

Gilbertson Keeps Tanagers In Game For 1-1 Draw

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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Sophomore goalkeeper Mady Gilbertson came up big late in the game for the Vermillion High School girls' soccer team as the Tanager's held off West Central for a 1-1 draw last Thursday at Cotton Park.

"Our girls would have loved to walk away from a busy two weeks with another win, but they played hard and gave their all," said Vermillion head coach Shannon Fitzsimmons.

The Tanagers dominated first half play with many of offensive opportunities from Autumn Barnett, Natasha Samudzi, Makenna Koble and Maddie Regnerus.

Vermillion took the lead nine minutes into the game when senior Natasha Samudzi crossed the ball to the front of the net on the ground to junior Maddie Regnerus, who finished into the bottom corner of the near post.

The Tanagers threatened all half with multiple crosses and shots on net, including a header from Barnett off a corner kick that hit the cross bar, but were unable to put away a second goal.

Vermillion's defense of Jaida Anderson, Sowmya Ragothaman, Makenna Druecker and Madie Gregoire limited West Central to just two shots in the first half and the team went into half time with a 1-0 lead.

Vermillion held the lead until nine minutes left to play in the game. A handball



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Vermillion High School's Maddie Regnerus takes on a West Central defender last Thursday at Cotton Park. Regnerus had the Tanagers only goal in the 1-1 draw with the Trojans.

gave West Central a free kick just outside the 18-yard box. The kick was placed into the top corner of the far post to tie the game at 1.

West Central pushed offensively in the closing minutes of the game, but couldn't put one away during the run of play as

Gilbertson came up with save after save to limit the Trojans to just one goal. Gilbertson finished the game with five saves.

"Gilbertson played an excellent game in goal for us today," Fitzsimmons said. "She is finding her form and confidence and (that) made

a major difference in the game for us."

Vermillion hosts Tea Area on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Cotton Park beginning at 5 p.m. The Titans handed the Tanagers the only loss of the season, a 3-1 match on Aug. 25.

Volleyball Drops Two Straight

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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The Vermillion High School volleyball team faced a talented Bon Homme team in its home opener Tuesday night following a tough match in South Sioux City, Nebraska last Thursday.

Vermillion kept the first set evenly to start, but Bon Homme began to pull away and went on to defeat Vermillion (25-15, 25-12, 25-17) in three sets.

"Bon Homme had some aggressive hitters which caused us to second guess ourselves on defense," said head coach Gabi Jarchow. "We need to continue to work on being disciplined on defense."

Emily Bye had 21 digs for the defense.

"Emily Bye did a really good job of reading their hitters and getting lots of touches on the ball," Jarchow said.

On offense, Kyliegh Moran had 11 assists while Nicole Klemme had six kills and Kaci Madsen had four.

"We struggled with our serving tonight which made it hard for us to get momentum in the game," Jarchow said.

Last Thursday, the Tanagers also struggled to find their momentum, according to Jarchow.

"We struggled to gain momentum in the game due to South Sioux City's tough servers," she said.

South Sioux City went on to defeat Vermillion 25-18, 25-22, 25-14 in three sets.

"We did a better job of being more aggressive on out of system balls instead of giving free balls to them," Jarchow said.

Moran recorded 10 assists in the game and Klemme had four kills. Bye had 15 digs.

On Saturday, the Tanagers travel to the Luverne Invite in Luverne, Minnesota for a tournament. The next home match is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 7:30 p.m.



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Junior Nicole Klemme in the Vermillion High School volleyball home opener against Bom Homme Tuesday night.

Golf 4th at West Central and SF Christian

BY MARK UPWARD

For The Plain Talk

The Vermillion boy's golf team saw plenty of action over the Labor Day Weekend as they competed last Friday, Sept. 4, in the West Central Early Bird Invitational at the Central Valley Golf Course in Hartford and then Tuesday at the Sioux Falls Christian Invitational held at the Spring Creek Golf Course in Sioux Falls.

In Tuesday's action, the Vermillion Tanagers shot a team score of 343 and finished in fourth place behind Parkston (311), Sioux Falls Christian (335), Dell Rapids (340). The remaining teams in the tournament were Canton (346), Sioux Valley (358), Elk Point-Jefferson (371), Beresford (374), Lennox (376), Dakota Valley (405), West Central (424) and Tri-Valley (431).

The Tanagers were led by junior Cooper Williams' 37 on the first nine and 42 on the second nine. Cooper's 79 was good enough to place third in the individual competition.

"It seems that every match we go to comes out the same," said Vermillion coach Kirk Hogen. "We always seem to finish in the top 25 percent in each tournament, but we just can't break into the top two spots."

The remaining Tanager golfers in the Sioux Falls Christian Invitational were Paul Schwasinger (88), Cole Anderson (88), Ryne Whisler (88), Hunter Lavin (96) and Sam Craig (97).

"We need to cut eight strokes off our team score," said Hogen. "This is very attainable for us as a team. Eight strokes would make us very competitive with everyone in our region."

In the re-scheduled West Central match, the Vermillion Tanagers finished in fourth place behind first place Dell Rapids (336), second place Dakota Valley (339) and third place Tea Area (345).

Individually for the Tanagers, Cooper Williams finish in fifth place with an 83, Cole Anderson's 87 was good enough for 16th and Paul Schwasinger's 89 placed Schwasinger in 19th. Other Tanagers competing in the invitational were Ryne Whisler (19th - 89), Hunter Lavin (25th-92) and Sam Craig (33rd-101).

"This group of guys didn't play in a lot of competitive tournaments this summer, so it is taking us a while to find the competitive game that we need," said Hogen. "I feel good about these guys, but we need to find that competitive game soon."

The next action for the boy's golf team will be on Sept. 10 as they host the Tanager Invitational at the Vermillion Bluffs Golf Course. Complete results will be in next week's Plain Talk.

Boys' Soccer Shuts Out Hot Springs

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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The Vermillion High School boys' soccer team now has one in the win column after downing Hot Springs 2-0 at Cotton Park last Friday.

"I think the (first) two games were so competitive and close that we should have played better and we would have been in a better position going into our third game, but it is a good feeling to get a win after putting in a good week of training and putting in a solid 80 minutes of play, so it was well deserved, I thought," said head coach Curt Nelson.

The win comes after a winless two games to start the season, but the team is finding it's groove and the improvements are coming quick following a 1-0 loss to Freeman Academy to open the season and a 3-3 draw with Groton in game two.

In the first half, junior Seth Druin scored with about 20 minutes to play in the half off an assist from freshman Wyatt Loftus.

"We played really strong opening couple minutes," Nelson said.

The Tanagers added another goal with five minutes to go in the game. Senior Andrew Callahan headed the ball into the back of the net off a corner kick from senior Daniel Robinson for a comfortable 2-0 lead to end the game.

"I thought we played a solid 80 minutes today versus our first two games, we kind of played well in spurts," Nelson said. "I think we worked well for the whole 80 minutes today and we got the result that we wanted today."

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Cost Of Attendance A 'Necessary Move' At USD

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Nine years ago Jim Abbott proclaimed that University of South Dakota athletes and fans "deserve a competitive experience."

That was during an announcement that USD would be making the move to Division I.

As the next decade has progressed and regional schools began offering what is referred to as "cost of attendance," Abbott - USD's president - said he realized his university needed to keep pace.

"It seems to be a necessary move to meet the competition," Abbott told the Press & Dakotan on Friday, hours after USD announced it will provide cost of attendance stipends in all 17 sports beginning with the 2016-17 season.

The additional aid for Coyote student-athletes is a sign, the president said, that USD is committed to succeeding at the D-I level.

"I don't see much point going into a machine gun fight with a bow and arrow," Abbott said. "If it's a machine gun fight, you want to be able to be equal to the competition."

And to that end, USD becomes the fourth FCS school - third in the Dakotas - to make such an announcement. Liberty (Virginia) was the first, and North Dakota State and the University of North Dakota followed suit.

While there may have been a rush to keep pace, USD had already planned to offer cost of attendance, as athletic director David Herbster said last week. It was just a matter of getting all the ducks in a row.

And once they were - after consultation with Vice President of Finance (Sheila Gestring), as well as financial aid officers and Herbster - USD forged ahead.

"It would've been easy to sit back and say we're not there yet, and make some excuses, but they didn't do that," said Lucky Huber, USD's director of track and cross country.

"We made a commitment to be the best Division I school we can be, and we have to appeal them for that."

What does Friday's announcement mean?

Put simply, cost of attendance is the gap between the full cost of attending a school and the value of tuition, fees, boarding, and textbooks - the traditional definition of a scholarship.

Adopted on Aug. 1, new NCAA rules now allow for scholarships to include expenses such as academic-related supplies, transportation and other personal incidentals.

In the case of USD, those benefits would be valued up to \$4,145 per full scholarship, which is approximately 46 percent of the overall athletic department budget, according to

Herbster.

"At the end of the day, this is a commitment to the program, and to the student-athletes," Herbster said.

While each situation is a "moving target" as Herbster put it (not every scenario will require the full amount), the max impact on the athletic department budget would be \$775,115 - realistically, less than that, for the 187 total scholarships.

How will USD go about raising that money? Donations, Abbott said.

"I have every reason to believe our athletic boosters; the Howling Pack, will step up like they always have to make sure we remain competitive," he said.

Although certain amenities like a new weight room & sports medicine space, and cost of attendance don't necessarily translate directly to improved success, they are all recruiting tools that allow USD coaches to compete on the same level as other schools that offer cost of attendance.

Certain sports like football and basketball may not always be competing for an athlete against Power 5 schools, but sports like track, for example, that may be more common.

"It's a big step; a bit commitment," Huber said. "We've been able to compete at this level, and in order to do that, we have to do this."

Facilities and an extra \$350 a month for other expenses may not be the main factor for an athlete deciding on a school, but it's certainly part of the decision.

"You want to make sure you give our coaches the resources necessary," Herbster said. "At the same time, this is a portion of it."

"It's one component; but a big one, sure."

As is the case in recruiting, the key is keeping pace.

"You want to be to be able to recruit head and head, and unless you're satisfied with being less than competitive, you rise to meet the competition," Abbott said.

When you're a college athlete, particularly at the Division I level, it can be a challenge to find the time to earn some extra money - with the academic and athletic requirements. The cost of attendance money can alleviate that stress for athletes, according to Huber.

"Even these kids that go home for the summer, they're training all summer, so this really helps them be able to off-set that," Huber said. "It helps them understand that we're serious and we're supporting you; that you shouldn't have to go find a part-time job to make some money."

And that little extra money circles back to the commitment from the school, Abbott said.

"I'm happy with our student-athletes, they devote an incredible amount of time outside the classroom, so I'm glad we can give them a little more," he said.