



GAZELLES: Taylor Dumke

### Gazelles Look To Build On Season

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A year ago, the Yankton Gazelles had a strong start on the way to an 8-5-2 record. This year, with nine seniors on the roster, the team will look to build on their successes.



Yankton opened its season with a tie against Pierre with six starters and two part-time starters back in the fold from a team that finished third in the regular season standings.

The Gazelles graduated seven players from a year ago, including first-team all-stater Laura Ekeren, who is now on the roster for the University of South Dakota. Second-team selection Rachel Termansen and honorable mention selections Nealy Pesicka and Amy Hisek were also among the Class of 2010.

"Laura, Rachel, Nealy and Amy, those positions will be toughest to fill," noted Gazelles coach Kevin Buckman.

Senior sweeper Angie Dvorak, also a first-team selection a year ago, anchors a tough, athletic defense. Senior Riley Paulsen (stopper), also a starter a year ago, returns to the defensive unit, as does senior Rachael Johnson. Juniors Audrey Fuks and Taylor Dumke, who were mainstays on the JV squad last season, move up to fill varsity roles.

"We have another very fast team this year," coach Buckman said. "Paulsen is fearless in the middle of the field. She will control

the middle of the field." Junior Courtney True, who split time in goal with Liz Hicks a year ago, steps into a full-time role in net as Hicks graduated. Katelyn Greenway, a sophomore, moves up to back her up in net.

"I don't think we'll be splitting time like last year. Courtney will be a very good keeper," coach Buckman noted. "But Katie will get her shots in goal."

The interior midfield will be anchored by returning starters Paige Anderson (Sr.) and Maggie Bisgard (Sr.), as well as seniors Brandi Broekemeier and Katie Callaghan.

On the outside, Rachel Ruffinot (Sr.) and returning starter Laura Buckman (Sr.) will anchor the left and right sides while getting opportunities at striker. Senior Rachel Weinandt, a returning starter, junior Jen Granflaten, who saw a few starts last season, and sophomore Morgan Bakke will also see time up front.

Senior Michaela Wuestewald, junior Jennifer Shelburg and sophomores Carli Al-Azzeh, Megan Ford and Brianna Newman are also expected to contribute at the varsity level. Some will also split time with the JV squad.

Coach Buckman expects to field a team that can match up with the speedy teams, but play physical as well.

"I think we'll be physical in the middle and fast up top with Weinandt, Granflaten and Buckman," he said.

The regular season format changed this year, with two fewer games on the schedule and a potential state tournament play-in game prior to the state tournament, Oct. 7-9 at Mitchell.

"We need to finish in the top three," Coach Buckman noted. "We have to play into state if we're not one of the top three seeds."

The Gazelles opened the 2010 season Aug. 20.

## Boys' Soccer Squad Preps For Fresh Start

BY CLAY STODDARD  
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With a sixth-place finish in the state soccer tournament last year, the Yankton Bucks boys soccer team will have to make a fresher



start in the 2010 season. Head coach Nancy Saunders takes the reins of the varsity team this year after three years as assistant coach for the varsity and one year as head coach for the junior varsity team.

"This year's team is going to be a very young team" said Saunders, whose team began its season with a loss to Pierre.

With the loss of 13 seniors and the addition of a new head coach, the team will have to start from scratch.

"Twenty to 30 percent of the varsity players will be freshmen this year," Saunders said.

The team will not be without some experience, as senior Jeremy Cap will lead the way this fall.

"Jeremy Cap will be team captain this year and was honorable mention first team all state last year," Saunders said.

Cap will lead the team out of the defensive midfielder position throughout the year.

"Cap is a very smart soccer player and a natural team leader, one can always improve soccer skills, but smarts cannot be taught," Saunders said.

The other experienced leaders on the team will be juniors Jak Steinberg and second team All-State selection Justin Lillie.

The rest of the team will be filled with young inexperienced players, according to Saunders.

"We do have a lot of talent this year, we just need to organize," she said. "We must play to our strengths and work through our weaknesses."

With such a young team this year, the expectations for the team may not be as high as in years past, but Saunders said she believes in her team.

"I believe we can do a great job this year, plus these are a great bunch of kids so it should be fun," she said.

When faced with a loss of almost an entire team and a difficult schedule, the Bucks remain focused.

"We don't care who left last



BUCKS: Patrick Olesak

year, we will try to win it all," Saunders said.

The Bucks opened the 2010 season on Aug. 20.

## YHS SB

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ing letterwinners in Katie Koletzky (Sr.), Tiffany Townsend (Sr.), Stephanie Campbell (Sr.) and Jessica Wirth (Sr.).

Koletzky has taken the mound before many times, but this season will be very important for her as she will be the go-to pitcher on the team.

"Katie is going to be very important to our team this season," Goeden said. "Fastpitch softball revolves around pitching and defense, so having an experienced pitcher in Katie back is a huge asset to our team."

Other than Koletzky, Yankton is looking to a few other players to take on the pitching responsibilities in Tara Blaha (So.) and Campbell.

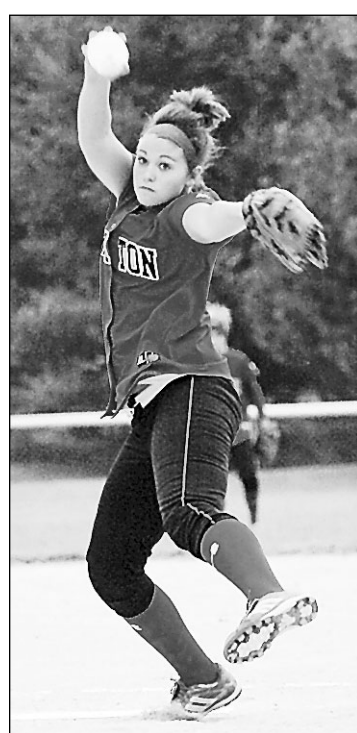
"Campbell hasn't pitched in softball for awhile, but I have been talking to her about throwing a little more and getting some quality innings from her," Goeden said.

The Gazelles are looking for a few offensive spark plugs on their team as well and they are hoping to get to some good contributions from Wirth, Townsend and Haley Hinseth (Sr.).

"What we have been telling our girls since the first practice when they are up in the batters box is to make every at bat a quality at bat," Goeden said.

Yankton has a fifth returning letterwinner in Janessa Ekeren, who was going to their catcher this season, but due to a torn ACL and MCL in summer softball, she will be sitting this season out. The Gazelles did find a spot for her on the team as the student manager.

"We were counting on Janessa to our catcher this season," Goeden



GAZELLES: Katie Koletzky

said. "But that didn't work out so we are scrambling around trying to fit someone into the catcher's spot."

Other girls are will be fighting for a starting spot and a spot on the varsity team are Katrina Kellum (Sr.), Alexis Smith (Sr.), Alysha Watzel (Sr.), Kristian Bilbrey (So.), Kourtney Erickson (So.), Taylor Hutchinson (So.), Karlee Kozak (So.), Jennifer Feilmeier (Fr.), Amber Livingston (Fr.), Brooke Loecker (Fr.), Kaly Peterka (Fr.), Alisa Ruzicka (Fr.), Abby Schulte (Fr.), Jaclyn Arens (8th), Andriana Sprackel (8th) and Paige Thieman (8th).

Goeden's other co-head coach is Bob Cabalka.

The Gazelles opened their season Aug. 22.

## Junior-Laden Tangers Set Sights High

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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VERMILLION — The Vermillion Tangers had a young volleyball squad a year ago. A year later, the Tangers are still young, but are ready to take the next step.



Vermillion has just two seniors on the team, but boasts a talented junior class, according to head coach Lenni Billberg.

"We have a huge core of juniors that got a lot of playing time last year," she said. "Kylie Fischbach, Lizzie Bye and Beth Szymonski are all kids that saw significant time, and they are joined by a crew of other juniors."

The Tangers have just two seniors on the roster, right-side hitter Sarah Szymonski and defensive specialist Carlee Sorenson.

"Sarah plays right side but can fill a utility role. Carlee was our JV libero last year," Billberg noted. "They're really great role players, kids that compliment the roster."

Vermillion plans to run a two-setter formation to take advantage of the size of Fischbach (5-10). Fellow junior Sami Girard (5-7) will split the setting responsibilities.

The Tangers have four players vying for playing time in the middle, led by a returning starter Lexi Regnerus (5-10). Junior Kelly Amundson (5-10), who suffered a

season-ending injury last year, also returns. A pair of 5-10 sophomores, Katie Herrera and Stephanie Erwin, will also be in the mix.

"Lexi led us in blocks and was third in kills. Kelli has worked hard to rehab her leg," Billberg said. "Steph and Katie are powerful players."

Bye and Beth Szymonski provide the key offense outside.

"Lizzie has one of the hardest arm swings in the state. She's a really great athlete," Billberg said. "Beth is a dynamic outside with a great cut shot."

Junior Emily McClelland (5-6) started two matches at libero. Junior Bailey Carlson (5-9), Sorenson and Girard will also see time in the back row, with several sophomores also potentially in the mix.

With the level of talent on the squad, the Tangers have high aspirations for the 2010 season.

"We do have high expectations, but we're going to take it one game at a time," Billberg said.

The goal is pretty clear, get past 2009 Region 4A champion Elk Point-Jefferson and earn a trip to the South Dakota State Class A Tournament in Aberdeen.

"They have some dynamic kids," Billberg said of the Huskies. "We think we can do well against them, but we still have a long way to go. There are a lot of great teams in Class A."

Vermillion opens the season Aug. 31 with a triangular against Lennox and Todd County.

## YHS FB

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very hard, and Anderson. Austin's made himself where he can play a lot of different positions."

Whoever does not start at quarterback will likely be considered in a receiver role, either at split end or tight end. Drotzmann will again be a top threat in the passing game.

"Cole Drotzmann will be there, and most of the guys who are playing quarterback now will play receiver," Likness said. "Tyler Sternhagen (Sr., 6-2, 170), Dylan Tacke (Sr., 5-9, 160) and Bryan Youngberg (Sr., 5-9, 160) are all guys that have pretty good hands and decent speed."

Schurrer returns at middle linebacker, and could be flanked by several solid athletes.

"Tieszen, McKee, Bromley, those guys are looking pretty good," Likness noted. "James Hisek, a sophomore, doesn't look bad, either."

Soulek and Johnson could anchor the interior of the defensive line, with Robbie Heine (Sr., 6-1, 235) also playing himself into contention.

"Robbie has gotten a lot stronger," Likness said. "He will be on the line, either on defense or offense."

Huber, Hunhoff and junior Connor Vlasman could see time at defensive end, as could Anderson or Hohenthaner.

Drotzmann and Cody Ulmer return with experience in the defensive secondary, with Sternhagen, Youngberg and Pasco also in the mix for playing time. Shaler, Wilcox, Fitzsimmons, Schroeder and Tacke are all in the discussion at safety.

"We have some pretty good depth at those spots," Likness noted.

While many players could see time on both sides of the ball, the goal is to have as few two-way starters as possible.

"Hopefully everybody finds a home," Likness said. "It would be nice to start 20 to 22 players and still have good special teams players. Hopefully with our depth we can do that, start a lot of guys."

Yankton's season gets off to a flourish, hitting the road for Rapid City Central Saturday, followed by the home opener against Brandon Valley Sept. 3. A road trip to Watertown follows, giving the Bucks two of the Eastern South Dakota Conference's perennial powers in the first three weeks of the season.

"Watertown and Brandon Valley are always tough. Pierre has been pretty good," Likness said. "Mitchell has some very good skill people back. Brookings graduated a lot, but they have a sophomore quarterback and a sophomore running back that were pretty good last year."

Yankton's other non-conference opponent, besides Rapid City Central, is Sioux Falls O'Gorman on Oct. 1.

"Rapid City Central and O'Gorman are both decent teams," Likness said.

The Bucks will hope to have their athleticism carry them as they continue to learn the game. "I like our quickness, strength and smarts on defense," he said. "On offense, we just need to get reps and find those guards."

## DANCE

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behind Sioux Falls Washington followed a state championship in the sport's inaugural season. Nelson and the Gazelles are hoping to get back to that level.

"We are very motivated," she said. "We have very high expectations."

Seniors on the team include Ashley Hatch, Becca Hebda, Brandi Becvar, Emily Healy, Jerrica Huber, Jessica Nelson, Jordan Koch,

Kelsey Moser, Steffi Hiltunen and Whitney Duarte. Juniors include Courtney Clark, Haley Haro, Lindsey Lien and Megan Hiltunen.

Alyssa Klimisch, Brandi Ballard, Brianna Shindler, Frae Binder, Jessica Winterringer, Jocelyn Moon, Katie Kotschegarow, Kennedy Bartunek, Mackenzie Larson, Paige Medeck, Sarah Pearson and Savannah Chambers are sophomores on the team. Freshmen include Elsie Kotalik, Hailey Luken, Kate Schaa, Lillie Tacke and Mariah LaCroix.

The Gazelles open the 2010 season Sept. 11 at home. State will be at Yankton's Summit Center for the third time in four years, on Nov. 13.

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Hartington Wildcat Football				
9/3/10	Wynot	H	10/1/10 Allen	H
9/10/10	Emerson Hubbard	A	10/8/10 Randolph	A
9/17/10	Bancroft Rosalie	A	10/15/10 Creighton	H
9/24/10	Osmond	H	10/22/10 Winside	A
Hartington Lady Wildcat Volleyball				
9/2/10	Wynot Tri.-Wynot	A	9/28/10 Wausa Tri.-Wakefield	A
9/2/10	Wynot Tri.-Newcastle	A	9/28/10 Wausa Tri.-Wausa	A
9/4/10	Holy Family Quad (4-Team Round Robin)	A	9/30/10 Plainview	A
Lindsay Holy Family			10/5/10 Laurel-Concord/Coleridge	A
9/7/10	Wausa	H	10/11/10 Randolph	A
9/14/10	Wynot	H	10/14/10 Newcastle Tri.-Panca	A
9/18/10	Creighton Tournament (4-Team Round Robin)	A	10/14/10 Newcastle Tri.-Newcastle	A
9/21/10	Bloomfield	A	10/16/10 Hartington Inv	H
9/23/10	Osmond	H	10/19/10 Winside	H
			10/25-10/29 L&C Conference	TBA

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Cedar Catholic Trojan Football				
9/2/10	Crofton	H	10/1/10 Neligh-Dakdale	A
9/10/10	Oakdale-Craig	A	10/8/10 Laurel-Concord	H
9/17/10	West Holt	H	10/15/10 Wakefield	H
9/24/10	Panca	A	10/22/10 Homer	A
Cedar Catholic Lady Trojan Volleyball				
9/2/10	Cedar Catholic Triangular		9/30/10 West Point Central Catholic	A
	Battle Creek	H	10/7/10 Bloomfield	A
9/2/10	Cedar Catholic Triangular		10/12/10 St. Mary's	A
	Elkhorn Valley	H	10/14/10 Boone Central	H
9/7/10	Cedar Catholic Triangular		10/19/10 Wakefield Triangular	A
	Crofton	A	Emerson-Hubbard	A
9/07/10	Madison Triangular		10/19/10 Wakefield Triangular	A
	Madison	A	Wakefield	A
9/09-9/11	Wakefield Tournament	A	10/22/10 Cedar Catholic Triangular	A
9/14/10	Norfolk Catholic	H	O'Neill	H
9/16/10	Lutheran High Northeast	H	10/22/10 Cedar Catholic Triangular	A
9/18/10	Stanton Invitational	A	Wayne	H
9/21/10	Pierce	A	10/25-10/26 Mid-State Conference	
9/23/10	Randolph	A	Norfolk Catholic/Pierce	
9/28/10	Battle Creek	H		