

## THIS WEEK IN VERMILLION POOL LEAGUE

By Joe MOJO Reiser

Hello again folks. The weather is turning chilly and the evening recreation is moving into the warmth of our local billiard halls. That means the Vermillion 9Ball League is underway.

Leading the league in wins is our reigning champion, the White Gloves of Whimp's. Backed by the solid shooting of Glenn Mac and Skinny, who were each 4 and 1, the White Gloves posted 16 wins to take a narrow lead in week one.

Here is a list of the teams by place.

- 1) Whimps...16-9.
- 2) Tie: Maya Janes 1 and 2, Eagles 2, and Leo's 1...15-10.
- 6) Tie: Maya Janes 3 and Varsity 1...14-11.
- 9) Varsity 2...13-12.
- 10) Char 1...12-13.
- 11) Tie: Leo's 3 and Bunyan's 2...11-14.
- 14) Tie: Carey's, Char 2, Bunyans 1, and Leo's 4...10-15.
- 18) Leo's 2 9-16.

The Eagles 1 and Maya Jane's 4 teams were otherwise occupied and failed to shoot their match.

Let's "bust a rack" and get into the games. As previously stated, Whimp's White Gloves got 16 wins at the hands of Ryan Baedke's Leo's 2 team. Rob and Mike each had 3 wins for the Whimps with Mike Hekrdle and Dan Doty gaining 3 wins for Leo's 2.

Maya Janes 2 entered Leo's, and with the help of four 4-1 performances, dropped a bomb on Leo's 4. Troy Nix, Nate, Joe and Leo's 3 defector Barry "Rock n' Roll" Brown all squared up and rolled in 4 wins. Curt Kuiper and Harlin Durkin each banged in 3 wins for Leo's 4.

The Eagles 2 soared over Bunyans and scored a 15-10 win over the Bunyan's 1 team. Dennis Navarat lead the way for the high fliers with a perfect 5-0 besting of the table and the bombers of Bunyan's. Tim Dooley also soared in with 4 wins for the high fliers. Jamie Erickson, Jeremy Kirkpatrick and Jody Sailer all rolled up 3 wins for the "Bombers."

Leo's 1, behind the stellar shooting of Travis "Too Tough" Taggart downed the Char 2 by a score of 15-10. Taggart flexed his pool muscles for a 4 win night. Also helping Leo's 1 were Mark "Stick" Clark, Dave Kezar and Rusty Jensen with 3 win each.

For the Char 2 men, Josh Kimlika and JJ Biever each had 3 wins. Maya Jane's 1 crossed Main Street and dropped a 15-10 woopin' on Carey's. The duo of Andy "Smithers" Johnson and Carson Kennedy banged in 4 wins each for the MJ 1 kings. Justin Snyder paced Carey's with 4 wins with a little help from "Yours Truly" with 3 wins.

At the Varsity, the home team Varsity Lettermen rolled in 14 wins over the visiting Bunyans 2 Bombers. Matt "Doc" Taggart lead the way for the Lettermen with 4 wins. Ryan Merrihan and Luke Muhlbaer each rolled in 3 9Balls to assist. Bunyan's 2 was paced by Dan Semmler and Blaine Schoellerman with 3 wins.

Maya Jane's 3 held serve at home by beating Leo's 3 to the tune of 14-11. Steve Newguy and Rob H. were 4 game winners for Maya Jane's. Adam Hasse also helped the cause with 3 wins. Leo's 3 was lead by Cam Nettestad with 4 wins and Jesse James with 3 wins.

The Varsity 2 visited the Char Bar and came away with a 13-12 road win. Zack Mahoney was a perfect 5-0 for the Varsity. Banger Olfson and Doug O'Doug each had 3 wins to help the Varsity cause. Troy Schaffer and Kase Alison were 3 game winners for the Char 1 team.

Well, there you have it folks. I must admit to having taken some liberties with some of the names. I implore all of the teams to write down both first and last names for the news. In closing I would like to offer a new feature for this season. I will be awarding some "Gold Stars" for excellent performances and some "Bottom of the Barrel" marks for the no win shooters.

This week's "Gold Stars" go to Dennis Navarat and Zack Whatamacallim Mahoney for their 5 wins. This week we peer into the abyss to find Curtis Mincks, Dustin Schemp, Jarred Heiden, Kyle Mollet and Ryan Baedke all in the "Bottom of the Barrel." Better luck next week you guys.

So, until next week, I will see you on the felt surface. Thanks MOJO.

# USD Football falls in OT to Montana State, 31-24

For the second straight week the South Dakota football team lost a heartbreaker in overtime, as Montana State held on a fourth and goal play to claim a 31-24 win in front of more than 13,800 fans on Saturday at Bobcat Stadium in Bozeman, MT. USD fell to 3-4 on the year, while MSU improved to 4-2.

South Dakota battled back from a 21-10 halftime deficit to tie Montana State at 24 and send the game into an extra period, but USD couldn't prevail. The Coyotes won the overtime toss and went on defense first. A tripping penalty drove the MSU offense back, but quarterback Cody Kempt hit wide receiver Elvis Akpla for a 36-yard touchdown pass on second and 21 to take the lead. South Dakota responded with a drive to the MSU three, but a fourth-and-three pass attempt bounced off the hands of wide receiver Dan Skelly (Champlin, MN) and fell incomplete.

Senior quarterback Noah Shepard (Thornton, CO) finished 20-of-35 for 263 yards and three touchdowns through the air and rushed for another 77. Freshman wide receiver Tom Flanagan (Lakewood, CO) notched a career day with seven catches for 120 yards and two touchdowns, while sophomore running back Chris Ganious (Houston, TX) added 95 yards on the ground. Defensively, sophomore safety Shane Potter (Becker, MN) had 10 tackles, including six

solo stops, and sophomore linebackers Shea Williams (Alexandria) and Adam Broders (Bloomfield, NE) each had seven tackles.

Montana State jumped out to a 14-0 lead early in the first quarter. After USD punted on its first drive, the Bobcats connected on several big plays, including a 32-yard pass to wide receiver Julius Lloyd and a 25-yard run by CJ Palmer, before Kempt connected on a 13-yard pass to Everett Gilbert for the touchdown.

The six-play, 74-yard drive took up 2:48 and put the Bobcats up, but they padded the lead when USD running back Marcus Sims (Brooklyn Park, MN) fumbled on the following kick-off. MSU recovered on USD's 26 and seven plays later found the back of the endzone courtesy of a one-yard pass to tight end Kyle Begger.

Shepard calmed the Coyotes down with a 10-play, 79-yard drive in 5:22 that culminated with a one-yard touchdown catch by Flanagan to cut the lead to 14-7. Shepard completed a 21-yard strike to sophomore wide receiver Dustin Nowotny (Rapid City) over the middle of the field and then the Coyotes went to work on the ground. Ganious ripped off 15 yards, before Shepard had several big runs of his own to finish the drive with 40 rushing yards.

The USD defense also found a groove when it forced a three-and-out on MSU's next drive. The Bobcats

were near midfield and attempted a fake punt, but the pass fell incomplete and USD took over at the MSU 47. The Coyote offense drove again, including a 27-yard pass from Shepard to Skelly to reach Montana State's three-yard line, but USD couldn't score on a fourth-down attempt inside MSU's one.

The USD defense picked up where it left off, though, and forced another three-and-out by the Bobcat offense. MSU punted from its own endzone and a 14-yard return by Flanagan allowed the Coyotes to set up shop at the MSU 46. Ganious notched runs of 10 and 14 yards to help South Dakota down to the eight-yard line, but the 10-play, 38-yard drive stalled and USD had to settle for a 25-yard field goal by Nowotny with 5:33 left in the second quarter.

Montana State countered with a scoring drive of its own in 13 plays and 63 yards. Kempt completed a 24-yard screen pass to running back Blayne Becksted and topped the drive off with a one-yard touchdown run by Palmer to go up 21-10 and take the lead in to halftime.

The Bobcats opened the second half with a nice drive before a botch snatch on third down forced MSU's Eric Fisher to attempt a 47-yard field goal. The kick went wide right and USD took over on its own 30. Shepard showcased his passing abilities on a

70-yard, nine-play scoring drive to cut the lead to 21-17 with 6:36 left in the third. He connected on a 34-yard pass to Flanagan on the first play of the drive to get the Coyotes in to MSU territory and after a MSU pass interference penalty, he hit freshman wide receiver Will Powell (Sioux Falls) for an 18-yard touchdown toss.

A series of punts by both sides lasted the rest of the third quarter and well in to the fourth, until Shepard found Flanagan in the middle of three MSU defenders for a completion. Flanagan broke a tackle and made his way down the right side of the field for the 52-yard touchdown with 3:19 left in the fourth. The seven-play, 80-yard drive put USD up 24-21.

Montana State crafted some last-minute offense of their own, though, as the Bobcats posted a 10-play, 66-yard drive to get to the USD four. The Coyote defense held on a third and one and forced MSU's Jason Cunningham to make a 21-yard field goal to tie the game at 24 apiece.

The Coyotes nearly ended the game in regulation thanks to Sims. He returned the kickoff 49 yards to midfield and Shepard connected with Skelly on a deep pass to the MSU 5. The pass was originally ruled a completion, but a huddle from the refs resulted in a call of incomplete and USD was unable to get into field goal range.

## Pheasant season begins with sunshine, crops in the field

Mother Nature decided give pheasant hunters some sunshine for the 2009 South Dakota pheasant opener, but that doesn't necessarily mean blue skies for those chasing roosters.

Although hunters saw beautiful weather, the remnants of two weeks of gray skies and rain across the pheasant belt left hunters limited to where they could chase wily roosters.

Scott Lindgren, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Region 3 game manager from Watertown, agreed that weather had a big part in hunter success and hunter access. "Our hunter numbers were down quite a bit," Lindgren said. "I could contribute it to a huge majority of the crops still being out in the fields. We are way behind in getting any of our major crops out, and I think hunters realize that."

Lindgren did report that hunters in Edmunds and McPherson Counties averaged a bird and a half each. Hunters in other parts of the state were down around a half a bird per hunter, but found success in CRP, sloughs, food plots and tree belts.

Lindgren was happy to report that there were no hunting accidents and very few hunting violations.

In the southeast part of the state, GFP Region 4 Game Manager Ron Schauer reported low hunting activity.

"The sun shining was the best part of the day," Schauer said. "I think people were leery of the weather and that kept some people home. We probably have 95 percent of our crops still in the ground, but the hunters that hung in there and hunted the later part of the day did pretty well. They probably averaged around a bird and a half each."

Schauer said that Mother Nature left some hunters stranded.

"We had some public areas that hunters just couldn't get to because of wet roads."

Schauer reported four accidents in his region. An Aurora County hunter was struck in the face by four pellets, but the accident was not regarded as life threatening.

Hunters in the central portion of South Dakota saw the best success, with hunters averaging about two birds each, said Andy Lindbloom, Region 4 game manager for South Dakota GFP.

"I think the weather had a lot to do with it," Lindbloom said. "We haven't seen much of the sun in the past ten days. Hunters like sunshine and so do the birds."

Lindbloom reported nine violations in the central part of the state, most relating to road hunters and trespassing. Lindbloom also reported high hunter numbers and a positive hunter attitude.

"Hunters realize that crops in the ground can lead to tough hunting, but we still have great bird numbers and the hunters who hunt hard are getting their birds," said Lindbloom.

Schauer, Lindbloom and Lindgren all reported hunter satisfaction as high.

"Opening weekend hunters are here for friendship, fun and memories," said Lindgren.

With a strong pheasant population and crops coming out of the fields, South Dakota's pheasant season should only get better in the coming weeks. For more information on pheasant hunting in South Dakota visit: <http://www.sdgame.com/wildlife/hunting/Pheasant/Index.htm>

## Vermillion volleyball continues winning streak

By Parker Knox  
Sportswriter

Vermillion stretched its winning streak to four and its season record to 13-8 with a pair of victories in competitive matches at home last week.

The Tanagers rallied from a 1-0 deficit to clip Ponca, NE, 3-2, and took care of Canton, 3-1.

The regular season comes to an end with two final duals next week. The Tanagers host Harrisburg Monday and trek to Dakota Valley Thursday to set the stage for district play Nov. 5-6.

After Ponca won the opening game 25-21, Vermillion took the lead with 25-19 and 25-15 wins. The fourth game could have gone either way at the very end, but Ponca prevailed 26-24 to send the match to a deciding fifth game won by the Tanagers 15-7.

Molly LeCates as usual was double figures in assists with 18 along with eight digs. Sierra Allen was strong at the net with 12 kills and seven digs. Jenny Bye was all over the court with 30 digs. Ashley Ouellette contributed nine kills, three service aces and seven digs. Michelle Blythe added eight kills and eight digs to the VHS cause. Kylie Fischbach pitched in with eight assists.

Vermillion, after defeating Canton 25-20 and 25-18, came within a whisker of sweeping the C-Hawks, but Canton won the third game 27-25. The fourth game proved to be the decider with the Tanagers winning 25-18.

Jenny Bye had 20 digs, three aces and 11 kills. Allen had seven kills, seven assists, three aces and 11 digs. LeCates contributed 10 digs and 15 assists. Fischbach had 15 assists, Lizzy Bye 11 digs and Elyse Hughes-Berheim 20 digs. Lexi Regerus and Blythe had seven kills apiece.

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