

Volleyball: USD Opens '11 Season With Losses

LARAMIE, Wyo. — The South Dakota volleyball team had more kills and a higher hitting percentage than both opponents, but came up short in matches against Gonzaga and DePaul Friday at the Wyoming Tournament in Laramie, Wyo.

The Coyotes fell to Gonzaga, 25-22, 25-19, 22-25, 25-18 and lost to DePaul, 25-23, 25-22, 14-25, 24-26, 16-14 to open the 2011 campaign.

In the opening match, South Dakota (0-2) hit .192, compared to .190 for Gonzaga, and had a decisive edge in kills (59-41). In the loss to DePaul, the Coyotes hit .282, compared to .228 for DePaul, and also had a 74-61 advantage in kills. However, errors — particularly serving and hitting errors — proved for the Coyotes in both matches.

"I am happy with the way we played volleyball," South Dakota head coach Matt Houk said. "We had one area that was bad — that was unforced errors. Other than that, we played some of the best volleyball we've played since I've been here. We really attacked the ball."

South Dakota got an impressive debut from freshman Kendall Krittenbrink in the loss to Gonzaga. Krittenbrink (Gretna, Neb.) finished with a match-high 19 kills and hit .310 for the match. Junior Kim Bulaga (Crystal Lake, Ill.) added 11 kills, while sophomore Natalie Walseth (Inver Grove Heights, Minn.) added 10. The Coyotes had a big advantage in kills (59-41), and hit a better percentage than the Bulldogs (.192-.190), but errors proved costly, as they had 29 hitting errors and 17 service errors.

Sophomore setter Tori Kroll (Germantown, Wis.) had 46 set assists, while freshman Riley Haug (Gretna, Neb.) had 14 digs. The Coyotes had the lead late in the first set — taking a 21-19 lead after a kill by senior Tahnee Reed (Pierce, Neb.) — but the Bulldogs rallied to outscore South Dakota 6-1 to close the set to record at 25-22 win.

In the second set, the Coyotes were up 11-9 after a Gonzaga error, but the Bulldogs went on a 13-3 run to build a 22-14 lead. The Coyotes cut the lead to 24-19 after a Reed kill but got no closer.

South Dakota got off to a strong start in the third set taking a 7-2 lead, keyed by three kills from Krittenbrink and two from Reed.

Gonzaga battled back to tie the set at 18-18, but the Coyotes came back with four straight points — which included kills from Bulaga and Walseth — to push the lead back to 22-18. The Coyotes finished off a 25-22 win with a Krittenbrink kill.

In the fourth set, the Coyotes took an early 4-2 lead but Gonzaga answered with five straight points to take a 7-4 lead. South Dakota was as close as 17-15 after a Kim Bulaga kill but got no closer as the Bulldogs went on to win, 25-18.

Against DePaul, Krittenbrink was strong again, recording 18 errors. The Coyotes' middle hitters were strong, as Walseth hit .423 with 14 kills, while Reed hit .360 with 12 kills. Sophomore Amber Aschoff (Ankeny, Iowa) added 13 kills, while Kroll had 52 set assists. Haug had 15 digs for the Coyotes.

Errors once again doomed the Coyotes, as they had 26 hitting errors and 14 service errors.

In the first set the Coyotes held a 21-18 lead after a Walseth kill, but were unable to finish the set as the Blue Demons rallied for a 25-23 win. South Dakota found itself down 9-3 in the second set but battled back to take a 21-20 lead after Walseth and Aschoff teamed up for a block. However, DePaul scored the next four points — all coming on Coyote errors — on its way to a 25-22 win.

The Coyotes battled back and controlled the third set from the start. They stormed out to an 18-9 lead, with five different players recording kills, led by Krittenbrink with three and Kroll, Reed and Walseth with two each. South Dakota was never threatened on its way to a 25-14 win.

The fourth set was competitive from the start, with the biggest lead for either team being three points. The set was tied at 24-24 when Krittenbrink put down a kill. The Coyotes clinched a 26-24 win on a DePaul error.

The fifth set followed a similar pattern to the fourth, with the biggest lead being three points. South Dakota held a 13-11 lead after a DePaul error, but the Blue Demons came back to tie the set at 13-13. A Reed kill put the Coyotes up 14-13 and one point away from a victory in the match — but DePaul scored the final three points to wrap up a 16-14 win.

South Dakota will face Oregon State of the Pac 12 at 10:30 a.m. Central time on Saturday, and wrap up the weekend with a game against Wyoming at 2:30 p.m. CT.

CITY SOFTBALL CHAMPS



BLACK DIVISION: Upper Deck-Horn Law won the Black Division of Yankton men's softball. Team members include (front) Carey Mitzel, Chris Sailor, Frank Stefani, Jerry Hofer, Jason Krull, (back) Paul Ichfield, Dave Elle, Mitch Johnson, Lance Loecker and Dave McKee.



BLUE DIVISION: ShurCo won the Blue Division tournament for Yankton men's softball. Team members include (front) Matt Hoefs, Albert Fernandez, Jon Hoefs, Tyler Schuring, (back) Travis Hutchmeier, Brian Weyerstas, Dan Bentley, Kevin White, (allen) Travis Hutchmeier and Joe Wipf.



RED DIVISION: Hubbs Agency won the Red Division tournament for Yankton men's softball. Team members include (front) Ben Watzel, Garret Evans, Riley Sorenson, Brad Millard, Kevin Evans, (back) Dustin Olson, Zach Morford, Brady Ekeren, Colton Binder, Chris Hubbs, David Madison and Ross Berry.

Irene-Wakonda Boys Shine At Beresford Invitational

BERESFORD — The Irene-Wakonda boys and Harrisburg girls took top honors at the Beresford Invitational cross country meet, held Friday in Beresford.

Irene-Wakonda boys placed three runners in the top five and four in the top seven to win their division with 15 points. Beresford and Parker tied for second with 47 points.

Duane Jongeling of Parker was medalist in a time of 16:20.60 minutes. For Irene-Wakonda, Jake Vollmer came in second (17:55.94), with Jack Johnson third (18:08.20) and Cash Murphy fourth (18:16.90). Beresford's

Hayden Palmer was fifth (18:21.25), followed by Alcester-Hudson's Ty Schoellerman (18:27.37) and Irene-Wakonda's Joel Murphy (18:30.13).

In the girls' division, Harrisburg won with 37 points, followed by Canton at 47 points and Beresford at 71 points.

Canton Halie McMains finished first in 16:17.71, followed by Meagan Schenck of Harrisburg (16:42.49) and Freeman's Caily Roth (16:46.14). Josie Heeren (16:48.49) of Elk Point-Jefferson and Audrey Brooks (16:49.49) of Sioux Falls Christian rounded out the top five.

Newman Holds Onto Pole At Bristol Speedway

Y JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Stewart-Haas Racing had an interesting Friday at Bristol Motor Speedway, where teammates Ryan Newman and Tony Stewart were on opposite ends of the speed chart.

Newman won the pole for Saturday night's Sprint Cup Series race but Stewart, who is clinging to a spot in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship, posted the slowest speed in the qualifying session.

"It wasn't a good day for (Stewart), obviously you saw that in qualifying," Newman said. "I think it's just one of those deals where you spend a little time overnight regrouping."

"We don't ever want to see the cars that far apart, whether it's the set-up or the results because of a set-up change. But I'm happy that we've given the (Stewart) an opportunity to look at our notes. We always share information."

Stewart certainly needs all the help he can get right now.

Although he's 10th in the Sprint Cup standings, the two-time series champion is winless this season and could get knocked out of a spot in the Chase for the championship with a bad finish in any of the next three races.

Newman, meanwhile, is ranked seventh in points with a win this season.

"If we knew what the problem was, we would fix it," said Stewart, who will start 42nd in the 43-car field Saturday night. "It could turn around in a week; it may not turn around the rest of the year."

Newman, meanwhile, turned a lap at 122.811 mph to win his second pole of the season and 48th of his career. He ranks 10th on the all-time pole-winners list.

His lap marked a frantic final few minutes of qualifying. Jeff Gordon bumped Jamie McMurray for the pole, then Newman bumped Gordon.

Without Thome, Little Left For Twins This Year

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — As Minnesota Twins fans strolled through the Target Field gates on this picture-perfect Friday evening, a friendly face was there to greet them.

Jim Thome. Not in person, though. Thome's last game with the Twins was the day before, preceding the trade that sent him to Cleveland. The first 10,000 customers into the ballpark were given a Jim Thome Wind Up Walker, an amusing toy in a small blue box that served as a parting gift for fans disappointed in the venerable veteran slugger's departure.

The Indians are Thome's original team, and despite the comfort and love he felt in Minnesota, he waived his no-trade clause in order to take part in a pennant race perhaps one last time.

"I just hope that he's happy there," said Lindsey Kaiser, who wore her Thome jersey to Friday's game.

She came with Joe Thome, an aptly named fan who quickly produced his driver's license to prove it. They're not related. But Jim Thome has been a part of Joe Thome's life for a long time, all the way back to Thome's early days with the Indians when the baseball world began to take notice of this burgeoning star who went on to hit 600 and counting home runs. It was 1994, and Joe Thome was on his first day as a freshman in high school.

"Sitting in the back corner, a nervous, shy kid. I say my name correctly as 'Thome,' and then every one turns around and looks, all of the baseball fans," Joe Thome said. "And then we all became friends."

The Twins became fast friends with Jim Thome, as soon as he signed with them before last season. He wound up with 37 home runs and 99 RBIs in just 482 at-bats.

First baseman Justin Morneau had a cubicle in the clubhouse next to Thome, and he learned a lot.

"Just the amount of work it takes to continue to play this game at the level he continued to play it at," Morneau said. "How early he got here and how he never stopped working when he was here. The amount of time he put in is impressive. I don't know if you could find too many guys willing to put in that much effort with everything he's already accomplished in his career. He's just playing for the love of the game. He loves being around the guys in the clubhouse. It's unfortunate the way it worked out this year, but it's an opportunity to join a pennant race."

Morneau was on first base when Thome hit career home run No. 600 earlier this month. In this flop of a season for the floundering Twins, the mile-

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JUSTIN MORNEAU

stone will undoubtedly go down as the highlight of 2011 in Minnesota.

The red sign touting his progress still hung on the facade above center field: "Thome 601." And there were still plenty of fans in No. 25 jerseys roaming the concourses.

"I'm going to miss him. Miss him a lot," catcher Joe Mauer said.

Right fielder Michael Cuddyer appreciated his fire.

"The people on other side of the field were still the enemy, which is what I respected more than anything," Cuddyer said. "It wasn't just this ho-hum nice to every single person."

The Twins brought a 55-75 record to the weekend, and they've played as poorly and lethargically this week as they have all year.

"Whether we're 20 games under or 20 games up, we have to bring the same effort every day," Morneau said. "People are paying good money to watch us play baseball, and we need to reward them with the effort."

That's what Thome would've wanted to hear, had he still been suiting up for the Twins this weekend.

Thome was replaced on the roster with reserve outfielder Jason Repko before Friday's game against the division-leading Detroit Tigers. Repko was returned from his rehabilitation assignment at Triple-A Rochester and reinstated from the 15-day disabled list. He has been out because of bursitis in his left shoulder.

Mauer was out of Friday's game because of a stiff neck, and shortstop Tsuyoshi Nishioka was scratched again because of back spasms. It's been that kind of season for the Twins.

So they were happy to see Thome get a chance to win a few more games down the stretch, as disappointed as they were to see him go.

"It's been a pleasure watching him play here and a lot of fun," manager Ron Gardenhire said. "Wish him nothing but the best."

Coyote Football Team Puts Finishing Touches On Fall Camp

VERMILLION — Friday marked the final day of the 2011 University of South Dakota football fall camp. Camp broke at approximately 2 p.m., as the team has the weekend off prior to classes beginning Monday.

The Coyotes then will turn their attention to Air Force as the battle the Falcons Sept. 3 at 1 p.m. CT in Colorado Springs, Colo. The game will be televised on the Mountain Network which can be found on DirecTV channel 616.

With the end of camp, eighth-year head coach Ed Meierkort felt the team's blitzing scheme has come a long way.

"Defensively I think our blitz game has gotten a lot of better and we need to make sure that is an important aspect from probably the second game on, our first game is against a triple-option team and blitzing sometimes is not a factor."

Meierkort went on to talk about the offense, the ability to throw the ball down the field and the diversity and complexity of its system.

"Offensively, our ability to throw the ball down field has been very good. I think we are working hard on the run game and I like the fact we still have option in. We are extremely diverse in what we are doing, our personnel packages are complex and our run/pass game can be very complex for a defense to line up against."

From a special teams standpoint, Meierkort spoke about how junior punter Cole Zwiefelhofer (Chippewa Falls, Wis.) and sophomore kicker Kevin Robb (Rapid City) were doing.

"Cole Zwiefelhofer has been killing the football right now and in the last few days Kevin Robb has been banging them pretty good, the coach said."

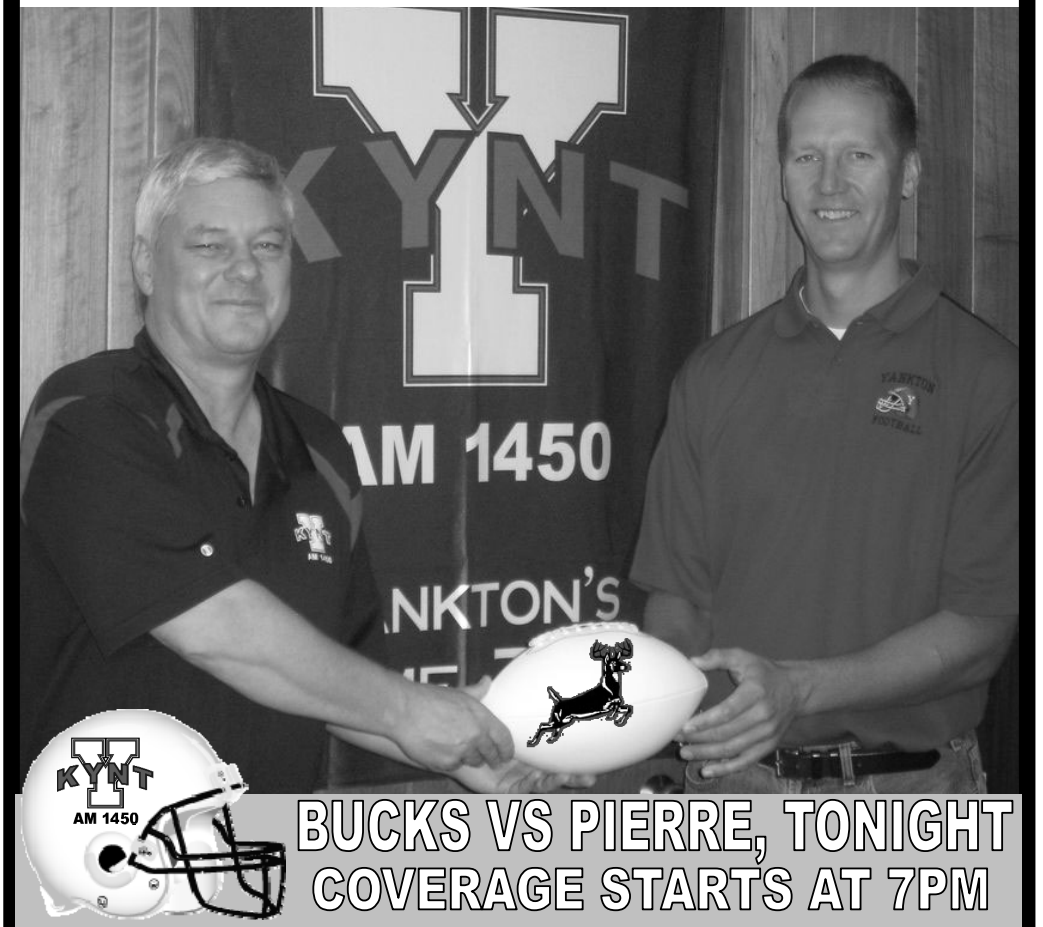
Meierkort went on to talk about a couple of players who have looked really good over the last week, including senior tight end Michael Neilson (Gilbert, Ariz.), sophomore wide receiver Anthony Williams (Tampa, Fla.) and senior wide receiver Jeremy Blount (Tampa, Fla.). He also talked about the offensive line in sophomore Marc Murtha (Maple Grove, Minn.), redshirt freshman Matt Huffer and sophomore Cody O'Neill (Harvard, Ill.).

"Michael Neilson has made some very good catches this week. Anthony Williams has been very good as one of our wide outs and Jeremy Blount has looked extremely good this week. Our offensive line has looked good with Marc Murtha whether he will be our third tackle or starting guard he will get a lot of reps. Matt Huffer has done well and Cody O'Neill has solidified the No. 2 center spot which gives us a lot."

Defensively, Meierkort spoke about a number of players who have had big weeks including redshirt freshman Kenny Greer (Barrington, Ill.), junior Darius Hogans (Las Vegas, Nev.) and having senior Shane Potter (Becker, Minn.) back on the field has really helped.

"Kenny Greer keeps pushing and Darius Hogans looks very good. Kelan Richardson has made a run here in the last week and having Shane Potter back on the field is very comforting as he just needed some time rest his hamstring and shoulder."

AM 1450 KYNT welcomes back Scott Kooistra for Play by Play coverage of YHS Football
Scott is joined in the booth by former Bucks Defensive Coordinator Jason Oswald



BUCKS VS PIERRE, TONIGHT
COVERAGE STARTS AT 7PM

Urgent news for DIABETICS with BLADDER CANCER

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