

Huskers

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Miles said, “and when you combine those two within two years of each other, it’s an amazing physical capacity of what we’re doing. We’ve just got to get some guys and have some fun with it.”

The Huskers probably will take their lumps in their second season in the Big Ten, not much

different than their first. They sustained losses of 34 and 31 points against Ohio State, 28 at Michigan State and 24 to Wisconsin at home.

Their season highlight was a one-point home win over an 11th-ranked Indiana team in January.

Though Barry Collier and Sadler tried, Nebraska hasn’t had a sniff of sustained success, modest as it was, since Danny Nee coached in Lincoln in the 1980s and ‘90s.

With the practice facility and new arena, Miles said, things are

changing.

“Peel back the onion,” he said. “Volleyball is great, wrestling is in the top 10, track and field is good, women’s gymnastics won the Big Ten last year. You don’t have to go far to see our athletic department through-and-through is outstanding. Women’s basketball has been terrific. We need to get men’s basketball up and running where it should be.”



Viborg-Hurley running back Tyler Gerdes, bottom, is dropped for a loss by Hitchcock-Tulare defender Cole Chaplin during their Class 9B quarterfinal game Monday night in Hurley.

Cougars

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The Patriots, however, didn’t stop. Hitchcock-Tulare got a 39-yard touchdown run by Marshall and conversion to get within 30-28 midway through the third quarter.

Viborg-Hurley punted, but stopped the Patriots on fourth and three. Jack Huether then padded the lead to 38-28 with a 17-yard touchdown with 9:44 left.

From there, the teams played stout defense, with the Patriots unable to muster anything else

offensively — despite holding significant yardage advantages. Hitchcock-Tulare rolled up 409 yards on the ground, led by Cole Chaplin’s 205.

Huether and Gerdes each rushed for 87 yards, while Huether also had 177 yards passing to Andrew Hora — who caught two touchdowns.

The Patriots, who finish the season 7-3, will graduate seven players, including quarterback Marshall — who rushed for 188 yards Monday.

“I’m proud of my kids, we had a great season and we made it tough for a really good team,” coach Huether said. “It’s unfortunate that someone had to lose this one.”

On the other hand, the Cougars are for the third straight season one step from the Dakota-Dome. Viborg-Hurley lost in the 9AA title game in 2010 and got beat by Waverly-South Shore in last year’s 9B semifinals.

“I’ll go anywhere for a chance at the dome,” Sommervold said, smiling.

A matchup with second-seeded Colome won’t be easy, but as Jack Huether said, his team is well aware of those odds.

“We’re capable of anything if we do what we did tonight,” Huether said. “As long as we keep our heads up, we’ll be fine.”

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

Coyotes

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(Jessica Brandli and Carol Miller) of their top five runners.

“We feel like we’ve got most of the pieces of the puzzle, but we’re getting a lot closer,” Fitzsimmons said. “Now we’re starting to have some graduation losses, especially on our women’s side. We’ll have to go out and find freshmen who can

either step in right away or develop those girls behind our seniors.”

For the first time since their Division II days, the season does not end with the conference meet for the Coyote cross country teams.

No, instead, USD will next compete in the Division I Midwest Regional Meet, hosted by Missouri State on Nov. 9 in Springfield, Mo.

Programs from 10 conferences, including the Big 12, Big Ten, Big East, Missouri Valley and Summit League, will compete.

The top two teams and top four individuals not on an advancing team will move on to the national meet. Additional qualifiers will be chosen through at-large selection processes.

Advancing past regionals, however, will be a tough task for a relative Division I newcomer, Fitzsimmons said.

“This might be the most difficult year,” he said. “Oklahoma State is in our regional, and they’re the favorite to win the national championship. It’s really difficult to make a national meet in cross country.



Dakota Valley's Aaron Likness (2) hands the ball off to Tanner Lambert (44) during a football game against Spearfish at Lyle Hare Stadium on Monday.

Panthers

From Page 8

Dakota Valley its first lead of the night, 13-6, late in the third quarter.

Following a Spearfish three-and-out, Dakota Valley (7-3 overall) again began moving the ball in big chunks with Lambert at the beginning of the fourth. The Panthers got it down to the Spearfish eight-yard-line, but Lambert was knocked for a loss. It set up a short field goal by Collins Chalup, but he pulled the kick left, giving Spearfish hope and the ball with five minutes to go.

“We play kind of a bend but don’t break type of defense, and I have to give coach (Aaron) Nida and our defensive coaches a lot of credit. They just got it done and kept them out of the end zone when we needed to.”

On second down, Kemp had perhaps his best throw of the night, a 33-yard strike to Luke Marcoc. Following a Michael Deichert first-down run, Rotert took the snap, darted left and busted through a wide hole on the edge of the Panther defense, rumbling for 36 yards to retake the lead.

During the game’s final drive Likness converted a fourth-and-seven from their own 43 with a 12-yard connection to Reiff. Two plays later, Lambert appeared to break free for a 42-yard game-

winning touchdown, but it was called back for holding. From there, the drive stalled, setting up the dramatic fourth-down play in which Dakota Valley came up inches short.

“I’m speechless. It doesn’t get much better than that,” Rotert said. “That’s a storybook ending. Hats off to Dakota Valley, that’s a great team. It was a hard-fought game, coming to the last minute... that’s what football’s all about.”

On the game’s first possession, Lambert and Dakota Valley marched down the field but turned it over on downs deep in Spearfish territory. The Spartans seized on the chance, with Deichert bursting through the middle on a fullback dive for 57 yards. On the next play, the Rotert found a similar hole up the middle, stiff-armed one defender and galloped in for a 30-yard touchdown.

The Panthers did not panic. Instead Spearfish got another heavy dose of Lambert, who rushed for 59 yards on the drive, and capped it off with a 1-yard touchdown plunge with 2:23 to go in the first. But the point after was blocked by Spearfish’s Cole Johnson, preserving the slim lead.

SPEARFISH 14, DAKOTA VALLEY 13	
DAKOTA VALLEY	5 0 7 0 — 13
SPEARFISH	7 0 0 7 — 14
SCORING SUMMARY	
First Quarter	
7-0 - Rotert 30 yard rush, 7:16 (PAT good)	
7-6 - Lambert 1 yard rush, 2:23 (PAT blocked)	
Third Quarter	
13-6 - Lambert 34 yard rush, 1:54 (PAT good)	
Fourth Quarter	
14-13 - Rotert 36 yard rush, 4:14 (PAT good)	
	Dakota Valley
First downs	21
Rushes-yards	55-338
Passing yards	89
Comp-alt-int	9-15-0
Fumbles-lost	1-0
Penalties-yards	4-47
	Spearfish
	9
	22-149
	124
	10-15-1
	1-1
	2-10
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING-Dakota Valley: Lambert 44-294, Mahler 7-36, Likness 4-8, Spearfish: Rotert 10-85, Deichert 8-62, Nelson 2-3, Kemp 2-(-1).	
PASSING-Dakota Valley: Likness 9-15-89, Spearfish: Kemp 10-14-124, Rotert 0-1-0.	
RECEIVING-Dakota Valley: Reiff 6-71, Chalup 1-9, VonGinle 2-13, Spearfish: Nelson 1-12, Rotert 3-25, Deichert 2-14, Kaiffors 2-33, Marcoc 2-40.	

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