

MEN

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short order.

Not only did the Coyotes (17-16) exceed expectations by winning nine Summit League games after being picked No. 8 in the pre-season poll, they won a first-round game at the tournament for the first time.

"With a new coaching staff, what we accomplished this year is a great step," said Bos, who is the only senior — with Larson and James Hunter — to spend all four years in Vermillion.

"The fact that we're so upset by losing in the semifinals shows that we had high expectations," Bos added. "We really thought we had a chance to go all the way this year."

The semifinal loss shows, however, that the Coyotes are progressing, but that progress is going to come in small steps.

Despite having beaten the Jackrabbits by 16 points in their regular season meeting nine days earlier, the Coyotes were doomed by their up-and-down nature.

"We know where the bar's at," Smith said. "We've tasted it now to some extent, and our guys need to be champing at the bit to get better."

That's exactly what SDSU was: better.

The Jackrabbits (23-9) were better offensively — hitting 11 three-pointers — and more effective defensively, holding USD to 27 percent in the first half.

And now they're back in

the championship game after exceeding expectations of their own. South Dakota State, with nine players on the roster who had never suited up for the Jacks, was picked fourth.

"This team has really been an unbelievable gift for me this year, I really enjoyed them," head coach Scott Nagy said. "I've had winning teams before that I haven't overly enjoyed, but I've enjoyed this group."

Who the Jackrabbits will face was decided in the late game Monday between North Dakota State and Oral Roberts. But it's not going to be unfamiliar territory for SDSU: it won consecutive titles in 2012 and 2013.

"I remember the first time I went through it, I was so emotional about it, because we had been through so much," Nagy said.

So too have the Coyotes.

Smith has a recruiting class coming in, as well as four players who redshirted this season, that should be able to keep the program on an upward trajectory.

"That's what made Brandon and I buy in, that he's going to do great things for this program," Larson said.

By virtue of winning 17 games and reaching the conference semifinals, there's also a good chance the Coyotes are not done for the season.

Whichever tournament that could be — the CBI or the CIT — isn't really a factor right now for Smith, he said. He was too busy commending the leadership of his departing seniors.

"When you go to the office every day, or put your head on the pillow, you don't have to worry about those guys," Smith said.

1st Round Win vs. Fort Wayne

SIoux FALLS — "Let's eat" has been a popular social media theme this season for the University of South Dakota men's basketball team.

Its three seniors sure played hungry. And now their squad is in a position to face their rival in a semifinal showdown.

"It's not time to celebrate," said Brandon Bos, who scored a career-high 29 points in an 82-73 first round win Sunday night at the Summit League Tournament in Sioux Falls.

"We've got two more."

It sets up a semifinal date tonight (Monday) at 6 p.m. against No. 1 seed South Dakota State in what should be a raucous atmosphere.

Not bad for the pre-season eighth pick.

"That's what we use as motivation for the whole season," junior Casey Kasperbauer said. "We put a really big focus on going one game at a time."

The Coyotes (17-15) needed exactly that mindset to withstand a furious rally.

Up by as many as 21 points in a near-flawless first half, USD watched the Mastodons get all the way to within 74-69 with 70 seconds left. The Coyotes then scored their final 10 points at the free throw line to secure the win.

WOMEN

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Coyotes and Jacks ballooned quickly at the Premier Center — which had a women's championship record crowd of 6,926.

It took the second-seeded Jackrabbits all of six and a half minutes to build a double-digit deficit, and they never let USD get closer than 13.

Part of that was SDSU's defense, but the Coyotes also missed shots they normally make. The No. 1 seed shot 13 percent in the first half and made just 1-of-16 three-pointers in the game.

"Some of those you're thinking, 'They're in' and they just rolled out," senior Nicole Seekamp said. "There's nothing you can do about it, I guess."

Seekamp scored a game-high points 21 and was for the second time named Tournament MVP — again in a losing effort, she did the same in 2013.

"Honestly I'd love to trade that tournament MVP with a championship trophy, for sure," she said.

The native Australian finished her 9-game tournament career averaging 21 points, coming up big on the biggest stage of the season.

"It's amazing to me, she never ceases to amaze me how she raises her level of play in big-time moments," head coach Amy Williams said.

The only problem for USD, though, was that it came out of the gates slow.

Nine of the first 10 shots the Jacks hoisted up went in, and the Coyotes conversely

had their worst shooting half of the season — they made 4-of-31 before half.

"It's disappointing to come out with a loss in this one, but I thought we fought until the very end," junior Margaret McCloud said. "That's something to be proud of."

Freshman Ellie Thompson added 18 points for the Jacks, who will find out their NCAA Tournament fate next Monday.

That's also the same night USD will learn its opponent and location in the WNIT — the Coyotes earned an automatic bid by virtue of the regular season Summit League title.

"At this point, any game's our last game, so we have to go out and play for each other and with each other," said McCloud, who scored 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds in Tuesday's final.

"We need to start our next game the same way we ended this one."

Semifinal Win vs. IUPUI

SIoux FALLS — New venue. Same Nicole Seekamp.

The University of South Dakota senior had another big game at the Summit League Tournament, which moved next door from the Sioux Falls Arena to the shiny new Premier Center.

It didn't matter. She once again rose to the task.

"I like the atmosphere here," Seekamp said after scoring 23 points in Monday afternoon's 69-58 semifinal win over IUPUI.

"It's scary to think if you lose you're done," she added. "It's my senior year, I don't want to be done

with this team."

And she's not.

She followed up a 25-point, 8-assist effort in the first round with a 9-of-15 shooting display Monday, including 4-of-5 on three-pointers.

Whenever the Coyotes needed a boost, Seekamp delivered. As has been par for the course over the years in Sioux Falls.

"She's a warrior, she has that championship mentality," head coach Amy Williams said. "I've watched it for three years now, she rises to the challenge."

"She finds a way to raise her level of play to what the level of the game is."

There was no bigger example of that than when USD's lead was cut from 13 down to three with 10:31 remaining.

After Kelly Stewart made a three-pointer, Seekamp swished one on the next trip, helping the Coyotes embark on a 22-7 run that put the game away.

"I just like to do what I can for my team," Seekamp said. "If they need me, I try to knock down the shots."

Senior Raeshel Contreras and junior Tia Hemiller both added 11 points for the Coyotes, while junior Margaret McCloud had eight points and eight rebounds.

FAME

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years, been a coach or athletic director that has stepped down for at least five years, or had been a key supporter, alumnus, or teacher.

Their accomplishment at Vermillion High School and "beyond" are considered.

2. Explain the process

"The VHS Athletic Booster Club Board had a committee who reviewed applications and voted," Peterson said. "It is amazing to us the caliber of athletes, coaches and key supporters (teachers, administrators, supporters) that VHS has had over the years and will have going forward."

"It was a very difficult decision to include only six inductees based on those nominated. Over time you will be hearing more of those individuals as I am confident they will be nominated and inducted in the years to come."

Peterson added that the annual event would take place on the first Saturday in May unless in conflict with the University of South Dakota's graduation weekend. The hope is to induct either three individuals or two individuals and a team on a yearly basis.

EARLY

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with 5:43 left in the first half.

The 12-15 foot game continued to be a struggle for the Tanagers and Canton used 19 combined points by Sam and Jake Peterson to go into the break leading 30-28.

"The big key was (Sam Peterson) coming off the bench and hitting those three threes," Drake said. "You knew they were going to come in here and play hard and being the lower seed they would have nothing to lose. From a defensive standpoint you have to get stops early and not let them come in here and get confident."

"They had 30 at halftime and we felt they were too comfortable on the offensive end. When you give a team confidence like that, you know you are going to be in a dogfight."

Vermillion had a number of shot attempts inside as post Jacob Manager continued his season-long desire to battle with the bigger, big men, giving the Tanagers second chance opportunities that they could not convert.

Sophomore interior man Riley Peters added to the mix as the two Vermillion posts didn't back down inside, but nothing seemed to find the hoop.

"We got some decent looks inside and we just didn't knock shots down," Drake said. "Even at 30-28 you are basically playing a dead even game and we were concerned because as a coaching staff we had seen this before from our group that we would take the 28 but had to do a better job with their 30. You could tell (Canton) was getting confident."

"We have had games where we struggled in the second half offensively. You saw our guys tighten up in

the second half."

The struggles from inside may have led to later seeing Vermillion's three-balls not find the bottom of the net with the same aplomb as the first eight minutes.

The C-Hawks scored the first five points of the second half and rolled out to a 35-28 lead.

A number of turnovers and more missed close shots kept Vermillion from pushing back and they trailed 38-31 at the 1:48 mark of the third period.

The Tanager defense kept them within striking range as they only had a Paul Schwasinger three to show for eight minutes and Canton led 38-31 with one quarter left to go.

"Even in the third quarter we had decent looks... then the next thing is you look up and all you have is three points on the board," Drake said. "(Then) our guys are thinking about it. It's tough."

Things didn't get any

better for the home team in the fourth quarter.

Missed free throws and the tentacles of potential elimination seemed to tighten up the entire Tanager floor game as Canton moved out to a 44-33 lead.

It didn't hurt that Anders Peterson got hot and stayed burning in the second half as the senior C-Hawk scored 10 big points after halftime to help keep the Tanagers at bay.

Vermillion would not get closer than eight over the final minutes and the C-Hawks had completed the 28-point turnaround over the week.

The 2014-15 season was a rollercoaster ride for the Tanagers and this last six days exemplified that journey for the Vermillion boys.

"Our coaching staff and players are obviously disappointed," Drake said. "We could never quite put our finger on (the cause for the ups-and-downs). (They focused) on both

individual consistency and if we get that across the line we'd get that team consistency."

"They played extremely hard, but you look at this last week... we played a team well and beat them by 17 last week and then six days later they come in the same gym and get us. That kind of shows us what our season was all about."

Class 4A Region Tournament Quarterfinal No. 6 Canton def. No. 3 Vermillion 51-40 Thursday, March 5
Canton 15 15 8 13 - 51
VHS 20 8 3 9 - 40
CANTON

Alex DeJong 8, Sam Peterson 9, Jake Peterson 13, Anders Peterson 16, Andreau Elcock 2, Christian Beachler 3
VERMILLION
Cooper Williams 12, Paul Schwasinger 4, Carter Andre 4, Jeremiah Johnson 9, Jacob Manger 0, Riley Peters 0, Matt Ouellette 3, Brandon Mockler 8, Jefferson Galvin 0.

SOCCER

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Expenses for the girls team alone last year came to \$15,678.03 according to board member Dave Stammer. The budget for this year has increased to \$16,148.37 and Stammer said they expect similar expenses for the boy's team.

Expenses for the soccer teams can only be estimated at this point because the schedule has yet to come out and much of the expenses come from travel.

Uniforms would be another expense, especially as uniform requirements have changed.

The representatives reported a healthy number of younger soccer players which should fuel the high school team in years to come, another reason to sanction the teams this

coming year.

"It seems that even if a portion of those matriculated into high school, the numbers wouldn't be a concern," said the soccer representatives. "There is enough interest in the sport. If it isn't sanctioned this year, there's not continuation and they can't play other sanctioned teams."

According to figures presented at the board meeting Monday, current numbers for the boy's high school team is 14, possibly more with three seniors. The number of girls on teams grade seven through high school total 37.

"I hope the boys can continue on with their drive to get more players," said Stammer. "I think soccer is something that is going to continue to happen."

Stammer isn't the only one with these sentiments. "I am excited about

soccer," Board member Shannon Fairholm said. "I think it is something that continues to grow in our community."

Though the future of soccer might look promising, Fairholm said it would be wise not to get hopes too high.

"The one thing that we have struggled is the decreasing enrollment and the budget is affected," she said. "We have more activities for our children in Vermillion than they do in the Sioux Falls district. Knowing that, viewing public needs to realize that 2018-2017, something else is going to have to probably be cut because we will not have the funds to support soccer and another existing program."

"I'm just saying that now so it's not a surprise come 2017. Maybe that's something that as a board we could put it out to the community."

Board members agreed that with difficult decisions, such as which programs should be cut, might be best made with heavy community participation.

Fairholm pointed out that though no one wishes to cut any programs, community members should consider what is best for the school district and the children at the time.

Board member Tim Schwasinger agrees.

"We hope you players will go on, graduate Vermillion High School, go

on to something else, maybe stay in Vermillion," Schwasinger said, addressing the students present.

"You will live with the decisions we make as committee members so we

hope you'll talk to your parents and classmates and help us understand what's important to you as you've done tonight. That's how we know where we need to go."

Come fly with the Falcons!



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2408 Main Street - Selby, SD 57472
Phone: (605) 649-7665 or Cell: (605) 848-1242
Email: ForwardJ@deerequipment.com

Meckling Township
is requesting bids on gravel, grading, mowing and snow removal for the roads in Meckling Township for **March 1, 2015 - February 29, 2016.**

REQUIRED
bid forms are available from **Treasurer Mike Slattery** at 624-6450 or **Clerk Jane Larson** at 624-3650. **Return bids by March 23, 2015.**

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Spirit Mound Township Equalization Meeting

Tuesday, March 17th, 5:45 PM
Clay County Extension Office

Appeals must be mailed to clerk and post marked no later than March 14, 2015

Curt Brodsky
31179 462nd Avenue
Vermillion, SD 57069