

WOKSAPE

Bucks Struggle During Regular Season Play

BY
NICK
ROBINSON

The struggles are continuing for the 2-13 Yankton Bucks who cannot finish games of late. Yankton has been playing well against all opponents, but one of two things seem to be preventing the wins: either the team has a bad half or an error occurs during crunch time.

Spectators have yet to see a full game out of the Bucks, but if that were to happen, things might get interesting.

“We’ve been playing hard, but haven’t had the bounces go our way. If we do, I don’t see why we can’t get hot here during our last few games,” Jackson Seitzinger stated.

Seitzinger has had the hot hand of late, being the lead scorer in most of the contests so far.

The Bucks picked up their second victory of the year against Rapid City Central. Yankton drove 365 miles to Rapid to play the Cobblers. The final score was in Yankton’s favor, 52-31.

The game against the Cobblers was a total team effort, in which everyone got to see some time on varsity. “It was fun to see what it was like to play some varsity minutes,” junior Zach Benjamin said.

Yankton scoring was led by Bryan Youngberg who had fifteen points. After the win against the Cobblers, Yankton went on the road again to play a Sioux Falls foe, O’Gorman. The Knights took the game 42-33 with Yankton staying in the action until the final period when Yankton only scored a total of six points. Jackson Seitzinger led the Bucks with eleven points overall.

The last time Roosevelt came to Yankton, the Bucks defeated the Riders and Cody Larson who now plays as a Florida Gator. Now, two years later, it would seem the Bucks had the Riders beat on the stat sheet. Still, Roosevelt won by two, 59-57. Roosevelt junior, Tyler Howard, had twenty-eight points and a last second bank shot to send the Rough Riders home with a victory.

Yankton senior, Connor Fitzsimmons, said, “We played them tough, just another time when the small things didn’t go our way. Basketball is a game about winning the small things.”

Jackson Seitzinger led Yankton once again by dropping twenty-six points. Bryan Youngberg had five assists.

The Bucks took the floor for their next game against an ESD squad, the Brandon Valley Lynx. Another dagger to the heart would describe this one.

The Bucks played Brandon closely until the fourth where they took the lead; but yet again, the small things would set them back. The Lynx won the contest 57-55.

Yankton then headed to Mitchell to face rival Kernels at the Corn Palace. Mitchell won in dominant fashion, 57-38. Their lengthy and quick offense was too much for Yankton to handle. The Bucks had a rough time shooting the ball, shooting only 28% from the field. Seitzinger had twelve points on the board and Youngberg had nine.

Yankton has two games until district, regional and state action starts. Yankton will play Pierre at home on February 17 and then face Huron at home on the 21st to complete regular season play. District play begins on February 28th followed by regional play on March 6th with state to follow in mid March.

The Yankton Bucks will be looking to play competitive basketball games from start to finish as the state contest looms in the near future.

Bucks Wrestlers Prepare for Regionals, State

BY
KAMERON
KENDALL

Bucks regular season wrestling is over. With the ESD conference meet behind them, the team is gearing up for regionals and state within the next few weeks.

“We’re making sure we have moves down, so we don’t have any questions about what we’re doing. We’re practicing harder. We’ve wrestled most people we’ll see at regionals and state, so we work on things we can remember from wrestling them previously,” said YHS freshman, Michael Montoya, who wrestles at the 120-pound varsity slot.

James Hisek, Yankton’s 160-pound varsity wrestler, explained that, “We’re not just working hard at practices, but also at morning runs. Running helps a lot with weight control and gets us in shape for the meets.”

With state and the end of the season being right around the corner, the wrestling team is gearing up to make a fabulous finish.

Hisek said, “The Bucks are hoping that Logan Smith will

repeat as a state champ, and hopefully others will place as well.”

Lone YHS senior wrestler, Smith, realizes this will be his last year on the mat as a YHS Buck wrestler and is making this season a good final season.

Smith says that it feels a little different in the practice room, knowing it is his last year.

Smith said, “I really want to avenge my losses this year. I want to win state. I wrestled varsity as an 8th grader, and over the last five years, Yankton varsity wrestling has taught me discipline and dedication.”

Younger wrestlers are absorbing the great leadership from upperclassmen on the wrestling team.

Aspiring to keep Yankton wrestling the competitive program that it is, younger wrestlers are also looking beyond state competition to the camps they will use this summer to continue give the best can they can give.

Montoya said, “We switched the camp that we go to last summer, but usually we attend a camp in Nebraska. I’ll be doing that this summer to get ready for next season.”

SWING
into SPRING

With
NEW STYLES
Arriving Daily!!!

at...*Head2Heels*

108 W. 3rd, Downtown Yankton • 665-2599

Gazelles Basketball Team Faces Tough Schedule

BY
TORY
GROSS

Not a week goes by that isn’t tough for the Yankton Girls Basketball Team, and this past week was no different.

The Gazelles started the stretch facing off against the Mitchell Kernels last Tuesday night at the Summit Activities Center.

Yankton battled until the end, but despite home court advantage, it was not enough to defeat the number one-ranked team, as they fell 62 to 52 for their fifth loss of the season.

“We were in it the whole time, and we played hard until the end, but there were just plays we should have finished and defensive rebounds we should have had. Those are what cost us the game,” senior Emily Fedders explained.

There was not much time for the Gazelles to prepare for their next matchup, played against the O’Gorman Knights just two days later.

The tough schedule and two previous losses were no impediment for Yankton, as they defeated the Knights 52-43.

It became a game of fouls and free throws down the stretch, and fortunately, the Gazelles stayed strong enough to hold their lead, going 11-27 at the line.

“We’re definitely lucky that we had a big enough lead to hold on until the end. Our free throw percentage was not what it should have been, and it’s something we’re going to work on for the future,” Fedders said.

As if those two games were not enough, Yankton then had to face the defending state champion, Brandon Valley.

The game was huge, considering the fact that Brandon Valley was ranked number four and Yankton number five and both teams are part of the Eastern South Dakota Conference.

All of this pressure, combined



ABOVE PHOTO BY MOLLY HENRICKSON; RIGHT, COURTESY OF ALICIA CORNEMANN

Above: The Gazelles basketball team assembles for a free throw.

Below: Chloe Cornemann, YHS senior, poses with YHS science teacher, Mrs. Jama Mathison during teacher appreciation night.



with the skills of USD-commit Heidi Hoff, did not faze the Gazelles as they claimed yet another victory, 60-48 over the Lynx.

The game earned head coach Doug Pesicka a record-setting victory of his own – the 250th win of his career.

“We knew heading into the game that defense would be key and also that we needed to work together to contain Heidi [Hoff],” Fedders explained.

“I think we did a great job communicating, so we were able to do what we wanted with them,” Fedders continued.

“During the second half, we knew we had to come out and play the hardest, because we knew they were going to come out giving it everything they had—we had to match the inten-

sity,” said junior Mikala Hora, who added, “It felt good to beat Brandon, because they are one of the tougher competitors we have to face.”

With the Brandon win, the Gazelles improved their current record to 9-5 overall and 6-3 in the ESD.

The SD Sportswriters Poll of February 7 placed Yankton

fourth in the rankings, trailing Mitchell, Sioux Falls Washington and Aberdeen Central. Brandon Valley fell from the top five, with Watertown moving up to that coveted fifth spot.

The Gazelles will travel to face Watertown tomorrow evening followed by a trip to Pierre on Friday.

Bucks Hockey Player Attends North Dakota Camp

BY
LOGAN
VANWINKLE

Dawson Johnson, a senior member of the Yankton Bucks hockey team, had an opportunity to play for the Northern Plains Hockey camp this summer.

“I had to try out for the SD selects first, and once I made that team I was picked to play on the Northern Plains team,” Johnson said. He was one of five players from South Dakota to make the team.

Northern Plains Hockey is located in North Dakota. Hockey players from North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming play on this team.

Participants chosen to play for the Northern Plains Hockey camp, play on the University of North Dakota campus in the Ralph Englestad Arena, which can be considered the nicest rink in America. The cost of the arena was \$100,000,000. The arena has two rinks, one which is regulation size and the other rink which is Olympic size.

“We were in North Dakota for a week; for the first couple of days we would do drills, morning and night. The last three days were when they broke us up in the four teams,” Johnson explained. When the players were on the ice practicing, National Hockey League (NHL) coaches and players were on the ice helping everyone.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAWSON JOHNSON

Dawson Johnson, Yankton Bucks’ number 5, guides the puck down the ice.

The week ended in a game at which professional scouts were present. Johnson said, “Once I got back from North Dakota, I had two AAA teams contact me, Utah Park City and Wyoming Gillette Wild.”

Johnson decided to stay here in Yankton to play hockey for his senior year with his hockey friends.

The Bucks have had a rough season so far but have also had some excellent games. The game against Huron was a great game, but the Bucks lost 3-1. After the first period, the game was tied 1-1, with the Yankton goal scored by junior Logan Van Winkle. After the 2nd period, the score was still tied. The last period was a battle, and Huron

scored with 4 minutes left in the game. With 30 seconds left, the Bucks pulled their goalie Isaac Althoff, so there was a empty net and Yankton could not score. Huron scored with 12 seconds left in the game.

Yankton has a week off before they head to state which is held in Sioux Falls.

Coach Mike Stoll says “The boys have been working really hard, and they have come a long way from where we started.”

Johnson was contacted late last week to skate in a junior and college hockey exposure showcase from May 4th-6th in St. Paul, MN at Wakota Arena. Johnson’s experience at this showcase will be broadcast via the internet at fasthockey.com.

Gazelle Gymnasts
Advance to State

The Gazelles gymnastics team scored a season’s best overall score of 130.05 at the ESD meet held in Brookings on February 4.

The team qualified for state based on their ESD score. Individual qualifiers are junior Charlotte Taggart on beam, freshman Lindsay Larson on vault, and sophomore Elsie Kotalik in all-around.

Gazelles look to do well at state where Watertown and Rapid City will be the two teams to beat.

It’s a...Pajama Party!

20% off
all prom
dresses

February
25th ONLY!
8am to 4pm!

Prizes for Best Bed Head, Wildest PJ’s & Wackiest Slippers!!
Prizes include prom shoes, prom jewelry, gift certificates!

You CAN’T Miss This ONE DAY ONLY SALE!

*“Bringing you the
best in bridal &
prom for less!”*

The Bridal Outlet

1108 W. Cedar St., Beresford, SD
1-855-444-BRIDE
Hours: M-Th 10-6, Fri. & Sat. 10-5