

Summit League Softball: Omaha Takes Two From South Dakota

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VERMILLION — The Summit League's second-best hitting team, the University of South Dakota, was matched up with the league's best pitching squad, Omaha.

On another chilly day, guess which advantage won?

Dana Elsasser and Ashton Hughes combined to hold USD to three runs on nine hits in a softball doubleheader sweep, 1-0 and 6-3, on Tuesday afternoon in Vermillion.

So continues an offensive slump for the Coyotes (25-16, 8-5), who have scored a combined nine runs over their past five games — four of those losses.

"They have good pitching, and we knew that before the games," head coach Amy Klyse said of Omaha. "I think that changed how we hit. We were hoping to get hits."

Elsasser, a junior from Hershey, Neb., struck out six and walked none in a 4-hit shutout in the opener — never really getting into trouble.

Held hitless until two outs in the fourth, USD got consecutive hits in the fifth but stranded the runners. Katie Dinning had the only other hit for the Coyotes.

Senior Erica Denney took the hard-luck loss for USD, allowing an unearned run in the third. Omaha got a 1-out walk, followed by a Coyote throwing error and an RBI sacrifice fly.

"I really felt good out there, but it's that one play that got us," Denney said. "That's a good one for us to learn from. Those errors and one plays can change a game."

In the second game, Omaha broke through a 1-1 tie with a 2-run triple from Molly Negrete in the fifth inning.

After a USD solo home run by Matley Jones, Omaha got an RBI single from Allie Mathewson and a 2-run single by Amber Lutmert to lead 6-2 in the sixth.

The Coyotes mustered only one more run, completing yet another frustrating day against the Mavericks (32-5, 10-1) — who, despite their success, are ineligible for the Summit League Tournament next month. Hughes, a junior from Saskatchewan,

struck out 11 and walked only two.

"It comes down to little things, and when adversity hits, we have to learn from it," Denney said. "We have to move on and not let things snowball."

Game three of the series will be played today (Wednesday) at 2 p.m. in Vermillion.

There is no panic in the Coyotes, despite the recent string of losses, according to Klyse.

"We're a much different hitting team than we were last year; we've been hitting well all year," she said. "We know we can fall back on that eventually coming around."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Northwestern Sweeps MMC

The Lancer softball team suffered two tough losses Tuesday as the Northwestern Red Raiders took home a sweep at Riverside Park. Great Plains Athletic Conference foe Northwestern grabbed the first win 5-1 and buried the Lancers in the second 9-0 in five innings.

Mount Marty pitcher Jessica Finch took the loss in the first matchup, throwing three strike outs. Right fielder Karley Seuntjens scored the Lancers' only run of the day as the team totaled just two hits from Michaela Bunde and Lauren Orwig.

Northwestern's Alex Price and Kara Nonnemacher each had two RBI in the win. The team scored five runs on five hits.

In the second matchup of the double header, Lancer pitcher Courtney Hansen claimed the loss, allowing nine runs on 12 hits. Mount Marty did not score a run but upped their total hits to three, one apiece from Gabi Cardenas, Hansen and Bunde.

The Red Raiders thrived off three RBI from Laura Hurley and two by Allison Herbert, ending the game in the fifth inning 9-0.

Mount Marty falls to 1-15 overall and 1-7 in the GPAC. Northwestern improves their record to 20-17 overall and 10-4 in the GPAC.

Lancers Win Two At Dordt

SIOUX CENTER, Iowa — The Mount Marty College baseball team swept Dordt in a non-conference doubleheader on Tuesday.

In the opener, MMC rallied with three runs in the seventh to beat Dordt 5-3.

Zac Hollenback, Bryton Carlson, Jared Miller and Kyler Pekarek each had two hits for

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Tecker To Forgo Senior Season

VERMILLION — University of South Dakota junior guard Steve Tecker will forgo his senior season of basketball to rehabilitate a hip injury that has nagged him throughout much of his playing career. Tecker has appeared in 88 games and made 20 starts for the Coyotes during the last three seasons. He will continue to be associated with USD basketball as he completes his degree.

"I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to play for Coach (Dave) Boots at USD for the past three years," said Tecker. "Even though I would like to finish my career playing as a Coyote, I am looking to spending some time away from basketball to rest my hips." Tecker, a native of Brule, Wis., has undergone three hip surgeries to both sides of his torso in order to prolong his playing career. His first surgery followed his freshman year at Northwestern High School. His second came during his senior year. The third followed his freshman year at USD and at that time, doctors steered him away from further operations.

"We are very sorry to lose Steve for his senior year," said USD head coach Dave Boots. "He has been a valuable member of our team for the past three years and we will miss him. The condition is just too painful for him to continue, but we look forward to having him involved in a non-playing role."

Tecker appeared in 29 of 30 games and made eight starts while averaging five points and 3.5 rebounds per game last season. He shot 54 percent from the field, 77 percent from the line and had 39 assists and 22 steals. His career numbers include 495 points, 297 rebounds, 116 assists and 59 steals.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

ABOVE: Yankton's J.J. Hejna completes in the boys' long jump at a home meet on Tuesday at Williams Field. Hejna finished fourth in that event, but won the triple jump and placed fifth in the high jump.
BELOW: Yankton's Hailey Luken goes over the bar during the girls' high jump. Luken tied for fourth in the event, and placed second in the 100-meter hurdles.

Junior Casey Skillingstad placed third in the pole vault, matching his season best of 12 feet.

Yankton travels to Sioux Falls Lincoln for a dual on Monday, April 22.

Centerville Rotary Relays

CENTERVILLE — Irene-Wakonda continued a successful track meet sweeping both team titles at the Rotary Relays Tuesday.

The Eagles boasted several multi-event winners on both the the girls and boys squads, including a triple-event winner in Lauren Sokolowski.

Sokolowski took home titles in the 100m dash and both 100m and 300m hurdles. Andrea Sokolowski followed suit with wins in the 400 dash and high jump. For Centerville, who placed second in team scores, Kieran O'Malley commanded the jumps with two victories in the long and triple jumps.

A new meet record was also set in the girls' 1600 run by Gayville-Volin's Genevieve Clark in a time of 5:30.6.

On the boys' side, Irene-Wakonda's Garrett Anderson led his squad to the team title with two wins of his own in the 300 hurdles and pole vault.

Estelline's Trevor Ward swept the distance events with the triple crown in the 800m, 1600m and 3200m runs.

To lead Viborg-Hurley's team runner-up effort, Trevor Jacobsen grabbed victories in the 100 and 400 dashes while the Cougars' Medley relay team set a new meet record of 4:07.8.

Hartington Wildcat Invite

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Nine different northeast Nebraska schools competed in the Hartington Wildcat Invite on Tuesday afternoon.

Hartington won the boys' division with 169 points and got second in the girls' division with 77 points. Stanton was crowned first in the girls' division with 92 points.

The Wildcat boys won nine events to finish first with 169 total points, well in front of Osmond's 91.

Hartington sprinter Nick Miller led by winning two events, the 100 (11.5) and 200 (23.6). Also winning titles were Joe Noecker in the 200 (52.9), Adam Hochstein in the 1600 (4:52.4) and Eric Derickson in the high jump (6-0). Hartington's boys' relay teams swept the four relays as well.

Bloomfield's Dakota Burgerhoff won the 110 hurdles (15.95) and teammate Adam Haigh was first in the pole vault (11-6).

Wynot's Cody Stratman won the long jump (20-5.75) and Wausa's Austin Hegge won the triple jump (40-6.5).

In the girls' division, Stanton was first with 92

total points, followed by Hartington at 77.

For Wynot, Ashley Heine won the 400 (1:01) and 800 (2:32), while Bloomfield's Dominique Swanson was first in the pole vault (8-0).

Hartington's Michaela Dendinger won the shot put (40-8).

Laurel-Concord-Col. Inv.

LAUREL, Neb. — The hometown Bears won the girls' team title and Lutheran High Northeast easily won the girls' crown at the Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Track Invitational on Tuesday.

On the girls' side, LCC won eight events to take first place with 108 total points. Pender edged Allen 100-99 for second place.

Ellie Arduser won two events for the Bears, taking first in the 100 (13.0) and triple jump (33-6), while teammate Sadie Petersen in the 1600 (5:48.1) and 3200 (12:45.8). Kelsey Dietrich won the 300 hurdles (50.7) and Audra Corbit was first in the high jump (5-0).

Allen's Rachel Finnegan won the 400 in a time of 1:03.7.

On the boys' side, Lutheran High Northeast had the top times or marks in six events to win the team title with 139.5 points. Ponca was a distant second with 99 points.

The only double winner for Lutheran High was Myles Kant in the 110 and 300 hurdles.

For Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Aaron Haahr won the 1600 (5:14.0) and 3200 (11:12.8), while Justin Saunders was first in the 400 (53.2).

Beresford/A-H Inv.

BERESFORD — The Dell Rapids boys and Sioux Falls Christian girls won team track titles at a Beresford/Alcester-Hudson Invitational that featured Class A and B squads Tuesday.

On the boys' side, Dell Rapids won six events to finish first overall with 147 total points. Canton was second at 108, well ahead of third-place Sioux Christian at 65.

The only double winner for the Quarriers was Cole Langer in the throwing events.

Duane Jongeling of Parker was again a 2-event champion as he took first in the 800 (2:06.43) and 3200 (10:59.2), and helped key the Pheasants' winning 3200 relay.

Beresford's Dalton Jones won the 100 (11.29), while teammate Riley Schaap won the 1600 (4:55.73). Brody Elkins of Elk Point-Jefferson was first in the 400 (54.8).

On the girls' side, Sioux Falls Christian was first with 138 total points, in front of Canton (126).

Beresford won three events, with Hannah McKelvey in the shot put (38-11), Ashley Ostrem in the discus (119-9) and Ashlynn Atwood in the 3200 (12:28.2).

Keely Bertram of Elk Point-Jefferson won the 200 (27.1) and Jessica Wegh of Alcester-Hudson was first in the 400 (1:02.48).



Golf: Gazelles Beat Lincoln In Home Dual

The Yankton Gazelles defeated Sioux Falls Lincoln 348-383 in a girls golf dual on Tuesday afternoon at Fox Run Golf Course.

Yankton was led by senior Megan Mingo who shot a 75, posting a 35 on the back nine. Freshmen Becky Frick shot an 84 while senior Whitney Specht added a 92 in the victory.

Mae Meierhenry posted an 82 in the loss for Lincoln. Abbie Grevlous shot an 87 while Ashley Riter shot a 104.

Both teams will be competing in the Yankton Invitational on Friday.

TEAM SCORE: Yankton 348, Sioux Falls Lincoln 383
INDIVIDUAL: Megan Mingo, YHS 75; Mae Meierhenry, SFL 82; Becky Frick, YHS 84; Abbie Grevlous, SFL 87; Whitney Specht, YHS 92; Amber Livingston, YHS 97; Payton Pierce, YHS 100; Rachel Frick, YHS 101; Ashley Riter, SFL 104; Alicia Gregoire, YHS 108; Makayla Woodleege, SFL 110; Ashley VanMeeteren, YHS 112; Ashlynn Reed, SFL 121; Abbey Nielson, SFL 123.

Dakota Valley Invite

NORTH SIOUX CITY — A pair of Parkston sisters finished one-two to lead the Trojans to

victory at the Dakota Valley Invitational Tuesday at the Two Rivers Golf Club. Sydney and Jordan Bormann shot 72 and 79 respectively as Parkston took home the championship. As a team, the Trojans shot 60 strokes under their closest opponent.

Shyler Funck of Dakota Valley snagged third place, shooting lowest for the Panthers at 82. Logan Wagner of Parkston and Lindsey Sorlie of Canton rounded out the top five. Another Bormann sister, Taylor, placed eighth for the Trojans.

Vermillion and Dakota Valley placed second and third in team scores. Vermillion also nabbed the JV title.

TEAM SCORES: Parkston 327, Vermillion 387, Dakota Valley 387, Harrisburg 392, Madison 393, Canton 398, West Central 413, Dell Rapids 486, Beresford 491.
TOP 15: 1, Sydney Bormann, Parkston 72; 2, Jordan Bormann, Parkston 79; 3, Shyler Funck, Dakota Valley 82; 4, Logan Wagner, Parkston 86; 5, Lindsey Sorlie, Canton 86; 6, Sydney Weber, Parkston 90; 7, Sami Langford, Madison 91; 8, Taylor Bormann, Parkston 91; 9, Kennedy Fossum, Canton 93; 10, Mary High, Dakota Valley 93; 11, Mackenzie Robson, Madison 94; 12, Allison Heine, Vermillion 94; 13, Aanna Okerlund, Harrisburg 95; 14, Mariah Palmquist, Madison 96; 15, Morgan Danner, Harrisburg 96.

College: Creighton Classic

OMAHA, Neb. — The Coyote women's golf team wrapped up the two-day Creighton Classic Tuesday, tying with Nebraska-Omaha for sixth place overall. USD faced four other Summit

League opponents in the 12-team tournament. Sophomore Stephanie Rodgers of Unadilla, Neb. placed highest for USD at 10th, shooting 160. Freshman Victoria Grasso of Ankeny, Iowa also placed in the top 15, tying for 15th with a score of 164.

Conference power North Dakota State took home gold at the tournament and South Dakota State finished ahead of the Coyotes in fifth place.

The Creighton Classic was USD's final meet before the Summit League Championships in Keller, Texas April 22-24.

TEAM SCORES: North Dakota State 625, Northern Iowa 630, Western Illinois 649, Bellevue 658, South Dakota State 659, Nebraska Omaha 664, South Dakota 664, SIU Edwardsville 667, Creighton 675, Concordia-St. Paul (Minn.) 691, North Dakota 696, Upper Iowa 709.

TOP 15: 1, Amy Anderson, North Dakota State 146; 2, Kaylee Benson, Northern Iowa 154; T3, Sarah Boss, Northern Iowa 155; T3, Emily Brink, Western Illinois 155; 5, Renee Santoyo, Bellevue 156; 6, Maria Saavedra, Bellevue 158; T7, Elizabeth Havekost, Nebraska Omaha 159; T7, Abby Knutson, North Dakota State 159; T7, Alex Zenor, Northern Iowa 159; 10, Stephanie Rodgers, South Dakota 160; T11, Hailey Borer, North Dakota State 161; T11, Morgan Fitts, South Dakota State 161; T11, Sarah Storaadt, North Dakota State 161; 14, Kristi Tschudin, Western Illinois 162; T15, Amanda Braun, Northern Iowa 164; T15, Celeste Gassman, Creighton 164; T15, Victoria Grasso, South Dakota 164; T15, Cydney Hasselberg, North Dakota State 164; T15, Kathryn Kesti, Nebraska-Omaha 164.

Tennis: Bucks Split In Home Opener

In what was their first home action of the season, the Yankton Bucks tennis team split a pair of duals with Vermillion and Sioux Falls Washington on Tuesday at the YHS/SAC Tennis Courts.

The Bucks blanked the Tanagers 9-0 and Washington later edged YHS 5-4.

Luke Rockne (flight one) and John Fanta (flight five) were both 2-0 in singles action for Yankton. The tandems of Ben Jensen and Brandon Frick (flight two), as well as Jason Shindler and Paul Fanta (flight three) won both of their doubles matches.

Yankton, now 2-2 on the season, will return to action Thursday for a pair of duals in Sioux City, Iowa. The Bucks will face North at North High School and West at West High School.

YANKTON 9, VERMILLION 0

SINGLES: Luke Rockne YHS def. Will Card 10-1; Ben Jensen YHS def. David Day 10-3; Brandon Frick YHS def. Jacob Ford 10-2; Jason Shindler YHS def. Kevin Helenurm 10-1; John Fanta YHS def. Joe Swanson 10-5; Paul Fanta YHS def. Ryan Styles 10-8

DOUBLES: Rockne-Paul Fanta YHS def. Day-Helenurm 10-3; Jensen-Frick YHS def. Card-Ford 10-6; Shindler-John Fanta YHS def. Swanson-Styles 10-6

SIOUX FALLS WASHINGTON 5, YANKTON 4

SINGLES: Luke Rockne YHS def. Nate Ackert 10-7; Elliot Hartwig SFW def. Ben Jensen 10-2; Jony Ross SFW def. Brandon Frick 10-7; Ben Schroeder SFW def. Jason Shindler 10-1; John Fanta YHS def. Kyle McKee 10-4; Cole Benson SFW def. Paul Fanta 10-7

DOUBLES: Ackert-Hartwig SFW def. Rockne-Paul Fanta 10-2; Jensen-Frick YHS def. Ross-Schroeder 10-10 (7-5); Shindler-John Fanta YHS def. McKee-Benson 10-7



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Luke Rockne returns a shot during the Bucks' home-opening match with Vermillion on Tuesday at the YHS/SAC Tennis Courts. Rockne went 2-0 in singles on the day as the Bucks went 1-1 as a team.