

Female Kicker Fitting In For GV

BY JEREMY HOECK

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GAYVILLE — Number eleven. Bailey Gale. Kicker. 5-foot-2. 140 pounds. Junior. That's how Bailey Gale is listed on the Gayville-Volin football roster.

Thing is, Gale is a she. A soccer player turned kicker, the 16-year-old isn't the first girl to play varsity football — nor will she be the last — but that wasn't her intent, she maintains.

"Kicking for a football team was definitely the next thing to keep me going down that same road," Gale said during an interview Monday in Gayville.

Down what road? Gale, who lives in Vermillion but open-enrolls at Gayville-Volin High School, had been playing club soccer in her home town, but when the Vermillion School District — like many others across the state — sanctioned soccer beginning with the 2014-15 school year, she was ineligible to play for the Tanagers.

"Me and a couple other girls were left to figure something out," she said.

Already a student at Gayville-Volin, Gale approached football coach Patrick Beeman. She wanted to try kicking for the Raiders.

"At first, I wanted to do kickoffs," Gale said. "But then I thought, 'Wait, I don't want to get smashed.'"

Gale isn't simply a name or a number on a roster. Or even just a kicker. She's already proven to be an offensive weapon for the Raiders, according to her teammates.

Through two games, Gale has made 5-of-8 extra points — she was 4-of-5 in last Friday night's 55-0 homecoming victory over Tripp-Delmont-Armour.

Although one of her eight attempts was blocked (the timing has been a work in progress), the Raiders remain confident in the ability to use a rare position at their level: Place-kicker.

"Not too many nine-man teams can say that," senior Brandon VanOsdel said Monday. "And even fewer can say they're going to have a girl kick field goals."

Girl Among Boys

The only characteristic that distinguishes Gale as a girl during games would be her small 5-foot-2 frame, as well as the long pony tail that sticks out from underneath her helmet.

When the time comes for her to kick an extra point, it's all business.

"You know when she's behind you kicking, that you want to block those guys with everything you've got,"



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

ABOVE: Gayville-Volin junior kicker Bailey Gale, right, watches her extra point attempt during Friday night's home game against Tripp-Delmont-Armour in Gayville.

BELOW: Gayville-Volin head coach Patrick Beeman congratulates junior kicker Bailey Gale after her extra point during Friday night's game against Tripp-Delmont-Armour in Gayville. She is 5-for-8 on PAT attempts this season, including 4-of-5 in the win over TDA.

VanOsdel said. "It's kind of a pride thing, too."

To that end, Gale isn't just a girl who happens to be on the team. She's a teammate. She's one of the guys, according to her coach.

"She's accepted by them," said coach Beeman, whose Raiders (2-0) play Burke-South Central in Bonesteel on Friday night. "There's no real issues as far as the gender."

The only time it becomes an issue?

"They ask her to stay out of the locker room for a little bit at halftime," Beeman joked.

From day one of pre-season gatherings, Gale hasn't missed a practice or a video session with the Raiders and hasn't once mentioned the gender disparity, according to VanOsdel.

"It's a lot of fun, she fit in right away," he said. "It wasn't like we had to make any special accommodations. She doesn't want any different treatment."

Still, having a girl on a football team — regardless of class or level — is certainly unique. A brief look through other area football rosters did not show another instance of a female player.

When was the last time Beeman heard of a girl play-



ing on a varsity football team?

Gale marks the fourth he's experienced, the coach said — the first while in high school, the second while coaching in Iowa, and the

third last year when Gayville-Volin played Marty Indian. "But it's rare," Beeman said with a smile.

Five-For-Eight

No stranger to playing in

front of crowds, Gale was, however, greeted with a large audience for the Raiders' season opener at Corsica-Stickney on Aug. 29 in Stickney.

The atmosphere was a far cry from a club soccer game, she joked.

"To not disappoint them was a big thing for me," Gale said.

In a game Gayville-Volin would go on to win 31-8, Gale missed her first extra point attempt but later kicked one through the uprights to go 1-of-3.

Faith from her teammates is a big confidence-booster, she said.

"I think they all believe in me enough, that even if I miss my first one (like she has the first two games), I know they'll still stick with me," Gale said.

Even if that means their touchdown drives aren't rewarded with an extra point.

"Hopefully they don't hold it against me at all," Gale said.

"We'll just score again and give you another chance," VanOsdel added with a smile.

Having not one but two capable place-kickers (the other is junior Felix Lohmann, an exchange student) is understandably an adjustment for the Raiders

coaches, as well.

Put simply: Kicking isn't typically a staple of nine-man football.

"I don't doubt her, but I'm trying to convince myself we're good enough to make me feel comfortable," Beeman said, referring to Gayville-Volin sometimes going for a two-point conversion rather than an extra point try.

Schematically, it's easier to simply hand the ball off to a playmaker and let them sneak the ball in the end zone for two points, rather than the facets involved with an extra point or field goal — from the snap, to the protection, to the hold, to the kick.

"If we get a good snap, a good hold and can protect, I'm confident that ball's going through the uprights with Bailey," Beeman said.

As for when — and from how far away — the Raiders would attempt a field goal in a close game, that remains to be seen.

"I'm not going to put that information out there what her range is," VanOsdel joked, "but we trust her."

Helping The Team

It's still early in the season, but the Raiders are feeling confident about 2014.

After Friday's road game at Burke-South Central, Gayville-Volin hosts Scotland and Avon in back-to-back weeks, before going to Viborg-Hurley and to Andes Central, then closing the regular season at home against Marty Indian.

"I don't want to get ahead of anyone, or myself, but yeah," VanOsdel said, when asked if he likes his team's chances. "I have strong expectations for this season, and I know everyone else does too."

Gale included. "It's fun to be apart of this, ringing that victory bell," she said. "Without playing and just watching, you get to see the boys do these things. But you never get the feeling of being a part of it."

"When they talk about the feeling of a Friday night game, they're not kidding."

Though she lives in Vermillion, Gale said she and her teammates have been embraced by the Gayville and Volin communities.

"We're definitely a family, I would say," she said. "We have each other's back and can count on each other."

"Everybody comes out for things like this," she added. "They're a big part of the feeling of a Friday night football game."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

MMC Rank 4th After 1st Round Of GPAC

SIoux CENTER, Iowa — The Mount Marty College women's golf team finished fourth in the opening round of the Great Plains Athletic Conference Championships, held Monday at The Ridge Golf Course in Sioux Center, Iowa.

MMC, led by Logan Wagner's (Parkston) school-record round of 80, finished at 347 on the day. Kellie Winckler (Lake Andes) and Kelly Amundson (Vermillion) each shot 87. Kristen Shanahan shot 93 and Elly Mueller (Vermillion) shot a 97 for the Lancers.

DWU, the six-time defending league

champions, set the bar after the first round with a team score of 312, 22 strokes better than Northwestern. Lauren Fitts, Kristin Sabers, Tiera Feller and April Barnett each shot 78 for the Tigers.

Low round on Monday went to Northwestern's Emma Wynja. The Sioux Falls Christian grad shot a 76 on the day.

Round two will be held Oct. 6 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Rounds three and four will be in the spring, hosted by Doane and Northwestern.

Soccer: Tanagers Roll Past Garretson 6-0

BY ALAN DALE

The Plain Talk

VERMILLION — It would be a stretch to think Garretson truly knew what they had coming to them on Monday night.

They traveled the hour-plus south to Vermillion where the host Tanager girls' soccer team was smarting from its first loss of the season only 48 hours earlier.

So the Blue Dragons ended up being a lot more of the former and

um, lacking the fire to be the latter.

That all amounted to a 6-0 Tanager rout of Garretson on a crisp Senior Night evening at Cotton Park.

Vermillion seniors Hailey Freidel, Tori Gregoire, and Teddi Settles were honored before the game kicked off.

VHS (5-1-2) started putting Garretson under duress seconds into the match and it paid off with a first minute goal by Maddie Regnerus.

Garretson, who lost 4-0 against Vermillion on Aug. 28, were never al-

lowed into the match from that first tally on as the Tanagers ended up outshooting the Blue Dragons 40-5.

Tori Gregoire (28th minutes), Autumn Barnett (30th minute penalty kick), and Natasha Sumudzi (38th minute) all struck the back of Garretson net to put the Tanagers up 4-0 at halftime.

Eighth-grader Kasey Herbster scored in the 45th minute and Gregoire completed her brace with another scoring strike in the 51st minute.

Watertown Downs Yankton To Remain Unbeaten



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Bloomfield's Leah Poppe, 20, attacks against the defense of Wausa's Tori Clausen during their Lewis & Clark Conference volleyball match on Monday in Bloomfield, Nebraska.

WATERTOWN — The third-ranked Watertown Arrows pulled away late in the match to beat Yankton 25-22, 25-15, 25-13 in Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball action on Monday.

"In sets one and two, I was very pleased. We went up there with a game plan and we stuck with it," said Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste. "In three and four, we lost focus and were never able to get back into rhythm."

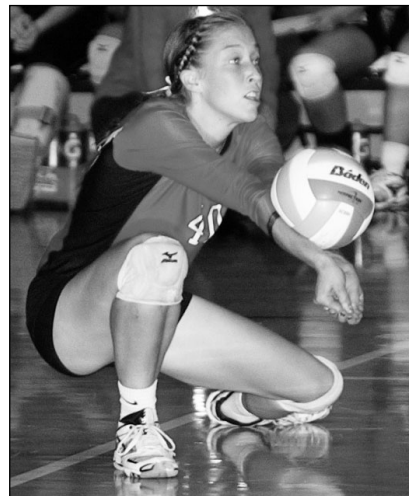
Watertown improved to 7-0 on the season. Yankton dropped to 3-4, but the Gazelles have yet to be swept in a match.

"Our battle this year is that we've been up and down," Beste said. "When we're going after it, we're a tough team to beat. When we get tentative and scared, we don't play as well."

Watertown was led by 17 kills, 17 digs and three ace serves from McKenzie Werner. Macy Denzer had 15 kills and 21 digs. Sydney Dale had 38 assists. Danielle Gottsleben posted eight kills. Tatum Hemiller finished with three ace serves and a team-best 25 digs. Mikaela Stanley added three blocks in the win.

Becky Frick had 11 kills and 13 digs, and Sophie Drotzmann had nine kills and three blocks to lead Yankton. Paige Thiemann had 17 assists and Ellie Fedders had 10 assists to spark the offense. Haley Mines added 23 digs in the effort.

Yankton has little time to regroup, hosting Brandon Valley tonight (Tuesday). The match has been designated as "Family



RICH REMMERS/PUBLIC OPINION
Yankton's Lindsey Hale digs a ball during the Gazelles' match at Watertown on Monday.

Night," with discounted admission for families.

"This is the girls' homecoming game. Hopefully there are a lot of people there," Beste said. "Our focus is going to be on continuing to play with energy."

Watertown won the JV match 25-19, 24-26, 25-16. For Yankton, Hannah Bockholt had six kills, Fedders had four kills and five assists, and Lindsay Hale had 15 digs to lead the way. Kami Cornemann had four

blocks (two solo). Amy Doering (two solo), Josie Saylor (one solo) and Danielle Salvatori (one solo) each had a hand in two blocks. Sydney Ingalls added two ace serves.

Yankton won the sophomore match 25-23, 25-13, to improve to 6-1 on the season. Kate Budig and Darian Tramp each had four kills, with Tramp also recording three ace serves. Jacey Anderberg had 10 assists. Cameryn Specht added eight digs.

Watertown swept the freshmen matches.

Yankton won the freshmen 'A' match 20-25, 25-13, 25-23. Budig had seven kills and six digs, and Specht had eight ace serves to lead Yankton. Jennica Delvaux had six ace serves, Anna Savey had 13 assists and Aurora Papstein had five kills for the Gazelles.

Watertown took the freshmen 'B' match 26-24, 25-9.

Bloomfield 3, Wausa 0

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Kristen Thompson had eight kills, five blocks and 17 digs to lead Bloomfield past Wausa 25-17, 25-13, 25-13, in Lewis & Clark Conference volleyball action on Monday.

Amanda Goeden finished with seven kills, eight assists, 14 digs and seven ace serves for Bloomfield. Karly Jensen had 15 digs and two blocks. Leah Poppe posted 11 digs and two ace serves. Patience Teboe added seven assists in the victory.

Wausa statistics were not reported by presstime.