

Bison sweep past Coyotes

By Jeremy Hoeck

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The newest Summit League team found out first-hand Monday night exactly what has made North Dakota State an NCAA Tournament regular the last three years.

And in the process, the University of South Dakota discovered what it means to play a top team on their home floor.

North Dakota State, winners of the last three Summit League regular season titles, swept conference newcomer South Dakota 25-13, 27-25, 25-15 in front of a statewide television audience at the DakotaDome.

In a matchup between teams tied for first place, it was the Bison (9-5, 3-0) who again got it done against league competition.

"Don't get me wrong, they're better," USD coach Matt Houk said. "I don't question our effort at all tonight, it's just that our execution was lull. I'm not taking anything away from them, but we did not deserve to win that match."

"And we have to own that fact."

Having won two road matches to start league play, the Coyotes (6-7, 2-1) came out sluggish and, despite a stronger second set, never really got in rhythm.

Playing a team like North Dakota State – which has earned two NCAA Tournament berths in the last three years – in your home opener can have that humbling effect, according to USD sophomore setter Tori Kroll.

"We might have thought differently about them. Or that because we won two in a row, we were on a high and would keep winning," said Kroll, who recorded 29 set assists.

"But they were a very good team and brought us down to level."

There was a brief stretch in the first set where the teams looked almost

even.

Yet, the Bison soon turned an 11-9 lead into a 17-9 cushion. As if all at once, USD serves were going into the net, balls weren't getting to the setter cleanly and the offense didn't have a chance to get going.

During a timeout early the first set, Houk asked his team, "Are you afraid?"

Whatever the case, things weren't quite right for the youthful Coyotes.

"I don't think we were afraid, but we weren't focused and weren't completely concentrating on what we needed to do," Kroll said.

Two timeouts by the Coyotes didn't slow the onslaught, as NDSU went on the easy victory – with all seven players recording a kill.

Even with all the off-the-court factors marking USD's biggest home match at the Division I level, the Bison played like the polished, seasoned team they are.

"It was a new venue for us, and you definitely never know how that goes," first-year NDSU coach Kari Thompson said. "They played two great matches on the road and are new into the Summit League, so there's a whole bunch of new stuff."

"I'm very happy with the way we controlled our tempo," she added. "We didn't let all the other factors affect us."

The Coyotes cleaned up their end of the bargain in the second set, as more players got involved in the offensive attack.

An Amber Aschoff kill tied the match at 24-24, forcing extra action, and the Coyotes later tied things at 25-25. With the Dome crowd on its feet, the Bison put together two straight points to take the victory.

As was the case all match, the Bison utilized a quick set to catch the USD defense off guard, something Houk said later his program is trying to implement.

"They're extremely good in ball control and they're in system all the time," Houk said. "Partly that's them, and partly that's us."

"The speed of their offense is very fast," he added. "That's what we're trying to do, and it had an effect on us."

The Coyotes came out with renewed energy in the third set, taking an early 7-4 cushion after five kills from Kritenbrink.

NDSU came storming back, tying the game at 10-10, and took control from there. USD got within 14-17 on a Kim Bulaga kill, but the Bison tightened up and pulled in front 21-14.

From there, a pair of aces and a Lauren Cammack kill ended the match.

Naturally there was some frustration on the part of the Coyotes, Kroll said.

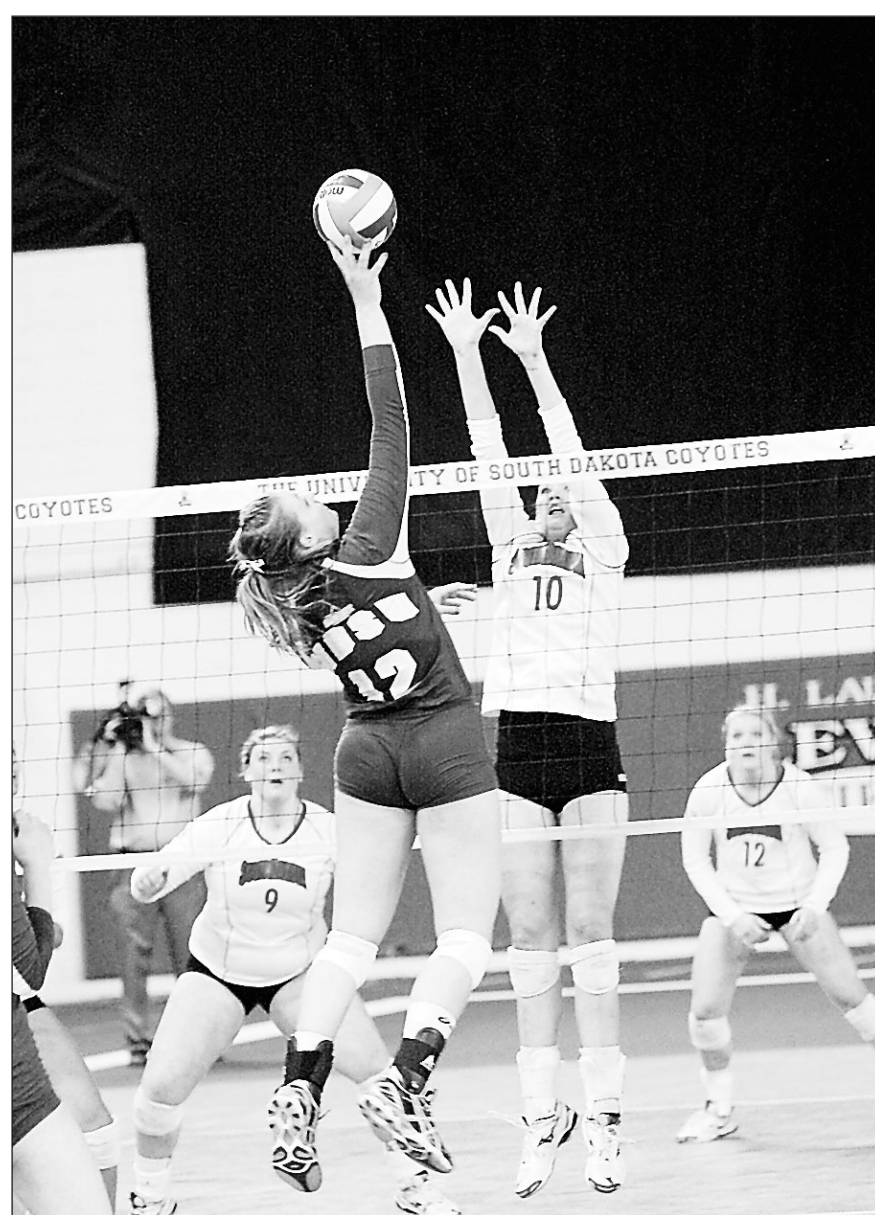
"At the end, I think we got frustrated with each other and started doing things more on our own," she said. "We need to stick together and trust each other that everyone will be where they need to be."

Brynn Joki led the Bison with 10 kills, while Jennifer Lopez had 26 set assists and Andrea Henning posted 15 digs.

USD freshman Kendall Kritenbrink continued her strong start with 13 kills, but committed 10 errors in 42 attempts. Aschoff, a sophomore, added eight kills and fellow sophomore Natalie Walseth chipped in with four kills.

With five days until Saturday night's home contest with Summit League member Missouri-Kansas City, the Coyotes can use what they learned Monday, Houk said.

"We learned a lesson tonight, that a good level of effort doesn't always make a difference," he said. "We didn't execute little things that we had been in the last five matches."



South Dakota's Tahnee Reed, 10, goes up to block North Dakota State's Megan Lambertson during their Summit League volleyball match Monday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. NDSU, the three-time defending regular season league champion, handed USD its first Summit League setback, 25-13, 27-25, 25-15. (Photo by David Lias)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER



Mark Lavin of Sioux Falls qualified for the 2012 Ironman World Championship to be held in October 2012 in Kona, HI. Mark finished the Ironman Wisconsin in a time of 10:09:16. Mark placed 37th overall and sixth in his age group. The race was held Sept. 11 in Madison, WI and was a 2.4-mile swim, 110-mile bike ride and 26.2 run. Mark is the son of Tom and Sandy Lavin.

IRONKID



The Ironkids National Triathlon was held Saturday, Sept. 17 in West Des Moines, IA. Madisen Lavin of Vermillion placed 15th in the 11 year old age division. Water temperature below safe conditions forced the race to be a biathlon. Maddie finished in a time of 28:25. The race consisted of a half mile run, a 4-mile bike ride and a 1-mile run. Maddie is the daughter of Matt and Carol Lavin.

Sales tax initiative meeting Sept. 28 in Beresford

MOVING SD FORWARD will be holding an informational meeting regarding the one cent sales tax initiative at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Bridges in Beresford.

Area residents concerned about budget cuts have invited the group to present and are hoping to learn more regarding this important topic affecting local schools and nursing homes. The measure will add one penny to the state sales tax, raising approximately \$175 to \$180 million annually, split evenly between K-12 public education and Medicaid. The language contains protections to prevent the increased revenue from being spent in any way, either directly or indirectly, to reduce, supplant

or replace appropriations for any state K-12 education program currently in existence.

Medicaid provides basic, essential medical services to the most vulnerable in our society; people such as the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged children. One in every seven South Dakota

citizens relies on Medicaid to receive medical services.

All area residents are invited and encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend, but would like to learn more, you may visit the website www.movingforward.com or call (605) 610-9009.



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Tanager volleyball faces Wagner Tuesday

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Vermillion's volleyball girls will get another shot at Wagner next Tuesday when the Tanagers try to avenge a loss to the highly-regarded Red Raiders in the quarterfinals of the Bon Homme Cavalier Classic last weekend.

The Tanagers will also be on the road at West Central next Thursday before – finally! – getting to stay home for six straight home duals covering a three-week span in October.

Vermillion held its own at the Bon Homme tournament but ran into another of the state's top teams, Parker, in addition to Wagner. The Tanagers in pool play defeated Corsica-Stickney 25-21, 25-13; lost to Parker 12-25, 6-25; and defeated Parkston 25-23, 18-25, 25-12.

Their 2-1 record qualified them for the championship quarterfinals where they lost a tough match to Wagner. The Raiders won 25-22 in the first set, but the Tanagers won a thriller 28-26 to force a third set, which Wagner won 25-17.

The two teams that beat Vermillion – Parker and

Wagner – were the two championship match teams with Parker prevailing.

Earlier last week the Tanagers won at home over Sergeant Bluff-Luton, 3-0, on set scores of 25-15, 26-24 and 25-23. Kelly Amundson had 10 kills, five solo blocks and eight block assists. Kylie Fischbach led in set assists

with 18, and Sami Girard contributed 11. In digs Blair Gilkyson led the way with 14, followed by Lizzy Bye 10, Emily McClelland nine, Girard eight, Lexi Regnerus seven and Amundson seven. Bye and Beth Szymonski had six kills apiece.

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