

# Press & Dakotan

## DAILY DOSE

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
james.cimburek@yankton.net

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



In recent weeks, there have been some interesting comments about the SDHSAA's new power points system for basketball and volleyball. The main reason: because Eastern South Dakota Conference teams with more wins are going to get stuck behind Sioux Falls programs with fewer wins. For example, 11-9 Washington will be the one-seed in District 2AA boys, ahead of 12-8 Brandon Valley and Yankton. Should Lincoln beat Roosevelt tonight (Thursday), the Patriots will jump ahead of all three, bumping the Bucks into a play-in game with Harrisburg on Saturday. One of the complaints has referred to the fact that the Sioux Falls schools play several out-of-state programs: Washington played five and Lincoln played six of their 20 games against non-S.D. opponents. But that argument isn't as sound as some would lead you to believe. While Lincoln got a boost from its out-of-state foes — a power point average of 43.0 compared to an in-state average of 39.538 — Washington and the Roosevelt girls, the other lower-ranked team with

a higher seed, did not. In fact, both the Warrior boys and Rough Rider girls have lower power point averages against out-of-state competition. With the Sioux Falls schools wanting to limit their West River travel — and the smaller AA schools West River not wanting to play Sioux Falls anyway — it's hard for those schools to put together a schedule without drawing on cities like Marshall, Minn., and Sioux City, Iowa, for opponents. Before the ESD starts clamoring for changes to the power point system after just one year, maybe it should look within. ESD boys' teams went a combined 14-22 in non-league games, with 11 of those 14 wins coming from three programs: Harrisburg, Huron and Pierre. One more win for Harrisburg or Watertown, or two more wins for Aberdeen give the ESD a boost across the board. Whether you go tweak the new point system, go back to the old point system — 50 for a win, 0 for a loss — or, as one old coach said to me recently, go back to the random draw system that was used back in the 1960s, one thing is constant: You still have to win two games (or three, if you have the play-in), to get to state, then win three games in three days to win it all. If you do that, no one will care what your seed was.

### SCOREBOARD

#### BASKETBALL

**WEDNESDAY'S S.D. BOYS**  
x-Non-points race  
Feb. 15 — x-Sprint Unlimited (Denny Hamlin)

#### AUTO RACING

**NASCAR SPRINT CUP**  
2014 SCHEDULE  
Feb. 15 — x-Sprint Unlimited (Denny Hamlin)

Feb. 20 — x-Budweiser Duel 1 (Matt Kenseth)

Feb. 23 — Daytona 500 (Dale Earnhardt Jr.)

March 2 — Subway Fresh Fit 500, Avondale, Ariz.

March 9 — Kobalt 400, Las Vegas.

March 16 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn.

March 23 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif.

March 30 — STP Gas Booster 300, Martinsville, Va.

April 6 — NRA 500, Fort Worth, Texas.

April 12 — Bojangles' Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.

April 20 — Toyota Owners 400, Richmond, Va.

May 4 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala.

May 10 — STP 400, Kansas City, Kan.

May 16 — x-Sprint Showdown, Concord, N.C.

May 17 — x-Sprint All-Star Race, Concord, N.C.

May 25 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C.

June 1 — Autism Speaks 400, Dover, Del.

June 8 — Part in the Poconos 400, Long Pond, Pa.

June 15 — Quicken Loans 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

June 22 — Toyota/Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif.

June 28 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, Ky.

July 5 — Coke Zero 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.

July 13 — Camping World RV Sales 301, Loudon, N.H.

July 27 — Brickyard 400, Indianapolis, Ind.

Aug. 3 — GoBowling.com 400, Long Pond, Pa.

Aug. 10 — Cheez-It 355 at the Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Aug. 17 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

Aug. 23 — Irwin Tools Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.

Aug. 31 — AdvoCare 500 at Atlanta, Hampton, Ga.

Sept. 6 — Federated Auto Parts 400, Richmond, Va.

Sept. 14 — GEICO 400, Joliet, Ill.

Sept. 21 — Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H.

Sept. 28 — AAA 400, Dover, Del.

Oct. 5 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.

Oct. 11 — Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C.

Oct. 19 — Camping World RV Sales 500, Talladega, Ala.

Oct. 26 — Goody's Headache Relief Shot 500, Martinsville, Va.

Nov. 2 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas.

Nov. 9 — AdvoCare 500, Avondale, Ariz.

Nov. 16 — Ford EcoBoost 400, Homestead, Fla.

**2014 DRIVER STANDINGS**

1. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 48.
2. Denny Hamlin, 43.
3. Brad Keselowski, 42.
4. Jeff Gordon, 40.
5. Jimmie Johnson, 40.
6. Matt Kenseth, 38.
7. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 37.
8. Greg Biffle, 37.

### AREA CALENDAR

**Thursday, February 27**  
**BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD** at North Dakota State (7 p.m., KVHT-FM)

**BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S** North Dakota State at USD (7 p.m., KVTK-AM)

**BASKETBALL, BOYS'** Neb. Sub-Districts — C2-4 at Wayne (Championship) — Winnebago vs. Homer, 7 p.m.; C2-9 at Wausa (Championship) — Harrington Cedar Catholic vs. Crofton, 7 p.m., KKYA-FM; D1-4 at Ponca (Championship) — Randolph vs. Bloomfield, 7 p.m.; D2-5 at Championship — Wynot vs. Wausa, 7 p.m.; Burke-South Central at Avon; Colome vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Armour; Gregory at Platte-Geddes; Marion at Gayville-Voin; Parker at Freeman

**BASKETBALL, GIRLS'** S.D. Regions — 4A at Elk Point (Vermillion at Elk Point-Jefferson, 6 p.m., KVTK.com; Lennox vs. Dakota Valley, 7:45 p.m.); 5A (Wagner at West Central, 7 p.m.; Mount Vernon-Plankinton at Tri-Valley, 7 p.m.)

**Friday, February 28**  
**ARCHERY, COLLEGE** Indoor Nationals at Yankton (MMC)

**BASEBALL, COLLEGE** Clarke vs. MMC at Sabetha, Kan. (DH, 11 a.m.)

**BASKETBALL, BOYS'** Dakota Valley at Lennox; Tea Area at Beresford; Vermillion at Canton (7:30 p.m., KVTK-AM)

**BASKETBALL, GIRLS'** S.D. Districts — 2AA (YHS at Brandon Valley, 7 p.m., KVHT-FM; 9B at Freeman (Championship) — Freeman vs. Scotland, 7 p.m.); 10B at Tea (Championship) — Gayville-Voin vs. Alcester-Hudson, 7 p.m.); 11B at Mitchell (Championship) — Kimball-White Lake vs. Corsica-Slickney, 8:30 p.m.); 12B at Mitchell (Championship) — Avon vs. Burke-South Central, 8 p.m.); Neb. District Finals — C2-5 at Spencer (Crofton vs. Ainsworth, 7 p.m., KKYA-FM); D2-3 at Wausa (Wynot vs. Ewing, 7 p.m.)

**BOWLING, HS CLUB** S.D. State

**TOURNAMENT** at Brookings (Yankton, Vermillion)

**HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV** S.D. State Tour at Sioux Falls (Yankton)

**HOCKEY, BANTAM** S.D. State A Tour, at Pierre (Yankton); S.D. State B Tour, at Huron (Yankton)

**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE** Indoor Summit League Championships at Fort Wayne, Ind. (USD)

**WRESTLING, PREP** S.D. State Class A Tour, at Rapid City, S.D. State Class B Tour, at Aberdeen

**Saturday, March 1**  
**ARCHERY, COLLEGE** Indoor Nationals at Yankton (MMC)

**BASEBALL, COLLEGE** Waldorf vs. MMC at Sabetha, Kan. (DH, 11 a.m.)

**BASKETBALL, MEN'S USD** at South Dakota State (4 p.m., KVHT-FM, WNAX-AM, Midco SN); Great Plains Athletic Conf. Semifinals

**BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S** Great Plains Athletic Conf. Semifinals

**BASKETBALL, BOYS'** S.D. Districts — 2AA (YHS, 7 p.m.); 12B (Andes Central, Avon, Marty Indian)

**HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV** S.D. State Tour, at Sioux Falls (Yankton)

**HOCKEY, BANTAM** S.D. State A Tour, at Pierre (Yankton); S.D. State B Tour, at Huron (Yankton)

**TRUCK & FIELD, COLLEGE** Indoor Summit League Championships at Fort Wayne, Ind. (USD)

**WRESTLING, PREP** S.D. State Class A Tour, at Rapid City, S.D. State Class B Tour, at Aberdeen

**Sunday, March 2**  
**ARCHERY, COLLEGE** Indoor Nationals at Yankton (MMC)

**BASEBALL, COLLEGE** Briar Cliff vs. MMC at Sabetha, Kan. (11 a.m.)

**BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S** South Dakota State at USD (2 p.m., KVHT-FM, WNAX-FM)

**HOCKEY, GIRLS' JV** S.D. State Tour, at Sioux Falls (Yankton)

**HOCKEY, BANTAM** S.D. State A Tour, at Pierre (Yankton); S.D. State B Tour, at Huron (Yankton)



Vermillion's Brett Bye controls the match during the Dakota XII Conference Tournament earlier this season. Brett Bye takes an undefeated record into state at 152 pounds, while his brother Regan is a returning champion at 145 pounds.

P&D FILE PHOTO

## State A

From Page 7

Huber, who qualified for state in 2012 but missed state last year due to injury, opens 126-pound competition against Madison freshman Bailey Mennis (31-15).

The Bucks take three first-time state qualifiers out west, junior Ryan Sternhagen (160) and sophomores Cody Vornhagen (106) and Bashir Abd-Al-Kreem (113).

"That was one of the goals they set for themselves," Hage said of qualifying for state. "Being on the podium is another."

All three take on familiar foes. Sternhagen (12-28) draws Aberdeen Central senior Tyson Mitzel (32-5), Vornhagen (24-20) draws Brookings sophomore Jacob Puppe (36-4) and Abd-Al-Kreem (12-22) faces Aberdeen Central sophomore Josh Moore (32-14).

"Administration always does a good job of scheduling," Hage said. "When it comes to post-season, we've either scouted or competed against anyone we might see."

The less experienced Bucks would do well to follow the examples of Yankton's two veterans, Hage noted.

"Hopefully the three new guys pay special attention to the attitude and preparation of those two," he said. "They need to be confident and try to make opponents wrestle our style. If they do that, there's a chance of getting an upset in the first round or in later rounds."

Competition begins Friday morning, with championship rounds set for Saturday afternoon at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.

### Vermillion

With one returning state champion, one undefeated wrestler and five others who have state meet experience, the Vermillion Tanagers have high expectations as they head to state.

The Tanagers will take eight wrestlers to Rapid City, with eighth grader Trey Hage, the son of Yankton head coach Ryan Hage, being the lone Tanager without a state meet under his belt.

"The wrestlers that were seeded (in regions) made it through," said Vermillion head coach Hazen Bye. "There are always a couple on the edge that you'd like to get through."

Regan Bye (43-3) is the defending state champion at 145 pounds. His twin brother Brett takes a 44-0 record into action at 152 pounds, where he finished third a year ago. (Interestingly, the only other

unbeaten wrestler in Class A, Aberdeen Central's John Frisco, was second at 152 a year ago.)

Vermillion sends two wrestlers to state, Alex Osborne (33-13) at 170 pounds and Seth Heine (29-18) at 182 pounds. Also qualified are junior Brandon Hertz (31-14) at 160, freshmen Kyle Seibel (27-19) at 113 and Carter Kratz (20-9) at 132, and Trey Hage (37-11) at 106.

Coach Bye has high hopes for the Tanagers.

"I'd like to see eight places," he said. "Realistically, I think we can put two in the finals and place five. For that to happen, they have to trust in their training and themselves, and stay focused. "The rest will take care of itself."

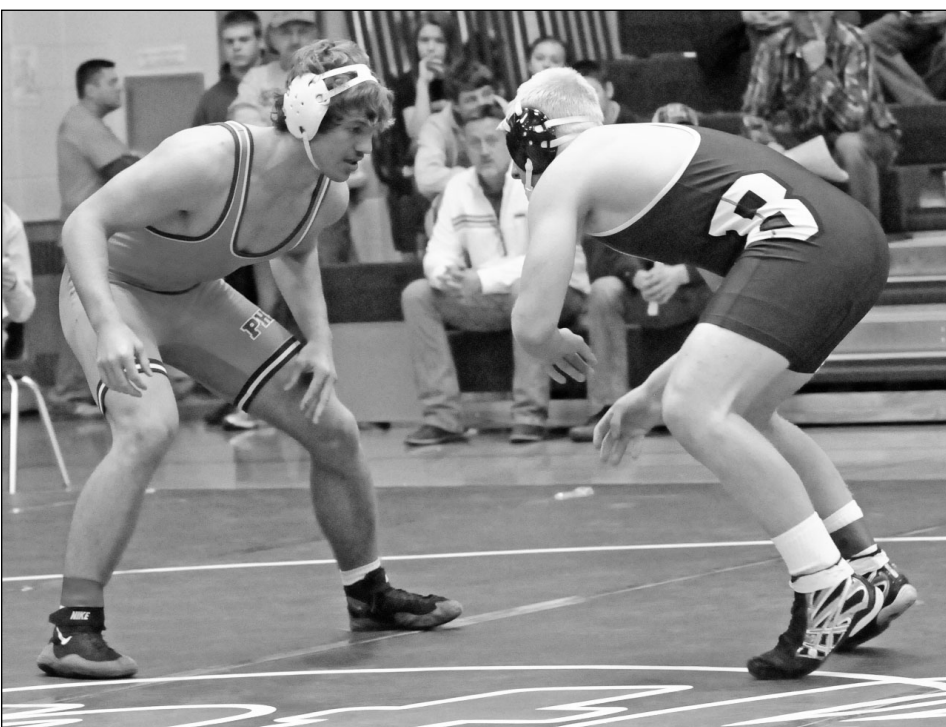
### Dakota Valley

Vermillion sends just two wrestlers to Rapid City, but the duo have combined for 79 victories on the season.

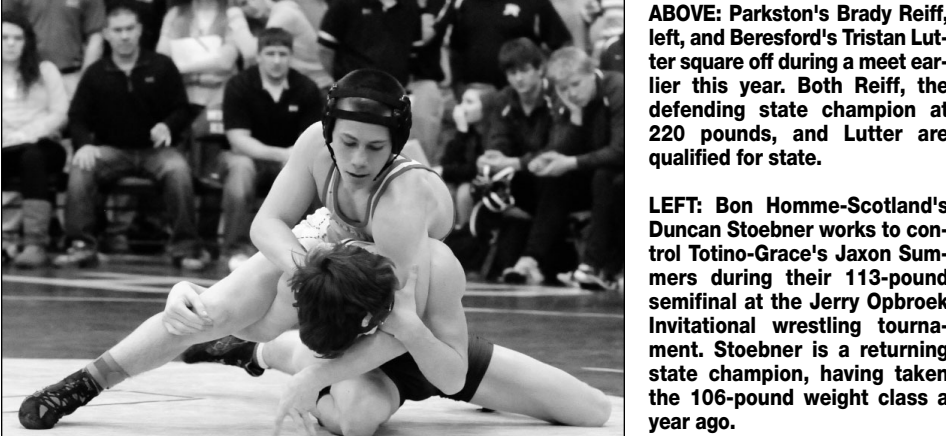
Senior Blake Perryman (38-6) is a returning state placewinner, having finished third at 138 a year ago. He will compete at 145 pounds in his final go-around.

Junior Brady Dam (41-16) will compete at 152 pounds for the Panthers.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at [twitter.com/JCimburek](https://twitter.com/JCimburek). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)



P&D FILE PHOTOS  
ABOVE: Parkston's Brady Reiff, left, and Beresford's Tristan Lutter square off during a meet earlier this year. Both Reiff, the defending state champion at 220 pounds, and Lutter are qualified for state.



LEFT: Bon Homme-Scotland's Duncan Stoebner works to control Totino-Grace's Jaxon Summers during their 113-pound semifinal at the Jerry Opbroek Invitational wrestling tournament. Stoebner is a returning state champion, having taken the 106-pound weight class a year ago.

## Class B

From Page 7

we can win, also some tough ones," he said. "If we go out and compete like we can, we should have a great tournament."

### Elk Point-Jefferson

The Huskies come into state off of one of their better performances of the year, something that has head coach Danny Hutcheson encouraged.

The first-year coach said that, while he expected each of his eight qualifiers to make the tournament, he was impressed with how they got there.

"The thing that was a surprise is that every one of our wrestlers showed up and competed to the best of his ability," Hutcheson said. "It is rare that you have a team compete at their peak from top to bottom when it counts most, and that is what happened at our region meet."

The Huskies return state placewinners from a year ago, senior C.J. Geary (182 pounds, 39-9; 5th at 195 a year ago) and sophomore Jared Hueser (145 pounds, 34-13; 8th at 138 a year ago). Hutcheson expects those two and junior Lukas Forsling (195 pounds, 31-5) to lead EPJ at state.

"These guys have experience at the state meet and they feel very good about the way their bracket is set up," he said. "They each have a very realistic chance of making the finals."

Also qualified for the Huskies are junior Cody Davis (152 pounds, 19-26), sophomores Roman Fehr (113 pounds, 34-16) and Andrew Teply (285 pounds, 25-22), and freshmen Dylan Colt (106 pounds, 32-12) and Alex Norby (132 pounds, 17-8). With eight qualifiers, Hutcheson expects the Huskies to contend for a spot on the podium.

"Our goal from day one was to place in the top eight as a team. With eight qualifiers that is a realistic goal and that is what we are trying to achieve," he said. "To do it we just need our guys to show up prepared, wrestle smart and be ag-

gressive. If we do those things we will meet our goal."

### Bon Homme-Scotland

A year ago, Bon Homme finished sixth as a team and Scotland brought home one medal. Together this year, coach Mark Stoebner is hoping for a great team effort.

"The goal is always top-eight," he said. "If we do well, there's no reason we shouldn't get there."

"The top three are a little better than anyone else, but fourth through eighth is wide open."

Junior Duncan Stoebner (113 pounds, 37-1) is a returning state champion, having claimed the 106-pound title a year ago. Sophomore Alex Caba (120 pounds, 32-5) wrestled in the 113-pound championship last season. Scotland's lone medalist a year ago, Dan Stibral (3rd at heavyweight), takes a 36-0 record into state this season.

Bon Homme-Scotland has also gotten good seasons from seniors Moises Lozano (138 pounds, 23-20) and Austin Kaul (145 pounds, 38-5), sophomore Kreg Kepplinger (220 pounds, 20-22) and freshman Stas Sutera (106 pounds, 37-8).

"We've had some really good individuals who have had success all year," Coach Stoebner said. "I expect them to be successful at state as well."

### Wagner

Even though the Red Raiders aren't taking the large contingents they are used to taking to state, Wagner still expects to take home plenty of individual hardware, according to coach Brady Nolz.

Seniors David Kocer (170 pounds, 33-1) and Brady Soulek (152 pounds, 27-13), and junior Trevor Lensing (195 pounds, 30-5) are no strangers to state... or to the awards stand. Kocer won the

**Broken Pipes...Wet Walls... Flooded Basement?**  
**WE CAN HELP!**  
**24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE**

• Prompt • Professional • Certified Techs

**Steamway**  
CLEANING & RESTORATION

**665-5700**  
**1-800-529-2450**

**Johnson Electric, LLP**

214 CAPITAL ST., YANKTON  
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • TRENCHING

**605-665-5686**

Gary R. Johnson • Chris Merkel  
Rick Merkel • Ben Merkel

**KOZY HEAT**  
FIREPLACES

**Start to Finish**  
Larry's Can Provide a Complete Installation

- Venting • Gas Piping
- Wood Mantels
- Cultured or Natural Stone Mantels

**Larry's**  
HEATING & COOLING

920 Broadway, Yankton • 665-9461 • 1-800-491-9461