

MVFC Notebook: Questions Remain With Coyote Offense

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The big question surrounding the USD football team — who will be the quarterback? — following another offensive struggle does not yet have an answer, head coach Joe Glenn said Tuesday.

And likely won't until Saturday's homecoming game with Missouri State.

"We'll play with the best guy we got at quarterback, at running back, and do the best we can," Glenn said Tuesday.

Directly asked about it later in the weekly Missouri Valley football media call, Glenn said that no, a decision has not been made between junior Josh Vander Maten and sophomore Kevin Earl.

The debate has raged after four games in which the Coyotes (1-3) have scored 10, 14, 16 and 10 points — with 33 of those 50 points in the fourth quarter, mostly in comeback mode.

USD's offense ranks 111 out of 122 FCS schools in total offense, at 274.5 yards a game, and slightly worse, 113th, in passing offense (125.2).

In last Saturday's 24-10 loss at Western Illinois, the Coyotes were held to a season-low 242 yards. After completing 8-of-21 throws for 26 yards, Vander Maten was replaced in the fourth quarter by Earl who went 7-of-13 for 88 yards.

Mixed in Glenn's Tuesday assessment of the struggles were phrases like "take the field with the eye of the tiger" and "get it going" and "strike while the iron's hot."

As to whom that could refer to, Glenn said Vander Maten has proven in practice that he can be an effective quarterback, but game-days have been a struggle.

"You've got to have a quarterback that protects the ball, and the last couple games our starting quarterback has struggled with that a little bit," Glenn said. "The hard part is, he is the captain of the team. He's a terrific athlete."

"We see a better quarterback in practice than what I've seen the last few weeks or so."

On the other side, how does Saturday's opponent, Missouri State, prepare for an offense that may have a different quarterback? Simple, really, said coach Terry Allen.

"You really defend scheme," he said Tuesday.

"They did the same thing pretty much with both quarterbacks, so it's not a huge factor as far as which number is back there. You defend the things they like to do offensively."

What the Bears (1-4) like to do offensively is rely on their quarterback, junior Kierra Harris. He has passed for 814 yards and four touchdowns (with four interceptions), but ranks 13th nationally with six rushing scores.

Harris played a key role in Missouri State's come-from-behind home victory over USD a year ago in Springfield. The Bears outscored the Coyotes 24-3 in the second half to win 27-24 — thanks to a game-winning field goal as time expired.

That motivation, combined with 211 yards on the ground by USD a year ago, has Missouri State ready for a challenge Saturday.

"We kind of snuck one out on South Dakota last year, to be honest," Allen said. "I'm sure they're anxiously awaiting to be home."

NOTEBOOK | PAGE 9

Tigers Sweep Past Yankton

BY NICK ROBINSON

sports@yankton.net

The Harrisburg Tigers defeated the Yankton Gazelles in three sets in their first matchup as Eastern South Dakota Conference foes on Tuesday night at the Summit Center.

The Tigers (4-8) defeated the Gazelles (1-9) by the scores of 25-20, 25-13, 25-15.

"We're not playing at the level we should be," Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste said. "We need to somehow figure out how we're going to get this together."

The Gazelles looked lost without senior leader Brooke Wuebben on the floor. She has been sidelined with an undisclosed foot injury.

"More than anything, it's Brooke's presence on the court," Beste said. "She helps this team function the way it is supposed to. Not because the girls aren't capable of being successful on their own, but having Brooke on the court gives us some leadership. We just want to get her back 100 percent healthy, ready to go, here shortly."

According to Beste, Wuebben will be sidelined about a week to a week and a half. In all three sets, Yankton started off going on a run, but the Tigers kept clawing their way to victory.

"I think it's a confidence thing right now," Beste said. "In order to play with confidence, you have to pick up a win. In order to win, you need confidence. We need to figure out what we need to do in practice to get these girls the kind of confidence they need to walk out on the court and know that they can win."

Yankton started the first set off by going on a 5-0 run.

However, the Tigers roared back and overcame their early mistakes to take the first set.

Senior Hailey Bockholt halted a 4-0 run by Harrisburg with a kill, which gave the Tigers their first lead of the contest.

Harrisburg hung with Yankton early, going on an 9-0 run, which ultimately shunned the late comeback for the Gazelles. Sophomore Becky Frick came through with a crucial kill to bring Yankton back to life late in the contest.

Along with Frick, sophomore Joselyn Salvatori produced three straight aces, but wasn't enough to mount the comeback.

The Tigers won the set by the score of 25-20.

"We had moments or spurts where we put a lot of things well," Beste said. "But once our opponent responds, all confidence is gone and it pummels from there."

Frick produced a massive kill during the second set, giving Yankton as much as 8-2 lead early on.

The Tigers answered back with an 6-1 run of their own, giving them an 8-7 advantage.

The Gazelles saw the second set slip from their fingertips when they allowed



Yankton's Sophie Drotzmann attacks against a Harrisburg defender during their Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball match on Tuesday at the Summit Center.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Kline Leads Coyotes At Jim Colbert Intercollegiate

MANHATTAN, Kan. — South Dakota sophomore Alex Kline recorded his third top-10 finish in as many events this fall as he placed ninth at the Jim Colbert Intercollegiate played Monday and Tuesday at Colbert Hills Golf Course. The 54-hole tournament had 53 players from nine teams. Kline finished at 13-over-par.

Kline led a trio of Coyotes who placed in the top 15. Freshman Cody Seal finished in 12th place at 15-over-par. Junior Samuel Matthew tied for 15th at 17-over-par.

Sam Houston State, behind medalist Zach Cabra, shot 36-over-par as a team and earned a two-stroke win against Kansas State in the

team race. Grand Canyon University (+61) was third, South Dakota (+72) placed sixth.

Cabra, behind a 5-under-par 67 in round two, was six strokes better than the field and the only player to finish under par (-3). Kansas State's Alex Carney was second at 3-over-par and Grand Canyon's Mark Geedes was third at 4-over-par.

Grant Campbell (+23) finished tied for 29th, Jordan Rykal (+30) tied for 40th and Miles Death (+39) tied for 48th to round out USD's performers.

South Dakota will be back on the links next week for the Omaha Tournament starting Oct. 7 in Nebraska City.

Region 2A Boys

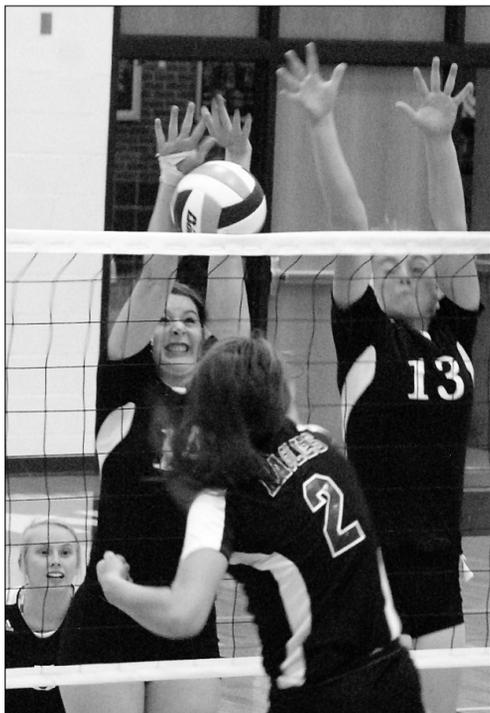
LENNOX — The West Central Trojans shot a team score of 314 to score a seven-stroke victory in the Region 2A boys' golf tournament, held Monday at Lenkota Golf Course.

Sioux Falls Christian (321) and Canton (329) finished second and third, also earning berths in the South Dakota State Class A Boys' Golf Tournament, Oct. 7-8 at Central Valley Golf Club in Hartford, Dakota Valley, which finished fourth at 330, put all five of its golfers in the top 25, giving it a team berth as well.

Sioux Falls Christian's Andy Huntington shot a 70 to edge West Central's Dylan From by three strokes for medalist honors. Vermillion's Carter Andre was third at 74.

Besides the five golfers from Dakota Valley and Andre, Vermillion freshman Cooper Williams and Beresford senior Kory Diefendorf were also area golfers who earned state tournament berths.

Volleyball: Parker Edges Viborg-Hurley 3-2



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

The Crofton double block of Katie Petersen, left, and Monica Arens, 13, stuffs Lutheran High Northeast's Megan Gebhardt during their match Tuesday night in Crofton, Neb.

HURLEY — Parker beat Viborg-Hurley 26-28, 25-23, 25-18, 20-25, 15-11 in volleyball action Thursday.

In the win for Parker, Mackenzie Cole had 13 kills and 19 digs. Hannah Herlyn had 13 kills and Rylie Christensen had eight kills. Jenny Smith had three kills, 46 assists and 15 digs for the night.

For Viborg-Hurley, Katelyn Grober had 20 kills, 15 digs and two aces. Angelique Lee had nine kills and seven blocks. Megan Knock had 44 assists and 10 digs.

On the junior varsity side Parker beat Viborg-Hurley 25-17, 25-18 and in the C-match Parker won 25-8, 25-11.

Next Parker will play at Garretson and Viborg-Hurley will play at Gayville-Volin Thursday.

PARKER (16-4).....26 25 20 15
VIBORG-HURLEY (9-7).....28 23 18 25 11

Avon 3, Scotland 1

AVON — The Avon Pirates beat the Scotland Highlanders 25-23, 16-25, 29-27, 25-12 in volleyball action Thursday.

In the win for the Pirates, Ariana Oorlog had eight kills, 11 digs and four aces. Shesney Nagel had four kills, five blocks and seven digs. Hanna Powers had 14 assists, five digs and four aces. Heidi Cap made seven kills and five blocks and Sammy DeJong had six blocks.

For the Highlanders, Carley Skorepa had 16 kills and made 13 digs. Amber Alvey had 24 assists and made 12 digs.

In the B-match Scotland won 22-25, 25-18, 5-15 and in the C-match Avon won 25-23, 17-25, 15-16.

Next Scotland will play at Parkston Thursday and Avon will play in the Marion Tournament Saturday.

SCOTLAND (5-6).....23 25 27 12
AVON (6-6).....25 16 29 25

Dak. Valley 3, Bon Homme 0

TYNDALL — Dakota Valley swept past Bon Homme in three sets led by Meg Williams 17 digs. The scores were 25-14, 25-13, 27-25.

Williams also added eight aces for Dakota Valley (16-2). Jayde Bergmann added 11 kills and two blocks. Hannah Bauer posted 12 digs in the contest.

Vanessa Navratil led Bon Homme (11-5) with 14 digs. Kelsey Sutera added 10 digs and five kills.

Dakota Valley will host Homer on Friday. Bon Homme will travel to Menno on Thursday.

DAKOTA VALLEY (16-2).....25 25 25
BON HOMME (11-5).....14 14 25

Bloomfield Triangular

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — The Bloomfield Queen Bees picked up a pair of victories in their own home triangular on Tuesday night.

Next Bloomfield will play at Osmond, Neligh-Oakdale will play Pender at home, and Plainview will play at Hartington on Thursday.

BLOOMFIELD DEF. NELIGH-OAKDALE 25-23, 20-25, 25-11: In the win for the Queen Bees, Amanda Goeden had 14 assists and eight digs. Kenna Fielder led the team with nine kills, three aces and 21 digs.

BLOOMFIELD DEF. PLAINVIEW 25-23, 30-32, 25-11: In the win for the Queen Bees, Lexie Hauger had 10 kills, two aces and 28 digs. Brittany Kerbel led the team defensively with 38 digs for the night. Kenna Fielder made 10 kills and nine digs. Amanda Goeden also contributed to the in with 16 set assists and 21 digs.

Pierce 3, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 0

LAUREL, Neb. — Pierce defeated Laurel-Concord/Coleridge in three sets by the scores of 25-23, 25-23, 26-24 on Tuesday evening.



P&D FILE PHOTO

Crofton's Quinn Wragge nears the finish line at the Crofton Invitational cross country meet on Sept. 27. The Nebraska School Activities Association changed its format for girls' cross country, lengthening the course to 5,000 meters for girls in 2013.

Neb. Girls Adjusting To Longer Races

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

james.cimburek@yankton.net

One thousand meters, or 0.62 miles. Two and a half laps around the standard track.

It may seem like a big distance, but for some of the girls in Nebraska who are running that distance on top of the 2.49 miles they were already running in cross country races, it's not that big of a deal.

This season, Nebraska joined the majority of the country in having its girls' varsity cross country runners compete at a distance of 5,000 meters, or 3.11 miles. Jayne Arens, head coach of the seven-time Class D champion Crofton cross country team, felt the added distance would not be an issue.

"Having experience with both two-and-a-half and three-mile races, I really didn't notice a lot of difference she said. "For the older runners with more training, it will actually help you."

Coming into the season, though, Arens' runners weren't convinced.

"I was a little disappointed in a way," said Crofton senior Jazmin Wuebben. "But I was willing to accept the change and use it to my benefit."

Crofton sophomore Kyla Dendinger actually thought the coaches were joking.

"I was shocked," she said. "I didn't believe the coaches at first."

With two meets in Nebraska each year, the Yankton girls' cross country team has had an opportunity to compete at the longer distance. (They also compete in South Sioux City, Neb., on Thursday.) The Gazelles also had that opportunity a few years back when they were competing in the Nike Team Nationals meet.

"Our girls handled it very well at Norfolk and I feel it is to our advantage," said Yankton head coach Dave Dannenbring. "Our goal is to develop strength and toughness and the extra kilometer allows for that training to take over."

While runners have extra distance to race, it hasn't made a big impact on training. "Practice hasn't changed," Dendinger said. "We've kept the same program."

What has changed is the ability to more easily compare results.

"We race-track our meets so that we can compare them to other races," Wuebben said. "We can look at the times and figure out where we need to improve."

Wuebben also likes that she can compare her times to her male counterparts.

"It's nice. We can compare our times with the boys," she said. "If I was tenth in the girls' race, maybe I'd be 50th in the boys' race. Now I'm seeing how many of them I could beat."

The added distance also makes it easier for college coaches to see how a runner would handle a higher level of competition. NAIA schools run 5,000 meters, while NCAA schools run 6,000 meters.

"Most states run the same distance (5,000 meters)," Arens said. "It allows coaches to do better comparisons across the board. It also gives girls confidence. They know they can run that far in high school, so they'll have no problem adjusting in college."

Dannenbring echoed that sentiment. "It is also much better when it comes to colleges recruiting girls," he said. "They all have a common distance and it makes it much easier to run a meet and kids to learn the course when everyone runs the same distance and course."

Through the first half of the season, Crofton assistant Jason Arens said that the reviews from other programs are mixed. "Some teams are in favor of it. Some are waiting to see how things work out," he said. "Whenever you have change, for the most part, you're going to have some people opposed to it."

While Wuebben has welcomed the change, she jokes that Nebraska's boys should be running further, too.

"In a way, I think the boys should move up," she said. NCAA men's runners run 8,000 meters. "If increasing our mileage in high school helps us prepare for college, I think the boys should do the same."

South Dakota still runs 4,000 meters for girls, as do Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Kansas and Mississippi. Oklahoma runs 3,200 meters (roughly two miles), while Texas runs 5,000 meters for its two largest classes, but only 3,200 meters in its smaller classes.

Dannenbring hopes that South Dakota will soon join that list of states whose girls run 5,000 meters in cross country.

"I welcome the change in S.D. with open arms," he said.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 9