

Tanagers fall to Panthers 36-0

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Vermillion's last home game of the football season will pit the Tanagers against Harrisburg at 7 p.m. tonight (Friday) in a Senior Night contest at the DakotaDome.

The Tanagers (2-4) come off a 36-0 loss to Dakota Valley while the Tigers bring in a 3-3 record. Coached by USD alumnus Brandon White, Harrisburg won its first three games - 49-0 over Madison, 28-13 over Luverne and 63-13 over Lennox - but is on a three-game losing streak, having fallen to Huron 13-7, to West Central 36-15 and to Spearfish 22-20.

The Tanagers ran into a better team last Friday at North Sioux City, and it didn't take the Panthers, ranked first and third in Class 11A in the two polls last week, very long to prove it. They went 62 yards in three plays and led 7-0 after 57 seconds had elapsed. Landon Johnson, who had rambled 53 yards on the first play from scrimmage, justifiably got the touchdown from the 3-yard line.

By the end of the first quarter the Panthers had scored twice more to lead 21-0, and their defense had held the Tanagers to a net four yards in 11 rushes.

In the second period a snap over punter Will Mart's head went into the end zone, and Mart smartly kicked the ball out of bounds for a safety rather than risk another Dakota Valley touchdown. They did get a fourth TD near the end of the half and took a 30-0 lead to the dressing room.

The Tanagers still had been able to record no first downs and had 16 yards in 18 carries at that point.

Anthony Leber recovered a Panther fumble and gave Vermillion its best field position at its own 43 in the third quarter, but the offense went nowhere from there. Chayse Meierkort intercepted a pass and sent the ball on via a lateral to Tanner Anderson for Vermillion's first possession in Dakota Valley territory, but the first two plays from there resulted in negative yardage.

Dakota Valley scored its only TD of the second half in the first minute of the final quarter, and the clock ran nonstop from that point on.

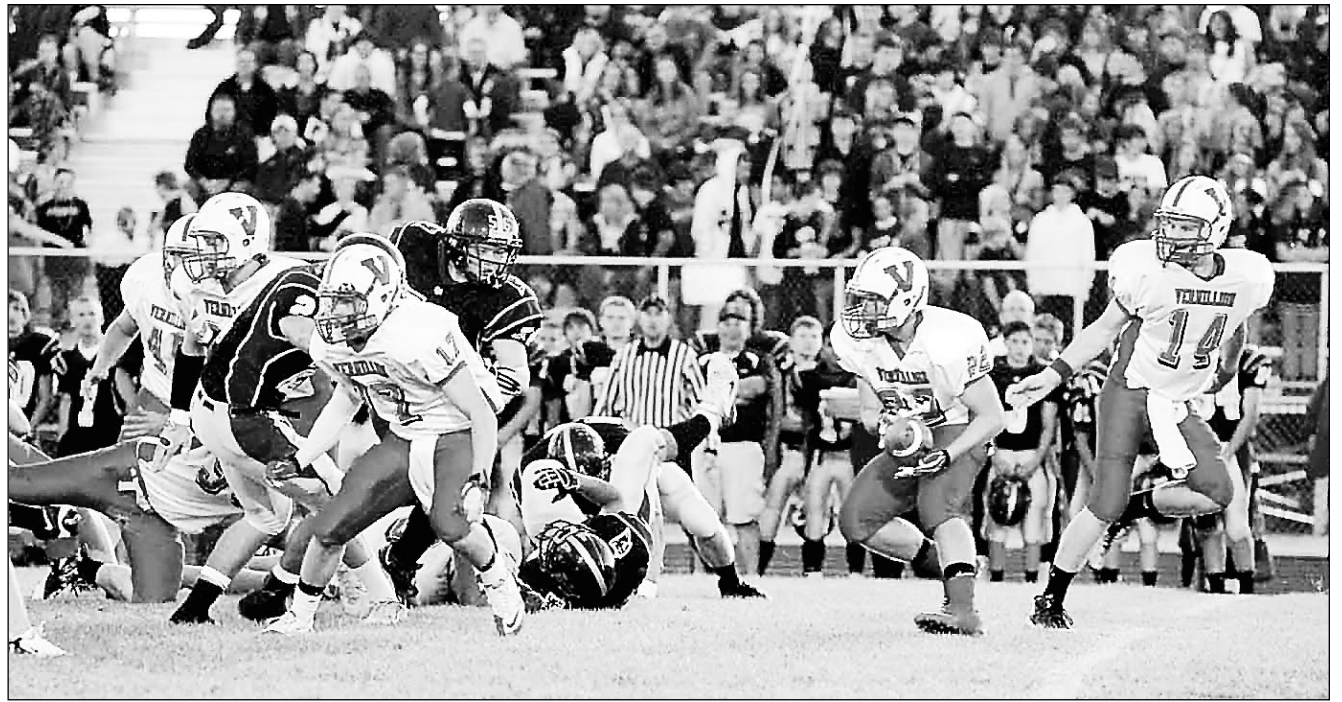
Mart recovered a fumble with 1:45 left in the game, and Michael Sand's 14-yard gain shortly thereafter proved to be the Tanagers' biggest gain of the night as they ended with a total of 36 net yards, all on the ground, compared to the Panthers' 342 yards.

As if facing the state's top team wasn't enough of a challenge, the Tanagers had to do it with their season-long leading ground-gainer, D'Andre Fore, who, it had been discovered during the week, had sustained a concussion. Also on the injury list were starting lineman Riley Vlasman, who couldn't play at all, and Meierkort, who could play only on defense.

Alex Osborne with eight tackles, Leber with seven, Avery Garcia with six and Mart with five led the VHS defensive effort.

VHS 0 0 0 0 -- 0
D. VALLEY .. 21 9 0 6 -- 36

1st quarter:
DV: Landon Johnson 3-yd. run (Collins Challup kick), 11:03.



D'Andre Fore was once again the Vermillion Tanagers offensive workhorse on the ground, rushing for 161 yards in 33 carries during Vermillion's thriller with the Tea Area Titans Friday in the DakotaDome. To see more photos from the night's action, log on to spotted.plaintalk.net.

(Photo by David Lias)

DV: Tanner Lambert 33-yd. run (Challup kick), 6:42.
DV: Michael Rennerfeldt 3-yd. run (Challup kick), 0:19.

2nd quarter:
DV: Safety, 10:28.
DV: Andrew Reiff, 1-yd. pass from Brock Bergmann (Challup kick), 1:16.

4th quarter:
DV: Johnson 2-yd. run (kick failed), 11:05.

VHS	DV
First downs	1 14
Rushes-yds.	32-36 48-327
Passing yds.	0 15

Total yds.	36	342
Passes	0-1-0	4-10-1
Punts-avg.	7-28.3	1-48.0
Fumbles-lost	2-1	5-2
Penalties-yds.	2-20	2-15

Rushing: VHS, Mitch Brown 8-22, Michael Sand 20-20, Thomas Walker 2-1, Kyle Weiss 2-(-7). DV, Lambert 16-201, Johnson 9-60, Rennerfeldt 4-30, Bergmann 9-15, Challup 4-11, Ryan Lammers 3-8, Blake Perryman 1-8, Jace Graves 2-(-6).

Passing: VHS, Kyle Weiss 0-1-0. DV, Bergmann 4-10-15.
Receiving: DV, Reiff 3-13,

Rennerfeldt 1-2.
Defense: VHS (solo tackles-assists-total tackles), Alex Osborne 6-2-8, Anthony Leber 7-0-7, Avery Garcia 4-2-6, Will Mart 4-1-5, Tanner Anderson 3-1-4, Nick Jensen 4-0-4, Regan Bye 2-1-3, Thomas Walker 3-0-3, Dan Goeden 2-0-2, Stetson Kastengren 1-1-2, Chayse Meierkort 1-0-1, Brown 1-0-1, Brett Bye 1-0-1, Paul May 1-0-1, Tyler Madsen 1-0-1. Tackles for loss: Osborne 1, Leber 1, Jensen 2, Goeden 1. Fumbles recovered: Mart 1. Pass knockdowns: Jensen 1. Interceptions: Meierkort 1.

Tanager XC will host Coyote volleyball beats SDSU 3-1 Region 3A meet

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

After running in the Big 8 Conference meet at Lennox yesterday, the postseason has arrived for Vermillion High's cross country runners.

The Tanagers will host the Region 3A meet next Friday, seeking to qualify as many runners as possible for the state meet in Sioux Falls on Oct. 22.

Among a tough field at last Friday's Lennox Invitational, VHS junior Nathan Ford lowered his personal-best time and placed seventh among 91 runners in a time of 17:22. Parker's Duane Jongeling was the champion in 16:09.

Will Card placed 33rd in 18:34, Colin Olson ran an improved personal-best time of 18:37 for 36th place, and Jacob Ford placed 50th in 19:05. Several Tanager youngsters moved up from JV ranks to run a varsity race for the first time. Jonathan Rosales placed 72nd in 20:12, Logan Peterson 74th in 20:19, Joe Swanson 75th in 20:23 and Nate Svendsen 86th in 21:56.

The boys' team placed sixth with a team score of 121 for its four counters. Irene-Wakonda,

Beresford, Harrisburg, Lennox and Garretton were ahead of Vermillion.

Alyssa Soesbe was the Tanagers' top finisher in the girls varsity event with a personal-best time of 16:16, topping her previous best by almost a full minute and earning 33rd place. Morgan Hower in 61st at 17:22 had her best time. Cheyenne Mallory, running in her first race since August, was 73rd in 18:11. Britney Sweeney had a season-best time of 18:34 for 80th place. Caitlin Britten in her first varsity race was 81st in 18:52. Sophia Taggart placed 82nd in 19:17, Jonna Lynch 84th in 21:37 and Jade Fostvedt 85th in 22:19.

Blair Gilkyson, running for the first time this season, won the JV girls race in 16:24. Coach Kelly Fischbach called it Blair's "rehab assignment," competing at the JV level in her first race back rather than being thrown to the dogs against varsity runners who have been on the courses all fall. Maddie Gregoire, Jaide Anderson and Heidi Osterberg also ran in that race.

Owen Swallow finished third in the middle school boys division in 11:36.

By Jeremy Hoek
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With his team celebrating on the court, South Dakota head coach Matt Houk couldn't help but crack a wide smile.

Not only did his team pick up a huge conference win, it beat its in-state rival.

"That was a fun one," he said later, after his Coyotes beat in-state rival South Dakota State 20-25, 25-14, 25-19, 25-22 in Monday night's first-ever Summit League showdown between the two schools in Vermillion.

In what was the program's biggest home match since joining the Division 1 level, the Coyotes (10-8, 5-2) continued their success in their new conference home.

USD perhaps caught a struggling Jackrabbits (11-9, 3-4) team - losers of now five straight - at the right time, but it mattered little for the league newcomer.

"There's a sense of belief that's really starting to grow in this team," said Houk, whose team improves to 2-1 against SDSU over the past two seasons.

"At the start of the season, they were competing at a very high level against mid-major teams, and I think that really started to push them," he added. "And now, they're performing like that."

Still without freshman hitter Kendall Kritenbrink, USD hit .247 for the match and had three hitters with double-digit kills. Senior Tahnee Reed led the way

with 19, while sophomore Natalie Walseth had 16 and junior Kim Bulaga added 12.

Though it was just another Summit League match, there was no doubt of a desire to beat the rivals, SDSU junior middle blocker Kelli Fiegen said.

"Both teams were obviously fired up because of the rivalry and all the history between us, so I think we were both were anxious to play this one," said the 6-foot-3 Parkston native, who had 14 kills.

The opening set was initially back-and-forth, but eventually, the more seasoned Jackrabbits pulled away.

After USD got within 18-19 on a Reed kill, the Jacks reeled off three straight points - two coming on kills from Fiegen.

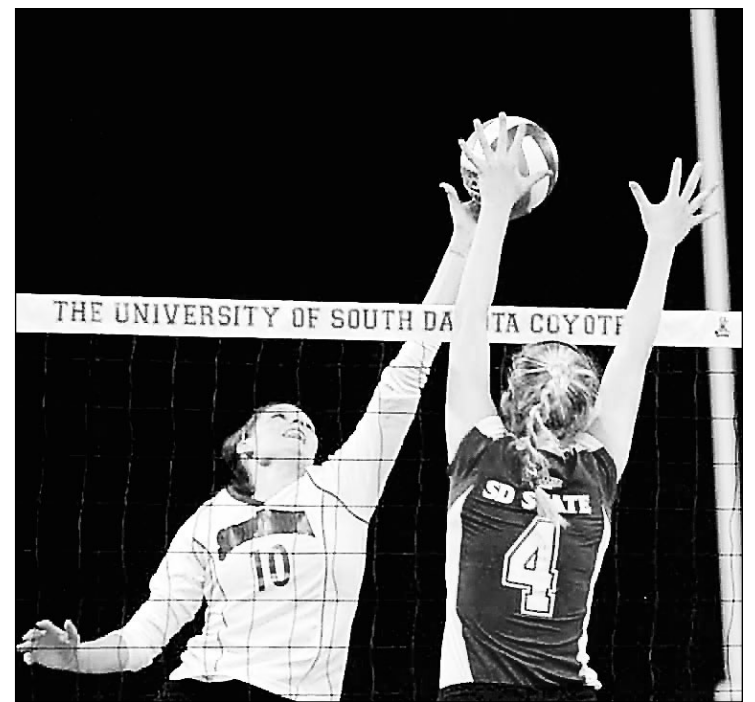
SDSU later closed out the set 25-20 on a front-row block by Ashley Bartek, quieting the Dome crowd with the early victory.

The third set only proved that SDSU had no answer for the Coyote sluggers - Reed added seven kills and Walseth pounded home five.

The fourth set was back to being a little more even. USD led 23-20 before an SDSU timeout, which keyed the Jacks to two points. But it wasn't enough.

SDSU simply had no defense for USD's balanced attack.

As they have been trying to establish in the absence of Kritenbrink, that is exactly what the Coyotes want, Houk said.



South Dakota's Tahnee Reed, left, tries to tip the ball over South Dakota State's Margit Hansing during their Summit League volleyball matchup Monday at the DakotaDome. USD won 3-1 in South Dakota State's first match in the DakotaDome since 2003.

(Photo by David Lias)

Kickball champions

Former Wakonda residents and high school graduates Joe Flynn, Travis Humpal and Lana Humpal (Christensen) were recently crowned Sioux Falls City Park & Rec Competitive League Kickball Champions. Their team is named the Portuguese Men of War.

Flynn was the pitcher, Travis Humpal played first base and Lana Humpal played second base. The Portugese Men of War were the regular season champions, going 8-0, and the end of the season

tournament, beating the team named #3PeatGuaranteed.

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