

Coyotes Return Home After Five Weeks Away, Face MSU For D-Days

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VERMILLION — Thirty-five days. Since the USD football team last played a home game, the following has happened: Loss at FBS Kansas, loss at nationally-ranked FCS Northern Arizona and Missouri Valley Football Conference loss at Western Illinois.

In short, not much in the way of good things since the Coyotes (1-3) beat UC Davis in the season opener Aug. 31.

At least one of those trends will end today (Saturday) when USD hosts 1-4 Missouri State for its Dakota Days homecoming game at 2 p.m. at the DakotaDome.

"It feels like it's been longer than that," senior center Cody O'Neill said this week.

"It's hard to think UC Davis was a home game we had this year. It seems forever since we've been home."

Being back home is just the recipe the Coyotes need after a string of poor offensive performances that were at least backed up by solid defensive efforts away from Vermillion.

"You can look at our record, we've always played better at home," offensive lineman Steve Nelson said. "You have ten thousand people cheering for us for the first time in a month, so that really helps."

To that end, is it hard to equate

how much the confidence rises just by being at home?

"It's really hard," USD head coach Joe Glenn said. "We did play a really good game here against UC Davis. And we played hard on the road, just haven't been rewarded for it."

USD's struggles are well-documented, especially in the Missouri Valley — dating back to last year, the Coyotes are 0-9 in conference action.

"We have to get off the goose egg," Nelson said. "We're right there, we get that first one and start rolling. We have to figure out what it feels like to win again."

Doing so, though, has proven to be a tough proposition for the Coy-

otes.

Today's matchup with Missouri State is a prime example. A year ago down in Springfield, Mo., USD held a 21-3 halftime lead only to see the Bears score 17 points in the final six minutes and win 27-24.

"I think we're close, but there are little things that we can correct," O'Neill said. "If we come out and prove to ourselves that we can do it, then I think it shows we'll be able to keep it going."

Many of those little things this season have dealt with the offense.

Quarterback has been the question of the week, but the final decision on who will start will not be revealed until today's first play from scrimmage.

The Coyotes have concerns other than at quarterback, however. Another area of focus this week has been on re-establishing the run game.

USD began the year with 195 yards and 219 yards on the ground against UC Davis and Kansas, respectively, but have totaled just 183 over the last two games combined.

"We have to get back to that; get that nasty demeanor again," O'Neill said. "Once we get that confidence going, we'll be hard to stop."

Nelson, who figures to start today at left guard, also pointed to protection as a focus this week.

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LaCombe Says Good-Bye To Yankton Soccer

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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For nearly the past two decades, Dave LaCombe has been a major part of youth soccer in the Yankton area. Very soon, that tenure will come to an end.



LaCombe

LaCombe, who currently serves as the coaching chair on the Yankton Youth Soccer Association board as well as the varsity girls' soccer coach, and his wife, Sonnie, will be moving to Tennessee to help care for an ailing family member.

Today (Saturday) will be the girls' soccer team's last regular season home match. LaCombe will be honored prior to the match.

"Dave's been in a lot of different roles, not just with Yankton soccer but with the state," said Yankton boys' soccer coach Warren Brenner. "It's going to take a lot of volunteers to make up for his position."

"He's going to be missed." LaCombe was born in Germany, and played the sport as a child. He continued to play soccer after joining the army, competing on a travel team that faced opponents from Germany, Great Britain and Korea.

After 20 years in the military, LaCombe and his wife settled in Yankton, where the sport of soccer again drew him in.

"My step-kids were involved in soccer. They were looking for volunteers to raise flags on the sidelines (to signal out-of-bounds and offsides)," LaCombe said. "After a while, Ray Tweedy asked me if I would become a ref."

Officiating was a new experience for LaCombe, who played for over 30 years.

"As an ex-player, it was easy to transition to being a ref," he said. "But it also opened my eyes."

LaCombe also started to coach his step-son's U-10 team, sticking with them through the U-14 level. As the South Dakota State Soccer Association began to sponsor club high school programs, LaCombe made that transition as well.

"When the high school seasons started, they wanted me to coach JV boys. I decided to coach them in the second year of the program," he said. "I've been involved with high school programs ever since."

LaCombe later transitioned to girls' soccer, coaching the Yankton squad before taking over the Vermillion program for several years. He has since returned to coaching in Yankton.

One aspect that has been a staple of LaCombe's teams — whether in Yankton or Vermillion — has been that they play "the right way."

"Both my Vermillion and Yankton teams have been multiple-time winners of the state's sportsmanship award," he said. "It's been six times between the two schools."

LaCombe's calm demeanor — and his ability to teach his players to do the same — has been valuable to the Yankton program, according to longtime YYSA board member Kevin Bray.

"Dave tries to stay positive in front of the players, and when he's on the field as a referee," he said. "As much as soccer is a sport, it's also a learning activity, and he does a lot with the players to get them to understand that."

Besides teaching players,

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Bucks Bounce Arrows 17-7



Yankton's Tim Cross (68) sacks Watertown quarterback Logan Gabriel (2) during their ESD football game Friday night at Watertown Stadium. Yankton rallied from a 7-0 halftime deficit to win 17-7, improving to 3-3 on the season.

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

WATERTOWN — Due to blustery and rainy conditions, the high-flying Yankton Bucks were forced to run Friday night in Watertown.

And they did just enough to pull out a second consecutive win.

Jordan Lightner scored on a pair of second-half touchdown runs to rally the Bucks past the Arrows 17-7 in a key Class 11AA and ESD showdown.

The victory will likely jump Yankton (3-3) ahead of Watertown (2-3) in the 11AA standings — and just two weeks after the Bucks were seeded No. 8 in their class.

Yankton, which had struggled rushing the ball this season, ran for 204 yards Friday night. Junior Levi Davis led the way with 151 yards, bettering his season total of 125 through the first four games.

Lightner's 7-yard touchdown run with 7:41 remaining proved to be the game winner, and the Bucks added a Lane Sawatzke field goal on the game's final play.

The two teams traded turnovers on the game's first three drives, two of those giveaways by Watertown, a fumble on a punt and a fumble at the 1-yard line.

Yankton then marched all the way into Arrows territory, but a 41-yard field goal try by Sawatzke was no good late in the first quarter.

A Bucks fumble with under two minutes left before half was recovered by Watertown, and the Arrows capitalized. Shay Bratland scored on a 7-yard run at the 1:50 mark, putting the home team up 7-0.

Eventually, Yankton found the end zone.

On the final play of the third quarter, Jordan Lightner powered in from three yards out for a Bucks touchdown after a 68-yard drive. The extra point from Sawatzke was good, tying the game at 7-7.

The Bucks then benefited from a 4-yard punt by the Arrows to score again.

Lightner ran in for a 7-yard touchdown with 7:41 remaining in the fourth quarter, giving Yankton a 14-7 lead. Lightner finished with 30 yards rushing, to go along with three receptions for 56 yards.

Watertown then turned the ball over on downs on its ensuing drive, and the Bucks closed the game with a Sawatzke field goal.

The hometown Arrows rushed for 139 yards in the loss, led by 110 from senior standout Shay Bratland. Watertown passed for 48 yards.

Yankton returns home to host top-ranked Pierre (5-0) next Friday night.

Yankton 17, Arrows 7	
YANKTON.....	0 0 7 10 — 17
WATERTOWN.....	0 7 0 0 — 7
Second Quarter	

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USD Earns Top-Three Finishes At SDSU Classic

BROOKINGS — Mubarik Musa finished seventh to lead the South Dakota men's cross country team to a second place tie with Northern Iowa while Amber Eichkorn's finish of 18th led the USD women to a third place finish at the SDSU Classic on Friday. South Dakota State won the 11-team men's competition while Minnesota topped the women's 12-team field.

Musa finished the men's 8k in 25 minutes, 47.84 seconds while Taylor Chapman added a top-10 with a 10th-place finish in 25:52.50. South Dakota State's Trent Lusignan won the race with a time of 24:54.20.

Brant Haase finished 14th (26:08.25), Isaac Allen was 24th (26:27.04) and Taylor Huseman

crossed in 33rd (26:49.03) to round out USD's top finishers. There were 134 competitors in the race.

In the men's team standings, SDSU recorded 27 points, while USD and Northern Iowa had 84 points. North Dakota State's 85 and the SDSU Alumni's 143 points rounded out the top five.

In area men's action, Duane Jongeling (Parker) of SDSU finished 44th (27:11.17) and Jordan Pater of Mount Marty College was 46th (27:13.0).

Eichkorn's 18th place finish in 18:26.48 led USD in the women's 6k. She was followed by Katie Wetstein in 19th (18:29.62) and Megan Hilson in 20th (18:33.93). Kate Kaster placed 24th (18:41.97) and Britni Waller finished 41st (19:20.78)

to complete USD's scorers. The women's race also had 134 runners.

Molly Kayfes of Minnesota won the 6k with a time of 17:29.01 and led the Golden Gophers to a sweep of the top-10. After Minnesota's score of 15, NDSU was second with 57 points, USD was third with 101 points and SDSU was fourth with 102 points. North Dakota rounded out the top-five with 140 points.

In area women's finishes, Katie Smelker of Mount Marty College was 29th (18:57.96) and Jenna Grossenburg (Yankton) of SDSU was 32nd (19:08.77).

The Coyotes will take a week off before hosting the Tim Young Invitational on Oct. 19. That meet will start at 10 a.m.

Cavaliers Clip S.F. Christian For Homecoming Win



Creighton's Justin Wilmes flies in and nearly blocks a punt attempt by Bloomfield's Quinn O'Brien during their eight-man football game on Friday in Bloomfield, Neb.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

TYNDALL — The Bon Homme Cavaliers beat the Sioux Falls Christian Chargers 29-13 in high school football action Friday.

In the first quarter the Chargers got out quick with Keegan Van Egdom making a 42 yard run for a touchdown. The Bon Homme Cavaliers answered with two scores coming from a 30 yard run by Hunter Young and a 6-yard run by Chase Kortan.

In the second and third quarter Cavalier Dakota Bodden a touchdown off two runs making the game 29-6. In the fourth quarter the Chargers tried to regain the lead with a late touchdown by Brendamn Reu.

In the win for Bon Homme Dakota Bodden had 11 rushes for 171 yards and two passes for 11 yards. Hunter Young rushed for 96 yards and made nine tackles.

Next Bon Homme will play at Wagner and Sioux Falls Christian is off.

SIoux FALLS CHRISTIAN (1-5).....	6 0 0 7 — 13
BON HOMME (3-2).....	15 8 6 0 — 29

Alcester-Hudson 48, Viborg-Hurley 14

VIBORG — Collin Walth rushed for 79 yards and two touchdowns Friday night to lead the Alcester-Hudson Cubs in a 48-14 win against the Viborg-Hurley Cougars in Viborg.

Walth also had 9.5 tackles in the win, with Erin Barnes rushing for 90 yards. Grant Johnson rushed for 60 yards and two touchdowns, while Mitchell Johnson had seven tackles.

The Cubs, now 5-1, rushed for a total of 323 yards, averaging six yards a carry.

Jack Huether rushed for 63 yards and one touchdown for the Cougars, while Dylan Kludt had 45 yards receiving and one touchdown. Huether had 11 tackles on the night and Dillon Sawyer had nine.

Viborg-Hurley faces Gayville-Volin next Friday, while the Cubs have a bye week.

ALCESTER-HUDSON (5-1).....	20 28 34 48 — 48
VIBORG-HURLEY (2-3).....	0 0 0 14 — 14

Irene-Wakonda 52, Centerville 12

IRENE — Garrett Anderson rushed for a total of 218

yards and five touchdowns Friday night to lead the Irene-Wakonda Eagles in a 52-12 win against the Centerville Tornadoes in Irene.

Cody Geuther had 11 carries and 60 yards rushing in the win, while Gabe King had 65 yards passing and one touchdown. Dan Brue had three catches for 22 yards and one touchdown, and Anderson had nine tackles.

Seamus O'Malley rushed for 138 yards and the Tornadoes only two touchdowns. He also had 83 yards passing. Christian Gruschin had 40 yards receiving.

Centerville hits the road to face Garretson Friday,

while the Eagles travel to face Chester.

CENTERVILLE (1-4).....	12 0 0 0 — 12
IRENE-WAKONDA (2-3).....	14 22 8 8 — 52

Avon 49, Gayville-Volin 6

GAYVILLE — Avon pummeled Gayville-Volin 49-6 behind 141 rushing yards on five carries from senior running back Brandon Kochmich.

Kochmich added three scores on five carries to help lead Avon (5-0). Devin Tolsma added 92 rushing yards and two scores as well. Tolsma recorded 19.5 tackles and three-and-a-half tackles for loss in the victory.

Gayville-Volin (1-4) piled up 126 yards of total offense

in the loss.

Avon will contest its undefeated record in Marty against Marty Indian on Friday. Gayville-Volin will host Viborg-Hurley on Friday, as well.

AVON (5-0).....	36 49 — 49
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (1-4).....	0 6 — 6

Crofton 63, Homer 26

CROFTON, Neb. —

Crofton defeated Homer 63-26 on homecoming night in Crofton. Senior Austin Wookman racked up 154 yards on the ground on four carries with two touchdowns.

Eric Kleinschmit ran for 145 yards on 10 carries, with

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