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SF Christian Powers Past Vermillion

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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The Vermillion High School football team continued a tough schedule against the top teams in the state last Friday when the team fell to Sioux Falls Christian 44-8 at the University of Sioux Falls Stadium.

The Tanagers avoided the shut out with a touchdown in the final five minutes of a Dakota XII conference game with a pass from quarterback Riley Johnson.

"The biggest thing defensively, we just weren't getting to the ball like we wanted to," said Vermillion head coach Andy Homan. "We were watching the backfield, not making our reads. Just not getting the job done here or there. Offensively, we missed quite a few blocks. We still had some big plays when we got it going, but we had some drive killers with our fumbles, false starts and just not being able to convert on some things."

The Chargers scored four touchdowns in the first half for a comfortable lead while Vermillion struggled to get the ball to the 50-yard line.

Sioux Falls Christian was about to add a fifth first half touchdown with less than two minutes to play, but junior Nick Svendsen intercepted the 14-yard pass in the end zone to keep the half time score 31-0 in favor of the Chargers.

"(Svendsen) came up and made some nice plays for us," Homan said.

In the third quarter, the Chargers again came close to extending the lead with a 24-yard run into the end zone, but a flag on the play called back the touchdown for a first and third at the 18-yard line. The Vermillion defense held off the Charger's next three attempts, including Svendsen batting away another potential touchdown pass on the end zone.

The Tanagers forced a field goal attempt that was missed.

On the second play of the returning drive, the Chargers recovered a fumble by the Tanagers. On the next play, carried the ball for a 35-yard touchdown run followed by an extra point for a 37-0 lead.

The last Charger touchdown came on a 1-yard carry in the fourth quarter.

The Tanagers were down 44-0 when sophomore Johnson came in at the quarterback position for a snap at the 10-yard line. Johnson found senior Matt Ouellette in the end zone for the score.

Johnson then ran the ball in for the two point conversion.

"We put him in there so we could get Matt (Ouellette) out of there from getting hit so much," Homan said. "He's got a pretty decent arm for as small as he is and he threw that on the money for us, so it's nice to know that we got him in the back up back up if we really need him."

Ouellette, the Tanagers top receiver with 354 yards on the season, played at the quarterback position during the game with Carter Kratz sidelined due to injury. The 10-yard catch was Ouellette's only reception on the game and led the Tanagers in receiving yards on the night. Rylan Pratt had nine yards and Logan Peterson had eight.

Noah Walker led Vermillion in rushing with 54 yards followed by Ouellette with 31.

Vermillion is now 1-6 on the season and face off against the 5-1 Lennox Orioles next Friday night at home inside the Dakota Dome with kickoff at 7:30 p.m.



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Sophomore Riley Johnson, 16, at the quarterback position for Vermillion High School in last Friday's game against Sioux Falls Christian. Johnson had the Tanagers one touchdown pass in the game.

Tennis Shut Out At State

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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Despite what the scoreboards said, Vermillion High School head tennis coach was pleased with the teams showing at the state tournament last Thursday in Sioux Falls.

"I was very happy with the girls play at the state tournament – especially with their doubles," Hughes said.

Though the Tanagers were unable to pull out a win and dropped all matches in singles and doubles play, Hughes saw major improvements in the girls' play, especially towards the end of the season, which she thinks gives the team a bright future.

"The last three weeks of the season the girls really focused, were coachable and gave their best effort at practice," Hughes said. "In those three weeks I could see the gains they made in their level of play. We need to begin next season with that same commitment and we will see better results."

Junior Libby Sykes put



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Vermillion's Alex Rosdail returns a shot during her flight four singles match with Madison's Sydney Swenson at the South Dakota State Girls' Tennis Tournament on Thursday in Sioux Falls.

up a fight with Madison Summer of Aberdeen in the first round of the flight one singles, but fell 6-2, 6-2 in the end.

Alex Rosdail also went down swinging 6-3, 6-2 to Jane Audrey of Brookings in

round one and 10-3 to Hope Dosch of Rapid City Central in round two.

Jane Ni Struckman Johnson played a close match in round two of the flight five singles to Jenna

Knudtson of Brookings that ended 10-4 in favor of Knudtson.

The close matches from the young players — Vermillion had no seniors on

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ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Vermillion High School's Nick Svendsen defends a potential touchdown during the Tanagers 44-8 loss to Sioux Falls Christian last Friday night.

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