

Coyotes Complete Weekend Sweep

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoek@yankton.net

VERMILLION — Two rivalry matches. Two convincing sweeps. Needing to win out to remain alive for a Summit League tournament berth, the University of South Dakota volleyball team is playing like a post-season squad.

Coming off a 3-0 sweep of South Dakota State less than 48 hours earlier, the Coyotes recorded a 3-0 sweep of two-time defending champion North Dakota State on Sunday afternoon at the DakotaDome.

"This was the most fun I've ever had playing volleyball," said sophomore middle Melissa Firtko, who had nine kills on 18 swings in the 25-9, 25-22, 25-17 victory for the Coyotes.

"Our coaches did a great job scouting those teams, and we followed through. We definitely felt prepared."

Completing one of their best weekends at the Division I level, the Coyotes improved to 13-14 overall and 7-8 in league play — jumping to sixth place. The top four teams advance to the post-season tournament.

Before the Coyotes could think about that, they needed a repeat of Friday. Mission accomplished.

"Everything we did Friday carried over to today, you could tell from point one of game one," USD coach Matt Houk said. "We never let down again. Even when they (NDSU) made a run on us, we never let it affect what we do."

Not only did USD earn a season split against the Bison (11-16, 7-8), who still own a 46-5 edge in the all-time series, the Coyotes committed just nine attack errors against a traditionally-dominant program.

"This says a lot about our development at this level," Houk said. "They've been the cream of the crop in our league for a long time. They're having a bit of a down year for them, but this is good for us."

Set one was completely controlled by the Coyotes, who jumped in front 10-2 and committed only two attack errors. The Bison, on the other hand, had eight errors and had a negative attack percentage.

From the start, it was obvious that this was a different USD team than the one that got swept in Fargo on Oct. 5.

"We knew they'd be more aggressive since we saw them last,



No. 19 Doane Downs MMC

CRETE, Neb. — The Doane Tigers showed why they are ranked 19th nationally and second in the Great Plains Athletic Conference with a 25-9, 25-15, 25-8 victory over Mount Marty College in GPAC volleyball action on Saturday.

Emily Max had 16 kills without an error on 20 attempts, a blistering .800 attack percentage, to lead Doane, which had 45 kills and just three attack errors in the match (.592 attack percentage). Ashley Axmann had 11 kills and Miranda Wisheart had 32 assists in the win.

For MMC, Amanda Dirksen went over 500 kills for her career, notching seven kills in her final match in a Lancer uniform. Fellow seniors Tina Rowbotham had six assists and Kate Lingscheit had four digs.

Also for MMC, Caitlyn Illg had 13 assists and five digs, and Lexie Branson had five kills.

Doane, 25-8 overall and 12-4 in the GPAC, will host Morningside on Tuesday to open the GPAC post-season tournament.

MMC finishes with a record of 7-25 overall, 1-15 in the GPAC. The Lancers were 5-11 in junior varsity play, tying for eighth in the league.

Kansas City 3, SDSU 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — South Dakota State senior Shay Birath got the 13 digs she needed to break the SDSU career digs record of 1,929, but the record fell in a 3-1 loss at Kansas City by the set scores of 25-22, 25-21, 16-25, 25-16.

A senior from Marshall, Minn., Birath finished the match with 24 digs, which gives her 1,941 for her career, and breaks the mark held by Samantha Pearson, who played at SDSU from 2004-07.

The loss drops the Jackrabbits to 16-12 on the season overall, and to 8-7 in The Summit League. The win gives the Kangaroos the exact same record, both overall and in league play.

Margit Hansing and Kaitlin Klingemann led the Jackrabbits on offense with 10 kills each. Hansing added 15 digs for her seventh double-double of the sea-

RED LETTER WEEKEND

ABOVE: South Dakota setter Tori Kroll, 9, raises her arms in celebration after the Coyotes clinched a 3-0 victory over North Dakota State on Sunday at "The Den" in the DakotaDome.

LEFT: South Dakota's Sydney Dimke, 17, and Melissa Firtko go up to block North Dakota State's Danielle Dombek during their Summit League volleyball match on Sunday at "The Den."

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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College: Youngstown State Holds Off South Dakota 13-10

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — Jamaine Cook rushed for a season-high 203 yards and a touchdown and Youngstown State held on to defeat South Dakota 13-10 Saturday.

The Penguins (5-4, 2-4 Missouri Valley Conference) led 13-0 after Cook's 1-yard run with 10:28 left in the third quarter.

The Coyotes (1-8, 0-6), who had only 88 yards total offense in the first half, finally scored on Kevin Robb's 37-yard field goal later in

the period, then on Jasper Sanders' 22-yard run with 10:13 remaining.

Youngstown State's defense thwarted the final Coyotes threat with 1:16 left when Aronde Stanton and Josh Fenderson sacked Josh Vander Maten on fourth-and-11 from the South Dakota 41.

Cook's 42 rushing attempts were the fourth-highest single-game total in school history. He surpassed 1,000 yards for the third straight season.

Kurt Hess tied Youngstown State's career passing touchdowns record of 51 with his 3-yard TD pass to Nate Adams in the first quarter.

YOUNGSTOWN ST. 13, SOUTH DAKOTA 10

SOUTH DAKOTA.....0 0 3 7 — 10

YOUNGSTOWN ST.....6 0 7 0 — 13

First Quarter

YSU—Adams 3 pass from Hess (kick failed), 6:13.

Third Quarter

YSU—Cook 1 run (Brown kick), 10:28.

SDak—FG Robb 37, 3:04.

Fourth Quarter

SDak—Sanders 22 run (Robb kick), 10:13.

A—11:07.

First downs SDak 12 YSU 23

Rushes-yards 27-121 55-228
Passing 85 133
Comp-Att-Int 9-17-0 11-18-1
Return Yards 0 23
Punts-Avg 5-43.4 4-41.0
Fumbles-Lost 0-0 2-0
Penalties-Yards 5-38 4-55
Time of Possession 25:10 34:50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—South Dakota, Vander Maten 14-68, Sanders 8-47, Sims 5-6, Youngstown St., Cook 42-203, Pace 5-13, Caver 1-6, Wheary 1-4, Hess 2-4, Team 1-(minus 1), Bellamy 3-(minus 1).

PASSING—South Dakota, Vander Maten 9-17-0-85, Youngstown St., Hess 11-17-0-133, Wheary 0-1-1-0.

RECEIVING—South Dakota, Powell 6-46, Terry 2-36, McMartin 1-3, Youngstown St., Shaw 3-44, And.Williams 2-38, Bryan 2-24, Wheary 1-13, Watts 1-6, Cook 1-5, Adams 1-3.

Jacks Win To Tie For MVFC Lead

CARBONDALE, Ill. (AP) — Austin Sumner tossed a 5-yard touchdown pass to Trevor Tiefenthaler with seven seconds left in the game as South Dakota State rallied to defeat Southern Illinois 16-12 on Saturday.

South Dakota State (6-2, 5-1 Missouri Valley) also got field

goals of 28, 41 and 33 yards from Justin Syrovatka.

Sumner was sacked six times, but still managed to complete 26 of 35 passes for 284 yards.

Kory Faulkner completed 20

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Cowboys Corral Viborg-Hurley

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

james.cimburek@yankton.net

COLOME — The Colome Cowboys allowed Viborg-Hurley to allow just three plays in the first quarter and 16 in the first half, then answered every score the Cougars put on the board in a 52-36 victory in the semifinals of the South Dakota Class 9B football playoffs on Saturday in Colome.

Quarterback Terrance Kinzer rushed for 224 yards and five touchdowns, and threw for 66 yards and a score to lead a Colome ground game that pounded out 413 yards. Andrew Odden rushed for 156 yards on 29 carries.

Kinzer also led the Colome defense, finishing with 13 tackles and a fumble recovery. Chase Hrabanek had seven tackles. Reed Harter and Brady London each picked off passes.

Viborg-Hurley junior quarterback Jack Huether was 15-19 passing for 277 yards, including six passes to 136 yards to Andrew Hora.

Colome took the opening possession 72 yards on 12 plays, converting both a third down and a fourth down with big runs. Kinzer completed the drive by lobbing the ball up to senior end Cohl Ratermann for a 10-yard score.

The Cowboys dropped Viborg-Hurley for back-to-back losses, then London picked off a pass by the Cougars' Jack Huether to

start another Colome drive. Starting near mid-field, Colome ground out another 12-play drive, with Kinzer diving in from a yard out. Eight-five seconds into the second quarter, the Cougars had run just three plays and Colome led 16-0.

"We talked all week about, if we can sustain long drives on offense, that could be our best defense," said Colome head coach Kevin Keiser. "We really made them work on defense in the first half. That wore them out, along with our offensive line."

Viborg-Hurley got its offense going on the ensuing possession. Back-to-back 11-yard runs, from Tyler Gerdes and Tyler Novak, pushed the Cougars into Colome territory. Four more runs pushed Viborg-Hurley to just outside the 10-yard-line, but a fumble ended the threat.

Taking over on their own six, the Cowboys went on another long drive, converting four third-down plays — including big pass plays to Ratermann and Lane Fawcett — and a bunch of smaller runs to set up an Andrew Odden score. Colome went 94 yards in 14 plays, leaving the Cowboys with a 38-10 edge in offensive plays with 1:07 left in the first half.

"They had the ball the entire first half," said Viborg-Hurley head coach Erik Sommervold.

The Cougars finally broke through to start the second half, with Huether hitting Trevor Ja-

cobsen for a 40-yard scoring pass just 65 seconds into the third quarter. The score started a see-saw scoring, where each team answered the other's score for the rest of the game.

"They scored right away but we answered, and it kinda went back and forth like that for a while," Keiser said. "We wish we would have made them work a little harder for their scores, take a little more time off the clock."

But Viborg-Hurley couldn't get the stop it needed to close the gap.

"We knew they had some good backs, and we had the speed to match," Sommervold said. "But we couldn't get their offense off the field. We couldn't tackle."

Colome will take a 10-1 record to the DakotaDome, where it will face unbeaten and top-ranked Harding County in Thursday's prime time final, a 7:30 p.m. start. While Keiser and his staff hadn't looked at the Ranchers before Saturday's semifinal games, they were ready to get after it.

"We gotta start work tomorrow," he said. "We know they've got a great quarterback, we've got to contain him."

Viborg-Hurley finished with a record of 8-3.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Viborg-Hurley's Tyler Gerdes makes a finger-tip catch as he is hit by Colome's Jacob Worden during the second half of their Class 9B playoff football game on Saturday in Colome. Gerdes would flip the ball to teammate Collin Sherard, 81, who ran the ball in for the touchdown, but it would not be enough as the Cowboys beat the Cougars 52-36 to advance to Thursday's state championship game against Harding County.