

UNI Hands Coyotes Another ‘Disheartening’ Setback

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VERMILLION — Disheartening. That has been a popular word in the University of South Dakota football lexicon this season, but it was a particularly appropriate one Saturday afternoon.

Penalties, a consistent issue this fall, negated one of the best offensive outputs of the season for the Coyotes in a 24-21 Missouri Valley loss to Northern Iowa at the DakotaDome.

For USD (1-9, 0-7), it was another close game decided by mistakes.

“All these things, we’ve been over it and over it,” said coach Joe Glenn, whose team lost its eight straight game. “I don’t know what to tell you.

“I talk about it and talk about it, and we just couldn’t get it shut down.”

The frustration was understandable after the Coyotes rolled up 400 yards of total offense and didn’t exactly have a bad day on defense.

Penalties, however, led to two touchdown drives for the Panthers (4-6, 3-4) — especially the four flags of the personal foul 15-yard variety.

“We can’t expect to win games when we have eight penalties for 15 yards a piece,” USD senior receiver Will Powell said. “I don’t care how well we play, that’s just not going to get it done.”

The Coyotes did have a lead late in the second quarter, but it lasted all of 45 seconds. USD was penalized 15 yards on the ensuing kickoff, and it proved costly because UNI marched 70 yards in 40 seconds and scored on a 20-yard go-ahead touchdown pass.

Northern Iowa stayed in front for the remainder of the game, although the Coyotes scored late and had a chance for an onside kick recovery.

Still, if not for those penalties and two missed field goals, it might have never come to those dramatics.

“We had to play a perfect game to win. That’s our margin of error the way we match up right now,” Glenn said. “The things that we can control ultimately killed us.”

There were other situations where penalties led indirectly to a UNI score.

- On their second drive of the second quarter, down 7-6, the Coyotes used a pair of big passes to reach the UNI 28-yard line. A 15-yard personal foul penalty moved USD back

and four plays later, a 44-yard field goal was blocked.

- After Kevin Robb’s second missed field goal late in the third quarter, Northern Iowa benefited from two penalties by USD on the next drive — keyed by a personal foul call — to march 80 yards for a touchdown and a 21-13 lead.

“They not only destroy you in yardage, but they destroy you in heart,” Glenn said. “They eat you up and drive you to be negative.”

After the Panthers went up 21-13, USD was stopped on 4th and 1 and Northern Iowa capitalized four minutes later with a field goal.

The Coyotes then made things interesting, but ultimately lost its fifth league game by a touchdown or less.

“We get measured by one thing,” Glenn said. “We played well at times in this losing streak, but ultimately you have to look at the scoreboard.”

It was an especially productive day for sophomore quarterback Josh Vander Maten, who passed for 205 yards (second most of the season) and ran for a season-high 135 yards.

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota wide receiver Will Powell, 17, celebrates with teammate Tyler Wilhelm after Powell's 20-yard touchdown catch late in the second quarter of the Coyotes' home finale against Northern Iowa. The score temporarily gave USD the lead, but a Coyote penalty on the ensuing kickoff helped set up a UNI score, giving them the lead for good in a 24-21 win.

11AA

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Brandon Valley’s standout quarterback Chase Marso to fellow senior Matt Vandenberg - that was Vandenberg’s 35th career touchdown reception, the most in 11-man South Dakota football history.

With the score tied 7-7, one of the most bazaar plays in South Dakota playoff football memory unfolded as Washington’s Chris Parker fielded a Lynx punt near midfield and was immediately met by a handful of Brandon Valley tacklers. As he was stood up and pushed backwards, the ball was punched out Parker’s grip and landed right in the hands of Washington teammate Zac Freese. The Washington junior sprinted 46 yards across the field to the Brandon Valley end zone to stun the crowd and give Washington the 14-7 advantage.

Marso connected on a 23-yard field goal to cut the deficit to 14-10 as the second quarter wound down. Despite being out-gained 227-76 in total yards, including 202-11 through the air as Marso had already eclipsed 200 passing yards, the Warriors held the four-point lead entering the locker rooms.

“Chase was shredding us at times,” Washington coach Brian Hermanson said. “We made a few adjustments at half-time and challenged the kids - the seniors said this is the late time we are going out together so let’s lay it on the line.”

After its drive stalled to open the second half, Washington punted to ball back to the Lynx and Brandon prepared to begin a drive at their own 34 yard-line.

On the very first play of the drive, Lynx senior receiver Adam Bauer split the Washington secondary and made an amazing one-handed fingertip catch for a 66-yard score to put the Lynx back on top, 17-14.

Following another Washington drive that resulted in a punt, Brandon Valley capped a 10-play drive with another Marso field goal, which pushed the lead to 20-14 with 1:36 left in the third quarter.

With all the momentum on their side and a silenced Washington crowd looking on, the Lynx had 13 minutes separating themselves from an 11AA title.

That is when the Warrior offense finally woke up.

Out-gained 387-147 in offensive



Sioux Falls Washington fans go crazy during the Class 11AA championship game on Saturday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

yards up to that point, Washington had difficulty sustaining any drives.

Then, on a first and 10 from their own 43, Washington quarterback Jon Hander hit Sam Cooke with an option play along the right sideline and the senior 1,000-yard rusher took the pitch 57 yards for the score and 21-20 Warrior lead.

“Offensively we finally got our running game going and popped a big one,” Hermanson added.

Following a three and out by the Lynx, Washington got the ball back and this time Hander hit senior Grant Larson through the air for a 28-yard touchdown completion to cap off a 66-yard drive. The successful PAT gave the Warriors a 28-20 lead.

Brandon Valley decided to go for a short fourth-down conversion from their own 42 on the ensuing drive but a Marso pass was broken up and Washington’s offense ensured that the Lynx would pay for their gamble.

Gerry took the hand-off on the very next play 42 yards off of the right tackle for a touchdown and a 15-point lead, 35-20.

“It was just a straight Isolation play and I saw out of the corner of my eye that it was open so I decided to bounce it out,” Gerry said of his touchdown run. “I had tremendous blocking from the offensive line; I definitely can’t take all the credit.”

Gerry would essentially seal

the Warrior victory when he picked off a Marso pass at the Washington 11 yard-line on the next drive, as Washington used a pair of drives to run the clock out while their defensive held Brandon Valley at bay.

“I took a chance on it and jumped the route,” Gerry explained about his interception of Marso’s fourth-quarter pass.

In the end, Brandon Valley easily out-gained the Warriors on offense, 454-331, but Washington had a balanced attack (265 rush, 66 passing) while the Lynx gained all 454 yards through the air, netting zero yards rushing on 17 carries.

Marso finished 34-63 for 454 yards and two touchdowns along with his late interception. The Brandon Valley senior set new 11AA championship game records for pass attempts, compilations and yards, and was named the Joe Robbie Most Valuable Player and Most Outstanding Back for his efforts.

The Lynx had a trio of players finish with over 100 yards receiving, with senior Nate Winter setting a new title game record with 11 receptions to go along with 139 receiving yards.

In the end, it was the Warriors getting the big plays when they needed them while Brandon Valley was unable to capitalize on a number of long offensive drives.

The Brian Hermanson era at Washington (2005-present) now

includes six consecutive title game appearances and a trio of state championship trophies. The former Warrior player and current head coach was elated after the game as he wrapped up a post-game television interview and jubilantly sprinted towards his players, assembled for a team picture in the end zone.

“I’m so happy for this group of seniors and for our school and our coaching staff,” Hermanson said. “We beat a very good football team in a match everybody wanted and they got the show they wanted.”

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SF WASHINGTON 35, BRANDON VALLEY 20		
BRANDON VALLEY	0	10 10 0 = 20
SF WASHINGTON	0	14 7 14 = 35
Second Quarter		
SFW—Mariette 9 run (Stenzel kick), 10:50		
BV—Vandenberg 27 pass from Marso (Marso kick), 6:49		
SFW—Freese 54 fumble return (Stenzel kick), 3:44		
BV—FG 23, Marso, 0:03		
Third Quarter		
BV—Bauer 66 pass from Marso (Marso kick), 9:00		
BV—FG 20, Marso, 1:36		
SFW—Cooke 57 run (Stenzel kick), 4:2		
Fourth Quarter		
SFW—Larson 28 pass from Hander (Stenzel kick), 8:36		
SFW—Gerry 43 run (Stenzel kick), 6:46		
	BV	SFW
First downs	22	15
Rushes-yards	17-0	39-263
Passing yards	454	66
Return yards	40	113
Passes	34-65-1	6-11-0
Punts-yards	4-29	5-45
Penalties-yards	9-65	12-108
Time of possession	27:40	18:49
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS		
RUSHING—BV, Vandenberg 3-15, Tripp 4-3, Marso 8-(minus 9), SFW, Cooke 13-97, Gerry 8-76, Mariette 8-70, Hander 9-21.		
PASSING—BV, Marso 34-63-1-454, Garrow 0-1-0-0, SFW, Hander 6-11-0-66.		
RECEIVING—BV, Winter 11-139, Vandenberg 7-116, Bauer 6-115, Garrow 7-75, Reinschmidt 1-8, Tripp 2-1, SFW, Larson 3-44, Powell 1-11, Gerry 1-7, Parker 10-4.		

Gophers Down Illinois 17-3

CHAMPAIGN, ILL. (AP) — It wasn’t pretty, but Minnesota was good enough in a 17-3 win over Illinois on Saturday.

In a battle of sluggish offenses, Minnesota running back Donnell Kirkwood did most of the work, rushing for 152 yards and two touchdowns. Kirkwood’s 3-yard run in the third quarter broke a 3-3 tie. He scored on a 12-yard run late in the fourth quarter to clinch the victory, giving his team its fourth straight win at Illinois.

Minnesota (6-4, 2-4 Big Ten) became bowl eligible for the first time since 2009, and won for the second time in three tries. Illinois (2-8, -6) has dropped seven straight including 12 in a row within Big Ten play.

The victory was the first Big Ten road win for second-year Minnesota coach Jerry Kill.

In their first eight possessions, the Illini had a 20-yard field goal by Nick Immekus in the first quarter, a fumble and six punts.

NO. 19 TEXAS 33, IOWA STATE 7: AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — David Ash passed for 364 yards and two touchdowns and No. 19 Texas honored former coach Darrell Royal by whipping Iowa State 33-7 on Saturday.

Ash had a 61-yard touchdown pass to Mike Davis in the first quarter. Johnathan Gray ran for two touchdowns for the Longhorns (8-2, 5-2 Big 12), who won their fourth in a row.

Texas paid tribute during the game to Royal, who died Wednesday at age 88. Texas lined up in the wishbone, the formation Royal introduced

to college football in 1968, on the Longhorn’s first play. Instead of a run, Texas ran a trick play that resulted in a 47-yard pass.

Steele Jantz passed for 133 yards for the Cyclones (5-5, 2-5) but was under constant pressure from the Texas defense.

PURDUE 27, IOWA 24: IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Paul Griggs drilled a 46-yard field goal as time expired and Purdue stunned Iowa 27-24 Saturday, snapping a five-game losing streak.

Robert Marve threw for 266 yards and two touchdowns for the Boilermakers (4-6, 1-5 Big Ten), who won for the first time in Iowa City in 20 years.

Purdue led 24-14 before Iowa (4-6, 2-4) rallied to tie the game with 3:32 left. But the Boilermakers stuffed the Hawkeyes on fourth down at the Purdue 35-yard line, and then drove 37 yards to set up the game-winning kick by Griggs.

James Vandenberg had 190 yards passing and a TD for Iowa, which has lost four straight for the first time since 2007.

DRAKE 45, BUTLER 20: DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Mike Piatkowski threw for 366 yards and a career-high five touchdowns, helping Drake keep its Pioneer League title hopes alive Saturday with a 45-20 victory over Butler.

Piatkowski, who was 29 of 40 with two interceptions, found Graham Butler and Gary Scott for two scores each and Joey Orlando for one. Scott added 79 rushing yards and a touchdown for Drake (7-3, 6-1), which can tie Butler and repeat as Pioneer League co-champion with a win against Jacksonville next week.

Matt Lancaster threw two touchdown passes and ran for another for Butler (8-3, 7-1), which trailed only 14-13 early in the third quarter after Lancaster hit Brendan Shannon for a 45-yard score. But then Piatkowski came alive, throwing four TDs for 28 unanswered Drake points. The last scoring pass, an 18-yarder to Butler, made it 42-13 with 10:36 to play.

Drake totaled 546 yards of total offense to Butler’s 303.

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Bison Beat SDSU To Clinch MVFC Title Share

Football: NDSU Holds Zenner To 43 Yards In 20-17 Win

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota State shut down South Dakota State’s offense and the leading rusher in the division with a 20-17 victory Saturday that clinched at least a share of the Missouri Valley Football Conference title.

The Bison (9-1, 6-1) limited the Jackrabbits to 209 yards of total offense and held Zach Zenner to 43 yards rushing, both season lows. Zenner came in leading the Football Championship Sub-division in rushing with an average of 166 yards per game.

“They keep on answering the bell,” NDSU head coach Craig Bohl said of his defense, which ranks first in the FCS in total defense, scoring defense and pass defense.

Bohl said clinching a portion of the conference title “is a huge step. The next step is to win the whole thing outright.”

SDSU (7-3, 5-2) settled for 46 yards rushing and 163 yards

passing. NDSU linebackers Travis Beck and Grand Olson combined on 17 tackles, and the Bison sacked quarterback Austin Sumner five times.

“I thought we had a real good game plan going in, stopping the run,” Olson said. “In a rivalry game like this, you don’t need any more motivation.”

The Jackrabbits had just 135 yards of total offense before a 74-yard scoring drive in the final minutes, capped by a 3-yard pass from Sumner to Trevor Tiefenthaler, pulled the visitors within 20-17. But NDSU quarterback Brock Jensen recovered the ensuing onside kick and the Bison ran out the clock.

“I’m just lucky I got a pair of gloves before I went out there,” Jensen said.

The Bison had their own tough sledding on offense, finishing with 251 yards of total offense and two turnovers. But

they scored on a 24-yard pass from Jensen to Kevin Vaadeland in the first quarter and a 3-yard run by Sam Ojuri with 2:39 left in the game to make it 20-10.

Ojuri’s touchdown came after SDSU was penalized for an illegal substitution while NDSU kicker Adam Keller was lined up for a possible third field goal. Instead, the Bison went for it on fourth-and-inches, and Ojuri scampered around left end to score.

SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier said it was his fault.

“If we don’t have 12 men on the football field, maybe I’m smiling right now,” Stiegelmeier said. “That’s how fickle the football game is.”

The Jacks also were saddled with nine penalties, including a handful of false-start mistakes that NDSU players said were the result of noise created by 18,721 fans inside the Fargodome.

“It’s definitely a great atmos-

phere out there,” SDSU linebacker Ross Shafrath said. “I’m sure it’s not too easy to hear the calls. There were a couple of false starts that hurt us. That’s part of the game. That’s something we know that’s going to happen up here.”

Shafrath, who leads FCS in solo tackles, topped all defenders with 15 total stops Saturday.

Ojuri led the Bison with 75 yards rushing, but Jensen added 67 yards on the ground in a rare showing from the quarterback spot. That included a career-long 56-yard run in the third quarter that led to a Keller field goal for a 13-10 NDSU lead.

SDSU’s other touchdown came on a 26-yard pass from Sumner to Brandon Hubert with 2:43 left before halftime to make it 10-7. Justin Syrovatka’s 46-yard field goal two minutes later knotted the game at 10 going into intermission.

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