

Cross Country Takes To The Road At Beresford

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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A rainy day may have caused alterations in the route, but the Vermillion High School cross country team opened the season last Friday at the Beresford Invite.

"Normally it's a beautiful, nice rolling course on the nice soft grass and instead we got to run the road race course," said Vermillion head coach Kelly Fishback. "It's what we had to do last year, too. They said their two biggest rains in the last two years have been the night before we're supposed to run this meet."

The course typically takes runners through the Bridges at Beresford Golf Course over soft grass and small rolling hills, but due to the abundance

of moisture, the course was changed to paved streets and finishing on the track.

"They normally would wear spikes in the grass, so they weren't able to wear spikes at all and it kind of threw them off," Fishback said. "We didn't have any warning we were running on the road, so just a mental thing, too. I thought they handled things well, as far as the change of course."

The teams adjusted to the change in course and Tanager boys' team ran for an eighth place finish while the girls took ninth. A total of 27 teams from South Dakota and Minnesota participated in the meet.

Sophomore Maddie Lavin placed the highest of all the Vermillion runners with a fifth place and a time of 19:52.93.

"(Lavin) was fourth when she went by me with about 1,000 meters to go and a girl from Minnesota caught her," Fishback said. "But way ahead of where she was a year ago. She looked much stronger."

Freshman Rachel Brady ran a 22:37.42 and sophomore Melissa Mikelson finished in 23:18.30.

Vermillion entered the only two seventh graders in the 68-runner field with Taryn Wisler running 23:47.35, and Sadie Pederson running 24:43.93.

"Taryn Wisler and Sadie Pederson (competed) in their first races ever and they stepped up," Fishback said. "Sadie has never even been to a cross country meet and Taryn has been to a couple, so this is a pretty elite field



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/PD
Sophomore Maddie Lavin placed the highest of all the Vermillion runners with a fifth place and a time of 19:52.93.

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Tanagers Drop Heartbreaker In Lennox



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Vermillion High School junior Amanda Finnegan in Tuesday night's volleyball match in Lennox.

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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LENNOX – In a back and forth dog fight, the Tanagers fell to the Lennox Orioles 3-2 in a five set (17-25, 25-13, 26-24, 23-25, 13-15) rally at the season opening match for the Vermillion High School volleyball team.

"They fought hard," said Vermillion head coach Gabi Jarchow. "They did exactly what we've been working on. We just have to learn to push through to the finish."

Vermillion bounced back after losing the first set 25-17 to take set two 25-23.

"We just started off rough," Jarchow said. "I think we just had some jitters. We came back after we got some points rolling, but we just didn't have enough to quite finish it."

The teams alternated leads in the set, but thanks to a kill by Vermillion senior Kayla Stammer, the Tanagers took the final lead at 22-21 and went on to win the set 25-23 to tie the match at 1 each.

"The second set, I told them we've got our jitters out and now it's time to play our game and they did step

up and play their game and they fought to the end like we've been working on at practice."

Sets three and four were much like the second as both teams were neck and neck with points. The largest margin in the set was a 9-2 Vermillion thanks to a few aces from junior Amanda Finnegan. Lennox rallied to tie it up, but Vermillion took the final lead at 15-14 off an ace from junior Kyleigh Moran.

Moran added two kills and a block as Vermillion won the third set 26-24.

Lennox forced a fifth set by taking the fourth 25-23. The Orioles had the lead throughout and took a 22-16 lead. Vermillion battled back to tie it 23-23, but couldn't gain the lead.

"Fourth set I feel like we lost our control of the game," Jarchow said. "We started just not passing very well, not controlling what we can do on our court and we were giving them points."

In the final set, Vermillion held the lead until Lennox tied it at 13-13. The Orioles jumped ahead 14-13 and went on to win 15-13.

"We just couldn't finish, but we just needed to control what we were doing and not give them free points by making errors," Jarchow said.

Junior Kaci Madsen had 10 kills and three blocks in the match. Sophomore Emily Bye had 25 digs and Moran recorded 25 set assists.

"They fought hard," Jarchow said. "They did exactly what we've been working on. We just have to learn to push through to the finish. We got to get them in more situations where they are out of system and kind of frazzled so we know how to work through that in tough games like this and finish."

On Saturday, The Tanagers travel to the Laverne Invite (Minnesota) and return to action Tuesday against Bon Homme for the home opener with junior varsity beginning at 6:15 p.m. and varsity scheduled to start at 7:30.

Softball Ranked No. 4 In State, Double Wins From Last Season

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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In the first four games of the season, the Vermillion High School softball team has doubled the number of wins from last year.

The Tanagers were recently ranked No. 4 in the High School Coaches Poll in Class A with nine votes, tied with West Central. Lennox was ranked No. 1 with 22 points. In the opening weekend on Aug. 23, Lennox defeated Vermillion 14-8.

"They get better every weekend and the high school softball community is noticing," said Vermillion head coach Josh Wood. "Ranked fourth in the state in week one, (and we) just beat No. 3, it will be interesting to see where they land."

On Sunday, Vermillion defeated No. 3 ranked Madison 2-1 in the first game of a doubleheader on Sunday in Madison. Game two was played against Watertown.

"Madison is a good team with a good program," coach Wood said. "It was nice to see our girls learn from the game versus Lennox last week and relax to play our defensive game even in a 2-1 game."

In the first inning, Sydney Furry hit a two-out triple to the fence in left field. With Kiley Wood at bat, Madison threw a pitch in the dirt on a 3-2 count. Furry scrambled home for a 1-0 lead.

Madison tied the game in the top of the second inning, but Vermillion regained the lead in the bottom half from a double by Morgan Halverson to score Maddie Treiber, who reached base from a walk.

The next nine straight batters were retired to end the game with a 2-1 Vermillion win.

Halverson, Furry and Wood each recorded Vermillion's three hits in the game. Treiber pitched a complete game for the win and allowed one hit with two walks and three strikeouts.

"(I was) glad to see our girls step up and win one like this," coach Wood said. "One hundred percent effort from every kid, 100 percent of the time with everyone moving and 'in the game' really makes a difference. I'm very proud of their commitment to team defense."

In game two, Vermillion bats couldn't keep up with Watertown as the Tanagers fell 13-3 in four innings.

Vermillion was down 3-0 in the top of the second inning when Wood made it a two-run game by scoring off a double from Treiber. Watertown answered with four runs in the bottom of the inning for a 7-1 lead.

Vermillion managed its second run of the game in the third inning when Kara Mulheron scored on a wild pitch.

"(A) 7-3 (score) going into the bottom of the fourth versus Watertown was a good start," coach Wood said. "Unfortunately, a couple of bad bounces and ending (the game) with the second critical injury of the game was disappointing."

In the fourth, Treiber's double again scored Wood for a 7-4 Watertown lead.

Watertown put six more on the board in the bottom half of the inning, the last coming from a collision at home plate that injured Mulheron. Vermillion's catcher. The game ended at that point due to the 10-run difference and to attend to the injury.

"I really would have liked to let our girls bat one more time," coach Wood said. "They have a history of really coming back offensively when the opposing team has done something to threaten one of their teammates."

Treiber and Wood went 2-for-2 in the game and Sierra Furry was 1-for-2. Treiber pitched a complete game giving up eight hits, two walks and four strikeouts.

"These girls are using grit and teamwork to win and build confidence," coach Wood said. "Like they say, it's not where you start, but where you finish and while I'm happy with the start. I'm very interested to see just how good these girls can be by the time State Tournament comes around. I wouldn't put anything past these girls. When they get on a roll they are very strong both offensively and defensively."

Vermillion returns to action on Sunday, Sept. 12 with a double header in Yankton. Game one begins at 12:30 p.m. against Yankton followed by a 2 p.m. start against Dakota Valley.

Williams Medals At Lennox Dual

BY MARK UPWARD
For The Plain Talk

Cooper Williams led the field at the Lennox dual Tuesday as his 39 edged out Lennox's Preston Lauters' 40 by one stroke. In the team competition, the Tanagers squeaked out a 173 to Lennox's 176 to win.

"I felt we played good enough to win yesterday, but as a coach, I was hoping that we would step up a notch and play much better as a team," said head Coach Kirk Hogen. "Cooper had a tough start, but he was able to get back into the match mentally and shoot a 39."

The Tanagers need

to take this dual win and expand on it as they enter into some competition next week. Tuesday, Sept. 8, the Tanagers will be playing in the rescheduled West Central Invitational, Thursday hosting the Tanager Invitational at the Bluffs and then Friday the 11th at the Sioux Falls Christian Invitational held at the Spring Creek golf course.

"I'm excited about the invites coming up on two courses that the team hasn't played before," said Hogen. "We need to learn to hit the shot we need, not to just play the courses that we know."

The results for the West Central dual had the

Tanagers shooting a 173 with individual performances of Williams (39), Paul Schwasinger (43), Sam Craig (51), Cole Anderson (44), Ryne Whisler (47) and Hunter Lavin (47).

The Lennox Orioles individual golfers were Lauters (40), Devon Jongeling (44), Marshal McLaren (50), Tyler Johnson (54), Brady Krump (46) and Eli Cinco (46).

The Lennox junior varsity team defeated the Tanagers 193 to 229. Individual golfers for the Vermillion JV include Sam Ward, Brady Martinez, Billy Radigan, Devin Anderson, Cody Matles and Josh Bern.

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