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Vermillion Makes Play-Off Push



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Vermillion's Ethan James attempts to tag out a runner stealing third during Post 1's 8-6 win over South Sioux City Tuesday night at Prentis Park.
Top Right: Vermillion shortstop Carter Kratz attempts to tag out a runner at second base during Post 1's 8-6 win over South Sioux City Tuesday night at Prentis Park.

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
 clyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

Vermillion Post 1 Legion baseball team dropped two region games last week before returning home to beat South Sioux City Tuesday night.

Vermillion 2, Dakota Valley 3

Post 1 lost to visiting Dakota Valley 3-2 Friday night despite a seventh inning comeback attempt. Vermillion scored two runs in the bottom of the inning when Ethan James hit a bases loaded single to score Jack Brown followed by an RBI single by Travis Weber.

Cole Anderson had two singles from two at bats. Joe Miller and James had one hit each. Hunter Christopherson recorded a double.

Christopherson also had the start on the mound going three innings with two runs, five hits, two strikeouts and two walks. Jake Odens replaced Christopherson to start the fourth inning and went four innings with two runs on one hit, to strikeouts and two walks.

Vermillion 5, Lennox 6

On July 4, Vermillion traveled to Lennox and dropped a 6-5 decision after a three-run ninth inning by Post 174.

Vermillion was down 3-0 going in to the seventh inning when they put up four in the frame after head coach Jason Gault was ejected by the umpire for arguing balls and strikes.

"Sometimes coaches have to step up and take one for the team and I guess I identified that something needed to happen to hopefully spark our offense," Gault said. "I just let the umpire know that I didn't agree with some of the calls he was making against us and he did his job. He knew I couldn't be arguing balls and strikes, so he ejected me. I think our kids came together after that and scored four runs and we just couldn't hold on to that lead in the last inning."

Jefferson Galvin got the offense started when he reached base on an error followed by singles from Miller and Carter Kratz. Galvin then came home on another error by the Lennox defense that advanced Miller and Kratz to second and third.

Anderson singled and Jack Brown hit a sacrifice fly to score two more.

James then reached base on an error to score Anderson who stole second and went to third on an error.

Vermillion's final run came in the top of the eighth from an RBI groundout by Miller that scored Odens to give Post 1 a 5-3 lead.

Four of Vermillion's runs were unearned as Lennox committed eight errors in the game.

Lennox posted three runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to end the game 6-5.

James started the game on the mound and went three and two thirds innings allowing two runs on no hits with five walks and seven strikeouts. Kratz came in to pitch five innings with four runs on six hits, three walks and six strikeouts.

Vermillion 8, South Sioux City 6

On Tuesday night, Jack Brown's three-run homerun to left field led Post 1 to a 8-6 win over South Sioux City Post 307 at Prentis Park.

"This is a win we needed," Gault said. "We've taken a couple really close losses where I thought we had opportunities to either hold a lead or to win a baseball game late and it just didn't happen and so getting this one, granted that last inning wasn't pretty, but we scored enough runs and we threw enough strikes to be on top at the end."

Brown recorded five RBIs in the game off three hits including a two-double that tied the game at two in the third inning. A few batter later, James drew a bases loaded walk followed by Travis Weber's sacrifice fly gave Vermillion the 3-2 lead.

Brown's homer in the fourth made the score 7-2.

"We've been waiting for him to get hot and he got hot today," Gault said.

South Sioux City added two runs in the top of the eighth, but Vermillion was able to hold onto the lead.

"Big offensive game," Gault said. "The middle of our order is starting to hit and that is something that needed to happen if we were going to be successful here down the stretch."

Cole Anderson pitched six innings to earn the win. Anderson allowed two runs on four hits with three walks and one strikeout. Jake Odens came in to start the seventh inning for the save and allowed four runs on four hits with one walk and five strikeouts.

The game that was scheduled for Monday night in Beresford was postponed and is rescheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m.

On Friday, Vermillion travels to Elk Point for a game scheduled to start at 6 p.m. then to Canton Monday night for a 6:30 p.m. start time. Next Thursday, Vermillion will host the region tournament at Prentis Park and the outcome of these games will determine the schedule for the region tournament.

"We like to see guys win ball games like this late in the season and come together as a team because we know that we're going to be playing nine inning games in regions," Gault said. "It's going to stretch our bullpen a little bit and hopefully these wins are confidence in our guys and give our guys a mindset that they can believe in themselves late."



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