

# USD Hoping Some Home Cooking What It Needs To Get Back On Track

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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It hasn't been the prettiest 5-week span since the University of South Dakota football team last played inside the DakotaDome.

Coming back home might just be the spark the Coyotes need to snap a 7-game losing streak and grab their first Missouri Valley Football Conference victory.

"Everybody enjoy playing in your home stadium. We've been gone for a month, and it was rough," said USD coach Joe Glenn, whose Coyotes (1-8, 0-6) host Northern Iowa at noon Saturday.

"Generally we've played real well here, and that's been not just this season but in the past," Glenn added. "There's been a big difference between the dome and the road, and I don't know exactly the reason for that."

"Hopefully we get a touch of magic."

Though USD has won 41 of its last 48 games at the DakotaDome, it dropped consecutive league contests to Illinois State

on Sept. 29 and Western Illinois on Oct. 6 — its last true home game.

By moving the Oct. 20 home game with North Dakota State to Sioux Falls, the Coyotes were faced with having to play five of its final six games away from Vermillion.

It's been a similarly uncharacteristic season for Northern Iowa.

The Panthers (3-6, 2-4), coming off a 40-0 shutout of Western Illinois, are already assured of their first losing season since 2002. Northern Iowa played a tough non-conference schedule, with two FBS games (Wisconsin and Iowa).

"When you get this late in the season, you have to find something to hang your hat on," UNI coach Mark Farley said Tuesday. "I think there are subtle differences in what you do. You have goals each week, but ultimately you're trying to get your football team better."

In that way, each offenses have headed in similar directions.

While the Coyotes have scored just 24 total points over their last 13 quarters of play, the Panthers have scored at least 21

points in every conference game.

Northern Iowa, with the league's second-highest scoring offense (30.1), is led by freshman quarterback Sawyer Kollmorgen who averages 225.2 yards through the air and has passed for 2,027 yards with 18 touchdowns.

Asked Tuesday about UNI's offense, Glenn said he was instead most impressed with the Panther offensive line — with Misha Danilov (6-7, 300), Dan Kruger (6-5, 308), Brian Palangi (6-5, 310), Jack Rummells (6-5, 300) and Tim Sauer (6-8, 302).

"You can't run and you can't throw unless you've got the right work up front," Glenn said. "They've got three seniors on the line, and all the guys are 6-7, 6-8 and 300 pounds. They have a lot of experience. Therein lies the difference between their team and our team, or some of the other teams in the league."

USD, on the other hand, will have Matt Huffer (6-7, 290), Cody O'Neill (6-2, 310), Tim Ross (6-2, 285), Andrew Schofield (6-5, 285) and Derek Chancellor (6-5, 290) on the line.

On the issue of the lines, Farley said that is naturally a focus for his offense, as well as on defense, to control the line of scrimmage.

"We're just trying to move the football, we make that a priority for us," he said. "On offense or defense, the ability to win the line is critical to any game. You want to be effective there, because it opens everything up for you."

Though the one side of the win-loss column doesn't show a victory, the Coyotes have been relatively competitive in a majority of their league games. Eliminating the 54-0 loss to North Dakota State and 45-14 defeat at Indiana State, USD has lost its other four Valley games by a combined 16 points.

"We've gotten great effort from our kids," Glenn said. "We've been very competitive in almost all the games, except those two, but other than that, we've competed at a very high level; made enough plays to stay close."

Despite allowing 228 yards on the

ground (203 to Jamaine Cook) and 23 first downs, the Coyote defense limited Youngstown State to 13 points — fewer than what FBS Pittsburgh surrendered to the Penguins in a season-opening loss.

"The bottom line, you look at the scoreboard, and we held a really good offense to 13 points," Glenn said. "Our kids are showing tremendous heart, fight and spirit. We're not having the greatest season, but to still have that fight says a lot about the kids."

That is where the parallels would be between the Coyotes and Panthers: Both sides are trying to finish otherwise sub-par seasons on the right note.

"I think they do a very good job, you can see they're playing hard," Farley said of USD. "Both offense and defense, schematically, they're using the whole field and being aggressive. They do a lot with their defense creating problems."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)

# Warriors Take District 2AA Title

Volleyball: YHS Can Get To State With Win Over Watertown Friday

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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SIoux FALLS — In addition to the disappointed looks, there was plenty of exhausted faces on the Yankton side of the court after a tough road loss with plenty at stake.

The Gazelles battled for four draining sets, but ultimately Sioux Falls Washington came away with a 3-1 (25-22, 21-25, 25-17, 25-18) victory in Tuesday night's District 2AA volleyball title match at the Washington gym.

With the loss, Yankton (8-12) will host Watertown in a region match Friday for a chance to go to the state tournament — a place the Gazelles haven't been since 2007.

"We definitely played a heck of a match; we left it all out there," said Yankton senior Mikala Hora, who recorded 22 kills, five blocks and 10 digs in a busy night.

"There was a ton of energy spent in those first two."

From the start, the Gazelles were able to use light taps and diagonal spikes to get around the Washington front row — to the tune of six such points in the first set.

The Warriors (21-5), however, hung tough and rallied from a 14-16 deficit to tie the set at 21-21. Washington used an ace serve and a kill



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton senior Kelsey Fitzgerald, right, sends a spike around a Sioux Falls Washington double block during their District 2AA championship match Tuesday night at Sioux Falls. Washington won 3-1 to earn a trip to State. Yankton can still earn a trip to state by beating Watertown on Friday, a match to be played at the Summit Center in Yankton. Start time is set for 7 p.m.

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## Dakota Valley Rolls Past Tigers For 'A' Berth

BY CHRIS RILEY  
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HARRISBURG — A trio of upperclassmen led the Dakota Valley Panthers to their 26th win of the season and a Class A state tournament berth with a sweep over Harrisburg in the Region 4 title match on Tuesday night.

Senior Kylie Martin recorded eight kills and three aces in the 3-0 victory, while juniors Erica Johnson (nine kills, seven digs) and Jayde Bergmann (nine kills, six aces) also played key roles in the win.

"We've got a real balanced attack," Panthers coach Don Craig said. "Any girl can get hot on any given night so it's kind of fun."

That balance was on fine display in the Harrisburg High School gym as the Panthers utilized big runs all night long for the 25-12, 25-18 and 25-14 victories.

After their resounding game one victory, the Panthers jumped out to a 12-6 lead in game two on their way to the win

and went up 14-4 after back-to-back 5-0 runs to score the game three triumph.

"One of our team goals for the night was to come out with a lot of energy and we kept the tempo up and wanted to stay aggressive," Craig added.

Bergmann was quick to point out the role that Dakota Valley's servers had as the Panthers tallied up 19 total aces.

"We did really well with our serves and attacked aggressively," the junior standout said.

With the win, Dakota Valley (26-3) will continue their season at the Class A State Tournament in Watertown. Action at the Watertown Civic Arena begins on November 15.

Also having a big night in the victory for the Panthers was sophomore Lindsey Smith. The 5-6 setter tallied a whopping 31 assists along with five aces. Senior Shyler Funck and junior Hannah Bauer each recorded 10 digs to lead Dakota Valley defensively.

Harrisburg sees its season end with an overall record of 10-14 after fighting

its way through District 7A as the two-seed.

Sophomore Jordan Beiswanger led the Tigers with 11 assists and eight digs while senior Madison Fedt added nine kills.

Harrisburg will lose only two seniors from this team as they look ahead to a new season and a change in classes for next fall.

"We had our ups and downs," Tigers coach Ronette Costain said. "It's been a roller coaster ride all season and that experience hopefully will help us as we go into (Class) AA next year."

Meanwhile, Dakota Valley has the next week to work and prepare for the best teams in Class A. Bergmann was rather blunt with her teams' goal as the junior looks forward to state.

"We are planning on getting first," Bergmann said. "We are playing with everything we have."

You can follow Chris Riley on Twitter at [twitter.com/ChrisCRiley](https://twitter.com/ChrisCRiley)

## Wagner Escapes Tri-Valley To Earn Return Trip To State

COLTON — The Wagner Red Raiders survived a tough test from Tri-Valley, beating the Mustangs 18-25, 25-21, 25-18, 14-25, 15-8 for the Region 5A Volleyball final on Tuesday.

The victory sends Wagner, state runners-up a year ago, back to the state tournament. The Red Raiders (30-3) will hold the fifth seed and take on Dakota Valley in the 1:45 p.m. game at the South Dakota State Class A Volleyball Tournament, Nov. 15-17 in Watertown.

Nicole Weber had 13 kills, Gina Soukup had 11 kills and Jessa Doom had 39 assists, 19 digs, three ace serves and two blocks to lead the Wagner offense. Sydney Breen had 20 digs and Ali Kuca had four blocks for the Wagner defense. Kim Koupal added three ace serves in the victory.

For Tri-Valley, Allison Cross led the net attack with 18 kills and six blocks (four solo). Chelsea Amundson had five kills and five ace serves. Olivia Minnaert had 15 assists. Abbie Heiberger posted nine assists. Robyn Wingen had 10 digs, Shayla Berry had nine digs, Cally Neises had five blocks (three solo) and Katie Nelson had two ace serves in the effort.

Tri-Valley finishes with a 22-8 record.

## Pheasants Earn Top Seed In 'B'

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE  
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ALCESTER — A year after finishing third at state, the second-ranked and unbeaten Parker Pheasants will make a return trip to state with a 25-17, 25-21, 25-14 victory over Alcester-Hudson in the Region 4B volleyball championship on Tuesday.

For the Pheasants, Amber Dys- the led her team with 30 assists and 14 digs. Allison Sanner put up 10 assists, while Jamie Haase made six kills and four blocks. Micalanne Hanten also contributed 19 digs.

Although the Alcester-Hudson Cubs suffered a tough loss to the Pheasants, head coach Linda Thompson stayed focused on the positives throughout the season.

The Pheasants took set one over the Cubs after getting out of a 5-5 tie. The Pheasants jumped ahead 11-6 and kept the lead to win 25-17.

Parker took a 15-10 lead against the Cubs in set two, and although Alcester-Hudson was able to close the gap 17-18, the Pheasants held on to win 25-21.

Parker went on to win set three, defeating the Cubs 25-14 after leaping ahead 13-6, winning the match 3-0 over Alcester.

Thompson said she was proud of her team, especially since they used a different lineup from the first time they faced Parker.

"My girls came out and did what we practiced," she said. "It was hard and we kind of let up on the third set there, but I'm proud of what they did."

Junior Jamie Jansen was proud to get so far with her team and win the 8B championship earlier this season, because not many people expected them to get so far.

"It feels great to be with these girls and have what we had," she said. "We all came together after the seniors left last year and we worked as a team to fill those spots. It definitely worked out for us and we improved a lot over the season."

Jansen recorded 10 blocks, nine kills and four digs for the night, while Courtney McKee put up 22 assists, 10 digs and three kills. Skylar McConnell had 16 digs and one assist, and Sierra McConnell made eight blocks, seven kills and three digs.

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Andes Central setter Sierra Svatos, left, raises her arms in celebration after the Lady Eagles won a point during the Region 6B volleyball final on Tuesday in Menno. Andes Central won 3-1 to advance to state, Nov. 15-17 at Mitchell.

## Andes Central Downs Hanson In Region 6B

BY VANCE JANAK  
P&D Correspondent

MENNO — Andes Central's six seniors weren't going to be denied their last chance at a trip to the Class B state volleyball tournament, especially against a Hanson squad that kept them away last season.

Fueled by revenge, the Eagles handled Hanson 25-14, 25-19, 24-26, 25-19 in the Region 6B championship match to punch their ticket to the Corn Palace.

"We wanted to get revenge and we wanted to get it bad," Andes Central senior Kellie Winkler said. "We wanted to beat them in three, but they got one. Oh well. We're excited that we got it done because it means a lot to beat them."

The Eagles (29-3) got 16 kills from senior Krista Winkler while sister Kellie added 12 kills. Kellie's final kill of the match solidified Andes Central's 12th straight victory. In what was the match's longest volley — filled with improbable digs and numerous hustle plays — Winkler ended it by hammering senior Sierra Svatos' set into an open patch of court to give the Eagles a 23-19 lead. The thunderous kill ended Hanson's late run and gave Andes Central the final push it needed to

hold off the scrappy Beavers.

"I gave her (Kellie) a hug," Krista said, "because I knew then that our team was ready to go and we'd get it."

A little scouting helped Andes Central control the net. Eagles coach Rocky Brinkman took his team to watch the Beavers in District 11B play earlier this season. Brinkman and his players noticed how Hanson liked to tip the ball. Taking that away was a point of emphasis, along with digging up the Beavers' tricky serves.

"We knew that we needed to cover good. That's been our weakness all year, which we did well," Krista said. "Our serve-receive sucked the whole year, but we pulled it through tonight and it worked."

Kellie Winkler paced Andes Central's defense with 19 digs. Senior libero Latosha Dion added 18 digs and Svatos had 15.

"They had some pretty hard servers," Brinkman said. "We tried to pin-point where those serves were at but we still had a little trouble with it. But some of it just had that awkward spin on it and our girls couldn't get the grip on it. After we talked about it, our girls did pretty good."

Andes Central's serves also worked

well. Krista Winkler led the Eagles with five aces. Kellie Winkler, sophomore Payton Johanneson and Dion each had three, while Svatos had two.

Johanneson recorded a couple of her aces during the Eagles' 6-0 run to take a 14-9 lead in the first set. The Beavers got within 19-14 before Andes Central went on a 6-1 spurt to take the opening set 25-15.

Andes Central jumped out to a 12-2 lead in the second set as Krista Winkler recorded four kills during the outburst. Hanson used a couple of runs to close to 18-15 but Andes Central took advantage of four Beaver errors and kills by Krista Winkler, Johanneson and Kellie Winkler to take the second set 25-19.

The Beavers won the third set (26-24) by getting off to a fast start and withstanding Andes Central's late rally.

In the fourth set, Andes Central used a 5-0 run to take a 10-7 lead it would never relinquish. The advantage reached 22-16 before the Beavers got within 22-19. Andes Central then got a momentum-swinging kill from Kellie Winkler. Payton Johanneson followed with an ace and Kellie Winkler's fifth block sent the Eagles to state.

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