

## Tanager cross-country preparing for Region meet

By Parker Knox  
Sportswriter

The postseason has arrived for the Vermillion High cross country teams, and the Tanagers will go to Beresford next Friday for the Region 3A meet as they try to qualify for the state meet.

The Tanagers, who ran in the Big 8 Conference meet at Madison Thursday, competed at the Lennox Invitational on a cold, rainy day last Friday.

Vermillion's highlight was a strong second-place finish by Blair Gilkyson in the girls varsity event. Her time of 15:44.31 was just over five seconds behind the winner. "Blair ran very well," said Coach Kelly Fischbach, "especially for her first race in about a year."

Morgan Hower crossed the finish line in 36th place in 17:34.78, and Jade Fostvedt was 41st in 17:46.99.

"The boys looked very good," said Coach Kelly Fischbach. "I think all five varsity boys had their best times of the year, which is excellent in those conditions. I am very proud of all of them."

Leading the way for Vermillion was Alex Card with a 15th-place time of 18:40. Nathan Ford placed 25th in 19:29, Robert Osterberg 27th in 19:39, Matt Hirsch 33rd in 20:02 and Seth Miller 36th in 20:22.

Philip Erikson had Vermillion's highest finish in the JV boys event with a ninth-place 16:43. Jacob Ford was 11th in 17:18, Colin Olson 13th in 17:23, Derek Iverson 20th in 18:29, Kevin Helenurm 21st in 18:32 and Dylan Scheidel 26th in 19:23.

Vermillion sent four runners to Lennox in the middle school division. In the boys' event Mateo Piper placed a strong fourth in 12:39 and Joe Swanson was ninth in 13:52. Among the girls Ashley Sorensen placed ninth in 14:49 and Caitlin Britten 13th in 16:24.

"We hope to get everyone healthy and back in time for regions," Fischbach said.

## Quarriers crush Tanagers 41-14 in Friday action

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The stakes weren't as high this time, but Dell Rapids made its return to the DakotaDome just as successful as last November's trip.

The Quarriers spotted Vermillion an early touchdown Friday but then reeled off 35 unanswered points on the way to spoiling the Tanagers' homecoming, 41-14.

Dell Rapids put the ball into play on the ground 48 times with great success, accumulating 309 rushing yards. Just for good measure, the Quarriers added 69 yards through the air, all but seven of it on a pair of touchdown plays. Meanwhile, they held the Tanagers to 77 rushing yards.

"It was an extremely frustrating night for our team," Coach Gary Culver said in calling the loss "a step backwards" after a thrilling overtime win in the previous game at Canton. "We were simply outplayed in all phases of the game."

The game was only five minutes old when Kylan Freidel carried the mail into the end zone from the 2-yard line for an early Tanager lead. The Quarriers' Pat Curry scored the first of his four touchdowns to tie the game later in the period.

The game got away from Vermillion in a rough second period. Two more Curry touchdowns made it 20-7, but the real killer was a touchdown pass from Channing Barber to Matt Dunbar only 12 seconds after the previous touchdown had been scored.

The score grew to 35-7 on a 45-yard TD pass from Barber to Curry in the third period.

In the final quarter after the game had been decided, the Tanagers covered 74 of their 81 total passing yards on one play when Freidel took a pass from Earl Keirtzner and went the distance.

Dell Rapids tacked on its final TD with 22 seconds left, but it could hardly be said they were padding the score. Ten different players carried



Vermillion's Kylan Freidel carries the ball toward the Vermillion goal line early in Friday's game against Dell Rapids, and would later score from the 2 yard line. It was one of just a few bright spots for the Tanagers as they were overwhelmed by the Quarriers Friday. (Photo by David Lias)

the ball for the Quarriers in the game.

"We had mental breakdowns on offense, defense and specialty teams," Culver noted. "I felt we had made good progress through the first four games of the season and had continued to improve each week. That was not the case this time."

Freidel gained 65 yards in 10 carries and caught three aeriels for 68 yards. Curry had 125 yards rushing and 68 yards in three receptions to lead the Quarriers.

Tyler Husby with eight solo tackles led the Tanager defensive statistics with Tanner Mart and Dexter Mehlhaf credited for six tackles apiece and Will Mart and Jordan Robinson five apiece.

"Our team found out that you have to be mentally ready every time you take the field, and we were not at that stage for this game," Culver said.

"We've learned from this situation."

Hopefully he is right because the schedule only gets tougher for the Tanagers, who this week host No. 2-rated Harrisburg (3-2) at 7 p.m. Friday and have the perennial No. 1, West Central, two weeks from now.

"It is a gut-check time for our team as we wind down the last three weeks of the regular season," Culver said. "We will find out a lot about ourselves during these last three weeks of practices and in the games."

Dell Rapids	7	20	8	6	--	14
VHS	7	0	0	7	--	13

First quarter:

VHS: Kylan Freidel 2-yd. run (Jordan Robinson kick), 7:10.  
DR: Pat Curry 3-yd. run (Cade Buysee kick), 3:33.

Second quarter:

DR: Curry 16-yd. run (kick failed),

9:39.  
DR: Curry 4-yd. run (Curry run), 2:24.  
DR: Matt Dunbar 17-yd. pass from Channing Barber (kick failed), 22:12.

Third quarter:

DR: Curry 45-yd. pass from Barber (Josh Fiedler pass from Buysee), 3:23.

Fourth quarter:

VHS: Freidel 74-yd. pass from Earl Keirtzner (Robinson kick), 5:50.  
DR: Hunter White 30-yd. run (kick failed), :22.

	VHS	DR
First downs	4	19
Rushes-yards	26-77	48-309
Passing yards	81	69
Total yards	158	378
Passes	6-9-0	4-8-0
Punts-avg.	5-34-0	2-16-0
Fumbles-lost	1-0	3-2
Penalties-yards	9-85	9-76

Individual rushing: VHS, Freidel 10-65, Dexter Mehlhaf 1-5, Tyler Husby 2-5, Tanner Mart 3-5, Bennett Johnson 5-4, Robinson 2-3, Keirtzner 3-(-10); DR, Curry 16-125, Zachery Barber 6-42, Josh Fiedler 3-31, White 1-30, Dylan

Ljunggren 6-25, Channing Barber 3-19, Landon Lueders 7-17, Riley Rinehart 2-14, Cole Langer 1-5, Buysee 2-(-5).

Individual passing: VHS, Keirtzner 5-7-82, Husby 1-2-(-1), DR, Channing Barber, 4-8-69.

Receiving: VHS, Freidel 3-68, Johnson 2-14, Mehlhaf 1-(-1), DR, Curry 2-46, Dunbar 1-17, Zachery Barber 1-6.

Individual defense: Tackles (solo-assist-totally): VHS, Husby 8-0-8, Tanner Mart 4-2-6, Mehlhaf 5-1-6, Robinson 4-1-5, Will Mart 5-0-5, Nick Mart 3-1-4, Marquis Knight 3-0-3, Freidel 2-0-2, Chris Mart 2-0-2, Chris Wilson 2-0-2, Johnson 2-0-2, Chase Allen 2-0-2, Clint Hubert 2-0-2, Nick Anglin 1-0-1, Brenden Raizola 1-0-1, Carson Sullivan 1-0-1, Brian Hansen 1-0-1.

Tackles for loss: VHS, Tanner Mart 1.

Fumble recoveries: VHS, Ben Kozak 1, Riley Vlasman 1.

Pass knockdowns: VHS, Mehlhaf 1, Robinson 1.

## Shepard sets USD career record in loss to UND

Senior quarterback Noah Shepard set USD's career touchdown passes record with a nine-yard strike early in the second quarter, but the South Dakota football team lost, 27-12, to North Dakota on Saturday in front of more than 12,431 fans at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND. The Coyotes dropped to 3-2 overall and 0-1 in the Great West Conference, while the Fighting Sioux improved to 2-2 and 1-0 in league action.

A tight one-point contest at half turned into a UND win with 14 unanswered points in the second half. USD outrushed UND 201-184, but North Dakota held a 270-173 advantage through the air. The Fighting Sioux had 22 first downs and 454 yards of total offense compared to 20 first downs and 374 yards for the Coyotes.

USD couldn't manage any points on its first drive of the contest, and UND started to generate offensive momentum, but Brandon Hellevang missed his first field goal of the season from 38 yards. South Dakota didn't waste their second chance on the offensive side of the ball, though.

After several big rushes from running back Isaac Newton (Sr., New Orleans, LA), including a 23-yard rumble, and a fumble recovery by tight end London Landry (Sr., Lancaster, CA) at the UND one-yard line, Newton punched the ball in from one yard out. USD's scoring drive was 10 plays for 79 yards in 4:27, but Dustin Nowotny's (So., Rapid City) extra point attempt was blocked.

An unsportsmanlike penalty and a big run back on the kickoff by Ismael Bamba gave UND good field position inside USD's 30 yard line, and the Fighting Sioux capitalized. Three-straight rushing plays and UND's Mitch Sutton found the back of the end zone.

The Coyotes responded with another scoring drive, this time with the help of wide receiver Ben Oberle (Sr., Vermillion).

Shepard found Oberle for a 44-yard pass down the right-hand side of the field and then connected with him two plays later from nine-yards out for the score. The play gave Shepard 65 career touchdown tosses at South Dakota. Sam Sawyer's (Fr., Brandon) extra-point attempt was blocked, as South Dakota took a 12-7 lead early in the second quarter.

North Dakota countered with its air attack on an eight-play, 60-yard drive, as Bamba caught several passes and Jarrel Davis hauled in a 13-yard touchdown catch over the middle. The Fighting Sioux had trouble of their own on the extra-point attempt, as the snap was fumbled and the holder was tackled to put UND up by one, 13-12.

The offenses exchanged three-and-outs, before USD put together another extended drive. Shepard found wide receiver Tom Flanagan (Fr., Lakewood, CO) for a 25-yard strike that softened upped the UND defense and allowed USD to chip away at the Fighting Sioux on the ground. Running back Chris Ganious (So., Houston, TX) posted rushes of 12 and 15 yards, before Flanagan took an end around for 22 yards to the UND two yard line. The drive stalled though, and Sawyer missed a 21-yard attempt to end the first half. UND held a 166-116 advantage through the air in the first half, but the Coyotes outrushed the Fighting Sioux 144-46.

UND opened the second half with a systematic drive that lasted 12 plays, 80 yards and 5:44, before Landry connected with Sutton for a 12 yard score. Landry went 6-of-8 through the air on the drive, and the UND forced a punt from the Coyotes on the ensuing drive.

The Coyotes defense also stepped up, stopping a UND drive at midfield to give the ball back to USD at its own 24. USD drove to the UND 29 in 10 plays and looked to be creating momentum, but a tipped pass lead to a Fighting Sioux interception and North Dakota turned it into a touchdown to go up 27-12 early in the fourth quarter.

USD respond with a 13-play, 50-yard drive to get inside the UND one-yard line, but Shepard was unable to get inside the end zone on three consecutive rushes, as the Coyotes turned the ball over on downs with 3:33 left in the contest. Three UND first downs allowed the Fighting Sioux to run out the clock.

Shepard went 14-of-27 in the contest for 173 yards and one touchdown. Newton finished with 74 yards on the ground, while Ganious earned 58. Flanagan had 61 yards receiving.

South Dakota continues its season when the Coyotes host UC Davis as part of the Dakota Days celebration Saturday at 2 p.m. in the DakotaDome.

### LEAGUE BOWLING

Ladies National League September 29, 2009			
Team Name	Won	Lost	
Whimp's	81.0	39.0	Traci Bartekoske 172
Lamie's Cleaning	76.0	44.0	Linda Manning 167
Team BK	64.5	55.5	Michelle Mines 164
Market Street	49.0	71.0	Amy Richardson 162
Aramark	45.0	75.0	
Pace's	44.5	75.5	
<b>High Scr. Game-Team</b>	<b>Score</b>		<b>Score</b>
Aramark	573		1616
Pace's	547		1561
Whimp's	537		1537
<b>High Scr. Game</b>	<b>Score</b>		<b>Score</b>
Sandy Marker	179		506
			478
			444
			431
			424



## Fourth place finish

Vermillion's junior varsity softball team captured fourth place in the state JV classic tournament in Sioux Falls Sept. 26-27. Members of the Tanager team include: front row, Lindsay Robinet, Carlee Sorensen, Claire Jones, Ellen Brown, Sami Girard; back row, Samantha Schuster, Shelby Christopherson, Paige Olson, Elly Miller, Jonna Lynch, Brynn Albers, Melissa Chickerling and Melanie LeCates.

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