

MVFC Notebook

Glenn: Coyotes Remain Focused On ‘Here And Now’

BY JEREMY HOECK
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His team having won three straight games and suddenly thrust into the early chatter for Missouri Valley Football Conference title contender, USD coach Joe Glenn proved to be a popular target in Tuesday's weekly media teleconference.

And for good reason.

The Coyotes (4-3, 3-1), who were picked last in the preseason poll, are coming off a signature double overtime win at Northern Iowa that snapped the program's 18-game road losing streak. Now, USD is in the fortunate position of having to

answer the 'How have you done it' questions.

"There's no magic; there's no dust you can sprinkle on a team to make them good," Glenn said Tuesday morning. "It's hard work, and I think everyone knows that.

"We've got a rugged schedule from here on in, and we know that, but you keep focusing on the here and now."

With two key 'firsts' out of the way, including a first-ever MVFC victory and an end to the 3-year-old road slide, the Coyotes turn their attention to a back-loaded finish to their schedule.

Up next is a Saturday trip to Illi-

nois State. Then comes home games with Youngstown State, Montana and South Dakota State, followed by the regular season finale at North Dakota State.

Asked about the keys to the recent streak, Glenn said, "You just keep sawing wood."

"Your kids just have to keep believing, that they're doing it right," he said. "And sooner or later, things start falling in place. You get some athletes that come through for you, and your recruiting starts to help a little bit."

Of course, it helps too when you win the close games you lost a year ago, Glenn pointed out. The Coy-

otes have won their games by 3, 3, 3 and 7 points this season. Their two FCS losses? By 6 and 14 points.

"We've really fought to the bitter end. A year ago we lost four real close games, just couldn't get over the hump," Glenn said. "Fortunately we've won three close games; all nail-biters.

"There's not much difference from our team last year to this year, we're winning the close ones. It's hard to do."

After having struggled to score points most of the season, the USD offense turned a corner last Saturday in Cedar Falls, rolling up 510 yards and 38 points.

Sophomore quarterback Kevin Earl, making his third start, completed 25-of-44 passes for 370 yards and three touchdowns. Earl significantly improved his down-field passing and "took a step forward" in his progression, Glenn said.

"To say I knew he would do it, no, I didn't," Glenn said. "But he is a talented kid, he's 6-6, he can see well. So we're very happy with the way he's progressing."

Another young weapon for the Coyotes last Saturday was freshman receiver Riley Donovan. The former redshirt — whose label was pulled

MVFC | PAGE 10

Frazier Says Decision To Start Freeman Was Right

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Josh Freeman's debut with the Minnesota Vikings was as ragged as could be, a 20-for-53 passing performance that produced no points on offense and raised further questions about how quickly he became the starting quarterback.

Coach Leslie Frazier expressed no day-after regret. Freeman was the right pick to play, Frazier said, and the job is still his this week.

"If I had to do it over again, I don't think I'd do it any differently under the circumstances. I knew exactly why we made the decision. I felt very confident going into the ballgame with the decision," Frazier said Tuesday. "It didn't work out for us this time."

The Vikings (1-5) signed Freeman less than two weeks prior to his not-ready-for-prime-time showing Monday against the New York Giants, a 23-7 defeat by a previously winless team in a nationally televised debacle that had analysts, fans and even ex-players mocking and criticizing the quality of play by both teams all night.

"This is the worst sporting event ever broadcasted," former Vikings left guard Steve Hutchinson said on Twitter during the game. The retired seven-time Pro Bowler was rarely that demonstrative during his career.

Frazier, whose hold on his job has grown increasingly tenuous this month with consecutive drubbings by a combined score of 58-17 against the Giants and Carolina Panthers, was doing his best Tuesday to point out some positives, encourage his players and defend his decisions.

He said he never considered benching Freeman, who threw one interception and finished with 190 yards, and said he was under "no obligation" from the front office or ownership to play him. The coach also said the move had full support from the players.

"We believed that he would give us the best chance to be successful in that ballgame," Frazier said.

Christian Ponder, who had seven turnovers over the first three games, was the backup. Matt Cassel, who guided the Vikings to their only victory but followed that up with two costly interceptions in the loss to the Panthers, was inactive.

VIKINGS | PAGE 10

Lynx Nip Gazelles In 5

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Brandon Valley Lynx survived a slow start to battle past an upset-minded Yankton squad 10-25, 25-19, 20-25, 25-22, 15-9 in Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball action on Tuesday at the Summit Center.

Briana Grage had 11 kills and four ace serves, and Hannah Paauw had 10 kills to lead Brandon Valley. Lexi Hoover finished with 33 assists. Elsie Zajicek posted four solo blocks and Taylor Murtha added 34 digs in the win.

Becky Frick had 24 kills, four blocks and 12 digs to lead Yankton. Hailey Bockholt finished with seven kills and a team-high five blocks. Sophie Drotzmann posted six kills and four blocks.

Also for Yankton, Paige Thieman had 26 assists and nine digs, Haley Mines had a team-best 17 digs and Brooke Wuebben added 16 digs.

The Gazelles cruised in the opening frame, jumping out to a 10-1 lead with strong net play. Bockholt recorded a kill and a block, and Frick pounded two kills in the initial run.

The aggressive hitting and blocking of the Gazelles had the Lynx struggling offensively. Out of system and out of sorts, Brandon Valley handed Yankton 10 points due to attacks into the net and out of bounds, as well as three violations.

"We played well in set one," said Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste. "We had three total errors in set one, and the score reflected that.

"We had a lot more errors in the rest of the sets."

A mix of quick-sets and wrap-arounds helped the Lynx offense get going in the second set. After trailing 8-3 and 16-11, Brandon Valley closed the set on a 14-3 run, keyed by four kills and a block from Paauw to tie the match.

While Paauw had a big set, Beste felt the Gazelles let Brandon Valley back into the match by playing timid.

"It wasn't their offense that beat us," she said. "We weren't enjoying playing the game. When we started overthinking, we started to not react to balls the way we can."

The Gazelles took the early momentum again in the



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Yankton's Haley Mines returns a serve during Tuesday night's home match against Brandon Valley at the Summit Center.

third set, jumping out to a 12-8 edge, but big play at the net from Lynx senior outside hitter Hannah Stensrud helped BV tie the set at 18. Tied at 19, a kill by Yankton senior Emily Bos started a 5-0 run that helped the Gazelles claim the set.

After letting Yankton take the early lead in each of the first three sets, Brandon Valley took control early in the 4th on a strong serving run from senior Kara Schroeder. Yankton used a 4-0 run — keyed by two big blocks — to briefly regain the lead, but four straight BV points put the Lynx ahead for the rest of the set.

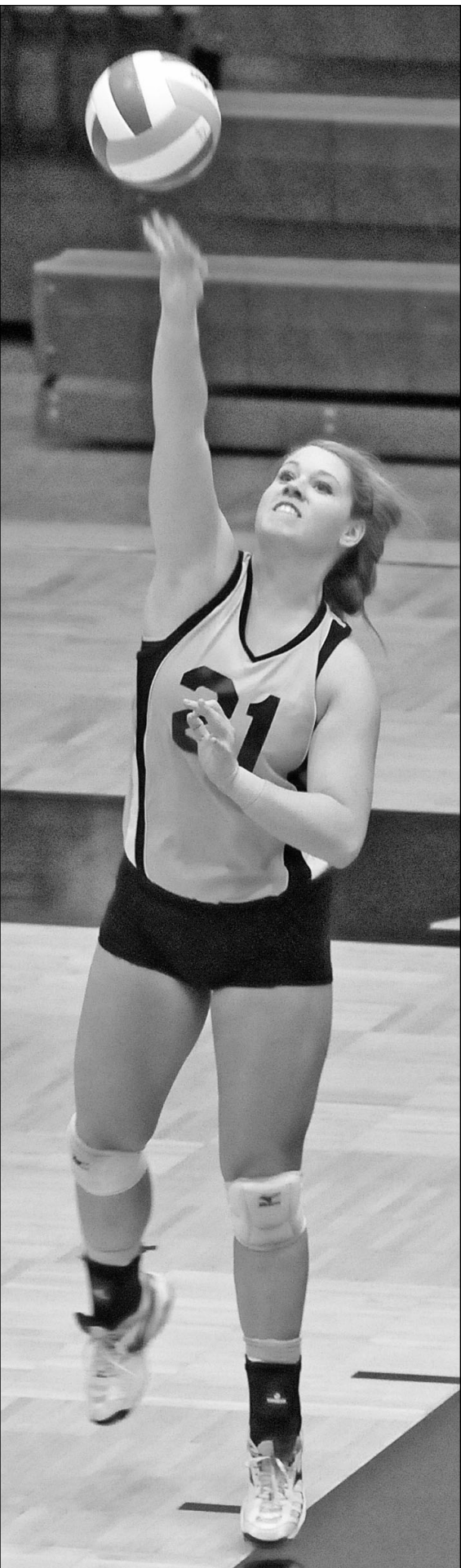
Brandon Valley carried that momentum into the fifth set, jumping out to an 8-3 lead and holding on for the victory.

The Lynx's experience down the stretch showed, as all six Brandon Valley seniors in the rotation contributed greatly to the victory over a Yankton squad that has just four seniors and two returning starters in the rotation.

"Sometimes I forget that we have so many young players," Beste said. "I'm not unhappy when they make mistakes, but I am unhappy when they dwell on them."

One of the reserves who

GAZELLES | PAGE 9



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Yankton's Paige Thieman serves during Tuesday night's home match with Brandon Valley at the Summit Center.

World Series Cards, Red Sox Set To Renew October Rivalry

BOSTON (AP) — Lance Lynn squeezed through a door leading into the Green Monster, shimmied along a cramped space behind the famed left-field wall and peered out a tiny metal slot in the Fenway Park scoreboard.

"A little snug for me," the burly St. Louis pitcher said.

Plenty of Cardinals got their first look at the century-old ball-park during a workout Tuesday, a day before they opened the World Series against the Boston Red Sox.

The Red Sox saw a neat sight, too. As they took batting practice at dusk, a giant, vibrant rainbow formed high in the sky beyond center field. Slugger David Ortiz noticed.

"Oh, yeah," he said. "It's a Dominican thing."

Whatever, Big Papi. Something special always seems to happen when the Redbirds and Red Sox meet, from Stan the Man vs. the Splendid Splinter, to Gibby vs. Yaz, to Pedro vs. Pujols.

Now, they're set to meet for the fourth time in "that October kind of air," as Cardinals Game 1 starter Adam Wainwright described it.

Jon Lester will oppose him Wednesday night, facing a lineup that got a late boost. Allen Craig, who hit a major league-leading .454 with runners in scoring position but hasn't played since Sept. 4 because of sprained left foot, is set to return.

"I feel like I'm in a good spot," said the cleanup man, who will be the Cardinals' designated hitter.

Weather could be a factor. Temperatures are supposed to dip into the low 40s and rain is in the forecast.

Boston was listed as a slim favorite in the matchup between teams that tied for the big league lead in wins. The clubs haven't met in the regular season since 2008, and Red Sox speedster Jacoby Ellsbury was looking forward to this pairing that some are billing as the Beards vs. the Birds.

also

■ World Series Dates, Times Are In Today's Scoreboard. **PAGE 10**

SERIES | PAGE 10

Volleyball: Raiders Win Twice At Home

GAYVILLE — The Gayville-Volin Raiders are now 20-3 after beating the Omaha Nation Chiefs and the Marty Braves in volleyball action Tuesday.

The Raiders finish the regular season on Monday, hosting Avon.

Marty will again face Omaha Nation, traveling to Macy, Neb., on Oct. 29. Omaha Nation hosts Walthill on Thursday.

GAYVILLE-VOLIN DEF. OMAHA NATION 25-5, 25-10, 25-9: In the win for the Raiders, Kelia Barta had 15 kills, four digs and six aces. Rachel Haas had eight kills and made two digs. Vanessa Ryken had 29 assists, three digs and four aces. Genevieve Clark had five kills and 10 digs.

GAYVILLE-VOLIN DEF. MARTY 25-5, 25-10, 25-5: In the win for the Raiders, Kelia Barta had seven kills and two aces. Rachel Haas had five kills and Vanessa Ryken had 13 assists and 14 aces. Genevieve Clark had three kills, three digs, and five aces.

Knox County Tourn. Championship: Crofton 2, Creighton 0

NIOBRARA, Neb. — The Crofton Warriors defeated the Creighton Bulldogs 25-18, 25-20, in the championship match of the Knox County Volleyball Tournament Tuesday.

In the win for Crofton, Maria Wortmann led the team with 12 kills, three aces, three blocks and eight digs. Allison Arens had four kills and 10 digs and Bre Allen had eight digs. Kelsey Sanger had two blocks.

Next Crofton will play in the Mid-State Conference Tournament and Creighton will play in the Lewis and Clark Conference Tournament Monday.

CROFTON (18-3) 25 25
CREIGHTON (11-6) 18 20

Fifth: Bloomfield 2, Santee 0

VERDIGRE, Neb. — The Bloomfield Queen Bees beat the Santee Warriors 25-15, 25-12 in the fifth place match of the Knox County Tournament on Tuesday.

In the win for the Queen Bees, Kristen Thompson had three kills and five digs. Anna Moles had three kills and 18 digs. Brittany Kerbel made 11 digs, Leah Poppe made 22 digs, and Brittany O'Brien had five kills and two digs.

Next Santee will play Cody-Kilgore Thursday and Bloomfield will play at the Lewis and Clark Conference tourney Monday.

SANTEE (1-19) 15 12

Winside Triangular

WINSIDE, Neb. — The Hartington Wildcats moved to 15-10 with a split of a triangular on Tuesday in Winside, Neb. The Wildcats beat Winside 3-1 and dropped a 3-0 decision to Emerson-Hubbard.

Hartington will travel to Emerson Hubbard on Monday for the opening round of the Lewis & Clark Conference Tournament. Winside will travel to Laurel-Concord/Colendige next.

EMERSON-HUBBARD DEF. HARTINGTON 25-23, 25-18, 25-19: Cammie Stratman led Hartington with 10 kills and nine digs. Sophie Noecker added nine digs and seven kills.

HARTINGTON 3, WINSIDE 1: Shelby Hochstein led Hartington with 10 digs, nine kills and four aces. Sophie Noecker added 14 digs in the contest.

Other Matches

Winner 3, Wagner 1

WAGNER — Winner defeated Wagner 25-18, 19-25, 25-15, 25-17 on Tuesday evening.

Emily Richie led Winner (21-3) with 41 digs. Lindsay Calhoun added 32 digs, while Kelsey Bertram posted 18 kills.

Kim Koupal led Wagner (18-6) with 25 digs and 11 kills. Emily Brunising collected 32 digs, eight kills and four aces in the contest.

Winner will travel to Platte-Geddes on

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 9

Lancers Win First GPAC Match

MITCHELL — Mount Marty College won its first Great Plains Athletic Conference match of the season Tuesday night, sweeping rival Dakota Wesleyan 25-14, 25-18, 25-17 in Mitchell.

Not only did the Lancers (12-16) win a conference match, they doubled their win total from last season. They won one league match a year ago.

"It feels great, especially after what happened Saturday," said MMC coach Candice Climer, referring to last Saturday's 3-0 loss at Concordia.

"We knew it was a now or never kind of thing, and it's great to get over that hump. This is a really tough league."

Kristen Boyle led the Lancers with eight kills, while Allison Cross had seven kills (on eight swings), and Lexie Bronson added seven kills and five blocks. Caitlyn Illg keyed the offense with 29 set assists and Courtney Miller — a Mitchell native — led the defense with 15 digs.

MMC returns home to host Midland on Friday night.



BROOKE CERSOSIMO/MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLIC
Mount Marty junior defensive specialist Courtney Miller, front, digs the ball in the first set of a Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball match against Dakota Wesleyan University Tuesday at the Christen Family Wellness Center in Mitchell. The Lancers swept the Tigers for their first GPAC win of the season.