

One in a Vermillion

Meet Skye Bork

By David Lias
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Saying that Skye Bork was destined to one day coach gymnastics is not an understatement. Consider this – her mom coached the sport. It was a task made all the easier because Skye's family owned their own gym.

"We actually owned our own gym in Kadoka, so gymnastics has been part of my life since I was born," Skye said, shortly before beginning an afternoon practice session at VHS. Skye had served as assistant gymnastics coach for head coach Mark Upward for three years, and volunteer-coached for a year while serving as a gymnastics meet judge.

She stepped into the role of head Tanager gymnastics coach this year following Mark's decision last spring to retire from coaching.

"I literally grew up in the gym because I'm the youngest of four. Both of my sisters competed in both club and high school, and my brother was very good in gymnastics, but we

didn't have any boy's sport for it," Skye said. "I started competing when I was 7."

"My mom coached me my whole life. My sisters had other coaches before my mom, because they lived in different towns before," she said. "But when they settled in Kadoka, they opened the gym, and the rest is history."

One advantage that Skye has over other head coaches still fresh on the job is a familiarity with many of her gymnasts as she's gotten to know them well over the years.

"Being head coach is significantly different. There's a lot more responsibility that goes into it, obviously. There are some things that we've changed and some things that we've kept the same," she said.

She has continued to hold practices on a schedule so that not every Tanager gymnast comes to practice every day.

"That's something that Mark had started, and it makes things a little easier for the varsity girls – they get a little bit more one-

on-one time," Skye said. "We've added a meet – we went to the Madison Invitational. That was a really important add for us, because we saw a lot of judges that we're going to be seeing at the Region meet, and we hadn't gone to that meet before. That was an experience for all of us."

Seeing her athletes succeed is the most rewarding part of the job, she said.

"The looks on their faces, the feelings that they get when they get a new skill or when they do really good at a meet – it's such a great feeling for me to get to watch that, and to watch them grow," Skye said. "Some of these girls I've been with since they were in seventh grade, and they are just getting older, and it's just nice to see them grow up into the person they become both in the gym and outside the gym. It's just remarkable."

Her athletes may gain in strength and coordination inside the gym while mastering the sport, but Skye said she's learned that gymnastics teaches its participants skills that are valuable outside the gymnasium, as well.

"It teaches you a lot of determination, a lot of dedication, and



surprisingly, people wouldn't think this, but it teaches teamwork and dedication more to your team than to yourself," she said.

Skye and her husband, Andrew Bork, live in Vermillion. Andrew works as a videographer at South Dakota Public

Broadcasting. Skye is the economic development and communications assistant at the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and Development Company.

"I go to work early, and leave a little early so I can make it here (the gym) on time," she said.

1101 Announcements - Events

BERGEN LUTHERAN Church: "The little white church on Timber Road." Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Pastor Ralph Egbert

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 lcmvermillion.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 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.

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

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.

Town Square I & II Apartments 505-507 W. Main St. Vermillion, SD 57069. 1 BR apartments for anyone 55 years of age or older, or persons with disabilities. Please call 605-624-5218 or visit www.oakleafpm.com. Utilities are included and we are pet friendly. Rental assistance available to those who qualify.

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Proceeds benefit elk and other wildlife

THE VCDC ANNUAL BANQUET & VERMILLION NOW2! Kickoff

Thurs., Feb. 6, 2014
Vermillion Event Center,
912 N Dakota St.

Featured Speaker:
Brendan Johnson – United States Attorney

Social 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Dinner, Program & Community

Awards to Follow

The Public is Welcome!
Cost is \$30 per person. For more information and to reserve your tickets, please call the VCDC at 605-624-5571 by Jan. 30

www.livevermillion.com

BroadcasterOnline.com

Open House & Registration
for the 2014-15 School Year

The Vermillion School District will offer an "Explore Preschool" Open House to all interested 3 and 4 year olds and their families on

Thursday, January 30th from 5pm to 6pm at Austin School

Registration information and additional information can be picked up at the Open House or at Austin School after January 30th.

Please call 677-7010 or email Kimmarie.Johnson@k12.sd.us with any questions.

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