

College Football

# USD Ready For 'David And Goliath' Battle At NDSU

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — To close out its 2013 season, the University of South Dakota football team traveled four hours north for arguably its biggest test.

Waiting for USD in Fargo, N.D., is top-ranked and two-time defending national champion North Dakota State, which hosts the Coyotes today (Saturday) at 2:30 p.m.

Is it a challenge the Coyotes (4-7, 3-4) have embraced?

"Oh yeah, always," senior center Cody O'Neill said this week. "Going up against a team like that is something everybody wishes for; it's a David and Goliath thing."

So that's the attitude USD — with nothing left to play for but pride — adopted this week: Making noise in its season finale.

"Like coach (Jason) Petrino told us, 'Why wouldn't you want to go out facing the best team?'" said senior safety Aaron Swift, who is the only current Coyote to have played in the Fargodome — back in 2010.

"We're not saying the season's over yet. We're playing like we have five more games left."

That's where the two teams will separate after today's game.

While the Coyotes will begin their off-season reflections and get an early jump on recruiting, the Bison (10-0, 7-0) will head into the FCS playoffs as the overall top seed — seeking their

third consecutive national title.

That's all the motivation USD needs, getting a chance to derail NDSU's perfect season, which would be its first since 1990.

"Anybody welcomes a chance like that," USD head coach Joe Glenn said. "To go against the best team in the nation and see where you stack up."

"And to see if you can get what they call an upset."

Considering what happened last year, that might be asking a lot.

About the only reference to last year's 54-0 drubbing by NDSU — which held USD to 76 total yards — in Sioux Falls involves proving to themselves that the Coyotes are improving.

"Nobody has done much on

them," Glenn said. "If we can get in there and make a little noise, it'd be something good to finish on."

"Knowing we gave the Bison too much. We want to know that we were better than we were last year, too."

Win or lose today, the Coyotes, though, aren't completely unfamiliar with the challenge of facing the No. 1 team.

USD hosted and beat top-ranked (and defending national champion) Eastern Washington back in 2011 at the DakotaDome.

"You have to look at it as though it's just another game, but yet it's not," O'Neill said. "That was the mentality of the guys we had two years

COYOTES | PAGE 9

Volleyball

## USD Sweeps Tournament Opener 3-0

INDIANAPOLIS — Kendall Krittenbrink recorded 13 kills and Melissa Firtko added nine kills as the South Dakota volleyball team topped Western Illinois 25-18, 25-21, 25-19 in the first round of the Summit League Tournament in the IUPUI Gymnasium on Friday.

Krittenbrink finished the match with 1,403 career kills and moved into second on USD's all-time career kills list by passing her sister Kristen (2007-10) at 1,395. The junior needs 48 kills to pass Becky Olson (2000-03) at 1,450 for the most in USD history.

Firtko recorded the highest hitting percentage from a USD player this season, tallying nine kills and no errors on 12 attacks for a .750 hitting percentage. Kaitlyn Hastings and Riley Haug led USD defensively with 16 and 14 digs respectively, while Tori Kroll tallied 32 assists.

Western Illinois (12-18) was led by Ann Miller's 17 kills and Molly Murphy's 10 digs. Sarah Fetter tallied 31 assists for the Leatherneck effort.

South Dakota committed just 11 attack errors while forcing the Leathernecks into 20. The Coyotes trailed just once in the first set, taking the lead with a 12-4 run to make it 18-11. They ended the second set with a 6-2 run and used 9-4 run after a 10-10 tie to seal the third set.

USD will face Denver in the second round of the tournament today (Saturday) at 3:30 p.m. Central.

## Warner Sweeps Alcester-Hudson In Class B Semis

BY VANCE JANAK  
P&D Correspondent

HURON — This didn't look like the team Alcester-Hudson volleyball coach Linda Thompson brought to the Class B state tournament.

That's how the Warner Monarchs have made many squads look this season. On Friday night in the semifinals at the Huron Arena, the top-seeded and defending state champion Monarchs crushed the Cubs 3-0 (25-6, 25-8, 25-13) to advance to their fifth final in the last seven seasons.

The lost snapped No. 4 Alcester-Hudson's 10-match winning streak, was its first setback against a Class B squad this season (31-3) and spoiled the Cubs' chances of winning a state title in their initial trip to the Class B state tournament.

"I think we were a little psyched out before we even started because they've seen them (Warner) play before," Thompson said of her team that will play No. 2 Arlington (32-2) at 6 p.m. today for third. "We had the tapes and everything. The talk was 'Oh, we're ready for them. We're ready for them.' Everything we said as coaches, hit down the lines, move them around,

CUBS | PAGE 8

S.D. State Volleyball Tournament | Class A

# Panthers Upset Chargers

Dakota Valley To Face Winner In Tonight's Final

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

ABERDEEN — For the first time in 16 tries, the Dakota Valley Panthers found a way to beat perennial Class A power Sioux Falls Christian. And they couldn't have picked a much better time.

Dakota Valley beat three-time defending Sioux Falls Christian 25-22, 7-25, 15-25, 25-19, 15-10 in the semifinals of the S.D. State Class A Tournament on Friday at Aberdeen Central. The victory earned the Panthers a berth in the championship for a second straight year.

"Those kids have got a lot of heart," Panthers head coach Rick Pruett said after the victory. "I kept telling them that they were not out of it."

Jayde Bergmann finished with 17 kills and four assisted blocks to lead Dakota Valley. Erica Johnson had seven kills and 13 digs. Lindsey Smith had 33 assists, 10 digs and five ace serves. Morganne Pfaffle and Emily Tuttle each had three assisted blocks. Meg Williams added 13 digs in the victory.

For SFC, Kristen Stern finished with 19 kills and five as-



Dakota Valley players celebrate their 5-set semifinal win over Sioux Falls Christian at the S.D. State Class A Volleyball Tournament on Friday at Aberdeen Central High School.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

PANTHERS | PAGE 8

# Wagner Tops Sioux Valley, Will Play For Fifth

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

ABERDEEN — The Wagner Red Raiders survived 10 Sioux Valley blocks and some defensive struggles to claim a 25-22, 25-22, 19-25, 25-15 victory over the Cossacks in the consolation semifinals of the S.D. State Class A Volleyball Tournament on Friday at Aberdeen Central High School.

Kim Koupal had 10 kills and 13 digs, and Gina Soukup had nine kills and 16 digs to lead Wagner, which advances to face Sisseton in the consolation final today (Saturday) at 1:45 p.m.

Emily Brunsing also had nine kills for Wagner. Kayla Deurmier posted 32 assists and 10 digs. Brooklyn Tolliver had 20 digs, and Delanyie Dickerson had 17 digs and three ace serves in the win.

For Sioux Valley, Mariah VanderWal had 10 kills and Carley Peterson had eight kills, 13 assists and six blocks

(2 solo) to lead the way. Logan Strasburg and Jessica Pepperman each had seven kills, with Pepperman also posting 18 digs and three ace serves. Tiffany Bjerklund had 21 digs in the win.

In the opening set, Wagner jumped out to a 15-8 lead before letting Sioux Valley back in. The Cossacks pulled to within one, 23-22, before Wagner got kills from Brunsing and Ali Kuca to close out the set.

A similar patterned played out in set two, as Wagner saw a 20-14 lead evaporate to 21-20 before the Red Raiders finished off the set.

"We had a lack of energy," said Wagner head coach Amy Tyler. "I'm not used to seeing that."

With the third set tied at 17, Sioux Valley took control of the set, taking advantage of the Red Raiders' struggles to keep the match going.

"We were being very timid," Soukup said. "But we were able to keep at it and

find open spots." Wagner took control in the fourth set. With the match tied at nine, the Red Raiders outscored the Cossacks 16-5 to end the match.

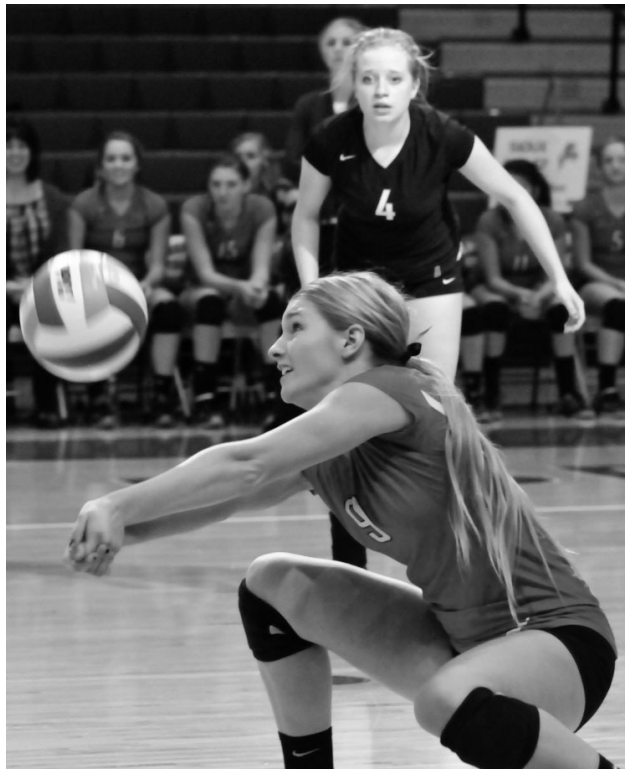
For the Red Raiders to earn one more victory and clinch the consolation title, as they did a year ago, they will need to play better than they did on Friday, Tyler said.

"I think they need to refocus," she said. "They need to play with energy. They need to show the teamwork that I saw at the region tournament."

Soukup, one of six players who will play their final matches for Wagner today, hopes to see it as well.

"We weren't playing our normal game today," she said. "We know we have that fight in us. We have to show it."

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/jcimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

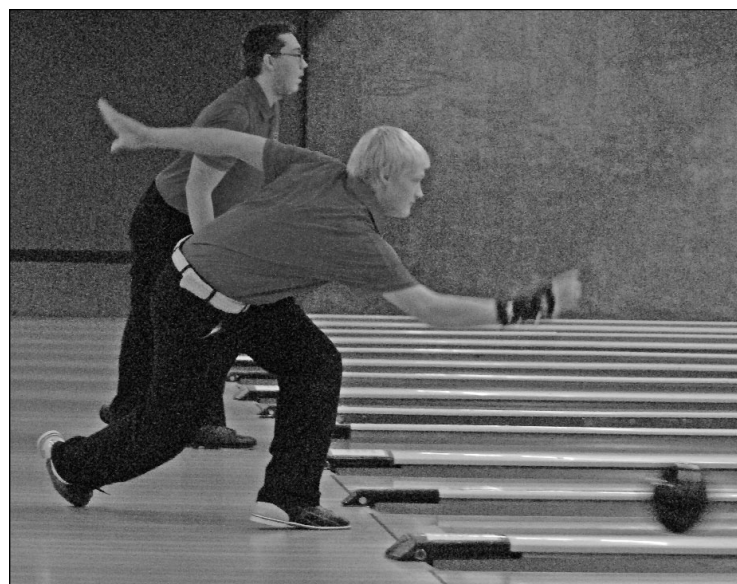


Wagner's Delanyie Dickerson gets low to dig out a ball during their consolation semifinal in the S.D. State Class A Volleyball Tournament on Friday at Aberdeen Central High School.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

CUBS | PAGE 8

# Yankton Hosts O'Gorman In 'Maiden Voyage' For Club Bowling



Tristen Brinkman of Yankton High School rolls a turn during Friday afternoon's bowling match against Sioux Falls O'Gorman at Yankton Bowl. Behind him is teammate Kevin White.

BY JEREMY HOECK  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The sounds of bowling balls striking pins is far from a foreign noise in Yankton.

But when those sounds emanate during a high school level competition, yeah, that's a new concept.

For the first time since the 1970s — nobody really knows how long it has been — Yankton High School hosted a club bowling competition. The opponent? Sioux Falls O'Gorman. The venue? Yankton Bowl.

"This is our maiden voyage," co-coach Pat King said as he looked out on the action across multiple lanes. "What a cool event, to see all these kids and their parents from Sioux Falls."

King, along with fellow coaches Don Casey and Todd Kautz, were able to pull in kids who were already participating in junior leagues every Sunday — including a handful who were

"We want to make this as close to free for the kids as possible. Our goal is to provide that for them."

— JIM PALMER, YANKTON BOWL

relatively new to the sport.

King credited Jim Palmer, the new owner of Yankton Bowl, as a key reason the idea of starting a team got rolling. Palmer spoke at the Yankton School Board meeting in mid-September, where he said he voiced support of club sports.

"The whole issue is that sports are not just Bucks and Gazelles," Palmer said while monitoring the action Friday. "Bowling is as much of a sport as anything else, and it reflects on the kids."

Where as sponsored sports receive funding, club sports like bowling do not. So to help pay for equipment, shoes and practice time, the team sought donations.

A number of local businesses do-

nated money, as did avid bowler Don Boyd, according to Palmer. That money undoubtedly helps the team meet the \$160 per bowler requirement by the state association, Palmer said.

"We want to make this as close to free for the kids as possible," he said. "Our goal is to provide that for them."

Yankton joins nine other schools in the South Dakota High School Bowling Association, which includes all four Sioux Falls schools and Vermillion — which also competes at Yankton Bowl.

Most of the states in the country have club level bowling, including Nebraska. States like Iowa and Kansas

BOWLING | PAGE 9