

Bucks Look To Build On School-Record 16-Win Season



BUCKS: Jeremy Cap

Tennis: Yankton Returns Top Four Players Off Team That Set Three Single-Season Marks

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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A year ago, the Yankton Bucks boys' tennis team set a school record for dual victories. This season, with their top four players back from a year ago, the Bucks will be looking for even more.



Yankton returns four letter-winners, including two who will be playing their sixth season of varsity tennis. Just two players — Evan Dykes and Collin Michels — graduated from a squad that went 16-5 and finished ninth in the state.

"It was a good year. We played well against some top-notch competition," said Yankton head coach Tim Mulhair. "We had a good crew last year. We have a good crew this year, and

we should be good in the future, also."

Leading the way for the Bucks are seniors Jacob Rockne and Cyrus Sorenson, who have taken turns with the top spots in recent years. Sorenson went 9-13 at flight one a year ago, while Rockne went 21-8. The two teamed up for a 13-15 record at flight one doubles.

Rockne comes into the season just 13 wins shy of tying the Bucks' record for singles victories at 78 (Ryan Elwood, 1997-2001). He is 16 victories shy of Conan Malady's (1995-2000) doubles record of 67 career wins.

"Jake and Cyrus have played a lot of tennis," Mulhair noted. "They came up together as seventh graders, and are playing their fifth straight year of singles and doubles."

"I look forward to them having a good season and going out with a bang."

Junior Jeremy Cap set a school record (22-6) for singles victories. In just two years on

varsity, he has climbed into a tie for ninth on the career singles victories list with 38.

Wilcox, a sophomore, also had an impressive 2009 campaign, finishing with an 18-9 mark. He is tied with Sorenson at 34 career singles wins.

Cap and Wilcox went 19-11 in doubles play, two shy of the school record Dykes set last season. (He won one doubles match without Michels.) The duo have amassed 30 career doubles victories, and can move up the ranks quickly with another solid season. Ten wins would move the two past a dozen former Bucks into the top 10 on the all-time list.

Several Bucks will contend for the final two varsity spots.

"There are three or four others in the hunt for those last two spots," Mulhair noted. "We're not terribly deep this year, but we have good players."

"I'd rather have a better six than a better eight than someone else."

Junior Max Hunhoff had the most JV experience, going 10-2 in singles and teaming with two different partners to go 5-0 in doubles. Seniors Scott Stoll (3-3) and Sam Santos (3-1), junior Ryan Shindler (2-2) and sophomore Chance Sorenson (3-0) also got JV experience a year ago.

"I feel confident about our team," Mulhair said. "We are still young in spots, but very experienced as a whole. It is a nice situation to be in."

Yankton finished fifth in the Eastern South Dakota Conference a year ago, but were just 15 points behind runner-up Aberdeen Central.

"Pierre and (ESD champion) Watertown are both pretty solid," Mulhair said. "Every team always has a good player here and there."

The Bucks open the season April 3 at home against Sioux City North and Vermillion.

Off The Beaten Path: Rockne, Sorenson Prefer To Be Challenged

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Cyrus Sorenson and Jacob Rockne have established themselves among the top boys' tennis players in Yankton High School history, each ranking in the top five in doubles and the top 15 in singles.

We sat down with them as they prepared for their final season at YHS.

JDC: When did the two of you start playing together? With your different backgrounds (Jake from a tennis family, Cyrus from a soccer family), how did it work with you guys coming together on the court?

Sorenson: I've played tennis since I was 5, 6, when the city league started. I went with my dad and older brother and they played, and I liked playing with them.

Rockne: I think I started playing when I was 10-ish, maybe a little older. My older sisters just kinda got me playing.

Sorenson: I think we got together through just high school, the common tournaments we went to, like Yankton and Madison. And, since we wanted to compete in doubles as well as singles, we kinda just asked each other eventually.



BUCKS: Cyrus Sorenson

JDC: As doubles partners, the two of you spend a lot of time together on the court. Do you spend a lot of time together off the court?

Rockne: Sometimes. **Sorenson:** It varies. We have conflicting schedules, kinda.

JDC: What was your "welcome to high school" moment?

Rockne: Probably say maturity level, still acting like middle schoolers.

Sorenson: I'd say maturity, introduction to some new things. Just the fact that everyone's so much better than you when you're a freshman.

JDC: What have been some of the strangest things you've heard on the tennis court?

Rockne: Kid was playing a match on, I think, court number three. He was on the north end of the court and during the match, he hit the ball and let go of his racquet, and it went over the fence. That's the only crazy thing I remember. People dropping F-bombs, and stuff like that.

Sorenson: Since I know most of the guys, we usually talk about what goes on. Just some of the stuff they tell me that they do surprises me.

JDC: What do you guys talk

about during the match, besides the match?

Sorenson: If the opponent has a girlfriend, maybe we'll talk about her. Or we might talk about, if they're not too great of an opponent, we might have a smashing contest.

JDC: Last season the team set a school record for dual victories, and both of you had great seasons. How has that been a motivator going into 2010?

Rockne: To be honest, not that great, because we played Vermillion three, four times. Yeah, we did set a school record but, it's kinda nice, well, I like it anyway, when we play harder teams. More challenging; makes ourselves better. But, yeah, it does kind of motivate us to do just as good this season.

Sorenson: What did we end up at state? Tenth?

JDC: Ninth.

Sorenson: Well, our turnout at state was pretty good, I guess my record wasn't the greatest, but I ended up tenth or 11th at state. So I just hope to improve on that, and maybe improve in doubles, as well.

JDC: Yankton has never finished higher than third in the ESD. What would it take for this year's team to bring home the Bucks' first-ever ESD title?

Sorenson: A lot of maturity. A lot of growing up. We don't have so much of a young team, but just change out of old habits, kinda grow out of what we used to do and change what we need to do to get there. Work on it in practice.

Rockne: Work on it in practice and take it seriously. If everybody tries their hardest, I could see us getting in the top three, maybe even first.

JDC: You both graduate in May. What are your future plans?

Rockne: I'm registering with the South Dakota Air National Guard. Not quite sure specifically what I want to do. I'm kinda looking at security force or safety, but I've got to look them all over before I decide.

Sorenson: I plan to go to Doane College, which is about 10 miles outside of Lincoln (Neb.). There I plan to get a bachelor's degree and play soccer throughout undergrad. Once I get my degree, I'll probably go on. Right now I'm looking at physical therapist, but that would take a lot to get here, so we'll see what happens.



BUCKS: Jacob Rockne

Get To Know: Cyrus Sorenson And Jacob Rockne

Born
Rockne: Yankton, S.D., Sept. 27, 1991

Sorenson: Born in Yankton, Oct. 29, 1991

Must-See TV
Rockne: I like the "Pawn Stars" and "American Pickers" on History Channel.

Sorenson: I don't really have any TV that I watch, other than what my mom watches, probably like, soccer and "NSIC."

What's On Your I-Pod?
Rockne: I've got Schwaze, Chili Peppers, Jay-Z and T.I.

Sorenson: Everything except country, pretty much, probably from the 60's on. Most of my stuff is from the present day, though.

Favorite Meal
Rockne: Any kind of pizza that doesn't have tomatoes on it — Pepperoni, cheese.

Sorenson: Doesn't that have tomato sauce?

Rockne: (laughs) I don't know.
Sorenson: Mine's probably along the Italian lines, lasagna or spaghetti

Hobbies
Rockne: I like to hunt and fish, shoot trap when I get a chance. Work.

Sorenson: Work, hang out with friends, if that's a hobby. That's about it.

Favorite Class
Rockne: I don't really like school, but probably "World of Work," because I get to intern at a career that I like or am interested in.

Sorenson: My favorite class right now would have to be Calc (Calculus), just because I like math and I think I'm good at it. Otherwise, anatomy after that, that runs a close second. I'd have to agree, I really don't like school much anymore.

I'd Pay Money To Spend A Day With ...

Rockne: You go first.
Sorenson: Probably ... that's tough. (thinks for a moment) Probably Jennifer Aniston, just 'cause ... I don't know, she's ...

Rockne: Abraham Lincoln or some historical figure

One Thing I'd Say To President Obama

Rockne: I'd say 'Hi' and walk away. Wouldn't say anything else.

Sorenson: I'd probably tell him to stick with what he said he was going to do before he got into

office, see how that turns out. Because right now, it doesn't seem like much is happening.

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