

MVFC: Coyotes Aim To Ice The Penguins

Football: USD Heads East Looking For First League Win Of Season

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — The season turnover figures for the University of South Dakota football team may not look all that one-sided, but of late, it's been a reason for concern. And a constant theme this week for head coach Joe Glenn and his Coyotes.

The season totals for USD (2-6, 0-4)? Thirteen giveaways and seven takeaways. The total over the last four games? Six giveaways and zero

takeaways.

"We have to be as mistake-free as we can," said Glenn, whose team plays at No. 11 Youngstown State today (Saturday) at 1 p.m. Central.

Not only have the Coyotes averaged 11 points through four Missouri Valley games, they haven't recorded a defensive turnover — a fumble recovery or an interception — in five games.

The result has been four consecutive losses, by an average of 25 points.

"Whichever team makes the mis-

also

■ Learn More About Today's Matchup In Our Gameday Section.
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which don't technically count toward a team's turnover total. In the last four games, USD has surrendered 15 sacks and has recorded just one — a week ago against North Dakota State.

"It just comes down to the small plays that people need to be mak-

ing," Huffer said. "We've come up short every time, but we have to stay positive and keep playing." Last Saturday against the top-ranked Bison, the Coyotes had three turnovers — two interceptions and a fumble.

"We've really got to get those down," Glenn said. "Make good choices with the football, and score some points; we've really got to get going with the scoring."

The task now for USD is cleaning all of that up against the Penguins (6-2, 3-1), who won at South Dakota State last weekend.

Working in the Coyotes favor, at least, is that the last two meetings with Youngstown State have been tightly contested. Two years ago in

Ohio, the Penguins won 13-10, and last year in Vermillion, YSU scored with 14 seconds left to win 38-34.

"We just want to build off that performance," said junior receiver Eric Shufford, who joined the program this season. "We know what we can do against this team, we should be able to take advantage of that and make some plays."

Keeping with the turnover theme, the Coyotes didn't turn the ball over last season against the Penguins and recorded three takeaways on defense — three fumbles that turned it 17 points.

The USD defense also recorded

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Coyotes Drop 'Dons 3-1

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Fort Wayne gave one of the league's first-place teams quite a scare on a Halloween night meeting.

But again, the University of South Dakota volleyball team used its home court advantage.

Extending their Summit League home winning streak to 15, the Coyotes used the energy from its DakotaDome 'Den' crowd to rally past the Mastodons 3-1 on Friday night. Set scores were 21-25, 25-22, 25-20, 25-18.

It just took a little bit of time for the Coyotes to get going, according to junior middle Kelsey Biltoft.

"And I don't know why. This is our home court, we should be able to relax," said Biltoft, who had six kills and five total blocks (one solo). "Once we got over that, things started flowing a little bit better."

And it was no surprise that USD did so at home.

In winning their 15th straight conference home match, the Coyotes (15-9, 9-2) kept pace with Denver and IUPUI — both won Friday to move to 9-2.

It's now been just over two calendar years since USD lost a league match in Vermillion, and the streak happens to coincide with the program moving its home matches from the DakotaDome turf to the upper level.

The intimate atmosphere has clearly helped the Coyotes, according to senior Kendall Kritenbrink.

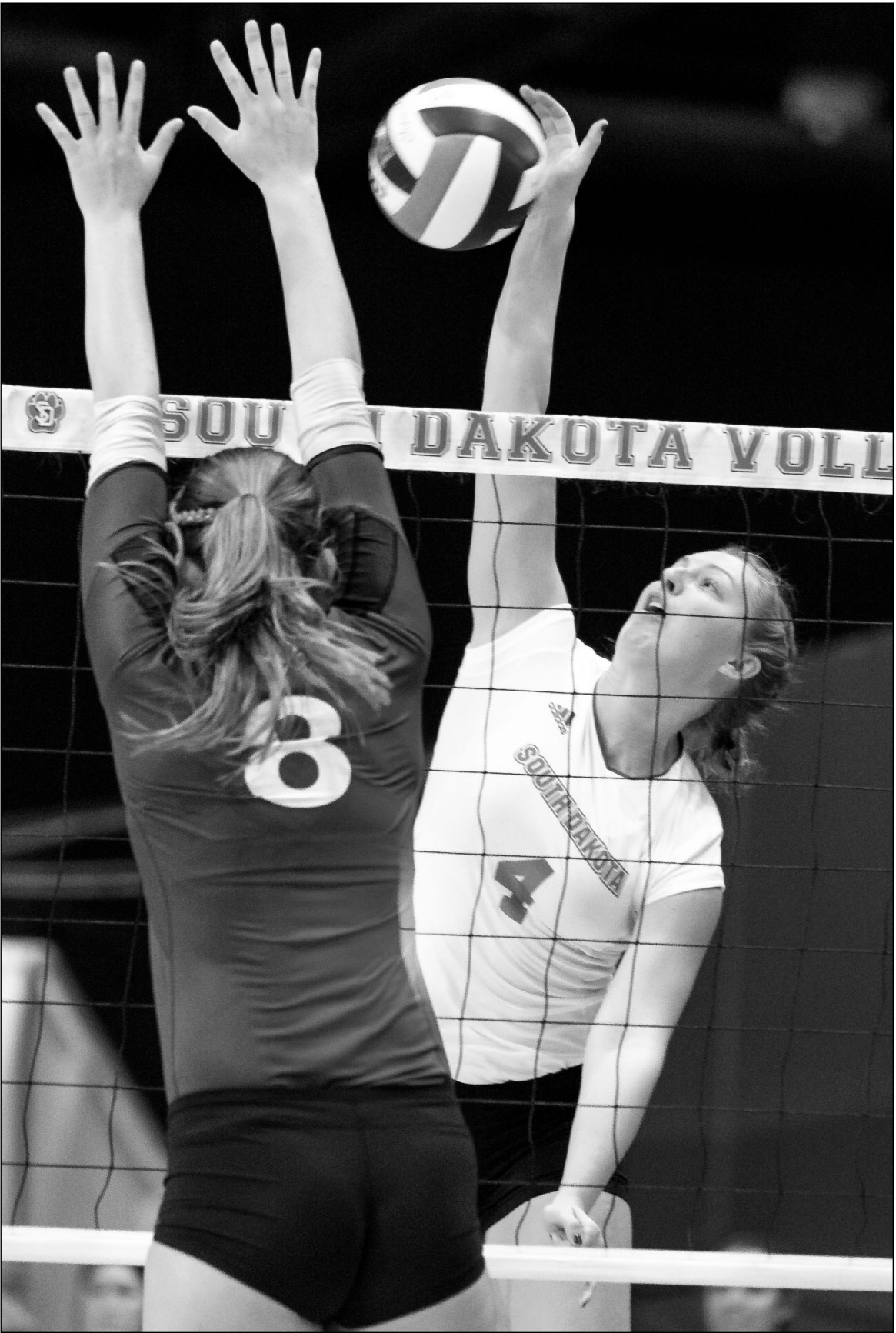
"Our fans yell for us when we're serving, and other places they're yelling against us," said Kritenbrink, who had 23 kills Friday. "So that helps a lot, knowing they're backing us up and distracting the other team."

In the opening two sets against the Mastodons (10-16, 4-7), it wasn't so much the crowd as it was the visitors that gave USD issues. The Coyotes committed seven attack errors in each of the first two sets, but had one each in the final two.

"We didn't have a lot of energy until that last little run, but having our crowd here made a difference," Williamson said. "It helped us get through that lack of energy."

There was a buzz in the USD student section bleachers with costumed-clad spectators, but the highlight in the 'Den' since 2012 was a home match earlier this season with Iowa State — in which an overflow crowd was on hand.

"There's a lot more space at other places, like Frost Arena (in Brookings), so that definitely plays a huge factor in the game," Kritenbrink said.



THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

South Dakota's Audrey Reeg, 4, hits around the block of Fort Wayne's Sarah Heckman during their Summit League volleyball match on Friday at the Coyote Den in the DakotaDome. USD won 3-1 to improve to 15-9 overall, 9-2 in the Summit League.

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty's BreAnne Thege makes a save during the Lancers' Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball match with Concordia on Friday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

Concordia Powers Past MMC

Volleyball: Lancers Host Hastings, Jamestown Today

BY BEN HEGGE
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A much-improved Mount Marty College volleyball team and stands full of costumed Lancer fans could not scare off Concordia, as the Bulldogs claimed a 25-19, 25-15, 25-17 victory over the Lancers in Great Plains Athletic Conference action on Friday night in Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

Concordia jumped out to a hot start and did not look back. The Bulldogs controlled the opening set, taking a 25-19 victory.

"We had a hard time getting our offense going," said Lancers head coach Candice Climer. "It seemed like we were never really in sync tonight."

Concordia, who currently ranks third in the GPAC, dominated sets two and three, eventually winning the match 3-0.

"We did not take Mount Marty lightly coming into tonight, as they have played us tough the last two games," said Concordia head coach Scott Mattera. "It was a great environment, and I never really felt comfortable with our lead at any point tonight."

Lancer sophomore Kayla Jones recorded a match-high nine digs, while Amber Dysthe added 11 assists. Laura Groseth led the Lancers offense with five kills.

The Bulldogs totaled 12 ace serves in the three-set match, five coming from Claire White. Paige Getz also had nine kills to

help the lead the Bulldogs to the win.

"Our serving game was huge for us tonight, we wanted to be very aggressive with our serves and create some scoring opportunities," said Mattera.


Concordia will head to Mitchell for a Saturday matchup against Dakota Wesleyan, while Mount Marty will have a home double-header Saturday afternoon.

"We are going to put tonight behind us and get ready for Saturday's games," said Climer. "We need to respond to adversity and come out and play well."

On Saturday, Mount Marty will take on Hastings in GPAC action at 1:30 p.m. The Lancers also play No. 18 Jamestown (N.D.) in a non-conference match at 5 p.m.

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LANCER BASKETBALL

MMC vs. Dakota State university on Sunday, November 2nd

WOMEN'S TIP-OFF: 6:00 PM | CIMPL ARENA

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