

Legends: The Nomination Process Winds Down to March 31

The new *Plain Talk* project 'Legends' that will give Vermillion sports fans and our readers to decide who the greatest athletes in the city's history are, continues the nomination process this month.

Fans of Vermillion will be able to nominate on an individual basis who they feel are the five greatest male and female athletes of all time are from this city. We will collect nominations up until March 31.

Then from April 1-14, we will tabulate the nominations. From there we will compile a list of the

athletes who received the top 25 most nominations. (all dates tentative and subject to change).

That list will then be announced in the April 17 issue of *The Plain Talk*. From that date through May 31, fans will then be able to vote for who they think are the THREE GREATEST LEGENDS of ALL TIME in Vermillion.

Once the voting ends, we will tabulate those results and throughout the months of July and August we will write stories on, at minimum, those who were selected the Top 5 Legends

of Vermillion, on a weekly basis, leading up to the first day of the college sports season at the University of South Dakota. If we get enough votes, we may even extend that to a "Great Eight" series of stories or at max, a Top 10.

Thus we will write the stories that you ultimately voted for.

Still have your attention? Good.

So if you want to nominate who you believe are the great individual athletes in Vermillion history, here is how we will make this the greatest

project ever devised and produced in a local newspaper, possibly ever. It will be because it will be the first joint project between readers and writers that we have found. Like I said: You decide the content through your nominations and later, your votes.

Then, we write the stories. Here is how we nominate.

1. Nominations should be athletes who played at Vermillion High School or the University of South Dakota. They can also be local athletes who

participated in adult rec that did something of extraordinary levels. A famous runner? Bicyclist? Bowler? They can be considered too.

2. You may nominate up to THREE different people.

3. To nominate you need to include:

- a. Their school or affiliation
- b. Known years competed
- c. What sport/s they are being nominated for
- d. A short reason for why they are being nominated
- e. Also, if you wish to help, provide some

background information so we know where to begin our research, especially if the athletes are from a much later time.

4. You can send in your nominations via:

- a. Email at news@plaintalk.net.
- b. Online at https://plaintalk-dot-net.bloxcms.com/site/form s/online_services/submit_n ews/legends/
- c. Postal Mail by sending it to: 201 West Cherry Street, Vermillion, SD 57609
- d. By calling Alan Dale at 605-624-4429.

MEN

From Page 8A

SDSU has no doubt provided USD — winners in five of six — with some extra juice this week.

"We're playing all these teams in the tournament, and we could beat any one of them," Coyote senior center James Hunter said. "To come in here and do that, is a big thing for our confidence."

"It's just a stepping stone, we're not going to live on this or anything."

Not when the attention quickly turned to preparing for Fort Wayne, the pre-season favorite, but No. 4 seed in the tournament.

The biggest problem for USD in the two games against the Mastodons has been Steve Forbes, a 6-foot-9, 295-pound forward. In those two games, Forbes is 19-of-23 from the field for a combined 45 points.

Working in USD's favor, though, is that five players are averaging 9.2 points in conference games: Tyler Larson (13.1), Brandon Bos (11.1), Casey Kasperbauer (10.0) and Tre Burnette (9.2).

One of the many lines Smith took from his former protégé, Tim Miles, is that you never get beat twice by the same team — which hasn't happened to USD in league play.

"That says something about your team," Smith

said. "It's all about steps when you're new."

The Summit League Men's Basketball Tournament Schedule
Sioux Falls
Denny Sanford Premier Center
Saturday, March 7 (QUARTERFINALS)
GAME 1: No. 8 Western Illinois (8-19) vs. No. 1 South Dakota State University (21-9), 6 p.m.
GAME 2: No. 7 IUPUI (10-20) vs. No. 2 North Dakota State (20-9), 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 8 (QUARTERFINALS)
GAME 3: No. 5 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA (16-15) vs. No. 4 Fort Wayne (16-13) 6 p.m.

GAME 4: No. 6 Denver (12-17) vs. No. 3 Oral Roberts (17-13), 8:30 p.m.

Monday, March 9 (SEMIFINALS)
GAME 5: Game 1 winner vs. Game 3 winner, 6 p.m.

GAME 6: Game 2 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10 (SUMMIT LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME)

GAME 7: Semifinal winners, 8 p.m.
***Winner gets automatic bid to NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament**

A Look Back at SDSU Win
 It may as well have been a tournament game.

That's the way the University of South Dakota men's basketball team saw it, anyway.

A convincing 80-64 victory in Saturday night's regular season finale against rival — and first-place — South Dakota State provided the Coyotes with significant momentum heading into the Summit League tournament.

And yet, for a team that has beaten everyone in the conference, the Coyotes (16-15, 9-7) aren't exactly concerned about their No. 5 seed in the bracket.

"We don't care who we play," said Tyler Larson, one of three seniors honored before the game.

"We were picked to finish eighth, so we don't really care about seeding.

"We're just trying to get to the championship game."

Understandably, beating the No. 1 seed in the tournament before the tournament even begins, is a confidence boost toward that goal, according to head coach Craig Smith.

"We know we're capable of beating everybody if we play a certain way, with a chip on our shoulder and an unselfishness," he said.

There was plenty of both on Saturday in front of a tournament-like atmosphere, with 4,812 fans.

The Coyotes shot 47 percent against the league's top defense (by shooting percentage) and held the league's second-highest scoring outfit to 34 percent.

WOMEN

From Page 8A

two home games to clinch the title — which they did Saturday over Western Illinois.

"It shows a willingness to come and work every single night out for a very long season," Williams said.

Past success has no doubt played a role in this season's ride, according to athletic director David Herbster.

"That sense and that understanding of winning is not new to them, and they're playing like it," he said last week.

Of USD's three seniors on the roster, Lisa Loeffler is the only one to play all four seasons in Vermillion, and in that time, the Coyotes are 84-44. Nicole Seekamp is playing in her third season, while Raeshel Contreras joined the program prior to last season. Taylor Moore is also in her final season with the program.

"It's an exciting time, we're happy we could do it for those four seniors," Arens said. "They've put all in their time, and it's a fun way to go out."

"But obviously our journey's not done, we have a bigger goal in mind."

That, of course, would be a repeat trip to the NCAA Tournament.

The journey begins Saturday when the Coyotes play No. 8 Fort Wayne in the first round of the Summit League Tournament in Sioux Falls, at noon Saturday.

Another one of USD's

season-long mottos has been not to look beyond the next game, Arens said.

"We're still going to take one game at a time," she said. "Anyone in the Summit could have an on day and you could have an off day."

The Summit League Women's Basketball Tournament Schedule
Sioux Falls
Denny Sanford Premier Center
Saturday, March 7 (QUARTERFINALS)
GAME 1: No. 8 Fort Wayne (9-20) vs. No. 1 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA (23-6), Noon
GAME 2: No. 7 Denver (8-22) vs. No. 2 South Dakota State University (21-8), 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 8 (QUARTERFINALS)
GAME 3: No. 5 IUPUI (14-15) vs. No. 4 Western Illinois (17-12), Noon
GAME 4: No. 6 North Dakota State (11-17) vs. No. 3 Oral Roberts (15-14), 2:30 p.m.
Monday, March 9 (SEMIFINALS)
GAME 5: Game 1 winner vs. Game 3 winner, Noon
GAME 6: Game 2 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10 (SUMMIT LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME)
GAME 7: Semifinal winners, 1 p.m.
***Winner gets automatic bid to NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament**

A Look Back at Western Illinois Win

A season ago, the University of South Dakota women's basketball team won half of its conference games but surged to win the tournament championship.

One year later, the script has been flipped.

Thanks to a 78-75 victory over Western Illinois on Saturday afternoon at the DakotaDome, the Coyotes captured the Summit League regular season title — the first-ever, after winning the post-season title a year ago.

"It's a great accomplishment for our team," said senior Nicole Seekamp, who had 20 points, nine assists, six rebounds and four steals.

"It shows that we were consistent throughout the whole season, and I think this shows that."

In completing a perfect 14-0 record at home, the Coyotes (23-6, 13-3) will enter this weekend's Summit League Tournament as the No. 1 seed. They begin action Saturday at noon with a showdown with No. 8 Fort Wayne

A consistent league slate, from start to finish, was the hope for a program using the 'One Team One Dream' motto.

"We feel like that's a pretty special thing to accomplish," head coach Amy Williams said. "It shows a willingness to come and work every single night out, for a very long season."

And the Coyotes had to do

plenty of work to come out on top Saturday.

Despite an 11-2 run to start the second half, USD saw the Leathernecks (17-12, 9-7) reel off a 13-3 surge to get back in the game.

The Coyote lead was down to two, 75-73, with 66 seconds to play, but a Western Illinois turnover later led to a Seekamp free throw.

And even a basket with 10.2 seconds left wasn't enough for the Leathernecks.

"That's when you come together," said USD senior Raeshel Contreras, who scored 19 points.

"Since we're so close, we already know we're going to come together, and I think we did that very well."

There had already been some memorable matchups between the two teams, including a win last year by Western Illinois in the DakotaDome and USD's last-second win over the 'Necks in the Summit League tournament.

"Every time we've played them, it's been a dog fight since I've been here," Williams said. "Tournament game, at our place, at their place, it doesn't really matter."

"It wasn't as easy as it looked."

Thankfully for the Coyotes, their three seniors — Seekamp (20), Contreras (19) and Lisa Loeffler (14) — combined for 53 points.

"We just took the shots we would regularly take, we just so happened to knock them down,"

Contreras joked.

So too did Western Illinois junior post Ashley Luke. The likely Summit League Player of the Year finished with 26 points and 11 rebounds, but also got some help from Sophie Reichelt (17 points).

Facing a player like that was nothing new for the Coyotes, as was the case in playing a meaningful game in front of a large crowd — Saturday's attendance was 2,609, a season high.

"It helps because we know what to expect, how crazy the crowd is," Loeffler said. "Having that experience, we'll be able to shut it out even more."

And if the Coyotes are able to do so for three games in Sioux Falls, the second part of their season goal would be accomplished — reaching the NCAA Tournament once again.

"It's not an easy thing to do," Williams said. "It's very evident the parity in our league, that's what happens in this conference. It'll be a very tough field, but we're going to be confident heading into it."

And so, the field is set. South Dakota will face No. 8 Fort Wayne at noon next Saturday in Sioux Falls, which would mean the winner of that game would then play Monday.

"Really, to me, the only difference is that if we're fortunate enough to get a first round win, we'd get the benefit of a day off," Williams said. "That first round game isn't going to be an easy win."

BOYS

From Page 8A

Vermillion a 9-11 record and likely the Region 4A Tournament's third-seed according to Tanager head coach Jay Drake.

That would mean the Tanagers would host these same No. 6 C-Hawks (6-14) on Thursday night for a 7 p.m. tournament quarterfinal game.

"Last week against Madison we did some nice things offensively and it's been a way, but it was nice to see that carry over," Drake said. "We've had a stretch over our last four games that we have played really well offensively in the first half. But we had struggled in the second half (in the previous three games) and so it's nice tonight that we scored 39 points in the first half and instead of scoring 14 or 16

in the second half we scored 27. We put a complete offensive game together and that was nice."

Lennox earned the No. 1 seed and gets a quarterfinal bye, while No. 5 Dakota Valley would visit No. 4 Elk Point-Jefferson and No. 6 Beresford would battle at No. 2 Tea in other quarterfinal action if the pairings stay true to form.

"The only way we were guaranteed a home region playoff game was if we won tonight," Drake said. "We could have lost and might have still gotten a home game. It was nice that we were able to come out and win to guarantee that home game."

"It's nice that we hit 13 threes, but I think (Canton) will probably play a zone next week and dare us to do it again. When you knock it down it's good, but you fall in love with it too much. We are going to have to be

ready to go."

Check back at www.plaintalk.net in the next couple of days for an official bracket announcement.

Against the C-Hawks in Friday, Paul Schwasinger scored 17 points, Jeremiah Johnson added 15 points, Carter Andre contributed 14 points, and Cooper Williams clinched the deal with 13 points.

Their performance came on senior night as Tanager seniors Jefferson Galvin and Andre were honored for their time as Vermillion players.

Despite the win on their night, the seniors know they return home next week and won't take that for granted.

"We can't think like that, Canton will just play harder next time, but it will be nicer to have another home game," Galvin said. "We can't rely on shooting like that (from outside).

We have to work on getting the ball inside more actually. We rarely shoot like that and we can't rely on the three.

"But when shots go down it always makes you feel a little bit better."

Vermillion took 15-11 lead into the second quarter after Andre exploded for nine first-period points. The senior splashed an array of silky smooth jumpers from all around the perimeter while Cooper Williams added two 3-bombs to compliment the effort.

"I felt good tonight," Andre said. "Senior Night I might have played a little bit harder, but I just felt good."

In the next four minutes the teams waged a 3-point war with two by Williams and another by Andre to offset a duo of missiles by C-Hawk Alex Dejongs.

As the first half progressed Canton became

target practice for the Tanager bombing mission as they built a 13-point lead with 2:45 before intermission. Of the 12 first half Vermillion hoops, nine were from beyond the arc.

The Tanagers wrapped the first 16 minutes with a 10-3 run to lead 39-24 with the locker room beckoning.

Despite being a much better playing basketball team than their record might indicate, Canton could not make a dent of any real measure and found itself down by as much as 23 points in the fourth quarter.

The offensive explosion for the Tanagers was their second straight 60-plus performance after a run of some poor shooting nights so this bodes well as the playoffs beckon.

"It's a lot of ball movement and that's something we have been trying to stress a lot more," Andre said. "We are cutting a lot more and getting more open, easier shots."

Vermillion Boys def. Canton 66-49
 Canton 11 13 10 15 - 49
 VHS 15 24 13 14 - 66
CANTON
 Carter Dahl 4, Andreau Elcock 6, Jake Peterson 7, Alex DeJong 11, Anders Peterson 11, Aidan Thorson 2, Sam Peterson 8.
VERMILLION
 Carter Andre 14, Cooper Williams 13, Paul Schwasinger 17, Jeremiah Johnson 15, Jefferson Galvin 0, Jacob Manger 1, Riley Peters 0, Brandon Mockler 6, Matt Ouellette 0, Logan Peterson 0, Zeke Robinson 0.

VERMILLION TOWNSHIP

EQUALIZATION MEETING

Wednesday, March 18th, 2015

7:00 PM

Clay County 4-H Center
 515 High Street, Vermillion

A written request to Appeal must be delivered to the Township Clerk by **Thursday, March 12, 2015.**

Request must include parcel number.

Jackie Williams, Clerk
 31536 Princeton Ave.
 Vermillion, SD 57069

Come fly with the Falcons!



Todd County School District seeking superintendent of schools.

Contact Dr. Randy Royer at royer@asbsd.org or 605-773-2504 for position and application information.

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