

MVFC Notebook: Coyotes Look To Turn Corner

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

As the USD football team turns a corner toward the Missouri Valley Football Conference opener this Saturday, it would also like to turn a page from ongoing offensive struggles.

The numbers from last Saturday's 22-16 loss at Northern Arizona are telling: Seven yards of offense in the first half, no first downs until the third quarter and no points until early in the fourth.

Asked Tuesday about those struggles, USD coach Joe Glenn pulled no punches. On more than one occasion during the weekly media teleconference, he used the phrase "laid an egg" and called Saturday's first-half performance "horrible."

"We had to change what we were doing, try and do some things that would work better for us," Glenn said.

Those halftime adjustments — namely, opening up the passing game — worked for the Coyotes, who rolled up 277 yards in the second half and got within a touchdown.

The trick now is to continue that surge into the conference season, which opens Saturday at Western Illinois.

A year after going winless in eight league games, the Coyotes (1-2) head into this MVFC campaign ranked last in total offense per game (285.3) — an average of nearly 60 yards behind the next-highest team.

Saying that USD will "get the chair and whip out a little bit in

practice this week," Glenn pointed to experience at offensive line as reason to believe the Coyotes can fare better this year.

"A week ago I would've told you we were a lot better, but we got shook for our lunch money in the first half," he said. "We're better at running the football, but we have to prove it."

Though they found success on the ground in their first two games, the Coyotes rushed 34 times for just 84 yards (a 2.5 average) in the loss at Northern Arizona. As a result, USD now ranks eighth among MVFC teams in rushing offense (166).

The key to that ground attack is junior quarterback Josh Vander Maten, who averages 58.7 yards on the ground, and already has the attention of Western Illinois.

"Any time you have a great quar-

terback, you have a chance to be really good offensively," first-year WIU coach Bob Nielson said Tuesday. "It's going to be a really difficult matchup for us."

The Leathernecks (2-2) are already used to tough matchups, though.

Western Illinois opened the season with convincing wins over lower-level teams Hampton and Quincy, but followed that up with consecutive FBS losses to Minnesota and UNLV.

Asked about those FBS games, Nielson said there are two schools of thought in playing two money games, rather than the traditional one.

"When you challenge your guys like that, what you hope is that it puts you in a position where they're ready to face the challenging sched-

ule in the Missouri Valley Conference," Nielson said.

The other side of that coin would be trying to build confidence "in every step along the way" and not coming out with wins, Nielson said.

With its non-conference games out of the way, USD can now turn its attention toward climbing the league ladder, Glenn said.

"Now we'll get into conference play and everything's even, everything's fair," he said. "We get to find out who we are in our league."

SDSU Welcomes NDSU

Following a 39-point beatdown at the hands of Nebraska, the SDSU football team can't afford to sulk for long.

MVFC | PAGE 9

Chargers Hold Off MMC GV Pounds Past Hawks

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Another battle but only another close call.

Partway through what has already been a season of improvements, the Mount Marty College volleyball team again came up just short in a league match.

The fact that Briar Cliff needed four sets to beat the Lancers 25-17, 23-25, 25-21, 25-16 for a GPAC win was in itself a sign of progression, according to Mount Marty head coach Candice Climer.

"Last year this would've been a sweep," she said.

It wasn't, though, thanks to a balanced offensive attack from a still relatively young team. Of the 11 players who saw the court Tuesday, two were freshmen and four were sophomores.

"We're so close," said junior Kristen Boyle, who led the Lancers with 11 kills. "We have a few errors to fix, but we all know we're a step closer."

Especially from last year. Mount Marty (8-9, 0-3) has improved its win total each of the last three years — winning seven last year.

"We can have all those records we want, in a match or in the season, but it doesn't matter if we keep losing," said junior setter Caitlyn Illg, who had 37 assists, five kills and 10 digs.

Typically this season when the Lancers lost, they were swept — it happened in five of their eight losses.

Until Tuesday.

"We showed ourselves that we could do it, that we could win," Illg said. "We're almost there."

The Lancers started set one strong, spurred on by the men's basketball team decked out in body paint, but the Chargers eventually took control.



Mount Marty's Bailey Kuchta blocks an attack by Briar Cliff's Jenna Berg, 12, during their Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball match on Tuesday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Briar Cliff scored a 3-1 victory.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

LANCERS | PAGE 9

Volleyball: Rough Riders Down Yankton 3-0

SIOUX FALLS — The Yankton Gazelles got a good taste of how good the Sioux Falls Roosevelt volleyball team is.

That said, Yankton coach Tiffany Beste was happy with her team's effort in a 25-14, 25-13, 25-15 Rough Rider victory.

"They are a tremendously talented team, with more firepower than I've seen on one team in a long time," Beste said after the match. "We struggled at times, but I thought we played very well tonight. We did some things that we hadn't done yet this year."

"I think it was one of the best matches we've played."

Paige Thieman had 14 assists, three ace serves and eight digs for Yankton. Becky Frick had seven kills, two blocks

and seven digs. Haley Mines added 10 digs for the Gazelles.

The Gazelles will have another tough task on Saturday, hosting top-ranked and unbeaten Aberdeen Central. Start time is 5 p.m. at the Summit Center.

"We has to be a little bit easier (than Tuesday), but they're still a tremendous team," Beste said of the Golden Eagles. "Hopefully we play the way we did tonight and see what we can do against a team like Aberdeen. If they're not quite as good (as Roosevelt), you never know what can happen."

Roosevelt also took the JV match 25-19, 25-19. For Yankton, Ellie Fedders led the way with four ace serves and eight digs. Sophie Drotzmann added four kills.

Yankton battled to a win in the soph-

omore match 25-22, 17-25, 25-16. Josie Saylor controled the net with eight kills and two blocks, and Presley Pasco had six kills for Yankton. Julie Soto finished with nine assists and six digs. Danielle Salvatori and Fedders each had four ace serves in the victory.

Yankton also swept the freshmen matches.

In a 25-18, 22-25, 25-15 victory in the 'A' match, Jacey Anderberg had eight ace serves and Kami Cornemann had 12 kills to lead the way. Lindsey Hale posted seven kills and nine digs, and Linze Cowman added 10 assists in the win.

In a 25-5, 25-17 victory in the 'B' match, Zoey Bertsch and Sophie McKee each had five ace serves. McKenzie Schroeder added five digs in the win.

Mariano Rivera Bobblehead Late To Stadium

NEW YORK (AP) — Mariano Rivera always enters late in the game. His bobblehead doll did the same thing.

The New York Yankees were forced to hand out vouchers for the giveaway honoring the career saves leader to the first 18,000 fans who arrived for Tuesday night's game against the Tampa Bay Rays because of a transportation issue.

A public address announcement in the bottom of the third inning said the bouncy figurines were now available to be picked up.

Gazelles Dance Fourth, Cheer Ninth In Huron



MIKE CARROLL/HURON PLAINSMAN

The Yankton dance team competes during the Huron Invitational cheer and dance competition on Tuesday at Huron Arena. Yankton finished fourth in dance and ninth in cheer in the event.

HURON — The Yankton Gazelles dance team finished fourth and the cheer team placed ninth at the Huron Invitational competitive cheer and dance competition on Tuesday at Huron Arena.

Sioux Falls Washington scored a 272.83 to beat runner-up Brandon Valley by 20.5 points in the dance competition. Watertown scored 229.33, with Yankton finishing at 227.17.

The Gazelles scored 238.5 in jazz, 244 in kick and 199 in pom.

Brandon Valley edged Aberdeen Central 197.5-195 for the cheer title. Yankton posted a score of 162.

Next up for the Gazelles is the O'Gorman Invitational, Oct. 3 in Sioux Falls.

DANCE

GRAND CHAMPION: Sioux Falls Washington 272.83, Brandon Valley 252.33, Watertown 229.33, Yankton 227.17, Rapid City Central 221.33, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 221.33, Huron 208.67, Aberdeen Central 200

HIP-HOP: Washington 282.5, R.C. Central 242, Roosevelt 238.5, Huron 225, Mitchell 207

JAZZ: Washington 292.5, Brandon Valley 260.5, Roosevelt 248, Yankton 238.5, Watertown 234, Huron 228, Mitchell 220, Aberdeen Central 213

KICK: Brandon Valley 265.5, Watertown 251.5, Yankton 244, Aberdeen Central 214.5, Rapid City Central 208.5

POM: Washington 243.5, Brandon Valley 231, R.C. Central 213.5, Watertown 202, Yankton 199, Roosevelt 177.5, Huron 173, Aberdeen Central 172.5, Pom 169

CHEER

GRAND CHAMPION: Brandon Valley 197.5, Aberdeen Central 195, Watertown 186.5, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 179.5, Sioux Falls Washington 178, Brookings 176.5, Mitchell 168, Rapid City Stevens 165, Yankton 162, Huron 159, Sioux Falls Lincoln 157, Rapid City Central 146, Douglas 128.5

STUNTING/TUMBLING: Brandon Valley 197.5, Watertown 186.5, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 179.5, Sioux Falls Washington 178, Brookings 176.5, Mitchell 168, Rapid City Stevens 165, Yankton 162, Huron 159, Sioux Falls Lincoln 157, Rapid City Central 146

STUNTING/NON-TUMBLING: Aberdeen Central 195, Douglas 128.5

Andes Central 3, Tripp-Delmont-Armour 1

LAKE ANDES — Andes Central defeated Tripp-Delmont-Armour in five sets by the scores of 24-26, 26-24, 18-25, 25-16.

Andes Central (4-6) was led by Payton Johannesson with 17 kills. Dennisha Johannesson added 13 kills.

Becca Brown led TDA (2-8) with 10 digs.

Andes Central will host Dakota Christian Thursday. TDA will host Mitchell Christian on Thursday.

ANDES CENTRAL (4-6) 24 26 18 25
TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR (2-8) 26 24 25 16

Cedar Catholic 3, Pierce 1

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Hartington Cedar Catholic beat Pierce in four sets 25-18, 18-25, 25-13, 25-18 in volleyball action Tuesday.

No stats were reported for HCC.

In the loss for Pierce, Sydney Silhacek had 25 assists and made 16 digs. Jaci Brahmer had 10 kills and 12 blocks. Olivia Steffensen helped defensively making 14 digs.

PIERCE 25 18 13 18
HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC 22 25 25 25

Bloomfield 3, Hartington 0

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — The Bloomfield Queen Bees beat the Hartington Wildcats 25-13, 25-13, 25-15 in volleyball action Tuesday.

In the win for Bloomfield, Lexie Hauger led the team with five kill and 19 digs. Karly Jensen had three kills and 12 digs. Amanda Goeden had 44 assists, four digs and two blocks for the night. Contributing defensively for Bloomfield, Kenna Fielder made 24 digs and Kristen Thompson made 16 digs.

HARTINGTON 13 13 15
BLOOMFIELD 25 25 25

Elk Point-Jefferson 3, Beresford 0

BERESFORD — Elk Point-Jefferson defeated Beresford in three sets on Tuesday night. The scores were 25-18, 25-22, 25-15.

EPJ (8-5) was led by Keely Bertram with 11 kills and eight digs. Amy Zeller added 11 digs and five kills.

Taylor Watkins led Beresford (3-7)

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 9