WOKSAPE "The Wise Book"

Volume 91, Number4 Yankton High School Freshman, Brady Hale, Earns National Punt, Pass, and Kick Title



It all started with just a punt, a pass, and a kick for Yankton freshmen Brady Hale at Seratoma's football field here in Yankton. Who would have thought it would have led him to Baltimore for the National Punt, Pass, and Kick Championships?

Well, for Hale it was something he expected.

Hale won the 14-15 year old division held at the Baltimore Ravens practice facility on Saturday the 14th of January, a day before the AFC Divisional playoff game between the Houston Texans and the Baltimore Ravens. He then got to go to the game and was on national television awarded for his stellar performance.

"I've been on TV on like the smaller South Dakota channels, but CBS during a playoff game, I was nervous. There is nothing like national television," said Hale.

Hale and his whole family left for Baltimore on Friday night and ended up getting there at around 12:30 a.m. Saturday morning. For the nationals his whole family made the trip to the east coast. The National Football League bought two tickets, the hotel room, two meals each day and two tickets to the Ravens game.

"When we first got to the hotel we saw Sal Palantonio in the elevator," Hale added. Palantonio is an ESPN reporter for NFL football. They then had a nice sized room for all the finalists to eat and relax.

After a little relaxation time, they then got a tour of the Sports Legends Museum in Baltimore.

Hale entered the competition as third seed in his division. He competed against boys from Pittsburg, Texas, and Ohio. During the finals they each had two attempts at all three categories; where normally they only have one per category.

After the tallies were knotted up, former Ravens kicker and two time Super Bowl champion Matt Stover announced the winners. Brady had a "good feeling" his name would get called. He was awarded with a helmet with an emblem of his award. He also got a lot of apparel and clothing from different teams as well as the Punt, Pass, and Kick organization.

After the competition, on the bus back, "people were taking pictures of us, they thought were the Ravens. What they didn't know is that we were just kids." Hale said. The participants had a tailgate party concluding the finals where they watched the ending of the Saturday playoff action.

Sunday, was game day for the Ravens and the Texans. The contestants had to be at the field at approximately 10:30 a.m. Hale and the rest of his counterparts got the stand on the field during pre game and, "I was up close to Ray Lewis that was pretty cool," he said. At halftime, all the participants were announced and had to throw a pass for a halftime performance. After the third quarter, Brady saw his glimpse of fame on national TV.

"It was a good game from what I saw; I didn't get to see much. Both defenses played good though," Hale stated. After the game he and his family were able to go to dinner and do some shopping. The Hale family left Baltimore around 5:00 a.m. "It was a good game from much. Both defenses played good though," Hale stated. After able to go to dinner and do some shopping. The Hale family left Baltimore around 5:00 a.m. "It was a good game from much. Both defenses played by KMEG, who came to Yankton High School for an interview, along with Stu Whitney (sports reporter for *The Argus Leader*), and WNAX.

To get to the National Finals, Brady had competed here in Yankton, in which he easily won. He then went on to Sioux Falls, where he competed and won the state title. After that, he went to Minneapolis. He competed and defeated kids from all over the region. Following his competition in Minnesota, all thirty-two teams tallied their results and then Hale got a call stating he was a finalist for the National Punt, Pass, and Kick. How did Brady become so good at doing this?

"Hours and hours of practicing," his mother, Lesley Hale, said. "For several years, after football practice, he has gone up to the middle school by our house and practiced punting, passing, and kicking."

Even during the offseason you could see Brady kicking and throwing away at the middle school football field. "It's hard to break down the time, after football was over, and basketball got going, many evenings he would still go over and keep practicing," she added. This accomplishment has made the sky the limit for Hale.

"It was great exposure for Yankton, and especially the state of South Dakota to dominate that division," YHS head football coach Arlin Likness added. A girl from Pierre, named Sydney Palmer won the girls division for the 14-15 year olds. She is a former national champion. "This will definitely give me confidence this fall to do good and hopefully be kicking and punting on Friday nights," Hale added. He has been interviewed ton High School for an interview, along with Stu Whitney (sports reporter for The Argus Leader), and WNAX.



IMAGES COURTESY OF MRS. LESLEY HALE

ABOVE: Yankton Freshman, Brady Hale, is pictured with Matt Stover. Stover was a kicker who kicked for two Super Bowls. He presented the awards to all the National Punt, Pass, and Kick participants.

RIGHT: Brady Hale is shown warming up in preparation for the National Punt, Pass and Kick competition held in Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Hale was one of four competitors from around the nation who earned the right to compete at the national level. He went on to become a national champion in his division and was recognized during halftime of the Baltimore Ravens NFL playoff game on Sunday, January 15, 2012.



GOP Candidates Battle for a Frontrunner in the 2012 Presidential Election





HUNTER KOCH

The Presidential election is fast approaching, and everywhere one turns, there's either news or ads for a candidate. This is the first of two articles that will examine the campaigns of declared Presidential candidates, starting with the Republican hopefuls.



Mitt Romney (R)— Romney was the governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007. He ran for president in 2008, losing the Republican candidacy to John McCain. He is running again in 2012. His plan for the economy wishes "to reduce

taxes, spending, regulation, and government programs. It seeks to increase trade, energy production, human capital, and labor flexibility. It relinquishes power to the states instead of claiming to have the solution to every problem."

He also wishes to strengthen the military, and regarding the Afghanistan War, Romney says he will "order a full interagency review of our transition in Afghanistan. He will review our military and assistance presence to determine the level required to secure our gains and to train Afghan forces to the point where they can protect the sovereignty of Afghanistan on their own. Withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan under a Romney administration will be based on conditions on the ground as assessed by our military commanders." Romney has won the Iowa Caucus and the New Hampshire primary.



Rick Santorum (R)—
Santorum served as a
Pennsylvania repre-
sentative from 1991 to
1995 and a senator from
1995 to 2007.gress a
debt c
lessly.1995 to 2007.Figh
This is his first time
running for president.
His stance on the war
is "We must be square-
ly focused on succeed-
ing in Afghanistan ra-Legali
to
corport

ther than on politically motivated troop withdrawals." His economic stance is being "committed to celebrating the family by reviving our economy and creating jobs in America again with a smarter and simpler tax code. Santorum will roll back job-killing regulations, force the federal government to shrink and live within its means by passing a Balanced Budget Amendment and reinvigorate our domestic manufacturing and energy potential.



Rick Perry (R)— Perry served as a representative of Texas from 1985 to 1991 and the Texas governor from 2000 to present. This is his first time running for the Republican candidacy. His foreign policy is "we need to maintain our strong presence to defend our interests around the globe

while we rebuild our economy at home."

His economic plan is "Perry will also permanently ban earmarks and taxpayer bailouts, and push for a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Perry will throw out the corporate tax code and replace it with a simpler, lower flat tax that ends the gravy train of lobbyists feeding at the government trough"



Ron Paul (R)—Paul served as a Texas representative in the late 70s and early 80s, and then again in 1997. He ran for the Republican candidacy in 2008, and is running again in 2012. His plan for the economy is "Vetoing any un-

balanced budget Congress sends to his desk. Refusing to further raise the debt ceiling so politicians can no longer spend reck-

Fighting to fully audit (and then end) the Federal Reserve System, which has enabled the over 95% reduction of what our dollar can buy and continues to create money out of thin air to finance future debt. Legalizing sound money, so the government is forced to get serious about the dollar's value. Ending the corporate stranglehold on the White House."

His plan for the military is "End the nation-building dent Obama who is seeking re-election. that is draining troop morale, increasing our debt, and

sacrificing lives with no end in sight. Follow the Constitution by asking Congress to declare war before one is waged. Only send our military into conflict with a clear mission and all the tools they need to complete the job – and then bring them home. Avoid long and expensive land wars that bankrupt our country by using constitutional means to capture or kill terrorist leaders who helped attack the U.S. and continue to plot further attacks."



Newt Gingrich (R)— Gingrich served as a Georgia representative from 1979 to 1999. He was also the Speaker of the House from 1995 to 1999.

His economic plan includes "Make[ing] the United States the most desirable location for new business invest-

ment through a bold series of tax cuts, including: eliminating the capital gains tax to make American entrepreneurs more competitive against those in other countries; dramatically reducing the corporate income tax (among highest in the world) to 12.5%; allowing for 100% expensing of new equipment to spur innovation and American manufacturing; ending the death tax permanently."

His foreign policy includes "Know[ing] our values. America's foreign policy must begin by understanding who we are as a country.

We are, as Ronald Reagan said, the world's "abiding alternative to tyranny." Therefore, America's foreign policy must be to ensure our own survival and protect those who share our values."

When YHS student, Brad Hawkins, was asked to name a favorite Republican candidate, Hawkins responded, "I originally wanted Romney, but I realized he wasn't focused on bipartisanship and was playing party politics. I like Santorum, because he said that political posturing needs to stop, and I care about the country and not politics."

Hawkins also spoke of other candidates, saying of that Perry is not "applying himself as well as he could," and that Paul was "good, but people think he's too libertarian and probably won't win."

The February 13 edition of the *Woksape* will feature Democratic candidates including current President Obama who is seeking re-election.

The following YHS students were inducted to the National Honor Society during a special ceremony on January 19:

Banan AbdAlKreem Kali Adams Joshua Arens Morgan Bakke Therēsa Barnes Evan Bergeson Jacob Bies Frae Binder Maria Binder Tyler Bryan Kelsey Butler Savannah Chambers Olivia Christopher Jessica Culver Fiona Dahlberg Carlie Drobny Dustin Dvorak Carlie Drobny Dustin Dvorak Jessica Erickson Kourtney Erickson John Fanta Kelsey Fitzgerald Alexis Fokken Megan Ford Katie Freng Jessica Goeken Jessica Goeken Melissa Gonzalez Derek Gravholt Katelyn Greeneway Sarah Hicks James Hisek Mikala Hora Andrew Hummel Maddie Husman John Iverson John Iverson Casey Johnson Alyssa Klimisch Drew Konopasek Katie Kotschegarow Mackenzie Larson Jase Likness Cameron Luken Cameron Luken Sarah McDonald Sarah McDonald Megan Mingo Abigail Mitchell Jocelyn Moon Sarah Pearson Cassie Pospishil Payton Prickett Erin Rasmussen Alex Rehurek Jessica Roth Jessica Roth Michael Rucker Tristin Rueb Sarah Santos Alexander Savage Alexander Savage Silas Schaeffer Clara Schild Paden Schmidt Allyssa Schroeder Brianna Shindler Cayla Slattery Whitney Specht Adam Spencer Adam Spencer Nichole Steiner Eric Stratman Kayla Sylvester Kayla Sylvester Payton Terca McKayla Thieman Samuel Wendte Molly Wermers Devin Westerman Jessica Winterringer Brady Knodel Jena Nelson Jena Nelson Christopher Robinson Rachel Ruffinott MiKayla Vetter

