

Golf Ties For 6th At Dak XII Meet

BY MARK UPWARD
For the Plaintiff

It was a great day for golf as the Tanagers headed into the Dakota XII conference meet last Monday in Dell Rapids. The final standings took an interesting turn when there was a three way tie for first place between Dakota Valley, Madison and Canton – all shooting a team score of 345. Sioux Falls Christian was only one stroke out of the first place grouping when they finished at 346. Elk Point-Jefferson finished a short distance behind in fifth place with a 350. Host Dell Rapids and Vermillion both shot a team score of 352 to finish tied for sixth. The remainder of the teams in the tournament were West Central (359), Tea Area (372), Beresford (377), Lennox (399) and Tri Valley (443). Ty Hoglund was the medalist for the Dakota XII as he posted a 76 on his home course. The next four individuals were Adam Roskam (Canton), Easton Keuck (Elk Point-Jefferson), Jameson Bull (Dakota Valley) and Tanner Burg (Madison).

“After the Dell Rapids Invite, we have been holding our own, but we need to start improving more as we move into the postseason,” said Vermillion coach Kirk Hogen. “We need to find that mental toughness that everyone needs at this time of the season.”

Junior Cooper Williams was the low score for the Tanagers as he posted an 86 on the Dell Rapids course. Williams’ 86 put him in a five way tie for ninth place. Right behind Williams was senior Cole Anderson. Anderson’s 87 was good enough to put him into a five way tie for ninth place.

The remaining Tanagers were eighth grader Hunter Lavin (89) which put him in 20th place. Freshman Ryne Whisler posted a 93 while seniors Paul Schwasinger and Sam Craig shot scores of 90 and 98, respectively.

“We put a dual with Dakota Valley into our schedule this year for this Thursday (Sept. 24) and I’m glad we did,” said Hogen. “This will be a great tune up match for us as we head into our Region Meet on Monday.”

In the region golf meet, nine of the teams in the Dakota XII Conference meet will challenge each other one more time on the Bakker Crossing Golf Course in Sioux Falls this Monday, Sept. 28. The lowest three team scores at regions will qualify automatically for the state golf meet. In addition to the best three scores at region, any team having four golfers who qualify as individuals will be entered in the team championship play.

The boys’ 11A golf tournament will be hosted by Milbank on Oct. 5 and 6.

Volleyball Earns Season’s First Win

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

The Vermillion High School volleyball team had another busy week as the team participated in the Bon Homme Invitational Tournament with three matches then traveled to Tea Area Tuesday night.

Vermillion earned it’s first win of the season at the Bon Homme tournament where the team came away with one win and two losses.

“The girls served aggressive which got other teams out of system,” said head coach Gabi Jarchow. “The girls played with lots of energy and together as a team.”

The win came in the second game against Avon in three sets 25-15, 21-25, 25-15.

Nicole Klemme had five aces while Haleigh Melstad had five kills. Kyleigh Moran had 11 assists and Kayla Stammer contributed four. Emily Bye had 16 digs.

In the opening game of the tournament, the Tanagers faced a talented Northwestern team who won in two sets 15-25, 12-25.

Moran had two aces and four assists in the match. Amanda Finnegan has two kills and Stammer had one assist. Bye recorded 11 digs.

Vermillion closed out the tournament with a close match with Platte-Geddes. The match went three sets and ended 25-12, 12-25, 22-25 in favor of the Panthers after a few communication errors at the end of the game, according to Jarchow.

Klemme, Bye and Hannah Lunning each had two aces. Moran had four assists and Stammer had three. Kaci Madsen had three kills and four blocks, two solo and two assisted, and Bye recorded nine digs.

Tuesday night in Tea, Vermillion fought a tough battle, but the Titans came out on top 18-25, 21-25, 23-25 in three sets.

“The girls did a good job of fighting hard against the Titans,” Jarchow said. “We were neck and neck with them in game two and had the lead by four most of the third game but were unable to win.”

Bye recorded four aces and 13 digs. Madsen had six kills and Moran had 11 assists.

The Tanagers continue play Monday night when Vermillion hosts Wagner at 7:30 p.m. then travel to Sioux Falls Tuesday night for a match against Sioux Falls Christian at 7 p.m.

Girls’ Tennis Falls To Yankton

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

The Vermillion High School girls’ tennis team saw just one win in the team’s 8-1 loss to Yankton in last Thursday’s final home match of the season.

“The girls are struggling to bring what they know they should bring to their play in matches and settling into habits of holding back rather than putting it on the line,” said head coach Betsy Hughes.

Vermillion’s Alex Rosdail defeated Yankton’s Brenna Becker 6-3, 6-3 at the flight three singles for the lone victory.

The next closest matches came from Brandi Styles at flight two singles who fell to Mimi Garcia 6-3, 6-1 and Jane Ni Struckman- Johnson who went 1-6, 3-6 to Adrienne Kusek at flight five singles.

In doubles play, Libby Sykes and Rosdail were defeated by Anne Knoff and Becker 6-2, 6-1 at flight one and Struckman-Johnson and Katrine Heles fell 6-1, 6-2 to Olivia Tennant and Kusek at flight three.

The girls’ tennis team has two matches left to prepare for the state tournament in Sioux Falls beginning on Oct. 8. The team travels to Mitchell on Monday then to Sioux Falls on Thursday for the Sioux Falls Washington, Sioux Falls Lincoln and Roncalli quadrangular.

“With the state tournament in a few weeks, I was hoping to see more things coming together for our players during their matches,” Hughes said. “We are working hard this week as we have no matches scheduled. We are going to get back to the basics of being in shape, ground strokes and serves.”

South Dakota Blanks Drake 52-0 In Home Opener

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Joe Glenn said he saw signs of something special on the way Saturday. He called it a “spark.”

His University of South Dakota football team was coming off a rare road win, at UC Davis, and had looked going doing it.

The Coyotes then hit another gear by blanking non-scholarship Drake 52-0 in Saturday’s home opener at the DakotaDome. The win marked USD’s first shutout of a Division I opponent — and first shutout since 2011.

“I thought our kids played with so much soul and so much spirit, and a love for the game,” said Glenn, whose Coyotes (2-1) now have a week off before beginning conference play.

For USD, it was a similar recipe from a week ago: A strong run game, an aggressive defense and improved special teams.

It was also a rare chance for USD to show off its run game, an aggressive defense and improved special teams.

Facing a Drake defense that limited North Dakota to 25 yards on the ground the week before, the Coyotes ran wild Saturday, to the tune of 296 yards and five touchdowns.

“After seeing what they did to North Dakota, the running backs and offensive line really wanted to make it a point of emphasis to get a lot of yards,” said junior Trevor Bouma, who ran for 117 yards and three scores.

With their defense keeping Drake (1-2) in check, the Coyotes took advantage of some strong special teams play to lessen the pressure on the offense.

Paul Anderson twice nearly returned a punt for a touchdown, and seemingly every drive for USD began in Drake territory.

Those three areas put together resulted in a one-sided affair.

“I think it’s been a while since we’ve been on a little win streak, a couple years for sure,” said junior quarterback Ryan Saeger, who passed for 157 yards and two touchdowns.

The Coyotes may have been satisfied with a win of any kind, but an outcome like Saturday certainly produced more smiles in the post-game press conference.

“I don’t remember being relaxed

during a football game in a long time,” Glenn said.

Drake — which was forced to use its backup quarterback — had serious chances to score on back-to-back drives in the third quarter, but a missed field goal and later a fumble at the USD 10-yard line squandered those opportunities.

The Bulldogs then had a 31-yard field goal blocked midway through the fourth quarter — further proof that it was USD’s day.

“It’s a great feeling,” junior safety Jacob Warner said. “Any time you’re up big in a game, you want to keep that going.”

Now three games into the season, USD’s new four-man defensive front seems to be a key reason while the Coyotes have come out of the gates strong, Warner said.

Included in USD’s attack Saturday



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/PRESS AND DAKOTAN
South Dakota’s Nick Meyer, 13, is congratulated by teammate Eric Shufford after a first half touchdown during the Coyotes’ victory over Drake on Saturday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

were two interceptions (and about a half-dozen other near picks), nine tackles for loss (two sacks, both by Andrew Van Ginkel) and a fumble recovery.

“A big difference is our pass rush,” Warner said. “It’s gotten so much better.

“When the quarterback is hurried and rushed, that obviously helps a lot. It builds up your confidence.”

And that’s confidence that will no doubt come in handy for the Missouri Valley Football Conference schedule. The Coyotes will host Youngstown State on Oct. 3.

“The last two weeks have been great wins for us,” Bouma said. “Us three leaders (he, Saeger and Warner) have to keep the team focused, because we have a good team coming in here in two weeks.”

Girls’ Soccer Ready For Postseason

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

A positive attitude will be the key factor for the Vermillion High School girls’ soccer team as they head into post season action this coming week.

At least that’s according to the head coach Shannon Fitzsimmons, who believes that was one of the most important elements that lead the Tanagers to a 7-1-1 regular season record.

“The girls play because they enjoy the game,” she said. “I would like to see that enjoyment carried over into the post season, because I believe our positive attitudes are what led us to a winning record.”

The Tanagers are entering the postseason coming off a seven game undefeated streak, six wins and one draw, and will have two full weeks of practices to prepare for the first game.

“The running theme this week is practicing with purpose,” Fitzsimmons said. “We are keeping our minds and bodies focused on preparing for our first play-off game, which keeps the girls motivated to continue improving during this last week of practice.”

The final seedings for the state tournament are not finalized because some teams have games still remaining in the season, but the Tanagers are likely to face a team from West River. Schools that are virtually unknown to Vermillion this year, though some players will remember Saint Thomas More, who beat the Tanagers last season in the semifinals.

If the matchup is an eastern school, Vermillion has faced each one twice this year, and saw only improvements from one game to the next.

“Nearly every single team we played the second time we improved our play, showing we grew as a team and learned how to play better against our competition,” Fitzsimmons said.



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Vermillion senior Natasha Samudzi pictured in a game earlier this season. Samudzi and the rest of the Tanagers look for a playoff push after being knocked out in the semifinals last year.

SOCCER | PAGE 11

Boys’ Soccer Season Comes To A Close

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

The season came to a close this past week for the Vermillion High School boys’ soccer team as the Tanagers dropped the final two games of the season.

On Saturday the Tanagers traveled to Tea where the Titans prevailed 6-1.

Vermillion created chances offensively, but the defense couldn’t keep up with Tea’s attacking.

The score was 2-0 going into half time and Tea put four more on the board in the second half.

“I thought we played much better today than we had our last several outings,” said head coach Curt Nelson. “A few injuries and a tactical adjustment led to many lineup changes and we played right with them for almost all of the first half.”

Senior Seth Druin scored Vermillion’s goal late in the game.

“Our passing was much better today and we were able to create some good opportunities offensively,” Nelson said. The junior varsity team also fell to Tea 2-0.

On Tuesday, Vermillion played an undefeated Sioux Falls Christian to a 6-1 loss in Sioux Falls to end the season. Though the final result was not ideal, it was much improved from the 11-1 score from the first meeting of the two teams earlier in the season.

“It was a hard way to end the season but we knew this was going to be another challenging game against a top team,” Nelson said. “I thought we played much better and showed good improvement from our earlier contest against Sioux Falls Christian. The team played aggressive and smart, with great effort right until the final whistle.”

Josh Prescott came up with another late Vermillion goal to avoid the shutout.

“Overall, I’m happy with the effort we put forth to end the season,” Nelson said. “A late goal from Josh Prescott was a great moral boost after a hard fought night.”

The junior varsity team played Sioux Falls Christian to a 3-0 score in favor of the Chargers, also much improved from the first meeting of the two teams.

The Tanagers ended the season with a final record of 1-6-1.