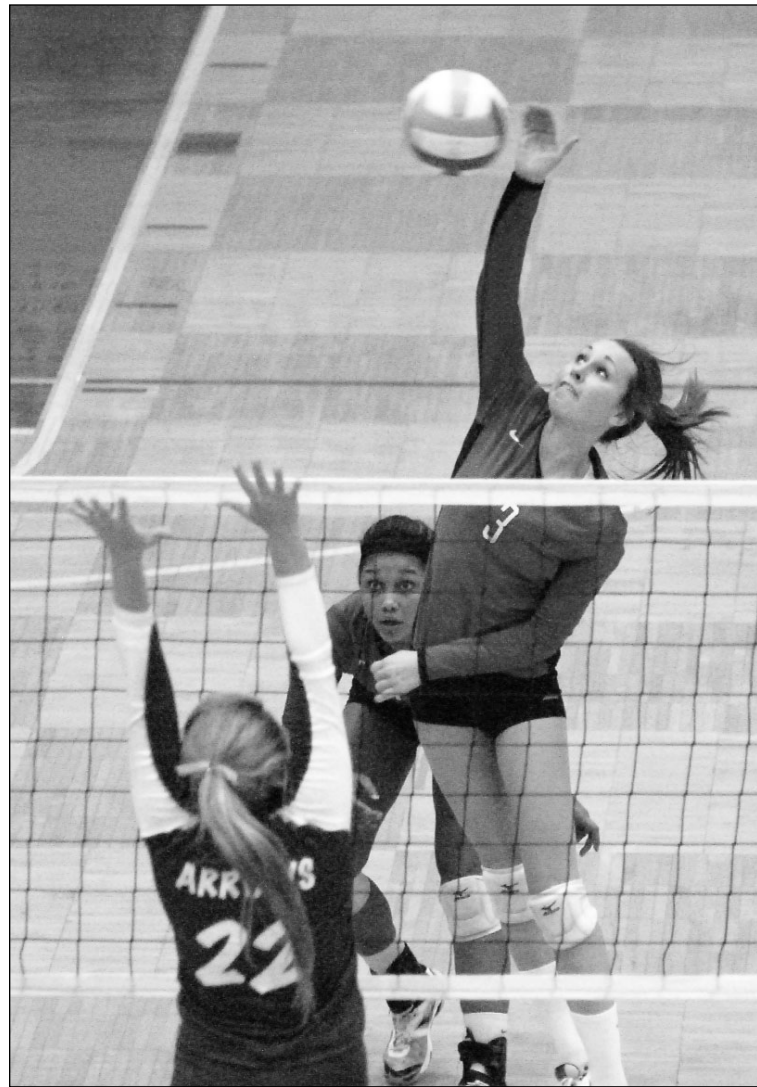


YHS Volleyball: Beste Focused On Defense In First Season At Helm



Brooke Wuebben (3)

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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For her first year as Yankton head volleyball coach, Tiffany Beste is working to revamp the defensive aspect for the Gazelles volleyball team.

"The way I've always coached is always very defensive-minded," Beste said. "I would say in the past, the Gazelles have focused more on the offensive side of the game, so that might be a little more of an adjustment for the girls."

Beste spent seven years coaching Watertown and was a volunteer assistant for the Gazelles last year, and said that will help her as she pushes for a defensive mindset.

"I saw the things they were doing, and I saw where the girls were at last year," she said. "As I've grown as a coach, I've come to determine that if you're strong offensively, other teams can stop that. They can put a block up and they can control your offense. If you're strong defensively, nobody can take that away from you."

"I want us to be consistent offensively, I want us to be aggressive offensively, but I don't want to rely on our offense to win us the game. I know we're losing a couple girls, but I don't want us to take a step back on that side of the game."

Power-hitters Mikala Hora and Kelsey Fitzgerald are now gone from the team due to graduation, but Beste said she was more worried about losing them as team leaders. "For so many years those girls

were part of the varsity program, and they were just two leaders on the team last year," she said. "Our seniors have done a phenomenal job of stepping up, being leaders for the younger girls and being great role models for them. Our seniors put in a ton of time doing workouts over the summer, which was really good for the younger girls to see."

The Gazelles will return senior Brooke Wuebben, who has varsity experience, as well as sophomore Becky Frick, who also saw varsity playing time, Beste said.

"We were very reliant going to Mikala and Kelsey, but the girls have done a really nice job working all summer at becoming more consistent as hitters, being more aggressive offensively and not just putting the ball in play," Beste said. "They're looking to pick up points for the team, and they're really doing a nice job to fill those holes that we have."

Beste has also set high goals looking forward to the season, hoping to be in the top half of Eastern South Dakota Conference (ESD) and qualifying for the state tournament.

"There are a lot of people who don't know for sure what to expect out of us because we did have such a high turnover," she said. "Aiming to get in the top half of ESD might be a big goal for this upcoming year, but it's still an ultimate goal for us."

"Everyone would like to see us make the state tournament, and that might be a very large goal too, because our region is very competitive, but those are all goals you ultimately

Gazelles Volleyball		
8/30	@Watertown	7 p.m.
9/3	S.F. Lincoln	7 p.m.
9/5	@Huron	7 p.m.
9/7	Pierre	5 p.m.
9/12	@Brookings	7 p.m.
9/14	Mitchell	2:30 p.m.
9/17	@Brandon Valley	7 p.m.
9/24	@S.F. Roosevelt	7 p.m.
9/28	Aberdeen Central	5 p.m.
10/1	Harrisburg	7 p.m.
10/4	@Pierre	7 p.m.
10/8	Huron	7 p.m.
10/10	@Mitchell	7 p.m.
10/12	Watertown	2:30 p.m.
10/17	@Harrisburg	7 p.m.
10/19	Brookings	2:30 p.m.
10/21	@S.F. O'Gorman	7 p.m.
10/22	Brandon Valley	7 p.m.
10/26	@Aberdeen Central	5 p.m.
10/29	S.F. Washington	7 p.m.
11/4	District 2AA Play-In	7 p.m.
11/5	District 2AA 1st Round	7 p.m.
11/9	District 2AA 2nd Round	7 p.m.
11/14	Region 1AA	7 p.m.

State AA Tournament — 11/21-23 at Mitchell

have to aim for. You have to figure out what your purpose is."

But Beste is still grateful for the program she has been lucky enough to step into, she said.

"I'm lucky to be following behind coach Woodward. She's done a really nice job with the Yankton program," she said. "I'm grateful to have the opportunity to be in the head coach position, and I'm really looking forward to the next few months of volleyball."

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/ENiebrugge

Yankton | Bucks Football

Young Talent, New Class Reasons For Optimism

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Yankton football program has the smallest senior class during the tenure of head coach Arlin Likness. Among the graduation losses was the program's all-time leading passer, several of its season-leaders in tackles, as well as two top rushers and some of the team's top receivers.

Yet there is more optimism surrounding the 2013 season than the Bucks — or their fans — have seen in recent years.

Yankton returns four starters on offense and five on defense from a 7-4 team that will not have to go through Sioux Falls to make it to the state finals. The Sioux Falls public schools have accounted for the last seven Class 11AA champions. Including O'Gorman, Sioux Falls won nine straight titles, with Spearfish (2003) being the last team outside the state's largest city to claim an 11AA title.

The Sioux Falls and Rapid City schools, Aberdeen Central and Brandon Valley now comprise the 11AAA class. Yankton will face four of those teams in consecutive weeks, beginning at Rapid City Stevens on Sept. 6.

"The regular season hasn't changed much for us, other than the schedule rotation: a couple off, a couple on," Likness said. "We're going to Rapid City. We'll still see a Sioux Falls school."

And while Yankton could win a state title without beating an 11AAA team, senior J.J. Hejna wants the Bucks to set the bar higher.

"It's not going to mean anything if we don't beat those teams," he said. "We still have four 11AAA games on our schedule, and our goal is to be the best team we can be every week."

Hejna (6-4, 200) is a key cog on both sides of the ball. The former state placekicker had 21 catches for 357 yards and three scores on offense last season, and posted 76 tackles, five interceptions and a fumble recovery on defense last season. The third-year starter has stepped into a leadership role this season, according to Likness.

"It's a day and night difference in leadership and confidence," he said of Hejna.

Among Hejna's experiences this summer was an individual camp at the University of Michigan.

"It was great to meet coaches at that level, learn some of the little things," he



Levi Davis (21, far left) and Jordan Lightner (36)

said. "Their facilities are amazing. They have two big indoor facilities, then the 'Big House.' It was just a great opportunity."

The Bucks get back juniors Levi Davis (5-10, 170; 107-734 yards rushing, 5 TD; 9-62 receiving) and Jordan Lightner (5-10, 220; 96-434 rushing, 7 TD; 14-120 receiving, 2 TD) in the backfield, with several others competing for time in the backfield: Eric Williams (Sr., 5-9, 150), Tanner Termansen (Sr., 6-0, 160), Ryan Sternhagen (Jr., 6-0, 165) and Parker Kuchta (Jr., 6-0, 150). Besides Lightner, those competing at fullback include Tim Cross (Jr., 6-0, 210), Sheldon Gant (So., 5-11, 170), Bradey Sorenson (So., 6-1, 200), Layne Droppers (Sr., 5-6, 170) and Cody Hanzlik (Sr., 5-8, 180).

"We could have some different formations with different groups of kids," Likness said.

With the graduation of three-year starter Michael Rucker, Mason Strahl (Jr., 6-0, 155) has moved himself up to the top of the depth chart at quarterback. Brady Hale (Jr., 6-3, 180), who was also in the mix at quarterback before an injury last week sidelined

him for a few weeks, and sophomore Reid Sawatzke (5-11, 145) could also fill the role if needed.

Hale could also be in the mix at split end, along with Hejna, Lee Rose (Jr., 6-0, 150), Termansen and Kuchta. Evan Greenway (Jr., 6-7, 215) will get the start at tight end, with Matt Fitzgerald (Jr., 6-4, 185) and Hejna also in the mix.

Steven McKee (Sr., 6-1, 240) returns at right tackle as the lone starter back from a year ago. Alex Dangler (Sr., 6-0, 215) and Ty Hauger (Sr., 5-10, 210) will see time at right guard, with Landon Binder (So., 6-0, 250) and Dangler handling center. Tackle Justin Meyers (Sr., 6-4, 275) and guard Nick LaFave (Jr., 5-10, 235) will anchor the left side. Alex Withrow (So., 6-0, 205), Tyler Kaiser (Jr., 6-0, 255) and Nick Raab (Jr., 6-4, 215) will also help out the Bucks on the line.

Defensively, the Bucks look to utilize their linebacker depth by going to a three-man front. McKee and Meyers will handle the nose, with Hauger, Sorenson and Cross anchoring the ends. Sorenson and Greenway are also expected to help out up front.

Fitzgerald, Hanzlik, Lightner and Davis will handle the linebacker spots, with Hejna, Droppers, Colin Muth (So., 5-11, 160), Gant and Colton Froehlich (Sr., 6-0, 170) also sharing time. Kuchta, Sternhagen, Hejna, Termansen and Williams will be utilized in the secondary, with George Hite (Jr., 5-10, 155), Rose, Blake Savey (So., 6-0, 150), Hale and Strahl also able to help out.

After missing the end of the 2012 season due to injury, Lane Sawatzke (Sr., 6-2, 175) returns as the Bucks' kicker. Termansen and Gant will share punting duties, with Williams, Termansen, Kuchta

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Bucks Football					
8/31	Mitchell	7 p.m.	10/18	@Harrisburg	7 p.m.
9/6	@R.C. Stevens	6 p.m. CT	10/31	First Round	
9/13	Brandon Valley	7 p.m.	11/8	Finals	
9/20	@Aberdeen Cent.	7 p.m.			
9/27	O'Gorman (HC)	7 p.m.			Class 11AA Finals
10/4	@Watertown	7 p.m.			11/15 at Vermillion
10/11	Pierre	7 p.m.			

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Avon Pirates/Lady Pirates					
Football					
8/30	@Burke/South Central (Bonesteel)	7 p.m.	9/27	@Canistota	7 p.m.
9/6	Gregory (at S. Falls)	1 p.m.	10/4	Gayville-Volin	7 p.m.
9/13	Scotland	7 p.m.	10/11	@Marty Indian	2 p.m.
9/20	Tripp-Delmont-Armour	7 p.m.	10/24	Andes Central	7 p.m.
Volleyball					
8/31	@Bon Homme	6:30 p.m.	10/5	Marion Inv.	9 a.m.
9/3	Parkston	6:15 p.m.	10/7	Mitchell Christian	6:15 p.m.
9/5	Andes Central	6:30 p.m.	10/8	@Burke-South Central (Bonesteel)	6:30 p.m.
9/10	(Tripp)	6:30 p.m.	10/10	@Bridgewater-Emercy (Emercy)	6:15 p.m.
9/12	@Centerville	6:15 p.m.	10/17	Freeman	6:15 p.m.
9/17	Wagner	6:30 p.m.	10/21	Ethan	6:15 p.m.
9/19	@Hanson	6:15 p.m.	10/22	Corsica-Stickney	6:30 p.m.
9/21	Bridgewater-Emercy Tourn.		10/25	Memo	6:15 p.m.
9/26	Irene-Wakonda	7:30 p.m.	10/28	@Gayville-Volin	6:15 p.m.
10/1	Scotland	6:15 p.m.			
Cross Country					
8/31	Mitchell Inv.	10 a.m.	9/23	Bon Homme Inv.	2 p.m.
9/7	Corsica-Stickney Inv.	9 a.m.	9/28	Platte-Geddes Inv.	10 a.m.
9/11	Freeman Academy Inv.	3 p.m.	10/2	Parker Inv.	2 p.m.
9/18	Freeman Inv.	1 p.m.	10/9	Irene-Wakonda Inv.	3 p.m.
9/21	Wagner Inv.	9 a.m.			

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