

# Bulldogs Pounce Tanagers At Homecoming

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN  
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The Vermillion High School homecoming football game was not much for celebration as the No.1 ranked Madison Bulldogs routed the Tanagers 48-16.

Madison found the end zone six times in the first half, starting with a fumble by the Tanagers on the second play of the game that was recovered by the Bulldogs, and four plays later ended with a 21-yard touchdown run. Madison would recover another fumble with just over two minutes in the first quarter for a seven-yard touchdown run making the score 27-0.

"Those fumbles really hurt us and (with) Madison, you can't just let a team that close to the end zone that has that kind of offensive power," said head coach Andy Homan. "They are able to move the ball quite well."

Vermillion had possession of the ball to begin the second quarter, but Madison would take over on downs after Tanager quarterback Carter Kratz was sacked.

Trey Hage recovered a Madison fumble to regain possession. Rylan Pratt then carried the ball 11 yards for a first down, but Madison would force Vermillion to punt to end the drive.

The returning 45-yard drive resulted in a touchdown for the Bulldogs on three plays. Madison posted another seven points a few minutes later for a 41-0 halftime lead.

"We had them wrapped up at times," Homan said. "We made some good plays, but that quarterback-running back combo they have in the backfield is pretty hard to stop."

Vermillion held Madison to just one touchdown in the second half and found the end zone two times to outscore the Bulldogs 16-7 in the second two quarters.

Madison's final score came two minutes into the third quarter on a 24-yard run, but Vermillion answered on the next drive that resulted in seven plays, four first downs and



SHAUNA MARLETTE/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK  
Vermillion's Noah Walker carries the ball while Madison players go for a tackle during the Tanagers 48-16 loss during the homecoming game Friday night inside the Dakota Dome.

FOOTBALL | PAGE 12

## Lavin Takes Top Honors At Yankton



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/PRESS AND DAKOTAN  
Vermillion's Maddie Lavin pulls away down the stretch to win the varsity girls' race at the Yankton Invitational cross country meet on Thursday in Yankton.

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN  
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The Vermillion High School cross country team entered just one runner in the varsity division at the Yankton Invitation meet last Thursday, and she ran to the top spot of the day.

"With two meets in a week and with being bigger schools and it was a 5k race for both the (junior varsity) and varsity, so just from a confidence standpoint with everybody. We let everybody else run with their age group," said head coach Kelly Fishback.

Maddie Lavin took the overall first place in the girls' varsity race on the rainy day in Yankton for her second first place finish of the week.

"It was good to see her not be afraid to go out to the front and lead the race," Fishback said. "She got out and was right behind the Yankton girl and then just closed at the end."

Lavin ran the course in 20:30.4 and passed the second place finisher Savannah Woods of Yankton (20:58.9) in the last half mile. Mary Krause of Mitchell placed third with a time of 21:16.1.

CROSS COUNTRY | PAGE 12

## Tennis Falls To Mitchell 8-1

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN  
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The Vermillion High School girls' tennis team came away with one win as the team fell 8-1 in Mitchell Monday afternoon.

Katrina Heles defeated Leah Dipippo 7-5, 6-1 at the flight six singles for the win.

"Katrina is an eighth grader and is working hard at improving her game," Hughes said.

Alex Rosdail and Shinayne Whipple put up a good fight in their respective matches. Rosdail fell to Kyria Olson 6-4, 6-4 at the flight three singles and Whipple was defeated 6-3, 6-4 to Hannah Miller at the flight four match.

In doubles play, the flight one team of Libby Sykes and Rosdail played a close match, but were defeated 6-4, 6-4.

"I was very happy with the girls' level of play," said head coach Betsy Hughes. "We are looking more ready for the state tournament next week."

Vermillion has one match remaining before the state tournament in Sioux Falls beginning on Oct. 8, a quadrangular with Sioux Falls Lincoln, Sioux Falls Washington and Roncalli on Oct. 1 in Sioux Falls.

## VHS Volleyball Drops Two

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN  
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The Vermillion High School volleyball team played a nail-biter Monday night against visiting Wagner Red Raiders.

The Tanagers were unable to maintain leads at the end of sets and fell in three 25-17, 27-25, 25-20, but head coach Gabi Jarchow was happy with the efforts and intensity the team played with throughout the match.

"I couldn't be upset with how their effort was. They were going after every ball and that was awesome and that's what I've been asking them to do," she said. "I think the more they do that they're going to get more consistent with it and it'll become natural for them."

The first set was tied at 11, but Wagner began to pull away at 15-11. Timely blocks by Kaci Madsen and Amanda Finnegan kept the game close, but Wagner maintained the lead take the set 25-17.

"I felt like our middles have really been focusing on that in practice," Jarchow said. "They've been asking questions, which is awesome, and I feel like that has been a big key factor for us, at least getting touches on ball and slowing them down."

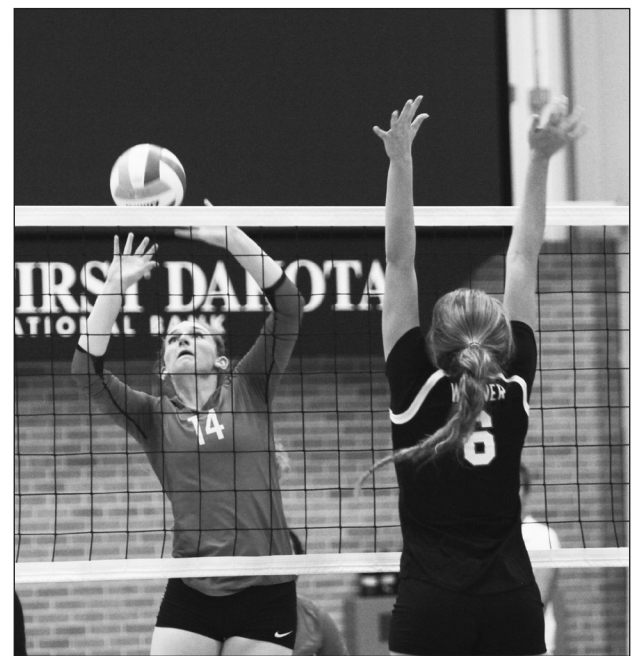
In set two, Vermillion held a lead for most of the game and was ahead late 24-22. Wagner was able to come back and tie the game at 24 and took a one point lead. The game was then tied again at 25 from an out of bounds Wagner serve. The Red Raiders then scored another two points to win the set 27-25.

Wagner held the lead for most of set three, but the Tanagers managed to tie the game at 19 thanks to Emily Bye coming up big on defense with multiple digs to keep some points away from Wagner. Bye recorded 18 total digs in the match.

"Our defensive people have been on their feet going after balls and digging," Jarchow said.

The Red Raiders regained the lead 20-19 and held on for a 25-20 win.

Kyleigh Moran and Kayla Stammer each had nine assists



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK  
Amanda Finnegan, 14, in action for the Tanagers volleyball team Monday night against Wagner.

in the match and Finnegan had six kills while Madsen had four.

The Tanagers then traveled to Sioux Falls Christian the next night that saw a Chargers victory in three sets, 11-25, 9-25, 14-25.

Emily Schmitz and Bye both had one ace and Bye recorded 16 digs in the match.

The Tanagers are now 1-10 on the season and look to improve their record on Monday with a match against Elk Point-Jefferson in Elk Point.

## W. Illinois Tops USD In Home Opener

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION – While the stats may have shown the University of South Dakota volleyball team probably should have won, it didn't.

And through the early stages of the season, that's been a familiar sight for the Coyotes, according to head coach Leanne Williamson.

Her squad, which spent the non-conference portion of the schedule trying to find new leaders, came up just short in Friday night's Summit League opener against Western Illinois at the DakotaDome. The Leathernecks won the first two sets, the Coyotes won the next two, but critical mistakes by USD down the stretch allowed Western Illinois to win 3-2 (32-30, 29-27, 10-25, 13-15, 15-11).

"That's a little bit of who we've been; a roller coaster," Williamson said. "And some of that is meshing and figuring who can do what on the court."

Juniors Sydney Dimke and Audrey Reeg have taken on increased roles in the offense for the Coyotes (6-8), while senior Kelsey Biltott and junior Lindsey Brown have handled the duties in the middle, and sophomore Brittany Jessen returns at setter.

And still, even with 14 matches under their belt, the Coyotes – who came in having won three of four, including a win over Notre Dame – continue to learn things about themselves.

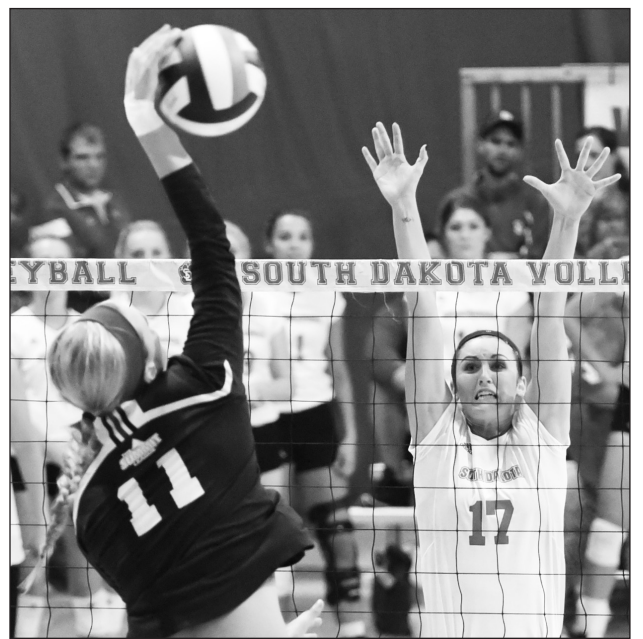
Chief among revelations on Friday night? That in key moments, USD still has some work to do.

"We made mistakes in crunch time," said Reeg, who had 25 kills with only three errors. "I don't know if it's because we got nervous or scared, but I think that's a huge thing we can't do."

"We have to come out fighting, especially in those moments."

After a split of the first four sets, the match came down to a do-or-die fifth set, and that's when those untimely mistakes for the Coyotes doomed them. As Williamson pointed out, it wasn't so much what Western Illinois (3-12) was doing, it's what USD wasn't doing.

"You should not be losing a set five with a team scoring five kills against you," Williamson said. "But they kept giving the ball back to us waiting for us to make errors, and



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/PRESS AND DAKOTAN  
South Dakota's Sydney Dimke, 17, goes up for a block against Western Illinois's Peyton Crosser during their Summit League volleyball match on Friday at the Coyote Den in the DakotaDome.

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 12

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