

Coyotes Seek To 'Turn Some Heads' In MVFC

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — Eighth out of 10 teams.

That was the uphill climb facing the University of South Dakota football team as it began the 2012 season, its first in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. Put another way, the league coaches and media didn't have high expectations for the Coyotes in year one in their new home.

Suffice it to say, USD will use that pre-season pick as motivation in today's (Saturday) MVFC debut against No. 12-ranked Illinois State. Action kicks off at 2 p.m. at the Dako-

taDome in Vermillion.

"We want to turn some heads," linebacker Kyle Guziec, the team's second-leading tackler, said this week. "We just want people to take notice of us, to say that USD is a good football team."

Today's matchup with unbeaten Illinois State (4-0, 1-0 MVFC) will provide just such a challenge for the Coyotes (1-2), coming off a 31-point loss at Northwestern.

With 18 FBS transfers on the roster, the Redbirds boast the league's second-best offense (446.8) and defense (264.2) by total yardage. Three weeks ago, they upset FBS Eastern Michigan and last week started conference play by dominating Western

Illinois.

Games like the latter are what will ultimately determine where Illinois State and USD stand, according to senior running back Marcus Sims. The Coyotes split their two non-league FCS games this season, losing at Montana and beating Colgate at home.

"We knew the three non-conference games really didn't matter, so this is the one we waited for; when it really matters," said Sims, the team's leading rusher with 175 yards to go along with one touchdown.

In one of the deepest conferences in the country (not to mention one of the best, with five ranked teams this week), the Missouri Valley doesn't

figure to roll out the red carpet for USD.

Recent history, however, shows that league newcomers have found early success. South Dakota State went 6-2 in its first season in 2008 and followed that up with a 7-1 league mark in 2009. North Dakota State, on the other hand, rebounded from a 10-14 start from 2008-10 to develop into FCS national champions last fall.

"We know this is a physical league. Everything I can tell, the film I've looked at throughout the year, it has really hard-nosed, physical,

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Riders Cool Off Bucks

Roosevelt Tops Yankton 35-21

BY CHRIS RILEY

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SIoux FALLS — After struggling to finish drives and execute in a 19-0 victory in Brookings last Friday, Yankton once again failed to capitalize on its opportunities on Friday night at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls.

And this time it cost the Bucks their undefeated season in a 35-21 defeat at the hands of the Roosevelt Rough Riders.

The third-ranked Rough Riders (5-1) used their speed and size to keep the Bucks just off balance enough all night long.

"They are a quicker and a faster team than Brookings," Bucks head coach Arlin Likness said. "As a result, if you make the same mistakes you're not going to win."

After fielding the opening kick-off and steadily marching down to the Rough Rider goal line, Yankton came away empty handed early in the first quarter on a drive that they needed to score points off of.

"We've got to figure out ways to execute a little better," Likness said.

After forcing a Rough Rider punt on their first offensive pos-



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Levi Davis tries to avoid the grasp of Roosevelt's Taylor Bren, 29, during the opening kickoff of their football game Friday at Howard Wood Field.

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Gazelles Win At Sioux Falls Lincoln

SIoux FALLS — Mikala Hora and Kelsey Fitzgerald combined for 28 kills as the Yankton Gazelles won back-to-back volleyball matches for the first time this season by sweeping defending champion Sioux Falls Lincoln 25-11, 25-23, 25-23 on Friday night.

Hora recorded 18 kills, four blocks and two ace serves, while Fitzgerald added 10 kills. Maria Binder keyed the offense with 27 set assists and Brooke Wuebben added 10 digs and three ace serves.

Yankton, now 4-5, was able to hang on thanks to a quick start.

"It wasn't a clean win by any means, but a win in our district is always a positive thing," YHS coach

Leasa Woodward said.

Even in a win, there are things to work on going forward, Woodward said.

"Sets two or three were pretty hard to watch," she said. "We started the match aggressive and our offense was running smoothly, but then we got out of system."

Yankton stays on the road to start the second half of the Eastern South Dakota Conference schedule on Tuesday at Mitchell. From there, the Gazelles travel to Huron on Thursday.

"We know a little bit more about the teams now, but so do they," Woodward said. "The second time around is always tough."

In JV action, Lincoln beat the Gazelles 25-18, 25-19. Becky Frick led Yankton with six kills and Ellison Fedders had 11 digs.

Yankton won the sophomore match 25-18, 23-25, 25-23 thanks to 10 kills from Presley Pasco. Joselyn Salvatori added seven set assists, and Anna Wuestewald posted four aces and eight digs.

In freshman 'A' action, Yankton won its first match this season 25-18, 19-25, 25-20. Julie Soto led with eight aces and eight set assists, while Danielle Salvatori had five aces and five digs.

Lincoln won the freshman 'B' match 18-25, 25-23, 25-17. Yankton got 11 kills and four ace serves from

Darian Miller, and 11 set assists from Kate Weinandt.

Thursday

Hartington 3, Plainview 0

PLAINVIEW, Neb. — Hartington made quick work of Plainview, topping the Pirates 25-9, 25-4, 25-20 in prep volleyball action on Thursday.

Michael Dendinger led Hartington with nine kills, with Monta Melrose posting five kills. Courtney Hochstein had four kills and 13 assist. Camie Stratman added four ace serves and seven digs in the win.

Hartington, 10-5, takes on Laurel-Concord-Corlidge on Tuesday.
 HARTINGTON (10-5) 25 25 25
 PLAINVIEW (0-11) 9 4 20

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Volleyball: Lancers Down Buena Vista 3-1

BY VANCE JANAK

P&D Correspondent

The Mount Marty volleyball team accomplished plenty in a 3-1 win over Buena Vista on Friday night at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

The Lancers' 25-15, 22-25, 25-17, 25-23 victory was their first home triumph of the season and was the first time they've won consecutive matches this season.

"I told them that in the locker room before the match that we've got to go out and get that first home win," Mount Marty coach Candice Climer said. "To get over that hump is a huge one."

Avoiding a fifth set was also important. Mount Marty, 0-3 in home matches before Friday's victory, rolled off seven straight points to win the fourth set, a comeback that came after the Lancers (4-12) trailed 22-15 and 23-18.

Buena Vista (4-13) got the match-ending rally going by committing a pair of errors. Then Mount Marty hitters Emily Schreur, Amanda Dirksen and Kristen Boyle each recorded kills before Dirksen, who paced the Lancers with 15 kills, ended it with consecutive kills.

The impressive rally kept MMC from playing a decisive fifth set, a set the Lancers haven't won in four previous tries this season.

"We work on being down in points in practice every day," Dirksen said. "We just had to stay consistent. ... We didn't want it to go to a fifth set. We knew we hadn't gotten a five-setter this year so we wanted to get it done before that."

Mount Marty senior middle hitter Kate Lingscheit played a key role in the Lancers' winning the first and third sets. The Miller native, who surpassed the 500 career kill mark earlier this season, had six kills in the first set, including two in the Lancers' 8-2 run to win the first set 25-15.

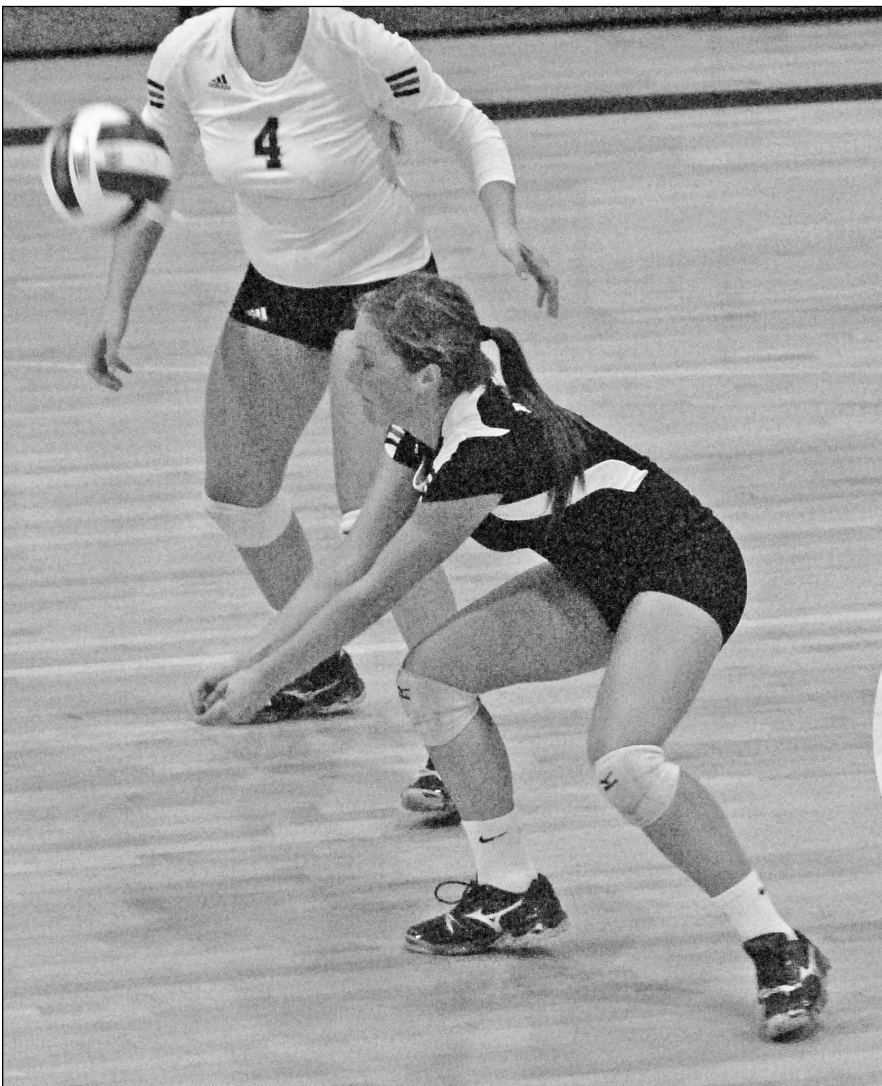
Lingscheit, who finished with 12 kills, kept the Beavers guessing by tipping the ball to open spots for three kills in the opening set.

"She was playing a few mind games with them by tipping," Climer said. "When they thought she was going to tip it, she hit it. She read the court very well. I usually tell my attackers to go out and attack the ball, but she was seeing the court so well that I let her play her own game against them."

Slow starts plagued the Lancers throughout the match. MMC fell behind 14-9. After Buena Vista's lead was trimmed to 16-14, the Beavers scored four straight points to end the Lancer threat.

Tied 15-all in the third set, Lingscheit had three kills during a 7-0 run that lift the Lancers to a 25-17 win.

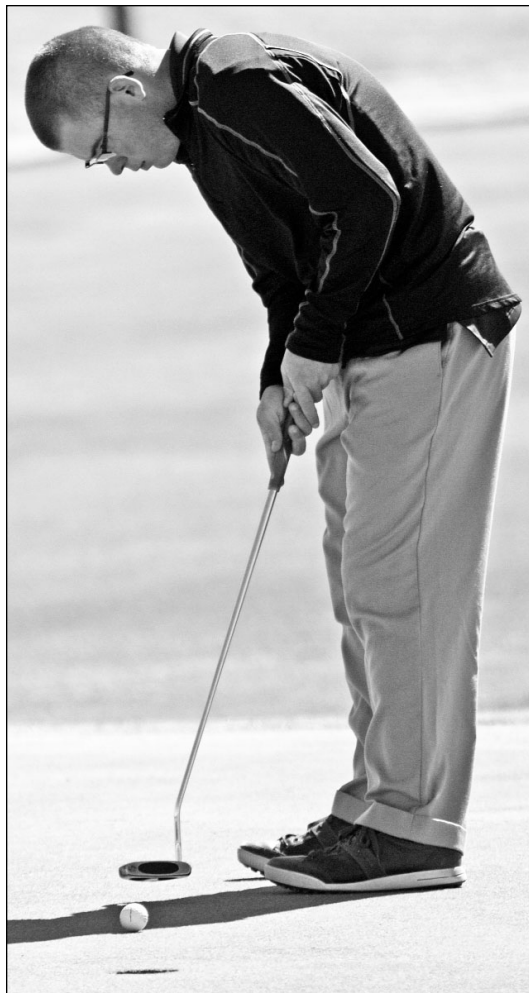
Buena Vista scored the first three points of the fourth set and pushed the lead to 23-18 by controlling the net through much of the set. However, the Mount Marty attackers found an opening down the line late in the set to get around the Beaver blockers and find open court in the back of their defense. Mount Marty freshman outside hitter Bailey Kuchta at-



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Mount Marty's Courtney Miller returns a serve during Friday night's non-conference volleyball match against Buena Vista at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

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P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton junior Ben Jensen putts during his round in the Eastern South Dakota Conference Boys' Golf Tournament, held Sept. 22 at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course. Jensen, a state tournament golfer for the Bucks in 2010, earned all-ESD honors that day and will be in the lineup as Yankton travels to the South Dakota State Class AA Boys' Golf Championships, Oct. 1-2 at Mitchell's Lakeview Golf Course.

Despite Setback, Bucks Focused On Goal Of Title

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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Despite having one of the team's top golfers sidelined by injury, the Yankton Bucks are not focused on what they're missing as they enter the 2012 South Dakota State Class AA Boys' Golf Championships.

When they can plug in a state tournament veteran and an all-conference golfer, why should they?

Yankton will take a veteran lineup — including six golfers with state tournament experience — to Mitchell when the tournament begins Monday morning at Lakeview Golf Course. The Bucks finished sixth a year ago, and five of the six who played at Spearfish Canyon last year will be on the course on Monday.

"We feel pretty good going in, all things considered," said Yankton head coach Brett Sime. "Jace (Guthmiller) and Mitch (Schlingman) have been our one and two (golfers), but we've had a number of golfers be our third and fourth."

Guthmiller, a sophomore and this year's Eastern South Dakota Conference champion, tied for fourth a year ago. Junior Brandon Frick tied for 28th, with sophomore Mitch Schlingman tied for 41st, junior Logan Megard tied for 55th and freshman Mason Sundleaf tied for 62nd.

Lane Sawatzke, who tied for 33rd a year ago, will miss the tournament due to injury, but fellow junior Ben Jensen, a state tournament golfer for the Bucks two years ago, shot an 82 to earn all-ESD honors last weekend and will fill in for Sawatzke at state.

"Last year Ben was injured and couldn't play at state," Sime said. "He's happy to be back play, even if he's not happy with the way it happened."

While the Bucks go into the state tournament with high goals — fed by season-long success — Sime does not expect that the change in the lineup will put added pressure on the team.

"Golf is an individual sport with a team aspect. I don't think this puts any extra pressure on the kids," he said. "Hopefully when we add the four scores together, it will put us in contention."

Yankton beat most of the teams in the state tournament field during its home invitational, and has wins over some of the top teams away from Yankton as well.

"We beat everyone at Yankton (the Yankton Invitational). Other than that, we haven't beaten O'Gorman or Lincoln," Sime said. "Brandon Valley will be tough in Mitchell as well. Their top golfer, Trevor Tobin, has a membership there because his grandpa lives in Mitchell."

Several of the top teams from a year ago return nearly as much experience as the Bucks. Defending champion O'Gorman has five of six back, including four who finished in the top 27. Sioux Falls Lincoln, runners-up a year ago, has four of its six golfers back, led by sophomore Tommy Vining's third place finish a year ago. Brandon Valley, the ESD team champion by one stroke over Yankton, also has four of six back, led by Tobin's tie for fourth.

The Bucks finished fourth in their one trip to Lakeview this year, the Mitchell Invitational. That experience, as well as a couple of practice rounds leading up to state, will help the squad be ready for the tough course.

"Our guys went up and played a practice round last Sunday, and we're going up this Sunday as well," Sime said. "Everyone has seen the course."

Sime feels his team is ready for the challenge.

"They're really gung-ho, ready to go," he said.

"They're ready for the opportunity to go out and compete at the state level."

The individual field is wide open, as 20 golfers come into state with seeding rounds of under 80, led by Vining's 69. The Patriots have four other golfers that shot 74 in the Greater Dakota Conference Championships.

"Lincoln has a number of golfers that have shot well at tournaments. They've had events where all six golfers were in the 70s or better," Sime said. "O'Gorman has a number of people who have shot low. On our team, you'd have to give the nod to Jace. He played well at conference."

Of the top 15 golfers from last year's state championships, 10 return, including Rapid City Stevens sophomore Sam Musch, who tied for first and lost the title in a playoff.

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