

Tanager tennis players compete at state tourney

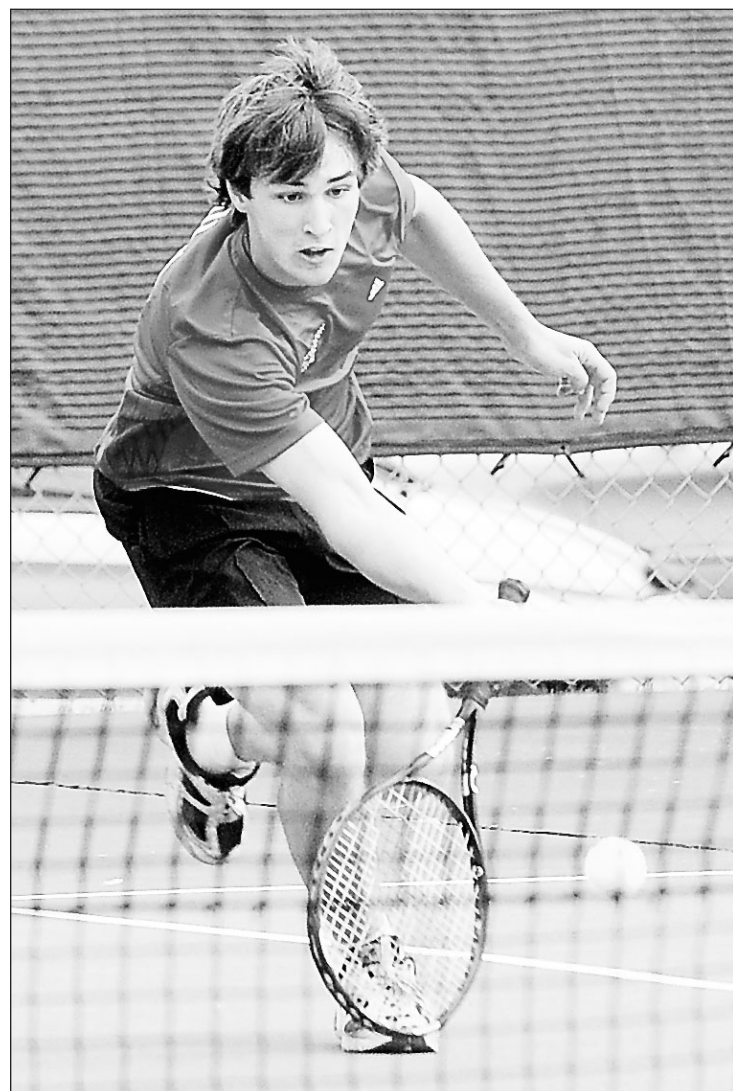
By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

With the threat of prolonged rain hanging over their heads, state tennis tournament officials last Thursday advanced a portion of second- and third-round play of the state tournament from Friday back to Thursday. As a result, a great many matches were played on that first day, and Vermillion's entries all had the misfortune of being eliminated by nightfall.

Three Tanager players did enjoy the thrill of winning a match at the state tournament level, and the fact that two of those three were seniors was an especially satisfying aspect of the tournament.

Ethan Druin, Vermillion's contestant in the second singles flight, won a marathon in his opening match and rallying from a first-set loss to do so. Druin won 6-7 (5), 6-2, 1-0 (8) to advance to the second round. There he lost to Sioux Falls Lincoln's Jared Hofer, who had entered the state classic with a 23-1 record. Hofer won 6-0, 6-0, sending Druin, who had a bye in the next round, to a must-win situation against Roosevelt's Aaron Shogren. Druin went down 8-0 in that one to see his season come to an end with a 2-11 record.

Tyler Osborne at No. 5 singles was the other senior to pick up a win, and he too did it in his first match. Osborne defeated Austin Neuerberg of Spearfish 6-1, 4-6, 2-0 (4). Then he, too, had to face a Lincoln player, and that usually is bad news. Ryan Wood of the Patriots defeated Osborne 6-0, 6-0. Osborne



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(Photo by James Cimburek/Yankton P&D)

had a bye in the next round but then lost to Yankton's Chance Sorenson, 8-1, to finish his senior season with a record of 4-10.

Freshman James May, playing in the third flight of singles, lost his opener to

Milbank's Taylor Moore, 6-2, 6-1, but rallied to defeat Derek Dvorak of Yankton, 8-3, to remain alive. May, however, lost to Brendon Amiotte of St. Thomas More, 8-2, to see his state tourney play come to an end. He had

a season's record of 3-11.

Freshman Nate Svendsen filled in at No. 1 singles for senior Wes McBride, who was unavailable for the state tournament. Svendsen lost to Layne Ryerson, Spearfish, 6-0, 6-0, and then to Mike Flynn, Brookings, 8-0.

In the fourth flight the other Tanager senior, Camden Raizola, lost first to Drew Peterson, Brandon Valley, 6-2, 6-4, then to Matt Falk, Aberdeen Roncalli, 8-1. Raizola ended the year at 1-12.

Sophomore David Day played the sixth flight for Vermillion. After a first-round bye he had to face one of Sioux Falls O'Gorman's state champions, and Ben Czamecki prevailed 6-0, 6-0. Day had a bye in the next round before bowing out against Dylan Rittershaus, Brookings, 8-3. Day's record for the spring was 0-10.

The Tanagers failed to pick up a win in any of their doubles matches. In the first flight the Svendsen/Raizola duo had a first-round bye but then lost to Entwisle and Czamecki of O'Gorman, 6-0, 6-0, and to Bedard and Prosser, Sturgis, 8-2.

Though they won a set in the second doubles flight, Druin and Day fell at the hands of Golden and Brown of Madison, 6-3, 2-6, 1-0 (4). Then the Tanager pair lost to Meyer and Claeys of Huron, 8-2, and ended their season with a 1-9 record. At No. 3 doubles the May/Osborne team had a first-round bye, lost to Snyder and Shultz of Lincoln, 6-0, 6-3, had another bye, then lost to Trevillyan and Van Egdom of Brandon Valley, 8-6, and finished the year with a 3-5 record.



Vermillion edged Canton by one stroke to take third place with a score of 714 in the State Class A Girls' Golf Tournament, held Monday and Tuesday at The Bluffs in Vermillion. Team members are Brooke Schwasinger, Allison Heine, Coach Kirk Hogen, Ellen Brown, McKenzie Huska and Kelly Amundson.

(Photo by Cindy Johnson Brown)

Canton senior lives 'dream'

Tanagers place third in State 'A' Golf Tourney

By Cassie Bartlett
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After finishing the first day strong, Kylie Gaughenbaugh remained on top to take the individual title at the State Class A Girls' Golf Tournament, which concluded Tuesday at The Bluffs Golf Course in Vermillion.

The Chargers from Sioux Falls Christian continued their consistent play to capture the team championship by 20 strokes over Parkston.

Gaughenbaugh, a senior who will be golfing at the University of South Dakota next year, finished the second round at 76 - two more than her first round finish - to end with a final carding of 150.

It had been a goal of hers for years, Gaughenbaugh said, and to finally win state meant a lot to her.

"I'm really excited. I started golf in seventh grade so it's a big achievement for me," she said. "I worked hard and it was my dream to win state - that's what I wanted to do so I did it."

The back nine caused some troubles for Gaughenbaugh, as mental mistakes caused her to take extra strokes.

"I started off good with two under (after the first nine holes) and then didn't do so hot on the back," she said. "I was missing easy puts, which comes from being tired and hurrying. Overall though, at the end I picked it up and I did pretty good again."

When she would miss an easy put, Gaughenbaugh said she wouldn't let it affect her game.

"I wouldn't worry when I

missed a putt," she said. "When I would miss a putt, so would the other girls in my group so I knew I wasn't giving up a stroke. I was just mad at myself for missing one."

After they swept the competition away on Monday, S.E. Christian had a 17-stroke cushion heading into the second day. The Chargers did add a few strokes, but finished the second round at 337 and won the tournament with a score of 655.

Chargers head coach Don Garnas said it was a great tournament for his team and was proud of their finish.

"I feel elated, I feel excited (to be state champs)," Garnas said. "I think they competed very well, considering the pressure that was on them. We shot our second-best score of the year with 337. We played just awesome."

As the defending state champions, Vermillion had big shoes to fill at this year's tournament. Tanagers' head coach Kirk Hogen said his team was in a close race with the other top teams.

"I thought it would be pretty close between four or five of us," he said. "Sioux Falls Christian) pretty much walked away with it (Monday), so it was a battle between about four of us to see who would get third, fourth, fifth and sixth."

Despite the top finish last year, Hogen said he expected his team to finish around third place at this year's tournament.

"That was what we were hoping for - even though you still want to go into the tournament thinking you have a game."

■ GOLF, Page 8

13-14 Teeners split with Canton

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

In a wild beginning to the Teener baseball season, Vermillion's 13-14 Teeners and Canton's 13 Teeners split a doubleheader in Canton Tuesday night.

The first game went to Canton, 9-4, in six innings, but the nightcap belonged to Vermillion, 11-0, in a contest stopped after two innings by mutual agreement.

Vermillion found itself in a 7-0 hole after two innings of the first inning and tried to peck away but ran out of innings. Canton won the game despite having only two basehits. They were, however, the benefactors of nine walks and one hit batter, and seven of those 10 free baserunners eventually scored.

Vermillion got to within 7-2 in the third without a hit. Two walks and a hit batter set the stage for infield grounders by Jack Brown and Jacob Krier that plated a pair of runs.

Vermillion had only four hits but strung three of them in succession to start the fifth inning, and that resulted in two more runs. John Benson's leadoff single was followed by Jacob Odens' RBI double. Later in that frame Krier reached base on a fielder's choice and eventually scored on a wild pitch.

Starter Ryan Schuster struck out seven, walked eight and allowed one hit in four innings. Reliever Odens fanned three, walked one and gave up a hit in his two innings of work.

Vermillion batted 16 men in the top of

the first inning of the second game to score 10 times. Three Canton pitchers took turns walking seven Vermillion batters and hitting three others with pitches. Add to that a balk, three wild pitches and three RBI hits--singles by Brown and Krier scoring a run each and a single by Blake Gilkyson scoring two.

Krier drove in another run in the second on his second single of the game.

Brett Hansen pitched the two innings for Vermillion, striking out three, walking one and allowing two hits.

The 13-14 Teeners, coached this year by Tyler Williamson and Steve Miller, return to action at Lennox in a 6:30 doubleheader next Wednesday.

BASEBALL

From Page 6

Frieberg got Scott Iverson to pop out to shortstop and struck out Tyler Husby on a swinging third strike.

The Tanagers were down to their last out, but Stormy Mirtz proved to be the hero. He got perfect wood on the ball and drove it to the right-field wall just to the left of the Beresford center-fielder. While the Watchdog outfielders chased down the baseball, the infield looked like a merry-go-round as Fore, Settles and Meierkort circled the bases. Mirtz had tied the game with one mighty blow, and he stood on second base with the potential lead run. But an infield ground ball was successfully played by shortstop Jackson Anderson to end the inning and send the tied game into the fateful bottom of the seventh.

Beresford had taken an early 1-0 lead in the third on a hit by Chris Mohr, a sacrifice bunt by Hayden Plamer and an RBI single by Anderson. The Tanagers responded in the fifth to take the lead. Zach McDonald led off with a single, went to second on Tanner Anderson's sacrifice, and scored on Fore's RBI double. Fore was wild-pitched to third and scored the lead run on a Beresford infield error.

The Watchdogs tied it immediately in their half of the fifth on a single by Ty Knutson, a Mohr sacrifice and a long fly ball by Colin Peterson that fell behind a Tanager outfielder.

Collin Bertram had done a heroic job on the mound as

Vermillion's starter, but in the bottom of the sixth a leadoff walk and a hit batter ignited Beresford's four-run inning. An RBI single by Andrew Erickson was followed by a three-run homer by Knutson, a man who had started the season on Beresford's JV squad. With the score 6-2, Bertram settled down and got the side out on a pair of balls to second-baseman Anderson, setting the stage for Vermillion's stunning rally to tie the game in the seventh.

Bertram struck out three and walked only two while allowing seven hits. Meanwhile, Beresford starter Jackson Anderson threw five innings, striking out one, walking two and giving the Tanagers three hits. The other four Vermillion

hits came off reliever Frieburg in his two innings of work. He also walked two and fanned a pair.

Fore had two of the Tanagers' seven base knocks, and Knutson had two of Beresford's seven.

The Tanagers' high school season ended with a record of 4-9.

The American Legion Post 1 season was set to begin last night (Thursday) with Post 1 at Elk Point. The season opener will be at Prentis Park at 6 p.m. Saturday against Lennox. Next Tuesday Beresford comes to Vermillion for Legion ball. The Lewis & Clark Wood Bat Classic is set for Vermillion, Yankton and Hartington ballparks on Friday-Sunday, June 3-5.

The Post 1 roster will

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include many of the same players from this spring's VHS squad although a pair of veterans who graduated from high school a year ago still have a year of Legion eligibility remaining. Jason Rasmussen returns from his freshman year at Augustana to play shortstop, and Nick Anglin, who played college ball at Dakota Wesleyan, will be a big force on the Post 1 pitching staff.

Post 1 is again being mentored by head coach Jason Gault, assisted by Nick Mayer and Drew Lawrence.

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