

# Celebrating



South Dakota quarterback Ryan Saeger, 2, looks for running room during the Coyotes' Dakota Days matchup with Youngstown State on Saturday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D



Top: Mini-Charlie and Charlie joined forces on Saturday to help cheer on the Yotes. Bottom: President James Abbott and his wife, Collette, ride in the D-Days Parade.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

## USD Falls To Penguins In Homecoming Matchup

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Known as a coach that knows defense, Bo Pelini is now developing a contender at Youngstown State.

And his top-ranked defense looked the part on Saturday.

In what was a highly-anticipated Missouri Valley Football Conference opener with Pelini returning to the Midwest, Youngstown State dominated the University of South Dakota 31-3 in front of 10,015 fans at the DakotaDome.

The No. 10-ranked Penguins (3-1) have now allowed six points over the last two games and have only suffered an eight-point loss to FBS Pittsburgh this season — Pelini's first after being fired at Nebraska.

"As an overall football team, we're a work in progress, but I'm seeing the potential," he told the media after Saturday's game.

Youngstown State was the more physical team and frustrated the Coyotes (2-2) all game. The Penguins never allowed USD to get its run game going — a staple of the Coyotes' previous two wins.

"We're a team that says we want to run the ball, and we couldn't run the ball," USD coach Joe Glenn said. "They were too much for us."

Especially in the secondary.

The Penguins came in first in the FCS in pass defense (59.3), and aside from one big play, never let USD re-

ceivers find any space.

That physical play was of particular frustration for Glenn, who said, "If they're going to let it go like that, we better find a way to practice against it."

Although the Coyotes were only out-gained 302-262 in yardage, they committed three turnovers which led directly to 17 points for Youngstown State — all three times giving the Penguins a short field.

"It's just something we have to get better this week, getting some momentum going on offense," said junior quarterback Ryan Saeger, who was 9-of-25 for 119 yards with one interception and four sacks.

Youngstown State's first touchdown — a run by Martin Ruiz — capped off a 16-play drive midway through the first quarter. The Penguins then recovered a fumble and added a field goal to go up 10-0.

The margin reached 24-0 before the Coyotes finally got the offense rolling, after a 63-yard pass play and then a Miles Bergner field goal.

The Penguins capped the scoring with a Hunter Wells touchdown pass to Shane Kuhn with 4:46 left in the game, but by that point, the outcome had already been decided.

Pelini had won in his return to the Midwest — later saying, "I could care less" when asked if it was significant to win back in this part of the country.

Although he was frustrated with his offense — "no rhythm" — Pelini said

his defense is beginning to understand his scheme.

"If we continue to improve the way we are, we'll be able to do some good things," Pelini said.

Youngstown State's offense featured many of the same names USD has become accustomed to over the last couple years. Wells passed for 158 yards and two touchdowns (with two interceptions), while Ruiz rushed for 86 yards and two scores.

"They're very technically sound in what they do," USD senior linebacker Keyen Lage said. "I thought we executed well, but they're a good team and they executed very well."

The Coyotes, meanwhile, have some work to do, Saeger said. They put the ball on the turf four times (losing two) and fumbled a punt return at the 2-yard line.

"We didn't help our defense out tonight, and that was the story of the night, we couldn't get anything going," Saeger said.

"That's something I've got to do personally, pick my offense up."

Up next for the Coyotes is a trip to Macomb, Illinois, for a matchup next Saturday against Western Illinois — which won its league opener Saturday.

"It's the Missouri Valley, and anything's bound to happen," USD junior safety Tyson Graham said. "Hats off to them, but we've just got to get better."

Follow @jhoeck on Twitter



**Looking For Medicare Options?**

See me as I represent many fine companies.

Lloyd Rowland  
PO Box 334  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
605-350-3849  
lloydrowland@hotmail.com




USD Students went all in on Saturday celebrating Dakota Days. From crazy costumes to crazy signs, popular topics were Bo Pelini slams and school spirit.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

**YOUR NEWS!**

The Vermillion Plain Talk

Save up to **\$2600** on a qualifying **LENNOX Home Comfort System** with utility & manufacturing rebates. Financing Available.

Call Larry or Jamie for complete details


**Larry's HEATING & COOLING**

920 Broadway, Yankton • 605-665-9461 • 1-800-491-9461 • www.larrysheatingandcooling.com



Keeping hopes high for generations.

CorTrust Bank has the loans and services to help your ag business grow. Visit us today.



**CorTrust Bank**

Raise your expectations.

cortrustbank.com • 101 W. Main St. • Vermillion