



**SPORTS**

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## Girls' Tennis Wins In Home Opener With Harrisburg



Libby Sykes returns a serve during the flight one doubles match during Vermillion High School's meet against Harrisburg last Thursday in Vermillion.

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

Vermillion High School girl's tennis notched its first win of the season by defeating Harrisburg 5-4 in the first home match of the season last Thursday afternoon.

"The matches were close in skill level and gave our players the opportunity to experience using their skills and technique to control the point," said head coach Betsy Hughes.

Vermillion dominated singles play with Brandi Styles defeating Zoe Donelan at the flight two singles 10-2, Shinayne Whipple defeating Anna Suedbeck 10-3 in flight four, Jane Ni Struckman Johnson defeating Hattie Meyer 10-4 in flight five and Katrina Heles defeating Rebecca Rowenhorst 10-4 in flight six.

In doubles, Struckman Johnson and Whipple played the team of Harmer and Suedbeck to a 10-6 win in flight two.

With the absence of Alex Rosdail, Styles stepped into the flight one

doubles with Libby Sykes and played a close match, but fell to Donelan and Rott 8-10.

Bickett and Heles also played a close match in flight three doubles, but lost to Meyer and Rowenhorst 8-10.

"I am very proud of all the girls," Hughes said. "They played tough and had a great day with a win to show for it."

The team then traveled to Madison to take on Madison and Aberdeen on Tuesday afternoon.

In Madison, Vermillion fell to Aberdeen 0-9 and Madison 1-9.

Sykes pulled out the Tanagers only win in the flight one singles by defeating Alyssa Jones of Madison 10-2.

"The girls are playing tough and improving fast," Hughes said.

The next Vermillion tennis match is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 11, at the Brandon Valley Invite, and then the team returns home to host Madison on Tuesday, Sept. 14.

ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK  
Brandi Styles serves the ball during a flight one doubles match against Harrisburg last Thursday in Vermillion.

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

The Tanagers football team's main focus in this week's game against Dell Rapids was to improve on its running game, and improve they did.

Vermillion High School went from 48 rushing yards in last week's season opener to 204 yards this week in the team's 35-6 loss at home to the Quarriers.

"We wanted to improve overall rushing," said head coach Andy Homan. "We really wanted to get a running game going, so we know we have the confidence doing that."

While the Tanagers were successful in moving the ball, the team still struggled to find the end zone.

Dell Rapids scored on the opening drive with a six-yard pass on a fourth down. Gabe DeJong blocked the field goal attempt and the Quarriers took a 6-0 lead.

## VHS Cross Country Finding Its Stride

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

The Vermillion High School cross country team traveled to two meets this past week beginning last Friday with the Augie Twilight meet in Sioux Falls and wrapping up at the Canton Invite Tuesday afternoon in Canton.

Less than one minute separated the top three finishers at the Canton Invite girls' varsity race at the Hiawatha Golf Course.

Vermillion's Maddie Lavin took home third place with a time of 20:57.05, only 33 second behind second place Marisa Schulz (20:24.42) and 48 second behind first place Josie Heeren (20:09.63) of Elk Point-Jefferson.

Seventh Grader Taryn Whisler finished in the top half of the field at 11th place with 23:32.76 and Sadie Pederson came in at 25:45.17. Kate Develder rounded out Vermillion's varsity girls runners at 26:41.47.

On the boys' side, Caleb De Weerd (17:00.78) was the first to cross the finish line followed closely behind by Derick Peters (17:02.34) of West Central. Lance Van Zee (17:14.55) rounded out the top three.

Justin Sorenson was the top Vermillion runner for the boys' varsity at 18:59.01 for 13th place.

Landon Smith (21:42.05), Cordell Sweeney (21:49.28), Devin O'Neill (22:41.63), Tate Neilson (22:47.03), Riley Palensky (22:51.31) and Nate Bohnsack (23:02.22) all finished for the Tanagers.

In the team scores, Sioux Falls Christian earned first place in both the boys' and girls' sides. The Vermillion girls raced to a third place team score while the boys' took fourth.

Last Friday, the Vermillion cross country team competed at the Augie Twilight at Yankton Trails Park in Sioux Falls.

The girls' varsity team competed with a field of 160 runners on a 2-mile course. Lavin was the top Vermillion racer as the 20th runner to cross the finish line at 11:51.89. Sorenson was the top Vermillion boys' runner on the 3-mile course at 17:11.09.

"Maddie Lavin and Justin Sorensen continue to do what we expect of them as leaders of our team," said Vermillion head coach Kelly Fishback.

Cordell Sweeney (19:15) and Devin O'Neill (20:25) also competed in the boys' varsity field of 171 runners.

Katie Kost made her first appearance for the cross country team this season by running a 14:13 in the varsity race.

Vermillion had a strong showing in the junior varsity races with nine runners between the boys' and girls' teams.

"I am very happy with our younger kids, who are willing to do whatever it takes to help the team," Fishback said.

Neilson was also in his first race of the season at the Augie Twilight with the boys' junior varsity team coming in at 12:39.

Smith finished just in front of teammate Neilson in the junior varsity race at 12:24.

The girls' junior varsity saw Whisler finish 18th in a field of 203 by clocking in at 13:34.

"Taryn Whisler has put together two great races and seems to be getting better with each outing," Fishback said.

Next Thursday, the cross country team travels to Sioux Falls for the Sioux Falls Christian Invite at the Yankton Trails Parking beginning at 4 p.m.

## Tanagers Fall To Dells, But See Improvements



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK  
Junior Nick Svendsen makes a catch in Vermillion High School's home opener against Dell Rapids last Friday. Svendsen made two catches for 32 yards in the game for the Tanagers.

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