

# Gazelles Seventh At State

RAPID CITY — The Yankton-Bon Homme Gazelles gymnastics team is coming back from a cross-state drive with some hardware.

Yankton earned seventh place in the team competition of the South Dakota State Gymnastics Championships, which began Friday at Stevens High School.

To jump from 11th place a year ago to the top eight teams on the awards stand was a nice step in the progression to the Gazelles, according to head coach Luke Youmans.

“For us to get on the podium, which was always our goal, is a really big accomplishment,” Youmans said. “It’s been a really long, dry spell since we’ve had a team up there.

“We were fairly confident about it, but now that it’s finally done, we’re all really relieved.”

Rapid City Central defended its team title with a score of 151.7 points, followed in the top five by Watertown (145.85), Mitchell (141.975), Sioux Falls O’Gorman (138.45) and Brookings (137.125). Yankton-Bon Homme had a team score of 134.125, just behind Aberdeen Central’s 135.175.

Youmans said the Gazelles realized a potential top-eight finish would come down to the day’s final event, the beam, which naturally led to some pressure.

“Our girls did a perfect job holding it together and staying focused,” Youmans said. “They knew it’d come down to our last event. We had some huge performances that really took us from a team that would maybe get to the podium to one that was no doubt one of the top eight.

“That was probably my proudest moment of the year.”

Getting to the point of not only competing with the best in the state but climbing the Class AA ranks took some hard work, Youmans said.

“For us, it’s been a year of building. Coming off last year, we had all the right pieces in place to turn things around, so this was going to be our year of change; the year we turn a corner,” he said. “Our girls bought into it, and spent a full year working hard and training hard.”

The attention now turns to today’s (Saturday) individual competition, starting with Class AA at

10:20 a.m. and Class A at 5:20 p.m.

“This was really the icing on the cake (Friday),” Youmans said. “We don’t want to take anything from team day, because we’ve got good individuals who have a chance at placing. We’re going to make (today) a little more of a fun day.

“We met our goal, now we’ll just try to build off that goal and do some things we haven’t done in a while.”

TEAM SCORES: Rapid City Central 151.7, Watertown 145.85, Mitchell 141.975, Sioux Falls O’Gorman 138.45, Brookings 137.125, Aberdeen Central 135.175, Yankton-Bon Homme 134.125, Huron 134, Rapid City Stevens 133.675, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 131.775, Pierre 131.625, Sioux Falls Lincoln 130.6

**Class A**

The Vermillion Tanagers finished sixth in the Class A team portion of the South Dakota State Gymnastics Championships, which began Friday in Rapid City.

Deuel repeated as the team champion with 145.9 total points, followed in the top five by Madison, Milbank, Chamberlain and Stanley County. Vermillion was next with 121.775 total points.

Wagner finished ninth with 117.35 points.

TEAM SCORES: Deuel 145.9, Madison 137.025, Milbank 130.05, Chamberlain 127.88, Stanley County 127.05, Vermillion 121.775, Hot Springs 120.9, Sisseton 120.125, Wagner 117.35, Britton-Hecla 116.675, West Central 110, Wall-Kadoka 100.475



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Yankton-Bon Homme gymnastics team earned seventh place in the South Dakota State Class AA Meet, held on Friday at Rapid City Stevens High School. Pictured are (front) Haleigh Diede, Charlotte Taggart, Kaitlin Guthmiller, (back) head coach Luke Youmans, Lindsay Larson, Chelsey Hisek, Miranda Hallberg, Sophie Bisgard, Elsie Kotalik, Ashtyn Haak and assistant coach Justin Olson.

# Bucks Third In Region 2A

## Wrestling: Bucks Qualify Seven For State

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE  
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SIoux FALLS — A season of hard work paid off in a big way for local wrestlers Friday night.

Yankton, Vermillion and Dakota Valley are now looking forward to the state competition after the second round of the Region 2A Wrestling Tournament in Sioux Falls.

Yankton will send seven wrestlers to state. Noah Vetter (106) took second place at the tournament followed by Casey Skillingstad, who claimed the 132-pound championship. Mason Strahl (138) placed fourth, Matt Huber (145) placed second, James Hisek took the 160-pound championship, CJ Warren (170) placed second and Royce Reisner (285) took fourth.

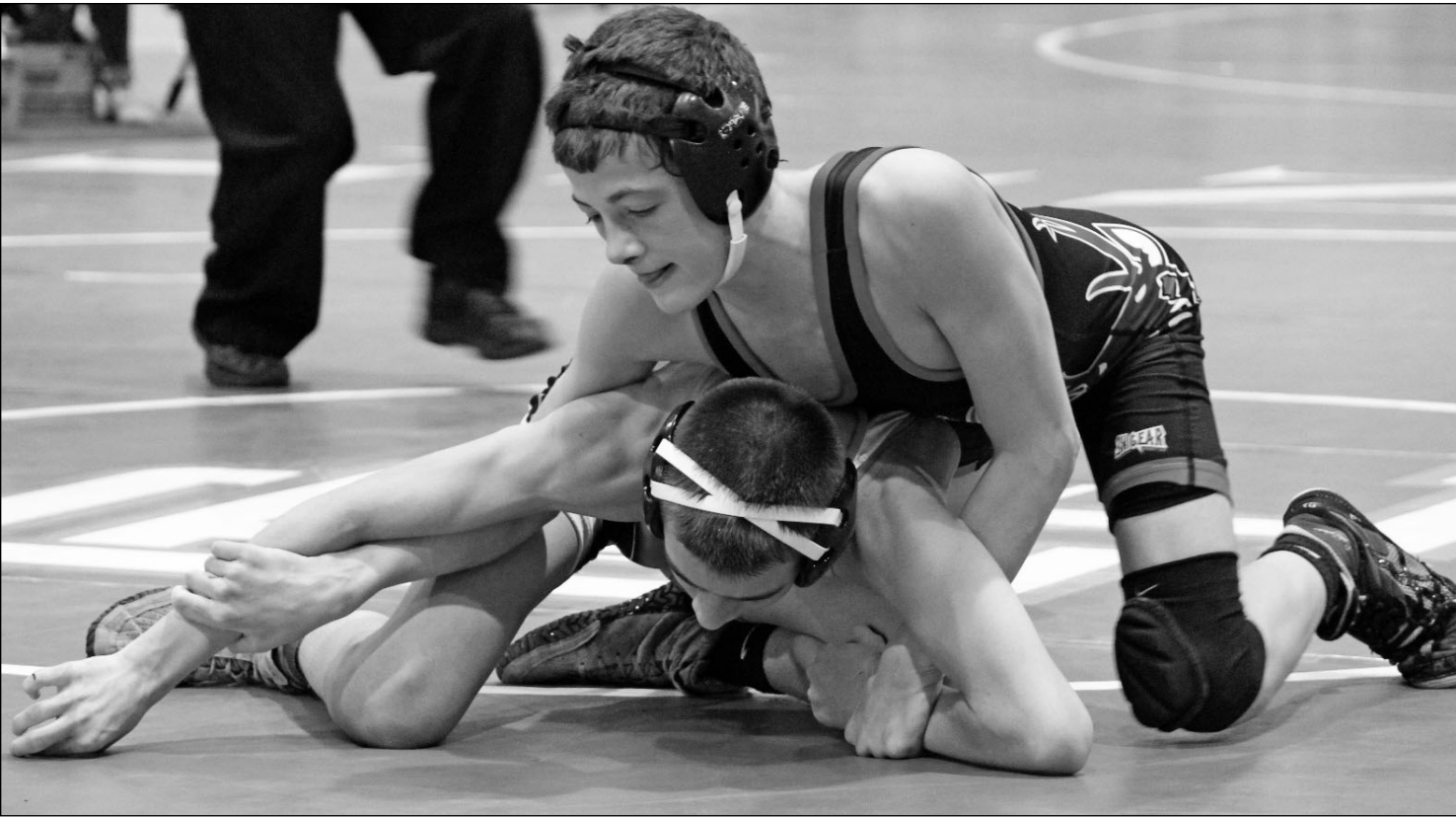
Huber said he was happy his team sent seven wrestlers through, and his team will now look to work on conditioning to prepare for state.

Hisek also said he was happy with the results.

“I was glad to see we got seven guys through,” he said. “I wish we could have gotten 10, but now we just have to work on our conditioning coming up to make sure we’re ready to go.”

Vermillion will send Kyle Seibel (106), who also came in fourth place, Carter Kratz (138) in third, Regan Bye claiming the 145-pound championship, Brett Bye taking the 152-pound championship, Brandon Hertz (160) in fourth and Seth Heine (182) also in fourth.

Dakota Valley is also looking to send Blake Perryman, the 138-pound championship, Brady Doom (145) in fourth, Taylor Lam-



ABOVE: Yankton's Noah Vetter looks to pin Chase O'Connor of Sioux Falls Washington during the 106-pound championship match at the Region 2A Wrestling Tournament on Friday at Sioux Falls Lincoln High School. O'Connor scored a 4-1 decision for the title. Vetter will also advance to state, one of seven Bucks to qualify for state out of the region.

LEFT: Vermillion's Kyle Seibel goes for the pin against Nick Schirado of Harrisburg in their 106-pound consolation semifinal match. Seibel won 7-1 and finished fourth, earning a trip to state. The Tanagers finished fourth and qualified six wrestlers for state. Dakota Valley finished sixth and had four qualifiers, three of whom won their respective weight classes.

EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D

## Menno Boys Escape Scotland

MENNO — The Menno Wolves built a 16-point halftime lead but survived a scare by holding off Scotland 33-32 in boys' basketball action Friday night in Menno.

Dylan Lehr scored nine points and Caleb Preszler added eight points for Menno (6-12), which led 26-10 at halftime but scored just seven points in the second half.

Austin Herrboldt dished out four assists and Chet Peterson had three steals for the Wolves, who play at Andes Central on Monday.

Seth Ireland had 10 points for Scotland (2-16), while Tanner Skorepa hauled in eight rebounds and Shaye Bloch had four steals. The Highlanders play Hanson in Alexandria on Monday.

SCOTLAND (2-16).....2 10 23 32  
MENNO (6-12).....15 26 28 33

**Wausa 50, Bloomfield 49**

WAUSA, Neb. — A trio of Vikings led Wausa to a 50-49 victory over Bloomfield on Friday night to close out the regular season for both teams.

Marcus Claussen (13 points), Trevor Wakeley (12 points) and Austin Conn (10 points) all scored in double figures as the Vikings finish their season 20-2.

For the Bees, 10-10, junior Kane Fiedler scored 17 points.

Both teams begin district play early next week.

BLOOMFIELD (10-10).....14 27 33 49  
WAUSA (20-2).....13 19 34 50

**Dakota Valley 71, Harrisburg 63**

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Dakota Valley won their 14th game of the season with a 71-63 victory over Harrisburg on Thursday night in Class A basketball action.

Jason Lupkes posted a double-double for the Panthers with 13 points and 12 rebounds. Blake Van Ginkle added 19 points and Brody Van Ginkel scored 17.

For Harrisburg, Alex Jacobson scored 22 points and Andrew McCuen added 12.

Dakota Valley, 14-5, finishes their regular season on Friday against Lennox at home.

Harrisburg, 8-11, also finishes their regular season on Friday, traveling to Sisseton.

HARRISBURG (8-11).....17 34 53 63  
DAKOTA VALLEY (14-5).....16 29 52 71

**Bon Homme 56, Gregory 45**

TYNDALL — Scott Van Winkle scored 21 points and dished out five assists to lead Bon Homme past Gregory 56-45 on Friday night in Tyndall.

Mike Messman added 14 points and Hunter Young had 10 points for the Cavaliers (6-14), while Kodi Larson grabbed six rebounds.

The game was tied at 31 at halftime.

For Gregory (5-14), Sean Kafka scored 11 points and Robert Vomacka had 10 points. The Gorillas scored 20 points in the first quarter but were held to 25 over the next three.

GREGORY (5-14).....20 31 37 45  
BON HOMME (6-14).....15 31 40 56

**Platte-Ged. 61, Wagner 50**

PLATTE — Coby Johnson's double-double led Platte-Geddes to a 61-50 victory over Wagner in Class A boys' basketball action on Friday night in Platte.

Johnson scored 21 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead the Black Panthers while Tate Van Zee added 16 points.

For Wagner, 8-10, Noah St. Pierre scored 17 points and added five rebounds.

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# Roach, Loberg Alive At Nebraska State Wrestling

OMAHA, Neb. — Austin Roach of Laurel-Concord-Coleridge and Dylan Loberg of Randolph are the lone area competitors remaining after Friday's second day of competition at the Nebraska State Wrestling Tournament, being held at Qwest Center in Omaha. Both are guaranteed top-six finishes with those performances.

Roach, wrestling at 170 pounds

in Class D, scored a pair of pins on consolation action on Friday, sticking Bayard's Tristan Hunter in 2:50 in the third round and Maxwell's Taylor Mckeeman in 55 seconds in the second round.

Loberg scored an 8-2 decision over Vade Jensen of Wilcox-Hildreth. Earlier in the day, he scored an 18-6 major decision over Quin-ten Chancellor of Medicine Valley.

Two other wrestlers were eliminated in third round consolation, both in Class C.

Crofton's Lucas Miller dropped a major decision to Mitchell's Drew Gilliland at 106 pounds. He advanced earlier in the day with a 4-2 victory over Trey Dodson of North Platte St. Patrick.

Creighton-Verdigre's Braden Forker earned two victories at 195

pounds before losing to Trevor Adams of Fillmore Central. His earlier victories were by pin over Blake Bandur of Ord and a major decision over Trevor Jensen of Dundy County-Stratton.

Eliminated in second round consolation were Chris Heydon (160) and Ethan Hirschman (285) of Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, and Jesse Schmidt (113) and Tyler

Brunssen (195) of Randolph. Garrett Zimmerer (106) and Eli Schreier (182) of Creighton-Verdigre, Jonathan Larsen of Ponca (132) and Shawn Thelen of Randolph (106) were each eliminated in the first round of consolation action.

The meet concludes today (Saturday).

# Lancers Look To Build On Late-Season Run

## Mount Marty College Baseball Opens 2013 Campaign On Monday

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Mount Marty College head baseball coach Andy Bernatow called the 2012 season, “A great story of perseverance.”

This season, he’s hoping for a lot less drama and a little more success.

MMC returns five position players and two conference starters from a team that went 27-28 a year ago, using a run of 13 victories in 15 games to make the Great Plains Athletic Conference Tournament, then go undefeated in that tournament.

“It definitely was an interesting season,

a lot of twists and turns,” Bernatow said of the 2012 campaign, which saw the Lancers qualify for the NAIA Opening Round for the second time in three years. “We saw the lowest of lows and, in the same season, the highest of highs.”

But Bernatow feels that this season may be even better.

“I know I say it a lot, but this could be a special year,” he said. “We can compete with a lot of teams in the conference, and the conference looks as good as any year I’ve been here.”

The success of recent years has the team hungry for more, according to senior

Mathias Godsil.

“All the new kids know that it is expected for Mount Marty to be a winning organization,” he said. “It is expected that we can do well in the GPAC and go on in the national tournament.”

Two members of last season’s regular rotation, senior Cassidy Key-Darlington (7-4, 4.27 ERA), and Dominic Wieseler (4-4, 3.73 ERA), return to anchor the Lancers’ league starters.

“Cassidy threw as well as anyone in the back half of the season. Dom was throwing strong in the first half,” Bernatow said.

“The two of them can provide a lot of

good innings.”

Transfer A.J. Griffith (Great Falls, Mont.) and freshman Asau Rodriguez (Rapid City) have also looked strong in the early going.

“A.J. is coming off a great career at Miles Community College. At the junior college level he started, pitched in long relief and closed. He’s a kid that wants the ball in his hand,” Bernatow said. “We think Asau can provide for us at the varsity level. It will just be a matter of putting him in the proper role.”

The Lancers will also have to decide what role to use pitchers Derrik Nelson (1-2,

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TOP RETURNING PLAYERS									
	Avg.	HR	RBI	SB					
Derrik Nelson	.405	1	20	11					
Jared Miller	.371	2	45	1					
Mathias Godsil	.352	0	23	3					
Zac Hollenback	.269	0	16	3					
Kyler Pekarek	.200	0	6	0					
ERA W L GP SV IP SO									
Josh Cleveland	3.20	2	1	8	0	25.1	13		
Dom Wieseler	3.73	4	4	10	0	50.2	18		
Key-Darlington	4.27	7	4	13	0	65.1	46		
Brian Bartlett	5.70	0	3	6	0	23.2	7		
Josh Homme	7.36	1	1	10	0	7.1	5		