

MVFC Notebook

# Another Top-10 Opponent Looms At Home For USD

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

About the only difference between last week's game with Youngstown State and Saturday's home affair with Montana is that the USD football team temporarily steps away from the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

The similarities, on the other hand, are numerous.

Both teams will be ranked No. 10 when they take the DakotaDome field. Both boast high-scoring offenses. And both are led by an experienced quarterback worth worrying about.

In short, the Coyotes (4-5, 3-3) expect another battle with Montana, a perennial Big Sky Conference and FCS

championship contender.

"They've got a rich tradition, they'll walk in here with the idea that they're going to win," USD head coach Joe Glenn said during Tuesday's media teleconference.

"And it's not cockiness, it's confidence that their program is where it's at."

Where the Grizzlies (7-2, 4-2) are, up to No. 10 in this week's media poll, was boosted by a 51-48 overtime last week at Sacramento State.

A big reason for that, as with every other game this season, is quarterback Jordan Johnson. After sitting out last season, Johnson has passed for 2,294 yards and 24 touchdowns through nine games, and has thrown just one interception in 251

attempts.

Montana, which is tied for 11th nationally with an average of 39.3 points scored per game, will test a Coyote defense that had to quickly recover from Youngstown State.

"They're back into the days when they winged it all over the place. They recruit to it, but they can still run it," Glenn, a former coach at Montana from 2000-02, said of the Grizzlies.

With that in mind, USD expects Montana to run bubble screens and veer runs based on success doing those things against the Coyotes last year — when the Grizzlies won 35-24 in the season opener in Missoula.

Combined between the two facets, USD has focused on a defense this

week that allowed 517 yards to Youngstown State last Saturday.

"We've got to shore it up a little bit, and we will," Glenn said, later adding. "We have the ability to cover; have pretty good speed, just have to do a better job."

The fact that Montana marks the latest non-conference game of any team in the Valley doesn't matter much, Glenn said.

"It's just what it is; where we could fit them in," he said. "It's a good opponent, and we just have to get ready and put the best product on the field. It'd be a great win for us."

**Johnston At QB Club**

The Yankton Quarterback Club will meet Wednesday at noon at the Elks Lodge, 504 West 27th Street, Yankton.

This week's speaker is South Dakota State women's basketball coach Aaron Johnston. Johnston, in his 14th season at the SDSU helm, has taken the Jackrabbits to five consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. The Jackrabbits open their 2013-14 campaign at Brigham Young on Friday.

The public is invited to attend.

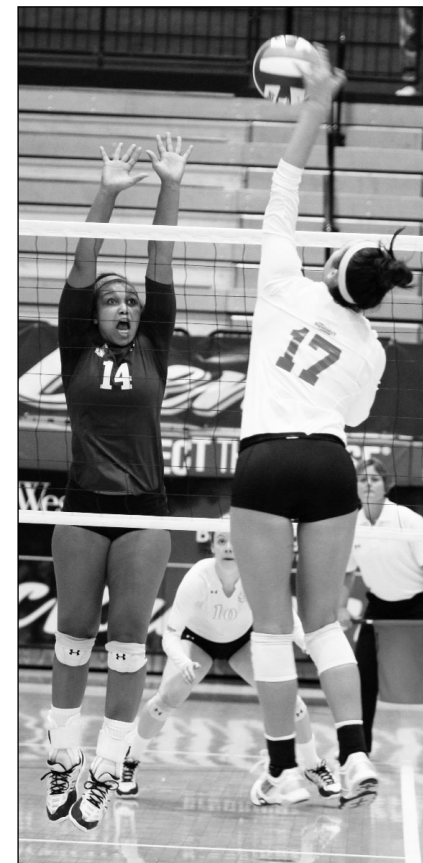
MVFC | PAGE 15

## One Step Closer To State



Crofton's Kelsey Sanger, 10, attacks against the block of Hartington Cedar Catholic's Alli Walter, 12, and Bailey Steffen during the Sub-District C2-9 volleyball championship match on Tuesday in Wausa, Neb. Crofton won 3-0 to advance to the District C2-5 final, Friday against Elgin Public-Pope John.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D



TROY MARONEY/BROOKINGS REGISTER  
Yankton native Mikala Hora, a freshman for South Dakota State University, goes up for a block during a home match earlier this season. Hora is the third-leading hitter for a young Jackrabbits squad.

## Hora Making Presence Felt For Young SDSU Volleyball Squad

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Though nearing the end of a frustrating season for the South Dakota State volleyball team, Mikala Hora says she has maintained an upbeat attitude.

It's hard not to enjoy life at the Division I level, the Yankton native and freshman for the Jackrabbits said.

"It's definitely different than high school, but I like it a lot," Hora said after last Friday night's 3-1 loss at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. "I'm used to it now."

"It's been more than I could ask for."

Hora, a former 3-time first team All-State hitter for Yankton High School, has played in 19 matches this season for SDSU and ranks third on the team with 111 kills. The 5-foot-10 outside hitter has also recorded 128 digs and 26 total blocks.

Such production wasn't the sole reason the Jackrabbits recruited Hora, according to head coach Phil McDaniel, it was partly her intensity.

"For her, the biggest thing is that she's super competitive. She wants to win, wants to be out there," McDaniel said. "She gives one hundred percent every time she's on the court."

The Jacks, 3-20 overall and 1-9 in the Summit League, own wins over Drake, Chattanooga and Omaha. Hora's best performance of the season was a 13-kill, 20-dig effort against Drake, and later recorded nine kills in the win over Omaha.

She didn't play in four matches — in-

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 9

HORA | PAGE 9

# Crofton, Wynot Advance To District Finals

WAUSA, Neb. — The 20-year drought is almost over for the Crofton Lady Warriors.

Crofton swept defending state champion Hartington Cedar Catholic 25-22, 25-20, 25-14 in Tuesday night's Sub-District C2-9 volleyball final in Wausa.

With the victory, Crofton (24-4) advances to play Elgin Public-Pope John (14-16) in Friday night's District C2-5 final at a location to be determined.

The winner of that match advances to the Nebraska State Tournament — a place Crofton volleyball has not been since 1993.

In Tuesday night's win for the Lady Warriors, Maria Wortmann recorded 16 kills and two ace serves, while Allison Arens added seven kills and 13 digs. Kelsey Sanger had five kills and 12 digs, while Monica Arens posted five kills.

Brittany Guenther keyed the offense with 18 set assists and MaKenzie Johnson added 11 as-

sists. Stats for Cedar Catholic (21-11) were not reported by press time.

HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC (21-11) ..... 22 20 14  
CROFTON (24-4) ..... 25 25 25

### Sub-District D2-5

**Wynot 3, Wausa 0**  
PLAINVIEW, Neb. — The Wynot Lady Blue Devils moved within one victory of a state tournament berth with a 25-20, 25-12, 25-12 victory over Wausa in the Sub-District D2-5 championship match on Tuesday at Plainview High School.

Wynot (19-8) will face either Ewing or Stuart on Thursday, at a site and time to be announced.

WAUSA (8-18) ..... 20 12 12  
WYNOT (19-8) ..... 25 25 25

**Semis: Wynot 3, Elkhorn Valley 0**  
PLAINVIEW, Neb. — The

Wynot Lady Blue Devils advanced to the D2-5 final with a 25-14, 25-12, 25-14 sweep of Elkhorn Valley in Monday night's semifinals.

Kristie Bruening led Wynot with nine kills, while Maggie Schulte added eight kills, three blocks, 13 digs and four ace serves. Jenna Heine chipped in with 17 set assists, 10 digs and three aces.

No stats were reported for Elkhorn Valley (3-24).

ELKHORN VALLEY (3-24) ..... 14 12 14  
WYNOT ..... 25 25 25

### Sub-District C2-4

**Semis: Homer 3, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 1**  
WAYNE, Neb. — Homer advanced to the C2-4 finals with a 22-25, 25-19, 25-12, 25-23 semifinal win Monday over Laurel-Concord-Coleridge in Wayne.

In the loss for LCC (15-12), Kelsey Dietrich had 12 kills and

three ace serves, while Audra Corbit, Ellie Arduser and Erin Gubbels all added seven kills.

Cameron Eddie posted 36 set assists.

LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE (15-12) ..... 25 19 12 23  
HOMER ..... 22 25 25 25

### Sub-District D1-4

**Semis: Allen 3, Randolph 2**  
HARTINGTON, Neb. — Lindsey Jones recorded 24 kills on 82 attempts to lead Allen past Randolph 25-19, 18-25, 22-25, 25-21, 15-12 in Monday night's D1-4 semifinals.

Gabby Sullivan added 12 kills and 12 digs for the Eagles (20-7), while Lindsey Sullivan had 48 set assists.

No stats were reported for Randolph.

ALLEN ..... 25 18 22 25 15  
RANDOLPH (16-12) ..... 19 25 25 21 12

# Crofton Cross Country Team Has Simple Secret To Success



The Crofton boys' and girls' cross country teams show off their state championship trophies and medals after the teams swept the Class D team titles at the Nebraska State Meet on Oct. 25. Pictured are the state meet runners for both squads: (front) Kendy Kube, Vanessa McFarland, Quinn Wragge, Jazmin Wubben, Keeley Hagge, Kyla Dendinger, (back) Jake Neuhalfen, Ronnie Audsemore, Cole Steffen, Alex Janssen, Drew Eskins and Josh Goeden.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
james.cimburek@yankton.net

CROFTON, Neb. — When a team wins both the boys' and girls' state titles in the same season, including a school record-tying eighth straight on the girls' side, you'd expect the coaching have to have some profound secret to success.

But for the Crofton cross country program, which celebrated dual state titles this year, it was a matter of getting student-athletes to buy into one simple concept:

"What you put into it is what you get out of it."

The Crofton girls won an eighth straight Class D title, tying an impressive school record for consecutive crowns (1981-88) and giving the Warriors 17 titles in the 34 years Nebraska has held a girls' state meet. That success has come, not because of task-master coaches, but

because of athletes who chose to do the work to be successful.

"The coaches give us a lot of free will," said Crofton junior Vanessa McFarland. "They let us make up our minds about what we want to do with our season."

A part of Crofton's success can be traced to the team's — and coaches — ability to focus on the building blocks of a major goal, rather than the goal itself.

"We have to focus on what we do every day," said junior Quinn Wragge, Crofton's top state meet finisher at eighth. "We know what we do today will impact what we do down the road."

"It comes down to, what you put into it is what you get out of it."

For the first time in several years, the Crofton girls had shown a little bit of vulnerability. Wayne edged the Warriors at the Crofton invi-

tational as the team tried to fill the big holes from graduation a year ago.

"They were looking over their shoulders a little," said Crofton assistant coach Jason Arens, who has coached the Warriors with his wife, Jayne, during the recent string of success. "But they stepped up and put together a great performance."

But the day didn't start well, including a dead battery in the school bus as the team wouldn't start as the squad was trying to leave their Kearney hotel.

"I could tell the girls were nervous," Jayne Arens said. "They went into it this year knowing each one of them had to do their best."

The Crofton boys won their eighth title, the first since 1991. The season started with the Warriors

CROFTON | PAGE 13