



January 2, 2015 www.plaintalk.net

The Best of 2014 SPORTS

Big hirings, college signings, resignations highlight sports year

The following is a recap of what readers indicated through online views and general conversation on what the Top 5 sports stories in Vermillion were in 2014.

We have decided to re-run portions of the original pieces so you can revisit the stories as they were told in *The Plain Talk*.

We thank you for your support and hope for a solid 2015 in covering the sports that need to be told.

No. 5

Revered USD Coach Helped Break Racial Barriers - January, 2014

On Monday, millions of Americans will take time, as they observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to

reflect on the impact King had on promoting civil rights in the United States, particularly in the South.

Kim Clodfelter of Vermillion will no doubt be recalling the winning efforts of his father, Dwane Clodfelter, who unwittingly will go down in South Dakota history as not only one of the most unique coaches in the state, but also as a civil rights pioneer in his own right.

Dwayne "Cloddy" Clodfelter had one goal in mind 'winning' when he convinced brothers Jimmy and Cliff Daniels of Brooklyn, NY, to come to South Dakota and play basketball for the University of South Dakota Coyotes.

It was a groundbreaking decision. The two men, both African-American, were the first minority athletes to compete at a collegiate level in the

region, and perhaps in the nation.

"Cliff was two years older, and I believe he stayed out two years so he could play with his younger brother, Jimmy. I think it was a pretty courageous thing for Dad to do in 1954, to recruit minority athletes," Kim Clodfelter said. "For example, the Southeast Conference didn't start to become integrated until 1967, Vanderbilt, I think, was the first school to bring in a black athlete, and I don't think Kentucky had a black basketball player until 1970, so we're talking about 16 years before, and we're talking about nine years before Martin Luther King Jr. gave his 'I Have a Dream' speech."

Dwane Clodfelter's efforts turned out to be the right decision for the coach, for the two brothers,

for the basketball team, and for the university.

Less than four years after Coach Clodfelter made the decision to integrate his basketball team, the Coyotes won the national championship, 75-53, knocking off St. Michael's College (VT) behind Jimmie Daniels' 40 points.

No. 4

Smith Named USD's Head Hoops Coach March, 2014

If Craig Smith gets his way, his University of South Dakota program will contend annually for a Summit League crown. And soon.

That was made very clear Monday afternoon

■ YEAR, Page 12A



Lenni Billberg, right, resigned as the Vermillion High School volleyball coach a week before this season ended.

FILE PHOTO

Ice Fishing a Hot Topic

By Mark Upward
For the Plain Talk

Several lakes in the northern tier of the state are already experiencing a heavy volume of fishing as the lakes up north have been frozen for some time now.

However, with the mild start to winter experienced by much of the state, all ice fishermen should be extremely cautious as they venture out on to the frozen lake.

Many lakes in the southern part of the state still have open water and would not be considered safe for ice fishing.

The South Dakota Games, Fish and Parks Department posts on their website the following guidelines for ice fishing anglers:

Less than four inches of ice – Stay Off!

Four to Six inches – Ice fishing via foot travel in single-file lines should be

safe, assuming the ice is clear and clean of snow.

Six to Twelve inches – Snowmobiles and ATVs can travel safely on good ice that is at least six inches thick.

Twelve to 16 inches – Small cars and pickups can venture onto the ice once it is a foot or more thick. However, anglers are generally encouraged to avoid driving on ice that is less than 16 inches thick.

More than 16 inches – Generally, a medium-sized car or mid-sized pickup can travel safely on good, clear, solid ice.

As stated, these are just guidelines. There are variables to every lake that must be considered before venturing out on the ice. These would include water movement under the ice, vegetation and snow cover.

If you do decide to brave the elements and venture

■ ICE, Page 11A



Ice fishing takes a lot of discipline, endurance, a patience for sitting in cold temperatures, and maintaining all safety measures required.

MARK UPWARD / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

TANAGER BOYS FALL TO 0-3; VHS SPORTS TO HEAT UP



PARKSTON - McCook Central Montrose used a balanced scoring attack to defeat Vermillion 64-57 in the Parkston Classic on Monday.

Cooper Williams led Vermillion with 17 points, and Jeremiah Johnson had 14 points.

Jacob Manger added seven rebounds for the Tanagers.

For MCM, Isaac Anderson and Will Gottlob each had 15 points, while Cole

Roshaude Harper, right, takes a shot against McCook Central Montrose Monday night at the Parkston Classic. Harper and the Tanagers fell 64-57.

JEREMY HOECK / PRESS & DAKOTAN

Cheesean had 11 points.

A look at Tanager athletics' week ahead

Tanager athletics will get into full swing after the New Year's Day holiday has passed this Thursday.

The Vermillion High School basketball teams are back at it on Friday when they both travel to play the Tea Titans with a doubleheader up north.

The girls' game was scheduled for a 6:30 p.m. tip with the boys' game to follow.

Then both teams will travel together once again on Saturday as the girls' tip off at 4 p.m. against Tri Valley and the Vermillion boys are to play

immediately following the conclusion of that game.

Wednesday night the Tanager girls will be at home for a 7:45 p.m. encounter with Canton High School while the boys will remain away from the cozy confines of their home court when they travel to West Central for a 7:45 p.m. tip.

The Vermillion High School wrestlers will compete on Monday at the Elk Point Jefferson triangular beginning at 5:30 p.m.

All dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

Check out www.plaintalk.net for reports on the action as it happens.

sured the Coyotes would tie for the crown.

Mettler was named the Men's Track Championship MVP, while Kyle McKelvey (Beresford) was named Men's Field Championship MVP and Dustin Valind earned Men's Newcomer honors.

And by the looks of

■ TRACK, Page 11A

Vermillion's Huber adjusting well to college hoops landscape

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

Vermillion High School's athletic loss was definitely Dakota Wesleyan's gain.

Josie Huber graduated from VHS last spring and took her basketball talents to Mitchell to play for the Dakota Wesleyan Tigers' program and so far so good for the former Tanager.

Huber, who was a big-time scorer for the Tanagers has slowly begun the transition to playing NAIA basketball with the Tigers averaging 2.0 ppg and 1.5 rpg over eight games. She did have a breakout 12-point game which was her highlight to date.

Huber recognized the difference between Class A basketball and top-flight NAIA hoops.

"The pace of the game is a lot faster," Huber said. "We push the ball all the time and are looking to go, go, go all the time. One thing for me is the 3-point line is that it's pushed back a foot or so and that affected me. Playing with a new team is always a



HUBER

transition."

Huber played inside a lot or floated on the wing for the Tanagers where now she is primarily a shooting guard for the 8-4 Tigers.

"It was kind of difficult at first because it was obviously a different role for me," Huber admitted. "There are a lot of good players on this team. I am getting the hang of it and learning my role. I am doing what I can."

Huber is averaging just over 12 minutes of game at the varsity level and has been eye-catching at the Junior Varsity level.

"She dominates there,"

■ HUBER, Page 11A

Williams earns top state coaching honor

By Jeremy Hoeck
Press & Dakotan

The way Amy Williams tells it, she learned more about her players after returning from the NCAA Tournament than she did on their journey to the biggest stage.

The women's basketball coach at the University of South Dakota was in the DakotaDome with her 9-year-old daughter over the summer, simply wanting to run laps around the track.

Williams heard basketballs bouncing in the West gym. She walked over and saw her players going through competitive shooting drills against each other. It wasn't an official or even organized practice, it was all something set up individually by the players.

"That was a heart-warming for a head coach to watch that," Williams said.

It also proved to Williams, now in her third season at USD, that her program wasn't satisfied with winning the Summit League tournament title — and reaching the NCAA Tournament — just once.

"They got a little taste of what it's like to be successful, and they want more of it," said Williams, whose Coyotes are 8-2 this season.

For guiding USD to its first Division I NCAA Tournament appearance, Williams has been named the College Women's Coach of the Year by the South Dakota

■ HONOR, Page 11A

Gottsleben earns state track honor for USD performance

Dave Gottsleben had won conference titles at the Division I level, but the veteran men's track coach at the University of South Dakota did even better in 2014.

His squads swept the Summit League track and field crowns.

Gottsleben, who enters his 31st season with the Coyotes in 2015, guided USD to its second consecu-

tive Summit League indoor championship and later to the program's first outdoor conference title since 2006.

At the league's indoor championship in March, the Coyote men repeated as conference champions.

Gottsleben was named Coach of the Year, while Jeff Mettler was named Men's Track Championship MVP after winning two individual events.

Two months later, the Coyote men tied North Dakota State for the Summit League outdoor title, their first-ever at the Division I level. USD previously won a North Central Conference outdoor title in 2006, back in the D-II days.

USD rallied from a 32-point deficit with five events remaining in the meet, but a second-place finish in the final event en-