

Progress Results In Summit League Tourney Berth For USD

Coyotes Face Top-Seeded NDSU On Thursday

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VERMILLION — Elena Tsakakis and Danielle Anderson say they can still clearly remember the frustrations of their freshman year at the University of South Dakota.

They were newcomers to a soccer team that would win three games and lose 14.

Now seniors, they knew it was going to take some time for the Coyotes to turn a corner. They just hoped they'd still be around when it happened.

"This is what we've talked about since freshman year," Tsakakis said. "It's been that ultimate goal and now it's like, 'I can't believe we're here.'"

Where is that?

The Coyotes reached the Summit League Championships for the first time and will open Thursday at 6 p.m. against top-seeded North Dakota State. Oral Roberts, the No. 2 seed, and South Dakota State, the No. 3 seed, will play in Thursday's other first round game.

The tournament will be held at Fish-back Soccer Park in Brookings.

Picked to finish seventh in the league this season, USD used wins in its final four regular season games to finish fourth — earning the last spot in the field.

The difference between last year (2-4-2 in the Summit) and this year (5-3) may appear small, but ask the players, and they'll give you a big picture answer — with things like chemistry, camaraderie and continuity.

"Each year we've gotten better, and this year we put everything together," said Anderson, one of seven seniors on the roster. "We're doing the things we set out to do."

"From year one to year four, it's an incredible difference."

Progress came slow in Vermillion, but steadily, USD started getting better — last year, with a 9-8-2 record, was perhaps proof that the program had turned a corner.

"It's definitely a process," said head coach Mandy Green, who is in her sixth

season.

"It's a long and painful process of just growth and development, and getting players to believe."

For all those small signs of progress, USD still struggled in Summit League action. It won a total of three conference games between 2011-13 and then improved to two wins last year.

Sure, those early losses may have been frustrating, but the end goal never changed, according to Tsakakis.

"As much as it sucked at the time, it was really good for us," she said. "It really prepared us to keep overcoming adversity and injuries and getting down."

How much of USD's success in conference play — particularly of late — is a credit to a more aggressive non-conference slate?

Yes, that certainly plays a role, Green said.

A year ago, the team's first three games were against Northern State (D2), College of Saint Mary (NAIA) and Arkansas-Pine Bluff (D1, an 11-0 victory for USD).



P&D FILE PHOTO
Corey Strang, shooting, and the South Dakota women's soccer team begin play in their first-ever appearance in the Summit League women's soccer tournament on Thursday in Brookings. The Coyotes face top-seeded North Dakota State, which beat USD 1-0 in double-overtime earlier this season.

Cedar Earns Sub-District C2-4 Title

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Hartington Cedar Catholic moved within a victory of a state tournament berth by winning the Sub-District C2-4 title with a 25-15, 20-25, 25-19, 25-20 victory over Ponca on Tuesday.

Cedar Catholic (22-8) will face Guardian Angels Central Catholic on Thursday in Norfolk. The Trojans beat GACC in the Mid-State Conference Tournament championship a week ago.

Taylor Lammers had 14 kills and eight blocks, and Maddie Wieseler had 12 kills, five blocks, 15 digs and four ace serves to lead a balanced Cedar Catholic attack. Jada Cattau had 11 digs. Maggie Wiebelhaus posted four blocks and three ace serves. Abby Steffen had eight kills and 15 digs, Brianna Lammers had 14 digs and Megan Leise had 11 digs in the victory.

No statistics were reported for Ponca.

.....	15	25	19	20
PONCA (25-6).....	15	25	19	20
HART, CEDAR CATHOLIC (22-8).....	25	20	25	25

Homer 3, LCC 2

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Homer survived a late rally to beat Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 25-12, 25-13, 23-25, 22-25, 15-12 in the opening round of the Sub-District C2-4 Volleyball Tournament on Monday.

No statistics were reported for Homer, which was eliminated by Hartington Cedar Catholic in the semifinals.

For LCC, Kaci Groen had 13 kills, three blocks and 16 digs, and Katelyn Cooke had 14 assists and 15 digs to lead the way. Bryn Schutte had three blocks, three ace serves and 17 digs. Lorna Maxon posted three ace serves and 14 digs. Katie Leapley had five blocks and Mady Holloway added 11 digs for the Bears.

.....	25	25	23	22	15
HOMER (13-17).....	25	25	23	22	15
LAUREL-CONCORD-COL. (6-22).....	12	13	25	25	12

Sub-District D2-5 Wynot 3, Winside 0

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Wynot and Winside played in four matches on Tuesday in Wynot, but Wynot would end up coming away with the win.

In the win for Wynot, Danielle Wieseler had 40 set assists and 11 digs. Courtney Arkfeld had 24 digs and 24 kills.

No stats were recorded for Winside.

Wynot will face O'Neill St Mary's on Thursday, with the winner qualifying for state.

.....	15	25	15	15
WINSIDE (11-16).....	15	25	15	15
WYNOT (21-7).....	25	17	25	25

Wynot 3, Wausa 0

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Wynot swept Wausa 25-8, 25-7, 25-9 in the semifinals of the Sub-District D2-5 Volleyball Tournament on Monday.

Courtney Arkfeld led Wynot's offense with 12 kills and their defense with 18 digs. Danielle Wieseler provided 27 assists and made 15 digs.

For Wausa, Michaela Timmerman had seven kills and Regan Hennings had five kills to lead the way. Claire Vanness had 14 assists. Tara Munter had 17 digs, Mary Johnson had 11 digs and Alli Barney had 10 digs to lead the floor defense.

.....	25	25	25
WYNOT.....	25	25	25
WAUSA.....	8	7	9



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Mount Marty's Sam Bischoff attacks the ball during the Lancers' Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball match with Dakota Wesleyan on Tuesday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Bischoff was one of two seniors for MMC honored prior to the match.

Wagner Sweeps Parkston To Open Region 5A Tourney

WAGNER — The second-seeded Wagner Red Raiders swept past rival Parkston 25-12, 25-20, 25-16 in the opening round of the Region 5A Volleyball Tournament on Tuesday at Wagner High School.

The victory advances Wagner (27-5) to a home semifinal against McCook Central-Montrose. Parkston finishes with a 9-19 record.

Jaslynn Bruguier had five ace serves and 10 digs, and Jensen Holzbauer had nine kills to lead Wagner. Ali Kuca posted seven kills and 11 digs. Krista Dvorak had 15 assists and Sierra Juffer had 14 assists in the victory.

Halli Heisinger posted seven kills and two blocks, and Sydney Weber had 10 assists for Parkston. Faith Rands added 16 digs.

.....	12	20	16
PARKSTON (9-19).....	12	20	16
WAGNER (27-5).....	25	25	25

assists, and Melissa Wollman had nine kills and four blocks to lead West Central. Emma Habben had 22 digs and four ace serves. Ashlyn Hanisch had 20 assists and Molly MacMahon had 20 digs for the Trojans.

For Tri-Valley, Kaylee Wingen had 14 kills and Brooke Kulzler had 12 kills and five blocks (three solo) to lead the way. Morgan Haga had 15 digs and Carter Hausmann had 10 digs in the effort.

.....	17	25	25	21	15
WEST CENTRAL.....	17	25	25	21	15
TRI-VALLEY (16-11).....	25	21	22	25	11

McCook Cent.-Mon. 3, Bon Homme 0

TYNDALL — Danielle Hansen had 13 kills, 11 digs and three ace serves to lead McCook Central-Montrose to a 25-20, 26-24, 25-14 victory over Bon Homme in the first round of the Region 5A Volleyball Tournament on Tuesday in Tyndall.

The victory sends MCM (14-12) into a semifinal matchup at Wagner on Thursday.

Also for MCM, Morgan Koepsell had nine kills and Nicole Ries had 30 assists to lead the way. Natalie Gottlob and Marissa Painter each had five blocks in the victory.

For Bon Homme, Jeni Schmidt had 10 kills and two blocks, and Morgan McAllister had six kills to lead the way. Alie Adams had 20

32 set assists and six digs. Caitlin Hinseth had 22 kills and eight digs.

For Alcester-Hudson, Kassy Walth had 20 kills and 15 blocks. Cassie Schiefen had 32 set assists and 10 digs.

Alcester-Hudson's next match will be on Thursday in Gayville for the 10B Championship.

.....	7	25	16	25	15
IRENE-WAKONDA (11-11).....	7	25	16	25	15
ALCESTER-HUDSON (15-13).....	25	10	25	21	12

District 9B Scotland 3, Marion 1

MENNO — The Scotland Highlanders survived a late surge to beat Marion 25-19, 25-16, 25-27, 29-27 in the opening round of the District 9B Volleyball Tournament on Tuesday at Menno High School.

The victory sends the Highlanders (10-18) into a semifinal matchup with top-seeded and fifth-ranked Parker on Thursday.

Elyssa Walloch had 10 kills and 39 digs, and Taylor Gall had nine kills and three blocks to lead a balanced Scotland attack. Alex Conrad posted seven kills, 12 assists and eight ace serves. Taylor Bietz had 19 assists and 15 digs. Shannon Fanning had 45 digs and Kayla Rokusek had eight kills in the victory.

For Marion, Michele Schoenwald had 13 kills and Sarah Ptak had three ace serves and three blocks to lead Marion. Renae Kayser had 20 digs and 19 assists. Ashley Engbrecht also had 20 digs for the Bears.