

# Top-ranked Dakota Valley clips downs Tanagers 45-6

By Parker Knox  
Sportswriter

Vermillion's football team faces a steep challenge to qualify for the postseason playoffs with only two games remaining in the regular season.

The Tanagers, now 0-6 after a 45-6 loss at the hands of top-ranked Dakota Valley last Friday, play at Harrisburg tonight against the Tigers, who were rated fourth last week and whose only loss was to unbeaten Luverne, MN. Harrisburg has conquered Madison, Lennox, West Central, Huron and Spearfish.

Vermillion's only other chance for a win and a move upward in the power-points standings will come at home in the season finale next Friday against Madison. The Tanagers are battling with five other schools for the four final Class 11A playoff spots, and all of them have at least one victory, thus ranking them ahead of VHS as of today.

"It sounds like a broken record, but we simply gave up too many turnovers and big plays," Coach Gary Culver said of the Dakota Valley contest. "We did not have an answer to their All-State running back, Tanner Lambert."

Lambert gained 241 yards in 14 carries, including touchdown runs of three, 60, 44 and 61 yards, as the Panthers churned for 299 yards on the ground and 13 through the air. The Tanagers, on the other hand, passed for 88 yards but finished the night with 39 yards on the ground.

To the Tanagers' credit, their defense came out fired up in the first two Dakota Valley possessions. Alex Osborne stopped the first play for no gain. Nick Jensen, Regan Bye and Tyler Madsen teamed up to hold a third-and-10 play to a two-yard gain. When the Panthers went for it on fourth-and-eight, Avery Garcia and Jensen sacked the quarterback.

After a Tanager punt, a 46-yard run was stopped by Bye's touchdown-saving tackle at the 23. The Tanager defense held at the 11-yard line with Garcia stopping a fourth-down run.

However, on the very next play Vermillion lost the ball on a fumble when quarterback Kyle Weiss was hit from his blind side. The Panthers got the ball at the 3-yard line and immediately scored. When the Tanagers went three-and-out on their next series, Lambert broke a 60-yard TD run on the first subsequent play from scrimmage, and for the top-ranked Panthers, it was smooth sailing after that.

A fumble in the final second of the first half that was returned 64 yards for a TD by DV's Nick Buckley sent the Panthers to the intermission with an insurmountable 35-0 lead.

Offensively the one highlight for VHS came in the game's final seconds when quarterback Jack Brown connected with J.T. Sorensen on a touchdown pass play covering 50 yards. Brown earlier completed two other passes for 20 yards, and Weiss completed five for 18 yards.

"I thought our team really played hard throughout the contest, but Dakota Valley had too many weapons for us to handle," Culver said. "They are truly deserving of their No. 1 ranking."

Dakota Valley ....	14
21 7 3 ---	45
VHS .....	0 0
0 6 ---	6

1st quarter:  
DV: Tanner Lambert 3-yd. run (Collins Challup kick), 7:01.  
DV: Lambert 60-yd. run (Challup kick), 4:32.

2nd quarter:  
DV: Lambert 44-yd. run (Challup kick), 8:36.  
DV: Lambert 61-yd. run (Challup kick), 5:49.  
DV: Nick Buckley 64-yd. fumble return (Challup kick), 0:01.

3rd quarter:  
DV: Colton Mahler 11-yd. run (Challup kick), 8:23.

4th quarter:  
DV: Challup 23-yd. field goal, 6:58.  
VHS: J.T. Sorensen 50-yd. pass from Jack Brown (pass failed), 0:06.

	VHS	DV
First downs	3	9
Rushes-yds.	26-(-39)	41-299
Passing yds.	88	13



Tanager quarterback Jack Brown provided a spark to Vermillion's offense in the final seconds of last Friday's game, connecting with J.T. Sorensen on a touchdown pass play covering 50 yards.

(Photo by David Lias)

Total yds.	49	312	Blake Lewis 1-7, Brady Dam 4-2, Ryan Lammers 1-0, Alec Rasmussen 2-(-1), Brody VanGinkle 2-(-4).	5-3-8, Seth Heine 7-1-8, Anthony Leber 1-7-8, Regan Bye 3-3-6, Garcia 4-2-6, Nick Jensen 2-4-6, Anderson 2-1-3, Ty Iverson 1-2-3, Madsen 1-1-2, Jason Retzlaff 1-1-2, Travis Weber 1-1-2, Sand 1-0-1, Thomas Walker 0-1-1, Mitchell Sand 0-1-1, Lofton Covington 0-1-1. Tackles for loss: Osborne 4, Heine 1, Bye 1, Garcia 1, Jensen 1. Fumble recoveries: Leber 1, Madsen 1. Pass knockdowns: Jensen 1, Michael Sand 1, Walker 1.
Passes	8-16-1	3-8-0	Passing: VHS, Weiss 5-12-18, 1 interception; Brown 3-4-70. DV, Likness 3-8-13.	
Punts-avg.	8-33.5	2-22.5	Receiving: VHS, Sorensen 2-60, Anderson 2-12, Garcia 2-8, Svendsen 1-10, Sand 1-(-2). DV, Andrew Reiff 1-7, VanGinkle 1-4, Keegan McCabe 1-2.	
Fumbles-lost	3-3	5-38	Defense (solos-assists-total tackles): VHS, Alex Osborne	
Penalties-yds.	5-35	5-35		
Rushing: VHS, Avery Garcia 10-19, Brown 1-0, Nate Svendsen 1-0, Tyler Madsen 1-(-1), Tanner Anderson 1-(-3), Michael Sand 5-(-6), Kyle Weiss 4-(-43). DV, Lambert 14-241, Aaron Likness 5-25, Brandodn Glissman 4-14, Mahler 3-8, Challup 5-7,				

## Tanager runners compete well in Yankton Invite

By Parker Knox  
Sportswriter

Continuing to establish herself as one of the top runners in the area, Vermillion's Madisen Lavin placed fourth in the varsity girls division of the Yankton Invitational cross country meet last Thursday in a time of 16:09.

"Maddie had a great race," said Coach Kelly Fischbach. "She went out and ran with the leaders right from the gun."

On the boys' side Nathan Ford led Tanager competitors with a sixth-place 17:55. "Nate went out and ran with the leaders early on," Fischbach said, "and he hung in there with some great AA talent. It was quite an accomplishment to finish in the top six of this field."

Jacob Ford continued to improve as the Tanagers' No. 2 runner, placing 23rd in 19:03, and Matt Hirsch with a 30th-place 19:54 moved closer to the form he showed two years ago. Logan Peterson also had a good race of 20:17, good for 32nd place. Colin Olson came in 34th in 20:35 and Joe Swanson 36th in 21:08.

Madisen Martinez gave Vermillion an individual championship in the JV girls' race in 17:36. Fischbach said her time would have placed her 15th in the varsity race, "so we are looking for good things to come from her."

Morgan Hower had her best race of the season, placing fourth in 18:32, and Britney Sweeney, 16th in 19:58, and Jade Fostvedt, 19th in 20:14, also had their best races. Caitlin Brittrten was 21st in 21:09, Heidi Osterberg 23rd in 23:51, Ashley Sorensen 24th in 25:03 and Chelsea Gilbertson 26th in 25:50.

Tiana Blacketer placed 17th in 14:00 in the middle school girls' 3,000-meter run. Will Donahoe was 29th in 15:12 among middle school boys, who also ran 3,000 meters.

Tanager runners will be at the Lennox Invitational today (Friday), then return home to run in the Big 8 Conference meet next Thursday, Oct. 4.

## Lennox losing streak ends with 40-0 pummeling of Tanagers

By Parker Knox  
Sportswriter

Having already played two of the top five Class 11A teams in the state, the Vermillion Tanagers have two more of them on their schedule, starting tonight (Friday) with a home game in the DakotaDome against Dakota Valley at 7 p.m.

The Panthers from North Sioux City bring in a 4-0 record after defeating Elk Point-Jefferson 40-12, Beresford 35-0, Canton 21-13 and Lennox 47-12.

The inability to generate any consistent offensive punch continued to plague the Tanagers last week at Lennox where the Orioles broke a 17-game losing streak in dealing the Tanagers a 40-0 defeat after leading at halftime 33-0.

Lennox compiled 373 total yards to Vermillion's 61. While the Orioles had a lot to do with their problems, the Tanagers contributed with 72 yards accumulated in seven penalties.

"Very simply put, we are not playing good football right now on either side of the ball," Coach Gary Culver commented. "We can't rush the ball or pass the ball with any degree of success." VHS has been kept off the scoreboard in four of its five defeats.

On defense the Tanagers allowed five big plays of 20 or more yards each, two of them going the distance for scores. On offense VHS couldn't generate any decent drives, allowing the game to get out of hand early.

If there were a bright spot for VHS, Culver found it in the play of the Tanager specials teams. "We have played pretty well in this phase of the game," he said.

Lennox went 63 yards in nine plays in the game's first 3:10 to take immediate command. Dereck DeVries went the final yard to get the first of his two touchdowns.

On their very first play from scrimmage the Tanagers were offside, creating an immediate first-and-15 situation. That possession ended in a punt as did the next three possessions. The fourth ended in an interception. On their fifth possession they were able to move to a first down after a 10-yard run by Avery Garcia but punted shortly thereafter.

Meanwhile, the Orioles caught the wind of momentum and never looked back. After Vermillion's first punt, good for 58 yards, Zach Koosman on the first subsequent play broke an 83-yard touchdown run.

A Tanager personal foul penalty following the second punt set up the Orioles in great field position at the Vermillion 32. A 23-yard pass from Koosman to DeVries got them to the 9, and two plays later Trey Fergeson scored from the 1.

Tyler Madsen provided a bright spot late in the first quarter when he intercepted a Lennox pass and returned it 25 yards to the Orioles 40, but on the first play another Tanager personal foul penalty changed a second-and-five situation into a first-and-30, and that was that.

Koosman on a one-yard plunge and DeVries on a 61-yard pass play from Koosman scored second-quarter touchdowns. The only score of the second half was a five-yard run by Fergeson.

Garcia gained 29 yards in six carries for VHS, and Michael Sand rushed nine times for 13 yards, but negative yardage for four other ball carriers left the Tanagers with a net total of 20 yards rushing in 24 carries for the contest. Through the air Kyle Weiss threw for 20 yards and Jack Brown for 21.

Meanwhile Koosman completed 9 of 13 for 136 yards for Lennox, and he carried 12 times for 129 yards.

Alex Osborne with 14 tackles, Garcia with 11 and Regan Bye with nine led VHS defensively.

"Again we have to have a short memory," Culver said, "as we undoubtedly will be hosting the top-ranked team in Class 11A in the Dakota Valley Panthers. We have to pick ourselves up off the floor, dust our pants off and get ready to play a solid game. It's as simple as that."

After tonight the Tanagers go to Harrisburg and host Madison to close the regular season.

VHS .....	0	0	0	0	—	0
Lennox	20	13	0	7	—	40

1st quarter:

LHS: Dereck DeVries 1-yd. run (Collin McEntee kick), 8:50.  
LHS: Zach Koosman 83-yd. run (kick failed), 6:38.

LHS: Trey Fergeson 1-yd. run (McEntee kick), 4:18.

2nd quarter:  
LHS: Koosman 1-yd. run (McEntee kick), 6:34.  
LHS: DeVries 61-yd. pass from Koosman (kick failed), 1:40.

4th quarter:  
LHS: Fergeson 5-yd. run (McEntee kick), 10:16.

	VHS	Lennox
First downs	6	10
Rushes-yds.	24-20	44-237
Passing yds.	41	136
Total yds.	61	373
Passes	5-14-1	9-13-1
Punts-avg.	7-34.6	0-0-0
Fumbles-lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-yds.	7-72	4-24

Rushing: VHS, Avery Garcia 6-29, Michael Sand 9-13, Regan Bye 1-(-1), Tanner Anderson 1-(-1), Tyler Madsen 3-(-7), Kyle Weiss 4-(-13). Lennox, Koosman 12-129, Fergeson 14-77, DeVries 14-28, Jacob Lackas 2-4, McEntee 1-1, John Oldenkamp 1-(-2).

Passing: VHS, Weiss 3-10-20, 1 interception; Jack Brown 2-4-21. Lennox, Koosman 9-13-136, 1 interception.

Receiving: VHS, Sand 2-16, J.T. Sorensen 1-16, Nate Svendsen 1-5, Anderson 1-4. Lennox, DeVries 3-83, Joe Hendrickson 3-36, Fergeson 2-14, Josh Goeman 1-3.

Defense (solos-assists-total tackles): VHS, Alex Osborne 11-3-14, Garcia 10-1-11, Bye 7-2-9, Ty Iverson 5-2-7, Nick Jensen 5-0-5, Anthony Leber 4-1-5, Thomas Walker 0-3-3, Sorensen 2-0-2, Madsen 1-1-2, Seth Heine 2-0-2, Anderson 1-0-1, Lofton Covington 1-0-1. Tackles for loss: Jensen 2. Interceptions: Madsen 1.

www.plaintalk.net

Advertise statewide in S.D. newspapers



Contact your local newspaper or S.D. Newspaper Assoc. for details.

1-800-658-3697 | www.sdna.com/advertise

## WELDERS ARE IN DEMAND!

A welding future is waiting for you  
MIG, TIG, Stick and Pipe welding  
3 week to 12 week day courses

LYNNES WELDING TRAINING, INC.

(701)373-0658

www.LEARNTOWELD.com

Fargo, ND • Bismarck, ND

Tell Your Story With  
CUSTOM DESIGNED MEMORIALS



Creating unique products out of natural stone.  
Glacial Boulder Memorials & Traditional Monuments  
605-224-8089 • 4030 Hwy 34, Pierre • DakotaClassiqueRock.com