



JILANNE DOOM/P&D
South Dakota's Kelsey Bilttoft attacks the ball during the Coyotes' Summit League volleyball match with Omaha on Monday. USD earned its first home victory of the season with a 3-1 win over the Mavs.

Coyotes Down Omaha 3-1

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — Zero out the season. Come to Jesus talk.

More than simply rallying cries for her team, phrases like those have helped spark Kendall Krittenbrink.

The sophomore outside hitter for the University of South Dakota volleyball team says she didn't change anything schematically after being mired in a 1-8 struggle. It was all in her head.

"That's been our big focus. Our saying is 'zero and zero,'" Krittenbrink said after recording 20 kills in Monday night's 3-0 Summit League victory over Omaha. "We have to take things inch by inch and point by point.

"That's the only way we can get rolling."

Mission accomplished.

Coming off their best league weekend of the season by beating Oakland and falling to first-place Fort Wayne in five sets, the Coyotes (10-14, 4-8) notched another first Monday.

They won at their new "Den" at the DakotaDome. Set scores were 25-10, 23-25, 25-18, 25-18.

In consecutive matches since a home loss to Western Illinois, one coach Matt Houk called the "lowest of lows," Krittenbrink — from Gretna, Neb. — has posted 20, 25 and 20 kills. This week's conference Offensive Player of the Week is back playing like her dominant self.

"She just had to relax," Houk said. "She put all that pressure on herself to lead the team. Once she calmed down, you could see how things changed."

Far from the only offensive weapon for the Coyotes, Krittenbrink's performances seemed to mirror her team's.

After a victory to open the conference season, USD dropped eight of its next nine matches — the only win a 3-2 thriller at South Dakota State with Krittenbrink recording 29 kills.

A bulk of those struggles were of the attack error variety. USD had an attack percentage over .200 just once in a nine-match span heading into Monday. As it tends to go, one bad performance leads to another and then to another, Krittenbrink said.

"It was all in our heads," she said. "We got down on ourselves. We had one of those 'Come to Jesus' talks, and it's been working, thankfully."

Monday night was proof.

Set one was completely dominated by the Coyotes, who jumped ahead 20-7. The key was the front line, with just one attack error and 4.5 team blocks.

Each team had seven hitting errors in the second set, evidence of how close it was. Omaha rebounded from a 21-22 deficit to win 25-23, tying the match 1-1.

"Omaha is a tough team to play because of how scrappy they are," Houk said. "They're a little non-traditional being so small on the left side, and that gave us a little trouble."

Krittenbrink had one fewer kill (6) than Omaha did as a team in the third set, as she led the Coyotes to the 25-18 win and 2-1 match lead.

The fourth set was more of the same, as the Coyotes played with the energy and enthusiasm that was perhaps lacking even two weeks ago.

"Going into the weekend, we told the girls, 'We just have to zero out the season,'" Houk said. "There was nothing we could do about what happened before. We needed to get back to what was special."

Part of that included a performance light on attack errors (16) and heavy on confidence. Krittenbrink had just five errors on 50 swings, and was balanced by eight kills apiece from Kim Bulaga and Sydney Dimke.

"Coach has kept me calm," Krittenbrink said. "He's good that way, helping me relax. It's more fun when you can do that and win at the same time."

The Coyotes — within two wins of joining three others in fourth place — remain alive for a conference tournament berth. The top four teams advance to the tournament in Fargo, N.D., in mid-November.

"Anything's possible," Houk said. "It's been a crazy league this year; just look at North Dakota State." The two-time defending tournament champion Bison are 10-13 overall and 6-5 this season.

USD returns to action Friday night at Kansas City before a Nov. 2-4 home weekend with South Dakota State and North Dakota State.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](#)

Bucks Open Playoff Run Tonight

YHS Hosts Aberdeen Central In 11AA Opener

BY CHRIS RILEY
sports@yankton.net

After narrowly missing a first-round bye, the Yankton Bucks are set to host Aberdeen Central tonight (Tuesday) in Class 11AA playoff action at Crane-Youngworth Field.

The Bucks, who suffered a 42-0 defeat at the hands of Brandon Valley last Thursday, face a Golden Eagle team that they defeated 42-14 back on September 14 in Yankton in their homecoming game.

Sophomore Levi Davis scored on a pair of first-half runs in that contest as the Bucks jumped out to a 36-0 lead before the Golden Eagles finally got on the board in the fourth quarter.

The Bucks secondary created problems for Aberdeen's spread offense all night as Mason Strahl, J.J. Hejna and Sam Wendte each recorded an interception in the first meeting between the teams.

Yankton hopes to create turnovers and scoring opportunities again to get back to the Bucks team that outscored opponents 162-42 during their 5-0 start before finishing the season 1-3 while being outscored by a total of 100 points in those three defeats.

The constant in their six victories during the regular season was an ability for the Bucks to force turnovers and maintain solid field position.

Conversely, Yankton lost the turnover battle and struggled for consistent field position in their three defeats.

Golden Eagles head coach Michael Flakus sees the turnovers committed by his team this season and their lack of discipline as the biggest concern for Aberdeen heading into tonight's game.

"Offensively we have moved the ball but our redzone offense has been nonexistent," Flakus said. "We have had way too many penalties and turnovers to win games."

Flakus expects the offensive and defensive lines of Yankton to present his team a big challenge for the second time this fall.

"Their lines are very good," Flakus added. "We will need to commit no turnovers, no penalties and play good run defense to come out on top."



**Aberdeen Central (2-7)
at Yankton (6-3)**

6 p.m., Crane-Youngworth Field

LAST MEETING: Yankton improved to 4-0 with a 42-14 victory over Aberdeen Central on Sept. 14 of this season. Levi Davis rushed for 216 yards and Michael Rucker was 9-14 passing for 157 yards in the contest.

LAST WEEK: Yankton lost out on a chance to repeat as ESD champions, as Brandon Valley beat the Bucks 42-0. The two teams had shared the 2011 title.

Aberdeen Central dropped a 22-0 decision at Brookings, the Golden Eagles' third consecutive shutout loss and fourth straight setback overall.

NEXT UP: The winner of tonight's game advances to face Sioux Falls O'Gorman in the quarterfinals on Monday, Oct. 29.

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Gazelles Sweep Arrows



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Brooke Wuebben, 3, attacks against the defense of Watertown's Ashton Foust during their Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball match on Monday at the Summit Center. Yankton won 3-0.

Crofton Wins Mid-State Opener

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Crofton Lady Warriors swept Pierce by scores of 25-17, 25-21, 25-18 in the Mid-State Conference Tournament in Norfolk on Monday night.

Allison Arens led Crofton with 11 assists and eight digs. Bre Allen added 10 digs while Maria Wortmann added 10 blocks, nine kills and nine digs.

CROFTON (14-9)	25	25	25
PIERCE (14-9)	17	21	18

Lewis and Clark Conf. Tourn.

Hartington 3, Winside 2

HOMER, Neb. — Hartington defeated Winside 25-20, 25-23, 23-25, 15-12 in Homer on Monday to advance to the semifinals of the Lewis and Clark Conference Tournament in Homer, Neb.

Courtney Hochstein led Hartington with 41 assists and 13 digs while Shelby Hochstein added 18 digs and 12 kills. Michaela Dendinger added 30 kills in the win.

Hartington plays Wymot today (Tuesday) at 6 p.m. in Homer, Neb. as the top seed.

HARTINGTON (19-5)	25	25	23	21
WINSIDE (19-5)	20	23	25	25

Hartington 3, Homer 0

HOMER, Neb. — Hartington defeated Homer 25-11, 25-19, 25-16 in the opening round of the Lewis and Clark Conference Tournament on Monday night in Homer.

For the Wildcats, Shelby Hochstein recorded a double-double with 11 digs and 10 kills while Courtney Hochstein added 22 assists.

HARTINGTON (18-5)	25	25	25
HOMER (18-5)	11	19	16

Wakefield 3, Allen 2

WAKEFIELD, Neb. — Wakefield defeated Allen 3-2 in a quarter-final match of the Lewis and Clark Conference tournament on Monday in Wakefield.

For Allen, Brittany Sullivan recorded 22 kills and had 18 digs. Vanessa Klug added 12 kills in the loss.

ALLEN (18-5)	20	25	28	28
WAKEFIELD (18-5)	25	16	30	26

NENAC Tourn.

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 3, Creighton 1

PLAINVIEW, Neb. — Laurel-Concord-Coleridge defeated Creighton in four sets in opening action of the Northeast Nebraska Athletics Conference tournament on Monday night. The scores were 25-20, 17-25, 25-21, 25-18.

There were no stats provided for LCC in the victory.

Paige Metteis recorded 12 assists, three digs, and two blocks for Laurel. Maddi Ojienbruns also added 13 digs and five kills. Rebecca Eggerling posted nine digs and seven kills.

With the victory, LCC will play West Holt in the second round of the winners bracket in the NENAC tournament. Creighton will play on Friday at 4:00 PM in Plainview.

In the second game of the night, Randolph defeated Elkton Valley in three sets. The scores were 25-23, 25-11, 25-14. Randolph will advance in the winners bracket and take on Neligh-Oakdale. Elkton Valley will move to the losers bracket and face Plainview.

In the finale of the opening round games, Neligh-Oakdale defeated Plainview by the scores of 25-14, 25-8, 25-10.

Tournament action will continue on Tuesday (today) beginning at 4 p.m.

Regular Season

Freeman 3, Marion 2

FREEMAN — Freeman defeated Marion in five sets on Monday night. The scores were 25-22, 25-16, 24-26, 24-26, 15-13. Dina Soulek led the charge for Freeman with 26 kills, 16 digs, and seven aces.

Nicole Hinkley had 12 kills, eight blocks, five digs, and two aces for Freeman. Grace Gering added 54 assists, nine digs, and three aces. Shelby Bauer contributed 13 kills, 10 kills. Shelby Jensen recorded 13 digs, eight kills, and four assists.

Katherin Luke had 26 assists, 11 digs, and two kills for Marion. Devin Nelson posted 18 assists, 11 digs, three kills, and two aces. Kylie Hughes tallied 16 kills and 14 digs.

Freeman will end their regular season with a 9-11 record. Marion will complete their regular season with a 22-6 record. Both teams will compete in districts at Freeman Academy on Oct. 30.

FREEMAN (9-11)	25	25	24	24	15
MARION (22-6)	12	26	26	23	

Viborg-Hurley 3, Alcester-Hudson 2

VIBORG — Viborg-Hurley defeated Alcester-Hudson in five games in Class B volleyball action on Monday night in Viborg.

The Cougars came out victorious by scores of 26-24, 19-25, 23-25, 25-21 and 15-13 to finish the year with a 20-6 record.

For V-H, senior Leacadia Christensen recorded a double-double with 19 assists and 14 digs.

The Cubs, 18-10, got 15 digs, 14 assists and eight kills from junior Courtney McKee.

Alcester-Hudson won the JV match 25-17 and 25-14. Both teams begin district play next week in Viborg.

ALCESTER-HUDSON (18-10)	24	25	25	21	13
VIBORG-HURLEY (20-6)	26	19	23	25	15

Dakota Valley 3, Tea Area 1

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Dakota Valley improved their 22-3 record with a win against Tea Area on Monday night. The scores were 21-25, 25-9, 25-19, 25-20.

Jade Bergmen led Dakota Valley with 16 kills on the night. Kylie Martin also added 12 kills. Karissa Jensen tallied nine kills and three blocks. Lindsey Smith contributed 49 assists and five aces.

Dakota Valley will finish regular season play on the road at Dell Rapids on Thursday. Tea Area drops to 12-9 and will wrap up their regular season on the road against Dell Rapids on Thursday.

DAKOTA VALLEY (22-3)	21	25	25	25
TEA AREA (12-9)	25	9	19	20

Wagner 3, South Central 0

WAGNER — Jessa Doom's double-double led Wagner past South Central 25-8, 25-16, 25-14 on Monday night in Wagner.

Doom led the Red Raiders with 31 assists and 10 digs. Kim Koupal added 13 kills in the win while Nicole Weber tallied 11 kills and eight blocks.

For South Central, Whitney Hutchison had five kills. Wagner finishes their regular season at 27-3 and begins district play on October 30.

South Central, 8-16, is done with their regular season.

SOUTH CENTRAL (8-16)	8	16	14
WAGNER (27-3)	25	25	25

Scotland 3, Menno 0

MENNO — Scotland defeated Menno in South Dakota high school volleyball action on Monday night. The scores were 25-22, 25-23, 25-17.

Amber Awey led Scotland with 18 assists, 18 digs, and five aces. Christy Mogk totaled 23 digs on the night. Carley Skorepa added 15 digs, nine kills, four blocks, and two aces. Kennedy Asche collected 14 digs, seven kills, and three blocks.

Menno had three girls with 12 digs: Brittany Haberman, Shelby Huber, and Ashton Diede. Courtney Schaeffer added five digs and five assists. Kylee Kessler contributed six digs and three kills.

Scotland will improve to 12-8 on the season and will compete in districts in Scotland on Oct. 30. Menno will drop to 1-21 on their regular season and will travel to Avon for districts on Oct. 30.

SCOTLAND (12-8)	25	25	25
MENNO (1-21)	20	25	17

Canistota 3, Irene-Wakonda 0

CANISTOTA — Canistota swept Irene-Wakonda in volleyball action Monday night. The scores were 27-25, 25-18, 25-20.

Natasha Letcher had 13 digs, eight kills, five kills, and four blocks. Brianna Buseman recorded 12 blocks, five kills, and four digs. Chloe Nielsen posted 10 blocks, eight digs, and a kill.

Irene-Wakonda was led by Taylor Lee. Lee recorded 11 digs, two kills, and two aces. Dana Schenk had four kills, three aces, and three blocks. Irene-Wakonda's Chole Nielsen had 10 digs and three kills. Bailey Hinselth added 14 assists.

Canistota will end their regular season with a 7-19 record. They will participate in districts on Oct. 30. Irene-Wakonda will end their regular season with a 7-14 record. They will play in districts on Oct. 30 in Viborg.

CANISTOTA (7-19)	27	25	25
IRENE-WAKONDA (7-14)	25	18	20

Harrisburg 3, Vermillion 0

HARRISBURG — The Harrisburg Tigers swept Vermillion in Class A volleyball action on Monday night 25-13, 25-23, 25-21 in Harrisburg.

Jordan Beiswanger had 17 assists and 10 digs to lead the Tigers while Brittany Blakney added 10 kills and five digs.

For the Tanagers, Megan Olson recorded nine digs and three assists.

Harrisburg, 8-13, plays Canton in district action on November 1. Vermillion, 5-12, finishes their regular season at home on Thursday against Elk Point-Jefferson.

VERMILLION (5-12)	13	23	21
HARRISBURG (8-13)	25	25	25

Andes Central 3, Gregory 0

LAKE ANDES — Andes Central defeated Gregory 25-20, 25-17, 25-22 in Lake Andes on Monday night.

Kellie Winckler led Andes Central with 16 digs and 15 kills. Krista Winckler added 14 digs and 11 kills in the win while Sierra Svatos recorded 22 assists and nine digs.

Sierra Thomas led the Lady Gorillas with 14 assists and 11 digs. Andes Central also won the B-Match (2-1) and C-Match (2-0).

Andes Central, 26-3, begins district play on October 30.

GREGORY (12-12)	20	25	22
ANDES CENTRAL (26-3)	25	25	25

Ethan 3, Tripp-Delmont-Armour 2

TRIPP — Ethel defeated Tripp-Delmont-Armour in five sets on Monday. The scores were 25-21, 18-25, 18-25, 25-23, 15-12.

Darbi Gustafson had 16 kills, 14 digs, and four aces for Ethan. Anna Mueller had 10 kills and three blocks. Rachel Hawkins added 11 digs and nine kills. Holle Lindeman posted 42 assists and four aces.

Madison will improve to 19-5 on the season and will travel to Tea on Thursday for their regular season finale. Parkston wrapped up the regular season going 8-13. Parkston will play in districts in Wagner on Oct. 30.

MADISON (19-5)	25	18	25	25
PARKSTON (8-13)	13	25	22	15

Madison 3, Parkston 1

PARKSTON — Parkston defeated Parkston in four sets in Parkston on Monday night. The scores were 25-13, 18-25, 25-22, 25-15.

Jerricka Thompson recorded 17 assists, 11 digs, and an ace for Madison. Ashley Schwabach contributed 13 digs, nine assists, and two aces. Preslee Jorgensen tallied 12 digs and seven kills.

Krista Radke led the push in the loss for Parkston. Radke had 17 assists, 12 digs, and four blocks. Kenzie Lee also added 15 digs, eight kills, and three blocks. Laura Weiss produced nine kills, nine blocks, and seven digs.

Madison will improve to 19-5 on the season and will travel to Tea on Thursday for their regular season finale. Parkston wrapped up the regular season going 8-13. Parkston will play in districts in Wagner on Oct. 30.

MADISON (19-5)	25	18	25	25
PARKSTON (8-13)	13	25	22	15

Platte-Geddes 3, Winner 1

WINNER — Platte-Geddes came back to win three unanswered games as they defeated Winner on Monday night. The scores were 20-25, 25-15, 25-22, 25-20.

Cassidy Hanson had 17 kills and 10 digs for Platte-Geddes. Sara Huber produced 23 assists, 11 digs, and seven kills. Kristin Hennebold had 18 digs and 11 assists. Lindsey Calhoun contributed 14 digs and five kills.

There were no stats available for Winner.

Platte-Geddes will finish their regular season with a 19-7 record. Winner finishes 18-9 in the regular season. Both teams will play in districts on Oct. 30.

PLATTE-GEDDES (19-7)	20	25	25	25
WINNER (18-9)	25	15	22	20

McCook Cent.-Montrose 3, Hanson 1

MONTROSE — McCook Central-Montrose defeated Hanson on Monday night in Montrose by scores of 20-25, 25-18, 25-14 and 25-20 to pick up their ninth win of the season (9-15).

Brianna Painter led MC-M with 29 digs while Laura Klautd added 24 assists and 14 digs.

For Hanson, 17-9, Kynedi Cheeseman recorded a double-double with 17 digs and 16 kills.

Both teams begin district play on November 1.

HANSON (17-9)	25	18	14	20
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (9-15)	20	25	25	25

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
sports@yankton.net

To prepare for their game against the Watertown Arrows, the Gazelles took matters into their own hands and decided to spend more time practicing.

Their work paid off when they faced the Arrows in Monday night volleyball action at the Yankton Summit Center taking a 3-0 victory with scores of 25-21, 25-19, 26-24.

After jumping ahead early in the first set with an 8-2 lead, Watertown tied the match 16-16. Yankton took the lead back to win set one 25-21.

A tight second set put Yankton and Watertown at a 10-10 score until Yankton took the lead 18-11 and finished out the set 25-19.

The Gazelles headed into set three with a 2-0 advantage over the Arrows, allowing Watertown a 14-12 lead. Yankton would come back to tie the set 23-23, and take the game 26-24.

Junior Brooke Wuebben said she and her teammates knew Watertown would be a hard team to beat, so they spent Sunday at the gym to get in more practice time.

"The last time we played them it was a close game, so we knew it could go either way," she said. "We just had to come out and give it our all.

"We played on Friday, so we didn't really have any time to practice in between. We decided to come in and mess around in the gym yesterday and get a few touches on the ball, which helped for the game."

Head coach for the Gazelles Leasa Woodward said it was great to see that kind of leadership in the players, especially after coming off from a loss against Brookings.

For the night, Wuebben put up a total of eight digs, two aces and three kills, while Mikala Hora led with 21 kills, 17 digs, four blocks and one ace. Kelsey Fitzgerald had 16 kills, three aces, five digs and one block, and Maria Binder recorded 10 digs and five aces.

For the Arrows, Emily Pengilly had 17 assists and three aces, Ashley McClemans made 10 kills and one block and Hannah Witlock recorded 17 digs.

Watertown head coach Kim Rhode said the loss was disappointing for the Arrows, especially after taking Yankton to five games in their last match against each other.

"To come down here and lose in three is disappointing," she said. "But I have to give credit to the girls. In the third game they really came back and didn't give up. That's something you want from your team — not to give up when you're down several points."

To prepare for their next game against Brandon Valley, Rhodes said the team will focus on coming out on top quickly in each game.

"We can't take a couple points and get warmed up that way," she said. "We have to come out right away and do fundamentals. That's the key thing, to go out and play our game."

Although the Gazelles were aggressive from the start, Woodward said because Watertown doesn't let the ball hit the floor, they worked for every point they scored. Woodward said she could tell the players were tired in the third set, but focused on blocking to come out on top, which gives them confidence for the end of the year.

"A win is nice," she said. "We're going to face a very strong Sioux Falls O'Gorman team on Thursday night, and our kids know when we play loose and aggressive we can play with anybody who's on the other side of the net."

The Gazelles' junior varsity team defeated Watertown 14-25, 25-19, 25-23. Ellison Fedders had 12 assists and seven aces, while Becky Frick recorded six kills and one ace. Emily Bos also contributed five kills, two aces and one assist.

The sophomores lost in two sets 25-16, 25-21, with Anna Wuestewald making six digs and five aces and Presley Pasco having three kills and two blocks.

The freshman "A" team fell to Watertown 25-22, 25-15, and the "B" team won in three 20-25, 25-22, 25-13. Sophie Drotzmann made seven digs, Hannah Bochart had six kills and four digs and Sydney Ingalls recorded four aces.

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at [twitter.com/ENiebrugge](#)