

## SECOND PLACE



Vermillion Flamez U10 team played in the Southeastern Softball League Tournament July 9 through 11 in Centerville and finished in second place. Proud sponsors of the team are Knutson Family Dental, CorInsurance, First Dakota National Bank and Vermillion Fire Department. Front row: Kennedy Pratt, Lexi Saunders, Alisha Leber, Tori Gale, Payten Halverson. Back row: Coach Todd Halverson, Emily Stockwell, Brooke Assmus, Taylor Tarr, Kailee Brinkman, Maizie Inhen, Kelly Mulheron and Assistant Coach Sherry Stockwell. Not pictured is Macy Winslow. The girls had an undefeated season in the League finishing 12-0 and overall 20-7 for their overall record.

# Vermillion 13-14 Teeners bound for state tourney

By Parker Knox  
Sportswriter

Coach Matt Houk's ballclub punched its ticket for next weekend's state tourney at Humboldt by clinching no worse than second place in the Region 1A tournament at Elk Point with a come-from-behind 8-5 win over Irene Tuesday.

Vermillion was to play for the championship Thursday against whoever came out of the losers' bracket among Irene, Chancellor and Dakota Valley. One of those teams will also go to the state tournament, which runs July 27-29.

Unlike two lopsided wins to open the tournament, the Irene game was a nail-biter, and Vermillion rallied from deficits of 2-1 and 4-3 to pull out the win with clutch hits and a 13-strikeout performance on the mound by Carter Kratz.

Kratz gave up seven hits but walked only two.

For a time Vermillion flirted with potential disaster, going 1-for-10 with runners in scoring position through 3 2/3 innings. Up to that point, the Teeners had scored only on a bases-loaded wild pitch in the third. But Billy Mount doubled to the left-field warning track, scoring a pair to put his team up 3-2.

In the fifth Riley Peters put the ball in play with Brandon Mockler at third base. Peters' grounder to third tied the game.

Then the top third of the batting order put Vermillion ahead for good - Kyle Johnson punched one of his four hits through the infield, Cole Anderson did the same, and Kratz, like Mount an inning earlier, just missed a home run with a blast to the right-center fence that scored two.

Vermillion added a pair of insurance runs in the sixth on RBI hits by Mockler and Peters.

Vermillion finished the night with 13 hits and stranded 12 runners on base.

The Teeners had opened the tournament Saturday morning by falling behind Lennox 3-0 in the top of the first inning. Lennox took advantage of a pair of walks by starter Billy Mount and two hits. After that, however, Mount, buoyed by the runs his teammates were scoring, struck out five in three innings and was helped by catcher Brandon Mockler's throwing out two baserunners. Lennox never scored after its first-inning three spot.

Meanwhile, Mount himself drove in a run, and a wild pitch let in another in the bottom of the first. A successful delayed steal allowed Vermillion to the game in the third. In the fourth a leadoff double by Joe Miller and Riley Peters' bunt for a base hit led to two runs for a 5-3 lead.

Lennox changed pitchers to start the bottom of the fifth, and Vermillion, needing eight runs to allow the 10-run rule to kick in, got them. Carter Kratz's double started it all, an error at first base helped it along,

and Cam Olson's two-run double set the tidal wave into motion.

Mockler's sacrifice fly, Peters' single, Kyle Johnson's single and a wild pitch put Vermillion up by 11-3. Cole Anderson and Kratz both earned walks, and Mount put an end to Lennox's misery with a double up the gap and that scored them both to end the game abruptly.

Sunday's second-round game against Canton was even more lopsided. Thirty-nine Vermillion men batted, and Canton got only nine of them out. The Teeners scored one in the top of the first inning and seven runs on six hits in the second.

But the top of the third was embarrassingly easy. Vermillion sent 24 men to the plate, 12 of them hit safely, seven walked, two were hit with pitches, and 18 of them scored.

With the 15-run rule due to apply at the end of the inning, Canton, which had scored two in the second, needed to score 10 runs to keep the game alive. They did get four on one hit, two walks and two errors, but the game ended at 26-6.

Peters had three hits and four RBIs in the third inning alone and four hits and five RBIs for the game. Olson and Hunter Christopherson had three hits each. Kyle Johnson and Kratz had two hits each.

Cole Anderson pitched the first two innings, giving up only one hit and walking three. Wyatt Markee pitched the third.

## Williams finalizes Coyote women's basketball staff

University of South Dakota head women's basketball coach Amy Williams has announced the additions of Chuck Love and Tandem Mays to the Coyote coaching staff. Love will serve as a full-time assistant while Mays will serve as a graduate assistant.

Love and Mays join assistant coaches Ryan Larsen and Brooke Atkinson to complete the Coyote coaching staff.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to retain Ryan Larsen and Brooke Atkinson on our coaching staff, as their first-hand knowledge of this program, our primary recruiting base, and the University of South Dakota will be extremely beneficial," Williams said. "The addition of Charles Love and Tandem Mays will bring energy, passion, and a familiarity with the system we would like to implement. This staff is a collection of individuals that compliment me and each other extremely well, and will be well equipped to give our student-athletes the support they need and deserve."

Love comes to South Dakota after spending 2011-12 as an assistant coach for the Rogers State men's

basketball program. A 2008 Northwestern Oklahoma State graduate, Love helped coach the Hillcats back to the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball national quarterfinals last season. He was responsible for recruiting, scouting and development of post players. Prior to serving at Rogers State, he was an assistant coach at Wayland Baptist University in Texas and was a graduate assistant coach at Northwestern Oklahoma State, where he played from 2006-08.

Mays, a 2007 graduate of the University of Tulsa, spent four seasons as a member of the Rogers State women's basketball coaching staff, where she helped the team to a 84-47 mark. She was involved in court-skill development of the team's guards and also involved in recruiting, scouting and academic development. Mays played at Tulsa from 2003-07, where she was a three-year starter and team captain during her senior season.

Larsen will be entering his fifth season as a member of the Coyote coaching staff, while Atkinson will be in her second.

## Coyote women's basketball team 4th in nation in GPA

The University of South Dakota women's basketball team finished fourth in the nation in grade point average (GPA) for the 2011-12 academic year, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced on Tuesday. The Coyotes qualified for the WBCA Honor Roll for the fourth consecutive year.

The Coyote women finished with a GPA of 3.595 for the 2011-12 year to finish fourth in the country. It is the highest-finish ever by the USD women in the WBCA Honor Roll.

The WBCA Academic Top 25 annually recognizes NCAA Divisions I, II and III, NAIA; and junior college/community college teams across the nation that carry the highest combined grade point averages (GPAs) inclusive of all student-athletes on their rosters for the entire season. The 2011-12

season is the 17th in which the WBCA has presented the standings.

A team's GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the total number of hours attempted by all team members in the academic terms (semesters or quarters) that the season spans. Weighted grades are converted to a 4.0 scale. The GPAs are rounded to the nearest thousandth of a point. A team must have a 3,000 or

better GPA to be nominated.

"I look forward to the release of the Academic Top 25 each summer," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "Because our society places so much emphasis on winning games and championships, it is a refreshing change of pace when we recognize those teams that excel in the classroom."

"Like winning on the court, academic success on a team level does not happen by

accident. It requires a group of student-athletes who realize the importance of education and earning their degrees, coaches who expect and encourage their players to attend class and study, and administrators who provide strong academic support programs for their athletes," said Bass.

"The teams composing the Academic Top 25 each year are always the real winners in women's college basketball."

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