

Malimanek and Martinez state champs for VAST

The Vermillion Area Swim Club sent 19 swimmers to the 2012 South Dakota Short Course State Championships in Rapid City March 2-4. The trip out to the hills couldn't have been better for VAST. The team shined throughout the championships with two swimmers taking home 5 gold medals during the three day meet.

Lexie Malimanek started off the meet in fine fashion, winning the girls 11-12 200 yard freestyle in 2:09.11. She dropped just over three seconds on her personal best to win the event by over two seconds. Maddie Lavin, age 11, was the second place finisher in the event for VAST touching the wall at 2:11.94.

But Malimanek was not done for the evening. She came out strong in the 11-12 200 Individual Medley (IM) in her next event, but the competition was tough. Lexie she stormed back in the latter part of the race and out-touched Lavin once again for a winning time of 2:28.62. Lavin was again a very close second, this time only .37 of a second behind.

Saturday's event list brought yet another challenge for all VAST swimmers. Many swimmers from Vermillion had multiple events that day, some as many as four or five. Malimanek claimed her third gold of the meet, winning the girl's 11-12 500 yard freestyle.

Madisen Martinez from VAST had a great second and third day of the meet. The twelve year old from Vermillion dominated the 11-12 girls breaststroke events, touching the wall four seconds ahead of her next fastest competitor in

the 100 yard breaststroke on Saturday and then following up on Sunday by dominated the 50 yard breaststroke.

For her efforts in the 50 yard breaststroke, Martinez is the lone qualifier for VAST to the 2012 Central Zone Swimming Championships to be held in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin during the first week of August. She will compete for Team South Dakota during the four day event.

Maddie Lavin had an outstanding meet as an 11 year old, facing some tough competition in the 11-12 division. She swam to 5-second place finishes out of a total of 7 individual events. In the 500 yard freestyle, Lavin dropped over 10 seconds from her previous best and made personal bests in five out of the seven events.

Eight year old Charlie Ward impressed many at the meet. Ward, who has only been swimming for a year, dropped even more time in both breaststroke events on his way to earning bronze medals in both the 25 and 50 yard 8 and under boys breaststroke events.

Twelve swimmers on the team placed in the top eight in their respective age groups. Gabe Telleria placed as high as fourth in three events, while teammate Anna Van Holland finished the meet with two fourth place finishes to her name. Isabel Telleria kept on dropping time as she placed fifth in the 200 yard IM.

Kaitlin Todd, of Ponca, Neb., turned in three-6th place finishes - in the girls 15-18 100 yard fly, 200 yard backstroke and 500 yard freestyle.

Megan Muriuki placed as high as

third in the girls 9-10 50 yard fly. She earned the bronze medal with a time of 42.91.

Kyleigh Moran took 7th in the girls 13-14 200 yard breaststroke. She dropped almost five seconds in the event.

Jacob Krier had a great meet, facing tough competition in the boy's 15-18 division. Krier touched the wall in 6th place two times, once in the 200 free and 50 free and added a 7th in the 200 IM.

Hunter Lavin also had a great meet. The nine year old swam to an 8th place finish in the 50 yard breaststroke.

Relays for VAST also did amazing, while facing tough competition. The girls 11-12 relays included Malimanek, Martinez, Lavin and Abril Telleria and grabbed silver medals in both the 200 yard free and 200 yard medley relays.

The girls 9-10 200 yard free and 200 yard medley relays were comprised of Muriuki, Isabel Telleria, Van Holland and first year swimmer Annika Holdhusen. They nearly made the podium, but settled for two fourth place finishes in Rapid City.

VAST also shined in the mixed 8 and under relays. Gabe Telleria and Charlie Ward teamed up with Tally Allison, age seven, and eight year old Kayleen Job. The finished in 6th place in the 100 yard freestyle relay and 7th place in the 100 yard medley relay.

This season was a success but it is still not over. On Saturday, March 31, nine swimmers from VAST will be swimming at the Midwest Regional Swim Meet, held at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center. Attending



Pictured are two VAST swimmers who won state championships while at the state meet. Madisen Martinez, age 12, (left) won the girls 11-12 50 and 100 yard breaststroke. Lexie Malimanek, age 12, (right) won the girls 11-12 200 yard freestyle, 200 yard individual medley and the 500 yard freestyle.

the meet will be: Anna Van Holland, Maddie Lavin, Madisen Martinez, Lexie Malimanek, Hunter Lavin, Anna Hackemer, Kyleigh Moran, Kaitlin Todd, and Jacob Krier. All swimmers had to first swim to qualification times and then be selected to the meet. Many teams will be in attendance, including teams from Minnesota,

Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska. VAST is the only team from South Dakota that will be attending the championship event.

Complete results for the state meet and other VAST meets from this winter season can be found at their website: www.vastsd.com

Tanager baseball defeats Dakota Valley 9-3

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Vermillion's starting pitcher Nile Morecraft threw five scoreless innings of one-hit baseball while his teammates were building up a 6-0 lead at Dakota Valley Saturday. The Tanagers went on to win 9-3 in a non-league high school game and improve their season's record to 2-1.

VHS drew first blood with a two-run third inning. Tanner Settles' double scored D'Andre Fore, who had reached base on an error. Following a Chayse Meierkort single, Tanner Anderson's infield grounder

produced the second Tanager tally.

Their own "small ball" talents and some help from a shaky Dakota Valley infield allowed the Tanagers to break open the game with a four-run fifth. It began with Nate Garrett bunting for a basehit and Fore reaching base when his bunted ball was misplayed by the Panther pitcher. Settles' sacrifice bunt moved the runners along, setting the table for Meierkort.

The Tanager catcher singled to score a run, and Anderson followed with an RBI single of his own. Meierkort scored from third on defensive indifference as the Panthers tried to nab

Anderson on a successful steal of second base. A passed ball handed VHS its fourth run of the inning.

Dakota Valley posted a single run in the sixth on a walk by reliever Joe Mazour, an infield throwing error and a single, but Mazour retired the Panthers with two runners in scoring position.

Just for good measure, Vermillion added three insurance runs in the top of the seventh. Walks to Huska and Meierkort and Anderson's basehit bunt loaded the sacks. A one-out sacrifice fly by Caleb Miller scored the first run of the inning. After a passed ball

advanced two runners, Mazour singled them both home.

The Panthers roughed up Mazour for three straight hits, including a two-run single, in the bottom of the seventh to creep to within 9-3, but Collin Bertram came in to get the final two outs on strikeouts to end the game.

Morecraft struck out two and walked only one while allowing a single hit to pick up the pitching win.

Of the Tanagers' eight hits Meierkort and Anderson had two apiece, and Anderson and Mazour drove in two runs each.

The Vermillion JVs won their season opener at Dakota

Valley, 14-1.

The Tanagers face three games in five days starting tonight (Friday) with a 5 p.m. varsity game at Sergeant Bluff-Luton. On Saturday VHS goes

to Beresford for a varsity tilt at 5 and a JV contest to follow. On Tuesday the Tanagers play at Yankton in a 5 p.m. varsity game, followed by a JV game at 7.

South Dakota sweeps IUPUI in home opener; Klyse surpasses 100 wins

The South Dakota softball team improved to 5-3 in the Summit League with a pair of wins over Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis Friday at the USD Softball Complex in Vermillion. The Coyotes won the first game, 2-0 and captured the second, 5-4 in eight innings to extend their winning streak to three games.

The win in the first game was also the 100th career victory for Coyote head coach Amy Klyse, who now is at 101 for her career. Klyse is second in victories in school history and just the second coach to surpass 100 victories at the school.

The Coyotes christened their new home field - which includes new dugouts and outfield fencing - with a pair of hard-fought wins, thanks to strong pitching from junior Erica Denney (Sioux City, IA) and key plays late in the game.

"That's a great start to this series," Klyse said. "Our girls figured out a way to come out on top in both games. Erica threw her best game of the year in the first game and came in and got it done in relief in the second. Now it's right back at it Saturday."

In the opener, Denney fired a four-hit shutout, striking out five and walking none. It is the third shutout of her career and first of the season.

Freshman Katie Dinning (Omaha, NE) was 1-for-3 with two RBI - delivering the huge two-run single in the sixth to break a 0-0 tie - to pace the Coyote offense. Sophomore Lindsey Boyd (Westminster, CO)

was 1-for-2 with two stolen bases, while junior Kassie Loe (Lennox, SD) was 1-for-2 with a double.

The game was a pitching duel between Denney and IUPUI's Jocelyn Oppenhuus. Both teams had their best scoring threats in the sixth - but Denney was able to keep the Jaguars off the scoreboard.

IUPUI put runners on second and third with nobody out in the sixth. However, Denney got three consecutive groundouts to end the inning and keep the score tied at 0-0.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Coyotes broke the scoreless deadlock. Loe led off the inning with a double, and moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by senior Stephanie Hall (Torrance, CA). Boyd walked and stole second. Dinning then delivered the biggest hit of the game with a single up the middle to score both Loe and Hall, giving the Coyotes a 2-0 lead.

Denney retired IUPUI in order - with two strikeouts - to finish off the shutout and a 2-0 Coyote win.

In the second game, Loe was 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI, while senior Alexa Rudeen (Sioux City, IA) was 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI. Dinning was 2-for-4 with a double and a triple, while junior Kate Snow (Battle Creek, NE) added a single.

The Coyotes trailed 2-0 entering the bottom of the fourth before breaking through against IUPUI starter Samantha Bumbaugh. Dinning led off the inning with a triple, and Rudeen doubled to center to score her.

One out later, freshman Morgan Hancock (Wahoo, NE) was hit by a pitch. Loe doubled to left, scoring Rudeen and moving Hancock to third. Hancock scored on a wild pitch to give the Coyotes a 3-2 lead.

IUPUI came back to tie the game at 3-3 in the top of the fifth. In the bottom of the frame, the Coyotes capitalized on a pair of Jaguar errors to regain the lead. Dinning reaching on a throwing error, on which she also moved to second base. Rudeen walked, and a groundout advanced both runners. Dinning scored when a pickoff throw to third was errant, giving the Coyotes a 4-3 lead.

The Jaguars tied the game again with a single run in the sixth. The Coyotes had a chance to win it in the bottom of the seventh, putting runners on first and third with one out, but Dinning was thrown out at home attempting to score on a groundout by freshman Allie Daly (Sioux Falls, S.D.), and a strikeout ended the threat, sending the contest to extra innings.

IUPUI had a runner on third with one out in the top of the eighth, but Denney, pitching in relief, got the final two outs of the inning to keep the game tied at 4-4.

In the eighth, Loe led off with a walk, and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by sophomore Christine Broders (Yankton). Loe moved to third on a passed ball. One out later, senior Bre Zmolek (Brookings) walked. Boyd hit a grounder to short that was thrown away, allowing Loe to score with the winning run.

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