



November 20, 2015 www.plaintalk.net

Jacks Edge Coyotes 30-23



SDSU's Clark Wieneke intercepts a pass in the end zone intended for USD's Eric Shufford in Saturday's conference rivalry game.

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Six minutes and 32 seconds.

That was the crucial span. The difference between a potential win for the University of South Dakota and an eventual insurmountable lead for South Dakota State.

Trailing 20-10 entering the fourth quarter, the fifth-ranked Jackrabbits reeled off three straight touchdowns and held on for a 30-23 Missouri Valley victory over the Coyotes on Saturday afternoon at the DakotaDome.

While the Jackrabbits (8-2, 5-2) inched closer to a top-8 seed in the FCS playoffs, it was a missed opportunity for the Coyotes (5-5, 3-4) — who are all but eliminated from playoff contention.

"We did a lot of really good things, but just didn't win the game," USD coach Joe Glenn said. "And that's the way it goes."

There was a point in the third quarter where it looked like the Coyotes might be on the verge of padding that 20-10 cushion — especially after the Jacks were forced to punt on four straight drives and then threw an interception.

Then came the fourth quarter.

Touchdown. 20-17.

Touchdown. 24-20.

Up against a wall in a hostile environment (with a sellout crowd of 10,345), the Jackrabbits never panicked.

"Our message is the same; it's been the same for 19 years," head coach John Stiegelmeier said. "When you take the field, you have a chance to affect the football game."

The point when the momentum changed?

When Nick Farina crossed the goal line on an interception return with 7:30 left in the game, Stiegelmeier joked.

Down 30-20, the Coyotes made things interesting with a Miles Bergner 45-yard field

goal — his third of the game — with 3:41 to play.

After a defensive stop, the Coyotes got the ball back with 1:55 left — and 91 yards to go — but could only get to the Jackrabbit 43-yard line.

A fourth down hail mary was knocked down at the goal line, and the Jacks took a knee to close out the game.

It got tight late, but SDSU was leaving Vermillion with the seventh straight win in the series — the closest of the Division I meetings.

"It speaks to our entire program, and sets us up moving forward," said SDSU junior quarterback Zach Lujan, who came in the game to start the fourth quarter.

"We're able to take a punch; able to be on our back and come back to win a game."

And Lujan played a key role in that comeback.

Freshman Taryn Christian got the start and passed for 153 yards (with

a touchdown run), but the SDSU coaching staff made the move to Lujan to start the final quarter.

"He played pretty close to perfect, in a tough situation," Stiegelmeier said.

In his post-game press conference, Glenn continually referenced — a couple times — the defensive struggles against SDSU receiver Jake Wieneke. The adjustments never got in, he said.

Wieneke, one of the top receivers in the FCS, caught six passes for 180 yards.

"I'm sick that we didn't guard him harder, foul him; anything you want to do but let him catch the ball on a dead run," Glenn said.

On the other side, USD junior quarterback Ryan Saeger — who Glenn said had injured his ankle earlier in the game — completed 26-of-46 passes for 266 yards with a touchdown.

Freshman Michael Fredrick rushed for a season-high 143 yards, while senior receiver Eric Shufford caught nine passes for 55 yards.

With the double whammy of losing out on a playoff spot and losing to a rival, was this one harder to take for USD?

"It's not the fact that the game hurts, but the fact that I couldn't do more for my teammates," senior linebacker Keyen Lage said. "No matter what the game is, all of them hurt," he added. "I don't feel like this hurt any more."

Glenn was asked the same question later, and the disappointment came in "all of the above" — it was a rivalry game and the Coyotes had a chance to get to the playoffs.

"A lot went down with the ship," he said. "It hurts."

Despite the loss, USD still has a chance to clinch the program's first winning record since 2011 if it were to beat Illinois State on the road next week.

Tanager Of The Week



BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Vermillion High School senior Natalie Swanson was named Tanager of the Week for her leadership on the school's color guard team.

Swanson's Love Of Performing Shows At Color Guard

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

As a natural performer, it's no wonder Vermillion High School senior Natalie Swanson fell in love with color guard when she took up the sport during her sophomore year.

The very next year Swanson was named captain and during her senior year she served as captain and coach during the 2015 season. Her dedication and hard work for the program has named her Tanager of the Week.

"If you've ever seen a marching band compete or perform, you have the band that is playing the music and doing the marching and there are also the people who twirl the flags," Swanson said. "That's what the color guard is, that's what we do."

The color guard season is the same as marching band and lasts from the end of August until the end of October. Practices take place every day before school and during the first period marching band class.

"During marching band season we all come to school at 7:45 a.m. instead of 8:30, so we have that extra 45 minutes in the morning," Swanson said. "We have 45 minutes in the morning and then our 50 minute first period class."

As captain, Swanson was responsible for choreographing all the routines performed throughout the year, something that took up a good portion of her free time, including weekends.

"We didn't have any hired help this year," Swanson said. "All the planning, and whatever the guard needs, that's what

SWANSON | PAGE 11A

VHS Bowling Season Off To Rolling Start

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

Last season's young bowling squad at Vermillion High School is back with another year of experience under their belts.

"Our kids have always been tournament tough and now have the experience to step up with confidence," said head coach Mike Lovejoy.

The 2014-15 team finished middle of the pack in terms of standings and Lovejoy is looking for some big games out of his growing team.

"We have the same core team back this year that seem more determined to play as a team," Lovejoy said. "The older players are helping the younger players with little things. We have more players that consistently throw 200 plus games and 600, 700 pin series this year."

"We have a lot kids that are capable of popping a big game or series this year."

Bowling is an individual sport, but at the high school level combines scores to give it a team aspect. That's allows an individual who might be having an off day a chance to

still come out on top.

"Our matches are scored on the Peterson system that blends individual performance for points and team totals for points," said coach Lovejoy. "Even if you are not having a stellar individual day you have to try your best for your team as your pin fall still goes to the team total. You may lose individually to somebody that supper hot that day but still help the team win the match with your score."

So far this season, Vermillion is off to a good start with both the boys and girls teams earning opening wins against Brandon last Friday at the Yankton Fun Center.

Senor Brett Hanson led the boys' team over Brandon with a 713 series and is expected to have several 700 series during the year to continue off of last season performances.

Senior Kodie Lovejoy is also returning to the lineup as a top contender for the Tanagers

"Kodie has some 300 games and 700 series also to his credit," said coach Lovejoy.

Juniors Ryan Brunick and Avery Mollet will also play key roles on the season and started with strong performances against Brandon. Seventh grader Josh Bern is returning for his second year on the team came out strong last Friday and earning some team points.

"Josh has multiple 200+ games to his credit and will continue give us more," said coach Lovejoy.

For the girls, Lovejoy is looking to senior Kayla Stammer to lead the small team after some big scores last year.

"Our high point of (last) season had to be when Kayla Stammer rolled her 299 game," said coach Lovejoy. "To the best of my knowledge that is an all-time VHS team high game."

Stammer has also come up with multiple 600 series.

Along with Stammer, Katie Kost and Emily Schmitz are two more seniors that will make a big impact.

"(Kost) throws the ball two handed and has had some big games last year," said coach Lovejoy. "(Schmitz) joined the team last year and will have a key role this year

as her game strengthens every week."

Some new talents are developing in a potentially strong eighth grade class on both the boys' and girls' side. Billy Radigan, Logan Gregg and Libby Gregg are improving fast and are expected to earn some team points over the season.

"Libby Gregg is now turning the ball into the pocket and will also give us some big days," said coach Lovejoy. "Logan Gregg, another eighth grader, will be making his first varsity start this Friday. Logan's talents are developing fast."

The bowling season continues with a home match Friday afternoon against Canton and again on Friday, Dec. 4. All home matches are played at the Yankton Family Fun Center beginning at 4 p.m. and admission is free of charge.

"I feel we have as good of a chance of winning the conference championship and state match as any other team this year both on the girls and boys side," said coach Lovejoy. "We have always been kind of known as a dark horse knocking off some power house teams at tournament time."



Let The Broadcaster & Plain Talk Make Cash For You!

Broadcaster & Plain Talk private party classified line ads are now FREE for 30 words or less. If you need more than 30 words, don't worry you still won't pay a lot. A 31-word ad is only 90¢ and the cost only goes up 50¢ per word thereafter.

bp
Broadcaster
Press

Vermillion
PT
PLAIN TALK
Serving our readers since 1984
www.plaintalk.net

Place your ad by calling the
Broadcaster/Plain Talk office at
605.624.4429 or by stopping in at
201 W. Cherry Street today!