

Volleyball | S.D. State AA Tournament

# Riders Back In Title Match

## Roosevelt In Championship For Fifth Straight Season

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Sioux Falls Roosevelt has its rematch opportunity. Now comes the challenge of beating top-ranked and defending champion Sioux Falls O’Gorman.

First things first, the Rough Riders had to beat Watertown, which they did 3-1 (25-14, 16-25, 25-21, 25-22) in Friday night’s semifinals of the S.D. State Class AA Volleyball Tournament at the Summit Center.

Another night. Another upset for the seventh-seeded Riders.

“It felt so good coming out and beating the three seed,” said senior outside hitter Paige Rome, who had seven kills.

“At the beginning of the season, we were unsure if we were even going to state.”

And yet, here the Riders are, one win from a state title. In the tournament, they’ve beaten No. 2 Aberdeen Central and No. 3 Watertown.

“(Thursday) we had such an emotional game with Aberdeen, that honestly, we knew tonight we’d have to have the same type of fight,” Roosevelt head coach Holly Lynch said.

The teams split the first two sets before the Riders won the final two.

But unlike the previous night, the Riders weren’t as reliant on senior Tagyn Larson. The Iowa basketball recruit followed up a 30-kill night with 20 on Friday, which proved Roosevelt could go to other options.

“We had to, because we’re going to burn her shoulder off,” Lynch joked.

“She’s tired, so we have to be able to depend on other girls.”

Senior Madison Tyler added 15 kills for the Riders,



Roosevelt's Tagyn Larson attacks the ball during the Rough Riders' semifinal match with Watertown in the South Dakota State Class AA Volleyball Tournament on Friday at the Summit Center in Yankton.

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## State AA Tournament

### Thursday

Sioux Falls O’Gorman def. Pierre, 25-6, 25-12, 25-13  
Huron def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-19, 25-18, 25-18  
Watertown def. Harrisburg, 25-15, 25-19, 25-20  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Aberdeen Central, 18-25, 25-20, 30-28, 26-24

### Friday

Aberdeen Central def. Harrisburg, 25-7, 25-11, 25-18  
Rapid City Stevens def. Pierre, 25-22, 25-23, 25-18  
Sioux Falls O’Gorman def. Huron, 25-18, 25-23, 25-20  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Watertown, 25-14, 16-25, 25-21, 25-22

### Saturday

**SEVENTH PLACE:** Pierre (8-17) vs. Harrisburg (12-12), noon  
**FIFTH PLACE:** R.C. Stevens (26-8) vs. Aberdeen Central (21-3), 1:45 p.m.  
**THIRD PLACE:** Watertown (20-5) vs. Huron (19-6), 6 p.m.  
**CHAMPIONSHIP:** S.F. O’Gorman (32-5) vs. S.F. Roosevelt (20-18), 8 p.m.

## Warner Downs Parker In ‘B’ Semifinals

BY RYAN DEAL  
Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN — Warner is back in familiar territory. The Monarchs swept Parker in straight sets 25-23, 25-20 and 25-10 Friday to advance to the State B volleyball championship match tonight at Golden Eagles Arena.

The Monarchs will play Chester Area at 8 tonight as they will try to win their third straight state title.

“It feels awesome,” senior libero Kaitlyn Boesel said about playing for another state title. “That was our goal all season to make it back to the state championship and we did it. It feels great.”

Warner freshman hitter Peyton Ellingson powered the Monarchs with a match-high 15 kills on Friday night. She added four digs, three blocks and one ace.

“Peyton Ellingson played the game of her season,” Warner coach Kari Jung said. “Defensively, serving, she hit lights out tonight. It was awesome. I was really proud of how she played.”

The Monarchs received another balanced effort on the night. Jaici Schlosser added 14 kills and two blocks. All-stater Ashley Rozell had 3 aces, 10 kills, 13 digs and 24 assists.

“I thought we played well as a unit,” Jung said. “Ashley Rozell struggled a little more out of the gates. She was trying to find holes and I think the rest of the players picked it up for her and usually we see it the other way around, but she played very well in the whole game as well. It was nice to see our other hitters step in and hit.”

Even though the Monarchs picked up their 31st sweep of the season, they had a tough time shaking off the pesky Pheasants. Warner jumped ahead 5-2 early in the first set, but Parker hung around and took a 20-19 lead. The set was then tied at 20-20, 21-21 and 22-22 before the Monarchs closed on a 3-1 run to eke out the first-set win.

“It just sets the tone for the rest of the match,” said Boesel about winning the first set.

Warner carried the momentum of the first set into the second set. The Monarchs jumped up 6-1, but the

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# Knights Hold Off Huron

## Defending Champions Prepare For Rematch Of 2013 Final

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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As it turns out, yes, Sioux Falls O’Gorman was tested at the state tournament.

But the top-ranked Knights still recorded another sweep.

Keyed again by senior hitter Taryn Kloth, O’Gorman defeated a scrappy Huron team 25-18, 25-23, 25-20 in Friday night’s semifinals of the S.D. State Class AA Volleyball Tournament at the Summit Center.

“I think that was very good for us to be tested a little bit at a state tournament, especially for (today),” said Kloth, who had 21 kills — most coming late in sets, when the Knights really needed a surge.

“It’ll be another good test again.”

The defending champion Knights, who are undefeated against South Dakota teams, advance to tonight’s (Saturday) 8 p.m. championship match.

Another semifinal victory was nice, sure, but O’Gorman isn’t settling, said head coach Julie Kolbeck.

“It’s one of those things, when you win it one time, you want it again,” Kolbeck said. “You’re not going to be satisfied until you get there again.”

“Our kids are happy going to the championship, but again, you’re not quite there yet.”

An improved Huron team stood in the way.

When the teams met early in the regular season, O’Gorman

swept by scores of 25-12, 25-15, 25-12. But the Tigers knew that had to change.

“Our goal was pretty much to close the gap, and I felt like we did that,” said Huron senior setter Lexi Eckmann, who recorded 24 set assists and five kills.

The Knights overcame an early scare in the first set, as Huron jumped out to a 13-9 lead. Order was restored, though, once Kloth got going — she had nine kills in the first set.

Huron was even better in the second set, pushing O’Gorman the entire way before the Knights finally scratched through.

“Looking at the seniors we have on the court, (we had to say), ‘look at your past experiences,’” Kolbeck said. “And it showed.”

“They kept their composure, and did a great job.”

The Knights then led from the start in set three to end any hope Huron had of mounting a comeback.


Samantha Zell led a balanced Tigers attack with eight kills, while Bailey Rathjen added seven kills and Sarah Carr had six kills.

“We knew there were two things we could control, and that was attitude and effort,” Huron coach Shelly Buddenhagen said. “We just wanted to give them a little bit of a fight, and for the most part, I thought we competed really hard.”




O’Gorman's Katie Kunkel gets low to dig out a ball during the Knights' semifinal matchup with Huron in the South Dakota State Class AA Volleyball Tournament on Friday at the Summit Center in Yankton.

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