

Yankton Coaches Woodward, Luken Step Down

Beste Will Take Volleyball Reins; Svatos To Continue As Competitive Cheer Coach

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Yankton High School will see a changing of the guard in three fall programs next school year.

YHS Activities Director Ryan Mors announced Tuesday that Tiffany Beste would succeed Leasa Woodward as head volleyball coach, that Kerry Svatos would take over as the lone head coach of the competitive cheer program, and that Jacki Ellis would take over as the sideline cheer coach for the fall sports.

All three are familiar to the Yankton program. Beste served as a volunteer assistant for volleyball last season, her first in the school district. Svatos shared head coaching duties with Angie Luken for the entire five-year history of the competitive cheer program, and Ellis currently serves as the sideline cheer coach for the winter sports.

"All three will do a great job," Mors said. "Their work starts now. Summer programs are right around the corner, and now is the time you start preparing for those."

Both Woodward and Luken stepped down after their respective seasons.

Woodward had considered the move away from head coaching in recent years, but did not have an assistant interested in taking the reins until Beste arrived in Yankton this past fall.

"When you have somebody with Tiffany's coaching credentials, experience and enthusiasm arrive, it was a no-brainer," Woodward said. "It will certainly be a rebuilding year, but I think that is a great time to get new energy, new ideas in. She will definitely bring that."

Woodward coached the Gazelles for 13 years, including the 2005 state championship team, the first in Yankton history.

"That seems like a long time ago," she

said of the title team. "I still keep in contact with a lot of those players. It's been fun to watch them advance and move on."

Woodward will remain as a teacher and eighth grade girls' basketball coach.

"I'm hoping to pick up something else," she noted. "I definitely want to continue coaching."

Beste served as head volleyball coach at Watertown High School for seven years prior to leaving for Yankton, taking the Arrows to four state tournament appearances, including a consolation championship in 2009. Prior to Watertown, Beste spent two years as head coach at Deuel. She also served as the freshman coach at Brookings High School while attending South Dakota State University.

Beste left Watertown for Yankton because her husband, Tony, was named the assistant principal at Yankton Middle School.

"I wasn't ready to be finished with coaching when we left Watertown," she

said. "Hopefully my experience will help us create the type of program we want to create here."

Beste inherits a Gazelles program that went 8-13 this past season and graduates two of the top hitters in school history, Mikala Hora and Kelsey Fitzgerald, among its six seniors.

"Not only do we lose two extremely talented hitters, we lose six seniors. That's a huge loss in experience," Beste said. "We'll fill those holes. Mikala and Kelsey each played for four years, and now there are opportunities for other players to step in."

As Beste begins to build her program, the emphasis will be on defense.

"My theory is that no opponent can take away your ability to play defense. If you focus on offense, you can be in trouble against a strong defensive team," she said. "My focus, going back 10, 12 years, is a lot on the defensive side."

Luken leaves the Yankton competitive

cheer program that she helped transition into a varsity program. She shared duties in both competitive cheer and fall sideline cheer with Svatos over the past several years, including the entire five-year run of competitive cheer.

Luken stepped down in order to have the time to watch her daughter, Hailey, compete for the Gazelles' dance team as a senior next fall.

"My daughter will be a senior, and I'd like to be a fan, able to go watch her as a parent and enjoy watching her compete," Luken said. "I was able to watch her as I was coaching, but I would miss bits and pieces, depending on the schedule."

The decision was not made at the spur of the moment.

"(Kerry and I) and talked about it last summer, that this season might be my last," Luken said. "I had visited with her to see if she wanted to take it over, and she was excited about it."

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Bobcats Complete Sweep Of YHS

BY VANCE JANAK
P&D Correspondent

Yankton coach Doug Pesicka told his team at halftime Tuesday night against Brookings to be more aggressive on offense.

Get position in the post. Look to score or get fouled. The Gazelles did that. The one problem is they didn't cash in many of their 22 second-half free throw attempts.

In what was a back-and-forth and tight contest between two of the teams near the bottom of the ESD conference, it was Yankton's shooting woes that allowed Brookings to leave the Summit Center with a 35-28 victory and a season sweep of the Gazelles.

Had Yankton shot better than 7-of-24 from the free-throw line, they could have been celebrating its fifth win of the second instead of looking back at hitting only 29.2 percent of its tries from the line in the 12th setback of the season.

While Brookings (3-15) was slightly better from the field – making 28.6 percent of its shots compared to 26.3 percent for Yankton – the Bobcats were much better at the free-throw line, making 62.5 percent of their attempts.

"You shoot 29 percent from the line and 26 percent from the field," Pesicka said, "it's pretty tough to win when you don't put the ball in the basket."

The one positive, Pesicka said, is that the Gazelles attempted 24 free throws. Senior Kelsey Fitzgerald (12 points) struggled the most, making only 4-of-13.

"Sometimes with shooting, making them can be contagious and missing them can be contagious. It gets in players' heads," Pesicka said. "We left a lot right on the front of the rim. We had a lot of close misses, even though that sounds odd. We had a lot that were on the front of the rim and bounced out."

"Obviously if you make half the free throws that you miss, you're going to win."

Shooting struggles aside, the Gazelles played well defensively and won the battle of the boards – thanks to Mikala Hora's game-high 12 rebounds – 36-22. Neither



Yankton's Kelsey Fitzgerald tries to get a shot off as she is surrounded by Brookings defenders during the first half of their Eastern South Dakota Conference girls' basketball action on Tuesday at the Summit Center. She was fouled on the play. Yankton struggled from the free throw line in a 35-28 Brookings victory.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Wynot, Crofton Return To Sub-District Finals

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Kelsie Higgins scored 13 points and helped the Wynot Lady Blue Devils defense stifle Winside 65-14 in the Sub-District D2-5 semifinals Tuesday night in Hartington, Neb.

Wynot jumped ahead 25-2 after the first quarter and allowed only two points in each of the first three quarters.

Maggie Schulte added 10 points for the Blue Devils (21-3), while Devin Jacobs had seven points, and Shelby Hochstein, Samantha Wieseler and Zoey Heimes each added six points.

For Winside (4-21), Nazya Thies, Morgan Jensen and Jayd Roberts all scored four points.

Wynot advances to the D2-5 title game and will play Bancroft-Rosalie on Thursday night at 7 p.m. in Hartington.

WINSIDE (4-21).....	2	4	6	14
WYNOT (21-3).....	25	39	56	65

Mary Jo McCauley added 13 points for Bancroft-Rosalie (13-10), which led 26-13 at halftime. Allie Vogt chipped in with 12 points.

For Lyons-Decatur (2-21), Brenna Wakeley scored 18 points.

LYONS-DECATUR NORTHEAST (2-21).....	7	13	28	40
BANCROFT-ROSALIE (13-10).....	13	26	34	52

eight rebounds in the victory for the Lady Warriors.

Rebecca Eggerling led Creighton (10-14) with 10 points in the loss.

Crofton advances to the championship and will face West Holt on Thursday in O'Neill. Creighton ended their season with the loss.

CROFTON (22-0).....	32	47	64	77
CREIGHTON (10-14).....	3	9	13	19

Sub-District C2-8

Crofton 77, Creighton 19

O'NEILL, Neb. — Crofton continued their quest for an undefeated season on Tuesday night. The Lady Warriors crushed Creighton 77-19 in the semi-finals of the Sub-District C2-8.

Bridget Arens led Crofton (22-0) with 19 points and six rebounds. Allison Arens netted 11 points. Maria Wortmann tallied eight points and

West Holt 58, Boyd Co. 55

O'NEILL, Neb. — West Holt shocked Boyd County 58-55 in the semi-finals of the Sub-District C2-6 on Tuesday night.

West Holt (16-8) was led by Megan Wenner with 16 points. Samantha Weber added 14

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Wagner's Noah St. Pierre drives past Vermillion's Tanner Anderson Tuesday night in Vermillion. Vermillion claimed a 48-34 victory.

JILANNE DOOM/P&D

Freeman Boys Upend Irene-Wakonda

FREEMAN — Caleb Long scored 20 points and pulled down nine rebounds to lead Freeman past Irene-Wakonda 67-60 in boys' action Tuesday night in Freeman.

Shaun Becker added 12 points for the Flyers (10-7), while Brennan Schmidt had 11 points and nine rebounds.

Freeman, which plays at Alcester-Hudson on Thursday, led 32-30 at halftime.

For the Eagles (9-9), Garbe King scored 15 points and Garrett Anderson had 11 points. Dustin Livingston grabbed nine rebounds and Dillon Buchanan hauled in five boards.

Freeman also won the 'B' game 40-29.

IRENE-WAKONDA (9-9).....	17	30	41	60
FREEMAN (10-7).....	16	32	45	67

VIBORG-HURLEY (15-2).....	17	43	62	75
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Dak. Valley 92, Bon Homme 33

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Dakota Valley thumped Bon Homme 92-33 behind Blake Van Ginkel's 22 points and a school-record 14 assists on Tuesday night.

Andrew Reiff also had 22 points for the Panthers (13-5). Isaac Faldmo added 17 points in the victory.

Scott Van Winkle led Bon Homme (5-14) with 10 points in the loss.

Dakota Valley will host Harrisburg on Thursday. Bon Homme will host Gregory on Friday.

McCook Central-Montrose 59, Tri-Valley 32

SALEM — Zach Bles scored 16 points to lead McCook Central-Montrose past Tri-Valley 59-32 on Tuesday night in Salem.

Brandon Rief added 12 points and Jacob Heumiller posted 10 points, five rebounds and four assists for the Fighting Cougars (12-5).

Brett Page had 16 points and two assists for the visiting Mustangs (7-11), while Logan Otto had six points and three rebounds.

MCM visits West Central on Friday and Tri-Valley travels to Baltic next Monday.

TRI-VALLEY (7-11).....	15	20	29	32
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (12-5).....	20	37	49	59

Lennox 48, Beresford 35

LENNOX — Lennox defeated Beresford 48-35 in South Dakota boys basketball action Tuesday night.

Zach Koosman led Lennox (9-9) with 18 points. Alex Lane had 12 points and seven rebounds in the victory.

Oliver Doeden led Beresford (5-12) with 12 points in the loss.

Lennox will travel to Dell Rapids on Friday. Beresford will host Sioux Falls Christian tomorrow.

LENNOX (9-9).....	20	22	32	48
BERESFORD (5-12).....	13	23	27	35

South Central 47, Colome 33

BURKE — South Central defeated Colome 47-33 in South Dakota boys basketball action Tuesday night.

Sam Hazen led South Central (17-1) with a double-double. Hazen had 14 points and 12 rebounds. Tyler Frank and Dakota Votaw each had 11 points in the victory.

Reed Harter and Paul Temple led Colome (7-10) with 12 points in the loss.

South Central will challenge Viborg-Hurley at the Corn Palace on Monday. Colome will travel to Lake Andes on Saturday.

SOUTH CENTRAL (17-1)	16	17	37	47
COLOME (7-10).....	10	22	29	33

SBA 58, Sully Buttes 49

MILLER — Jaden Brockel scored 15 points and three other players for Sunshine Bible Academy reached double figures in a 58-49 home win over Sully Buttes on Tuesday night.

Brian LaDue had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Crusaders (7-9), while Drew McClain scored 11 points and Brady Brockel had 10 points.

For Sully Buttes (7-10), Braydon Witter scored 19 points and Scott Senthner added 12 points and eight rebounds.

SULLY BUTTES (7-10).....	14	27	37	49
SUNSHINE BIBLE ACADEMY (7-9).....	19	34	35	58

Todd County 67, Gregory 60

GREGORY — Zach Cox scored a game-high 29 points to lead Todd County past Gregory 67-60 on Tuesday night in Gregory.

Kellan Herman added 20 points for Todd County (10-8), which led 32-17 at halftime.

For the hometown Gorillas (5-12), Jaden Bartling had 13 points, Robert Vornacka scored 11 points and Gavin Thomas chipped in with 10 points.

TODD COUNTY (10-8).....	13	32	49	67
GREGORY (5-12).....	9	17	33	60

Deuel 71, De Smet 46

DE SMET — Four players reached double figures and Deuel forced 27 turnovers in a 71-46 boys' win Tuesday night at De Smet.

Curt Boeke and Trevor Cassels each scored 12 points for Deuel (15-3), which led 33-23 at halftime.

For De Smet (7-11), Austin Janssen had a double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

DEUEL (15-3).....	13	32	48	71
DE SMET (7-11).....	4	24	30	46

Monday

Marion 55, Freeman Acad. 48

FREEMAN — The Marion Bears defeated Freeman Academy 55-48 in boys' action Monday night in Freeman.

No other stats were reported for Marion (3-15), which plays Thursday in Viborg against Viborg-Hurley.

Teagan Schroeder had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Bobcats (1-17), who play Feb. 21 at Gayville-Volin.

MARION (3-15).....	17	32	40	55
FREEMAN ACADEMY (1-17).....	17	27	39	48

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US Wrestlers Blindsided By Olympic Ouster

(AP) — Rulon Gardner's epic upset of Russian wrestling great Alexander Karelin in 2000 remains one of the most compelling moments of the modern Olympics.

Starting in 2020, youngsters looking to Gardner and Karelin for inspiration won't have a chance to excel on the sport's biggest stage.

Gardner and nearly everyone else associated with the sport in the U.S. were jolted Tuesday when International Olympic Committee leaders dropped wrestling from the Summer Games.

The move is set to take effect for the 2020 Olympics and eliminates a sport that's been a staple of both the ancient and modern games.

"It's the IOC trying to change the Olympics to make it more mainstream and more viewer-friendly instead of sticking to what they founded the Olympics on, and that was basically amateur sports," Gardner told The Associated Press by phone from Logan, Utah. "To get the death penalty out of nowhere."

The decision by the IOC to phase out wrestling will leave the U.S. without one of its most successful Olympic sports.

The only sports in which the Americans have won more medals than wrestling is swimming and track and field — and those two have far more medal opportunities.

Americans have won a record 113 freestyle Olympic medals, by far the most of any nation.

Though the U.S. has slipped in recent Olympic cycles, it bounced back with a pair of London Games gold medalists in Jordan Burroughs — possibly the best wrestler in the world — and Jake Varner.

"I do think wrestling people are the strongest in the world, and they're resilient. And we'll come out of whatever happens. But short term, yeah, it's sad," 2004 Olympic gold medalist and Penn State coach Cael Sanderson said.

"I just think of the kids in our program that dream of being Olympic champions. And to think that now that's no longer an opportunity just so the IOC stay fresh and continue to rotate sports and whatever their plan is — it's tough to think about."

Wrestling is also one of the most popular youth sports in the U.S. The National Federation of State High School Associations reports that the sport was sixth among prep boys with nearly 275,000 competing in 2010-11.

"Wrestling is the Olympics. It's the toughest, most grueling, most demanding and most humbling sport there is. It teaches you so many life lessons," said Jake Herbert, who wrestled for the U.S. in the London Games.

Wrestling will now join seven other sports in applying for inclusion in 2020. The others are a combined bid from baseball and softball, karate, squash, roller sports, sport climbing, wakeboarding and wushu. They will be vying for a single opening in 2020.

USA Wrestling executive director Richard Bender calls his sport "one of the most diverse," with nearly 200 nations from all continents participating.

"It is an inclusive sport which provides opportunities worldwide, regardless of geography, race, gender or physical characteristics," he said. "We look forward to telling the story about wrestling to the International Committee leadership and the entire world about our great sport and why it should be part of the Olympic movement forever."