

Bucks Open Season With Finals Rematch

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Are the Brookings Bobcats out for revenge?

No. Not according to head coach Lee Schmidt, whose team suffered a 34-33 overtime loss to Yankton in last year's Class 11AA state championship game.

As both coaches have consistently maintained during the pre-season, 2015 is a new year.

"Like I tell everyone, there's no revenge factor," said Schmidt, whose Bobcats open the season tonight (Friday) against Yankton. Kickoff is 7 p.m. at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium.

"We know we're playing Yankton and they play good football," Schmidt added. "They lost a lot of kids like we did, so we'll both have some new

faces on both sides of the ball."

That might be the story of this game: Between the two teams, there will be 14 new starters on offense and 16 new starters on defense.

Sure, there are plenty of holdovers and other players who saw time in the title game, but that was a year ago.

"They got to be on the sidelines and see it," Yankton head coach Arlin Likness said, "but there's a difference between watching it and playing it."

And as both coaches pointed out, the fact that the two teams are meeting in a season opener, means there could be plenty of surprises.

"It'll be interesting to see if anyone made any big changes, and how we react to it," Likness said. "It's a different season."

Especially for the Bucks. Yankton returns four starters on

offense, including three on the line: Landon Binder (Sr.), Alex Withrow (Sr.) and Bradey Sorenson (Sr.). The fourth starter back is fullback Sheldon Gant (Sr.).

While the rest of the offense will be filled out with new starters, many aren't exactly new faces. Reid Sawatzke (Sr.) returns from injury to likely handle the quarterback duties, while Yankton also has Rayden Terca (Sr.) as an option. Tanner Frick (Sr.) and Bashir Abd Al Kreem (Sr.) return to the backfield, while Frick, Abd Al Kreem, Gant, Blake Savey (Sr.) and Syd Boots (Sr.) are back as targets in the passing game.

On defense, the Bucks return only two starters, both at linebacker: Colin Muth (Sr.) and Gant.

"Depending on how healthy we are, it'll take us a few minutes to get together and focus, and get going in

the right direction," Likness said.

In the case of Brookings, the Bobcats return five starters to the offense and four starters to the defense.

The offense will be guided by wide receiver Mitchell McKibben and tailback Gerald Maxwell, while junior Devin Coughlin takes over the quarterback duties. Whomever carries the ball will have the luxury of running behind three returning starters to the offensive line.

On defense, the Bobcats return McKibben (Safety), Maxwell (LB), Preston Tetzlaff (LB) and lineman Aaron Eggebrecht. Brookings, like Yankton, will be relying on new faces to big-time roles this season.

A group of 14 seniors will hopefully provide the kind of leadership the Bobcats need, Schmidt said.

"With our numbers, every year is

GAMEDAY | PAGE 7A

YHS GAMEDAY

Yankton (0-0) at Brookings (0-0)

7 p.m., Coughlin-Alumni Stadium

LAST MEETING: Yankton survived a two-point conversion attempt in overtime to beat Brookings 34-33 for the 2014 Class 11AA championship.

NEXT UP: Yankton returns home to face Mitchell. Brookings hosts Pierre in the second of three straight home games to begin the season.

FOLLOW THE GAME: Jeremy Hoeck (@jhoeck) and James D. Cimburek (@jcimburek) will follow the Bucks all season. Follow them on Twitter to keep up with the action.

Arrows Sweep Gazelles

WATERTOWN – The Watertown Arrows kept Yankton at bay, claiming a 26-24, 25-17, 25-18 victory over the Gazelles in Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball action on Thursday at the Watertown Civic Arena.

"I was very pleased with how we came out in set one. We were aggressive and confident. We just let it slip away," said Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste. "Even in sets two and three we had times where we played well. Watertown was just able to go on bigger runs."

For Watertown, Tatum Hemiller led the way with 13 kills and two ace serves. Macy Denzer had nine kills. Danielle Gottsleben had eight kills and four ace serves. Sydney Dale had 18 assists, and Alexa Gloe had two ace serves in the win.

Becky Frick had six kills, three ace serves, eight digs and three blocks to lead Yankton. Hannah Bockholt had five kills and five blocks, leading the net defense.

"Our blocking was incredible tonight," Beste said. "Probably the best we've blocked in a long time."

Also for Yankton, Cameryn Specht had 10 assists and eight digs. Lindsey Hale added 13 digs.

Yankton, now 0-2, returns home to face District 2AA rival Sioux Falls Lincoln on Tuesday. Both squads will be looking for their first victory of the season, as Lincoln lost to Class A power Dakota Valley 25-18, 25-19, 25-17 on Thursday.

"We're excited not to have," said Beste, noting that the Gazelles will celebrate "Parents Night" on Tuesday. "We have practice on Friday and Monday, and we definitely have things to work on."

Watertown claimed the JV match 25-17, 22-25, 25-20. For Yankton, Josie Sayler had five kills and Specht had six assists to lead the way. Anna Savey had three ace serves. Emily Oswald posted two blocks.

Watertown took the sophomore match 25-20, 25-20. No statistics were available for Yankton.

The Arrows claimed the freshmen 'A' match 25-13, 25-22. For Yankton, Maddy Hochstein had seven kills and two blocks to lead the way. Noel Kusek added nine assists.

Watertown also took the freshmen 'B' match 27-25, 18-25, 25-15. For Yankton, Courtney Wenande had 10 assists.

Hanson Early Bird First: Freeman Academy 2, Andes Central-Dakota Christian 0

ALEXANDRIA – Freeman Academy beat Andes Central-Dakota Christian 25-14, 25-19 for the championship of the Hanson Early Bird volleyball tournament, which concluded

VOLLEY | PAGE 7A

Bucks Bounce Knights 2-1

Yankton Wins Third Straight

BY DYLAN HUGGINS
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The Yankton Bucks earned their third straight victory with a 2-1 decision over Sioux Falls O'Gorman in boys' soccer action on Thursday at Lewis & Clark Soccer Park.

Yankton coach Warren Brenner said it was a grind out game for the Bucks.

"It was a battle, and that's the way they should be," Brenner said. "Overall our performance was good and we still need to have more excitement when we're at home."

Over the past three games, the Bucks have only allowed one goal. In their first two games, they gave up three goals.

"Our first two games we were trying some different things including a different formation," Brenner said. "We went back to our 4-4-2, which is standard, and we also started to focus more on defense."

Gabe Wenzlaff and Chase Huber each scored a goal to lead Yankton to victory.

"I had a pretty straight forward chance on a PK that I missed at the beginning of the game," Wenzlaff said. "I felt like I owed it to the team to put one more back in the net."

The Bucks next game will be against Harrisburg on Sept. 1 in Harrisburg.

"We have so much talent between our strikers, our midfield, and all four of our starting defense is outstanding," Wenzlaff said. "If we learn to connect, we'll be unstoppable throughout the state tournament."

In JV action, Yankton scored a 3-0 victory. Price Jensen, Sam Herrboldt and Nathan Nelson each scored a goal for Yankton.

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Yankton's Isaac Schulz tries to escape the double-team of O'Gorman's Nathan Kramer, left, and Andrew Pujado during their boys' soccer match on Thursday at Lewis & Clark Soccer Park. Yankton scored a 2-1 victory.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Soccer: Gazelles, Knights Play To Scoreless Draw

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND
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The Yankton Gazelles played Sioux Falls O'Gorman to a scoreless draw in girls' soccer action on Thursday at Lewis & Clark Soccer Park.

"We knew coming in it would be a very competitive game," Yankton coach Tyler Schuring said. "O'Gorman is a very tough team."

"We knew it was going to be a grind, we knew it was going to be a battle."

The battle seemed to be going the way of O'Gorman in the first half as they were able to keep the ball in the attacking third for most of the first 40 minutes. O'Gorman had early shots from Sydney Venner and Mallory Hatzell. Their closest shot a scoring came on a shot by Ashlee Beacom that ricocheted off of the goalie and was put in by Venner, who was later called offside and the goal was not allowed.

Yankton's best chance of scoring came from a wide-left and a wide-right shot by senior Brianna Benjamin.

After the first half, O'Gorman was able to pick up where they left off in the second with a shot from Mckenzie Ekern from 15 yards out that bounced off of the top bar and over the goal. Just moments later it looked like Beacom had O'Gorman on the board with a goal that hit the top bar and

came out and just bounced back over the line, but the goal was disallowed after the referees met and decided that the Yankton goalie had turned around and grabbed the ball just before it went in.

"The (referee's assistant) was out at the 18 and nobody had a good look at it, so nobody could make the call for a goal," Schuring said. "I couldn't tell you if it was in or out, it kind of just went with the luck of the draw."

Following the disallowed goal, O'Gorman had multiple scoring opportunities from Theresa Pujado and Hatzell, but neither was able to put a shot in the net.

A scary moment happened later as Yankton's Benjamin was dribbling in to score and collided with O'Gorman's Molly Doetzel and goalie Jillian Barkus. The collision left Barkus on the ground for a few minutes with an apparent head injury, and she was not able to continue the game.

As play resumed following the injury timeout, Yankton had some of their best scoring chances in the game coming on a Benjamin free kick shot that went straight to the goalie from 23 yards out and another Benjamin shot going wide right from just inside the 18 yard box. Hatzell put one last shot in that sailed high before the game came to a conclusion as a draw.

GAZELLES | PAGE 7A



Yankton's Madason Tessier battles O'Gorman's Molly Doetzel, 16, for possession during their girls' soccer match on Thursday at Yankton's Lewis & Clark Soccer Park. The teams played to a scoreless draw.

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