

# MIXED

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we do that on a nightly basis and we do get our season turned around, at some point you need a game and a week where you can look back and say 'that was the turning point.'

"Maybe tonight was that turning point."  
Williams led the Tanagers (5-7) with 17 points, Schwasinger and Andre added 15 points apiece, Johnson chipped in with 12 points and Manger contributed a rugged nine-point effort.

It took a whopping 86 seconds for the Tanagers to set throne as they, rolled out to a 10-0 lead behind two silky 3-daggers by Johnson and Schwasinger.

The Trojans got their bearings and kept things competitive despite the Tanager offensive mojo hovering at Mach-6 as the Tanagers led 22-17 after one quarter of play.

Sophomore guard Williams' play was the perfect metaphor for a long-time caged lion let loose in a pen full of fresh meat.

"I felt like I had to be aggressive and I felt our team needed to play together," Williams said. "The last couple of games we have come out and sized up our opponents before deciding if we were going to play hard. I felt like I needed to give us a boost and come out of the gates so we didn't wait around.

"(West Central) had some open lanes and once I got into the lane they'd cut them off and I'd hit the shooters a couple of times."

Williams' hungry play on both ends would lead to sweet dips and drives through the lane and 3-bombs as the Tanagers led 34-23 with just over three minutes left before halftime.

"Right down the line and starting with Cooper at the point guard position we came in struggling," Drake said. "It was nice we hit some shots early and got a nice start to the game. Also offensively for the first time in a while we worked well together. We got the ball moving side to side a little bit and led to some decent looks."

Once again the Trojans (7-5) made a push to end a period and West Central kept it close, trailing 36-30 at halftime.

Another strong start to an eight-minute period pushed the Tanagers' lead to double figures behind inside shots by Andre and Manger and an icy cold beverage of a

3-bomb splash as Vermillion led 45-30 with 5:25 left in the third quarter.

See if you have heard of this before: Then West Central rallied.

The Trojans closed the quarter on a 10-5 run to make the Tanager lead 50-40 with just over eight minutes left in regulation before a Jefferson Galvin heave at the buzzer gave Vermillion a 53-40 edge.

That triggered a smooth roll into the fourth as Johnson buried two treys and the Tanagers enjoyed a 61-43 lead with 4:55 left in the game.

Throw in a little inside muscle with Manger and this case was closed: the Tanagers were guilty of bringing the beat down.

"It really helps me out and make it more open for me when they hit threes," Manager said. "It clears out the middle for me and makes post moves easier for me.

"It's really important for us to do because it gives me wide open lanes and I'm scoring. Their confidence helps."

### Vermillion boys defeat West Central 71-48

WCHS 17 13 10 8 - 48  
VHS 22 16 15 18 - 71  
**WEST CENTRAL**  
Jacob Odegaard 2, Dean Knuth 6, Dillon Deffenbaugh 2, Noah Vetrus 14, Cody Bussell 14, Jace Hanisch 4, Dan Skinner 3, Jared Blume 3.

### VERMILLION

Paul Schwasinger 15, Cooper Williams 17, Carter Andre 15, Jeremiah Johnson 12, Jacob Manger 9, Jefferson Galvin 3, Riley Peters 0, Brandon Mockler 0, Zeke Robinson 0, Blake Gilkyson 0, Logan Peterson 0, Matt Ouellette 0.

### Tanager girls see Trojans pull away

It wasn't for a lack of effort by the Tanager girls, but more a case of the offense not clicking and the Trojans just being deeper and savvier enough to capitalize when the opportunities presented themselves and send Vermillion to its third straight loss.

"West Central has four guards who are aggressive and looking to score and looking to make things happen," Vermillion head coach Jon Brooks said. "We have gone through a stretch where we aren't scoring a lot of points and maybe doubt starts creeping in a little bit. You have got to be able to break through it. We have a lot of season left.

"When you play good teams the one thing you can't do is be outworked and



Vermillion's Haleigh Melstad (11) attacks the rim Tuesday night against West Central.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

that's (what happened tonight)."

Haleigh Melstad led Vermillion with 10 points while Hailey Freidel and Autumn Barnett chipped in with six points apiece.

"We tell each other game against a tough team that we play we have to be all together as a team," Barnett said. "Right now it's just a rough patch. We all have confidence in each other. We just have to trust each other, know what each of us can do, and seeing what other people can do.

"We are head down and dribble. Brooks has told us that a hundred times, we just don't know how to fix it."

Brooks agrees that this area is a concern.

"We work hard on practice with everybody that when they get the ball they have to look up and look in because you have to be a threat offensively," Brooks said. "If you got something you have to be aggressive and take it."

West Central (10-2) finished the first quarter with a 15-10 lead but not before a 7-0 Tanager run helped cut a 13-3 deficit to a manageable spread after eight minutes.

The freshman Melstad helped Vermillion's cause with seven points in the opening quarter to counter a balanced Trojan attack.

The second quarter saw both teams trade some tough shots but a late 7-4 run by West Central gave the visitors a 28-19 edge at the halfway point.

West Central came out of the locker room hitting the boards hard and their defense played with a little more vigor to help

themselves to a 36-19 lead at the 4:54 mark of the third quarter.

Without a senior on the floor the Tanagers made a run to pull within 12 and had ample opportunity to pull within single figures behind a scrappy attitude and a whole lot of attitude.

West Central came in carrying a medal of pedigree and they flashed that in the waning moments of the period to take a solid 43-27 cushion into the final quarter.

Vermillion gave a solid effort in the fourth quarter but the bounces they needed, the kind rims demanded, and the required defensive stops were too far and few between as the Trojans flexed their muscular lead and never let go to cruise to the relatively easy win.

Last Friday night the Tanager girls fell 38-30 at Lennox. Kasey Jensen led the way for Vermillion with 12 points while Shanel French contributed seven points in the defeat.

### West Central girls defeat Vermillion 57-35

WCHS 15 13 15 14 - 57  
VHS 10 9 8 8 - 35

**WEST CENTRAL**  
Ashlyn McDonald 16, Kylie Hanisch 5, Bailey Meadors 9, McKenzie Stone 13, Alexa From 10, Kamryn Lindskov 2, Sydney Goertel 2

### VERMILLION

Haleigh Melstad 10, Tori Gregoire 0, Rachel Finnegan 1, Twila Sweeney 4, Sydney Peters 2, Kyleigh Melstad 0, Kasey Jensen 3, Shantel French 0, Maddie Regnerus 0, Hailey Freidel 4, Autumn Barnett 6, Madisen Martinez 3, Jaida Anderson 0.

# BATTLE

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three 31s to qualify for state and I only have one (this season). I have qualified in vault and floors so far. I have some little wobbles on beam, which I have been working on that. There are a couple stops on bars, but I am getting better at it."

Taggart's top result came in the floor exercise where she took fourth-place with an 8.35 score.

Taggart wished she could have performed a bit better against the Gazelles.

"I was .1 from qualifying for state in the all-around," she said. "I have one 31 and need two more."

Taggart likes the team's makeup and felt that there was extra incentive to perform well against their rivals just a short highway trip away.

"I like our team, there is a lot of potential," Taggart said. "We just have to straighten some things out. Beam is usually a weakness of ours. We are starting to sort things out and we are getting better as the season goes on.

"We had a feeling we could beat Yankton and felt they are within our reach so it was sort of a motivation for us. We didn't quite get there, but we did our best."

Another top finish for the Tanagers came via junior Shayla Kiertzner (7.2, fifth-place on the beam).



Cheyenne Mallory of the Vermillion Tanagers' gymnastics squad performs on the vault during the team's Thursday dual meet against the Yankton Gazelles. Yankton won the dual, but the young Tanagers saw Vermillion's Carter Williams win the all-around. Mallory, a junior being watched by VHS head coach Shannon Fitzsimmons, took fifth place in the all-around.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

# LEGENDS

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University of South Dakota. If we get enough votes, we may even extend that to a "Great Eight" series of stories or at max, a Top 10.

Thus we will write the stories that you ultimately voted for.

Still have your attention? Good.

So if you want to nominate who you believe are the great individual athletes in Vermillion history, here is how we will make this the greatest project ever devised and produced in a local newspaper, possibly ever. It will be because it will be the first joint project between readers and writers that we have found. Like I said: You decide the content through your nominations and later, your votes.

Then, we write the stories.

Total team effort.

Here is how we nominate.

1. Nominations should be athletes who played at Vermillion High School or the University of South Dakota. They can also be local athletes who participated in adult rec that did something of extraordinary levels. A famous runner? Bicyclist? Bowler? They can be considered too.

2. You may nominate up to THREEE different people.

3. To nominate you need to include:

- Their school or affiliation
  - Known years competed
  - What sport/s they are being nominated for
  - A short reason for why they are being nominated
- e. Also, if you wish to help, provide some background information so we know where to begin our research, especially if the athletes are from a much later time.

4. You can send in your nominations via:

- Email at news@plaintalk.net.
- Online at [https://plaintalk-dot-net.bloxcms.com/site/forms/online\\_services/submit\\_news/legends/legends/](https://plaintalk-dot-net.bloxcms.com/site/forms/online_services/submit_news/legends/legends/)
- Postal Mail by sending it to: 201 West Cherry Street, Vermillion, SD 57609
- By calling Alan Dale at 605-624-4429.
- Also please leave contact information so we can potentially follow up on more information on some of these great legends.

And that's all.

Soon after we complete this process we will then tell you how to vote for YOUR Top Three. Remember this first part is simply a nomination process. It is the first step of three: Nominations, Voting, and then the Writing.

At one of my previous stops we did something similar to this and it was a huge hit. The goal here is to do something even grander by doing a different series each year. Our early goals are:

- 2015: Legends-The Athletes
- 2016: Legends-The Teams
- 2017: Legends-The Coaches
- 2018: Legends-The Games
- 2019: Legends-That Special Moment
- 2020: Legends: The Greatest Overachievers
- 2021: Legends: The Upsets

In other words? This is only the beginning in what promises to be another of many grand plans we have for Vermillion.

But for now let's just plan on making Feb. 1 - March 15 the first step of many of doing something unprecedented.

Let us become...

Legendary.

We look forward to your nominations and learning about the vast history of Vermillion sports and what it has meant to all of you.

## SPORTS LEGENDS of Vermillion

Starting Sunday, Feb. 1 through March 31: The Nomination Process Takes Place

- Nominate your five greatest Vermillion athletes from Vermillion High School, the University of South Dakota, and any other sports aligned with the area.

**THEN!**  
From April 17 - May 31: The Voting Process Will Take Over

- YOU the readers and fans will vote and rank from No. 1-3 the top three all-time athletes from the final list of nominations.

**FINALLY!**  
The Plain Talk staff will tabulate all the voting points and write stories for - at minimum - The Top 5 vote getters and write their stories over the months of July and August.

The max would be a Top 10.

These are the stories we will write and that YOU voted on. **These are YOUR Legends and we will tell their stories for you!**



**Nomination Form**

Nominee's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Competed: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Background Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop off or mail your nominations to the Plain Talk at 201 W. Cherry Street, Vermillion, SD 57609

\*Nominations can also be filled out online at [https://plaintalk-dot-net.bloxcms.com/site/forms/online\\_services/submit\\_news/legends/legends/](https://plaintalk-dot-net.bloxcms.com/site/forms/online_services/submit_news/legends/legends/) or by calling 605-624-2695