

VHS volleyball squad proves to be ‘rally masters’

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Call 'em Vermillion's "rally masters."

The VHS volleyball team, down to Harrisburg two sets to none Monday night, rallied to sweep away the Tigers, 3-2. It was the Tanagers' second victory after overcoming a 2-0 deficit in less than a week's time.

Not only was it Vermillion's 15th dual victory of the season, but it also clinched the Big 8 Conference championship for the Tanagers and earned them home-court advantage in next week's district tournament.

The District 8A tourney will feature Elk Point-Jefferson against Dakota Valley in one semifinal and the Tanagers against Beresford in the other. The championship match will be played Thursday with that winner earning a spot in the regional title match Nov. 8.

Harrisburg won by 25-20 and 25-18 in Monday's first two sets but couldn't stop the Tanagers' momentum once they had found it. Vermillion won 25-18 in the third set and 25-22 in the fourth to set up a winner-take-all fifth set. There the Tanagers prevailed 15-9.

Val Moos with 31 digs and Beth Szymonski with 22 digs led VHS in that category. Lizzy Bye also had 22 digs along with nine kills. Kylie Fischbach had seven kills, nine set assists and 10 digs. Sami Girard contributed 19 digs and 19 set assists.

The Tanagers' long and successful October homestand continued last Tuesday when

they overcame another 2-0 deficit to stun Beresford, 3-2, in an exciting marathon duel.

The Watchdogs had won by 25-17 in the opening set and made it a 2-0 lead with a narrow 26-24 win in the second set before Vermillion began to roll. The Tanagers took Set No. 3 by 25-17, tied the match with a 25-23 win, then won the decisive set 15-12 to improve their record to 14-6.

The digs column on Coach Lenni Billberg's statistics sheet shows how hard the Tanagers were playing as they recorded 107 digs, including 21 by Beth Szymonski, 20 each by Lizzy Bye and Val Moos, 13 by Kylie Fischbach, 12 by Sami Girard, eight by Kelly Amundson, seven by Emily McClelland and five by Lexi Regnerus.

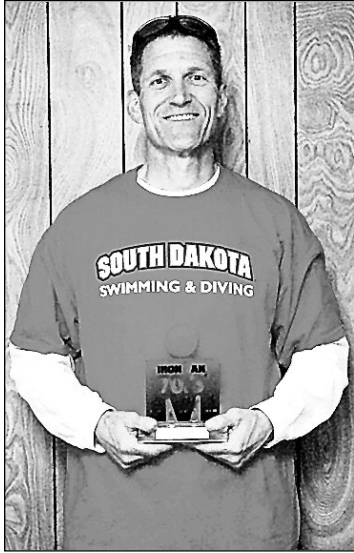
Szymonski also had 12 kills to lead the offense. Bye had two ace serves, two block assists and eight kills; Fischbach seven kills, 13 set assists, two ace serves and two block assists; Girard 11 set assists and Regnerus a solo block and three block assists.

The winning streak ended Friday when Dakota Valley dealt the Tanagers a 3-0 setback on set scores of 25-21, 25-13 and 28-26. Vermillion still had 102 digs in the competitive match, including 19 from Szymonski. Girard had 15, McClelland 15, Moos 15, Regnerus 11 and Bye 10 digs.

Szymonski had six kills, Girard four assists, Amundson four kills and four block assists and Fischbach eight set assists.



Vermillion's Sami Girard (18) and Kelly Amundson (30) defend the net during volleyball action against Harrisburg Monday night. (Photo by David Lias)



Rasmussen qualifies for Ironman 70.3 World Championship

The Ironman 70.3 Austin was held Sunday, Oct. 23, at the Walter E. Long Park in Austin, TX. Randy Rasmussen of Vermillion placed 87th overall. Randy placed first in the 50-54 age division, with a time of 4:51:50. With his age group finish he earned an automatic qualifier to the 2012 Ironman 70.3 World Championships to be held Sept. 9, 2012 in Las Vegas, NV.

The race consisted of 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike ride and a 13.1-mile run. A total of 2,573 athletes finished the race, which was won by two-time Ironman 70.3 world champion, Michael Raelert of Germany in a time of 3:47:48.

Coyote women's soccer edged by NDSU, 1-0

The South Dakota women's soccer team battled to a scoreless halftime tie with North Dakota State, but the Bison scored the winning goal just 2:37 into the second half to earn a 1-0 win over the Coyotes in Summit League action Sunday in Vermillion.

It was a valiant effort for the Coyotes, who lost to North Dakota State 4-0 in 2010. The Bison are the defending Summit League tournament champion and are in first place once again in the Summit League.

Freshman goalkeeper Mackenzie Viktor (Fort Collins, CO) had nine saves for the Coyotes. NDSU held a 15-8 edge in shots, although it was just 7-6 in the first half.

Junior Erin Bello (Fort Collins, CO) and freshman Rebecca Pederson (Waconia, MN) led the Coyotes with three shots each; two of Pederson's shots were on goal. Freshmen Makena Cameron (Cheyenne, WY) and Brittlyn Dillow (Dixon, IL) each had one shot on goal.

South Dakota wraps up the 2011 season on the road next weekend.

Coyote Football Team holds off UC Davis, 27-24

By Jeremy Hoeck
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

It had been four years since Adam Broders got to carry the ball into the end zone, but the senior from Bloomfield, Neb., made his first collegiate touchdown count in a big way.

The recipient of a deflected pass in the third quarter, the third-year starting linebacker ran 66 yards for a 'pick-six' touchdown that ended up being the deciding score in another crucial home victory.

Was the former 8-man standout for the Bloomfield Bees reverting back to his running back ways?

"Looks can be deceiving," he said, with a smile, after leading the Coyotes with 14 tackles, including two for loss.

A strong second-half defensive effort overshadowed another sluggish offensive output as No. 19-ranked South Dakota held off Cal Davis 27-24 in a Great West Conference nail-biter Saturday night at the DakotaDome.

With the offense struggling to develop any sort of rhythm, the Coyotes (5-3, 2-0) recovered two fumbles, picked off two passes and held the visiting Aggies to seven points in the second half.

The highlight of the day for the USD defense was the play by Broders, who was in the right place at the right time on the deflected pass, and the game tied at 17-17.

"I saw it up in the air. It was like slow motion, I guess," Broders said. "It seemed like it couldn't get to my hands fast enough. As soon as I got by the

sideline, I figured I had a touchdown."

USD allowed 256 yards through the air to the Aggies (2-5, 0-1), but shut down quarterback Randy Wright in the second half with the exception of a 12-yard touchdown pass with 1:01 to play.

The Coyotes nearly had a second defensive touchdown, but a fumble recovery by Tyler Starr with 3:21 left was called back on a holding penalty — nullifying the score.

"They were given some bad field positions, but our defense is pretty good," head coach Ed Meierkort said. "I just think we play with a rhythm and tempo. We played better up front in the second half, and that was the difference in the game, I thought."

It was also the first victory for USD over UC Davis since joining the Great West Conference in 2008, with a road loss in 2009 and a home loss to the Aggies a year ago.

"We hadn't been able to beat UC Davis yet, and it seems like any way the ball bounces, it doesn't go our way against that team," Meierkort said. "We had the game salted away, took a bad penalty, and instead of gapping them and have the game be over, we had to fight until the end."

A 43-yard field goal by Kevin Robb with 4:43 left made it a two-possession game, 27-17, but the Aggies made things interesting with the 62-yard touchdown drive with just over a minute to play.

UC Davis then tried an offside kick, which resulted in



South Dakota linebacker Adam Broders, 44, celebrates with defensive teammates after intercepting a pass during USD's 27-24 Great West Conference victory over UC Davis on Saturday at the DakotaDome. Broders, a Bloomfield, Neb., native, intercepted two passes to lead the Coyotes (5-3, 2-0). (Photo by David Lias)

the ball being fumbled by the Coyotes, though USD recovered and kneeled off the victory.

From the start, it appeared that the Coyotes were again in for a battle with the California-based Aggies.

After a sluggish first quarter for both teams, five consecutive drives in the second resulted in points.

The Aggies got a 23-yard

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