

Tanager grapplers place third at state tournament

By Parker Knox
Sports writer

To say the Vermillion wrestling program will miss this year's crop of graduating seniors is an understatement to top them all.

Seven of the 10 Tanagers who qualified for last weekend's state "A" tournament in Rapid City were seniors, and six of those seven earned place medals as the VHS team advanced eight men into the quarterfinals, five into the semifinals and three into championship matches.

When the last whistle had blown and the mats had been rolled up, Vermillion had bested all of the larger ESD Conference schools and were left looking up only at the state's two Black Hills powerhouse clubs — Sturgis and Rapid City Stevens. Moving up from a 10th-place finish a year ago, the Tanagers finished as third in

the state with 130.5 points, trailing Sturgis' record-setting 222 points and Stevens' 165 but standing above, in order, Huron, Pierre, Watertown, Aberdeen Central and Mitchell among the eight schools which earned team plaques.

One of the smallest men on the Tanager team, but small only in physical stature, brought home the coveted gold medal emblematic of a state champion. T.J. North, who placed third last year and won himself a state title while a sophomore at Elk Point-Jefferson in 2008, dominated the 112-pound weight class and made his drive to the title look like just another day at the office. He completed his two years at VHS with a stunning record of 74-1.

Two other seniors earned the right to compete in the Saturday night spotlight at center mat. Chris Mart at 171 pounds and Gerrit Heine at 215

reached their championship matches before having to settle for the silver.

Nick Mart completed an incredible senior season with a 39-1 record and claimed third place at 189 pounds. Earl Kiertzner and Tanner Mart, also both seniors, placed fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 140 and 160-pound divisions.

Two centerpieces of the Tanager program for the next few seasons also placed. Seventh-grader Brett Bye took sixth at 103, and sophomore Will Mart captured seventh at heavyweight.

Vermillion held a lead of 115.5 to 110 over Huron in the battle for third place in the team standings heading into Saturday night's final session, but wins by Kiertzner, Nick Mart and Will Mart in the early place matches gave the Tanagers breathing room and solidified the team's right-

ful position above everybody except Sturgis and Stevens.

"I've had a very special group of kids," Coach Joe Delvaux told a Rapid City reporter after the last session. "It's kind of bittersweet to think this is the last time we will do this."

The Tanagers at state, one weight at a time:

103: Brett Bye
The luck of the draw put Bye against the eventual champion, Morgan Engbrecht of Sturgis, who finished his year at 46-0. Bye lost that one in a 27-second pin, but he rallied strong in two Friday wrestling matches, pinning Huron's Chet Glanzer in 2:37 and decisioning Keaton Ohlsen of Stevens, 7-4, to clinch a place. Then Bye won another one, 10-05 over Brady Burghardt, Watertown, early Saturday. In the fourth-round wrestlingbacks Bye lost by pin in 58 seconds to Dylan Larson of Washington, who went on to place third. That put Bye into the fifth-place contest with Aberdeen Central's John Frisco, where Bye lost on a 1:31 pin. Bye's year

ended at 31-13.

112: T.J. North
North did what he had to do Friday, winning his two matches comfortably and quickly. He dispatched Martin Mueller of Rapid City Central in 58 seconds, then followed with a 22-7 technical fall over Alex Burghardt, Watertown, in the quarterfinals. North's semifinal victim was Jordan Redmond, Milbank, one of whose losses during the year had been at the hands of North. This time T.J. pinned him in 4:52. Nate Schaefer, Brookings, brought a 29-6 record to the championship match, but North scored two first-period takedowns en route to a 4-1 lead. A reversal early in the second period made it 6-1, but at 3:31 North put his clamps down, had his hand raised as a state champion, and walked off the mat with a perfect senior season of 31-0.

135: Lance Burkhart
After Burkhart won 6-4 over Kellen Lowe, Rapid City Central, in the first round, he and Dell Rapids' Cade Bussys, who even-

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Pictured are VAST swimmers who qualified at the Tri-State Championship meet. Those with asterisks by their names are also State qualifiers: Kyleigh Chandler, Maggie Pettersen, Kelsie Herrera, Stacie Kjelden **, Megan Bottolfson, Shelby Brady **, Assistant Coach Melanie Mahowald, Ava Magee **, Nate Robertson **, Abril Telleria, Lexie Malimanic **, Madisen Martinez **, Maddie Lavin **, Hunter Lavin **, and Isabell Telleria **.

VAST competes at Tri-State Championship meet

The Vermillion Area Swim Team competed at the Tri-State Championship Meet on Feb. 20 at Sioux Center, IA. Results are as follows.

8 & under:
Hunter Lavin -- 25 back, 10th; 100 IM, fourth; 25 free, eighth. Isabell Telleria -- 25 fly, fifth; 25 back, 12th; 100 IM, third; 25 free, 10th; 25 breast, fifth.

9-10 years old:
Shelby Brady -- 100 IM, 10th; 50 free, ninth; 50 breast, ninth. Madisen Lavin

-- 50 fly, sixth; 50 back, fourth; 100 IM, fifth; 50 free, fifth; 50 breast, sixth. Ava Magee -- 50 fly, fourth; 50 back 11th; 100 IM, sixth; 50 free, sixth; 50 breast, 10th. Alexis Malimanic -- 50 fly, fifth; 50 back, fifth; 100 IM, third; 50 free, fourth; 50 breast, fourth. Madisen Martinez -- 50 fly, ninth; 100 IM, seventh; 50 free, seventh; 50 breast, fifth. Nathan Robertson -- 50 fly, second; 50 back, 10th; 100 IM, fifth; 50 free, 10th. Abril

Telleria -- 50 breast, 11th. 11-12 years old:
Kyleigh Chandler -- 50 fly, 10th. Maggie Peterson -- 50 fly, 12th; 50 back, 12th; 50 free, 15th; 50 breast, 14th. 13-14 years old:
Kelsie Herrera, 50 free, ninth; 100 free, 12th. 15-18 years old:
Megan Bottolfson -- 50 free, 17th. Stacie Kjelden -- 50 free, fifth; 100 back, third; 200 IM, fourth; 100 free, fourth; 100 breast, sixth.

Tanagers prepare for District 8A play with win over Canton

By Parker Knox
Sports writer

Vermillion built a first-quarter advantage and maintained it throughout the contest in whipping Canton, 59-43, to end the regular season on an upswing at Canton last Friday.

The Tanagers, in completing the year at 6-14 pending tournament play, held on to five-point leads after the second and third periods, 28-23 and 40-35, respectively. They were able to expand it to a comfortable level in the final stanza, going on a 19-point scoring binge themselves while containing the C-Hawks to only five points in the period until a meaningless three-pointer at the buzzer.

Fifty-three of the 59 VHS points came from three men. The tandem of Kyle Freidel and Cole Andre both had 21-point performances. Freidel added 14 defensive rebounds to his statistics for the night. Andre threw in three three-pointers, made all six of his free-throw attempts and added four boards and three assists to his all-around

game. Jason Rasmussen contributed 12 points, including a pair of treys, along with two assists and eight rebounds.

Aaron Steele with three and Tyler Husby with two had the other Tanager points. Husby also had five rebounds and four assists while Austin Krier snared three rebounds. Coach Jay Drake was able to get all 12 men on his roster into the game.

Vermillion had 36 rebounds, 30 of them on the defensive boards, while Canton had 34 rebounds. The Tanagers shot 42 percent (20

of 48). Jared Twedt led the C-Hawk offense with 14 points.

The Tanagers were to open District 8A play as the No. 4 seed at top-seed Elk Point-Jefferson Thursday night while Beresford was playing at Dakota Valley in the other semifinal. Those two winners will play Saturday for the district title at the home court of the higher seed, and the champion has a regional championship date Tuesday against the District 7A champ at Tea or Harrisburg.

Zejnec leads USD Women's Tennis in loss to Western Illinois

Senior Rijalda Zejnec recorded a straight-set win at No. 3 singles, but the University of South Dakota women's tennis team fell short against Western Illinois Sunday, falling 6-1 in a dual meet in Sioux City, Iowa.

USD (4-8) also lost tough matches at No. 3 doubles, losing in a tiebreaker, and at No. 6 singles.

Zejnec (Hamilton, Ontario) recorded a 6-3, 7-6 (9-7 tiebreaker) win over Amy Unzicker at No. 3 singles to account for USD's point in the match.

However, USD came close at No. 3 doubles, as Zejnec and freshman Kelsi Foster (Huron, S.D.) fought Kate Kennedy and Unzicker to a tiebreaker before losing 9-8 (7-4 tiebreaker).

At No. 6 singles, USD freshman Britney Smith (Marion, Iowa) battled Kennedy tough before losing 6-3, 7-5.

USD sophomore Isabel Nunez (Oakville, Ontario) battled Jill Furlong tough at No. 4 singles before falling, 6-4, 6-2.

"It was closely contested," said USD head coach Malcolm Gilreath. "It shows the progress we've made."

USD's next action is set for Monday, March 8 in Orlando, Fla., against Martin Methodist College. It is part of five meets USD has scheduled in Florida. Western Illinois 6, South Dakota 1

Doubles
No. 1 -- Yana Meinert/Marcela Brandao (WI) def. Melanie Rockne/Brittney Smith, 8-1.
No. 2 -- Stephanie Baumer/Jill Furlong (WI) def. Marina Kiefer/Isabel Nunez, 8-3.
No. 3 -- Kate Kennedy/Amy Unzicker (WI) def. Rijalda Zejnec/Kelsi Foster, 9-8 (7-4 tiebreaker).

Singles
No. 1 -- Baumer (WI) def. Rockne, 6-0, 6-0.
No. 2 -- Brandao (WI) def. Kiefer, 6-

Miles claims second at U.S. indoor track & field meet

South Dakota's Derek Miles cleared 18-8 1/4 to finish second in the men's pole vault during the 2010 USA Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Albuquerque, NM, Convention Center over the weekend.

Miles made four of the first seven attempts and finished with the same height as Tim Mack, but more misses down the stretch by Miles gave Mack the victory. The performance qualified Miles for the IAAF World Indoor Championships, which will be held March 12-14 in Doha, Qatar.



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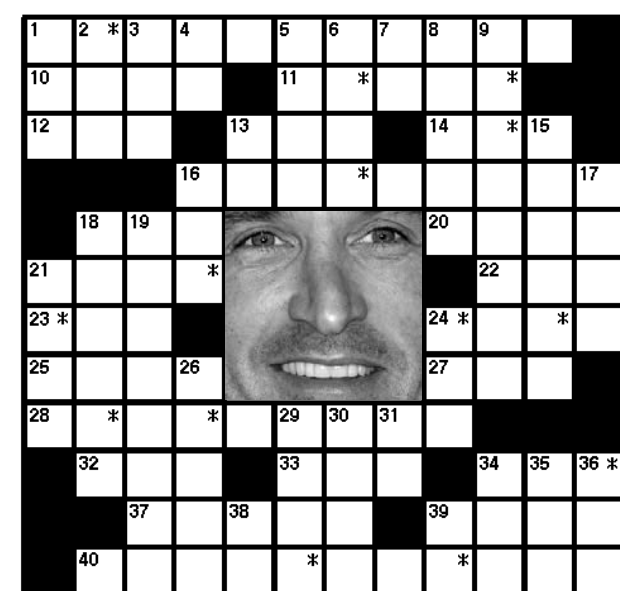
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TV CROSSWORD



The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

- ACROSS**
- Actress on "Law & Order: SVU" (2)
 - "___ Island With You"; 1948 Peter Lawford film
 - Poison
 - Night we watched "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"; abbr.
 - "I'm With ___"
 - Photo ___; chances to pose in memorable pix
 - Actor on "The Good Wife" (2)
 - "Poison ___"; Michael J. Fox TV movie of 1985
 - Jacob's sibling
 - Mean Amin and others
 - "The ___ That Binds"; 1995 Daryl Hannah film
 - Suffix for bet or abet
 - Lead role on "Boy Meets World"
 - "The ___ Chaparral" (1967-71)
 - Surgeons' spots; abbr.
 - Role on "Desperate Housewives" (2)
 - "Three ___ Couch"; 1966 Jerry Lewis film
 - Letter from Greece
 - "The View" personality
 - La Douce and others
 - "___ Is Worth Living"; Fulton J. Sheen series
 - Role on "Heroes" (2)
- DOWN**
- Wellington or Cruise
 - Calendar period
 - "Tin ___"; 2007 Richard Dreyfuss miniseries
 - "___ American Wedding"; 2005 series
 - Declare
 - Susan Mayer's portrayer
 - Prefix for real or usual
 - "___ Can Hear You"; '01 Kelly McGillis film
 - 2001 Gary Sinise movie
 - Holbrook's initials
 - "The People Under the ___"; 1991 Brandon Adams thriller
 - Namesakes of baseball's Young
 - One of Donald Duck's nephews
 - 1982 Lee Remick TV movie (4)
 - "The Waltons" setting
 - "___ Jury"; 1982 Armand Assante film
 - Portable bed
 - "Change of ___"; 1998-2003 game show
 - "___ the Wild Wind"; 1942 John Wayne film
 - "___ Living" (1980-89)
 - Casual farewell
 - "According to ___"
 - Two ___ Kind" (1998-99)
 - Craving
 - Whitney or McKinley; abbr.
 - Actress Kudrow's initials

Patrick Dempsey
Solution



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