



**SPORTS**

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# Coyotes Roll MSU



SHAUNA MARLETTE/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

South Dakota's Eric Shufford uses an out stretched arm to keep the defender off and gain extra yards.

## Defense Shines As USD Wins Second Straight Conference Game

BY JEREMY HOECK

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As much as it may not have wanted to, the University of South Dakota football team had to move on from the upset win at North Dakota State.

Between phone calls, text messages, interviews and other well-wishes, that win lingered longer than any other in recent USD memory.

"It was a Kodak moment, but at some point, you've got to get over it," head coach Joe Glenn.

So, how did the Coyotes move on?

The offense rolled up 529 yards and the defense didn't allow a touchdown in Saturday's 40-10 rout of Missouri State in Missouri Valley Conference action at the DakotaDome.

Mission accomplished.

With the fear of a let-down after such an emotional win a very real possibility, the Coyotes (4-3, 2-2) were tasked with the prospect that many might view the win over the Bison as an anomaly. Those concerns were eventually put to rest Saturday.

"Our coaches stressed all week that we need to keep going upward, and not let last week get to us and to prove it wasn't a fluke," said Andrew Van Ginkel, a redshirt freshman defensive lineman who had two tackles for loss.

"And the defense came out and proved we can play with any team in the Missouri Valley."

Much as was the case a week, the USD defense was up to the task, this time against an inexperienced team in the first year of a new coaching regime.

The only points allowed by the Coyote defense was on a 21-yard field

goal - after Missouri State couldn't capitalize on a first down at the 6-yard line - early in the fourth quarter. The Bears had earlier scored on a 100-yard kickoff return in the first quarter.

"This one's on the defense, they were so special today," Glenn said. "I'm really proud of the way they played. Right across the board, everyone played well."

The offense needed a little more time to really get going against the nation's second-worse defense.

USD made three trips to the red zone in the first half, but settled for a Miles Bergner field goal each time. The only touchdown in the first half was on a 34-yard completion from Ryan Saeger to Eric Shufford.

Up only 16-7 at halftime despite a 295-47 edge in total yardage, the Coyotes got rolling, scoring touchdowns on their first two drives. And that was all the cushion USD would need.

The catalyst to the offensive attack was freshman running back Michael Fredrick, who started and saw extended action in place of Trevor Bouma who suffered a season-ending injury. In response, Fredrick rushed for 129 yards on 22 carries with one touchdown.

"I knew all week in practice I had to step my own level of performance up," Fredrick said. "I knew I had to carry my team."

Earlier in the week, the offense had set a goal of 260 yards on the ground, according to Saeger, and that wasn't exactly out of the question, given what USD did against the Bison (193 yards).

"If they have that type of confidence to where they think they can run the ball for 260 yards, we're going to give them a chance to try to meet that goal,"

said Saeger, who passed for a career-high 275 yards on 20-of-29.

Another bright spot out of the win for the Coyotes was the performance of Bergner, the kicker who had the game-winner in Fargo.

He was 4-of-4 on field goals Saturday, tying a school record, and also tied the record for points (16) in a game.

"I went out there and felt good: I was locked in," Bergner said. "Watching these guys play was awesome."

The Coyote defense, in particular, was locked in.

Before a 60-yard run by Jason Randall early in the fourth quarter (he was chased down from behind by Van Ginkel inside the 5-yard line), Missouri State was in jeopardy of being held under 100 total yards. The Bears finished with 155 yards, but only managed a Macelo Bonani field goal against the USD defense.

Repeating what they did in Fargo was understandably an area of focus for USD during practice last week.

"That was something coaches were stressing, that we can't let that win get to our head," Saeger said. "Obviously it was a big one, but we had a great week of practice, and I think it showed on the field."

Heaving already heard that next week's opponent, Northern Iowa, had beaten South Dakota State earlier in the day, Glenn said he was confident his group will be ready for the test at the UNI-Dome.

"I think we believe that we can play with anybody in the league," he said. "Our kids will get ready for this game, I promise you that."

"We'll be ready for it."

## Tanager Of The Week



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK  
Vermillion High School sophomore Kasey Jensen dedicated her fall season to being the manager of the school's football team.

## Jensen A Staple On Football Sideline

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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At every Vermillion High School football game and practice fans might notice an extra person on the sideline.

Sophomore Kasey Jensen has been the team's manager for the last two seasons and because of her dedication and support to the team, she has been named this week's Tanager of the Week.

Jensen was familiar with the team from watching her brother play football for four years at Vermillion High School and became manager when the team's head coach, Andy Homan, asked her to help out last year as a freshman.

"Homan kind of forced me, last year, to do it," she said. Jensen agreed to take on the task and it seems everything is working out. She says she enjoys being team manager because she likes to watch football and it gives her a chance to be around the sport.

The football team manager is required to attend every practice, as well as every game to help the team when it's needed by doing some miscellaneous tasks when called upon.

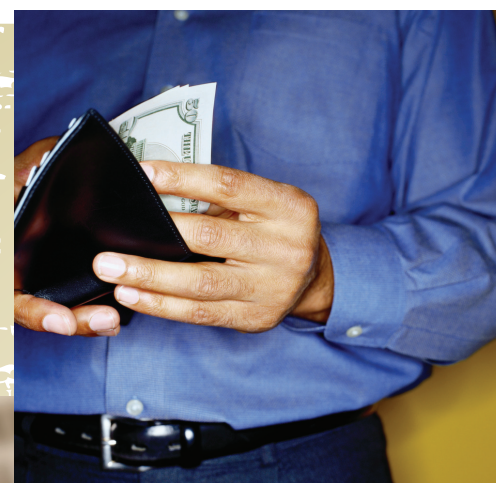
"For practices, I usually just fill up waters and I sit out there with them and try to keep Homan on schedule," Jensen said. "Then for game days I'll help the athletic trainer more and I'll sometimes help tape their wrists. For actual games, I don't usually do too much because the freshmen do a lot of it, like they'll help bring out waters, but I'll help with that and some other stuff."

She is even allowed to ride in the coaches van to and from games.

Jensen says she plans to continue on as team manager next season.

Congratulations Kaci on being named Tanager of the Week.

If you know a high school student deserving of recognition in athletics or otherwise, suggestions for Tanager of the Week can be sent to Elyse Brightman at [elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net](mailto:elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net) or by calling 605-624-4429.



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## Tanagers End Season With 62-12 Loss To West Central

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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It was senior night, and the final game of the football season, when the Vermillion Tanagers football team faced the 7-1 and No. 3 ranked West Central Trojans last Thursday night at the DakotaDome.

The Trojans mercilessly ended the Tanagers season with a 62-12 routing, but one noticeable aspect was the efforts the Vermillion players put in until the very end.

"We had three goals coming in," said Vermillion head coach Andy Homan. "We wanted to be the first ones to score, make them punt three times and get 350 yards. Obviously we didn't get some of those, but coming in we just wanted to fight hard and not give up and our kids did that the whole game."

The Tanagers struggled to get past the 50-yard line, while West Central posted seven touchdowns in the first half to head to the locker room with a 46-0 lead. Vermillion found a bit of

a groove in the third quarter and reached the end zone with 30 seconds left in the quarter thanks to a three yard run by senior Jon Rosales.

West Central quickly answered in the fourth quarter with a one yard touchdown carry complete with a two-point conversion for a 54-6 lead.

Rosales then notched his second touchdown of the game from a 55 yard run with five minutes remaining. Rosales ran for a team-leading 103 yards in the game.

The following two-point conversion attempt was no good.

West Central wasn't finished yet, and capped off the 62-12 win with a final touchdown with 20 seconds left on the clock complete with a brash two-point conversion as time ran out.

Quarterback Carter Kratz threw for 51 yards in the game.

The Tanagers close the season with a record of 1-8,



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Senior Matt Ouellette on a kick off return during Vermillion High School football team's final game of the season against West Central Thursday night in the Dakota Dome.