

# No. 12 Illinois State Holds Off USD

Teams Combine  
For Over 1,000  
Yards As Redbirds  
Spoil Coyotes'  
MVFC Debut

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — A game the league newcomers could have won did not play out that way because of an early hole and more mistakes.

There will be plenty of learning moments for the University of South Dakota as it wades through the Missouri Valley Football Conference waters, and Saturday afternoon gave the Coyotes plenty of those.

In a contest that saw nearly 1,000 combined yards of offense, No. 12-ranked Illinois State held off USD 34-31 at the DakotaDome.

"We felt like, coming in, it was as good if not better than Illinois state," said USD sophomore receiver Terrence Terry, who led with seven catches for 89 yards and a touchdown. "We felt like we had a good game plan, and we executed that game plan.

"In the Missouri Valley, you have to win close games, and we just couldn't do it today."

Fitting for a league debut for the Coyotes (1-3, 0-1), a wild series of events in the fourth quarter swung the momentum in two directions.

Down 24-17 with under 10 minutes to play, the Coyotes forced — and recovered — a fumble, setting up a 41-yard touchdown pass to Marcus Sims on the ensuing play.

Tie game, 24-24.

The Redbirds themselves needed just one play, getting a 79-yard touchdown pass from Matt Brown to Donovan Harden with 9:13 to play. The lead was one ISU would never give back, despite a late touchdown from the Coyotes.

In short, USD had its chances to pull another home upset.

"It was one of those games where about when you thought we were out of it, we got back in it, and when we had the momentum, they answered," head coach Joe Glenn said.

"Both teams competed at a very high level, but ultimately in the end we made too many mistakes to get the victory."

Tops in that area? Penalties. USD committed seven penalties in the first half, leading directly to two Illinois State touchdown drives. In all, the Coyotes were flagged for nine penalties for 98 yards.

It all helped the visiting team walk away with a win; not some-

COYOTES | PAGE 12



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

South Dakota's Marcus Sims (32) stiff arms Illinois State defender Ezra Thompson (22) to gain extra yardage in the DakotaDome Saturday. Sims broke the 100-yard mark for the second time in three games. He finished with 120 yards on 14 carries, but it was not enough as Illinois State held off USD for a 34-31 victory. The game marked the Missouri Valley Conference debut for South Dakota.

## Nebraska Must Be Sharper With Three Of Next Four On Road

Huskers Ready To Get Back To Work After 30-27 Victory Over Wisconsin

BY ERIC OLSON

AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — As much fun as Nebraska had coming from behind to beat two-time defending Big Ten champion Wisconsin in front of a charged-up home crowd, the Cornhuskers realize they need to clean up their act with three of their next four games on the road.

Before the No. 21 Huskers rallied to win 30-27, they spotted the Badgers a 14-point lead eight minutes into the game and were down by 17 in the third quarter. Two fumbles and a roughing-the-kicker penalty led to Wisconsin touchdowns.

The Huskers know those kinds of mistakes at unbeaten and 12th-ranked Ohio State this Saturday won't fly.

"If we want to win the Big Ten, we can't do things like that," offensive lineman Jeremiah Sirles said. "We learned from it, and we have to move forward from it."

Several Nebraska players and coaches

said the first-half sloppiness stemmed from getting caught up in the atmosphere surrounding the Big Ten opener.

Taylor Martinez dropped the first snap of the game but recovered it. Rex Burkhead fumbled on his first carry after running up the back of his offensive lineman, setting up Wisconsin's second touchdown.

"We seemed jittery and out of sync with some of the stuff we were doing," offensive coordinator Tim Beck said. "I felt we were ready and prepared, but we didn't play that way at the start."

The Huskers had said for a week that they wanted payback for last year's humiliating, 31-point loss in Wisconsin. There was all the talk about the alternate uniforms — Nebraska in all red with black helmets and Wisconsin in mostly white with red trim. And it was the first time the Huskers were playing on prime-time national TV since their meltdown at UCLA three weeks earlier.

"This was a big game, but next week is an even bigger game," receiver Kenny Bell said.

"After that we play at Northwestern. You look at games like these — big, big and big. In the moment you try to get yourselves hyped up — Saturday night nationally televised game, you're playing Wisconsin. You have to find a way to channel it the right way."

The comeback was a sign of growth after the abysmal performance in the 36-30 loss to UCLA. In that game, the offense did next to nothing in the second half and the defense allowed 653 yards, the second-highest total in program history.

After halftime against Wisconsin, the Huskers generated 297 of their 440 yards and the defense gave up only 90 of the Badgers' 295 total yards.

"I can't say enough for the heart and determination our defense played with," defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. "They were put in a lot of bad situations. They were resilient and kept fighting. That's the mantra of this program, and it showed itself."

Nebraska started asserting itself late in the first half with a 12-play, 93-yard drive that cut the Badgers' lead to 20-10.

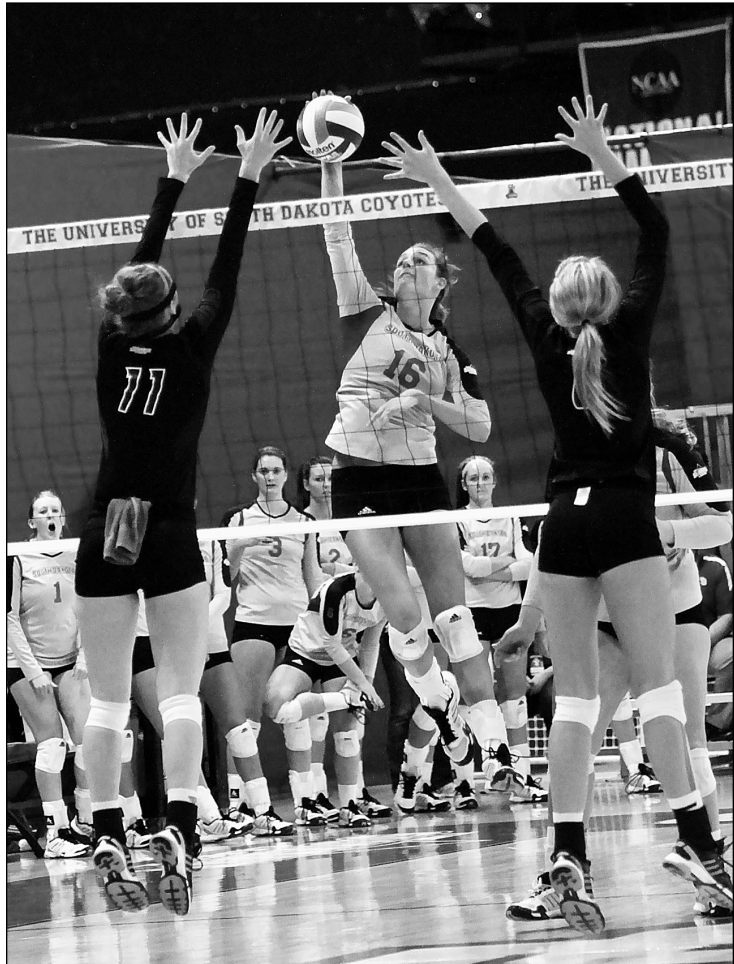
Martinez's fumble early in the third quarter led to the Badgers' 13-yard TD drive that made it a 17-point game. Then Huskers put together touchdown drives of 77 and 75 yards before Brett Maher kicked a 38-yard field goal to tie it and a 41-yard field goal for the lead.

It was the second-largest comeback in program history. The biggest was last year's rally from a 21-point deficit in the third quarter against Ohio State.

Defensive lineman Chase Rome said the mood at halftime reminded him of that game against the Buckeyes.

"No one in the locker room was like, 'Oh, we're going to lose this game.' Everyone was light-hearted, and we knew if we turned it on, there wasn't much (Wisconsin) could do to stop us. We all believed in each other. I've said since the offseason that this is the most team oriented I've seen this team, where I'm playing for the guy to my left and the guy to my right."

## Kansas City Clips Coyotes 3-2



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

South Dakota's Amber Aschoff (16) hits the ball between the outstretched arms of two Kansas City players during Summit League volleyball action in the DakotaDome on Saturday night.

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — A team playing above expectations was able to hold off a team playing below expectations.

And now the latter continues to search for answers.

Kansas City, picked one spot behind South Dakota in the pre-season Summit League poll, beat USD 25-15, 25-27, 21-25, 25-20, 18-16 in a five-set thriller Saturday night at the DakotaDome.

"It's so tough right now, because we're so close," said USD coach Matt Houk, whose team has lost five straight. "I know people don't care about being close, and we know it's all about wins and losses.

"At some point, we have to think it'll start to turn around."

The Kangaroos — near the bottom of the league in attack percentage and kills per set — out-hit the Coyotes .248-.173, and recorded 11 more kills, 17 more set assists and eight more blocks than USD.

Still, the Coyotes (7-10, 1-4) were in prime position to win Saturday.

Kansas City jumped out to a 7-3 lead in the deciding fifth set, only to see the Coyotes reel off six straight points. USD once led 13-12 before facing match point three times.

A Roos service error tied the set at 16 before Emily Lucas closed

USD VB | PAGE 12

## Mount Marty Cross Country Sweeps Another Meet

MITCHELL — The Mount Marty College cross country team earned its second consecutive meet sweep, claiming men's and women's honors at the Dakota Wesleyan Invitational on Saturday at Wild Oak Country Club.

The MMC men put four runners in the top seven on the way to easily outdistancing Wayne State. MMC finished at 27 points, better than WSC (63), Midland (66) and DWU (72).

The Lancers' Jordan Pater won the race, clocking a 25:39.29 over the 8,000-meter course. Wayne State's Garang Lual finished second in 26:38.50, followed by MMC's Samuel Lopez (27:07.63). Also for

the MMC men, Joshua Monson (27:31.50) finished fifth, Mychal Bierwagen (27:33.85) seventh, Kevin Cosman (28:22.34) 11th, Gage Blaschke (28:27.18) 12th, Ryan Oye (29:18.73) 17th and Vincent Raia (33:12.51) 27th.

Avon graduate Trace Tjeerdsma, running for DWU, finished 13th in 28:32.44.

MMC's Kaylee Fly won the 5,000-meter women's race in 19:04.70, helping the Lancer women to an 11-point victory over Midland, 37-48. Wayne State finished third (67), with DWU fourth (87) and Iowa Lakes fifth (110).

Katie Smelker (6th, 20:17.93), Tess Byrd (7th, 20:22.45) and Jor-

dyn Hudelson (Elk Point, 9th, 20:30.24) all finished in the top 10 for MMC. Brittney Mikkelsen (21:05.89) placed 14th, Jade Steinberg (Yankton, 21:32.53) 18th, Beth Finnegan (22:20.03) 22nd, Brooke Nordman (27:13.40) 36th and Brittany Healy (28:06.25) 37th.

Scotland native Haley Brunke led DWU, finishing fourth in 20:03.33.

Roy Griak Inv.

MINNEAPOLIS — South Dakota State's Michael Krsnak (24:48) placed fifth and South Dakota's Jeff Mettler (25:04) recorded an 11th-place finish to highlight the state's Division I squads at the Roy Griak Invitational cross country meet on Saturday.

SDSU finished seventh in the team standings, with Trent Lusignan (25:06) placing 12th and Yankton native Jared Allis (25:43) finishing 36th.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty's Caitlyn Illg, center, blocks Nebraska Wesleyan's Cody Long during their Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball match on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

## Lancers Show Continued Improvement In Loss To NWU

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE

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The Mount Marty Lancers have found comfort in their loss to Nebraska Wesleyan Prairie Wolves this weekend. NWU defeated MMC 25-23, 25-18, 26-24 Saturday afternoon at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena, an improvement from last year.

Lancers head coach Candice Climer said games like this prove the team is still battling and scrapping for a win.

"Last year we got smoked by these guys when we played against them," she said. "This year, we had two sets that were within two points. I like the games where they're close. I feel more at ease — if the scores were further apart I wouldn't be happy."

MMC struggled to get ahead of Prairie Wolves in the first set, leading 10-8 early in the game, but falling to NWU to lose the set 25-23.

NWU took an early lead again in the second game, keeping ahead of the Lancers to win 25-18.

Mount Marty fired back, leading 14-9 in the last set. NWU jumped ahead near the end winning 26-24.

Climer said matches like this show the Lancers are continuing to improve.

"At least they're trying and they're getting there," she said. "We're young, we're trying to get over that hump to win. You can see that we're right there, we just have to get over that hump."

Despite the loss to NWU, Climer said there were positive things happening on the court.

"I was impressed by the scrappiness in our games," she said.

"Some of the things we picked up and played off of were great. At one point in the first set we hit it over into the deep corner, and all I could think was, 'How did we do that?'"

During the game we were also trying to adjust the middles. Especially during the third set, (NWU) we needed to mix it up more. We were setting it up and they were right there to block it. We needed to move it more and shoot some more open shots. That helped."

The Lancers defense kept strong throughout the game, helping to keep the scores close. Sophomore Courtney Miller said it felt great to be able to compete with a good team.

"We went on and played really well," she said. "We had some amazing hits, our hitters did awesome and we had some great passes up there. Our defense was really good too.

It helps when we get the ball

up to the net for the setters, because then we can run that quick offense for our hitters and have the other team not react as fast."

Mount Marty's Amanda Dirksen had 11 kills and one block for the day, Bailey Kuchta put up seven kills and one ace, Kristen Boyle recorded seven kills and six blocks and Lexie Branson made five kills and one block.

For NWU, Katelyn Walsh had 11 kills and four blocks, Cicely Batie made eight kills and five blocks, Karyn Kuehl recorded eight kills and three blocks and Cody Long had six kills and one block.

MMC will host Northwestern on Wednesday. To prepare, Climer said the team will work on starting out on top.

"Within the last two games we've had back to back, we keep starting ourselves off 3-0 or 3-1," she said. "We're not starting out on top. We start out low and then we feel like we have to catch up and get over that hump. I told the girls we're working on that Monday. That's the biggest thing I'm noticing right now. If we fix that, and start off on top, we can finish."

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