Tanagers defeat Tea in OT thriller

By Parker Knox Sportswriter

Though Vermillion had just scored to take a 13-7 lead in overtime, Tea Area had stopped the Tanagers' attempt at a twopoint conversion.

Momentum had switched sides again, and a majority of fans in the DakotaDome Friday night could see it coming as the Titans moved on three successive running plays to the brink of the tying touchdown. With a reliable extra-point kicker available, their winning point would then be a mere formality.

Somebody had to do something, and that somebody turned out to be Avery Garcia.

The junior defensive end came barreling out of the endzone and across the goalline untouched. All in the same breath he said hello and good night to Tea Area's wouldbe touchdown scorer, stopping him for a loss, leaving the Titans short of the goalline and ending the game.

A delirious celebration ensued as Vermillion picked up its first win of the season and Tea Area sustained defeat for the first time.

Choosing to stay on the ground, Tea Area had gained five yards on its first-down play in overtime, Mitch Brown making the tackle at the 5-yard line. Second down moved them to the 2 1/2-yard line. On third down Will Mart and Anthony Leber teamed up to stop the Titan runner a halfyard from the goal. Then came Garcia's heroics.

Having just seen a potential gamewinning field-goal attempt blocked in the final seconds of regulation time, the Tanagers could have been hanging their heads as the game went into O.T. Instead, losing the coin toss, they got possession first, and that proved to be a godsend.

D'Andre Fore was the designated driver of the Tanagers' victory hopes. He went six yards on first down, three more on second down and scored the go-ahead touchdown on third down from the 1. He also got the call on the two-point attempt but was stopped short.

With the score at 7-7 since the opening moments of the second quarter, the game had become a defensive standoff. Tea Area missed a 46-yard field-goal try on its first fourth-period possession. With 7:00 remaining the Tanagers lost the ball via a fumble near midfield, but the VHS defense stiffened and held Tea on downs. Brown sniffed out a pitch and threw a five-yard loss on the Titans on their third-down play, forcing a punt.

The Tanagers started from their own 31. On the first play a long pass from Kyle Weiss just missed connecting with Nate Garrett down the left sideline. Two plays later, VHS tried it again. This time it was Tanner Anderson on the receiving end, and this time the connection was true. The 40yard gain sent Anderson to the Tea 29.

On a fourth-and-two situation Fore went 13 yards around right end as the game clock went under one minute. That final minute would take about 15 minutes of real time to play, however.

Fore went two yards, and Vermillion took a timeout. Fore went 2 1/2 yards more, and Tea called a timeout. On third down at the 3 Fore was stopped for no gain. The ball popped out, but he was ruled down by contact. Tea took a timeout, then VHS took a timeout.

Finally with :12.2 left, the Tanagers put Michael Sand into field-goal position. Before the snap could be made, Tea was called for encroachment. Now the line of scrimmage was the 2. This time before the snap, the Tanagers false-started. Now the ball went back to the 7 from where it would have been a 25-yard field goal. Several Titans broke through to block the attempt, however. Tea chose a running play that ate up the remaining seconds, and the game proceeded to overtime, Tea's players leaping for joy and their fans roaring as new hope had been snatched from the jaws of defeat.

From Page 1

Questions & Answers About Suicide, Suicide Prevention and Coping with the Suicide of Someone You Know."

Marcus' father committed suicide when Marcus was 12 years old.

"For those of you who have ever contemplated suicide or attempted suicide, I hope you leave here this evening with a better sense of how it would affect the people who love you," he told the audience.

"In his suicide note, my father wrote we would all be better off without him. I like to think that if he had known what an impact his suicide would have on his family that he would have thought twice before ending his life."

At the time, the reaction of most people to a suicide in their family would be to pretend that it did not happen, Marcus said. His family was no different. In fact, the way he found out about his father was in overhearing his mother tell someone during a phone conversation that his father was in the hospital because he had taken an overdose of pills.

Marcus' parents were separated at the time.

"I missed one day of school for the funeral, and never said a word to my friends about what happened," he said. "About five years later, one of my friends asked about my dad. He said I hadn't talked about him in a long time and he wondered how he was doing. I remember being shocked by that question, because I had forgotten how few people I had told."

The very subject of suicide used to be "a conversation-stopper," Marcus said. But once he began to write his book in the 1980s, he began to be more open about it.

"It was sad, but it wasn't shameful, so why keep it a secret?" he said. "We keep secrets because of the things we're ashamed of, usually, so I saw no reason to As the extra period proved, however, the Tanagers refused to fold.

"I'm really happy for our kids," Coach Gary Culver said. "They played hard throughout the entire game. Tea Area can put a lot of pressure on a defense in so many ways."

Vermillion's second possession of the game resulted in the first score, even though the Tanagers started from their own 9. On the third play Weiss teamed up with Brown on a 58-yard pass play. From the Titan 30 Fore carried four straight times for positive yardage, gaining 10, 5, 10 and 1 yards. On third and goal from the 9, Weiss came up with a miraculous pass completion to Mart. The quarterback literally threaded the needle, shooting a rifle shot of a pass through all sorts of traffic, and the ball hit Mart squarely in his numbers, and he clutched it to his chest as he fell to the endzone turf.

Tea had an immediate answer. On their third play, the Titans got a 53-yard pass from Corbin Lawler although it appeared the quarterback was a good stride across the line of scrimmage when he fired the ball downfield. Nevertheless they had firstand-goal at the 5, and on third down Lawler hit Riley Knutson for a 6-yard TD to tie the game at 7-7.

After that the two teams took turns for nearly three quarters, exchanging punts and going back and forth between the 30yard lines. Tea came closest to scoring late in the third period. Pressure from Dan Goeden on a third-and-four from the 16 resulted in an incompletion, forcing a fieldgoal try. The kick caromed off the right upright.

"We did a good job offensively against Tea Area in controlling the ball and mixing in pass and run pretty efficiently," Culver commented. "D'Andre Fore had another big game, and he would be the first to credit the offensive line and other backs. Kyle Weiss did a nice job managing the game at quarterback, and he threw the ball very well."

keep it a secret."

Nick Kotzea, forum participant and associate director of the USD Foundation, agreed. Over a six-month period in 2009, he lost both his younger brother and his grandmother to suicide.

"(Talking) is a way for me to really work through my own sort of healing process," he said. "Both the tragedies that took place in my life with suicide are still relatively fresh, and I feel as though this is a concrete step I can take toward helping others."

USD alum Damon Leader Charge lost his younger brother, two cousins and his brother-in-law in just 13 months. He said he was able to find strength through prayer and tradition.

"Living a good life, straightening our acts up – all of a sudden we were able to deal with it in a healthy way. We can be strong in a healthy way," he said.

Leader Charge – who is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and was raised on the Rosebud Indian Reservation – said he found further strength through Fore carried 33 times for 161 yards, and Weiss completed five of eight aerials for 119 yards.

Culver also credited the Tanager special teams in keeping the Titans' return specialists in check.

On defense freshman Brett Bye continued to stand out in the crowd in his first varsity season with eight solo tackles. Mart and Garcia had six tackles each to support the defensive effort.

One of these days, perhaps as early as tonight at Canton, the Tanagers will present Coach Gary Culver with his 200th career victory. Chances are good, however, that it won't be nearly so dramatic as win No. 199 was!

Canton is a deceptive 0-3 team, having lost to Tri-Valley, Dell Rapids and Dakota Valley.

Iea Area	0	1	0	0	0		1
VHS	7	0	0	0	6		13
First quarter:	VHS:	Wil	l Ma	rt 9-	yd.	pass fr	om

Kyle Weiss (Michael Sand kick), 2:54. Second quarter: TAHS: Riley Knutson 6-yd.

pass from Corbin Lawler (Cooper Hansen kick), 11:52.

Overtime: VHS: D'Andre Fore 1-yd. run (run failed).

	VHS	TAHS
First downs	11	11
Rushes-yds.	46-141	30-95
Passing yds.	119	125
Total yds.	260	240
Passes	5-8-0	6-18-0
Punts-avg.	5-27.6	4-33.5
Fumbles-lost	4-1	0-0
Penalties-yds.	5-30	3-17

Rushing: VHS, Mitch Brown 5-(-7), Fore 33-161, Tanner Anderson 1-6, Sand 1-4, Weiss 6-(-23). TAHS, Knutson 11-35, Hansen 5-27, Gunnar Ensz 1-11, Lawler 5-8, Ryan Farwell 3-7, Brett Herr 5-5. Passing: VHS, Weiss 5-8-119. TAHS, Lawler 6-18-125.

Receiving: VHS, Anderson 2-45, Mart 2-16, Brown 1-58. TAHS, Knutson 3-48, Jesse Walnofer 1-53, Herr 1-13, Mitchell Nissen 1-11.

Defense (solos-assists-total tackles): VHS, Brett Bye 8-1-9, Mart 6-0-6, Avery Garcia 5-1-6, Brown 3-0-3, Fore 3-0-3, Nick Jensen 3-0-3, Alex Osborne 2-1-3, Anderson 1-0-1, Ty Iverson 1-0-1, Tyler Constant 1-0-1, Riley Vlasman 1-0-1, Anthony Leber 1-0-1. Tackles for loss: Jensen 2, Brown 1, Bye 1. Fumbles recovered: Mart 1. Pass knockdowns: Anderson 3, Garcia 2, Meierkort 2, Jensen 1.

helping others who have been touched by suicide.

He and others panelists said the support of their family and friends helped them through the ordeal.

"My relatives came from all

directions," Leader Charge said. Diane Williams used to work in the

guidance counselor's office at Vermillion High School. After her son committed suicide in 2005, she took part in a sweat lodge service.

^aI made a promise to have a sweat for him every month for the next year, which meant that we had to have someone start the fire, we needed to have someone to lead the sweat.

... Every month that year, we went to the sweat lodge and we prayed," she said.

In the beginning, Williams said she felt like she was doing it for her son. As they went on, she said, "I realized those sweats were for me. They were what kept me going."

Harris dealt with her grief in part by establishing Nikki's Fund, now in its fifth

Tanager boys soccer on the road this weekend

By Parker Knox Sportswriter

Sooner or later every season a road trip to the Black Hills faces an East River team. For the Vermillion varsity boys it happens this weekend.

The Tanagers go halfway west for a 4 p.m. Friday game at Chamberlain, then go on to Lead-Deadwood for a 1 p.m. Saturday match. They will also be in action Tuesday at Harrisburg with the JVs playing at 6 and the varsity at 8.

Vermillion's record dropped to three wins, two losses and a tie Saturday when the Tanagers lost at Huron, 6-0.

Two nights earlier Vermillion had dealt a 9-1 drubbing to Mitchell Christian at Cotton Park. Alex Robertson had an unofficial six saves in goal for the Tanagers, and Brett Hansen took over for the final two minutes and faced no shots.

Nate Samudzi started the scoring avalanche eight minutes into the game. Then Tanner Settles took over, scoring first off an Andrew Kost corner kick. By halftime Settles had scored three more times, once off another Kost assist and once on an Ethan James assist.

James started the second half by scoring on a free kick awarded after Samudzi had been tackled inside the box on a one-on-one drive to the goal. Samudzi himself made it 7-0 with a host into the left corner off the Christian keeper's fingertips. Moments later, when Settles' shot was bobbled by the keeper, Samudzi was there to slam it home.

After MCHS scored its only goal at the 28:15 mark of the second half, Samudzi answered in less than a minute to finish the scoring.

year.

"I really had great support from the university to get this in the direction we wanted to go," she said.

Marcus said that when a loved on commits suicide, one of the first things the family members do is to try and find an answer to the question, "Why?"

"People are always looking for rational answers," he said. "It doesn't make sense because it doesn't make sense, but we as rational human beings try to make sense of something that's an irrational act – at least, to us."

That is where talking helps, he said.

"The only way to end the shame and stigma around suicide is to do a better job of providing help to those who are left behind in the aftermath, and to do a better job of preventing suicide in the first place is to speak openly and honestly about our experiences," he said.

For more information about Nikki's Fund, call (605) 677-5424.



spiritually speaking, that was appropriate. . . . There was just a general assumption that that was what we wanted to do."

However, Miller said one of the few times he heard discussion regarding the moral implications of the killing was when he was talking to a group of middle school students, specifically a girl who asked, "Are we supposed to be happy if someone is dead?"

"I had this public discourse with middle school kids, and I don't know the answer to that question," Miller said. "I'm not telling you how to think. I just don't hear a conversation about the difference between justice and vengeance."

He emphasized that Judaism, Christianity and Islam each place an emphasis on forgiveness.

"I'm just wondering what part forgiveness should or could or might play in relationships between peoples ... in the United States and the international community," he said.



Fear also has played a role in the lives of ordinary citizens, as well as the decisions made by federal and state governments, with both positive and negative consequences.

Dr. Shane Nordyke broke down the budget of the Department of Homeland Security on a percentage basis, noting that approximately 7 percent – or \$3.8 million – goes to state and local governments to help prepare for, mitigate and respond to disasters of all kinds.

"We've actually made really significant strides in the past 10 years that I think have made us as a society, as a system of local and state governments, much better prepared to deal with the disasters that we get on a regular basis in addition to trying to prepare for a terrorist attack," she said.

However, she added that while the Homeland Security budget has risen each year since its inception, there is a certain amount of the unknowable involved.

Despite an estimated \$402 billion going toward next year's overall budget, there is no real way to distinguish whether the money is being spent to actually make people safer, or just make them feel safer.

"That's a lot harder to measure," she said. "I think we probably are safer than we were than (regarding) many things, whether they be manmade or natural disasters just because we've had so much more communication about response."

At the same time, the fact that recent attempted terrorist attacks — such as the attempted Times Square bombing — were foiled by ordinary citizens rather than the government does not necessarily mean too much is being spent, she said.

"I don't think it's necessarily a failure of public policy, since a big part of that public policy has been to raise awareness of citizens," Nordyke said.

Miller also spoke of a lack of educational response to the attacks on the part of the public.

"We talk a lot about the fact that a lot of people in the United States don't have a good geography background and couldn't put their finger on Iraq or Afghanistan on a world map. Why are we not working harder at that, or talking more about that?" he asked.

"I'm teaching Islam. I'm the only one teaching Islam here, and I am not an expert," he said. "Why do we not have an Islamic professor at the University of South Dakota, the flagship university? Why are we not teaching that in conjunction with everything, if we are trying to work more at connecting things?"

Nordyke agreed, adding, "I don't think the citizenry is as wellinformed as they should be about the public policy decisions that we've made. They don't know what's in the Patriot Act. They don't know what sort of provisions have been made."

She said lack of education and fear are intertwined in this instance.

"You don't want to be the person who says we shouldn't do this because it violates our rights, and then something happens. ... There is that fear of not being vigilant, for not being prepared, and it causes us to make choices without discussion about tradeoffs," she said.

The forum was moderated by Dr. Benno Wymar.



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