



ROGER MERRIAM/WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION
Dakota Valley's Elizabeth Lammers spikes against Mount Vernon-Plankinton's Mikayla Weiss during the third place match of the South Dakota State Class A Volleyball Tournament on Saturday in Watertown. Dakota Valley won 3-0 to finish third.

Panthers Place Third In A

BY GARRETT DORNEMAN

Watertown Public Opinion

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of a larger story on all the non-championship matches in Class A.

WATERTOWN — Dakota Valley churned out a 25-20, 25-18, 25-16 win over second-seeded Mount Vernon-Plankinton in the third place match of the South Dakota State Class A Volleyball Tournament on Saturday in Watertown.

Both teams came in fresh off of tough semifinal losses the night before, but Dakota

Valley (29-5) proved more ready for the rebound.

The Panthers utilized a balanced offensive attack ignited by Elizabeth Lammers' 13 kills. Shayla Johnson punched in eight kills, Meredith Lammers seven and Anne McCabe and Lindsey Smith each six. Jordyn Young logged four aces and 16 digs. Smith added two solo blocks and 31 assists.

Dani Stoltz knocked down eight kills to pace Mount Vernon-Plankinton (28-5). Ivy Haines followed with five kills. Mikayla Weiss recorded 14 assists. Makayla Karst tallied 12 digs and Halley Haak 11.

Pheasants Pluck Sully Buttes For Third

BY RYAN DEAL

Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN — Parker dropped the first set, but won the next three to take third place at the State B volleyball tournament at Golden Eagles Arena.

The Pheasants dropped the first set, but rallied to win the next three sets to defeat Sully Buttes. Parker won by the scores of 20-25, 25-18, 25-16 and 25-15.

"It felt really great to end our season with a bang," Parker senior hitter Allison Sanner said. "I knew we could do it. It just started off a little bit slow, but it ended really well."

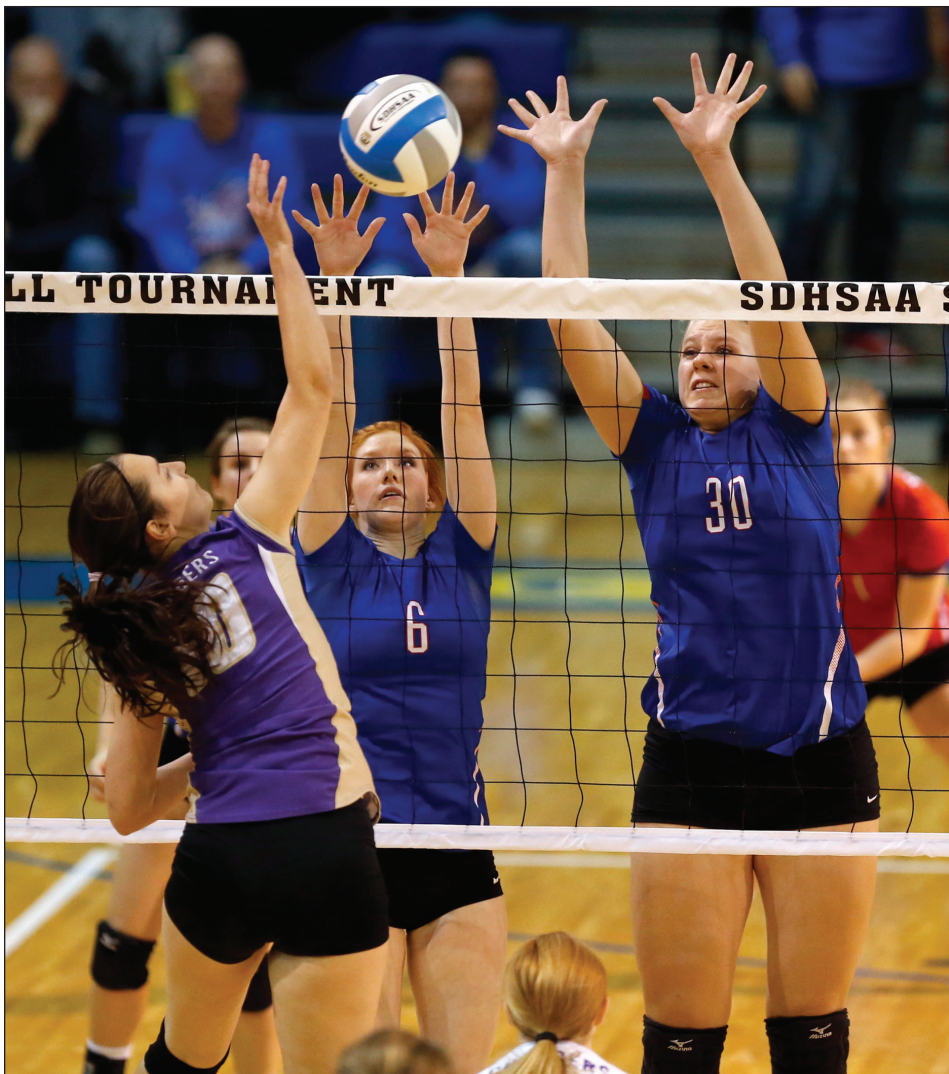
Parker bolted out to a 7-1 lead in the first set, but the Chargers rallied and forced a 18-18 tie. Sully Buttes took its first lead at 19-18 and closed on a 6-2 run to take the first set.

"We just didn't have that fire in us," Sanner said. "We were just still kind of bummed from last night (a three set defeat vs. Warner) and didn't have the energy, but we definitely built it."

The Pheasants definitely got better as the match went along. Parker broke away after a close second set to even the match at 1-1 and built a big lead in the third set en route to staking a 2-1 lead in the match.

"When you get into the state tournament and especially in the night bracket, you are going to face the best teams and you can't let teams get on a four-five point run," Sully Buttes coach Randy Pool said. "Because it is tough to come back and that is exactly what happened to us."

The Chargers got behind in the fourth set and Parker



JOHN DAVIS/ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS
Sully Buttes' Briana Hyde, left, reaches to hit the ball as Parker's Hannah Carlson (6) and Contessa Harold (30) defend the net during Saturday night's third place match at the South Dakota Class B Volleyball Tournament at the Golden Eagles Arena.

cruised to the win to take the match 3-1.

"It wasn't that we didn't play well," Pool said. "In certain little situations we let them score four-five points. They are a great volleyball team. They got some big hitters."

Sanner paced the Pheasants with a match-high 22

kills and added 16 digs. Rylie Christensen added 10 kills for Parker, which finishes its season with a 30-4 record.

"I'm really happy about it," Sanner said about finishing her career with a win. "Now I have three third places under my belt, so I'm glad."

Parker finished third at

the state volleyball tournament in 2011 and 2012.

Sully Buttes finishes its season 29-4.

"We are very happy with our year, 29-4, we had 26-game win streak, fourth place," Pool said. "We are not hanging our heads. We are happy."

State-U

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goal in the second quarter, his first miss of the season — though replays later showed the kick was good. The Coyotes later had a pass to Shufford on the goal line taken away by SDSU's Je Ryan Butler for an interception.

The Jackrabbits added field goals from Justin Syrovatka — from 21 and 34 yards — in the second half, building a 37-0 lead before the Coyotes found the end zone.

Earl's 10-yard pass to Shufford early in the fourth quarter got the Coyotes within 37-7 and backup quarterback Ryan Saeger hit tight end Josh Hale for a 10-yard touchdown with 2:10 remaining.

Left to surmise the season and areas of improvement moving forward, Glenn mentioned USD's defense, which closed the season having allowed at least 500 yards in each of their final five games.

"We're giving up too many big plays," Glenn said. "We really need to take a hard look at how we're defending, if these are the athletes we're going to defend with."

Injuries also took a toll on the Coyotes down the stretch. The top three running backs missed the final two games, leaving Khorey Kilgore (17 carries for 82 yards) as the only true



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D
South Dakota State running back Zach Zenner, 31 in yellow, looks for running room during the Jackrabbits' matchup with South Dakota on Saturday in Brookings.

back available Saturday. Full-back Drew Potter had eight carries for 103 yards, providing one of the few bright spots for USD.

The Coyotes will, though, return all 11 defensive starters from Saturday, as well as many of the backups. In all, South Dakota will graduate 10 seniors, but only four of those saw the field Saturday.

Progress may have been slow in 2014, but the Coyotes know the only way to truly improve is to start working right away, linebacker John Wessel said.

"It's not like every game we were getting rolled, we were in games; in them in the fourth quarter," he said. "Seeing that

progress is great, we just have to keep fighting."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

S. DAKOTA STATE 37, SOUTH DAKOTA 14
SOUTH DAKOTA: 0 0 0 14 — 14
S. DAKOTA STATE: 21 10 3 3 — 37
First Quarter
SDSt—Zenner 10 run (Syrovatka kick), 12:46.
SDSt—Schneider 28 pass from Sumner (Syrovatka kick), 8:12.
SDSt—Wienke 18 pass from Sumner (Syrovatka kick), 3:39.
Second Quarter
SDSt—FG Syrovatka 32, 14:05.
SDSt—Zenner 50 pass from Sumner (Syrovatka kick), 7:34.
Third Quarter
SDSt—FG Syrovatka 21, 8:38.
Fourth Quarter
SDSt—FG Syrovatka 34, 13:30.

SDak—Shufford Jr 10 pass from Earl (Bergner kick), 10:34.
SDak—Hale 10 pass from Saeger (Bergner kick), 2:10.
A—10,631.

	SDak	SDSt
First downs	24	20
Rushes-yards	28-184	34-120
Passing	254	427
Comp-Att-Int	22-46-1	18-30-0
Return Yards	9	46
Punts-Avg.	5-47.8	4-41.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-35	5-49
Time of Possession	28:55	31:05

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—South Dakota, Potter 8-103, Kilgore 17-82, Earl 2-10, Saeger 1-minus 11, S. Dakota State, Zenner 18-76, Mengarelli 9-28, Gandy 4-18, Lujan 1-2, Team 2-minus 4).
PASSING—South Dakota, Earl 20-44-1-226, Saeger 2-4-0-28, S. Dakota State, Sumner 16-28-0-395, Lujan 2-4-0-32.
RECEIVING—South Dakota, Donovan 6-94, Shufford Jr 6-87, Van Roekel 4-41, Meyer 2-20, Kilgore 2-11, Potter 1-11, Hale 1-10, S. Dakota State, Wienke 6-177, Schneider 4-85, Zenner 2-53, Goedert 2-37, Mengarelli 1-26, Wesley 1-25, Andrews 1-13, Landberg 1-11.

Wrap

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the 10th time in 11 years that Roosevelt finished in the top three. Roosevelt has three titles in that stretch (2006, 2008, 2012), all under Lynch.

— Yes, this was the fifth straight year that Class AA had an all-Sioux Falls final, but don't be surprised if that changes next year.

Both Watertown and Harrisburg had only two seniors on talented teams. Water-

town is going to have a boatload of seniors next year, with an athletic defense. The Arrows aren't as tall as the other teams, which might hurt their chances, but they will make some waves.

Harrisburg is long and athletic, and played several sophomores and freshmen in its regular rotation. They are coached by Ronette Costain, who took the Tigers to the 2005 Class A title and a runner-up finish in 2008.

Yankton could even be a contender to make some waves. While the Gazelles will have to work to replace some

quality back row players and one of their setters, Yankton has a tall, athletic front line back.

— If this is the last time that Yankton hosts the state volleyball tournament, I think the city and the Summit Center put on a good show.

Many of the visiting fans and media I talked to throughout the tournament had good things to say about Yankton. I know some fans commuted from Sioux Falls, but I am sure the community put its best foot forward for those who stayed.

Next year, all three classes

will be in Sioux Falls. The three classes will be split back up between Brookings (AA), Watertown (A) and Huron (B) in 2016, but the field is wide open after that. There has been some talk about bringing the three classes back to the same facility on a regular basis, which would restrict sites to Sioux Falls and Rapid City, but that is purely speculation at this point.

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