

Football | State-U

More At Stake For This Year's Showdown

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION – The Division I football rivalry between the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State has been rather one-sided.

Both on the scoreboard and in terms of the significance of the matchups.

The nearly 130-year rivalry between the two schools reached a new level when USD joined the Missouri Valley Football Conference in 2012, meaning that the Coyotes and Jackrabbits would face each other every year.

Yet, in the three games since, the Jackrabbits – who have won by an average of 20 points – have been the ones playing for more than pride: They've had playoffs on their mind. The Coyotes, meanwhile, haven't had anything to play for beyond bragging rights.

That changes this year.

"Last year, we had what, two wins?" USD sophomore tight end Aaron Ramsey said. "Our season was basically over."

"But adding that playoff piece to it brings it to a whole other level."

When the two teams take the field Saturday afternoon at the DakotaDome in Vermillion, both sides have legitimate playoff aspirations. The fifth-ranked Jacks (7-2, 4-2) have likely already secured a playoff spot, while the Coyotes (5-4, 3-3) likely need to win out to get an at-large berth.

There was eventually going to be a time in this series where both sides had something extra to play for, and because of the timing of the games – usually the second-to-last or last regular season game – it was going to come with added significance.

It just took until year No. 4.

• In 2012, USD came into

the game with a 1-9 record, and SDSU 7-3. The Jacks would go on to reach the playoffs.

• In 2013, USD came in with a 4-6 record, and SDSU 6-4. The Jacks would reach the playoffs.

• In 2014, USD took a 2-9 record into the game in Brookings, with SDSU 7-4. The Jacks again reached the playoffs.

This year, however, the Coyotes – who scored an upset win at North Dakota State – have turned a corner.

"Everybody knew that would happen with coach (Joe) Glenn there," SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier said Tuesday. "He's a solid guy, he's had success."

"You build football programs, you don't just snap your fingers."

And that's what Glenn has done in Vermillion.

After a winless conference season (0-8) last year, the



P&D FILE PHOTO
South Dakota quarterback Ryan Saeger, 2, finds running room against the Southern Illinois defense during Saturday's victory against the Salukis. USD hosts rival South Dakota State on Saturday, Nov. 14, the final home game of the season for the Coyotes.

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S.D. Volleyball Regions



P&D FILE PHOTO
Parker players celebrate a point during the Region 5B volleyball final against Gayville-Volin on Tuesday in Parker. Parker won 3-0 to earn the program's fourth trip to state in the past five seasons.

Pheasants Soar Back To State

BY DYLAN HUGGINS
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PARKER – The Pheasants are headed back to the state tournament.

Parker and Gayville-Volin faced off Tuesday night in Parker during the Region 5B volleyball match for a trip to the state tournament on the line. The final scores of the matches were 25-15, 25-18, and 25-14.

Neither of these teams met during the regular season, but both teams had similar paths in getting to the Region championship. Parker had a 25-5 record and Gayville-Volin had a 20-7 record coming into Tuesday's game.

Parker and Gayville-Volin were both #1 seeds in their districts and both teams beat their first opponent 3-0 and their second opponent 3-2.

With the wins, Gayville-Volin won their first district title for the first time in their programs history.

For Parker, head coach Jill Christensen last month achieved her 75th career victory as a head coach.

Head coach Jill Christensen said she was pleased with how

her team played.

"We were pretty sharp tonight and with our power in the beginning I think it kind of intimidated them," Christensen said.

"It was a great environment and we had a great pep rally today," she said. "When there is this type of environment, the kids just rise to the occasion."

Parker has finished third at state the past three of the four years.

Hannah Carlson, who plays for Parker, said she and her team came into the game ready to play.

"We came into this ready to go and we have been preparing for a long time to play Gayville-Volin," Carlson said.

"This was a really good test for us to be able to be down and come back like that," she said.

For Parker in the win, Ryle Christensen and Contessa Harold each had 12 kills. Lexi Olsen had 15 digs and Hannah Carlson had 14 digs.

In the loss for Gayville-Volin, Genevieve Clark had 10 digs and 14 kills. Megan Hirsch had five digs and six kills. Grace Dangel had 22 set assists.

Despite the loss, head coach



P&D FILE PHOTO
Parker's Contessa Harold attacks against a block attempt by Gayville-Volin's Madi Nelson during the Region 5B volleyball championship on Tuesday in Parker.

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Panthers Top 'Dogs To Earn State 'A' Berth

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND
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ELK POINT – The Dakota Valley Panthers will make their fourth straight trip to the South Dakota State Volleyball tournament after defeating the Beresford Watchdogs 25-16, 25-18, 25-18 in the Region 4A championship on Tuesday in Elk Point.

also

■ MVP Averages Loss To Wagner To Claim Region 5A Volleyball Crown.

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It's awesome," third-year DV coach Rick Pruet said. "I am excited and hopefully we go down there in form and win another state championship."

The attack was steady for the Panthers with the twins Meredith and Elizabeth Lammers leading with 10 kills, Shayla Johnson with eight, and Anne McCabe with seven.

"It's nice to have a lot of options," Pruet said. "The team on the other side blocking-wise can't really focus on one kid, when you have options everywhere it really makes things difficult for the other team."

Beresford coach Rob Wilson came in with the gameplan to slow down these hitters down, but ultimately could not.

"We were hoping to put a lot of touches on the ball, block them a little bit, and get them frustrated," Wilson said. "They moved it around well and got us a little off balance."

The Panthers rolled against Beresford starting in the first set, where they led the entire way and had a balanced attacking force with Johnson and Meredith Lammers recording four kills apiece on route to a 25-16 win.

In the second set, the Panthers jumped to an 11-7

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New-Look Crofton Set For State



P&D FILE PHOTO
Crofton's Katie Petersen, 14, attacks during a match earlier this season. Petersen is one of the seniors that have helped lead the Lady Warriors to a third straight state volleyball tournament berth. CHS faces Stanton in the opening round of Class C2 play on Thursday in Lincoln.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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CROFTON, Neb. – After graduating two players that not only combined for more than 700 kills but also played all the way around, the Crofton Lady Warriors volleyball team had to find itself in 2015.

Four months later, they find themselves where they finished the past two seasons: at the state tournament.

Crofton (20-9) begins play in the Nebraska Class C2 Volleyball Tournament on Thursday, drawing Stanton (31-3) in the 3:30 p.m. game at Lincoln Southwest High School.

Maria Wortmann, now playing for NCAA Division II fourth-ranked Wayne State, and Allison Arens, who is about to begin her college basketball career at NCAA Division I South Dakota, graduated from a Crofton team that was undefeated until the state championship

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New Long-Term Care Center Addition Open House

Avera Sacred Heart Majestic Bluffs is hosting an open house to commemorate a campus expansion that will replace the Avera Yankton Care Center. See the premiere long-term care facility in South Dakota, including the new "town center" that will serve as the cornerstone of our expanded community.

Avera 
Sacred Heart
Majestic Bluffs

2111 W. 11th St.
Yankton, SD 57078

Tuesday, Nov. 24
4 – 7 p.m.

Enjoy tours of the facility, snacks and refreshments.

15-ASCH-6430