

Press & Dakotan

DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and pro sports.



BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Let's get this fact out of the way first: The Yankton boys' basketball team has not made it to the state tournament since 2008. That season, the Bucks earned fifth place behind guys by the name of Colton Iverson and Layne Somsen. Does that mean pressure for this season's Bucks team, which opens its season Friday night? Sure, but it's a challenge the program should — and I believe has — embrace. No matter what the sport is, good teams set high goals and work hard to get there, regardless of outside influences and tough teams on your schedule. Here is what Yankton head coach Chris Haynes said after last season's loss in the region final at Brookings: "If we want to turn the corner, we have to put in more work in the off-season. That's the bottom line." He's right. Preparations in the off-season for basketball (not to mention football, track, etc.) are the absolute key. Yes, it can be tough when you're Yankton and a lot of your basketball kids transition from football, but Haynes has already proven to be a coach that demands more. More in the off-season, more in practice, more in games, more off the court, etc. And so when people have asked myself or sports editor James Cimburek, "How are the Bucks going to be this season?," the easy answer would be, "Better."

Bucks Have Potential For A Fun Season

Yankton improved from four wins to six wins last season, but once again lost in the region final — one game from the state tournament. Working in Yankton's favor, at least to start the season, is that it appears the rest of the state expects another nice jump. In the first Sportswriters Association poll (the "true" media poll in the state), Sioux Falls Lincoln, Huron and Sioux Falls Roosevelt received first place votes. Then came Brandon Valley and Rapid City Stevens, with Yankton among three outside the top five. Where that puts the Bucks when the dust settles in March, we'll have to wait and see. But just judging by what Yankton returns, it might just make up a competitive group. Of the players who saw the court in last season's region loss, the Bucks will return J.J. Hejna (out for a handful of games with an injury), Brady Hale, Ryan Olson, Lane Sawatzke, Reid Sawatzke, Mitch Gullikson and Chipper Granflaten this season. And then Yankton will also have Tanner Frick, Austin Johnson, Blake Savey, Brody McClure, Matt Fitzgerald, Bradley Sorenson, Evan Greenway, Nick Raab and Sam Bisgard on the varsity roster. One thing that stands out about that group? Size. All but three of those varsity players are at least 6-foot, including 6-4 Hejna, 6-4 Granflaten, 6-5 Raab, 6-5 Bisgard and 6-7 Greenway. Think the Bucks will feed the post much? Ultimately, though, it's not size or returners that will determine how this season plays out. It's dedication. As Haynes pointed out. If the Bucks are especially motivated to not only keep getting better but to make the state tournament, than Yankton fans could be in for a much-needed fun season.

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING

YANKTON BOWL

MOONSHINERS
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Terry Wiebelhaus 278, Mark Brannen 222, Carol Myers 172, Bonnie Welch 143

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Terry Wiebelhaus 518, Kevin Cole 593, Carol Myers 453, Bonnie Welch 402

STANDINGS: Steamway 82-5-22-5, Quinzos 66-39, L&S 59-46, Northtown 56-5-48-5, 2 Kevins & Girl 55-49-5, JB Auto 54-51, Group Therapy 34-5-70-5
HIGHLIGHT: Bonnie Welch 4-5-7

INDUSTRIAL

HIGH TEAM GAME: Dakota Trailer 883

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Dakota Trailer 2436

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Dan Liebl 267, Bruce Myers 256, Dee Lammeres 256, Jeff Leander 255, Frank Ostrom Sr. 245

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES:

Bruce Myers 707, Casey Weverstad 658, Terry Wiebelhaus 655, Jeff Leander 654, Don Casey 651

STANDINGS:

Dakota Trailer 74.5, Yankton Red-Mix 69.5, Carey's Bar 69, Don's Auto 64, Wholesale Supply 61, Kellen's Carts & Service 60, H&K Oil #2 58.5, KPI Bowl Dogs 57.5, Steiner's Locker 54, H&K Oil 52.5, Thriver 19.5

TUESDAY NIGHT MIXED

HIGH TEAM GAME: Ten Pins 478

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Ten Pins 1320

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME:

Hal Somer 255, Ryan Weverstad 236, Duane Palz 228, Ashley Zurcher 194, Cindy Somer 176, Lonnie Remington 171

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES:

Ryan Weverstad 634, Willis Gramkow 590, Hal Somer 586, Ashley Zurcher 506, Sharon Mermin 493, Cindy Somer 487

STANDINGS:

R&D Lockers 18-10, TCB 17-11, Madfis 16-12, Alley Kats 16-12, Hot Rollers 15-13, Gutter Mates 14-14, The Split Ends 13-15, Country Bumpkins 12-16, The Pinheads 10-18, Ten Pins 9-19

HIGHLIGHTS:

Audrey Misar 2-7; 5-10, Cindy Somer 2-7; Hal Somer 3-10-3-10, Sharon Mermin 3-6-8-10, Roman Leucker 3-7, Ashley Zurcher 3-10

CROFTON, NEB.

WOMEN'S AMERICAN

HIGH TEAM GAME: DSM Apts. 752

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Wiebelhaus PDR 2166

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME:

Katie Tramp 203, Amber Mueller 177, Ashley Zurcher 176, Morgan Zavadi 176

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES:

Ashley Zurcher 484, Morgan Zavadi 475, Jill McCoy 462

D-1 STANDINGS:

Wiebelhaus PDR 73-27, Lewis and Clark Specialty Hospital 54-46, Comfy feet.Biz 42-5-57-5

D-2 STANDINGS:

Arens Construction 62-5-37-5, DSM Apts. 45-55

VOLLEYBALL

YANKTON PARKS & REC

WOMEN'S JUST FOR FUN LEAGUE

RESULTS: Budlight Spikeaholics def. Larry's Heating & Cooling 2-12-18, 19-21, 21-10; Frym Pan def. Lady Ballers 2-1-21-13, 21-18, 21-8.

STANDINGS:

Budlight Spikeaholics 6-0, Frym Pan 3-2, Dakota Trailer 2-3, Larry's Heating & Cooling 2-4, Lady Ballers 1-5

COED COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

RESULTS: The Rivals def. Mojo's 3-0 0-21-19, 25-24, 21-18; Czeck def. Upper Deck Net Ninjas 2-12-13, 21-19, 16-21; Westy's Electric/Dakota Drywall def. KPI Spikers 3-0 21-12, 21-10, 21-19

STANDINGS:

Westy's Electric/Dakota Drywall 3-1, Czeckers 3-1, The Rivals 2-2, Mojo's 2-2, Upper Deck Net Ninjas 1-3, KPI Spikers 1-3

COED JUST FOR FUN LEAGUE

RESULTS: Murphy's One Hit Wonders def. Honey Badgers 2-1 16-21, 21-16, 21-15; Will Work for Sets def. First Dakota Bank 3-0 21-15, 21-15, 21-11; Phinney's def. Sikora Farms Hot Shots (forfeits); Sikora Farms Hot Shots def. Ben's Brewing Company 2-1 21-18, 21-17, 19-21; Wilcox State Farm Insurance def. Cottonwood Firebats 3-0 21-14, 21-17, 21-17

STANDINGS:

Sikora Farms Hot Shots 4-1, Wilcox State Farm Insurance 3-1, Will Work for Sets 3-1, Cottonwood Firebats 3-2, Honey Badgers 2-2, Murphy's One Hit Wonders 2-2, Ben's Brewing Company 1-3, Phinney's 1-3, First Dakota Bank 0-4

CLASS AA ALL-STATE

First team

Taylin Alm, Mitchell, sr., middle hitter: 225 kills, 179 digs, 30 blocks, 54 aces

Ellie Benson, Washington, sr., libero: 625 3-0, 29 assists, 21 aces

Brandon Buss, Lincoln, sr., middle hitter: 398 kills, 212 digs, 74 blocks, 24 aces

Maggie DeJong, Roosevelt, sr., middle hitter: 528 kills, 223 digs, 129 blocks, 18 aces

Hannah Niemman, Washington, sr., setter: 726 assists, 222 digs, 70 kills, 34 blocks, 23 aces

Second team

Haley Allerding, Huron, sr., outside hitter: 257 kills, 257 digs, 35 aces

Asia King, Huron, sr., middle hitter: 271 kills, 68 digs, 57 blocks, 44 aces

Brianna Kusler, Aberdeen Central, so., outside hitter: 274 kills, 187 digs, 42 blocks, 54 aces

Skylar Larson, RC Stevens, sr., outside hitter: 301 kills, 421 digs, 39 aces

Kaitlyn Severny, Pierre, sr., middle hitter: 301 kills, 228 digs, 67 blocks, 35 aces

Erin Temple, Roosevelt, sr., setter: 953 assists, 176 digs, 29 blocks

Lauren Witte, O'Gorman, sr., outside hitter: 177 kills, 177 digs, 20 blocks, 24 aces

STANDINGS:

Contrast 2-0, Yankton Ag 2-0, Pippin Airt 1-1, KPI-Budweiser 1-1, Allata Meat 1-1, All Seasons Powersports 1-1, Plains All American 0-2, Night-N-Day 0-2

YANKTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS

A — YANKTON 25, VERMILLION 18; YMS Scoring — Madie Cordell 11

B — YANKTON 28, VERMILLION 9; YMS Scoring — Taylor Hamilton 12, Leah Waid 10

SEVENTH GRADE GIRLS

A — VERMILLION 18, YANKTON 15; YMS Scoring — Lily Ryken 5

B — YANKTON 19, VERMILLION 6; YMS Scoring — Chloe Kozelky 10

USA TODAY WOMEN'S TOP 25

The top 25 teams in the USA Today Women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 9, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. UConn (32)	10-0	800
2. Duke	10-0	763
3. Tennessee	8-0	715
3. Stanford	7-1	685
4. Notre Dame	8-0	685
6. Kentucky	9-0	662
7. Louisville	9-1	610
8. Maryland	9-1	575
9. Baylor	7-1	518
10. South Carolina	9-0	502
11. Iowa State	8-0	443
12. Penn State	6-2	405
13. LSU	7-1	385
14. North Carolina	7-2	365
15. Colorado	8-0	337
16. Nebraska	7-2	285
17. Georgia	8-0	277
18. Oklahoma State	7-0	279
19. Oklahoma	6-3	269
20. Texas A&M	6-2	183
21. California	6-2	143
22. Gonzaga	7-1	126
23. Purdue	6-2	111
24. Iowa	10-1	77
25. Florida State	8-1	60

Others receiving votes:

Syracuse 43, BYU 29, UTEP 12, Arkansas 11, San Diego 10, Vanderbilt 10, Texas 9, Bowling Green 7, Georgia Tech 7, Arizona State 5, DePaul 5, Kansas 3, Dayton 1.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
New England	10	3	0	769	349	257
Miami	7	6	0	538	286	276
N.Y. Jets	6	7	0	462	226	337
Buffalo	4	9	0	308	273	334

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Indianapolis	8	5	0	615	313	316
Tennessee	5	8	0	385	292	318
Jacksonville	4	9	0	308	201	372
Houston	2	11	0	154	250	350

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Cincinnati	9	4	0	692	334	244
Baltimore	7	6	0	538	278	261
Pittsburgh	5	8	0	385	291	312
Cleveland	4	9	0	308	257	324

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Denver	11	2	0	846	515	345
Kansas City	10	3	0	769	343	224
San Diego	6	7	0	462	316	291
Oakland	4	9	0	308	264	337

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Cincinnati	9	4	0	692	334	244
Baltimore	7	6	0	538	278	261
Pittsburgh	5	8	0	385	291	312
Cleveland	4	9	0	308	257	324

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Denver	11	2	0	846	515	345
Kansas City	10	3	0	769	343	224
San Diego	6	7	0	462	316	291
Oakland	4	9	0	308	264	337

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Cincinnati	9	4	0	692	334	244
Baltimore	7	6	0	538	278	261
Pittsburgh	5	8	0	385	291	312
Cleveland	4	9	0	308	257	324

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Denver	11	2	0	846	515	345
Kansas City	10	3	0	769	343	224
San Diego	6	7	0	462	316	291
Oakland	4	9	0	308	264	337

Philadelphia

8 5 0 615 334 301

Dallas 7 6 0 538 357 348

N.Y. Giants 5 8 0 385 251 334

Washington 3 10 0 231 279 407

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
New Orleans	10	3	0	769	343	243
Carolina	9	4	0	692	296	188
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	308	244	291
Atlanta	3	10	0	231	282	362

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Detroit	7	6	0	538	349	321
Chicago	7	6	0	538	368	360
Green Bay	6	6	1	500	316	326
Minnesota	3	9	1	269	315	395

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Seattle	11	2	0	846	357	205
San Francisco	9	4	0	692	316	214
Arizona	8	5	0	615	305	257
St. Louis	5	8	0	385	289	308

Monday, Dec. 16

Baltimore at Detroit, 7:40 p.m.

Transactions

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT TIGERS — Agreed to terms with OF Rajai Davis on a two-year contract. Designated RHP Luis Marle for assignment.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Acquired RHP Kyle Hughes from Pittsburgh to complete an earlier trade.

OKLAHOMA ATHLETICS — Acquired OF Billy Burns from Washington for LHP Jerry Blevins.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Granted RHP Thad Weber his release and announced he signed with NC Dinos (Korean).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Promoted Tony Perezchica to minor league field & infield coordinator and Dan Carlson to minor league pitching coordinator.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Announced the retirement of 3B Jerry Hairston Jr.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with RHP Charlie Morton on a three-year contract and RHP Edinson Volquez on a one-year contract.