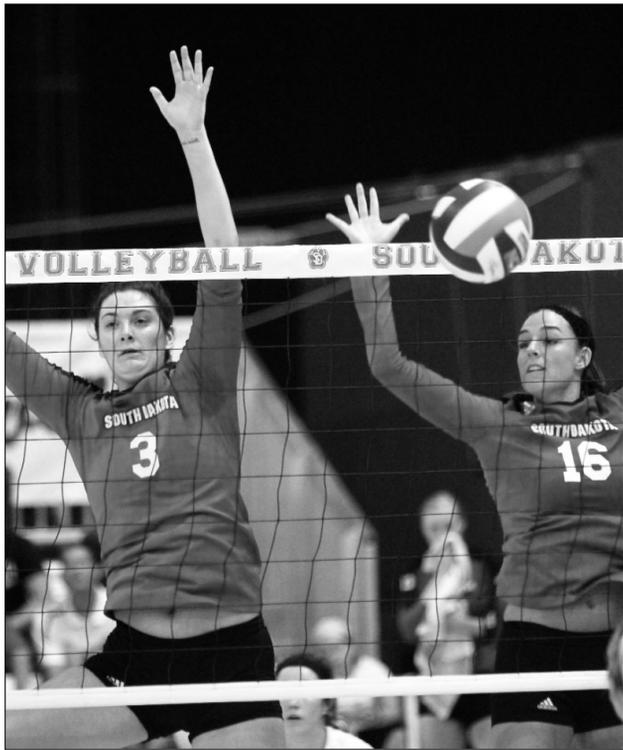


USD Takes Charge Of Summit



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

South Dakota's Melissa Firtko, left, and Amber Aschoff go up to block during the Coyotes' 3-2 win over IUPUI on Sunday. The Coyotes beat both the Jaguars, last season's Summit League regular season champions, and Fort Wayne, the league tournament champions, on the weekend.

Coyotes Complete Weekend Sweep With 3-2 Win Over IUPUI

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — That 'unfinished business' adage for the USD volleyball team was certainly backed up by a nice weekend.

After a win last Friday over defending Summit League tournament champion Fort Wayne, the Coyotes battled to a 3-2 victory Sunday afternoon at the DakotaDome over last year's regular season champion IUPUI.

Put into perspective, USD (11-6, 2-0) has now won its last seven conference matches, dating back to last season when the squad narrowly missed out on the post-season tournament.

"These have been two of the best teams the last few years, so that's a great weekend for us," said junior Kendall Kritenbrink, who had a match-high 22 kills.

Not only that, but the Coyotes are already significantly ahead of last year's pace. A year ago, USD started 2-7 in league play.

"The one thing it proves is it'll put a target on our back," said head coach Matt Houk said. "You go out and knock

out the top two teams in the league last year, and there's nobody that will dismiss you anymore."

Freshman outside hitter Audrey Reeg, on the other hand, didn't realize the magnitude of the two wins, she joked.

"I didn't know about it until after the game that we beat the two best teams," said Reeg, who had 11 kills (and just one error) with 11 digs. "That's awesome to know. That's a good accomplishment."

Sunday, however, started out slow for the home team.

Hampered by 10 attack errors, the Coyotes mustered a hitting percentage of .000 in a 22-25 set one loss — though IUPUI wasn't much better, at .108.

The Coyotes were significantly cleaner in set two, with just four attack errors on 45 attempts — a .311 mark, led by eight kills from Kritenbrink to win 26-24.

IUPUI controlled set three after trailing early 11-16 to come back and win 25-20, frustrating the Coyote offensive attack.

COYOTES | PAGE 11



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton pitcher Madison Dangler sends the ball home during the opening game of the Gazelles' softball doubleheader with Watertown on Sunday at Sertoma Park.

Softball: Arrows Sweep Yankton

Watertown scored a pair of one-run victories over Yankton in girls' softball action on Sunday at Yankton's Sertoma Park.

Tatum Ronke and Paige Falk each went 2-3 with a run scored and a RBI as Watertown downed Yankton 5-4 in the opener.

Erin Briggs had two hits and a RBI in the win.

For Yankton, Andi Sprakel went 3-4 with a triple, a double and a RBI to lead the way. Brooke Loecker had two hits, including a triple, and two RBI. Kalyn Peterka and Bailey Kortan each had a hit and a run scored. Jennifer Feilmeier added a hit in the win.

Elli Stevenson picked up the win.

Madison Dangler took the loss.

In the nightcap, Ronke went 2-3 with a triple, a double, a RBI and two runs scored as Watertown rallied to a 7-6 victory.

Watertown led 5-0 before the Gazelles scored three runs in consecutive innings to take a 6-5 edge. The Arrows scored two runs in the final inning for the win.

Emily Miller had a triple and three RBI for Watertown. Renee Bragg and Lynzie Trively each had two hits and a RBI in the win.

For Yankton, Feilmeier doubled and singled, scoring two and driving in one. Kortan had two hits and a RBI. Sprakel, Peterka, Jaclyn Arens and Loecker added hits.

Bragg picked up the win. Arens took the loss.

Yankton, 14-16, finishes the regular season with a doubleheader at home against Sioux Falls Roosevelt tonight (Monday). Start time is 6 p.m. at Sertoma Park.

SOFTBALL | PAGE 11

Guthmiller Leads Bucks To ESD Golf Title

PIERRE — Yankton's Jace Guthmiller shot a 74 to win his second straight Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' golf title and lead the Bucks to the ESD crown on Saturday in Pierre.

The victory marked the 16th ESD championship for the Yankton boys' golf program, and the sixth under head coach Brett Sime. It is Yankton's first ESD title since 2009.

Yankton posted a team score of 311, eight strokes better than Aberdeen Central (319). Brandon Valley (322) and Watertown (324) were third and fourth.

Brookings' Jake Steen was second at 76. Harrisburg's Cade McLaughlin and Watertown's Colton Hanson each shot 77.

Yankton put three other golfers in the top 15, earning

all-ESD honors. Logan Megard shot 78. Mitch Schlingman shot 79 and Lane Sawatzke carded an 80 for the Bucks. Also for Yankton, Brandon Frick and Ben Jensen each shot 87.

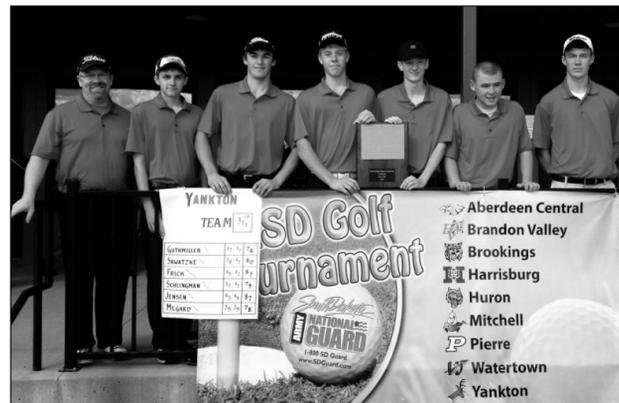
Yankton is off until state, Oct. 7-8 at the Brandon Municipal Golf Course.

TEAM SCORES: Yankton 311, Aberdeen Central 319, Brandon Valley 322, Watertown 324, Huron 334, Harrisburg 348, Pierre 349, Mitchell 354, Brookings 357
ALL-ESD: Jace Guthmiller, Yankton 74; Jake Steen, Brookings 76; Cade McLaughlin, Harrisburg 77; Colton Hanson, Watertown 77; Logan Megard, Yankton 78; Tyler Foster, Aberdeen 78; Jonah Dohrer, Aberdeen 79; Jaron Welch, Mitchell 79; Austin Burt, Watertown 79; Tanner Fjeresstad, Brandon Valley 79; Greg Koehn, Brandon Valley 79; Mitch Schlingman, Yankton 79; Cole Peterson, Huron 80; Andrew Van Gerpen, Pierre 80; Lane Sawatzke, Yankton 80
OTHER YHS: Brandon Frick 87, Ben Jensen 87

Palace City Classic

MITCHELL — The Mount Marty College women placed third in the Palace City Classic collegiate golf tournament, which concluded on Saturday in Mitchell.

GOLF | PAGE 11



SUBMITTED PHOTO/KAMI GUTHMILLER

The Yankton Bucks won the Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' golf title on Saturday in Pierre. Team members include Coach Brett Sime, Brandon Frick, Jace Guthmiller, Mitch Schlingman, Logan Megard, Ben Jensen and Lane Sawatzke. Guthmiller earned his second consecutive ESD individual title.

High-Powered Aberdeen Sweeps YHS

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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The Yankton Gazelles faced a team that "never makes mistakes," Gazelles head coach Tiffany Beste said following Saturday afternoon's match-up.

Ultimately, Yankton came up short. The Aberdeen Central Eagles went 3-0 at the Summit Activities Center.

"Aberdeen is a good team," Beste said.

Although the Gazelles came back from trailing the Eagles 14-8 in game one, managing to trail only 21-20, they fell 25-22.

"I wasn't disappointed in any way with how we played in set one," Beste said. "We made them work in their serve-receive, we blocked well, we made their hitters think a little bit. Defensively we dug balls up that we were able to run our offense out of. We just did a lot of very basic volleyball skills well — nothing crazy." The Eagles went on to claim

game two (25-14) and game three (25-11).

"It was just about everybody trying to do what they knew how to do and not being so absorbed in what other teams on the other side of the net are doing," Aberdeen head coach Dennis Northrup said. "As soon as you get a deer in the headlights and you're seeing that ball come at you that way it just snowballs."

Meggie Hanson put up 13 digs and 17 assists for Aberdeen, while Maddie Goetz had 14 assists and seven digs. Kendall McDaniel recorded 13 kills, 15 assists and six aces, with Brianna Kudler adding seven kills, eight assists and seven digs.

Paige Thieman recorded 14 assists for the Gazelles, while Haley Mines contributed 13 digs. Riley Smith had nine digs, and Becky Frick put up six kills.

After receiving they're only two losses of the season in the last two matches they played, Northrup said the Eagles

needed a win. To do so, Northrup changed the lineup.

"It took a little bit to figure out the chemistry, and our girl is going to have to work a little harder to get to where we want her as far as a middle, but she was an improvement from what we had done last night against Roosevelt," he said. "It's good to get back on the horse after you have those two little hiccups."

Despite the loss, the Gazelles were able to put more players on the court than normal during the match, which Beste said will ultimately be a positive for them.

"It's always good when you can get some more girls some playing time and see what they're capable of doing on the varsity court," she said. "Even the girls who are consistent players for us, when they get the other girls on the court with them, it forces them to step up their level of playing."

But the Gazelles will focus on consistency from now on to get some wins during the sec-

ond half of the season, Beste added.

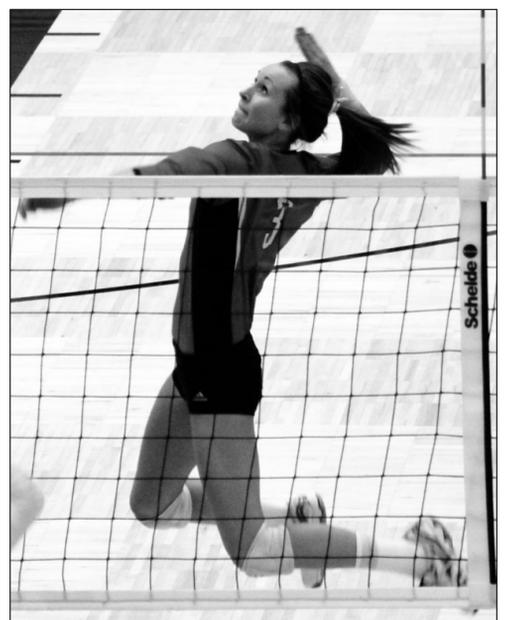
"We need to get to a point where we've got the same seven or eight girls on the court," she said. "Hopefully in the coming matches we'll be able to pick up some wins and boost our confidence."

Yankton faces Harrisburg Tuesday, a game Beste said the Gazelles are capable of winning.

"We need a win to get the confidence back," she said. "When we are receiving well it's giving us an opportunity to focus more on offense, which we haven't done a whole lot this year. We've focused a lot on defense and a lot on serve-receive, but when we start doing those things well we can go to the next aspect of the game, which is offense. Hopefully we're given an opportunity to do that soon."

Aberdeen Central also took the JV match 25-20, 25-23. For

GAZELLES | PAGE 11



EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D

Yankton's Brooke Wuebben goes up to attack the ball during the Gazelles' Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball match with Aberdeen Central on Saturday at the Summit Center.

Gazelles Split Pair At Brookings

BROOKINGS — The Yankton Gazelles girls' tennis team finished 15-11 on the season after a triangular split in Brookings on Saturday.

Yankton beat Milbank 8-1 and dropped a 5-4 decision to host Brookings.

Taylor Rothenberger and Anne Knoff each went 2-0 in singles play. Kaitlyn Frank and Anna Kokesh teamed up to go 2-0 in doubles play.

The Gazelles next compete in the Eastern South Dakota Conference Championships, Thursday in Pierre.

YANKTON 8, MILBANK 1
SINGLES: Anna Kurtz M def. Sarah Rockne 10-8; Taylor Rothenberger Y def. Gretchen Biersbach 10-7; Kaitlyn Frank Y def. Kirsten Biersbach 10-5; Alexa Bryan Y def. Rebekah Tuschsherer 10-5; Anna Kokesh Y def. Cara Berkner 10-4; Anne Knoff Y def. Paige Johnson 10-3

DOUBLES: Rockne-Rothenberger Y def. Kurtz-Biersbach 10-8; Bryan-Knoff Y def. Biersbach-Tuschsherer 10-7; Frank-Kokesh Y def. Berkner-Holtquist 10-3
JV: Mimi Garcia Y def. Kayla Holtquist 10-8; Anne Smith M def. Sophie Kouri 10-7; Johnson-Smith M def. Garcia-Kouri 10-4

BROOKINGS 5, YANKTON 4
SINGLES: Sarah Rockne Y def. Lydia Lucchesi 10-3; Taylor Rothenberger Y def. Yixuan He 10-5; Emma Lucchesi B def. Kaitlyn Frank 10-8; Brenna Langland B def. Alexa Bryan 10-5; Beth Hildebrandt B def. Anna Kokesh 10-6; Anne Knoff Y def. Taylor Logue 10-2

DOUBLES: Lucchesi-Lucchesi B def. Rockne-Rothenberger 10-8; He-Langland B def. Bryan-Knoff 10-4; Frank-Kokesh Y def. Hildebrandt-Logue 10-7
JV: Mimi Garcia Y def. Hannah Eng 10-4

Prairie Wolves Blank Lancer Women



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty's Megan Roth, 13, blames Nebraska Wesleyan's Hannah Hussey for possession during their Great Plains Athletic Conference women's soccer match on Saturday at Easton Field.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
james.cimburek@yankton.net

A 24-3 margin in shots, including a 17-0 edge in the first half, usually means a very lop-sided score.

But the Mount Marty defense held high-scoring Nebraska Wesleyan to two goals 75 seconds apart in a 2-0 Prairie Wolves victory over MMC in Great Plains Athletic Conference women's soccer action on Saturday at Easton Field.

The MMC defense held the Prairie Wolves below their season average of 2.6 goals per game.

"Our defense positioned themselves well and recovered well on the through ball," said MMC head coach Nathan Epp. "They really did well."

Both NWU goals came early in the first half. Amber Johnson scored her team-high seventh goal of the season, taking a Makensie Thaller pass on a breakaway at the 12:14 mark. Just over a minute later, Johnson stole the ball in front of the net and found Shannon Surber for another score.

In the first half, MMC did not have a shot in the direction of the goal, something that bothered Epp.

"We were content to play defense when we had the wind against us," he said. "It didn't seem like we wanted to build an attack out of it."

The Lancers finally had some offensive threats in the second half. Molly Buche had the Lancers' lone shot on goal, while Allison Erwin had two shots that just missed the frame.

NWU improved to 5-1-2 and a league-leading 2-0 GPAC record. MMC, 0-9-1 and 0-3, will look to earn its first victory of the season at home against Grace on Wednesday. Start time is 2 p.m.

One thing Epp is hoping to see out of the Lancers is more aggression.

"We have to change the mentality that we're happy to keep it close," he said. "We need to attack and try to win."

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

Doane Escapes Mount Marty

CRETE, Neb. — In the previous 17 meetings that comprise the Great Plains Athletic Conference era, Doane had dropped just three games to Mount Marty, with a 3-1 match being the closest the Lancers had come to beating Doane in volleyball.

On Saturday, the Lancers got a little closer, dropping a 26-24, 19-25, 16-25, 25-11, 15-10 decision to the Tigers in GPAC action.

Doane had won the previous eight meetings by 3-0 margins, and has now won all 18 meetings since 2000 (including two non-conference meetings in 2001).

Ashley Axmann had 24 kills and 13 digs, and Abby Sorensen had 10 kills to lead Doane (9-8, 3-2 GPAC). Haley Norvell had 21 assists. Karissa Blank and Julie Els had four ace serves in the win.

Sierra Kloth had 11 kills and Caitlyn Illg had 33 assists to lead the Mount Marty offense. Bailey Kuchta and Kristen Boyle had eight kills each. Sam Bischoff added three ace serves.

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 11