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Tanagers Roll Past DV For First Win

Face #1 Madison Tonight

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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The Vermillion Tanagers required an extra period when they travelled to Dakota Valley last Friday looking for their first win of the season but behind a big defensive play and strong determination they pulled out their first win of the season, defeating the Panthers by a score of 36-34.

The Panthers and the Tanagers were evenly matched in the first quarter with both teams putting one score on the board.

The Panthers jumped ahead in the second quarter and the Tanagers fell to a 20-6 half-time deficit with the only score of the first half coming from a Carter Kratz connection with Matt Ouellette for a 80-yard score.

However, following the half, they came out ready to play.

In the third quarter the Tanagers dominated on both sides of the ball.

The first connection of the quarter came when Kratz found Ouellette for their second touchdown of the game, this one going for 65-yards. The Tanager defense stepped up forcing Dakota Valley to punt the ball.

Then the Tanagers began their second scoring drive of the quarter, this time Kratz connecting with Nick Svensen on a 30-yard reception.

Following the failed 2-point conversion attempt, the defense again stepped up behind the efforts of Mitchell Sand who had 10.5 tackles, Gabe DeJong with 7 tackles and Trey Hage with 6.5 tackles in the game.

"We didn't really say anything different at half time," said coach Andy Homan. "We just told the guys to go out there and play, and they really responded. I have been telling the team all year that we have a lot of talent on the team it was just a matter of us putting it all together. Tonight, they put it all together and I am very proud of them."

Heading into the fourth quarter with the score tied 20-20, the Tanagers again got on the board, taking their first lead of the game when Noah Walker took a Kratz hand off four yards for the rushing touchdown. Kratz and Ouellette connected for the 2-point conversion giving the tanagers a 28-20 lead.

The two teams went back and forth for the next few minutes until the Panthers were finally able to find some momentum and quarterback Luke Schmitt connected with Ryan Owens on a 6-yard touchdown, followed by a 2-point conversion of their own tying the game at 28-28, sending the game to overtime.

"I was very proud of our guys going into overtime," Homan said. "It would have been very easy to give up and fold, but instead they came to me and said let's keep running this play, it is working. You have to trust your kids when they come to you and give them the opportunity to complete the play, and they did."

In the overtime period, the Panthers won the toss and chose to play offense first.

Playing up the middle, Dakota Valley gave the ball to



SHAUNA MARLETTE/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Carter Kratz had a career day passing in Friday's game at Dakota Valley, going for more than 340 yards.

Robert Rosenquist who ran it up the middle for the score. However, on the 2-point conversion attempt, the Tanagers defense came up with a huge stop.

"We really just were all playing well," said Logan Peterson who had 4.5 tackles in the game as well as 122 yards receiving in the game. "We all trust each other and we knew we had to get the stop. It is a great feeling to know that we were all working together and that we trusted each other to do what we needed to do."

When the Tanagers took over for their possession in overtime, Homan let his team lead with what they said was working; letting Kratz take the attempt for the quarterback keeper from 5-yards out and the score to tie the game. The 2-point conversion was close, very close, but Kratz was able to again sneak in for the score and the victory 36-34.

"This was just a great game for us," said Ouellette. "We all stepped up and were able to work together to get the win. It is a great fun victory and I think we will be able to build on it."

Statistically on offense Kratz led the way for the Tanagers throwing for three touchdowns and rushing for the overtime score. He finished with 348 yards passing, including touchdown passes of 70 and 65 yards to Ouellette, who caught six passes for 152 yards. Nick Svendsen also caught a touchdown pass from Kratz. Noah Walker scored the other Tanager touchdown on a 1-yard

dive. In addition to Petersons 122 yards, Rylan Pratt pulled in 56 yards receiving.

For the Panthers Schmidt passed for 168 yards and two scores, and Rosenquist rushed for 118 yards and two scores. Tyler Johnson caught 10 passes for 100 yards and a score. Austin Carter scored the other Panther touchdown.

Brady Glissman and Bennett Chesterman each recorded 10 tackles for Dakota Valley, with Glissman also recording an interception.

"It was great to see the emotion from our players out there on the field tonight," Homan said. "It is great to get this first win of the season going into homecoming week, but it doesn't get any easier next week when we host Madison."

The Tanagers will face off against the Bulldogs in the DakotaDome at 7:30 p.m. tonight (Friday).

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Tanagers Bring Home Medals

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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Vermillion's Maddie Lavin and Justin Sorenson each took home two medals in as many meets this week when the Vermillion High School cross country team competed in the Charger Invite in Sioux Falls last Thursday and the Alcester-Hudson Invitational meet Monday afternoon.

Lavin took first place Tuesday at Alcester-Hudson with a time of 20:09.27, beating out second place Micah VanKalsbeek (20:38.26) of Sioux Falls Christian by almost 30 seconds.

"It was good to see Maddie take control of the race from the beginning," said head coach Kelly Fishback.

Robin Stark of Elk Point-Jefferson placed third at 20:56.37.

Taryn Whisler also took home a medal on Monday as the 11th runner to cross the finish line in a time of 22:06.16.

"Taryn had a great last half mile," Fishback said.

Melissa Mikkelson (24:05.28) and Sadie Peterson (24:28.62) also competed for the Tanagers in the girls' varsity race, who placed second as a team behind Sioux Falls Christian.

In the boys' varsity race, Sorenson placed sixth at 18:09.90 to bring home a medal and his first top 10 finish of the season.

Noah Abraham (17:14.32) and Connor VanderHaar (17:24.14) both of Sioux Falls Christian placed first and second respectively in the boys' varsity race. Caden Ideker (17:49.44) of West Central took third.

Tate Neilson (19.46.35), Nate Bohnsack (20.02.76), Riley Palensky (20.05.23), Cordell Seeney (20.31.87) and Landon Smith (21.18.34) all competed for Vermillion in the boys' varsity race.

"We had very strong performances from our young boys runners, with Tate Nielsen, Nate Bohnsack and Riley Palensky all running very strong in the varsity division," Fishback said.

The Vermillion boys' team placed sixth out of eight at the meet.

Kate Develder medaled in the girls' junior varsity race with a time of 20:23.87 and Hannah Gruhn ran for a time of 21:10.64.

"Develder took home her first career medal and Gruhn had a very strong last mile, passing several runners to finish just out of the medals in 17th," Fishback said.

Nick Doty also earned his first career medal in the boys' junior varsity race finishing 14th at 16:45.43. Yan Xu (18.05.28) and Adriel Blue



COURTESY PHOTO

Vermillion's Justin Sorenson took home two medals this past week at the Charger Invite and Alcest-Hudson cross country meets.