

JOHN DAVIS/ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS
Yankton's Becky Frick, center, hits the ball past Aberdeen Central's Megan Kingsriter, left and Mia Bergan, right, during Friday night's match against Aberdeen Central at the Golden Eagles Arena.

Aberdeen Central Sweeps Gazelles

BY JACQUE SCOBY
Aberdeen American News

EDITOR'S NOTE: Information on this match was not received in time for Saturday's edition.

Aberdeen Central got itself in trouble just once Friday night.

The Golden Eagles had Paiton Burckhard to lean on, however.

Burckhard served third-ranked Central out of a late second-set deficit en route to a 25-14, 25-20, 25-14 Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball victory at Golden Eagles Arena.

Burckhard came to the line with her team trailing 17-14 in the second set. The sophomore served up nine straight points for the Golden Eagles, who turned the three-point hole into game point.

"She has got a really tough serve when she slows down and gets a good toss," said Central head coach Dennis Northrup. "She is strong with that ball and it's low to the net and it's got velocity on it and drops. She's very capable of putting together a bunch."

Yankton rallied — briefly — after breaking Burckhard's serve but the Aberdeen Central run had taken the sting out of the Gazelles. The Golden Eagles would go on to close out the sweep in the third.

"That's kind of been our nemesis all year long," said Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste. "There have been times we've been up against good teams, three or four points, deep into a set and we struggle to finish. That's a battle we've battled all year long. It would be nice to see these girls overcome that and be able to finish in those times."

Instead it was Aberdeen Central that was able to find the finish thanks in no small part to a well-rounded effort.

Brianna Kusler finished with 15 kills and 18 digs; Mia Bergan had eight kills, nine assists and 11 digs; Burckhard had four kills, an ace and one athletic, but important dig; Laura Babcock finished with 23 digs and Allisen Nielsen had one kill, 13 digs and 14 assists for the

Golden Eagles.

"Since we've switched to the 6-2 (system), Kusler has had a lesser role and everybody else has had more of a role," Northrup said. "Everyone is starting to buy into their role. That's what you're looking for."

Northrup credited his defense with holding Yankton to just 28 kills at the net. The Gazelles also had 21 hitting errors.

"We're an older team and we're really clicking as a team right now," Burckhard said. "We've been connecting with the ball really well and our defense has been really good."

Hannah Bockholt had nine kills to lead the Gazelles offensively. Becky Frick had six kills, three aces and 18 digs, while Danielle Salvatori had 25 digs.

Yankton travels to Sioux Falls O'gorman today (Monday).

SERVING: Yankton 39-43 5 aces (Becky Frick 8-8 3 aces); Aberdeen Central 71-75 8 aces (Kari Gardner 15-16 3 aces, Mia Bergan 11-12 3 aces).

HITTING: Yankton 101-122 28 kills (Hannah Bockholt 14-15 9 kills, Frick 32-36 6 kills); Aberdeen Central 111-118 38 kills (Brianna Kusler 26-27 15 kills, Bergan 19-20 8 kills).

SETTING: Yankton 109-109 24 assists (Ellie Fedders 56-56 12 assists); Aberdeen Central 66-66 23 assists (Allisen Nielsen 37-37 14 assists, Mia Bergan 28-28 9 assists).

DIGS: Yankton 70 (Danielle Salvatori 25, Frick 18); Aberdeen Central 86 (Laura Babcock 23, Kusler 18, Gardner 12, Bergan 11).

BLOCKS: Yankton 1 solo 6 assisted (Josie Saylor 1 solo 2 assisted); Aberdeen Central 2 solo 6 assisted (Paiton Burckhard 2 solo 1 assisted).

Sub-Varsity

Aberdeen Central battled past the Gazelles 25-22, 22-25, 25-17 in the JV match.

For Yankton, Kate Budig had nine kills and Cameryn Specht had 15 assists to lead the way. Lindsey Hale posted four ace serves and 15 digs. Emily Oswald had four kills and two solo blocks. Josie Saylor had four kills. Linze Cowman added three ace serves and 11 digs.

Aberdeen Central also needed three sets to win the sophomore match, 25-17, 25-27, 25-19. For Yankton, Budig had nine kills and 11 digs, and Jessica Reinhardt had six kills to lead the way. Anna Savey had 15 assists, Amanda Haas had five ace serves and Jennica Delvaux had 12 digs for the Gazelles.

Aberdeen Central swept the freshmen matches, 25-9, 25-14 in each match. No stats were reported for Yankton.

coach John Siegelmeier said of Christian's play. "(Offensive coordinator Eric Eidsness) did a good job of calming him down and giving him plays he could have success with. He's growing up the way he want him to."

SDSU picked up its second-straight win over a nationally ranked opponent and now faces Northern Iowa next week at home for the Hobo Day game.

"It's big. Anytime you can go on the road in the Missouri Valley and get it win, it's big your for team," Butler said of the win.

YSU fell to 0-2 against ranked opponents this season and faces Southern Illinois on the road next week.

Five different receivers caught passes for the Jacks, with Trevor Wesley leading the way with 42 yards on two catches. Wesley also returned a third-quarter kickoff 81 yards to set up Paris' second score of the game.

Penguin linebacker Lee Wright led all players with nine tackles. Senior cornerback Jimmy Forsythe and linebacker Jesse Bobbit each had eight tackles to lead the Jacks.

Armstrong, Nebraska Breeze By Minnesota 48-25

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Nebraska was reeling from four losses already this fall on the opponent's final offensive play, stirring up angst among the proud program's ardent fans just halfway into coach Mike Riley's first season.

This was quite the recovery — and the sigh of relief.

Tommy Armstrong Jr. bounced back from a pair of bad performances to start Big Ten play, passing for 261 yards and three touchdowns to start the salvaging of Nebraska's season and steer a 48-25 victory over Minnesota on Saturday.

"Hey, let's just have fun. Let's make a statement. Everybody's counting us out," Armstrong said, describing the team's mentality.

Terrell Newby rushed for 116 yards and two first-half scores on just 13 carries for the Cornhuskers (3-4, 1-2), who pummeled the Golden Gophers (4-3, 1-2) on the line of scrimmage after the opposite occurred the last two matchups.

"It was one of those things," Minnesota coach Jerry Kill said. "We weren't moving them."

Nebraska predictably had plenty of fans on hand, with the two campuses a six-hour drive apart. Red hats, jackets and jerseys were packing the corners of the upper deck, interspersed throughout the lower bowl and spotted all over the Twin Cities this weekend. They had most of the stadium to themselves to chant "Go Big Red!" to their heart's content by the end, with the frustrated home crowd largely emptied out.

"I'm really happy for everybody involved here, the coaches, the players and our fans," Riley said. "I've said all along: They're the greatest in the world. All they want to do is win, and we all certainly understand that."

Mitch Leidner did his best to keep Minnesota competitive against Nebraska's FBS-worst pass defense with career bests in completions (26) and yards (301). He threw two late interceptions, one that was returned by Joshua Kalu for a 41-yard touchdown, after passing for one touchdown and running for another.

K.J. Maye had 94 yards receiving and



ELIZABETH FLORES/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS
Nebraska running back Terrell Newby (34) plows through the Minnesota defense for a 9-yard second-quarter touchdown at TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis on Saturday. Nebraska won, 48-25.

a 7-yard touchdown run, but the Huskers were ready for just about everybody else.

"With what we've been through this year, it feels good to get a win," Newby said.

The troubling trend for the Gophers was that Leidner was as sharp as he's ever been, completing 16 of 17 passes for 156 yards in the first half, but they still got blown out. After scoring on the opening drive, their first touchdown in the first quarter this season, they let the Huskers tie the game in three plays when Newby galloped through a gaping hole in the middle and bounced outside for a 69-yard scoring scamper.

After rushing for 271 yards in a victory over Nebraska here two years ago and 281 yards in a win in Lincoln last season, Minnesota was stymied for 65 yards on 26 attempts with defensive tackles Malik Collins and Vincent Valentine doing plenty of damage inside.

"It was just us a physical mentality we brought to the game," said Collins, who mentioned the 281 yards from last year as motivation.

Alonzo Moore, Cethan Carter and

De'Mornay Pierson-El were the touchdown targets by Armstrong, who completed only 36 percent of his passes for a total of 234 yards in losses to Illinois and Wisconsin the last two weeks.

Pierson-El, who fumbled near the goal line in the closing minutes of Minnesota's 28-24 win at Nebraska last year, missed the first four games with a foot injury. He had a 42-yard punt return and the catch of the game in the corner of the end zone early in the fourth quarter when he tipped the ball to himself between two defensive backs.

Carter's reach to push the ball over the pylon in the third quarter marked the end of a 99-yard march in 10 plays by the Huskers, the defining stretch against an injury-affected Gophers defense that had been so good this season and the last two.

"It's frustrating, looking at our goals that we set early on in the season and looking where we're at now, but it's just part of the game," Leidner said. "Things like this just happen, and you've just got to be able to keep fighting back."

Coyotes

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"We've got to play better on both sides of the ball," Klieman said at half. "We have to stay in our gaps and be conscious of the big play."

Glenn said the Coyotes' big second quarter was more about what they did as opposed to what NDSU did not do.

"They didn't give us anything. We earned everything we got," Glenn said.

South Dakota had the only scoring opportunity in the third quarter, but Bergner missed a 47-yard field goal attempt. Bergner had made just four of 11 field goal attempts this season.

The Coyotes tied it at 21-21 on an 8-yard TD pass from Saeger to Drew Potter and the Bergner PAT with 4:47 to play. USD drove 72 yards in 15 plays for the score.

Saeger completed 12 of 20 passes for 202 yards. He also ran 16 times for 92 yards.

After USD tied the game, NDSU took over at its own 20 and went three and out.

USD took over with 3:20 to play and the ball on its own 29. Saeger moved the Bison up the field, helped by a 15-yard personal foul on Nate Tanquary after a sack on third down.

Six plays later, Bergner came out to end it.

Hoek

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vastly different places right now. The Coyotes couldn't beat the Bison.

For one day, though, USD was the better team. And that's all that matters. You just have to play better — and in this case, harder, by some accounts — than your opponent for one day, no matter what the level or differences.

Who among us saw this coming?

I certainly didn't. (My prediction in Saturday's paper was Bison 41, Coyotes 7. And full disclosure: I didn't make the trip to Fargo.)

There were three long streaks working against USD for the trip north to Fargo: NDSU had won 26 straight games at home (the longest active streak in Division I football). USD had lost 14 straight Missouri Valley games (12 in a row by double digits). And the Bison had out-scored the Coyotes 143-7 in the three meetings since USD joined the league.

Think about that last stat for a second.

A year ago down in Vermilion, the margin between the two programs was 47-7. There was a sense, particularly right after witnessing that beat-down, that the Coyotes might never reach that level. Not necessarily the national championship level, but to the point where they're beating high-end league teams. (That



USD MEDIA RELATIONS
South Dakota's Chris Tyler, 26, knocks a pass away from North Dakota State receiver Zach Vraa during their Missouri Valley Football Conference game in Fargo on Saturday.

Zach Vraa became NDSU's all-time leader in receiving yards with a 13-yard catch in the third quarter. He finished the game with 35 yards on three catches and a career total of 2,738, passing Kole Heckendorfer's 2,732.

King Frazier led NDSU in rushing with 39 yards on nine attempts.

Bruce Anderson had nine carries for 34 yards.

"We all left a lot on the field, so we just have to pick it up

and prepare harder," Anderson said.

SOUTH DAKOTA 24, N. DAKOTA ST. 21

SOUTH DAKOTA..... 0 14 0 10—24
N. DAKOTA ST...... 14 7 0 0—21

First Quarter
NDSU—B. Anderson 2 run (Pedersen kick), 9:58.
NDSU—Shepherd 37 pass from Ca. Wertz (Pedersen kick), 2:30.

Second Quarter
SDak—Van Roekel 8 pass from Saeger (Bergner kick), 10:38.

SDak—Saeger 1 run (Bergner kick), 6:01.
NDSU—Bonnet 7 pass from Ca. Wertz (Pedersen kick), 4:42.

Fourth Quarter
SDak—Potter 8 pass from Saeger (Bergner kick), 4:47.

SDak—FG Bergner 33, .00.
A—18,420.

.....SDak.....NDSU
First downs.....17.....15
Rushes-yards.....42-193.....31-125
Passing.....202.....195
Comp-Att-Int.....12-20-1.....16-28-0
Return Yards.....32.....10
Punts-Avg.....4-49.0.....7-45.3
Fumbles-Lost.....2-1.....0-0
Penalties-Yards.....5-35.....5-65
Time of Possession.....30:08.....29:52

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—South Dakota, Bouma 20-94, Saeger 16-92, Fredrick 5-6, Jackson 1-1, N. Dakota St., Frazier 9-39, Morlock 7-36, B. Anderson 9-34, D. Anderson 1-8, Ca. Wertz 5-8.

PASSING—South Dakota, Saeger 12-20-1-202, N. Dakota St., Ca. Wertz 16-28-0-195.

RECEIVING—South Dakota, Shufford 5-69, Bouma 2-80, Fredrick 1-17, Jackson 1-13, Potter 1-8, Van Roekel 1-8, Meyer 1-7, N. Dakota St., Vraa 3-35, Frazier 3-23, Shepherd 2-52, Urzadowski 2-21, Morlock 2-17, Bonnet 2-16, D. Anderson 1-22, Illies 1-9.

Jacks

FROM PAGE 9

and some just weren't ready. "Youngstown defensive end Derek Rivers said in his post-game press conference. "As a team that reflects on us. We just weren't ready."

Rivers, who had two sacks in the game, broke the career sacks record at YSU but said that he "rather would've had a win with no sacks" than the 30-point home loss on homecoming weekend.

A week after totaling 320 yards in his collegiate debut, Christian was held in check for the majority of the game before breaking loose in the fourth quarter. He wound up with 122 yards on 8-for-11 passing and 75 yards on the ground, with two touchdowns.

Christian took a designed run 70 yards for a rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter and connected on an 11-yard pass for a touchdown with Brandon Andrews (two catches, 14 yards), making it 38-8 Jacks late in the fourth.

"I thought in the first half he was a little rattled," SDSU

point was later driven home after USD ended the season with a loss in Brookings).

A year later, USD was celebrating on the turf at the Fargo dome.

That was its Super Bowl. Its national championship game. That was perhaps the one game outside of Kansas State on USD's schedule where you looked and could pencil in a loss. Winning in Fargo? Nah, not happening.

Yet, it happened. And it was the program-defining win USD has been looking for.

The memories of the 2010 win at Minnesota have long since faded away, given USD's struggles since joining the Missouri Valley in 2012 — Joe Glenn's first season. Glenn, a passionate USD alumnus beloved by everyone you'll talk to, was hired to turn

things around. While his influence and leadership has been seen in other areas, it hasn't resulted in wins on the field.

That's been one of the frustrations; perhaps the guy who wants to see the Coyotes win more than anyone else hasn't seen the wins come. They've been few and far between. USD went 0-8 in league play in 2012, then won three conference games in 2013, only to lose the next 14.

Until Saturday. Until Fargo. Just how 'big' was the win? That's up for debate. You could point to Minnesota and say that was the 'biggest' win in USD history. But you could also make a valid argument for the NDSU win as being 'bigger' — given where the Coyotes have been over the last three years.


The way I see it, the only way this truly becomes a

'program-defining' victory is if the Coyotes turn it into momentum. Five league losses to close the season would make that win in Fargo a true anomaly. A win in Fargo, coupled with, say, wins over Northern Iowa and South Dakota State would lead you to think maybe USD had turned a corner.

Wins like those could turn into improved success on the recruiting trail. USD would be able to boast to recruits that not only was the program now beating playoff-caliber teams, but that it is building toward that level itself.

What won't ever diminish is the improbability of USD doing what it did on Saturday. Unlikely? Yes. Massive upset? You bet.

An aberration? That remains to be seen.



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