



GAZELLES: 2011 Yankton Dance Team Jazz Routine

Senior-Laden Dance Squad Set For Run At Warriors

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

A veteran lineup will look to put the Yankton Gazelles dance team over the top in its annual struggle with Sioux Falls Washington.

Washington has won the state dance title each of the past four seasons, but the Gazelles have remained right on their heels.

“Washington is always strong,” said Yankton head coach Tiffany Mueller. “They did lose some money from a year ago, so we’re not sure how that will play out, but they’re always strong competition.”

While the Gazelles have looked up at Washington in recent years, they’ve also seen the rest of the pack edge closer in their rear view.

“The other schools are getting stronger,” Mueller said.

Yankton will again look to keep itself near the top of the state dance ladder thanks to a group that includes eight seniors and four juniors. Seniors include Frae Binder, Alyssa Klimisch, Jocelyn Moon, Mackenzie Larson, Paige Medick, Jessica Winteringer, Sarah Pearson and Katie Kotschegarow. Juniors on the squad are Hailey Luken, Mariah LaCroix, Lillie Tacke and Elsie Kotalik.

“Practices are going really well,” said Mueller, in her first season as head coach. “We have a lot of strong leaders, so we should be as competitive as we have been in years past.”

Also on the roster are sophomore Beth Pearson and freshmen

Payton Pierce, Kirsten May, Alicia Gregoire and Keeley Kleinsasser.

The team began practice on July 30 with an emphasis on the fundamentals.

“We want to make sure our skills are up to par,” Mueller said. “We want to get every skill fine-tuned so that it shows through during our performances.”

The Gazelles will begin their season earlier than they have in years past, as they will open Aug. 28 in Watertown instead of at the Sept. 8 Yankton Invitational. The schedule change, though, has its advantages.

“I think it will be good to go somewhere else for the first meet,” Mueller said. “We’ll have a trial run before we come home to compete. We can see how the girls handle it.”

Another change is a shorter season. Instead of ending the season in November, on the same weekend as the state football finals, the Gazelles will compete at state on Oct. 20, a full three weeks sooner.

After the long season took its toll on athletes toward the end of last season, the Gazelles are not taking any chances — even with the season being three weeks shorter.

“One of the things we are doing is making sure we’re stretching well,” Mueller said. “We’ve been working on conditioning to keep everyone healthy. Hopefully we won’t have as many injuries.”

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904

YHS Golf

From Page 2

“We were trying to be in the top half of the conference, and we got fourth,” said Yankton head coach Brett Sime. “We were trying to finish in the top eight at state, but in the back of the mind we were shooting for the top six.”

“That propelled a lot of kids to go out and play a lot of golf this summer, to improve on what we did last year.”

All six of the Bucks’ state tournament golfers from a year ago returned. Junior Ben Jensen, who was on the Bucks’ tourney team in 2010 but was hurt last season, is also back this season.

“Jace (Guthmiller) has played in three state tournaments, which (Schlingman) has played in two,” Sime said. “Everyone else has played in at least one, and they all played in a lot of summer events. They have a lot of tournament experience.”

Besides Jensen, the Bucks return juniors Lane Sawatzke, Brandon Frick and Logan Megard.

Guthmiller and Schlingman are returning sophomores. Freshman

Mason Sundleaf also returns after playing varsity a year ago.

The Bucks will host the ESD Championships at Fox Run this fall, an event they hope to make a run at.

“Being able to play at home is nice,” Sime said. “When we made our run of ESD Championships a few years back it started at home.”

What also started during that time was a run of six straight top-three finishes at state, a run the Bucks would like to restart as well.

“O’Gorman is going to be really good. They are probably the team to beat in the state,” Sime said. “Pierce didn’t lose a lot of kids, and Stevens is always tough.”

But Yankton could be in that mix as well, Sime noted.

“We have a group that will hope will want to contend for conference and state titles, and are willing to work for it,” he said.

Yankton opened the season with a third place tie at the Lynx Invitational, hosted by Brandon Valley High School. Guthmiller led Yankton, shooting a 71 to tie for fifth.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904

Gazelles Cheer Hungry For More After Runner-Up Finish

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

james.cimburek@yankton.net

After coming just a half-point shy of first in their division at state a year ago, the Yankton Gazelles competitive cheer squad is looking to build on that success.

The Gazelles return nine seniors from a team that finished just behind Aberdeen Central in the stunting/non-tumbling large group division and fifth in the overall standings. Those seniors have been key to keeping the team working hard during those tough first weeks of practice, according to co-coach Angie Luken.

“Our seniors have been absolutely fantastic with their leadership,” said Luken, who has shared coaching duties with Kerry Svatos since competitive cheer became a sanctioned sport in South Dakota in 2007. “We’ve been able to put our routine together more quickly, which we need to because of the earlier start of the season.”

Seniors for the Gazelles include Savannah Chambers, Kayle Diefelderfer, Noemi Nino, Morgan Privett, Logan Ramey, Cyndal Sathe, Allyssa Schroeder, Regan Specht and Michaela Trail.

The Gazelles have typically had nearly a month of practice before taking the floor at the Yankton Invitational. This year, the Watertown Invitational pops up on the schedule a full two weeks ahead of Yankton’s event. Luken, though, considers the changed schedule a positive for several reasons.

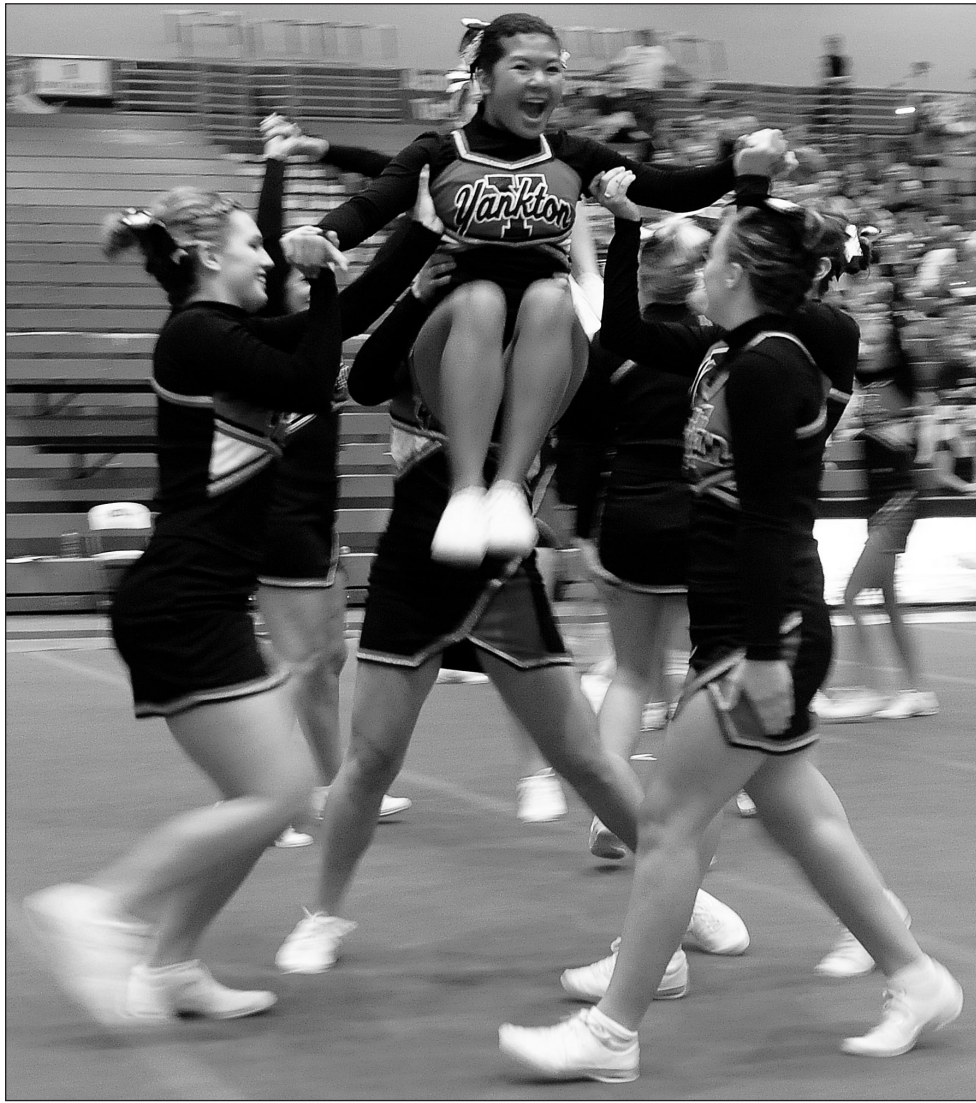
“Normally we get four or five weeks (before the first event), and that gets to be too long,” she said. “This year we go to a competition after three weeks, which has focused the kids and focused us (coaches). We’ve started cleaning up our routine sooner.”

Having the first event be away from home also has its advantages.

“I think (opening away from home) is good for the kids,” Luken said. “There are a lot of nerves when we are at home. Last year we got disqualified at home because we hadn’t worked out all the kinks. This year we can work out the kinks before the home crowd can see them.”

The ability to bring in young athletes who have cheer experience. A third of this year’s squad has trained with River City Cheer in Yankton during the off-season, including several eighth graders who are in their first year of competition with YHS.

“We’re not as green (to start the season) as we have been in previous years,” Luken said. “We only have three on the team that



GAZELLES: 2011 Yankton Cheer Squad

are new to cheer — everyone else has either been with us or River City Cheer. The kids already know a lot of the basics.”

Juniors for the Gazelles include Brooke Lange, Jessica Popovich and Gabrielle Swenson. Bailey Franzen, Jessica Kotschegarow and Kelsey Rokahr are sophomores. Jenna Trail is the lone freshman on the roster. Eighth graders include Cherree Becvar, Britney Bradwisch, Kaitlin Guthmiller, Elle Hiltunen and Kolbi Kennedy.

Other than changes to the starting and ending dates — state is now Oct. 20 in Watertown — there were only minor changes to the rules for this season, according to Luken.

“The changes come down to some basic

tweaking,” she said. “They’ve learned to streamline things, make them as safe as possible for the kids. There is a good flow to state at this point.”

The Gazelles go into the Aug. 28 debut in Watertown with the goal of building towards the top of their division.

“We have a good routine that needs a lot of polishing and work at this point,” Luken said. “But our degree of difficulty to start the season is higher than it has been in a couple of years. That’s because of the experience we have.”

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904

Tennis: Young Gazelles Squad Takes The Court

Yankton Has One Senior, One Junior On The Roster

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

EDITOR’S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the Aug. 17 edition of the Press & Dakotan. It has been updated to reflect the on-going season.

With just one senior and one junior among the dozen girls in practice for the Yankton Gazelles, the squad won’t take a lot of experience to the court when they opened the girls’ tennis team on Aug. 17. But coach Ginger Larsen expects that the experience the Gazelles gain — along with the experience they return — will get them ready to go by the time state rolls around in early October.

The Gazelles opened the season 1-2 in a quadrangular held Aug. 17-18 at the YHS/SAC Tennis Courts.

Senior Sarah Santos, junior Taylor Rothenberger and sophomore Sarah Rockne return with experience from last year’s squad. Rockne finished third at flight five singles, and teamed with Rothenberger to advance to the consolation finals at flight three doubles. Santos competed at flight six singles.

“We’ve got a good nucleus,” Larsen said. “They’ve come in with great attitudes. We do not have a lot of experience, but we’ve got great leadership.”



GAZELLES: Sarah Rockne

Besides the three returning letterwinners, Yankton has sophomores Jaclyn Anken, Alexa

Bryan, Kim Cap, Kaitlyn Frank and Madeleine Logue, eighth grader Anna Kokesh and seventh

Trails

From Page 1

Even after her graduation this past May, Grossenburg still plans on utilizing the trails to train. Except this time for the Division I level as she will be continuing her running career as a Jackrabbit at South Dakota State University this fall, competing in both cross country and track and field.

“I think it should help because

I’ve been running them a lot this summer,” she said. “I just feel like it will prepare me for some courses to come.”

For Less expectation than to be the top team once again, especially since the state meet will be held in Huron, a fairly heavy course compared to others in the state.

“We think by running those hills, we are going to increase our strength, increase our downhill technique, and it’s going to help us on that one day we need to run good on October 20 at the state meet,” Dannenbring said.

But with the change in scenery, coach Dannenbring scens hill training Tuesdays are also a way to shake up the daily routine and have some fun with the team.

“We get those hard runs in every week at a beautiful place, we stop at the Dairy Dock on the way back and have ice cream, and call it a great day.”

Hart. Cedar Cath. Trojans Football

8/31	Oakland-Craig	H	9/28	Lutheran High NE	A
9/7	Laurel-Concord-Coleridge	H	10/5	Battle Creek	H
9/14	Ponca	A	10/12	West Holt	A
9/21	Crofton	H	10/18	Wisner-Pilger	H

Hart. Cedar Cath. Trojans Volleyball

8/30	Battle Creek/Humphrey	9/25	Battle Creek	H
	St. Francis	9/27	Guardian Angels CC	A
9/1	Scotus Tourn.	10/9	O’Neill St. Mary’s	A
9/4	Madison/Crofton	10/11	Boone Central-Newman	
9/6-8	Wakefield Inv.		Grove	H
9/11	Norfolk Catholic	10/16	Emerson-Hubbard/	
9/13	Lutheran High NE		Wakefield	H
9/15	Stanton Tourn.	10/19	Wayne/O’Neill	Wayne
9/18	Pierce	10/22-26	Mid-State Conf.	Norfolk/Pierce
9/20	Randolph			

Hartington Shopper

Hartington, NE
(402) 254-7471
Check out this week’s advertising in the Hartington Shopper or at our Web site: www.hartingtonshopper.com

FARMERS & MERCHANTS STATE BANK

“We Have A Way With Money”
Bloomfield, NE
402-373-4321
www.fandmstatebank.com
Branches in
Hartington, Crofton,
Center & Niobrara

Hartington Wildcats Football

8/24	Humphrey	A	9/28	Winnabago	A
8/31	Bloomfield	H	10/5	Pender	H
9/7	Wynot	H	10/12	Randolph	H
9/22	Allen	A	10/19	Emerson-Hubbard	A

Hartington Wildcats Volleyball

8/30	Wynot Tourn.	Wynot	9/27	Plainview	A
9/1	Howells Tourn.	Howells	10/2	Laurel-Concord-Coleridge	A
9/4	Wausa	H	10/4	Allen	H
9/11	Wynot	H	10/8	Randolph	A
9/15	Creighton Tourn.	Creighton	10/11	Ponca/Walthill	Ponca
9/18	Bloomfield	A	10/13	Hartington Tourn.	Hartington
9/20	Osmond	A	10/16	Winside	H
9/25	Wausa/Wakefield	Wakefield	10/22-26	Lewis & Clark Conf.	TBD



PO Box 248 • 214 N. Broadway
Hartington, NE 68739
(402) 254-3549
www.steffendrug.com

