



P&D FILE PHOTO

Mount Marty's Ashley Erwin controls the ball during the Lancers' home match with the College of St. Mary on Sept. 1. MMC returns home after back-to-back victories, hosting Jamestown College on Wednesday.

## MMC Women's Soccer Program Off To Fast Start

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Don't look now, but the Mount Marty College women's soccer team is on a winning streak.

A pair of victories over the weekend at the William Penn Classic in Oskaloosa, Iowa, have the Lancers at 2-2 on the young season. More than that, it marks the first time since 2007 that the program has won consecutive games — one game off the school record of three in a row (2004).

It might just be proof that the Lancers are turning the corner after a winless season last fall, according to head coach Nathan Epp.

"Obviously they were excited about coming away with two wins, especially with the history of the program we're coming from," Epp said Monday. "By no stretch should we be completely happy, though.

"We made a lot of mistakes, but we will play a lot better, no doubt."

Prior to this season, Mount Marty had won four games since 2008 — a record of 4-63-2. The 2007 squad won back-to-back games early in the season, but went on to lose its next 14.

This year, with a young roster (nine freshmen), the Lancers seem to have the pieces in place for an improvement. Recruiting figures prominently, freshman forward Allison Erwin said.

"The recruiting that coach has done has a lot to do with it," Erwin said. "We have a lot of girls who have a competitive nature from high school. We're always looking to score."

Offense has been the one area where Mount Marty has improved the most so far. The team has scored six goals in four games, has recorded 40 shots on goal and ranks in the top nationally in shots per game. Erwin is No. 5 in the NAIA in shots per game (7.0).

Last year, by comparison, the Lancers scored five goals and allowed 74.

"We really struggled last year scoring, but now we've got a few girls with that offensive mentality," Epp said. "We're happy with six goals, but we've left a lot out there."

There have been times when the Lancers had six or seven freshmen and sophomores on the field. With only four seniors and three juniors, there was a good chance, though, that MMC was going to be young.

"They'll all continue to show

improvement as they mature, once they get used to playing together," Epp said.

Erwin, a native of Norfolk, Neb., has made perhaps the most immediate impact on the squad.

"She's a girl who has played forward her whole career, and you can tell. She's physically very strong," Epp said. "She'll cause some problems for teams, especially when she starts getting more used to the speed of the game.

"She wants the ball, and we haven't had enough players in the past with that attitude."

One of Epp's first verbal commitments, Erwin said she was excited to be apart of a team looking to move on from a losing past.

"It's really nice to win right away," she said. "That was most of the reason why I came here, to come in and help the program get going."

With the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) schedule still on the docket, the Lancers still have some climbing to do, Epp said.

"It's not going to change right away, we have some obstacles to overcome," Epp said. "It'll take a while. But for the girls who have been here and been through those tough times, they're pretty excited."

Though she is new to the Lancer program, sophomore midfielder Laura Ekeren said she realizes that the program may be turning a corner. Ekeren, a Yankton native, has scored two goals this season.

"Our hard work the last month is finally starting to pay off," she said. "It's a very exciting time for us. We're going to continue to work hard to keep things going our way."

That work continues Wednesday when Mount Marty hosts Jamestown College (N.D.) at 5 p.m. at the soccer complex south of the National Field Archery Association building.

The focus, however, remains on taking the Lancers north, as in to higher levels.

"Right now, it's all about building the program," Erwin said. "We don't know for sure where we're going. We have high expectations, but we're focusing on the little things."

"By the time we're upperclassmen, we want to be at the point where we can be dangerous."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)

## Rebuilding Vikings Get What They Needed: A Victory

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
AP Pro Football Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings started the new season in a good mood.

Positive feelings can be just as important for revitalizing a team as bringing in better players.

The Vikings didn't win a game last year until the fifth week, so their start to 2012 is already a step up. The worst part about their 3-13 record last season was probably those blown halftime leads of 10 points or more while losing each of their first three games. So despite the late scare when Jacksonville took the lead with 20 seconds left, the Vikings showed their first suggestion of improvement by rallying to beat the Jaguars 26-23 in overtime on rookie Blair Walsh's fourth field goal.

"It's such a different feel after a win than a loss," quarterback Christian Ponder said Monday, adding: "We are a young team, but we're growing up. We have the right guys in place where we can have the mindset where if we are behind, or if things aren't going well, we can overcome it."

Minnesota plays at Indianapolis this Sunday. "There are some things that we can draw on where our players will have confidence in the future and win close ballgames, that we can finish with a win," coach Leslie Frazier said. "That's something you can build on as a team."

The Vikings have acknowledged often this summer they're not considered legitimate contenders for the playoffs. They're simply not talented enough yet to expect any easy victories this year.

"The way we're built right now, we're going to play a lot of close games and we have to find a way to win those games in the fourth quarter," Frazier said. "And fortunately for us yesterday, we found a way."

Several areas still need work. The offense went nearly an hour between first downs in an ugly first half made better by a late drive that Adrian Peterson capped with his first touchdown run; Ponder was just 3 for 7 until he found a groove with three straight short throws that Percy Harvin turned into 32 yards to set up the score, and he looked a little skittish while taking two sacks.

## GAZELLES STOP PATS SHORT



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton catcher Brooke Loecker gets ready to tag a Sioux Falls Lincoln runner at home plate during the first game of their Monday night girls' softball doubleheader at Sertoma Park. Yankton scored three runs in the seventh and one in the ninth to beat Lincoln 7-6 in the opener. Game two was not completed at presstime.

## Gazelles Claim Home Opener

Jessica Wirth's two-out single plated the game-winner as Yankton battled past Sioux Falls Lincoln 7-6 in nine innings in girls' softball action Monday at Sertoma Park.

Game two of the doubleheader was not completed at presstime. Yankton scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game. In the ninth, Tayler Hutchison started on second due to international tiebreaker rules. After two outs, Wirth ripped a pitch to the wall to score the winning run.

Wirth finished with three hits, including a triple, and three RBI. Abby Schulte had two hits and two RBI. Andi Sprakel also had two hits. Jenny Feilmeier and Karlee Kozak added hits.

Jaclyn Arens picked up the win, striking out five.

Yankton hosts West Central and Mitchell on Sunday, Sept. 16.

### Junior Varsity

#### Yankton 12-15, Lincoln 1-5

The Yankton Gazelles scored 27 runs in a doubleheader sweep of Sioux Falls Lincoln in

junior varsity softball action on Monday at Sertoma Park.

Yankton claimed the opener 12-1 behind a triple and a double by Bailey Kortan. Heather Hauer and Makayla Trenhaile each doubled, with Hauer driving in two. Danielle Smith added a hit.

Madison Dangler picked up the win, striking out one.

Ten different players had hits in the nightcap, a 15-5 Yankton victory.

Bryn Albers tripled and singled, and Ellen Anderson and Smith each had two hits for Yankton. Kaylin Peterka tripled. Alysa Ruzicka, Darian Tramp, Kortan, Hauer, Dangler and Trenhaile added hits in the win.

Peterka struck out three in the four-inning contest for the win.

Yankton hosts West Central and Mitchell on Sunday.

#### Yankton 7, Luverne 3

BRANDON — Bailey Kortan had three hits as Yankton downed Luverne, Minn., 7-3 in junior varsity softball action on Sunday.

Heather Hauer had two hits and two RBI, and Jenny Feilmeier doubled and singled for Yankton. Gabby Hutchinson, Ellen Anderson and Darian Tramp each had a hit and a RBI in the win.

Anderson picked up the pitching victory, striking out two.

#### Brandon Valley 9, Yankton 6

BRANDON — Four different players had multi-hit games for Yankton, but it was not

enough in a 9-6 setback against Brandon Valley on Sunday.

Bailey Kortan had a triple and a single, and Kaylin Peterka had two hits and two RBI for Yankton. Jenny Feilmeier and Darian Tramp also had two hits each. Heather Hauer had a hit and a RBI, and Ellen Anderson and Gabby Hutchinson had hits for the Gazelles.

Peterka took the loss, striking out eight.

### Middle School

#### Yankton Red 13, Luverne 5

STIOUX FALLS — Madyson Gilbertson went 2-2 and Sophie Kouri homered as Yankton beat Luverne 13-5 in middle school softball action on Sunday.

Bailey Peterka doubled and Emily Bye had a hit and a RBI for Yankton. Lexie McCorkell also had a hit. Madie Cordell, Holly Mines and Traia Hubbard drove in runs in the win.

Mines struck out seven in the win.

#### Yankton Red 15, Mitchell Black 2

STIOUX FALLS — Traia Hubbard homered and Lexie McCorkell had two hits to lead Yankton to a 15-2 rout of Mitchell.

Holly Mines and Emily Bye each had a double and a RBI for Yankton. Merlye Mason also had a hit. Bailey Peterka, Alix Peterka, Madie Cordell, Sophie Kouri and Madyson Gilbertson all drove in runs in the win.

Bye struck out three in the complete game effort.

The defense forced field goals on three of Jacksonville's four trips inside the 30-yard line, including once to the 1 and another time to the 8, but the group let the Jaguars move the chains on 10 of 20 plays on either third or fourth down. Misdirection runs by Maurice Jones-Drew and over-the-middle catches by tight end Marcedes Lewis were productive for the Jaguars. Then there was the inexcusable 39-yard go-ahead touchdown pass by Blaine Gabbert in the waning seconds of the fourth quarter, when Cecil Shorts III maneuvered around cornerback Chris Cook, who turned his head the wrong way as the ball was arriving. All-Pro Jared Allen had a quiet afternoon.

"They made a good play," Cook said. "That is the life of a corner."

But there was plenty to like from the performance, too, giving the Vikings more evidence for their belief they're a better team this year.

Ponder was particularly sharp on first downs and went 13 for 16 for 192 yards after halftime, confidently and calmly moving the

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## Pelini: Husker Defense Vs. UCLA Left Bad Taste In Mouth

BY ERIC OLSON  
AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Bo Pelini still felt awful Monday, two days after Nebraska's defensive meltdown at UCLA.

"I've been sick to my stomach since that game," the Nebraska coach said. "I felt we should have won that football game. We didn't, and it hurts. It's hard to live with. But you know what, you move on. You have to. That's part of the deal. That's part of this profession. It's sickening. You can't turn back the clock."

The Cornhuskers (1-1) surrendered 653 yards — the second-most in program history — in the 36-30 loss that dropped them out of the Top 25.

Now they must prepare to face another spread offense when Arkansas State (1-1) visits Saturday. The Sun Belt Conference's Red Wolves feature one of the nation's top dual-threat quarterbacks in Ryan Aplin, who has opened the season with two straight 300-yard passing days.

Pelini looks at the game as additional preparation for Big Ten opponents that run the spread, like Ohio State and Northwestern.

"We will be tested," Pelini said. "It'll be kind of a good follow-up to the game we just played. We need to get better in that area. I think it comes at the right time for us to kind of make another jump and evaluate how far we're coming."

Pelini spent most of his half-hour news conference discussing what went wrong against the Bruins.

Missed tackles, a problem against Southern Mississippi in the opener, was an even bigger problem against UCLA. The defensive front was neutralized by the Bruins' young offensive line. There were blown assignments, especially in the first half.

"We have a long season ahead of us," Pelini said. "We have to work through the thing. We're looking at every possible thing we need to do to get better. You can't sit there and worry about what happened. You've got to use what happened to make yourself better as you go forward."

That message already has been delivered to the players, linebacker Alonzo Whaley said.

"How we respond is solely on us," he said. "A lot of people are still walking around with that hangover. At the end of the day, you critique the film and you have to move on. At the end of the week, I'm positive with the leadership we have that we'll make that positive energy and move on and grow from this loss."

Pelini, defensive coordinator for LSU's 2007 national-championship team, said UCLA's Brett Hundley-led offense was an example of the challenge defenses face these days.

Nebraska went against spread offenses like UCLA's almost every week when it played in the Big 12. Pelini said he began placing more emphasis on linebacker play and altered his system after the Huskers' 2011 move to the Big Ten, where the spread is seen but not as often.

Whaley said the Huskers' problems had more to do with fundamentals than scheme. The missed tackles, he said, were inexcusable.

"I think it's just the mental attitude of want-to when you get in position to secure a tackle," Whaley said. "In order to beat good teams you have to secure tackles and you have to make plays and not give them yards after contact."

Quarterback Taylor Martinez had said before the season that the year would be a disappointment if the Huskers didn't win the national championship.

The Huskers aren't out of just the national picture, they're out of the Top 25 for the first time in three years.

Martinez seemed unfazed Monday, noting that the Huskers still can win the Big Ten.

"Life goes on," he said.

## Queen Bees Clip Lady Vikings Again

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — The Bloomfield Queen Bees scored their second victory over Wausa in five days, claiming a 25-22, 25-18, 25-15 victory over the Lady Vikings in Lewis & Clark Conference volleyball action on Monday.

Bloomfield swept Wausa 2-0 as part of a home triangular on Sept. 6.

Lexie Hauger had 10 kills and 18 digs, and Autumn Luger had nine kills and 21 digs to lead a balanced Bloomfield attack. Ashley Fiedler finished with eight kills and 20 digs. Dominique Swanson posted 30 assists and 16 digs. Amanda Goeden had 16 digs and Kenna Fiedler added 13 digs in the win.

For Wausa, Abbi Hegge led the

way with 12 kills and seven blocks. Gabby Swanson had 14 assists and Tori Clausen recorded five blocks in the win.

Both teams are at home on Thursday, as Bloomfield hosts Winside and Wausa hosts Randolph.

WAUSA (1-5) .....22 18 15  
BLOOMFIELD (2-5) .....25 25 25

### Wakefield Tourn.

WAKEFIELD, Neb. — Hartington Cedar Catholic finished 2-1 on the final day of the Wakefield Volleyball Tournament on Saturday.

The Lady Trojans, 10-2, host Norfolk Catholic today (Tuesday) and Lutheran High Northeast on Thursday. LHNE beat the Lady Trojans on Saturday.

### CEDAR CATHOLIC DEF.

WAKEFIELD 25-12, 25-10: Siera Becker had eight kills and Emily Schrempp had 18 assists to lead Cedar Catholic. Karly Noecker posted four ace serves. Lexi Steffen added three blocks in the win.

### CEDAR CATHOLIC DEF.

STANTON 25-13, 25-18: Lexi Steffen had eight kills and Emily Schrempp had 22 assists for Cedar Catholic.

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTH-EAST DEF. CEDAR CATHOLIC 16-25, 25-15, 25-23: Karly Noecker had eight kills, and Siera Becker, Katelyn Dicks and Lexi Steffen each had seven kills for Cedar Catholic. Emily Schrempp posted 27 assists. Kallie Leise added 16 digs and Maggie Steffen added nine digs for the Lady Trojans.

## Deduno, Florimon Spark Twins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Samuel Deduno struck out six in seven innings and Pedro Florimon made two stellar defensive plays to go with a double and a triple, lifting the Minnesota Twins to a 7-2 win over the Cleveland Indians on Monday night.

Deduno (6-3) gave up just three hits and walked three, Ryan Doumit homered and Justin Morneau drove in two runs for the Twins, who took the final three games of the four-game series.

Lonnie Chisenhall homered for the stumbling Indians, who are an AL-worst 15-41 since the All-Star break to fall into a tie with the Twins for last place in the Central division. Justin Masterson (11-13) gave up six runs and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings.

It was a dangerous game for runners on the basepaths. Deduno hit Shin-Soo Choo in the helmet with an errant pickoff attempt in the third, a

play reminiscent of the one from Boston reliever Franklin Morales in June that knocked Seattle's Franklin Gutierrez out for almost two months. Choo remained in the game.

After his RBI double in the seventh, Florimon was hit in the back of the head on a throw from Masterson while diving back to second base. There was an audible thud from the impact, and the shortstop remained down for a minute while trainers rushed to him. He too remained in the game and eventually scored from third on a wild pitch.

Being a little wild was nothing new for Deduno, who walked 36 batters in his first eight starts. But the Dominican right-hander has been able to harness his control a little better of late, and he took a no-hitter into the sixth inning against the Tribe.