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PLAIN TALK

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Tanagers place 8th at state

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Vermillion's valiant seniors extended their high school basketball careers as long as they could – even into an overtime period – but when Saturday's seventh-place game at the state Class "A" tournament in Spearfish ended, the result was the same as in the two previous days.

The Tanagers fell to Clark-Willow Lake, 50-47, and had to settle for eighth place. Their final record for the season stands at 18-7 along with Big 8 Conference, District 8A and Region 4A championships.

For a program that won four games two years ago and six games last season, an 18-victory campaign is a great step forward, and nobody had more to do with that than graduating seniors Kelly Amundson, Bailey Carlson, Lexi Regnerus, Beth Szymonski and Val Robinson.

Vermillion went 4-for-15 from the field in the first quarter Saturday, but those four baskets came in succession as part of a 12-0 Tanager run toward a 12-3 lead. But Clark-Willow Lake answered with a 10-0 run of its own, eight of the points by Chynna Stevens, and the Cyclones led after a quarter, 13-12.

By halftime they were still ahead by 21-18.

The first few minutes of the second half were shaky, and it appeared the Tanagers might be in danger of a fatal third quarter for the third straight day. But they corrected things. A 7-0 run highlighted by a trey from Josie Huber and four Szymonski points tied the game at 30-30. Another three-pointer by Huber and Amundson's basket gave the Tanagers their first lead since early in the game at 35-34 heading into the fourth.

Neither team could find the hoop for three minutes. A three-pointer from Regnerus, who had all seven of Vermillion's points in the final quarter, made it 38-36. Her free throw at 3:45 made it 39-38, and another trey with 1:57 left put the Tanagers up by 42-40. But C-WL's Mackenzie Huber tied the game with a basket at the 1:30 mark.

Vermillion missed on its next possession, but C-WL obliged by missing the front end of a one-and-one situation at 0:58 to give the Tanagers a chance for the winning shot. It missed in the final second, sending the game to O.T.

In the extra period the Cyclones took a quick four-point lead while the Tanagers were missing on their first three possessions. Robinson's three-pointer at 1:21 brought VHS within 46-45. C-WL ran the clock down to 0:41 until Mindy Grensberg was fouled. She sank both ends of a clutch one-and-one opportunity for a 48-45 lead.

Robinson's layup was Vermillion's last score though the Tanagers



Vermillion's Val Robinson, 5, avoids a block attempt by Sisseton's Jordyn Kirk, 23, during the first half of their consolation semifinal game at the South Dakota State Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament on Friday at the Young Center in Spearfish.

(James D. Cimburek/P&D)

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Vermillion loses Komen race

The South Dakota Affiliate of Susan G. Komen® is moving its 2012 Race for the Cure to downtown Sioux Falls on September 30. Organizers believe the new location will enable more supporters from across the state to attend the event. The South Dakota affiliate's desire is to grow the race, because more money raised translates into better breast health and greater progress towards a cure for breast cancer.

"We are deeply grateful to the people of Vermillion for propelling the Komen Race for the Cure from infancy into a gathering of more than 4,000 participants," says Colette Abbott, founder and former race chair for the Susan G. Komen South Dakota Race for the Cure. "I've been amazed at the commitment of South Dakotans to raise more than \$800,000 to fund breast cancer research and education since 2008. The impact of the Race for the Cure on breast health in our state is only poised to grow as the race moves to Sioux Falls and becomes a truly statewide race."

Seventy-five percent of the funds raised through the race will stay in South Dakota for breast health education, breast cancer screening, treatment programs and research to prevent, treat and cure breast cancer. The remaining 25 percent supports groundbreaking breast cancer research on a national level.

"Sanford Health is dedicated to diagnosing, treating and researching to find a cure for breast cancer – as the local leader in these areas it makes sense for us to



This was the scene at the starting line of the 2011 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Vermillion last September. The South Dakota affiliate of the organization announced Sunday it is moving the race to Sioux Falls.

(Photo by David Lias)

support this amazing event," says Kay Santema, Vice President, Sanford Cancer.

Komen South Dakota is grateful for the local businesses that have made the race possible in the past and is inviting businesses from across the state to support this year's race.

"The race is about camaraderie. It's about survivors coming together and celebrating their victories and encouraging those who are in the midst of battling breast cancer," says Amanda Anderson, executive director of Komen South Dakota. "It's also about our

children and the drive we have to find better treatments and a cure."

The tentative starting point for the race is the intersection of Phillips Ave. and 2nd Street. The 5K and one mile race routes will continue throughout the downtown area.

For more information about the race, please contact Amanda Anderson, executive director of Komen South Dakota, at 605.271.1751 or Amanda.Anderson@komensouthdakota.org, or Susie Patrick, this year's race chair, at racechair@komensouthdakota.org.

USD campus will be buzzing with spelling bee participants

By Travis Gulbrandson
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It's state tournament time at the University of South Dakota, but the 11 competitors set to meet this Saturday won't be doing so on any sports field.

Instead, they'll be on the stage in Aalfs Auditorium showing off their knowledge of the English language in the South Dakota Scripps Spelling Bee.

This is the first time the university has sponsored the spelling bee, taking over the duties from the South Dakota Newspaper Association.

"When (SDNA) decided not to be the statewide sponsor, Scripps approached us," program assistant Cheryl Havermann said. "We thought it would be perfect with the philosophy of education for young people, so we took up the role of sponsorship."

USD had something of a trial run when it hosted one of five statewide regional spelling bees in the Muenster University Center on Feb. 18.

"It went very well. I was just

amazed at what these kids can do," Havermann said. "The kids started out with a 50-word written test, and then moved right into the oral bee. I believe it went on 12 rounds."

Once the final word – "behemoth" – was spelled, scores were tallied and the awards were distributed.

The entire event was finished by 1 p.m., Havermann said.

"The oral bee goes right along. It doesn't really take too much time," she said.

The participants were culled from 40 schools across the state, which held their own spelling bees to determine who would take part in the regional bees.

"Each school was to send one winner from each fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade, so there should have been four winners from each school that got sent to each regional," Havermann said.

The 11 sixth- through eighth-graders who made the final cut will arrive at Aalfs

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