third place, Canton in sixth, Wagner in eighth, and Vermillion in ninth each had a pair of individual champs crowned. Sturgis, Sioux Falls Washington in fifth place, Brookings in seventh, and Howard in 13th each had a single individual champ.

Both of Vermillion's champions, Regan Bye (145 lbs.) and Brett Bye (152 lbs.), are among the six competitors who are still undefeated this season. The cousins are both 14-0. Canton also has a pair of undefeated champs, while Wagner and Parkston each have one.

Behind the Bye boys, the Tanagers (91 pts.) scored with five other place-winners. Brandon Hertz went 3-3 to place sixth at 160 lbs. Trey Hage (106 lbs.), Kyle Seibel (113 lbs.), Alex Osborne (170 lbs.), Seth Heine (182 lbs.) each went 2-3 to take home 8th place.

At 145 lbs., Regan Bye started out by pinning Will Kilgorne (Harrisburg) in 1 minute and 18 seconds. He then

pinned Chase Stoeber (Parkston) in 4:55, then won by default against Tanner Fridreich (Tea). He won the championship by defeating Nick Hanson (Brookings) in a 5-2 decision.

Brett Bye had similar results in the tourney at 152 lbs. He pinned Cole Eidem (Brookings) in 2:52, then Even Kizer (Howard) in 1:21, and Caleb Karrels (Sturgis) in 5:34. He won the crown by beating Weslee Dvorak (Parkston) in a 4-0 decision.

Hertz (160 lbs.) started out by pinning Tyker Reil (Milbank) in 1:26, then lost a major decision to Tanner Henkel (Howard) 11-2. After receiving a bye to advance, he came back to beat Nathan Werdel (Sturgis) in a 1-0 overtime decision. Hertz was then pinned by Luke Rieter (SF Washington) in 4:13. He finished by losing a 9-4 decision to Wyatt Winter (Brandon Valley).

Hage (106 lbs.) lost a 6-5 decision to Cole Halouska (Lennox), but came back to pin Braden Phelps (Tea) in 2:36, and pinned Brady Krause (Milbank) in 3:52. After loosing a 4-2 decision to Trait Johnson (Garretson), he had to face Halouska from Lennox again. The Oriel won another close match 8-6.

Seibel (113 lbs.) beat Dawson Kremlacek (Brandon Valley) in a 12-5 decision. He was then pinned in 1:18 by eventual champ Kahlen Morris (SF Roosevelt). Seibel came back to beat Jared Fitzgerald (Garretson) in a 8-2 decision before being pinned by Kyle Tulwetzke (Watertown) in 2:44. He was pinned at the buzzer of the first period of his final match against Wesley Weischedel (Lennox) in 2:00.

Osborne (170 lbs.) pinned Spencer Heidbrink (Brandon Valley) in 2:43, but then was himself pinned by Tate McVay (Strurgis) in 3:51. He beat Austin Scheuers (Canton) in a 3-1 decision before losing to Dorian Simpson (SF Washington) in an 8-5 decision. Osborne lost his third match of day, and only the third of the season, when he lost to Kaleb Haas (Howard) in a 5-1 decision.

Heine (182 lbs.) pinned Patric Sproles (SF O'Gorman) in 3:05, was in turn pinned by Wyatt Resman (Brookings) in 2:41, then beat Josh Wesley (SF Lincoln) in an 8-2 decision. He was pinned by Caleb York (SF Washington) in 4:31 and Josh Lesley (Canton) in 4:56.

The Tanagers could have fared better with a few close calls going the other way. Trey Hage (106 lbs.) lost his three matches by a total of five points. Since two of those losses were against conference foe Lennox, he should have plenty of chances to avenge those losses before this season is out.

If Kyle Seibel (113 lbs.) could have lasted one more second in his final match, he would have been saved by the buzzer. This would have given him the chance to make a comeback and win seventh place.

If Alex Osborne (170 lbs.) could have lasted another nine seconds in his second match, he would have been saved by the second period buzzer. He may have turned that into a victory, allowing him to place much higher.

The Vermillion wrestling team next travel to Dakota Dunes to dual against Dakota Valley/Elk Point-Jefferson on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 5:30 p.m.

CHURCH SCHEDULES

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, 995 N. Sioux Point Road, Dakota Dunes, SD. Weekend Masses: Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

BRULE Creek Lutheran Church, Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 11:00am, Sunday School 9:45am to 10:45am.

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Worship Sunday 6:00 p.m., Bible Study Tuesday, 9:00 p.m., Neuharth Center, 624-5398 or 1-800-998-1234

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 102 Prosp: Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.; Bible Study 9:00 a.m.; Bible Study 12:00 noon; Wednesday Night Classes, 7:00 p.m.

Concordia Lutheran Church (LC-MS) 7 South University Street, Vermillion. Divine Service - Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School - Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Pastor Samuel Needham. Contact us at (605) 624-3459 or at lcmsvermillion.org

CORNERSTONE CHURCH: *A Place To Grow:* Located at the corner of Crawford & Cherry St. Celebration Service: Sunday during the School year 9:00am and 10:30am (subject to change during holidays) in the summer Sunday 10 AM. Check us out at cornerstonesd.org or call (624-8809) for further information.

Dalesburg Lutheran Church: 12 miles North of Vermillion on University Road. Worship Services 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Website: www.dalesburglutheran.org

DALESBURG BAPTIST Church 30503 466th Ave., Beresford, Pastor Darren Regehr. 9:45am, Sunday School; 11:00am, Morning Worship; Mid-week Services Wednesdays, 7:00pm. (605)253-2622.

Elk Point Baptist Church. Sunday worship at 11:00am, Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:00pm. 101 North Green St., Elk Point, SD 57069. (605)222-1981

FAITH FELLOWSHIP of the Open Bible on Bypass 50 and Highway 19: Sunday Celebration 10:30 a.m. Pastor Tony Armbrust, 624-2921.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH: 401 Main Street, Makell, NE. Sunday School 9am. Worship: 10am. Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays. (605)658-0240 (home) (402)-692-3323 (church).

Faith United Lutheran Church, ELCA, 44874 303rd St/Po Box 168, Volin, SD 57072, (605)267-2277. Sunday Worship: 9:30am with Holy Communion the 1st & 4th Sundays. WOW Wednesday program beginning at 6:30pm for all children 3 yrs old - 7th grade, and confirmation classes for those in grades 8th & 9th.

FIRST BAPTIST Church Elmer "Sandy" Aakre, Pastor 624-6391 home, 624-4658 church. Time: 9:15 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship. Sunday Choir Practice, 11:50 a.m.

GAYVILLE LUTHERAN Church: Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Ralph Egbert.

GOSPEL CHAPEL Church, 708 Jessie St./Highway 12, Newcastle, NE. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.; AWANA Wednesday at 7 p.m., 402-355-2305. Pastor Chuck Myers, 402-355-1335.

GRACE BAPTIST Church, SBC, Pastor Steve Ford, 1102 E. Main. Phone 624-4949. Adult's and Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Prayer Meeting Wednesday Night 7 p.m.

HILLSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH 1800 Constance Dr. Worship Sept.-May 10:30a.m. AWANA Small groups; 9-10:15 Worship May-August 10a.m., 6 0 5 - 6 2 4 - 4 8 6 2 , www.hillside-cc.com Like us on Facebook!

IMMANUEL Lutheran Church, Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

KOMSTAD COVENANT Church, Rural Beresford and Centerville, SD: Matt Styles, Pastor. 18 miles north on University Road. Phone 563-2402. Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship Service 11 a.m.

PLEASANT VALLEY Lutheran Church, Rural Vermillion: Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Holy Communion First Sunday of every month. All welcome.

PROVIDENCE REFORMED Church, 830 Madison: Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. "We Welcome You To Historic Protestant Worship And Fellowship."

ST. AGNES Church, 416 Walker St., Fr. John Fischer: St. Agnes Church and Parish Office, tele. 624-4478. St. Agnes Rectory, 505 Catalina, tele. 624-1995. Mass schedule: 5 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30a.m. Sunday, Weekday Masses - consult weekly bulletin; Sacrament of Penance, Saturday 4-4:45p.m.

ST. PAUL'S Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Linden. Sunday: nursery available. 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist. 11:00 a.m. coffee hour. Call 624-3379 for more info.

Sunday evening Experience at ONE HOUR is comprised of two primary elements: powerful worship and a life-changing message. Worship at ONE HOUR is led by a talented live band in a style that is consistent with todays culture and a relevant teaching message from LifeChurch.tv's senior pastor, Craig Groeschel, via video broadcast. The worship is intense and the teaching is challenging but the environment will be relaxed and casual. ONE HOUR on the USD Campus at the MUC, 6:30pm Sundays! www.one-hour.org

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL, 226 E. Main St., Pastor Steve Miller. 10:30a.m. Worship Service. *No Longer Strangers* www.uccvermillion.org

The Luther Center at USD: Life at the corner of campus and faith. Located at Cherry & Plum Streets, Vermillion. We worship weekly on Wednesday evenings at 8:30pm and host service and fellowship events throughout the year. Visit us online at www.luthercenter.org or find us on facebook!

The United Church of Christ Congregational, Highway 12 Newcastle, NE. Worship: 5:00 p.m. Saturday. Pastor Gary Kimm. Come join us!

The Vermillion First United Methodist Church, a welcome place reaching out to all God's people. Located at 16 N. Dakota St. Adult Sunday School 9am; Sunday Worship 10:25am; Children's Church after Children's Sermon (PreK-5). Welcome Table-serving free meal Mondays 5:30-7pm. Youth Group with Meal (Gr. 6-8) Wednesdays 5:30-7pm. High School Youth Group 7pm. Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm. Praise Band rehearsal 8pm. Friday Morning Book Study and Breakfast 6:45am. Call (605)624-2179 for more info. Pastor Rick Pittenger.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E Clark St, Vermillion

Saturday evenings: 5:30 PM and Sunday mornings: 10:00 AM
Sunday mornings: 9:00 AM - Sunday School and Coffee/Fellowship
Radio broadcast: 10:00 AM on KVTK Radio, AM 1570
Holy Communion celebrated the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month
Pastor Trisha Boese and Intern Pastor Jason Clifton
Facebook: Trinity Lutheran - Vermillion, SD
605-624-4442

Christmas Eve Worship - 4 PM, 7 PM, 10 PM
Christmas Day Worship - 10 AM

Unitarian Universalist "The Uncommon Denomination." Services are the first and third Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the United Church of Christ, 226 E. Main. Child care services and refreshments provided. All welcome. Info: www.unitarianvermillion.blogspot.com

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