

# Leathernecks Outgun South Dakota 44-29



THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE PLAIN TALK  
**South Dakota linebacker John Wessel sacks Western Illinois quarterback Trenton Norvell during their Missouri Valley Football Conference game on Saturday in the DakotaDome. Norvell was 20-28 passing for 287 yards and five touchdowns in a 44-29 victory over the Coyotes.**

## Coyotes Search For Answers To Second Half Issues

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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VERMILLION — Issues after halftime have been magnified of late for the University of South Dakota football team, which is still searching for its first Missouri Valley victory this season.

They were on full display Saturday. Including a second-half performance that saw Western Illinois surge to a 44-29 victory at the DakotaDome, the Coyotes have now been out-scored 66-16 after half-time in their last three games.

And it was something that produced a lot of head-scratching during the post-game press conference.

"We've got to come out with a little more fire in our belly and battle," said head coach Joe Glenn, whose Coyotes (2-8, 0-6) have lost 10 consecutive league games dating back to last season.

Following a rather high-scoring, back-and-forth first half, the Leathernecks held USD to two field goals after halftime. It was reminiscent to a week earlier, when the Coyotes allowed three touchdowns in the fourth quarter in a loss at Youngstown State.

Asked if the second-half issues were more mental or physical, Glenn couldn't really pinpoint an answer.

"I'm not very good at those head games to know if our psyche is weak in the second half," he said. "I don't sense that."

He did, though, mention more than once an early third-quarter fumble by Jordan Roberts, which resulted in a touchdown and a 30-23 lead for the Leathernecks.

"That was the beginning of the end, and it's happened too many times," Glenn said.

Unlike what they did in the first half, the Coyotes were unable to respond — with touchdowns, especially — after half-time. For example, after Western Illinois went up 30-23, the Coyotes drove all the way down to the 13-yard line but stalled, having to settle for a field goal.

The Leathernecks, in turn, responded with a touchdown to go up 37-26. And the same thing happened again, when the Coyotes hit another field goal and WIU scored a touchdown to close the scoring.

"You have to answer in a track meet like this," Glenn said.

Asked the same question if the second half issues were more mental or physical,

not even junior quarterback Kevin Earl had an answer.

"It's hard for me to tell," he said. "I couldn't really tell you, honestly."

The combination of bad field position (USD's average drive start after halftime was the 18-yard line) and injuries (which meant younger guys seeing the field) may have played a role, according to junior Eric Shufford.

"We've got to find a way to make more plays," said Shufford, who caught eight passes for 99 yards and a touchdown. "On offense, we've got to find a way to convert things, and the defense has to find a way to stop things. And that's it."

Another issue, though, was that the Coyote defense struggled to stop the Leathernecks.

Sophomore quarterback Trenton Norvell had had touchdown passes of 12, 34, 22, 12 and 17 yards (all to different receivers), with other completions of 33, 43 and 56 yards.

"We're not good enough to cover some of the guys in this league consistently," Glenn said.

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## Trojans Earn Return Trip To Dome

BY VANCE JANAK  
P&D Correspondent

PARKSTON — A physical McCook Central-Montrose team was no match for the Parkston Trojans.

The top-seeded Trojans used their big lines to control a battle of unbeaten up front in Saturday night's Class 11B semifinal. Parkston's fast and physical defense stuffed McCook Central-Montrose's inside-outside rushing attack, while the Trojans' wishbone offense continuously churned out yards.

The end result was a 34-6 victory that sends Parkston to the DakotaDome for the second straight season. The Trojans (11-0) will face No. 3 St. Thomas More (11-1) Friday at 1:30 p.m.

"Getting back to the Dome is awesome," Parkston senior lineman Tanner Lindeman said. "It's my final game. Coming up short last year (20-14 loss to Canton) with a chance to take that title for our first time in Parkston history, it's really motivating and I can't wait to play with these guys."

Parkston will take the same style of play to the Dome that's resulted in three straight post-season wins at H.B. Garry Memorial Stadium.

The Trojans' wishbone attack - featuring running backs Weslee Dvorak, Miles Semmler, Blake Bietz and David Voorhees - rolled up 389 yards rushing Saturday. Dvorak, who was largely bottled up by the Cougars defense, paced Parkston with 178 yards rushing and a touchdown. Bietz rushed for 88 yards, Semmler had 83 and three touchdowns while Voorhees added 37 yards and a score.

Although Parkston lacked the explosive plays that were common in its prior two post-season blowout wins, the Trojans showed they had no problems flexing their muscles against No. 5 MC-M (10-1).

"It was awesome. We could show our strength," Semmler said. "It was fun."

It wasn't much fun for the Cougars offense.

Three of MC-M's first four possessions ended with three-and-outs, and the other saw Parkston senior Brady Reiff intercept Cougar quarterback Kylar Hansen.

"Right away, they shut us down our first two drives," MC-M coach Ryan Evans said. "They hit us where it counted there for a while."

Parkston coach Eric Norden said Saturday was another example of the stellar team defense the Trojans play, which has resulted in six shutouts and four games of opponents scoring only six points this season.

"They got to the gaps like we needed to and we tackled their runners," Norden said. "We really contained them. They've got some great backs and to be able to contain them like that was a big part of what we got done."

Parkston got it done early. After forcing a punt, Voorhees capped a seven-play, 60-yard drive with a 15-yard touchdown run to make it 7-0 with 6:26 left in the first quarter. Parkston's third possession - following Reiff's pick - ended with Semmler's 7-yard touchdown. The Trojans' next drive saw Semmler score from five yards out to make it 21-0 with 4:48 remaining in the first half.

The Cougars scored their lone touchdown on the ensuing possession. Hansen found Eric Hansen for a 44-yard

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## Harrisburg Takes District 2AA Title



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
**Yankton's Joselyn Salvatori dives to try to dig up the ball during the District 2AA championship match on Saturday at Harrisburg. Harrisburg won the match 3-1, earning its first trip to state since 2008 and its first trip as a Class AA program. Yankton plays at Watertown on Thursday for a state tourney berth.**

# Tigers Top YHS For State Berth

## Gazelles Face Arrows Thursday

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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HARRISBURG — Going into the season, Harrisburg head coach Ronette Costain told her young squad that if they stay the course, they will peak at the right time.

Consider them peaked. The Tigers (12-10) beat Yankton 25-20, 25-23, 21-25, 25-16 for the championship of the District 2AA Volleyball Tournament, earning Harrisburg its first state tournament appearance since 2008 and its first-ever as a Class AA school.

"We talked at the beginning of the season, and told them if they stuck with the plan, they'd peak at the right time," said Costain, who coached the Tigers to three Class A tournament appearances in the 2000s, including a championship in 2005. "I'm excited with what they did. They stuck with the program."

Yankton (9-13) remains alive in the post-season, and will

face Watertown (18-4) on Thursday in Watertown, with the winner going to state. Yankton hosts the S.D. State Class AA Volleyball Tournament, Nov. 20-22 at the Summit Center.

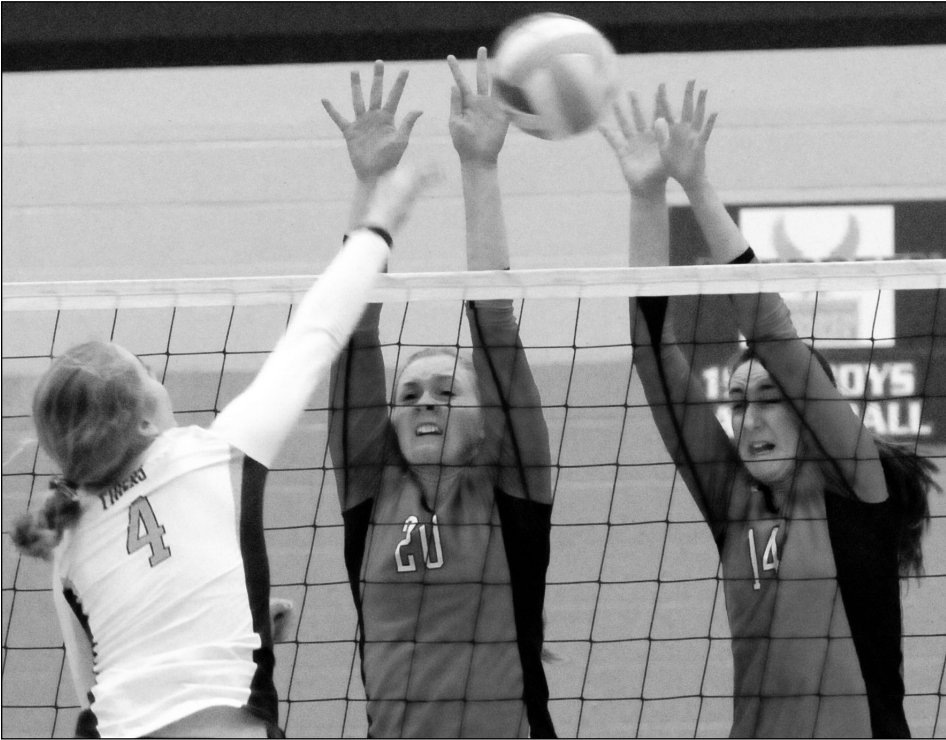
Sam Slaughter had 14 kills, Haley Bruggeman had 11 kills and McKenna Mathiesen had 10 kills to lead the Harrisburg offense. Avery Thorson recorded 23 of those assists, with Karli O'Connor posting 12.

"I thought Harrisburg played really well. They had three players in double digit kills," said Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste. "That's tough to play defense against."

Bruggeman also had 15 digs, two blocks and two ace serves. Rachel Nelson had a team-best 26 digs. Mathiesen had 2 1/2 blocks, Brittan Murphy had two ace serves and Mikayla Axtell added 15 digs in the victory.

For Yankton, Becky Frick had 16 kills and Sophie Drotz-

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
**Yankton's Sophie Drotzmann, center, and Hannah Bockholt go up to block Harrisburg's McKenna Mathiesen during the District 2AA championship on Saturday in Harrisburg.**

# Northwestern Sweeps Lancers In GPAC Quarters

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG  
P&D Correspondent

ORANGE CITY, Iowa — For six Mount Marty Lancer senior volleyball players, Saturday's Great Plains Athletic Conference Postseason Tournament match at the Northwestern Red Raiders was the capstone to their belief in their coach and their program.

The first earned berth since 2000 for the Lancers to the GPAC's second season matched them against the No. 6-ranked Red Raiders, the conference's top finisher with a 15-1 mark this season and conference champions five of the last seven seasons.

Northwestern did little to diminish their earned standing as they defeated the Lancers

25-17, 25-11, 25-14 to set up their semifinal match against 4th-seeded Concordia Wednesday.

"We were excited to be playing, but they are number-one in the conference and sixth in the nation, so we knew it was going to be tough," Mount Marty head coach Candice Climer said. "We wanted to give them more of a ruffle than we did."

"They're a pretty solid team," Mount Marty senior setter Caitlyn Illg said. "We had to come in with a lot of confidence and energy."

Northwestern's only conference loss was to Dordt in their regular-season finale Wednesday.

"The way they played, they were upset with their loss to

Dordt," Climer added.

"Mount Marty's a good team; Candice has them moving in the right direction," Northwestern head coach Kyle Van Den Bosch said. "We respected them and knew we needed to make sure we played our best tonight."

The Red Raiders committed five hitting errors and five serving errors in the first game, but still managed a .279 hitting percentage to win the first game 25-17.

The Lancer hitters had a difficult time of finding holes in Northwestern's defense, but Mount Marty's defense was equally as stout as junior BreAnne Thege extended volleys with seven digs.

"That first set, Bre had some incredible digs," Climer

said. "Defensively, we were scrapping good and it felt like we were swinging more and running some different things but it just wasn't falling for us."

The Red Raiders took control of the match with a 25-11 2nd-game victory, making good on .571 of their attacks.

"That second set seems like it's been our nemesis all year," Climer said.

The 5-11 Karlie Schut opened things up for the Red Raiders with five kills in the set and the 6-1 Kaitlin Floerchinger added three kills. Junior Brooke Fessler made life easy for the Northwestern hitters as she had 10 set-assists in the game.

Now looking to extend their season set by set, the Lancers pulled within Northwestern 14-

10 with a 6-0 run in the third game.

Senior setter Caitlyn Illg's serves were true and Kristen Boyle blocked two Red Raider attacks for points during the string.

However, Jillian Estes, one of the GPAC's best servers, pushed Northwestern to a 21-10 lead.

The sophomore from Sioux Center mixed in an ace serve that caught the backline and drew the ire of the Mount Marty faithful for Northwestern's 19th point.

"They have the best servers in the conference," Climer said. "You can't let up with your serve-receive at any time."

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# Howard Powers Past Alcester-Hudson For 9A Title Berth

BY BEN HEGGE  
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HOWARD — The Howard Tigers are heading to familiar territory, the DakotaDome.

With their 58-6 defeat of the Alcester-Hudson Cubs in Saturday's Class 9A semifinals in Howard, the Tigers will be making their third state championship appearance in six years.

"We have been very fortunate to play for championships," said Tigers head coach Pat Ruml. "We are looking forward to another chance, and we are up for the challenge."

Howard got off to a fast start when South Dakota's 9 man all-time leading

rusher, Luke Loudenburg punched it into the end zone from 3 yards out on the Tiger's opening drive.

On the Cubs first drive, Jordan Genzlinger intercepted an Alcester-Hudson pass. Genzlinger then found Jordan Kuhle for a touchdown to extend the Tigers lead to 16-0.

After a pair of Loudenburg rushing touchdowns, Alcester-Hudson responded with a 14-yard touchdown pass from Grant Johnson to Samuel Jensen.

"I thought we had some nice completions but overall we struggled up front," said Cubs head coach Brian Haak. "You have to hand it to them, they are a great team."

The Tigers offense kept things rolling in the second half. Loudenburg ran it in two more times for the Tigers, giving him 50 rushing touchdowns on the season.

Tigers running back Luke Loudenburg ran the ball 17 times for 289 yards rushing and 6 touchdowns. Gunner Gilbertson also added 92 yards on five rushes for the Tigers ground attack.

For Alcester-Hudson, Grant Johnson threw for 147 yards and a touchdown, while adding 52 rushing yards. Christopher Klemme caught five balls for 57 yards to lead the Cubs receiving corps.

Alcester-Hudson finished their season with a school history best 10-1 record.

"Our kids took our team to a whole new level that our school has never seen," said Haak. "It was a great run, and it's something our players will look back on."

Howard will play for the Class 9A state championship title on Friday at 10:30 a.m. against Wolsey-Wessington (11-0).

"I think a lot of these guys remember the disappointment from the 2012 title game," said Ruml. "With all of the big games we played in this year, our guys should be ready for the challenge."

You can follow Ben Hegge on Twitter at [twitter.com/bigheadbenny13](https://twitter.com/bigheadbenny13). Discuss this story at [yankton.net/](http://yankton.net/).