

Kansas State Rolls Past South Dakota

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Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Kansas State kicked off its season in dominating fashion Saturday, notching a 34-0 win over South Dakota. What stood out to Kansas State head coach Bill Snyder, however, was the abundance of room for improvement.

"It was great to get a shutout," Snyder said. "No matter who you line up and play against, those are not easy to come by in this day and age, so I was proud (that) as iffy as we played defensively that we still managed to do that. That was a plus."

Kansas State overwhelmed its FCS opponent from the first play of the game, when Morgan Burns returned the opening kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown. The coach had a unique takeaway from that play, one of the most electric of the game.

"What I saw was we missed a block," Snyder said, "but we managed to still - we missed a double-team block, everybody else did a nice job and helped him immensely, and obviously he did a nice job as well."

The most visible negative for the Wildcats, however, was the loss of starting quarterback Jesse Ertz, who came up limping after only two snaps. He was replaced by Joe Hubener, who completed 9 of 18 attempts for 147 yards and a touchdown.

Dominique Heath led Kansas State receivers with three catches for 54 yards. The Wildcats used a committee ap-

proach in the run game, with Justin Silmon grinding out 51 yards and Charles Jones and Hubener adding 39 and 38, respectively. They also relied heavily on their fullbacks in the red zone, giving the ball eight times to Dimel, who finished with 29 yards and punched in touchdowns from the 2 and the 1.

As he did when talking about the defense and the touchdown return, Snyder hardly went overboard in his praise.

"They ran okay," Snyder said. "I don't think we did anything fantastic. You'd like to think that one guy can't tackle one guy, and yet that happened more often than you'd like for it to. We need to be more aggressive runners."

South Dakota's Ryan Saeger converted 18 of 30 passes for 205 yards, but the Coyotes struggled offensively all game.

"For us to have success we have to get our running game going, and they were too much for us," South Dakota coach Joe Glenn said. "We could not run against them. None of our guys averaged anywhere near what we need to, so it was just total dominance of our running game by a good Kansas State defense."

Kansas State amassed a 24-0 advantage in the first half despite failing to capitalize on a pair of red zone opportunities early.

The first drive led by Hubener included a 35-yard pass and punishing runs by Glenn Gronkowski and Dimel, and the Wildcats made it to the brink of the end zone with about three minutes remaining in the first quarter. Hubener fumbled on the 1-yard line, however, and the Coyotes recovered.

South Dakota did nothing on the ensuing drive and punted from deep in its own territory. Heath reeled off a 31-yard return that set Kansas State up at the 25-yard line. The Wildcats worked their way to the six-yard line before defensive tackle Sean Bredl tipped away a third-down pass to Kyle Klein, and Kansas State had to settle for a field goal.

"We did the things that hurt a lot of offenses," Kansas State tackle Cody Whitehair said. "We had turnovers and penalties, so overall we're not where we want to be yet. We've got a little work to do, and we'll fix that next week."

The Coyotes had several missed scoring chances as well, as they failed to convert on two first-quarter field goal attempts, one from 55 yards and the other from the 42.

Kansas State scored its first offensive touchdown about 6 minutes into the second quarter. With 45 yards between them and the end zone, the Wildcats kept the ball on the ground, handing it to Silmon for three straight rushes of 18, 12 and eight yards and then turning to the fullbacks. Gronkowski bullied his way to the two-yard line, and then Dimel battered in for the score that gave Kansas State a 17-0 lead.

The Wildcats scored again with about six minutes left in the first half. After recovering a fumbled punt return by South Dakota, Kansas State took over on the 24-yard line, and Hubener immediately threw a strike to Deante Burton, who fought off a defender before snagging the ball in the corner of the end zone.

Kansas State is now 22-2 in season openers under Snyder.

Hat Trick Leads South Dakota Over Green Bay

BY JEREMY HOECK
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While on a recruiting trip to North Carolina a year ago, Mandy Green suffered through conditions she calls "the frozen tundra" but remembers being wowed by one player in particular.

It was a small yet speedy forward from Illinois. Her name: Sammie Villwock.

"It was freezing cold but she stood out to me as being one of the best players out there," recalls Green, the University of South Dakota head soccer coach.

The same was true Sunday, this time for Villwock at the Division I level.

A native of Lake Villa, Illinois, Villwock recorded a hat trick - including the game-winner in overtime - as the Coyotes beat Green Bay 4-3 on Sunday afternoon in Vermillion.

As Green said later, it was almost like déjà vu.

"I loved her runs on the ball, and you saw it today," said Green, whose Coyotes (2-4) won for the second outing in a row. "She puts herself in really good positions."

Corey Strang scored USD's first goal Sunday, and Villwock then scored twice in the second half as the Coyotes built a 3-1 lead in the 65th minute. That margin quickly evaporated,

as the Phoenix - of the Horizon League - roared back with a pair of goals within a two-minute span.

Fifty-six seconds into the overtime period, Villwock took a pass to the middle from senior Danielle Anderson and scorched the ball into the net for the game-winning goal.

Having played the game since she was four years old, it was Villwock's first-career hat trick.

"I never expected it to happen. I didn't even expect to score today," she said. "When I got the first one, I was like, 'Yes, finally.'"

"Then the second and third ones came, and I was ecstatic."

Although she wasn't necessarily expected to be an offensive weapon right out of the gates in her college career, Villwock - one of 12 freshmen for the Coyotes - is still trying to find out how best she can help the team.

"Being a freshman, it's hard," she said. "You have to get used to everyone and get used to being on our own for the first time."

And likewise for Villwock's more experienced teammates, they too have had to adjust. It's not exactly easy to suddenly work in 12 newcomers, many of whom have been playing key roles this season.

Three goals from one of those freshmen, on the other

hand, certainly doesn't hurt.

"It just shows you what soccer is, that some people can be on one day and have a big game," senior Taylor Nivala said. "Freshman or senior, we don't care who does it, we just want to win."

Losers in their first four games of the season, the Coyotes have turned a corner.

They followed up Friday's 4-0 shutout of Chicago State with another four-goal outing Sunday, and will take the winning streak down to Texas for this weekend's two games - Friday against Texas Rio Grande Valley and Sunday against Southern Utah.

Have the Coyotes figured some things out?

"Finally, today, this is the team I know and love," Green said. "We just hadn't seen it yet."

"It was nice to finally see us playing like we've been playing in practice."

A lot of that stems from communication, Villwock said. Six games has given the Coyotes enough time to iron some things out during the course of a game.

"It's clicking a lot more. We're figuring out how we all like to play together," Villwock said. "It definitely takes some time with twelve new freshmen. It takes you time to group everything out."

COYOTE SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

ISSAC ALLEN
CROSS COUNTRY



HOMETOWN: Lincoln, Nebraska

DANIELLE ANDERSON
SOCCER



HOMETOWN: Elkhorn, Nebraska

KELSEY BARRETT
CROSS COUNTRY



HOMETOWN: Britton, South Dakota

BRENNA BILLS
SOCCER



HOMETOWN: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

KELSEY BILTOFT
VOLLEYBALL



Middle Blocker
HOMETOWN: Nelson, Nebraska

MILES DEATH
MENS GOLF



HOMETOWN: Plymouth, Minnesota

SYDNEY DIMKE
VOLLEYBALL



Outside Hitter
HOMETOWN: Ham Lake, Minnesota

TEAGAN EBERLE
SOCCER



HOMETOWN: Schaumburg, Illinois

AMBER EICHKORN
CROSS COUNTRY



HOMETOWN: Wichita, Kansas

KAITLYN HASTINGS
VOLLEYBALL



Defensive Specialist
HOMETOWN: New Berlin, Wisconsin

CARLY HOLMSTROM
CROSS COUNTRY



HOMETOWN: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

KASHA MEYER
SOCCER



HOMETOWN: Lincoln, Nebraska

MUBARIK MUSA
CROSS COUNTRY



HOMETOWN: Worthington, Minnesota

TAYLOR NIVALA
SOCCER



HEIGHT: 5-8
HOMETOWN: Andover, Minnesota

JORDAN RYKAL
MENS GOLF



HOMETOWN: Rogers, Minnesota

REBECCA SPARKMAN
SOCCER



HOMETOWN: Eden Prairie, Minnesota

ELENA TSAKAKIS
SOCCER



HOMETOWN: Edina, Minnesota

KATIE WETZSTEIN
CROSS COUNTRY



HOMETOWN: Hudson, Wisconsin