

Coyotes' Hasse honored after Fargo victory

By Scott Bormann
For the Plain Talk

Fresh off their season opening trouncing of a good field area teams at the Bison Invitational, the USD cross country team is quietly confident about the upcoming season.

"I thought we competed very well," head coach Dan Fitzsimmons said. "However, it is early in the season so a lot can change from now until our last meet."

The Jackrabbits of South Dakota State University were the closest to the men's team, but still fell 10 points short. The University of North Dakota Bison were only able to get within five points of the women's team.

When all five of the team's scoring runners are in the top fifteen places, they are hard to beat. Both of the teams were able to accomplish this feat in Fargo, ND.

The main focus for both teams is on training rather than on running races, so they count these early season successes as a bonus.

"At this time of the year it is more important for us to develop a consistent training regiment while getting back into the swing of attending class and doing well in school," Fitzsimmons said.

On Monday, USD senior Brant Haase was named the Summit League's Men's Cross Country Athlete of the Week for the period ended Aug. 31.

Haase earns his first career Athlete of the Week honor after winning the Bison Invitational by more than 15 seconds on Friday.

He finished the six-kilometer course in 18:53. Haase led a contingent of five Coyotes who finished in the top-15.

South Dakota defeated regionally-ranked South Dakota State, league opponents North Dakota State and Fort Wayne, and North Dakota in dual meet scoring.

Haase and the rest of the Coyotes race again Friday at the Augustana Twilight meet in Sioux Falls, S.D., starting at 8:30 p.m.

VHS golfers poised to vanquish opposi-

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Cooper Williams (left) and Carter Andre are a fearsome two-some for the 2014 Vermillion High boys' golf team.

Scott Bormann / For The Vermillion Plain Talk

Punishment is not something usually associated with golf, but with their early season success, the Tanager golf team is calmly confident that they can take out any other team that they run across.

There is no secret to why they are doing so well this season; Practice.

"We have a few kids that have put in the work in the summer, and they are starting to see the benefits of what they have done," head coach Kirk Hogen said. "And that trickles to the other kids. They see what they can do. It leads to a better practice environment when they see this natural leadership."

Led by senior Carter Andre and sophomore Cooper Anderson, the Tanagers have been at the top of the leaderboard in each outing so far this season. Both individual marks and team results have everyone looking out for the Vermillion squad.

"We have definitely gotten off to a good start," Williams said. "We are competing for the top spots, where last year we seemed like we were a couple strokes short of that second, third and fourth place. This year we are the team beating other teams by a couple strokes to get those upper places."

Nobody on the team is happy settling for where they are currently sitting on the team roster. The competition is fierce among the teammates, which only makes the results better for all concerned, unless you are a Vermillion opponent.

"I feel like the competition, whether it's between Carter and I, or the spot for five or six, I feel that it makes the guy coming out on top a better golfer, and the guy losing that spot to want it even more," Williams said. "I think it would be better to have that competition and have someone left out, than have everyone complacent at what their spot is."

Hogen believes this comes from good leadership and nothing more.

"It's nothing magical," Hogen said. "A lot of times you can be the rah-rah person, but we don't need the rah-rah person. What we need is a couple people to do it by example."

For the dynamic duo of Andre and Williams, their journeys started a long time ago.

"I've been playing since about third grade," Andre said. "My dad would take me out and play in the evenings. We had a good senior class when I was a seventh-grader, and most of them left, so it was then down to me."

Williams has had some distractions that kept him away from the game at times, but has managed quite well.

"When I was really young, first or second grade, I played a little bit," Williams said. "I had moved around a lot, so I stopped playing golf for a while. In eighth grade, I played a little bit for my team in Kentucky, then we moved here and I played as a freshman."

There is a great deal of satisfaction with the scores that have been posted so far. If they can keep their focus on each and every shot, then the sky is the limit.

"I think that anybody that is coaching or teaching, and sees the particular person put in the work, and then reap the reward, that's always gratifying," Hogen said. "And that doesn't always happen."

The team is not satisfied with merely being great golfers. They can be seen supporting the other Tanager teams when they compete. The south end zone of the DakotaDome is their usual haunt during home football games.

"You want to be a good teammate, supporting the other teams," Andre said. "We want to support each other here on the golf course and the other sports."

They are happy to provide this support, regardless of how others may want them to take another path. With several star basketball players on the golf team, they have received a little pressure to pick another sport, but they attribute their choice to the mental discipline needed in sports.

"I think that golf is a better fit for basketball players," Andre said.

The leadership shown by the current class of golfers should have long-term benefits for Vermillion. There are golfers all the way down into grade school that are out practicing with the team. Because of this, they see positive role models every day.

"I can really see the young ones looking up to these guys and saying, 'Hey, I can do that in a few years.' We have not always been as competitive as I feel that we should always be," Hogen said, "but we are back to where we can be presentable. We now at least have the opportunity to compete."

■ BALL

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"It would be a big confidence booster to win that second game and show we weren't lucky to win one game," Hertz said. "Hopefully we can beat them down early and score on a couple of runs and finish them off."

Homan agrees that getting the ground game up and running is pivotal against a team like Chamberlain and its 4-3 defense.

"We would like to get our run game going Friday night because we know we can pass it," Homan said. "With their bigger lineman going against our smaller D-line that could be an advantage for Chamberlain. They got some guys the size of Lennox's line."

"Every team we play will have a bigger line than what we have."

Vermillion's Matt Pearson believes the ground attack could only make Brown's ability to toss the ball to all points of the field even easier.

"It's going to be very important (to improve the running game) because if we can get the ball moving in the air and we can't run, other teams will be able to limit us," Pearson said. "We've got to get the running game going. I am pretty confident that it can improve. We just need to do more work in practice."

Offensively, Chamberlain will spread the field and use the I-formation in certain situations. Coming off of a 50-0 loss to a reputable Winner team made scouting difficult for Homan.

"It was hard to see much on the film with Winner getting such an edge on them," Homan said. "Winner is usually a pretty good team year after year. From what I hear Chamberlain is a talented team but their motivation isn't quite there yet. They have the kids and size to do stuff if they come to play."

Last weekend against Lennox, the Orioles shifted things around a bit and made the Vermillion defense struggle at times before getting a bit stingier after halftime.

"If we had made those adjustments in the first or second quarter we could have done better," Pearson said. "But we found what we needed and turned it around. The win gives us a little wakeup call and lets us know what we still need to do to get better."

Support tackling and making better reads will be a part of that "get better" process according to Homan.

"Our run game, defensive assignments, and scoring more points will be the keys against Chamberlain," Homan said.

Taking a look back at an opening night win

Brown threw three touchdown passes to three different receivers and the Vermillion defense toughened up in the second half to lead a Tanager 26-20 win at the DakotaDome Friday night in the first game in 2014 for both teams.

"Our blocking came together tonight, our receivers ran good routes, and we just made plays," Brown said. "That was constant throughout the night and that was nice to see."

"Throwing touchdowns to three different guys and passes to five or six different guys...everyone working hard and playing together like that was really good to see."

Vermillion (1-0) defeated Lennox for the second straight season on football's opening weekend.

"It was a battle and it wasn't an easy game," Vermillion's second-year head coach Andy Homan said. "We got the battle that they wanted. They came back bigger than last year and we still got it done. We knew coming that they were going to fight all the way and that's what we expected."

Neither offense got going in the third but a long punt return by Logan Peterson set up the hometown boys with some prime real estate heading into the final quarter.

The Orioles wouldn't let that ruffle their feathers as they picked off a deep Brohm pass to keep within one score.

Yeah, about that...

Matt Ouellette picked off a Lennox pass and wheeled his way into the end zone to put the Tanagers up 26-14 with 9:06 left in the game.

The score by Ouellette wrapped up an evening where he scored on both sides of the ball via a big play.

"It's pretty exciting," Ouellette said. "It was important for me and for the team to make plays. I saw the ball coming, read the blocks, and sprinted in. It was very exciting."

Ouellette is back at receiver after filling in for the injured Brown.

"It's better now because it's kinda of what I grew up doing," Ouellette said about returning to his natural position.

Regan Bye led the Vermillion defense with 16 tackles and said the adjustments made at halftime made all the difference.

"We made a big adjustment to just run a 4-4 stack," Bye said. "We just had our middle linebackers play football. We made tackles and when we saw the ball we made it happen. We tackled well."

Polls in the Tanager midst

The newest KELO/KBHB/Yankton Press & Dakotan HSFB Poll was released Monday and the Vermillion Tanagers are gaining some attention so far in the early going.

Following it's 26-20 win Friday over Lennox, the Vermillion High School squad is on the outside looking in on one of the 11A Top 5 having received five poll votes to be considered the highest placed team outside the rankings.

Week 2 opponents West Central (1-0) are the top-ranked Class A squad.

Class 11A Top 5
• West Central, 2.
Madison, 3. Tea Area, 4. Dell Rapids, 5. Hot Springs.

THIS WEEK'S STATEWIDE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT. 5	
Irene-Wakonda at Alcester-Hudson	Highmore-Harrold at Lower Brule
Colome at Andes Central	Philip at Lyman
Gregory at Avon	Tea Area at Madison
Spearfish at Belle Fourche	Burke/South Central at Marty Indian
Custer at Bennett County	Wagner at McCook Central/Montrose
Sioux Falls Christian at Beresford	Freeman at Menno/Marion
Warner at Britton-Hecla	Tiospa Zina at Milbank Area
Aberdeen Central at Brookings	McLaughlin at Miller
Bridgewater-Emerly/Ethan at Canistota	Woonsoket/Wess. Springs/Sanborn Central at Mt. Vernon/Plankinton
Parkston at Canton	White River at New Underwood
Baltic at Centerville	Elkton-Lake Benton at Oldham-Ramona/Rutland
Crow Creek at Cheyenne-Eagle Butte	Rapid City Central at Pierre T.F. Riggs
Arlington at De Smet/Iroquois	Red Cloud at Pine Ridge
Dell Rapids St. Mary at Deubrook Area	Sully Buttes at Potter County
Wilmot at Deuel	Sisseton at Redfield/Doland
Tri-Valley at Elk Point-Jefferson	Sioux Falls Washington at Sioux Falls Roosevelt
Colman-Egan at Estelline	Todd County at St. Francis Indian
Leola/Frederick at Eureka/Bowdle	Douglas at Sturgis Brown
Bison at Faith	Lemmon/McIntosh at Timber Lake
Sunshine Bible Academy at Faulkton Area	Scotland at Tripp-Delmont/Armour
Viborg-Hurley at Garretson	Florence/Henry at Tri-State
Aberdeen Roncalli at Grotton Area	Jones County at Wall
Clark/Willow Lake at Hamlin	Great Plains Lutheran at Waubay/Summit
Hill City at Harding County	Webster Area at Waverly-South Shore
Rapid City Christian at Hay Springs, Nebraska	Bon Homme at Winner
Chester Area at Howard	Hanson at Wolsey-Wessington
Hitchcock-Tulare at Ipswich/Edmunds Central	Rapid City Stevens at Yankton
Platte-Geddes/Dakota Christian at Kimball/White Lake	SEPT. 6
Castlewood at Lake Preston	Huron at Brandon Valley
Northwestern at Langford Area	Mitchell at Harrisburg
Dakota Valley at Lennox	Edgemont at Newell
Lead-Deadwood at Little Wound	Sioux Falls Lincoln at Sioux Falls O'Gorman
	Hot Springs at St. Thomas More

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