

# Coyotes end skid with 45-21 rout of S. Utah

Great West: USD Earns First Victory In Six Weeks

By Jeremy Hoeck  
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In one fell swoop, all lingering effects from the previous month were cast aside.

The University of South Dakota football team celebrated a victory for the first time in six weeks, with a 45-21 thrashing of Southern Utah in Great West Conference action on Saturday in the DakotaDome.

Following four consecutive losses over the course of October, USD (4-5) regained its swagger in a hurry.

Thanks to three touchdowns and three turnovers by the defense in the second quarter, the Coyotes took control early and did not let up the rest of the way.

"This is great for our program right now," said senior quarterback Noah Shepard, who passed for 235 yards and a touchdown. "With all the struggles we've had with everything, we needed to get one back."

The key to that goal was a potent ground assault.

A year after rushing for 445 yards against Southern Utah, the Coyotes ran for 334 yards and five touchdowns on Saturday. And for the first time this season, USD had two players — Chris Ganious (170) and Isaac Newton (113) — reach the 100-yard plateau.

"That was our gameplan all week, to run it down their throats," senior guard Luke Nordquist said. "We knew we had to get this one, so we just kept pounding it on the ground."

After neither team scored on its first two possessions of the game, USD manufactured a 12-play, 83-yard drive at the end of the first quarter. With 10 seconds left in the frame, Shepard hit freshman receiver Will Powell for a 17-yard touchdown pass.

The Thunderbirds — coming off a 56-35 rout of UC Davis the week

before — responded quickly with a two-play drive. Quarterback Cade Cooper found receiver Tysson Poots for a 65-yard scoring hook-up in the last play of the quarter, tying the game at 7-7.

But then came the second quarter.

At the 10:55 mark, Newton scored on a two-yard go-ahead touchdown run. And after SUU fumbled the ensuing kickoff, the Coyotes needed just six plays to score again — this time on a one-yard touchdown run by Shepard, giving USD a 21-7 lead.

Then came an interception by USD's Jim Thompson on the second play of the next drive. Four minutes later, Ganious scampered in the end zone for a 45-yard touchdown run, pushing the Coyote lead to 28-7.

One minute later, Thompson struck again, intercepting Cooper at the 1:48 mark. The Coyotes would not score again before halftime, but led 28-7 at the break.

"Those two picks lifted our spirits," USD coach Ed Meierkort said. "We hadn't one since Southeastern Louisiana (Sept. 26); the last time we won. I don't think that's a coincidence."

Two minutes after USD missed a 43-yard field goal, Cooper hit Poots again for a touchdown, this time for 35 yards. And after Mychal Bogan intercepted Cooper, the fourth of the game for the Coyotes, USD connected on a 27-yard field goal by Dustin Nowotny.

That gave the hosts a 31-14 cushion.

Yet, the Thunderbirds were able to respond, thanks to a 70-yard drive that resulted in a one-yard touchdown pass from Cooper to Daryl Brown at the 11:47 mark. Suddenly, the Coyotes were in a position to need a response, themselves.

To do so, USD went back to its run game.



South Dakota running back Chris Ganious, 20, looks for running room during the Coyotes' 45-21 victory over Southern Utah. Ganious posted a career-high 193 yards rushing with two touchdowns, and caught three passes for 41 yards to earn Great West Conference Offensive Player of the Week honors. (Photo by David Lias)

"After the last three weeks, I was thinking, 'Oh lord, here it comes again,'" Meierkort said. "But we got back at it with our power run game."

The Coyotes ran on every play of the ensuing 8-play, 70-drive, which was capped off by a Ganious seven-yard touchdown run. Newton, Ganious and Shepard each touched the ball during the series.

"That was the possession of the game," Shepard said. "It took all the wind out of their sails and helped us get the win."

USD — which had 569 yards of

total offense — closed the scoring with a Marcus Sims five-yard touchdown run with 39 seconds to play, sealing an already decided affair.

The victory pushes USD's conference record to 1-2, with one final contest left to play. The Coyotes will travel to Cal Poly (4-5, 1-2) next Saturday in the final game of the season.

"This team could be a lot of records, but we're 4-5," Meierkort said. "With any breaks, who knows where we could be. But I'm proud of the way these guys have played."

"And I know we'll play well next

week."

Last season, USD was dealt a 49-22 loss by Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, CA, in its first league game. But in that game, the Coyotes gave up three quick scores in the first quarter.

"We know we can compete with Cal Poly; it's just a matter of doing it," Nordquist said. "We had some bad breaks in October, but this whole year has been crazy."

"At least we can have a chance to win two in a row before it's all over."

# District tourney loss ends Tanager volleyball season

By Parker Knox  
Sportswriter

Vermillion's volleyball season ended last Thursday when the Tanagers dropped a semifinal match in the District 8A tournament to Dakota Valley.

The Panthers got momentum with a narrow cliffhanger of a win, 25-23, in the match's first game. They rolled in the second game, 25-9, and kept the Tanagers at bay in the third game, 25-18, to advance to the finals and end the VHS season.

Sierra Allen had six kills and 15 digs for Vermillion with Michelle Blythe contributing four kills and 11 digs.

Coach Lenni Billberg's team nevertheless had a winning record this season of 14-12, including an 8-2 home record. They also swept to the Big 8 Conference championship with a perfect 4-0 record against league opponents West Central, Madison, Lennox and Harrisburg.

Four Tanager athletes

earned all-conference recognition, including Sierra Allen, Jenny Bye and Elise Hughes-Berheim on the first team and Lexi Regnerus on the honorable mention list.

In season-long statistics compiled by Billberg and her statisticians, Jenny Bye and Hughes-Berheim were the leaders in diving all over the court for digs. Bye had 306 and Hughes-Berheim 280. Sierra Allen had 183, Michelle Blythe 165, Molly LeCates 131, Lizzie Bye 77, Ashley

Ouellette 76, Lexi Regnerus 57 and Kylie Fischbach 34 digs.

Allen had 70 total blocks, Regnerus 66, Ouellette 46, Fischbach 30, Blythe 23 and Jenny Bye 13.

On offense Allen was the kills leader for Vermillion with 208, followed by Blythe's 142, Ouellette's 105, Regnerus's 101, Jenny Bye 87, Lizzie Bye 53 and Fischbach 15.

Hughes-Berheim with 35 and Allen with 34 were the leaders in service aces. Ouel-

lette recorded 27, Jenny Bye 21, LeCates 17 and Blythe 15. LeCates with 367 and Fischbach with 199 were the Tanagers' assist leaders.

In addition to those listed among the statistics leaders, other members of the VHS varsity this fall were Megan Chickering, Emily McClelland, Jana Bye, Sarah Szymonski, Sami Girard and Beth Szymonski.

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November 3, 2009			
Team Name	Won	Lost	Score
Lamie's Cleaning	156.0	114.0	164
Whimp's	148.5	120.5	162
Market Street	143.0	127.0	160
Team BK	136.5	130.5	160
Pace's	114.0	156.0	159
Aramark	108.0	159.0	159
High Scr. Game-Team	Score		Score
Market Street	546		459
Aramark	539		410
Pace's	509		401
High Scr. Game	Score		Score
Traci Bartekoske	173		399
Judy Barta			399
Marion Sprecher			
Candace Joy			
Laurie Jurgensen			
High Scr. Series-Team			Score
Aramark			1531
Market Street			1506
Team BK			1447
High Scr. Series			Score
Traci Bartekoske			459
Candace Joy			410
Dawna Anderson			401
Amy Richardson			401
Judy Barta			399
Laurie Jurgensen			399

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### Realities and myths about South Dakota newspapers

As the trade association for 130 South Dakota newspapers, we want to set the record straight about our industry:

- **Your local newspaper is here for the long run.** Some pundits and so-called experts are already writing the obituary for the newspaper industry. We say: not so fast. Newspapers march on not only as news leaders and innovators, but as stalwart businesses in the communities they serve, contributing to the economic well-being of Main Street and South Dakota.

- **Newspapers remain a dominant media source in South Dakota.** Newspapers in this state have an estimated readership of more than 707,000, plus a growing online audience. 9 out of 10 South Dakotans read their local newspaper. Nationwide, more than 104 million adults read a newspaper every day, except on Sunday, when readership grows to 115 million. That's more people than watch the Super Bowl (94 million), American Idol (23 million), or the evening news (65 million).

- **The biggest reason newspapers are read is because you rely on your newspaper to know what's happening in your community.** Obituaries, weddings, high school sports, city hall, babies, arrests, yard sales, church meetings, little league baseball, community events, engagements, town business, government public notices, grocery ads... the list goes on and on. Your newspaper connects you with your community.

- **It is a myth that the Internet and other sources will provide news if South Dakota newspapers aren't here to do the job.** The reality is that newspapers make a larger investment in newsgathering than any other medium. In fact, most of the news you get from other media originated with reporting done by newspapers.

This is a time when newspapers are transforming. The industry is adapting and moving forward. We look forward to the future! We look forward to providing news, information and advertising that help connect and build the communities we serve.

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