



SPORTS

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VHS Volleyball Holds Off Huskies, Quarriers

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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In the two games this past week the Vermillion High School volleyball team more than doubled the number of wins on the season.

The Tanagers moved to 3-10 after defeating Elk Point-Jefferson in Elk Point Monday night then returning home Tuesday to top Dell Rapids in three sets.

In Elk Point, the Huskies and the Tanagers played a close battle, but Vermillion came out on top in three sets (25-22, 27-25, 25-23).

"We played together as a team and played a very consistent game. We served aggressive which got them out of system," said Vermillion head coach Gabi Jarchow. "I felt like the girls were playing to win and not to lose, which is what I have been telling the girls all season long."

Kyliegh Moran had a season high 18 assists in the match and added another eight aces. Kaci Madsen had a team leading seven kills on offense and five blocks on defense, two solo and three assisted. Amanda Finnegan and Hannah Lunning each had four kills and Emily Bye had 16 digs.

The next night, Vermillion returned home for a match against the Lady Quarriers of Dell Rapids where the team carried over the momentum from Elk Point to take the match three sets to none.

"(Monday) night the girls were so excited and I could just tell they had this great feeling inside of them and tonight I said 'let's just go out and get another one. Let's go show everybody what we've been working for all season long,'" Jarchow said. "These are big games for us. Conference wins and that's really what we needed."

In the first set, Dell Rapids tied the game at 22, but an ace by Moran and



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Kyleigh Moran, 10, sets the ball for teammate Kaci Madsen, 1, in the Tanagers 3-0 win over Dell Rapids Tuesday night. Moran had eight assists in the match.

a few Quarriers mistakes allowed Vermillion came out on top 25-22.

Dell Rapids took a 17-15 lead in set two, but the Tanagers kept up their enthusiasm and, according to Jarchow, that allowed them to come back and win the set 24-20.

"We've been pushing that all year long and they're finally implementing it," show said. "It's kind of nice to see that because everybody plays better when you are happy and energetic, so it's good to see that the girls are finally doing that."

Vermillion kept the lead into set three thanks in part to a serving run by Haleigh Melstad and the team didn't look back as the Tanagers cruised to a 25-15 score in the final game to win the match 3-0.

"We've been really preaching to the girls to keep that ball in play and let them make the mistakes and that's exactly what (Melstad) did," Jarchow



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Emily Bye dives for the ball in Vermillion High School volleyball's 3-0 win over Dell Rapids Tuesday night. Bye had six digs in the match.

said. "She kept it in play, she was aggressive with it and they made the mistakes."

Melstad came up with a team high of four aces in the game.

Moran and Kayla Stammer each had eight assists. Bye had six digs

and Finnegan had four solo blocks.

Vermillion looks to continue the winning streak on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at home match against Ponca, Nebraska. The scheduled start time is 7:30 p.m.

Tennis Looks Toward State Tournament

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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The head coach of the Vermillion High School tennis team is looking to the state tournament with high hopes despite losing 9-0 to each Aberdeen Roncalli, Sioux Falls Lincoln and Sioux Falls Washington last Thursday in Sioux Falls.

"(It) sounds like a disaster, but it actually was a good day," said head coach Betsy Hughes. "The girls have really buckled down and worked hard these past two weeks and their play really showed."

At the flight five singles, Jane Ni Struckman Johnson played a tight match with Ali Muller of Aberdeen Roncalli, but Struckman Johnson came up short losing 11-0, 7-4.

Shinayne Whipple also played a close match with El-lie Litzen of Aberdeen Roncalli but fell 11-9 in flight four singles.

In doubles play, all team came away with a loss, but Hughes was happy with what she saw in the improvement of play from the beginning of the season.

"Their doubles play is 200% improved," she said. "They are moving on the court and working together as a doubles team."

The state tournament begins Oct. 8 with three locations between Sioux Falls and Brandon and will run through Saturday, Oct. 10.

"Their groundstrokes are much more consistent and they are thinking strategy on the court," Hughes said. "State begins next week. I am so glad they are showing that they are ready to be there."

Tanager Of The Week

Peterson With Two TD's At Tea



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Junior Logan Peterson was named Tanager of the Week after scoring two touchdowns and leading the team in yards during the Vermillion High School football team's game at Tea Area last Friday.

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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This week's Tanager of the Week had a standout game last Friday for the Vermillion High School football team, but he is quick to redirect the credit to his teammates.

"I think we all work together," said Logan Peterson, a junior running back and linebacker for the Tanagers. "I played pretty well but it was because of my line and my players."

Last Friday at Tea Area, Peterson led the team in yards with 127 total, 80 receiving and 47 rushing, and he picked up both of Vermillion's two touchdowns in the 29-14 loss to the Titans. The first touchdown came from a 42 yard pass and the second an 11 yard carry to end the game. He also garnered 4.5 tackles on defense.

"I thought he did a great job, offensively, defensively," said head coach Andy Homan. "He made some great catches offensively and the one time where he got hit and basically went down to his feet and his hands and just got back up. It was a pretty great play he made to keep things continuing."

As a runningback, Peterson knows his job, but also knows he wouldn't be successful at the position if his teammates didn't do their jobs as well.

"Everyone has their own role and mine is to run through the plays and get yards," he said.

He may call himself a runningback, but coach Homan knows that wherever position Peterson is playing on the field, he will make a positive impact in the game for the Tanagers.

"He's basically a utility player," Homan said. "We use him as a runningback, we use him as wide receiver. Defensively, he does a great job playing that strong side linebacker for us, coming up and making plays and getting things done. Offensively, he's done a great job running the ball, catching the ball and getting a lot of yards after a catch and contact."

As the Tanagers have one win on the season and only three games left for the year, it's easy to guess what Peterson would like to see for the team in the coming few weeks.

"To win the last couple games," he said.

Congratulations Logan on being named the Tanager of the Week.

Softball Resilient At States

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Maddie Treiber on the mound for the Vermillion High School softball team during the 8-0 win over Tea Area in the opening game of the state tournament Saturday in Sioux Falls. Treiber pitched two complete games with five total strikeouts at the tournament.

The Vermillion High School softball team opened the state tournament with a win Saturday against Tea, but the season ended with two losses to eventual champions Rapid City Douglas and eventual runner-up Lennox later that day.

"(We) had as good a chance to win that as anyone," said head coach Josh Wood. "Just ran into number one and number two and couldn't quite pull those games over the finish line."

The Tanagers took a quick lead in the second inning of the first game against Tea and cruised to an 8-0 win in five innings for a spot in the winner's bracket at the double-elimination tournament.

Sydney Furry and Sierra Furry drew back-to-back bases loaded and Bizzy Wood was hit by a pitch to bring in the third run. Alisha Leber then lined a three-run double down the third baseline that landed deep in the left field corner for a 6-0 lead.

Lexi Malimaneck hit a one-run single in the fourth inning, one of her two hits in the game, and in the fifth,