06 Vermillion Plain Talk UND Sioux top USD Coyotes in five

By Jeremy Hoeck jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The fact that yet another match went five sets was a feat in itself, considering the opponent.

Yet, that was no consolation for the South Dakota volleyball team.

North Dakota, one of the nation's hottest teams with a Division I RPI of 65, won its 12th straight match 25-21, 24-26, 25-15, 23-25, 15-11 Tuesday night at the DakotaDome.

"It's frustrating that we keep letting it get to five, but when you're playing a team like North Dakota, you can't be too upset," said USD senior Tahnee Reed, who recorded 14 kills with no errors.

"We just need to be more consistent so we're not letting that happen."

The Coyotes (13-15), playing its seventh straight 5-set match, found a late spark in four of the five sets –

highlighted by two dramatic comebacks for wins.

It was the first non-conference match between the two former league rivals, as North Dakota is still a member of the Great West and USD is in year one of Summit League play. The two teams are scheduled to play again early next season in Grand Forks, ND.

"It's always big when we play them," Reed said.

It was an early hole in the fifth and deciding set that proved to be too much for USD.

"That was the definition of back and forth," coach Matt Houk said. "We were good for a while and made them look bad, and they made us look bad other times.

"We're happy with the performance, just not the result."

The Coyotes have now lost five of the seven 5-set matches over the last

three weeks, a trend that exposes USD's tendency to play stronger near the end of sets.

"We need to work on playing better right ouf the gate," Reed said. "It's good that we rally like that, but good teams like North Dakota only let you do that so many times."

Though they lost the opening set, the Coyotes did not allow UND to completely control the tempo.

There were 15 ties and five lead changes, the latest when the Sioux pulled in front 20-19 on a kill by Ronni Munkeby.

"That was an excellent game; so enjoyable to be a part of," Houk said of set one. "That's what D-I volleyball is all about, teams getting kills and playing good defense."

The bigger lead change, though, came in the second set when the Coyotes rallied from a 14-21 deficit. USD tied the set at 23 on a kill by Kendall Kritenbrink and the Sioux knotted it at 24 on a block. Yet, a kill by Amber Aschoff and an attack error on UND gave the Coyotes the win.

Just as quickly, that momentum shifted sides in the third set.

North Dakota hit .343 in the game and limited USD to .069, with seven kills and five attack errors.

"Good teams like that expose your weaknesses," Houk said.

Just as in the second set, the Coyotes rallied from a large deficit in the fourth set – this time 13-19.

A block by Natalie Walseth tied the game at 21 and a kill by Reed ended the set.

North Dakota controlled the fifth set, pulling ahead 12-5 before the Coyotes came alive with another late surge.

"The biggest thing for us is just being more consistent," Reed said. "That's something we're always working on and coach is always talking about, not having huge letdowns right away."

Kritenbrink led USD with 22 kills, while Walseth added 11. Tori Kroll recorded 47 set assists and Riley Haug led the defense with 27 digs.

The Coyotes stay at home for a Friday night Summit League match against Oakland at 7 p.m. The Golden Grizzlies, 8-6 in conference play, upended USD 3-1 three weeks ago.

Reed will be the only senior to be recognized on Senior Night, and she also marks the first player in Houk's USD tenure to play all four years with him.

"It'll definitely be special for all of us, just because it's Senior Night and it's a Summit League match we really need," Houk said. "Hopefully we can come out stronger and get the win."

Bye is state finalist for national honor

As the competition narrows for the 2011 Wendy's High School Heisman Award program, 20 of South Dakota's top scholar-athletes were announced this week as state finalists for the prestigious award. Elizabeth Bye of Vermillion High School is among the finalists.

These finalists are now in the running to become state winners, the next phase of the program as applicants advance to become national winners.

Of the 48,000 seniors who applied nationwide, 289 applicants came from South Dakota and have been narrowed down to the state's 20 finalists. These finalists embody the Heisman spirit of hard work and dedication through their outstanding achievements in athletics, academics and community/school leadership.

Just as the collegiate Heisman is known for being the highest award in college football, the Wendy's High School Heisman, now in its 18th year, is one of the most esteemed awards at the high school level.

On Nov. 4, one male and

as national finalists and will go on to compete for the national winner title in New York City on Dec. 9. National finalists will be featured during a televised ceremony on ESPN networks and will receive gold medals and \$2,000 awards for their high schools.

One male and one female national winner will receive a Wendy's High School Heisman trophy and Wendy's will donate \$10,000 to each winner's respective high school. Additionally, the winners will be recognized during the collegiate Heisman Trophy broadcast on ESPN, Dec. 10.

Created in 1994 by Wendy's and the Heisman Memorial Trust, the Wendy's High School Heisman Award recognizes outstanding high school seniors nationwide who excel in athletics, academics and community leadership. Students can nominate themselves for the award online, in addition to being recommended by principals, teachers, guidance counselors and coaches. The most exceptional students are then selected to advance during extensive judging processes conducted at both state and national levels.

Cal Poly upsets 15th-ranked Coyotes, 27-24

Cal Poly scored 27 points in the second half to upset No. 15 South Dakota Saturday evening 27-24 in a Great West Conference matchup of the league's top two teams. With the loss, the Coyotes fell to 5-4 on the year and 2-1 in conference play, while Cal Poly improved to 5-3 on the year and 3-0 in the Great West Conference.

"I feel bad for our team," South Dakota head football coach Ed Meierkort said. We panicked a little down the stretch and I thought we played very hard – well at times, too. Cal Poly is a good football team and we knew they would come charging. We missed some opportunities to put them away."

After both teams had to punt on their first two possessions, the Coyotes were in a third-and-long deep in their own territory when senior Dante Warren (Arlington Heights, IL) threw a 49-yard slant pass to junior wide receiver Will Powell (Sioux Falls) setting the Coyotes up at the Cal Poly 24-yard line. South Dakota moved the ball to the five, but was unable to get six as sophomore kicker Kevin Robb (Rapid City) put the Coyotes on the board first with a 22-yard field goal 2:38 remaining in the first quarter.

On the ensuing Cal Poly possession, senior defensive back Shane Potter (Becker, MN) had a big tackle in the backfield on Mustang quarterback Andre Broadous, who tried the option to no avail forcing the Mustangs to punt.

After the fourth punt by Cal Poly, the Coyotes started moving the ball with two quick first downs and a personal foul for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Warren moved the Coyotes to the 30-yard line of the Mustangs. Warren then threw a 29-yard touchdown strike to senior Dustin Nowotny (Rapid City) for a 10-0 lead with 8:33 remaining in the half. It was Nowotny's third touchdown reception of the season and Warren's eight touchdown over to the Coyotes. On the first play from scrimmage Warren went deep for his second score as he connected with Powell for a 44-yard strike for a 17-0 lead with 6:43 left in the half.

Cal Poly started moving the ball and got into Coyote territory, but a big sack and forced fumble by sophomore Tyler Starr (Little Rock, IA) and recovery by senior linebacker Andrew Meier (Guthrie Center, IA) quieted the crowd who had begun to get into the game.

The Coyotes took a 17-0 lead into the locker room as outgained the Mustangs 204-73 in the first half, 149-29 in passing yards and held a 9-4 lead in first downs. In addition, the Coyotes held a 55-44 lead in rushing yards as Cal Poly entered as the top rushing team in the conference at 254.4 yards per game which ranks sixth nationally, too.

On the opening possession of the second half, the Mustangs used a 15 play drive which ended with a 22-yard field goal by James Langford for a 17-3 score. After turnover on downs by the Coyotes, Broadous threw a three-yard touchdown pass to Jake Romanelli with 1:52 remaining in the third quarter cutting the Coyote lead to 17-10.

On a third and nine from the Coyote side of the field, redshirt freshman quarterback Josh Vander Maten (Boyden, Iowa) threw a 31-yard pass to senior wide receiver Jeremy Blount (Tampa, Fla.) to keep the drive going. On a third-and-five from the 15 yard line, Vander Maten called his own number and scampered into the end zone for his first rushing touchdown of his career putting the Coyotes up 24-10 with 13:32 left.

Vander Maten entered the game as Warren left with an injury and did not return.

The Coyotes tried an onside kick on the ensuing kick, but the referees ruled the ball didn't travel 10 yards giving the Mustangs the ball at the Coyote 40. Two sacks and a forced fumble by Potter, including a fourth down sack gave the Coyotes the ball back at the 40. "We didn't get the call on the onside

kick, which I thought was really too bad," Meierkort added. "We had a two touchdown lead with eight-and-a-half left and we got out of it, but we missed the fumble on the other one and that's what happens when you lose a tight game like tonight."

Broadous, on fourth and one from the two, scored to bring the Mustangs within 24-17 with 4:47 left on a 76-yard drive using 3:48 on the clock and 13 plays. Broadous scored his second rushing touchdown to tie the game at 24 with 2:05 left.

After a Coyote punt, Greg Francis returned the punt 44 yards to the Coyote 29 with 55 seconds left. The Coyotes forced Cal Poly to attempt 39-yard field goal. Langford made the kick putting the Mustangs up 27-24 with 36 seconds remaining.

A hail mary heave by Vander Maten into the end zone with four seconds left went incomplete

The Coyotes were led by 183 yards passing from Warren as he was 11 of 16 with two scores. Powell had a game and season-high 141 yards receiving on seven catches and a score. Nowotny had three catches for 42 yards and one score as he moved into fifth all-time in receptions with 109.

Defensively the Coyotes were led by Adam Broders (Bloomfield, NE) with a career-high 18 tackles including 11 solo stops and a sack. Junior linebacker Darius Hogans (Las Vegas, NV) had a career-high 11 tackles.

Junior punter Cole Zwiefelhofer (Chippewa Falls, WI) had seven punts for 307 yards and a 43.9 average.

Broadous led the way for the Mustangs with two rushing scores and he threw for one. Romanelli had 88 yards rushing on 20 carries, while Broadous had a 25 carries for 69 yards. He was 13 of 22 for 117 yards and a score. Romanelli also had

one female finalist from each state will be named state winners. Of those state winners, 12 will be chosen pass of the year.

The Mustangs went for it on fourthand-one and senior defensive back Shea Williams hurried Broadous and sacked him for a 5-yard loss turning the ball back four catches for 29 yards and a score.

The Coyotes have the week off and will close out the 2011 home season Nov. 12 at 12 p.m. for Senior Day versus Missouri S&T in the DakotaDome.

USD cross country teams 5th at Summit League Championships

Sophomore Jeff Mettler placed fifth and earned firstteam all-conference honors to lead the South Dakota men's cross country team to a fifthplace finish at the Summit League Championships, which were held Saturday in Tulsa, OK. The Coyote women, led by a 16th-place finish by junior Jessica Brandli, also placed fifth at the event with 132 points.

"We feel like we had a successful meet," USD head coach Dan Fitzsimmons said. "It's not quite where we wanted to be, but we realized how close we were to being in second, in the men's race especially. It gives us something to build off of going into indoor and outdoor track."

The Coyote men finished with 116 points in their Summit League debut, but were just six points out of fourth and 21 points out of second.

Mettler capped off an outstanding fall season with a top-five finish. He ran a time of 25:15.20 to finish fifth, just two seconds out of fourth. He became the first Coyote cross country runner to earn All-Summit League honors.

Junior Ethan Marquardt had another solid run, placing 21st with a time of 26:09.90. Sophomore Travis Brenner (Yankton) wasn't far behind, taking 26th with a time of 26:23.90. Freshman Taylor Huseman also had a good run after running a 26:27.90 which placed him 29th Junior Eric Thien also had a solid performance, crossing the line in 35th at 26:48.30. "We had really good performances," Fitzsimmons said. "Jeff Mettler was first-team all-conference after an outstanding race. We did pretty much what we planned on; you just couldn't predict where some of the individual runners from other schools were going to finish."

Brandli led the Coyote women's team for a second straight meet. Her 16th-place finish put her just two spots away from all-conference honors. She ran a time of 22:48.15, less than two seconds out of 15th.

Junior Carol Miller had one of her best runs of the season, placing 26th with a time of 23:09.67. Sophomore Britni Waller was 28th at 23:11.42, while senior Emma Ladwig (Gayville) was 30th at 23:20.26. Sophomore Ashleigh Giese was 32nd after running a time of 23:25.65. "We had a lot of depth," Fitzsimmons said. "If you look at the conference as a whole, our seventh runner finished higher than any other seventh runner in the conference. Jessica Brandli had an outstanding race. Britni Waller had her best race of the season as did Carol Miller."



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