

School-Affiliation Provides Big, Small Changes For Yankton Soccer

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

When the Yankton boys' and girls' soccer teams were leaving for Watertown for their Aug. 19 openers, they didn't load up into a bunch of cars, mini-vans and SUVs. They got on a bus that said "Yankton Bucks and Gazelles" on the side.

Transportation is just one of the many changes — both large and small — for the Yankton soccer programs as they transition a "club" sport to a fully-sanctioned high school program.

"Taking a bus, you wouldn't think that would be as big a deal as it is," said Yankton boys' soccer coach Warren Brenner, who coached the club high school team a year ago. "Before I would put that off on the parents. I didn't have that responsibility."

The Yankton teams and the Vermillion girls are among the many programs that made the jump to the South Dakota High School Activities Association programs prior to this season, the last that the South Dakota State Soccer Association would sponsor a fall "high school" league.

"I'm excited to see what happens," said Yankton senior Danielle Beckman. "It's something new that will show what we're capable of, how soccer can be a school sport."

Of the 17 teams in Class AA (Douglas does not sponsor soccer), only Aberdeen Central, Harrisburg, Huron, Mitchell and Sioux Falls O'Gorman were in the SDHSAA league a year ago. Tea Area, Garretson, Harrisburg, Sioux Falls Christian and St. Thomas More played SDHSAA soccer a year ago as well, as the state only sponsored one sanctioned division for boys and girls.

It's not just busses that the soccer teams have access to this year, noted Gazelles coach Tyler Schuring.



Yankton Gazelles players line up before starting lineups are introduced prior to the team's Aug. 22 match with Huron, the first home match of the season. This is the first season that Yankton High School has sponsored boys' and girls' soccer. The team competed at as a "club" squad in prior seasons.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

"We have access to a trainer," he said. "We also have access to the weight room and the track. That definitely helps out."

The Yankton Youth Soccer Association has administered the club high school soccer programs in the past, and have been helpful in the transition, according to Yankton School District activities director Ryan Mors.

"We have had several meetings with the soccer association," he said. "There is a lot of coordinating to do, but I think we're there. "But I'm sure there are things that will come up."

Student-athletes and their families noticed one big change right away. While YYSA charged a fee to participate, YHS cannot charge athletes to participate. YYSA, though,

is still helping pay for the soccer program, pledging \$100,000 over the first five years that YSD runs the program. The soccer association is asking for donations to cover that pledge.

Not charging student-athletes to participate has opened the door to a few more participants, especially in some communities.

"We had a couple more players

come out, as well as more response from the community," Brenner said.

While YSD cannot charge student-athletes to participate, it will charge fans admission, as it does for football, volleyball and basketball.

"In the past you could just show up. This year we will be charging admission," Mors said. "The field next to the road (field 3, the one with the lights), will be the varsity field, and the field to the west (field 2) will be where JV matches are held."

Fan parking will also be restricted to the open field to the east of the main soccer fields. Fans will only be able to enter from the east entrance to Lewis & Clark Soccer Park, located just to the north of Walmart.

When fans arrived, they were also treated to another change: a public address announcer who let fans know who scored each goal.

It will also provide changes to post-season play. Rather than playing an eight-team state tournament over three days, the eight-team post-season bracket will be spread over a 12-day period, with the first round on Sept. 30 and the championship match Oct. 11 in Mitchell.

"It's a quick season," Mors said. "They play two games every week, then the playoffs start at the end of September."

With all of the changes, both big and small, communication between the school, coaches, parents and student-athletes will be key.

"The biggest thing will be making parents aware of what is going on," Brenner said. "We have to have our paperwork, our policies in place. With the first year, there will always be hiccups."

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

Soccer: Gazelles Mix Experience, Youth Veteran Bucks Ready To Go

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the Aug. 19 edition of the Press & Dakotan. It has been updated to reflect the ongoing season.

With a good mix of veterans and younger talent, the Yankton Gazelles feel good about their first season under head coach Tyler Schuring. The Gazelles opened the 2014 season with a 0-0 tie at Watertown on Aug. 19, followed by a 10-0 victory over Huron on Aug. 22.

"Overall we lost one senior from last year," said Schuring, who coached the JV squad a year ago in the program's final season under the club banner. "We are right in that perfect age, where we're not all seniors and we have younger girls that will get the opportunity to gain experience."

"Yankton should be in a good position for the next few years."

The Gazelles return six seniors, five of which return on the defense: Danielle Beckman, Janae Osborne, Kendall Lillie, Elizabeth Rust and



Yankton's Taylor Ruter (left)

goalkeeper Raquel Cole. Taylor Ruter, a striker and midfielder, is also back for her senior season.

"The core of this team has been playing together for 10 years or so," Beckmann said. "We're doing fairly well."

Brianna Benjamin, the team's leading scorer a year ago, leads a strong junior class.

"Brianna was our scoring leader last year and played a lot of wing," Schuring said. "Haley Schild has some time in goal. She's picked it up well."

Juniors Amanda Gravholt, Amber Simek and Natalie Ferris also return. Another junior that was expected to contribute, Erin Luken, will

miss the season due to injury.

Sophomores Sophie Bisgard, Becca Moser and Haleigh Diede are also expected to be key contributors, according to Schuring. Madason Tessier, Madison Styles and Miranda Winteringer are also sophomores expected to contribute.

"We have a really strong team," said Ruter, who with Beckmann will serve as a team captain this season. "I think a lot of the younger girls are ready to take their spots."

With Yankton and several other soccer programs joining the SDHSAA, the path to a state championship changes, according to Schuring.

"It will be more of a challenge this year. We get Aberdeen Central and O'Gorman back, who had been sanctioned for years," he said. "We'll have the last two sanctioned champs and the last

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the Aug. 19 edition of the Press & Dakotan. It has been updated to reflect the ongoing season.

The Yankton Bucks boys' soccer team may be new to the South Dakota High School Activities Association. That doesn't mean they are new to soccer.

The Bucks boast nine seniors and veteran coach Warren Brenner as they opened the 2014 campaign with a 2-0 victory at Watertown on Aug. 19. Yankton followed with a 3-1 home victory over Huron on Aug. 22.

"We've been playing together for a long time," said senior defender Connor Chambers. "We get along very well."

Chambers will be expected to anchor the defense with the graduation of Derek Brenner a year ago.

"Connor has been in our defense for years," Coach Brenner said. "This year we want him to take a leadership role, and so far he's done that."

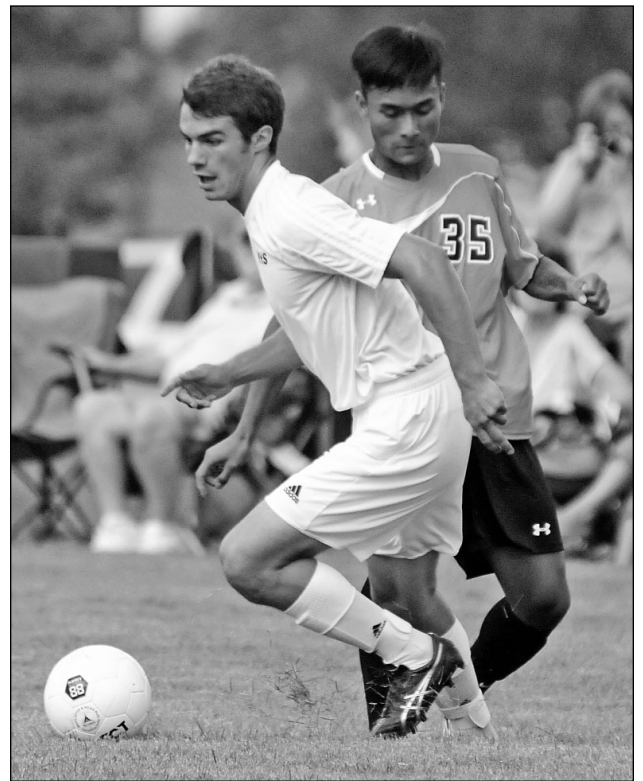
Senior midfielder John Dannenbring, who was injured during the state tournament a year ago, is also expected to be a leader for the squad.

"John is back into it," Brenner said. "Those two (John and Connor) will more than likely be our captains."

Striker Osmar Pacheco is again expected to be a force on offense.

"Osmar is up top again, now for his last year with us. We believe he will make a difference this year," Brenner said. "Add Chase Huber (Sr., Striker) and Dylan Becker (Sr., Striker), and we have a lot of offensive attack this year."

"We expect to be solid on defense, and we should place



Yankton's John Dannenbring (front)

the ball in the net this year as well."

Seniors Ethan Klimisch (MF/D), Jameson Mitchell (MF), Spencer Schade (MF), Patrick Weinandt (MF) and Alex Wieseler (MF/D) return, as do juniors Cody Perakslis (D) and Jared Rafferty (MF/D).

A trio of sophomores will be asked to play key roles.

"Treyson Slate got his feet wet last year, and this year will be a key player on defense," Brenner said. "Cole Lewno sorta got his feet wet, playing a little varsity, but he has worked hard this summer. He's a striker that has worked really hard."

"Gabe Wenzlaff is not very

big for a goalkeeper, but he is very aggressive and he's quick on his feet."

YHS BOYS | PAGE 6A

Heritage Health Mart
PHARMACY

Freeman
(605) 925-4510

Bridgewater
(605) 729-2744

Menno
(605) 387-5641

HOME FEDERAL BANK

Freeman
605-925-4239 | 800-244-2149
www.homefederal.com
Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender

FREEMAN FLYERS

Football

Aug. 29	vs. Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian	(7 p.m.)
Sept. 5	at Menno-Marion	Marion (7 p.m.)
Sept. 12	at Canistota	(7 p.m.)
Sept. 19	vs. Corsica-Stickney	(7 p.m.)
Sept. 26	at Mount Vernon-Plankinton	Mount Vernon (7 p.m.)
Oct. 10	vs. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	(7 p.m.)
Oct. 17	at Hanson	(7 p.m.)
Oct. 23	vs. Howard	(7 p.m.)
Oct. 28	Playoffs First Round	TBD
Nov. 3	Playoffs Quarterfinals	TBD
Nov. 8	State Championships	TBD
Nov. 13	State Finals	Vermillion (1:30 p.m.)

Volleyball

Sept. 2	vs. Irene-Wakonda	Oct. 7	at Andes Central
Sept. 4	at Howard	Oct. 9	vs. Bon Homme
Sept. 8	vs. Scotland	Oct. 14	at Canistota
Sept. 11	at Gayville-Volin	Oct. 16	vs. Avon
Sept. 16	vs. Bridgewater-Emery	Oct. 21	at Hanson
Sept. 18	vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour	Oct. 24	vs. Centerville
Sept. 25	vs. Marion	Oct. 27	vs. Menno
Sept. 27	Pentagon Classic (SF)	Oct. 30	at Alcester-Hudson
Sept. 29	at Parkston	Nov. 4-7	District 9B (Parker)
Oct. 2	vs. Ethan	Nov. 11	Region 5B
Oct. 6	vs. Dell Rapids St. Mary	Nov. 20-22	State B at Mitchell

Cross Country

Aug. 29	Beresford Inv.	Bridges GC, Beresford (10 a.m.)
Sept. 2	McCook Central-Montrose Inv.	Salem (4:15 p.m.)
Sept. 11	DeSmet Inv.	DeSmet (4 p.m.)
Sept. 17	Freeman Inv.	Valley View GC, Freeman (1 p.m.)
Sept. 18	Parents Night	(7 p.m.)
Sept. 22	Bon Homme Inv.	Bon Homme GC, Tyndall (2 p.m.)
Sept. 24	Combelt Conf.	Par Mar GC, Parker (1 p.m.)
Oct. 1	Parker Inv.	Par Mar GC, Parker (2 p.m.)
Oct. 3	Lennox Inv.	Lenkota GC, Lennox (2 p.m.)
Oct. 8	Irene-Wakonda/TVC Inv.	Glenridge GC, Irene (3 p.m.)
Oct. 15	Region 3B	Valley View GC, Freeman (1 p.m.)
Oct. 25	State Meet	Broadland Creek GC, Huron (1 p.m.)

YHS GIRLS | PAGE 6A

MERCHANTS STATE BANK

"Your Hometown Bank Since 1899"

Freeman • 925-4222
Irene • 263-0170
Hurley • 238-5255
Viborg • 766-4255

Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender
www.msb-sd.com

Freeman Regional
HEALTH SERVICES

510 East 8th St. • Freeman, SD
605-925-4000
Good Luck Team!

FREEMAN ACADEMY BOBCATS

Boys' Soccer

Aug. 26	vs. Sioux Falls Christian	
Aug. 30	vs. Hot Springs	TBA
Sept. 2	vs. James Valley Christian	(6 p.m.)
Sept. 5	vs. Mitchell Christian-Mount Vernon-Sanborn Cen.	(5:30 p.m.)
Sept. 15	at James Valley Christian	(5 p.m.)
Sept. 20	vs. Groton Area	(3 p.m.)
Sept. 23	at Yankton	(8 p.m.)
Sept. 25	at Mitchell Chr.-Mt. Vernon-Sanborn Cent.	Mitchell (5 p.m.)
Sept. 30	Class A Quarterfinals	TBD
Oct. 4	Class A Semifinals	TBD
Oct. 11	Class A Championship	Mitchell

Volleyball

Aug. 26-28	Hanson Tour.	Oct. 6	vs. Marion
Sept. 2	vs. Dakota Christian	Oct. 9	vs. Centerville
Sept. 4	vs. Menno	Oct. 14	at Viborg-Hurley(V)
Sept. 9	at Dell Rapids St. Mary	Oct. 16	vs. Marty Indian
Sept. 11	vs. Hendricks, Minn.	Oct. 18	Andes Central Tour
Sept. 13	at ORR (Rutland)	Oct. 28	Mitchell Chr./at JVC
Sept. 16	at Irene-Wakonda (W)	Nov. 4-7	District 9B (Parker)
Sept. 18	vs. Baltic/Gayville-Volin	Nov. 11	Region 5B
Sept. 22	vs. Alcester-Hudson	Nov. 20-22	State B at Mitchell
Oct. 2-4	TVC Tour.		

Cross Country

Aug. 29	Beresford Inv.	Bridges GC, Beresford (10 a.m.)
Sept. 2	McCook Central-Montrose Inv.	Salem (4:15 p.m.)
Sept. 5	Augie Twilight	Yankton Trails Park, Sioux Falls (7:30 p.m.)
Sept. 10	Freeman Academy Inv.	Valley View GC, Freeman (4 p.m.)
Sept. 13	Augie Meet of Champions	Yankton Trails Park, SF (9:30 a.m.)
Sept. 17	Freeman Inv.	Valley View GC, Freeman (1 p.m.)
Sept. 22	Alcester-Hudson Inv.	Alcester GC (4 p.m.)
Sept. 27	Platte-Geddes Inv.	Platte (10 a.m.)
Oct. 1	Parker Inv.	Par Mar GC, Parker (2 p.m.)
Oct. 8	Irene-Wakonda/TVC Inv.	Glenridge GC, Irene (3 p.m.)
Oct. 15	Region 3B	Valley View GC, Freeman (1 p.m.)
Oct. 25	State Meet	Broadland Creek GC, Huron (1 p.m.)