

St. Thomas More Blanks Vermillion In Class A Girls' Soccer Semifinals

BY JIM HOLLAND
Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY — That old maxim about the best defense being a good offense certainly worked for St. Thomas More in Saturday's Class A girls soccer semifinal.

The Cavaliers bottled up Vermillion's capable offense by effectively pressing their own attack, resulting in a 5-0 shutout of the Tangers at Noor-dermeer Field.

Ashley Peterson scored and added two assists, and Kennedy Kirsch, Carolyn Eckrich, Kiley Medler and Avery White also found the back of the net for the Cavaliers (11-1-1) who will face a familiar rival in Belle Fourche in Saturday's Class A championship in Mitchell.

The Lady Broncs punched their

own tickets to the final with a 5-0 blanking of Tea Area on Saturday in Belle Fourche.

Fifth-seed Vermillion had also hung a five-spot on No. 4 Groton Area in the first round and that was cause for pause for the top-seeded Cavaliers and head coach Doug Noyes.

"We were a little worried about them. They had beaten Groton 5-nil, which told us they could score. We hadn't played them during the year, so there was a big unknown," Noyes said.

The Cavs defense kept the ball to the outside, with midfielders generating crossing passes and keeping the Tangers defenders busy with more than a dozen quality scoring chances.

"We worked on getting it outside and playing it that way," Cavalier defender Marissa Eckrich said. "We all had a part of the game. The outside

mids had a lot of good crosses in and that's where we saw a lot of success."

"I couldn't ask any more of an outside defender," said Noyes of Eckrich. "She got forward, created scoring opportunities for other players and trapped the ball in. The defense was on their toes and shut them down really well."

The Cavaliers cashed in 19 minutes into the contest when Kirsch took a feed from Peterson and tucked the ball low on keeper Hailey Freidel.

Peterson padded the lead in the 37th minute, cleaning up Delaney Carlson's free kick into a crowd to the left of the Vermillion net.

Peterson's second assist came on a pass to Carolyn Eckrich, who sent the ball high on net early in the second half.

"We played a really aggressive game and really came ready to play,

even though we all had homecoming last night. That was a concern. We definitely were prepared and played the best we could," Peterson said.

Medler cleaned up a rebound off a Vermillion defender to put the Cavs up 4-0, and White added a penalty kick with eight minutes left to complete the scoring.

More goalkeeper Alyssa Dikoff took care of the Vermillion scoring chances that managed to get through, and there weren't many of those.

"We didn't get a lot of opportunities," Vermillion coach Shannon Fitzsimmons said. "That goes to show the offensive attack they kept creating. That definitely kept us on our defensive side. When we did break through, we did get some good looks and that was encouraging."

Vermillion finishes the season at 6-4-2. Fitzsimmons said the Tangers

will graduate just three seniors, Freidel, midfielder Tori Gregoire and forward/defender Teddi Settles.

"We're already looking forward to next season and making sure we get to the final round then," Fitzsimmons said.

Marissa Eckrich said making the finals is great way to end her senior season.

"I'm excited for next weekend, to see what it holds," she said.

Belle Fourche and More tied 3-3 in their first regular season meeting, with the Cavs taking the rematch 3-0.

"We know what we're looking at, a lot of hardworking girls. We're going to have to be on our game with them," Noyes said.

Saturday's Class A final is set for 11 a.m. CT at Pepsi-Cola Soccer Complex in Mitchell.

SCOREBOARD

VOLLEYBALL

SATURDAY'S AREA SCORES

Laurel-Concord Triangular
Laurel-Concord/Coleridge def. Wakefield, 25-15, 25-20; Wayne def. Laurel-Concord/Coleridge, 25-17, 25-15.

Marion Tournament
Pool 1: Mitchell Christian def. Menno, 25-14, 25-13; Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Mitchell Christian, 25-14, 25-17; Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Menno, 25-22, 25-15; **Pool 2:** Dakota Christian def. Canistota, 25-22, 10-25, 25-18; Marion def. Dakota Christian, 25-20, 25-13; Marion def. Canistota, 25-13, 21-25, 25-21; **Pool 3:** Bridgewater-Emery def. Avon, 25-16, 25-10; Bridgewater-Emery def. Platte-Geddes, 25-18, 25-10; **Losers Bracket:** Avon def. Canistota, 21-25, 25-21, 25-23; Avon def. Menno, 25-20, 19-25, 25-19; Menno def. Canistota, 25-23, 25-1; **Quarterfinals:** Bridgewater-Emery def. Dakota Christian, 19-25, 25-16, 25-22; Platte-Geddes def. Mitchell Christian, 25-19, 25-19; **Semifinals:** Marion def. Platte-Geddes, 18-25, 25-19, 25-18; Mt. Vernon-Plankinton def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-20, 25-22; **FIRST:** Mt. Vernon-Plankinton def. Marion, 25-20, 25-14; **Tri-Valley Conference Tournament**
SEVENTH: Irene-Wakonda def. Centerville, 20-25, 25-22, 25-18, 24-26, 17-15; **FIFTH:** Viborg def. Freeman Academy, 25-20, 25-19, 25-22; **THIRD:** Alcester-Hudson def. Baltic, 25-14, 25-

AREA CALENDAR

Monday, October 6
CROSS COUNTRY, PREP
Howard Inv. (Marion, Menno, 4 p.m.); Southeast South Dakota Conference at Burke (Bon Homme, Ethan-Parkston, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Wagner, 3 p.m.)

FOOTBALL, PREP
Aberdeen Central vs. Yankton at Aberdeen (completion of suspended game, 4 p.m., KYT-FM, KYT-AM)

GOLF, WOMEN'S
Great Plains Athletic Conf. Tour. at Fremont GC, Fremont, Neb. (Round 2 of 4; MMC)

GOLF, BOYS'
S.D. State Class AA Tour. at Watertown (YHS, 10 a.m.); S.D. State Class A Tour. at Hot Springs

GOLF, GIRLS'
Neb. Districts - C-3 at Battle Creek (Croton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord/Coleridge)

VOLLEYBALL, PREP
Avon at Mitchell Christian; Dell Rapids St. Mary at Freeman; Hanson vs. Viborg-Hurley at Viborg; Marion at Freeman Academy; Randolph at Wymot; Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Wagner

San Francisco 2, Washington 1, 18 innings, San Francisco leads series 2-0
Los Angeles Dodgers 3, St. Louis 2, series tied 1-1

Sunday, Oct. 5
Baltimore 2, Detroit 1, Baltimore wins series 3-0
Kansas City 8, Los Angeles Angels 3, Kansas City wins series 3-0

Monday, Oct. 6
Washington (Fister 16-6) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 18-10), 2:07 or 4:07 p.m. (MLBN)
Los Angeles Dodgers (Ryu 14-7) at St. Louis (Lackey 3-3), 8:07 or 8:37 p.m. (FS1 or MLBN)

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
Friday, Oct. 10
Kansas City at Baltimore, TBD (TBS)

USD Tops Fort Wayne To Stay Unbeaten In Summit Play

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Kendall Krittenbrink notched 14 kills while Melissa Firtko tallied nine kills as South Dakota volleyball won its fifth straight match with a 25-23, 25-21, 25-21 sweep of Fort Wayne in the Gates Sports Center on Sunday. The Coyotes moved to 5-0 in Summit League play and have won eight of their last 10 matches.

Krittenbrink recorded a hitting percentage of .333 during the match, which is her second-best mark of the season. She also led South Dakota (11-6, 5-0) in total blocks with four. Firtko recorded her nine kills on 13 attacks and finished with a career-best attack percentage of .692, breaking her old mark of .571 that she set at Omaha last season.

Sydney Dimke added eight kills to the USD offensive effort while Riley Haug recorded 12 digs to reach double-digits in that stat for the 16th time this season. Audrey Reeg was the only other Coyote to record double-digit digs with 10. Setter Brittany Jessen finished the match with 37 assists, seven digs and three kills.

Fort Wayne (7-10, 1-2) was led by Emily Spencer's 15 kills. Somer Johnson added 10 kills and led the Mastodons in digs

with 13. Madison Spence and Mallory Snyder both recorded 19 assists.

South Dakota will host Western Illinois (3-14, 1-3) in The Den on Friday at 7 p.m.

High School

Wagner 3, Tri-Valley 2

COTTON — Emily Brunsing had 19 kills to lead Wagner to an 18-25, 25-18, 14-25, 26-24, 16-14 victory over Tri-Valley in prep volleyball action on Saturday.

Krista Dvorak had 34 assists and seven ace serves for Wagner. Ali Kuca posted nine kills and 27 digs. Karlee Schroeder and Brooklynn Tolliver had eight kills each, and Tolliver also recording 21 digs. Rachel Dion added 29 digs in the victory.

Sammy Kasowski had 12 kills and four blocks to lead Tri-Valley. Emma Johnson posted 11 kills. Sydney Hausmann had 17 assists and 24 digs. Morgan Haga had 23 digs. Abby Keith had 16 digs and Lauren Kutzer had eight kills for the Mustangs.

Wagner, 15-3, hosts Tripp-Delmont-Armour today (Monday). Tri-Valley (10-4) hosts Garretson today.

Wagner won the JV and 'C' matches, both in two games.

WAGNER (15-3)18 25 14 26 16
TRI-VALLEY (10-4)25 18 25 24 14

BALTIC 25-14, 25-18, 25-12: Cassidy Walth and Sierra McConnell had 11 kills as Alcester-Hudson beat Baltic for third. Walth also had 20 digs and McConnell had 13 digs.

Also for Alcester-Hudson, Cassie Schiefen had 16 assists, Brianna Walth had 12 digs and Olivia Limoges had 10 digs for the Cubs.

For Baltic, Molly Stittig had 24 assists and Taylor Reiniller had 12 assists to lead the way. Maddie Roberts added 12 digs.

FIFTH — FREEMAN ACADEMY DEF. VI-BORG-HURLEY 25-20, 25-19, 25-22: Hannah Yoder had 15 kills and Chelsey Heeg had 10 kills and nine assists as Freeman Academy swept Viborg-Hurley for fifth place. Brooklyn Ries added 16 assists in the victory.

For Viborg-Hurley, Hannah Jorgensen had 13 kills and 16 digs, and Abby Hora had 28 digs to lead the way. Angie Lee had 14 digs, Annie Wirth had 11 digs and Sam Boomgarder had 14 assists for the Cougars.

SEVENTH — IRENE-WAKONDA DEF. CENTERVILLE 20-25, 25-22, 25-18, 24-26, 17-15: Caitlin Hinshel posted 24 kills and 15 digs as Irene-Wakonda outslugged Centerville in the seventh place match.

Taylor Lee had 14 kills and 11 digs, Hannah Anderson had 31 assists and Tessa Buchanan had 14 digs for the victorious Eagles.

Emily Steadman had 11 kills and Rebecca Hybertson had 15 digs for Centerville.

Football: Bloomfield Opens Wakefield In OT

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — The Bloomfield Bees survived mid-game struggles to beat Wakefield 34-32 in overtime in prep football action on Saturday.

Bloomfield (3-2) led 20-0 after one quarters, but the Trojans scored 26 unanswered points in the middle quarters to take a 26-20 lead. Bloomfield tied the game in the fourth

quarter, then outscored Wakefield 8-6 in the extra period for the victory.

Cody Beckmann rushed for 153 yards and three scores, and Quinn O'Brien rushed for 146 yards and a score, and was 6-11 passing for 35 yards for Bloomfield. Tyler Holz also rushed for a touchdown in the

win.

Defensively, Eric Abbenhaus had a hand in 19 tackles and Holz contributed to 16 stops, including one for loss, to lead the way. Devin Johnson contributed to 15 tackles and recovered a fumble, Cody Beckmann picked off a pass and Devin Kirk also tackled for loss in the win.

WAKEFIELD (1-4)0 14 12 0 6 — 32
BLOOMFIELD (3-2)20 0 6 8 8 — 34

Bucks

From Page 8

go back to basics to try to claim their first SDHSAA state title.

"We plan to start from scratch, give ourselves a week to review," he said. "From our defense to our strikers, that's what we plan to focus on."

The Bucks will graduate a number of players from this year's squad: Pacheco, Wieseler, Patrick Weinandt, Connor Chambers, Jameson Mitchell, Ethan Klimisch, John Dannenbring, Spencer Schade

and Dylan Becker.

"They have been our leaders all the way through. They have worked hard on and off the field, mentored younger players and given encouragement," Brenner said. "I'm sure they will continue to push and give leadership to the younger players until heading off to college."

The Bucks also had several key contributors among their underclassmen, including a sophomore (Cole Lewno) who led them in scoring and a freshman goalkeeper in Trevor Rafferty.

"This is a beginning, not an end. There will always be more soccer," Brenner said. "There

is always tomorrow. Tomorrow brings new concepts, new games. The seniors will turn over the team to up and coming leaders.

"That is what we expect, what has worked for us so far," Roosevelt advanced to the final with a 6-1 victory over Rapid City Stevens. Kolby Scott scored four goals for Roosevelt, giving him eight in two post-season matches.

The Class AA championship will be played Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in Mitchell.

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

Coyotes

From Page 8

so it's great to get our first against Fort Wayne a team we've never beaten. They were a conference tournament team last year.

"To play as well as we did and get a win at home against a top conference team is a great win for us."

As USD pressed and failed to score, the defense continued its recent run of squeeze the life out of the other offense's play.

"That is something we have been stressing - getting shutouts," Green said. "Our defenders have been working

every day and getting their communication, their shape, and their timing sorted out and have been doing a great job. We had six different defenders in the game today and they are all doing a great job stepping up and working well for each other."

The Coyotes finally got the lead they deserved when Strang curled a shot up and over Paviika.

"I got a nice throw in from Brittney (Baker) and she just saw me and I turned the defender," the sophomore Strang said. "I shot it and I think it hit off their defense or something. It was a weird angle and I think it dipped down a bit because I thought it was going to hit the crossbar. So that was nice."

"I felt nice to get our goal and to win."

So the Coyotes wrap up the first weekend of Summit League play with a win, a 0-0 tie against Nebraska-Omaha on Friday, and two more shutouts. Not a bad start.

"The confidence the girls are gaining playing for each other is really starting to show," Green said. "Fort Wayne was a team we were pretty even with last year and Omaha was a team we were pretty even with last year and with some of the things we are doing, outplaying some of these teams is something we have never done in the past. It's nice to see."

USD continues Summit League play Friday in Tulsa, Oklahoma at Oral Roberts. The match is set for a 7 p.m. kickoff.

Lancers

From Page 8

"Our back third proved to be costly for us," Epp said. "That is how they got their goal late, and it's something we will need to work on the rest of the season."

Defensively, the Lancers

were led by goalie Humberto Estrada, who had six saves. Arana Ludwind added two shots on goal in the loss.

Despite the loss, Epp feels his team can compete with anyone in the conference.

"I think we can play with anyone in the conference," Epp said. "We need to be motivated and figure out what we need to do."

Mount Marty will go back at it on Tuesday, as they take on

Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.

"We will practice light and I think we understand this was an opportunity we let slip away," Epp said. "Hopefully, we can use this as a positive from here on out."

You can follow Nick Robinson on Twitter at twitter.com/RobinsonNick2013. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/sports.

NFAA

From Page 8

"I was able to test myself." Added Jason, "It's the toughest target tournament I've ever shot in, no joke."

While Jason was in Yankton this summer for the international field tournament, Rachel made her first trip this weekend.

Her impressions?
"They've got outstanding facilities here," Rachel said. "It's incredible that you can get 90 meters in here."

Added Jason, "I've never even heard of a facility like this."

division, is the niece of Grace Tidball who works in Viborg. Tidball, who lives in Sioux Falls but works at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Viborg, said she was anxious to have her family stay with her over the weekend.

"At least I've gotten to know archery a little bit," Tidball said Sunday with a smile.

"It's my first time in here," she added, referring to the Easton Center. "It's amazing."

Ertle and her fellow archers were faced this weekend by windy conditions that forced them to make drastic adjustments — many times aiming at targets two or three rows over to account for the wind.

"Overall, I really liked it, but it was definitely a challenge with the wind," Ertle said.

Among the other aspects of the trip she enjoyed?
"I'm really impressed with what they have here," Ertle said of the indoor and outdoor facilities. "When it gets really cold outside and snows, they can just come in here to shoot. That's really nice."

"I can definitely see how this would be useful."

ment, another national title for Gabby Keiser.

But this weekend's championship for the 14-year-old archer from Yankton had a little different significance: It came at a brand new tournament.

"It was something new, but it's great to have it," said Keiser, who took first place in the Youth Female Freestyle division. "The wind was really tough, but this is a great feeling."

Would she compete in the tournament if it was held next year?
"Oh heck yeah," Keiser said with a smile. "Hopefully they do."

Even for being a new tournament, the championships were able to attract professional — and well-known — archers like Erika Jones, Steve Anderson and Paul Tedford.

"That was really cool that they came," Keiser said. "I always love being able to shoot with those guys."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

State

From Page 8

"We've played it enough over the years," Schlingman said. "We know going in what to expect."

Several teams in the 18-team field have legitimate shots to earn a top-six spot and take home hardware.

"In the top tier, Lincoln and Brandon Valley have played really well. Stevens and O'Gorman have also played well," Sime said. "After that, there are a bunch of teams that will fight for fifth, sixth, seventh. It will be tough to bring home hardware."

But the Bucks' leaders are optimistic that they can still do just that.

"Our goal this year is to be a top three, top four team," Guthmiller said. "We don't have what we had a couple of years ago but, if we play well we could still be set."

Play begins at 9 a.m. today. The tournament concludes on Tuesday.

ley, will head to Southern Hills Golf Course in Hot Springs for the S.D. State Class A Boys' Tournament, beginning today.

Parkston, winners of Region 3A and second at state a year ago, return three top-25 finishers from a year ago: senior Ty Kinneberg (tied for 8th), junior Garret Hohn (tied for 18th) and freshman Jacob Lee (tied for 23). Junior Jeff Smithy and sophomore Alex Scott round out the tournament roster.

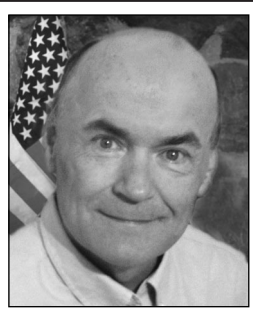
Vermillion, second in Region 2A, brings three seniors out west. Seniors Carter Andre (tied for 48th) and Andrew Heine (tied for 37th), and sophomore Cooper Williams (tied for 23rd) competed at state for the Tangers a year ago. Senior Jake Odens and junior Paul Schwasinger round out the Tangers'

fivesome.

Dakota Valley, sixth in the state tournament a year ago, take only four golfers to state as they did not earn a top-three finish at regions. Freshman Jameson Bull (tied for 37th) and junior Jacob Wente (tied for 43rd) return from a year ago. Sophomore Trent Jensen and freshman Tanner Hensley also head west for the Panthers.

Elk Point-Jefferson will take three golfers to state: senior Brandon Koupal, junior Conner Henze and freshman Easton Kueck. Beresford qualified one golfer, freshman Sam Nelson.

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Jay Williams

District 18 House

South Dakota Native

Born and raised on a farm in central South Dakota
Raised three children in Yankton with wife, Carol

Veteran

Naval Officer with duty in Vietnam
Naval Aviator with duty in Europe

Proven Leadership

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