

# No Downside To Depth On Vikings Defensive Line

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) — When Minnesota's veteran defensive line-men are pulled from a game for a play or two to rest, the coaches are well-prepared for the response.

The summons to the sideline has often been greeted like a root canal. Or a debt collector. Or a week in seventh-grade detention.

So with the starters one year older and the Vikings even deeper at a position group already one of the team's strongest, well, these gripes are bound to grow louder.

"They know that at some point they're going to come out of the ball game," defensive coordinator Alan Williams said. "That's going to be the best thing for the team, not necessarily the best thing for their number of reps, but we want to make sure that we keep them fresh."

Jared Allen, the NFL's sack leader since he entered the league in 2004, has never been hesitant to voice his opposition to coming out of the game. Brian Robison has never been a fan of it, either. Part of what's re-

quired for effective pass rushing, of course, is a let-me-do-this attitude.

Backup Everson Griffen, who can play both end spots, is coming off a breakout season. He's 25. Allen is 30, and Robison is 30. No matter how many tackles for loss the starters rack up, those ages are just as important of numbers in this playing time equation.

"They are all fierce competitors, and they are all incredibly tough guys," defensive line coach Brendan Daly said. "They're in great physical condition, and they have a little bit of a sense of invincibility for lack of a better term, that they can go all day every day."

Backup nose tackle Fred Evans has been challenging Letroy Guion. Stalwart under tackle Kevin Williams will turn 33 next week, and the Vikings drafted his replacement, Sharif Floyd, in the first round. So the job share is as inevitable there as anywhere. The Vikings have said they'd prefer Williams to take only 30 to 40 snaps per game, which could

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JARED ALLEN

only be half of a given contest. Last season, Williams often played about 70 percent of the downs.

"If we can get what we are expecting from Sharif ... we should get more quality from him over time," coach Leslie Frazier said.

The other issue here is contracts: Williams, Allen and Robison are all playing on expiring deals. So is Griffen, but his age and ascending production have put him in prime territory for an extension. Floyd, of course, will be around for a while. If the incumbents aren't new contracts, well, the Vikings better have ready-made replacements for 2014.

"The more pass rushers you can get, the more you want. You never want to turn down pass rushers. You need them," Frazier said.

Allen has long been the most vocal about his disinterest in coming off the field, and he has won many arguments with his bosses. Last year, for instance, with the Vikings making a surprise push for a playoff spot, he played 72 of 78 snaps (92 percent) against Chicago on Dec. 9 after taking 80 of 82 snaps (98 percent) at Green Bay the week before.

"If you're good enough to be the starter, you're the starter. And I've always been a firm believer in that,"

Allen said.

He has acknowledged his respect of the rotation strategy, but only to a point.

"You have to have depth because of injuries. You have to have depth because guys do get tired. You can't expect a 315-pound guy to play 80 snaps a game. I understand that," Allen said. "My philosophy is when you starting rotating left tackles, you can start rotating me."

His resistance to relief is rooting in a belief in the importance of rhythm. Allen needs to develop a feel for the way his teammates are rushing around him during a game, and he's also intent on breaking whatever flow his opponent has going.

"That guy across from you, you know he's not in as good of shape as you are so you know you have a chance, and that's when things can spark and things can happen," Allen said. "You never know when that one play is going to be. I always feel I give our team a chance when I have an opportunity to make that play."

## Yankton Coed Softball Honorees

**REC DIVISION SPORTSMANSHIP** (left): The Sacred Heart Church Holy Hitters received the sportsmanship trophy for the Recreational division of the Yankton Parks & Rec coed softball league. Team members include (front) Liz Wortman, Katie Ryan, Kyrsten Tramp, Samantha Plantenburg, Abbi Hegge, (back) Kelli Bellmer, Norm Herman, Sam Stanage, Sean Cordell, Jeremy Plantenburg, Kenny Plantenburg, Jake Stanage and Craig Bruening. Not pictured are Martha Holstein, Daryl Mello and Grace Haberman.



**REC DIVISION CHAMPS:** Ferdig's Transmission won the Yankton Parks & Rec regular season and tournament title in the Recreational division. Team members include (front) Brian Huber, Chris Ferdig, (middle) Becky Koupal, Steph Ulmer, Miranda Tjeerdsma, Carin Huber, Lindsey Ulmer, (back) Brittany Ulmer, Arnie Burton, Beau Bunkers, Brian Wenisch, Bev Karstens, Jason Pearson, Libby Ferdig, Mike Karstens and Alex Slagle. Not pictured is Greg Rothschadl.



**POWER DIVISION REGULAR SEASON CHAMPS:** Dakota Trailer/CorTrust won the Yankton Parks & Rec coed softball Power Division regular season title. Team members include (front) Monica Arens, Keely Schild, Becca Wirth, Kayla Salonen, McKenzie Fitzgerald, (back) Mitch Svanda, Tyler Carda, Chris Stucky, Blake Carda and Cole Drotzmann. Not pictured are Rachel Termansen and Logan Smith.



**POWER DIVISION TOURNNEY CHAMPS:** Special Day Limousine won the Yankton Parks & Rec coed softball Power division tournament. Team members include (front) Steph Anderson, Scott Enfield, Jeff Steppat, Rae Slowey, (back) Carla Steppat, Miranda Leusink, Cassie Johnson, Mitch Johnson, Corey Enfield, Ramon Romero, Kat Romero, Abby Dickes, Michelle Boese and Jason Kral.



**POWER DIVISION SPORTSMANSHIP:** Marquardt Transportation was awarded the sportsmanship trophy for the Yankton Parks & Rec coed softball Power division. Team members include (front) Chantel Fischer, Stacy Zeigler, Megan Schmidt, Brittany Cihak, (back) Steve Metteer, Mallory Wriedt, Doug Marquardt, Brian Fejfar, Josh Lynde, Clint Scheuring, Lance Gamar and Erin Brown. Not pictured are Tyler Behrns, Zach Weiss, Tim Lynde, Andrea Ryken and Katie Behrns.



## YHS Grad Named To Mines Staff

RAPID CITY — Ketty (Cornemann) Paula has been named an assistant women's basketball coach for South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, the institution announced on Monday.

Paula joins the staff of new head coach Ryan Larsen, who spent the past several years as an assistant at the University of South Dakota.

"I am thankful and excited for the opportunity to join coach Larsen and the Lady Hardrocker basketball team," Paula said. "South Dakota Mines is a first-class institution and I look forward to working with the student-athletes and committed staff."

Paula has a very impressive basketball background, as a standout guard at South Dakota State from 2006-2010. She was the SDSU team captain from 2008-2010 and helped the Lady Jacks make trips to the WNIT and NCAA Women's Basketball Tournaments.

"I am extremely excited to have Ketty join the Lady Hardrocker basketball program," Larsen said. "Ketty will bring a wealth of knowledge to the team and to me from her playing experiences."

Paula, isn't new to the South Dakota Mines women's basketball program as she served as a volunteer coach during the 2011-12 season under former Lady Hardrocker head coach Barb Felderman.

"Ketty's personality, competitive nature and values will enrich all aspects of Lady Hardrocker basketball," Larsen added.

Before arriving at South Dakota Mines, Paula was a physical education and health teacher at Southwest Middle School in Rapid City for the past three years as well as the freshmen and varsity assistant girls basketball coach at Rapid City Stevens.

Paula was a three-sport athlete for SDSU. She was a standout player for the SDSU women's volleyball team and threw the discus and javelin on the SDSU women's track and field team.

Paula is a 2006 graduate of Yankton High School, where she helped the Gazelles to their first state volleyball title in 2005. She was also a four-year letterwinner in basketball, helping the Gazelles to three state tournament appearances, and a state placewinner in track and field.

## State Amateur: Winner-Colome Ends Lesterville's Season

**BY JEREMY HOECK**  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This game was not completed by press time late Sunday night.*

SIOUX FALLS — The run is over. Twenty years after its last state tournament win, Lesterville saw its season come to an end Sunday night in the second round of the State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament at Sioux Falls Stadium.

Winner-Colome got started early

and cruised to a 10-3 victory.

It was a bittersweet finish for the Broncs (13-12), who hadn't been to state since 1997 — and hadn't won a game there since 1993.

"Our goal was to get here and we did better than we expected to do," said catcher Zach Johnson, a former Yankton American Legion player who went 1-3 with two walks.

Lesterville was hampered most by wasted opportunities, to the tune of 13 runners left on base — not to mention one extra base hit out.

"We've struggled with that all

year," Johnson said. "For whatever reason, those hits don't come for us."

And so, the season ends for the Broncs, who were clear about their goal from the start of the season: To reach state.

"We made a good run at the end of the year to even get here, so these guys deserve everything we've done," manager Kevin Bloch said. "We just ran into a really good

Alex Wagner, another one of Lesterville's many Yankton players,

didn't fare so well on the mound at the onset.

The right-hander allowed seven runs on six hits, with six walks and two strikeouts, in 2 2/3 innings.

Wagner was roughed up for four runs in the top of the first inning — not helped by three walks, an error behind him and a wild pitch.

The Broncos gave themselves plenty of chances, but that one crucial, timely hit evaded them. Lester-

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## Tyndall Wins VFW Baseball Title

HARRISBURG — Another state baseball championship is headed to Tyndall.

Tyndall's 15-16 year-old baseball team won the VFW Teener Class A State Tournament with a 12-2 victory over Groton in Sunday's title game in Harrisburg.

Tyndall, which finished the season 16-6, stole 10 bases in the championship game. Chase Kortan went 3-3 with four runs scored and four steals, while Cole Uecker and Jon Barrett each added two hits.

Hunter Young and Zach Sutera combined to allow two

runs on four hits on the mound.

The majority of the Tyndall players were on the 13-14 year-old Teener team in 2011 that won a state championship — those same players also have other state titles to their credit, according to head coach Gary Kortan.

"In a scenario where one bad game ends your season, the boys handled that pressure extremely well and they know all the competition wants to knock them off," he said.

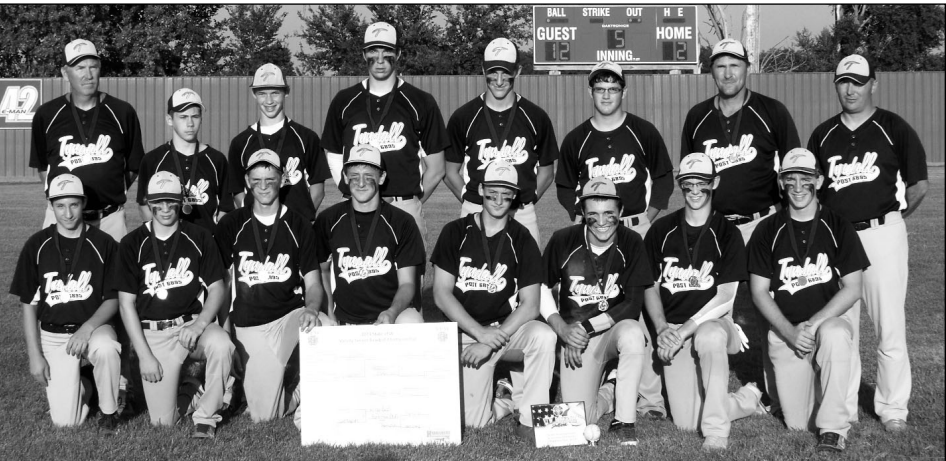
Tyndall advanced to the final with a 7-2 semifinal win

over Vermillion, thanks to a 5-run top of the seventh inning. Chase Kortan struck out nine batters in six innings, while Andrew Roland singled twice.

In the opening round, Tyndall defeated Dell Rapids — the only team to beat Tyndall in its class this season, Kortan said.

Young got the win with seven strikeouts in four innings. Alex Caba led the offense with three RBI.

According to Kortan, Tyndall will return seven starters next year and "will be in good position to compete at the top once again."



**Tyndall's 15-16 VFW Teener baseball team won the State Class A Tournament on Sunday in Harrisburg.** Team members include (front, L-R) Chase O'Grady, Alex Caba, Zach Sutera, Tanner VanWinkle, Hunter Young, Chase Kortan, Andrew Roland, Carter Mecham, (back) coach Rusty Roland, Duncan Stoebner, Cole Uecker, Jon Barrett, Brendan Bares, Josh Vaith, coach Kevin Vellek and head coach Gary Kortan.