

Volleyball: High-Powered Gazelles Set For Season



Sophie Drotzmann (left) and Becky Frick (center) • Yankton

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally ran in the Aug. 25 edition of the Press & Dakotan. It has been updated to reflect the ongoing season.

The Yankton Gazelles have their eyes on an improved record.

Head coach Tiffany Beste, whose team opens the season tonight (Tuesday) at Brandon Valley, finished 9-12 last season but returns a number of starters who want to turn the corner this year.

Last season, the Gazelles lost out to Harrisburg in the 2AA District Championship match with a score of 3-1, and missed out on the state tournament after a loss to Watertown.

With last season still fresh in her mind, Beste will be looking to show off the quality of her squad on Sept. 1. With a few weeks of practices already behind

them, the team is showing their quality and desire to win.

Beste has many talented players who are willing to work hard on the court and off of it. There is no lack of commitment on this Gazelle team and there are plenty of experienced players to guide and mentor the younger ones.

"I think we have a lot of experience and that is our biggest strength," said Beste.

To help her set an example, Beste will have eight seniors at her disposal, five of whom have seen previous varsity playing time. The five returning varsity seniors are Sophie Drotzmann, Ellie Fedders, Hannah Bockholt, Danielle Salvatori, and Becky Frick.

Frick will be the player to watch for the Gazelles this season, and Beste is looking to her to set the example for the rest of the team.

"We are really looking for Becky to

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YANKTON		
Volleyball		
8/25	at Brandon Valley	7 p.m.
8/27	at Watertown	7 p.m.
9/1	vs. S.F. Lincoln	7 p.m.
9/3	at Brookings	7 p.m.
9/8	vs. Harrisburg	7 p.m.
9/10	at Mitchell	7 p.m.
9/12	at Pierre	5 p.m.
9/22	vs. Huron	7 p.m.
9/24	at S.F. Roosevelt	7 p.m.
9/26	vs. Aberdeen Central	5 p.m.
10/1	vs. Mitchell	7 p.m.
10/5	vs. Brookings	7 p.m.
10/6	at Harrisburg	7 p.m.
10/13	vs. Brandon Valley	7 p.m.
10/15	vs. Watertown	7 p.m.
10/16	at Aberdeen Central	7 p.m.
10/19	at S.F. O'Gorman	7 p.m.
10/23	vs. Pierre	7 p.m.
10/26	vs. S.F. Washington	7 p.m.
10/27	at Huron	7 p.m.
11/2	District 2AA Play-In	7 p.m.
11/3	District 2AA Tour.	7 p.m.
11/7	District 2AA Tour.	7 p.m.
11/12	Region 1AA Game	7 p.m.
11/19-21	State Tour. at Sioux Falls	
ADMIT ONE		

YHS Dance Team Aiming High

BY DYLAN HUGGINS
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Yankton High School competitive dance coach Tiffany Mueller said her girls have high expectations coming in to the season, after an 11th place finish at the state meet last year.

"The girls have been working hard and we hope to place in one of the categories" Mueller said.

"Payton Pierce has been in it for four years and has helped the younger girls out a lot on the team."

The dance team has plenty of upperclassmen this year to lead the way.

Although Payton Pierce is the only senior out, the juniors had a strong turn out for participants this year including Cheree Becvar, Belle Heine, Ellie Hiltunen, Samantha Kanaly, and Abby Rehurek.

The sophomores also have multiple participants for dance include Savannah Frick, Taylor Kotschegarow, Piper Mikkelsen, Emily Novak, Maddie Smith, and Leah Waid. Two freshmen are also on the team. Tia Vlasman and Olivia Liebig.

Mueller also mentioned that sportsmanship is very important to her as a coach.

"I tell the girls that it's not only important to represent yourself and your school well," Mueller said. "But to be a good example for the town



Dance Team 2014 Jazz Routine • Yankton

of Yankton as well."

At last year's Class AA dance competition, the Gazelles finished 11th overall, highlighted by a seventh-place finish in the Kick division.

Yankton's first event of the season will be on Sept. 1 in Watertown for the Watertown Invite. The event starts at 5:30 p.m.

Follow @dhugg23 on Twitter.

YANKTON		
Comp. Cheer & Dance		
9/1	Watertown Inv.	5:30 p.m.
9/10	Yankton Inv.	5:30 p.m.
9/19	Brookings Inv.	11 a.m.
9/22	Huron Inv.	5:30 p.m.
10/1	O'Gorman Inv.	5:30 p.m.
10/6	Brandon Valley Inv.	5:30 p.m.
10/10	Mitchell Inv.	10:30 a.m.
10/15	ESD (Brandon)	5 p.m.
10/24	State Final at Brandon	11 a.m.
ADMIT ONE		

Tennis: Young Gazelles Ready For Season

BY DYLAN HUGGINS
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally ran in the Aug. 25 edition of the Press & Dakotan. It has been updated to reflect the ongoing season.

One senior leads the way for the Yankton Gazelles tennis team, who still have high expectations for this season, according to senior Adrienne Kusek.

"We have two returning varsity players. One saw a lot of varsity time and the other was an alternate," she said.

"We have high expectations for ourselves because we set goals and we know what we want to do."

First-year head coach Kim Velk inherits a team that finished 11th at the state tournament last year. Her roster will also include junior Sophie Kouri, as well as sophomores Anne Knoff,



Sophie Kouri • Yankton

TENNIS | PAGE 5

Velk Embraces New Coaching Challenge

BY DYLAN HUGGINS
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Although she is new to coaching tennis, Kim Velk is not new to being a head coach.

Velk, a summer softball coach who takes over the Yankton Gazelles tennis team this season, said those participating in the sport is what made her want to coach the team.

"I've always had an inter-



Velk

me out."

Velk mentioned there are things she can take from coaching softball and implement them into tennis.

"Work ethic is definitely something we can carry over and making sure that the girls understand when we need to work hard and when we can kind of relax a little bit more," she said.

"We need to fight for every ball that we have and make sure that we do the best we can with every serve and every volley."

Follow @dhugg23 on Twitter.

Soccer

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said. "Haleigh Diede got some good playing experience last year. She'll have to step up on defense. We got Holly Hicks to come back out for soccer – she's going to be a great defensive pickup for us."

Other seniors on the roster include Amber Simek, Natalie Ferris and goalkeeper Haley Schild. Other juniors include Becca Moser, Allyson Hento, Madison Styles and Miranda Winterringer.

With several new faces – and old faces who came back out – for the Gazelles, a lot of work has been put into the

"little things," according to Luken.

"We've done a lot of conditioning, more than last year," she said. "We've done a lot of work on touches, looking for the open passes on the field."

Schuring expects a dogfight between the top three or four teams in the Eastern South Dakota Conference for league honors.

"Aberdeen and Pierre are solid, and Watertown brings back a good defensive team," he said. "We bring back good numbers as well."

Though the team is determined to get into the post-season, the focus doesn't go past tonight's opener.

"We need to take it one game at a time, focus on what we have to do each game,"

Benjamin said.

The Gazelles went 1-2 in their first three matches, all in ESD play.

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Football 8/28 at Miller-Highmore-Harold (MJ) 7 p.m. 9/11 vs. Gregory 7 p.m. 9/18 at Kimball-White Lake (WL) 7 p.m. 9/25 at Menno-Marion (MA) 7 p.m. 10/2 vs. Colman-Egan (HC) 7 p.m. 10/9 at Wolsey-Wessington (WO) 7 p.m. 10/16 vs. Platte-Geddes 7 p.m. 10/22 vs. Canistota 7 p.m.	9/21 Bon Homme Inv. 2 p.m. 9/26 Platte-Geddes Inv. 10 a.m. 10/1 Cougar Inv. (Burke) 4:15 p.m. 10/5 SESD (Tyndall) 3 p.m.	9/26 Pentagon Inv. (Sioux Falls) 6:15 p.m. 9/29 vs. Dakota Valley 6:15 p.m. 10/1 vs. Menno 6:15 p.m. 10/8 vs. Freeman 6:15 p.m. 10/13 at Scotland 6:15 p.m. 10/15 vs. Corsica-Stickney 6:15 p.m. 10/20 vs. Parkston 6:15 p.m. 10/23 vs. Viborg-Hurley (H) 6:15 p.m. 10/24 SESD (Platte) TBA
Cross Country 8/28 Beresford Inv. 10 a.m. 9/1 McCook Central-Montrose Inv. 4:15 p.m. 9/8 Scotland Inv. 4:15 p.m. 9/16 Flyer Inv. (Freeman) 1 p.m. 9/19 Wagner Inv. 9 a.m.	9/18 at Vermillion 6:15 p.m. 9/10 vs. Platte-Geddes 6:15 p.m. 9/15 vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour 6:15 p.m. 9/17 at Irene-Wakonda 6:15 p.m. 9/19 Cavalier Clash (Home) 8:30 a.m. 9/22 at Wagner 6:15 p.m. 9/24 at Burke-South Central (Bonesteel) 6:15 p.m.	Competitive Cheer 8/29 Gregory Inv. 11 a.m. 9/12 Winner Inv. 11:30 a.m. 10/3 Dakota Valley Inv. noon 10/17 Platte-Geddes Inv. noon 10/19 Bon Homme Inv. 6 p.m.

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