

USD Ready For Tough Test At Oregon

Follow The Coyotes

Press & Dakotan assistant sports editor and USD beat writer Jeremy Hoeck will be in Eugene, Oregon, for Saturday night's football game. He will provide a live game chat. Look for more information on the game throughout this week on Jeremy's Twitter page at twitter.com/jhoeck



Hoeck

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — As much as it can be, yes, the University of South Dakota football team is confident as it heads out to Oregon.

It was the same story a year ago for a trip Kansas.

This time, however, the Coyotes have spent the week — more like the past nine months — trying to find a way to scheme for an Oregon team ranked in the top-5 in many national polls and a potential title contender.

That's the challenge facing USD, which plays the Ducks tonight (Saturday) at 9:30 p.m. Central in Eugene.

"The way we're taking it is, they're normal people, too," said USD red-shirt freshman offensive lineman Sam McLeran. "They have to put their cleats on, put their pants on. We've

got to think of it like another game.

"We're here to punch them in the mouth, and whatever happens, happens."

Typically, in situations like this one, Oregon — coming off an 11-win season — has rolled over FCS teams.

Over the previous years, the Ducks have beaten FCS opponents by scores of 69-0, 56-7, 63-14 and 66-3 last season over Nicholls State.

In the mind of the Coyotes, though, that doesn't matter, McLeran said.

"It doesn't matter if we're up by 10 or down by 50, we'll give it everything we've got," said McLeran, who takes over the starting center position.

What the Coyotes have is a load of offensive weapons back from last season's 4-8 campaign.

USD returns junior quarterback Kevin Earl (1920 yds, 9 TD, 9 INT), its

top two running backs with Trevor Bouma (781 yds, 3 TD) and Jordan Roberts (544 yds, 3 TD), three of the top four receivers led by Riley Donovan (31 rec., 553 yds, 2 TD), and three offensive linemen — left tackle Matt Huffer, right guard Andrew Schofield and right tackle Derek Chancellor.

Still, the Coyotes are feeling a little short-changed.

First there was the matter of being the only Missouri Valley Football Conference team to not earn a vote in some type of pre-season top 25 poll, then there was the eighth-place selection in the league.

"We'll go in with a chip on our shoulder," junior linebacker Kyle Guziec said. "We got picked not very high in the conference, so we've got to make a statement."

"We have to be assignment sound in every single we do in this game."

And yes, the Coyotes are realistic about their chances in Eugene, where the last four FCS teams have lost by an average of 58 points.

"We're not sitting around here saying, 'If we do this, we might be able to' or 'if we get a few breaks, we might be able to,'" McLeran said.

"We're going to come right after them."

The Coyotes, on the flip side, realize the Ducks will be coming right after them — from all different directions.

Oregon averaged 565 yards and 46 points per game, and returns quarterback Marcus Mariota, an early Heisman Trophy favorite. Mariota owns 6,342 passing and 1,487 rushing yards in his career, as well as 77 combined touchdowns.

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Arrows Escape YHS 3-2

BY ADRIENNE KUSEK
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Even though Yankton dropped a 22-25, 25-20, 25-22, 21-25, 15-6 decision to Watertown in Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball action on Friday, Yankton Coach Tiffany Beste was happy with how her team performed.

"I am very pleased with how we played," she said. "In sets one, two, three and four I couldn't ask anything more from our girls."

The Yankton Gazelles lost in a five game match against the Watertown Arrows Friday night.

"I feel really good about how we played," senior, libero Haley Mines said. "Even though we lost I thought we worked together really well as a team."

For the Gazelles, Becky Frick pounded in 21 kills and had 17 defensive digs. Haley Mines dug up 25, and Charlotte Ekeren had 12 digs. Paige Thieman had 34 set assists to help out Yankton.

"We serve-recieved really well," Beste said.

Yankton won sets one and four. "We lost energy in set two, but got it back up in sets three and four," Beste said. "The adrenaline was pumping then. The girls kept competing, working hard and making plays, which is great at the beginning of the season to get us in shape."

"I think our back row did a good job," Mines said and then added, "The hitters were great too tonight."

Beste was pleased with how the Gazelles performed defensively. "We played very well defensively," she said. "Our blocks in the first few sets were especially good."

Yankton learned a few things in Friday night's game. "We are going to make a few changes to how we run our offense," Beste said. "We need to make the opposing team's defense work a little harder."

Mines has a few things in mind that she wants to bring back to practice. "We need to work on covering tips," she said.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Lindsey Hale hits around a pair of Watertown blockers during their volleyball match on Friday at the Summit Center. Watertown claimed a 3-2 victory in a back-and-forth Eastern South Dakota Conference showdown.

Gazelles Win Two In Brookings

BROOKINGS — Yankton girls' tennis went 2-0 on Friday afternoon in the Brookings Quad. The Gazelles defeated Aberdeen Central 5-4. In the second match, Yankton dismantled Brookings 8-1.

In the first match, number one Sarah Rockne defeated Haley Gonsor in two sets. Anne Knoff and Anna Kokesh both won in two sets, as well. In doubles, Rockne and Kaitlyn Frank won the decision in two. Mimi Garcia and Knoff took the deciding game in three sets.

In the final match, Rockne handled Emma Luchessi in a pro-style format 10-3. Frank, Garcia, Knoff, and Kokesh all picked up victories as well. In doubles

action, Yankton swept the Bobcats, capped off by Kokesh and Kim Cap winning 10-3.

Yankton is back in Brookings today (Saturday), at the Brookings Jamboree. Start time is set for 1p.m.

YANKTON 5, ABERDEEN CENTRAL 4
SINGLES: Sarah Rockne Y def. Haley Gonsor 6-0, 6-0; Erica Hanson AC def. Maddie Logue 6-0, 6-0; Lindsey Simon AC def. Kaitlyn Frank 7-6, 6-0; Emily Margera AC def. Mimi Garcia 6-3, 6-0; Anne Knoff Y def. Brianna Conn 6-0, 6-1; Anna Kokesh Y def. Elle Grove 6-3, 6-2

YANKTON 8, BROOKINGS 1
SINGLES: Sarah Rockne Y def. Emma Luchessi 10-3; Beth Hildebrandt B def. Maddie Logue 10-0; Kaitlyn Frank Y de. Taylor Logue 10-2; Mimi Garcia Y def. Hannah Eng 10-5; Anne Knoff Y def. Jane Ardry 10-1; Anna Kokesh Y def. Bridget Knudtson 10-2

DOUBLES: Rockne-Frank Y def. Luchessi-Hildebrandt 10-4; Kokesh-Cap Y def. Logue-Eng 10-3; Garcia-Knoff Y def. Ardry-Knudtson 10-4

Guthmiller Wins At Huron

HURON — Yankton's Jace Guthmiller beat out Sioux Falls O'Gorman's Jacob Otta and Sioux Falls Lincoln's Tom Vining for medalist honors at the Huron Invitational boys' golf tournament, held Friday at Broadland Creek National Golf Course.

All three shot 71s on the day. O'Gorman earned team honors with a 305, five strokes better than Rapid City Stevens.

Yankton finished fifth in the 15-team event with a 319. Mitch Schlingman shot 80, Jason Shindler carded an 82, Mason Sundleaf shot 86, Evan Hoffman carded an 88 and A.J. Fernandez shot 91 for the Bucks.

Next up for Yankton is a home dual with Mitchell on Tuesday. Start time is 2 p.m. at Hillcrest.

YHS GAMEDAY

Yankton (0-0, 0-0 ESD)
at Mitchell (0-0, 0-0 ESD)
7 p.m., Joe Quintal Field

LAST MEETING: The Bucks opened the 2013 Class 11AA playoffs by avenging a regular season loss to the Kernels with a 48-12 decision.

LAST SEASON: Yankton went 5-5, eliminated in the Class 11AA semifinals.

Mitchell went 3-6, including a season-opening victory over Yankton.

NEXT UP: Yankton opens the home portion of its season with Rapid City Stevens on Friday. Mitchell heads to Harrisburg on Friday.

FOLLOW THE GAME ONLINE: Follow beat writer Nick Robinson (@RobinsonNick2013) and sports editor James D. Cimburek (@JCimburek) on Twitter as they cover tonight's game.

Bucks Ready For Opener

BY NICK ROBINSON
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Both Yankton and Mitchell's varsity football teams are preparing for the unknown for their first contest of the 2014 season. The Yankton Bucks travel to Mitchell to face the Kernels today, at Joe Quintal Field.

"It's a real unknown," Mitchell head coach Kent Van Overschelde said. "Arlin Likness does a tremendous job on keeping things a mystery. With their guys returning, we will have to be prepared for anything. It's really been a challenge in prep week, we know Arlin will have his guys ready to go."

Yankton went 1-1 last season versus Mitchell. The Kernels were able to defeat the Bucks 27-21 in week two, to earn their first victory over Yankton since 1987. However, the Bucks were able to avenge that loss in the first round of the playoffs, with a 48-12 thrashing at Crane Youngworth Field.

"The first time we met, they were more mentally ready to go than we were," Yankton head coach Arlin Likness said. "We shot ourselves in the foot too many times. They won the turnover bat-

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Ipswich's Heinz, EPJ's Paulsen Win At Beresford

Cross Country: Garretson Girls, SFC Boys Win Titles

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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BERESFORD — Ipswich standout Macy Heinz took the early lead as the favorite to win the Class B girls' cross country title, winning the girls' race at the Beresford Invitational on Friday in Beresford.

Defending Class A champion Garretson won the girls' race, with Ipswich, the four-time defending Class B champions, finishing second by two points, 41-43. Host Beresford was a close third at 45 points.

"This was a great atmosphere, a mini state meet," said Vermillion head coach Kelly Fischbach. "You're not going to get a better field, even in the Augustana meet next week."

Eleven of the top 17 runners in the girls' race took home a top-10 finish in last year's state cross country meet in either Class A or Class B. The top 17 also included the 11th place runner from Class A and a former state placewinner who missed last year's meet due to injury.

Heinz won in 14:25.87, beating out defending Class B champion Laura Nelson of Gayville-Volin (14:48.65). Ip-

swich's Tori Moore (15:20.90) was third, followed by defending Class A champion Madisen Lavin of Vermillion (15:27.27).

Ipswich was a surprise entry, not having attended the meet in the past.

"We started talking about it Thursday or Friday last week, then on Monday we decided to come down," Heinz said. "We never get to see any of these teams until state. It was great to see how we matched up."

Heinz, who finished third in the Class B state meet behind Nelson and 2012 champion Genevieve Clark, also of Gayville-Volin, in the 2013 meet, tried to run conservatively to start.

"I knew the race would go out hard. Everybody's a little anxious at the first meet," she said. "I started in the top 10 and worked my way up. Laura and I both pushed each other until the last mile, when I made my move."

Nelson was happy to have the season underway and to have a measuring stick for hers and the team's progress.

"It was great to have that first meet, to see where we are at," she said.

Nelson also appreciated the

chance to compete against Ipswich, the team her Raiders have finished second to at state in each of the past two seasons.

"It's nice that they came so that we can remember our goal," she said. "They are beatable, and we're going to continue trying to have fun running with them."

Gayville-Volin only ran its top three girls on varsity, enough to score at a Class B meet but not at Beresford's Class A format (top four). But Gayville-Volin head coach Larry Buffington said that, between the girls that ran varsity and JV, he saw what he had hoped to see in this early-season meet.

"The girls finishes tell us that we're where we want to be," he said. "Some of the best runners in Class A and Class B were here."

While Garretson coach Jason Bohl was happy for his team's victory in the meet, he also kept things in perspective.

"It's early. This is just another race, and that's how we treated it," he said. "We're pretty excited about how we ran, but there's a long way to go."



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Elk Point-Jefferson's Hunter Paulsen strides to the finish on the way to victory in the boys' race at the Beresford Invitational cross country meet on Friday in Beresford.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Gayville-Volin's Laura Nelson strides to the finish to place second in the girls' race at the Beresford Invitational on Friday in Beresford. The meet started on Maple Street, in front of Beresford High School, and ended on the BHS track due to wet conditions.