



Yankton Dance Team (2013 Jazz Routine)

## Young Gazelles Dance Team Looks To Build On Enthusiasm, Hard Work

BY ADRIENNE KUSEK  
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The Yankton dance team's enthusiasm and hard work is what will set them apart from their competition according to Coach Tiffany Mueller.

"I have an awesome group of girls to work with this year! They are very hard workers and really want to have a successful season," she said.

The team is very young but has good technique.

"Our team is made-up of four upperclassmen and the rest are underclassmen, so we have a young team," Mueller said. "All of the girls have been dancing since they were little at studios, which really helps with technique."

Other schools in the state have teams made up of

mostly upperclassmen. Mueller is confident in her younger team.

"Even though they are young, they have to drive needed to be successful," she said.

The two seniors are Morgan Jaquith and Jessica Kotschegarow.

"We have two awesome senior leaders this year," Mueller said. "They are both new to dance team this year but have both really been positive team leaders."

Juniors for the team are Keeley Kleinsasser and Payton Pierce. There are four sophomores: Cheree Becvar, Belle Heine, Samantha Kanaly and Abbie Rehurek. The rest of the team consists of freshmen: Savannah Frick, Taylor Kotschegarow, Emily Novak,

### GAZELLES COMPETITIVE DANCE

9/2	.....Watertown Inv.	.....5:30 p.m.
9/11	.....Yankton Inv.	.....5:30 p.m.
9/20	.....Brookings Inv.	.....11 a.m.
9/23	.....Huron Inv.	.....5:30 p.m.
10/2	.....O'Gorman Inv.	.....5:30 p.m.
10/7	.....Brandon Valley Inv.	.....5:30 p.m.
10/16	.....ESD (Aberdeen)	.....5 p.m.
10/25	.....State AA (Watertown)	.....11 a.m.

Maddie Smith and Leah Waid.

Goals for the dance team are pretty simple. Have fun!

"Our team goals are to have a fun season and of course we would love to place well throughout the season," Mueller said. The dance team placed second at the Eastern South Dakota Conference Championships last season. "We would love to place in the top three again this season," she said. They finished fourth at state.

The team part of dance team is something Yankton has got down.

"We have a really great

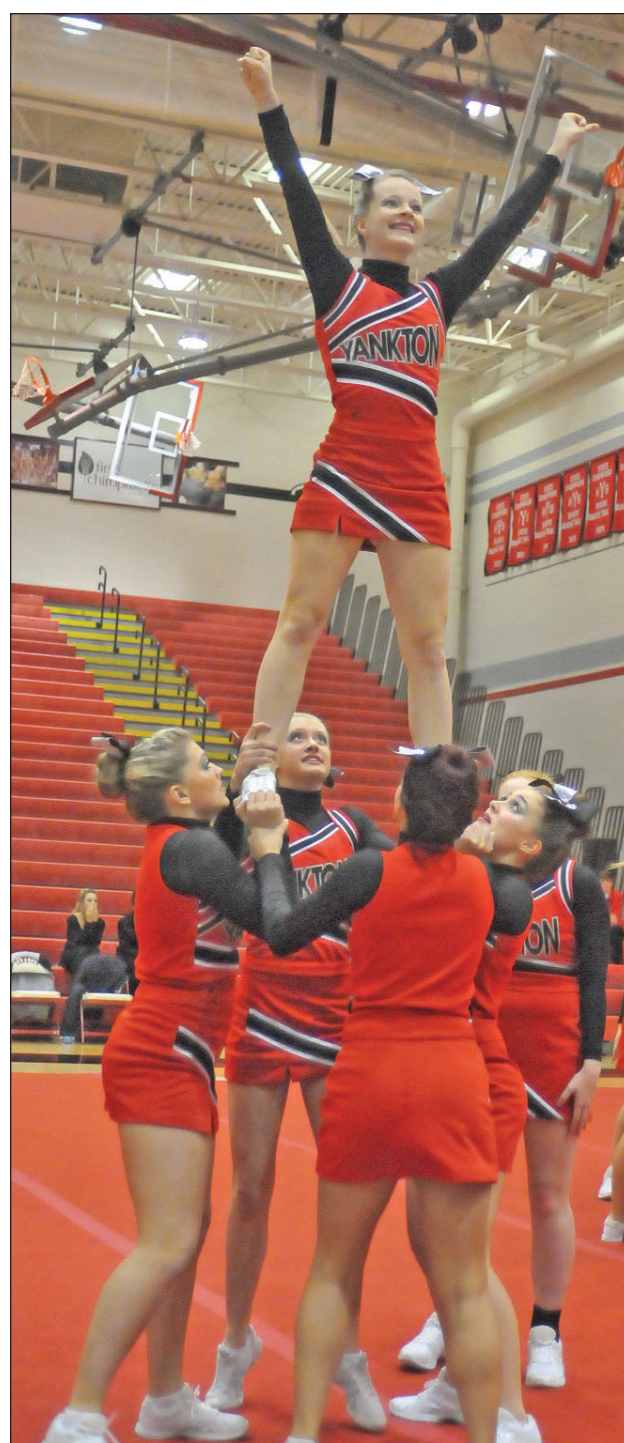
team this year and they work so well together," Mueller said. "Together they will do great things this season!"

Yankton opens season in Watertown on Sept. 2. The Gazelles follow with their lone home appearance, the Yankton Invitational on Sept. 11. Events at Brookings (Sept. 20), Huron (Sept. 23), O'Gorman (Oct. 2) and Brandon Valley (Oct. 7) precede the ESD championships, Oct. 16 in Aberdeen.

The state championships for Class AA will be held Oct. 25 in Watertown.

### GAZELLES COMPETITIVE CHEER

9/2	.....Watertown Inv.	.....5:30 p.m.
9/11	.....Yankton Inv.	.....5:30 p.m.
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Yankton Cheer Team (2013 Season Photo)

## Gazelle Cheer Squad Mixes Youth, Experience

BY ADRIENNE KUSEK  
sports@yankton.net

A team of half-full of experienced cheerleaders and half-full of brand new cheerleaders is what the roster for Yankton's competitive cheer team looks like.

"Our 11 returning cheerleaders are very talented and bring a lot of experience to the group," Coach Kerry Svatos said. "The 11 new cheerleaders might have been sideline cheerleaders but have never performed on the competition floor."

Stunting is one of the biggest strengths Yankton's cheer team has going on.

"We have a great deal of power and strength under our stunts, as well as some very experienced flyers," Svatos said. "Both of these are tremendous assets to our routine."

The senior cheerleaders are some of the best teachers according to Svatos.

"They are wonderful teachers and 'co-coaches' for the younger girls," she said. "I rely on them to be extra eyes looking at the routine to see what is working well and what needs to be changed."

Seniors are Kendyll Albrecht, Shannon Cwach, Bailey Franzen, Shelby Kleinschmit, Jessica Kotschegarow, Lindsay Larson and Kelsey Rokahr.

Not only are the seniors strong leaders, but also the other upperclassmen.

"These are ladies who can break down stunts to teach

others or make adjustments to our routine that improve upon its overall appeal," Svatos said.

Fixing the small details of the routine is an important aspect to the way Yankton's cheer team prepares for their competitions.

"Our team works hard and is very focused on improving even the smallest things that don't look right," Svatos said. "Our goal each year is to go out and improve our routine from week to week so that at the end of the season we are performing at our very best."

Yankton cheer has been working since Aug. 4.

Kerry Svatos is very happy with the group of girls she coaches.

"I couldn't ask for a better group of ladies to work with," she said. "I expect this entire team to come out strong and continue to grow throughout the entire season."

The Yankton cheer squad opens season Sept. 2 in Watertown. The Gazelles follow with their lone home appearance, the Yankton Invitational on Sept. 11. Events at Brookings (Sept. 20), Huron (Sept. 23), O'Gorman (Oct. 2) and Brandon Valley (Oct. 7) precede the ESD championships, Oct. 16 in Aberdeen.

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Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net). You can follow Adrienne Kusek on twitter at [www.twitter.com/AdrienneKusek](http://www.twitter.com/AdrienneKusek).



Yankton's Cole Lewno (front)



Yankton's Brianna Benjamin

## YHS Boys

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Sophomores Luke Lambers (MF/S) and Isaac Schulz (MF/S) are also on the varsity roster to open the season.

"We have a lot of kids that will be sophomores that have really been growing up this summer," Dannenbring said. "We know how to work together, which is way more important than any bit of talent."

Yankton has won two state titles in the club high school ranks. For the Bucks to make a run at a "sanctioned" title, they will need to stay sharp, according to Chambers.

"The biggest thing will be the mental game," he said. "We have to finish the season strong and be ready to go all the way to the end."

In their final club season, the Yankton boys (9-2-2) finished third in the state tournament.

## BUCKS SOCCER

8/19	at Watertown	W 2-0
8/22	Huron	W 3-1
8/28	at S.F. O'Gorman	
9/2	Mitchell	6 p.m.
9/4	S.F. Roosevelt	6 p.m.
9/9	at Brookings	5 p.m.
9/11	Harrisburg	6 p.m.
9/16	at Brandon Valley	8 p.m.
9/20	Aberdeen Central	2 p.m.
9/23	Freeman Academy	8 p.m.
9/26	at Pierre	4 p.m.
9/30	Playoffs First Round	
10/4	Playoffs Second Round	
10/11	State AA at Mitchell	

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at [twitter.com/JCimburek](http://twitter.com/JCimburek). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)

## YHS Girls

From Page 5A

three club champs on our schedule."

The Gazelles have a chance to have a good season if they play as one, according to Ruter.

"We have to work together on the field and communicate," she said. "If we stay positive on the field, we really have a good shot of doing well and having a successful year."

In their final club season, Yankton went 4-9 and finished eighth in the state tournament.

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9/4	S.F. Roosevelt	4 p.m.
9/9	at Brookings	6 p.m.
9/11	Harrisburg	4 p.m.
9/16	at Brandon Valley	6 p.m.
9/20	Aberdeen Central	noon
9/23	Vermillion	6 p.m.
9/26	at Pierre	6 p.m.
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