

Coyotes Look To Refocus With Defending Champion NDSU Coming In

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Though there are plenty of wounds to lick, the University of South Dakota football team doesn't have the luxury of spending much time this week on the past. The defending national champions are on the horizon.

Coming off yet another late-lead-disappears performance on the road at Missouri State, the Coyotes (1-5, 0-3) are turning their attention to Saturday night's showdown with North Dakota State at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls.

In some ways, that's easier said than done, according to USD coach Joe Glenn. "Kids are a lot more resilient than coaches are," Glenn said during Tuesday

morning's media teleconference. "You can feel their pain, but you power through it. You're like a family, you keep believing and stay confident; believe in your trust for each other."

"Kind of like a family does in tough times."

A kind of family reunion will bring together the 2011 FCS champion Bison (5-1, 3-1) and the Coyotes for a Missouri Valley Football Conference contest that was moved from Vermillion to Sioux Falls.

"I hope it's a home game, it's in our state," Glenn joked.

"We honor Sioux Falls, it's a great place for us," he added. "It's a big support area for the university, and I think it'll be a great venue for it."

In what figures to be a near-sellout crowd of 10,000 at Howard Wood Field,

both USD and NDSU are looking to move on from a frustrating loss. The Bison, now ranked No. 4 in the FCS media poll, didn't allow an offensive touchdown but lost at home, 17-14, to Indiana State.

The former and now current league partners last played in 2010, a non-conference game in Fargo, but haven't met in a USD-hosted contest since 2002.

Even if the 2012 version of the Coyotes haven't found much success, NDSU coach Craig Bohl pointed to the close losses and connections as reason to be concerned.

"As we looked at USD, they're very competitive; been in every game I've seen," Bohl said Tuesday. "Joe Glenn has a great familiarity about the old North Central Conference teams, so we're anticipating a great ballgame."

"I know our fans are excited about it,

and I'm sure the Coyotes are excited as well."

Still, relationships aside, the programs are on opposite ends of the Missouri Valley spectrum.

North Dakota State boasts the league's top offense (averaging 422.5 yards and 39.2 points a game), and the top-ranked defense (allowing 202.7 yards and 9.8 points).

The Coyotes will have their hands full in the rushing game against an NDSU defense that surrenders just 69.7 yards on the ground.

"As good a defense as I've seen," Glenn said. "I think Marcus Williams is perhaps the best corner in our division; a great return guy. It seems like he comes up with an interception or big return every game. Their strength is their defense, they play with a real attitude."

For the first time in 11 months, the Bison are also looking to rebound after a loss. The defeat to Indiana State was NDSU's first in 10 games, a span that covers last fall's FCS playoff run and championship.

"We certainly go about our business," Bohl said. "We're playing a good team, so the feelings are a little bit different, but the best thing I know with athletes and coaches is to get focused on the task of hand."

"Certainly we feel like there's mistakes we need to correct to keep our team moving forward," he added. "We also recognize there's a big challenge ahead."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Hartington Battles Past Winside 3-2

HARTINGTON, Neb. — An all-around solid performance by Courtney Hochstein propelled Hartington past Winside 19-25, 26-24, 24-26, 25-23, 17-15 in Tuesday night volleyball action in Hartington, Neb.

Hochstein recorded 50 assists, 17 digs, two kills and one ace in the win for the Wildcats (17-5), while Michaela Dendinger had 23 kills, two digs, two aces, one block and one assist, while Shelby Hochstein made 14 digs, 12 kills, two assists, one block and one ace.

Camie Stratman also contributed 16 digs, eight kills and two assists.

No stats were reported for Winside (14-11).

Hartington and Winside will both participate in the Lewis & Clark Tourney on Monday.

WINSIDE (14-11)	25	24	26	23	15
HARTINGTON (17-5)	19	26	24	25	17

Knox County Tourn.

Championship: Crofton 2, Wausa 0

CROFTON, Neb. — The Crofton Lady Warriors defeated the Wausa Lady Vikings in two sets in the Knox County Tournament championship. The scores were 25-18, 25-7.

Makenzie Johnson led the charge for Crofton. Johnson tallied 10 assists, two digs, and a kill. Allision Arens also collected eight kills, three assists, two digs, and a block. Alex Allen added seven digs and two aces. Maria Wortmann recorded six kills, four digs, three blocks, and two aces.

There were no stats available for the Wausa Lady Vikings.

Crofton advances to 13-9 on their regular season and will continue play in the Mid-State Conference Tournament in Pierce/Norfolk Catholic. The tournament runs from Oct. 22 to Oct. 26.

Wausa will drop to 5-17 and concluded their regular season. The Lady Vikings will play in the Lewis and Clark Tournament that runs through Oct. 22 through Oct. 26. Sites for the tournament are to be announced.

CROFTON (13-9)	25	25
WAUSA (5-17)	18	7

3rd: Bloomfield 2, Creighton 1

CROFTON — Bloomfield came back from a zero to one deficit to defeat Creighton 2-1. The scores were 13-25, 25-21, 25-13.

There were no stats available for Bloomfield.

Paige Mitteis led the Creighton charge with 16 assists, six digs, and five aces. Rebecca Eggerling also contributed 18 kills, six digs, three blocks, two assists, and two aces. Siara Fritz added six kills and five digs on the night.

Bloomfield will improve to 6-16 on the season and will wrap up regular season play. The Queen Bees will participate in the Lewis and Clark Tournament which is from Oct. 22-26. Sites for the tournament will be announced. Creighton drops to 6-12 and will compete against Laurel-Concord/Colridge in Plainview on Oct. 22.

BLOOMFIELD (6-16)	13	25	25
CREIGHTON (6-12)	25	21	13

5th: Niobrara-Verdigre 2, Santee 0

CROFTON — Niobrara-Verdigre defeated Santee by the scores of 25-15, 25-8 in two sets in the fifth place game in the Knox County Tournament.

Shelby McCardle led the Niobrara-Verdigre attack with nine assists, two aces, and two digs. Reagan Larsen also contributed six digs, five aces, and two kills. Jade Salmen added six kills, four aces, and four digs. Tessa Ives recorded four digs, four aces, and four kills.

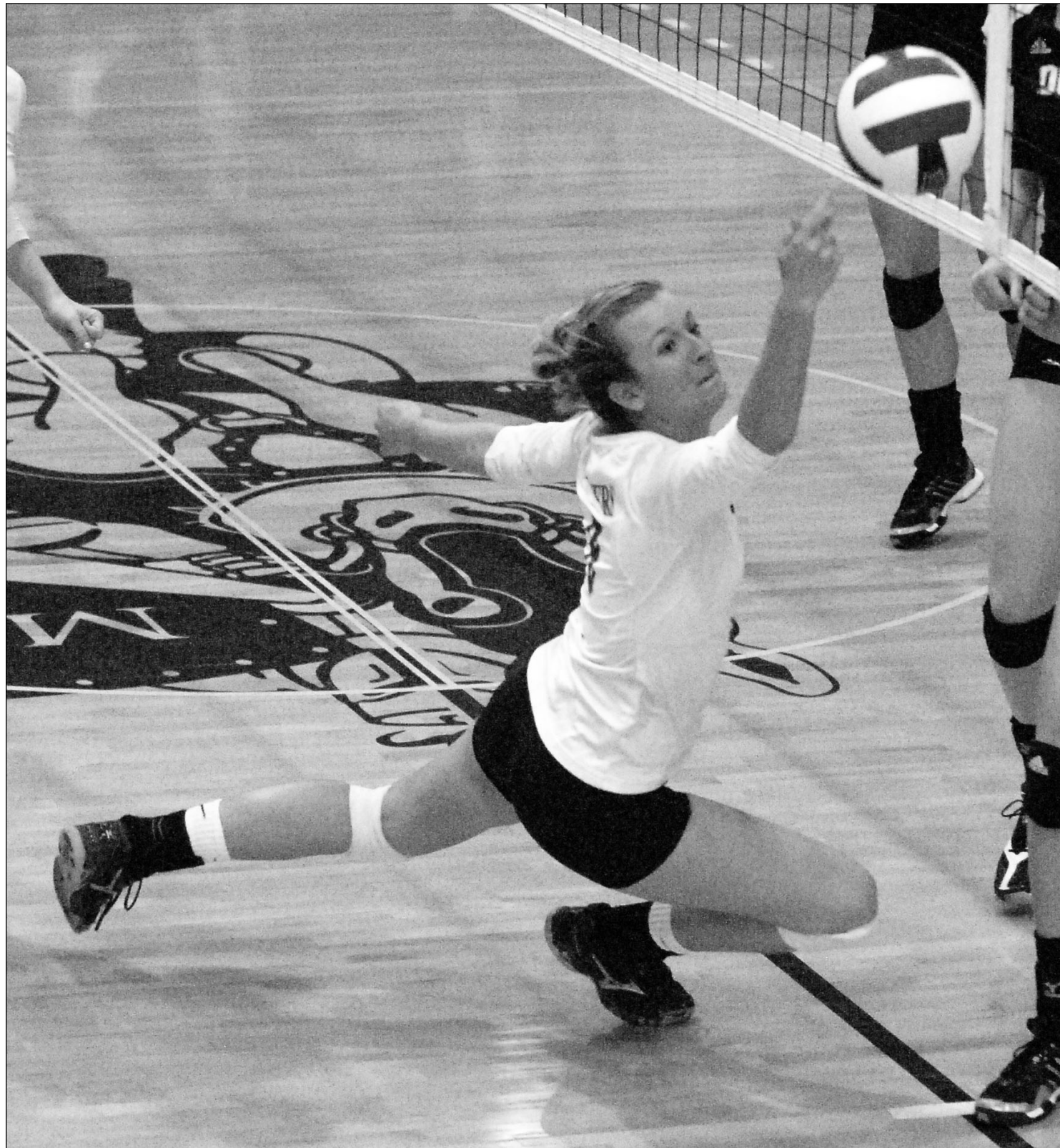
There were no stats available for Santee.

Niobrara-Verdigre will advance to 6-16 on the season and will travel to Wynot on Thursday. Santee will drop to 3-20 and will conclude regular season play. The Warriors will compete in the Niobrara Valley Conference Tournament which will take place in West Boyd or O'Neill. The tournament runs from Oct. 22-26.

NIORBARA-VERDIGRE (6-16)	25	25
SANTEE (3-20)	15	8

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 9

Dordt Holds Off Lancers



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Mount Marty sophomore Kristen Boyle dives for a loose ball during Tuesday night's GPAC volleyball match against Dordt at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Dordt pulled out a 25-22, 25-23, 25-22 victory.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Against one of the tallest teams in the league and one of the nation's top front lines, Mount Marty College appeared primed for an upset.

The task, however, was a little too high up the mountain.

Dordt College, receiving votes in the latest NAIA poll, held off the Lancers 25-22, 25-23, 25-22 in a Great Plains Athletic Conference sweep Tuesday night at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

Yes, it's another loss for MMC (5-18, 1-10), but it was perhaps the team's best performance of the season — against a league power, no less.

"Momentum was a roller coaster the whole time," said MMC senior Amanda Dirksen, who had 12 kills on her birthday.

"We were close the whole time, but serving got us. At least we hung in there, though."

Dordt, with seven players at least 6-foot tall, was eventually able to fend off the scrappy Lancers, who boast just two 6-footers in comparison.

"We came out and played up to their level, even better at times," said MMC assistant coach Cody Lukkes, filling in for head coach Candice Cramer.

"That spirit we showed got the crowd into it."

Inspired to play for their absent coach, the Lancers came on strong in the opening set, jumping in front 9-3.

The Defenders, however, tied it at 19, went ahead 24-20 and held on 25-22.

The Lancers nearly took it a step further in the second set, putting together perhaps its best overall set of the season.

From a 14-14 tie, Mount Marty jumped ahead 23-18 thanks to a collection of well-placed spikes, defensive saves and aggressive serves — taking command.

Just as suddenly, Dordt reeled off seven straight points to win the set.

"I was a little worried that our heads would be down, but the girls came out fired up," Lukkes said. "They kept their heads up the whole time."

LANCERS | PAGE 9

Earnhardt Visits Concussion Specialist In Pa.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Dale Earnhardt Jr. visited a noted concussion specialist in Pittsburgh on Tuesday as part of the planned rehabilitation program to get NASCAR's most popular driver back in a car.

Hendrick Motorsports confirmed that Earnhardt met with Dr. Micky Collins, the clinical and executive director of the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program.

Collins is one of the leading experts in the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of athletes who have suffered concussions. He and Dr. Mark Lovell developed the ImPACT test now used by many professional sports leagues, including the NFL, to assess concussions and determine when an injured athlete can safely return to play.

Earnhardt was accompanied by neurosurgeon Dr. Jerry Petty, the doctor who would not clear Earnhardt to race last week because of two concussions suffered over the past six weeks. Earnhardt did not seek treatment for the first one, suffered in an Aug. 29 crash at a tire test at Kansas. He went to see Petty last week because of a lingering headache following a 25-car crash in the Oct. 7 race at Talladega.

Earnhardt missed Saturday night's race at Charlotte, and will miss this weekend's race at Kansas, too. The injury snapped his streak of 461 consecutive starts, which was the fifth longest active streak in the Sprint Cup Series.

No. 1 Roosevelt Sweeps Yankton

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Sioux Falls Roosevelt Rough Riders came at Yankton from all angles, eventually wearing down the Gazelles on the way to a 25-22, 25-19, 25-16 victory in prep volleyball action on Tuesday at the Summit Center.

Left-side hitter Tagyn Larson pounded out a team-best 12 kills for Roosevelt. Middle hitter Ashley Wilson had 10 kills, as well as eight digs. Maggie DeJong had nine kills and two assisted blocks, Paige Rome had three ace serves and Erin Temple had 27 assists in the win.

For Yankton, Mikala Hora had 21 kills and Kelsey Fitzgerald had 14 kills to lead the offense. Maria Binder finished with 29 assists. Riley Smith posted two ace serves. Haley Mines finished with a team-best eight digs, with Brooke Wuebben, Smith and Fitzgerald each recording seven.

Yankton got off to a quick start in the opening frame, leading 7-4 before Roosevelt ran off nine of 11 points to take the lead. Larson had two kills, and DeJong had a kill and an ace serve in the run. The Gazelles fought back, eventually tying the set at 19 before Larson again blasted away from the left side to give the Riders the opening set.

Set two followed a similar pattern, with Yankton taking the early lead only to have the Rough Riders pull away. Roosevelt, though, was aided by Yankton service errors in the frame.

"Our game plan coming in was to serve aggressively," Woodward said. "In set two, though, we missed six serves."

Roosevelt didn't give Yankton the chance to serve often in set three, jumping out to a 12-3 lead

and keeping the Gazelles at bay to earn their 15th victory of the season.

"Our rhythm definitely developed in the third set," said Roosevelt head coach Holly Lynch. "We prepared for Hora and Fitzgerald. They are two very good volleyball players, and they both had a good match."

Yankton struggled to get its passing on track in the third set, which Roosevelt took advantage of, according to Yankton head coach Leasa Woodward.

"They have too much firepower if we let them get into system."

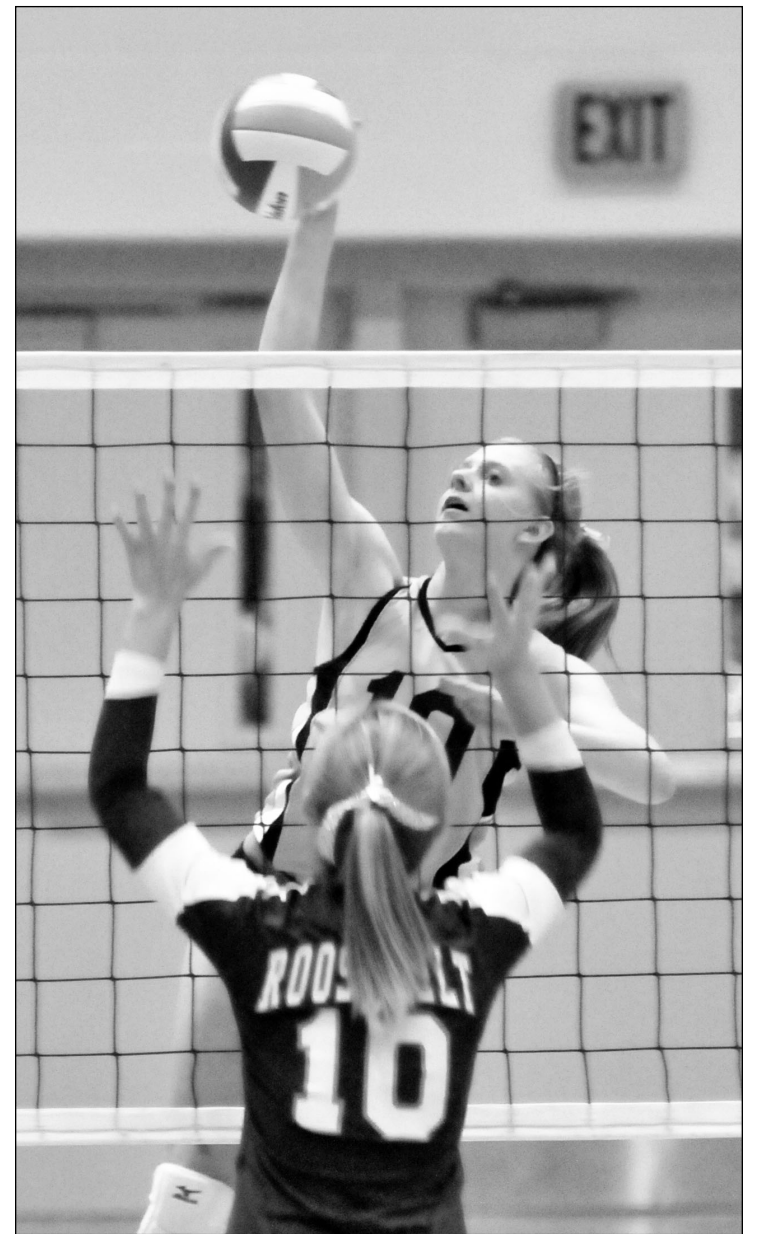
Roosevelt, 15-4 and winners of four straight, head west this weekend for matches against Rapid City Central on Friday, and Sturgis and Stevens on Saturday. Despite having just one loss in in-state competition — a loss to O'Gorman that the Riders avenged — Lynch feels the team still has work to do before the post-season begins.

"We still need to work on our serve receive and our defense," she said. "Those are our two biggest things right now."

Yankton, now 6-9, heads to Brookings on Friday, the second of four straight matches against District IAA opponents to end the season. The Gazelles are in District 2AA, but could face a District IAA opponent if the Gazelles finish second or third in their district.

"Tonight and the next three are against teams that could end our season," Woodward said. "We need to learn to compete at their level."

Roosevelt claimed the JV match 25-22, 22-25, 25-16. For Yankton, Hailey Bockholt had six kills, Becky Frick had five kills and Ellison Fedders had 14 assists to lead the offense. Fedders also had two ace



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Kelsey Fitzgerald attacks over the top of Roosevelt's Paige Rome during their volleyball match on Tuesday at the Summit Center.

GAZELLES | PAGE 9