

Reisner Pin Gives Bucks Win

BY NICK ROBINSON
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The Yankton Bucks wrestling team relied on their senior leadership on Friday night's dual with ESD foe Brandon Valley.

The Bucks toppled the Lynx 42-36 in thrilling fashion, thanks to a 51-second pin from Royce Reisner in the heavy-weight match.

"We wanted to wrestle each match hard," head coach Ryan Hage said. "We wanted to push the opponents endurance and impose our will on them."

Yankton started off the dual with a slight advantage in freshmen Noah Vetter and Spencer Huber.

Vetter pinned Lynx 106-pound wrestler Dawson Kremlacek in 2:52 to give the Bucks an early 6-0 lead.

With confidence, Spencer Huber went onto the mat and pinned 113-pound Connor Rowbotham in 4:51 with an exciting back and forth match.

"We were favored in the beginning,"

Hage said. "I knew Noah (Vetter) would wrestle hot to start it off for us. Spencer was able to get a bonus for the team. All the bonus points turned out to be huge in the end."

The tides were finally switched, this time for Brandon Valley. Lynx 120-pound Jackson Pletten pummeled Yankton's Gabe Wenzlaff in 26 second.

Brandon Valley took advantage of a 126-pound Yankton Open slot. Just like that the dual was knotted at 12-12.

In the 132-pound match, fourth-ranked Casey Skillingstad of Yankton battled and pinned Dylan Bludorn in 3:22.

Mason Strahl kept the hot streak for the Bucks, giving 138-pound Braiden Smith all he could handle. Strahl pinned Smith in a grueling 5:31.

Grant Dougherty fought fifth-ranked 145-pound Matt Huber to the brink. However, Huber showed too much fire-power and defeated Dougherty in an 11-6 decision.

At 152 pounds, Connor Smith from

Brandon Valley kept the Lynx hopes alive with 0:44 pin of Yankton Ryan Sternhagen. The win brought the Lynx to a 27-18 deficit.

Eighth-ranked James Hisek from Yankton and Brandon Valley's Wyatt Winter went back and forth during the whole match. Hisek used his experience and versatility to defeat Winter in a 7-2 decision.

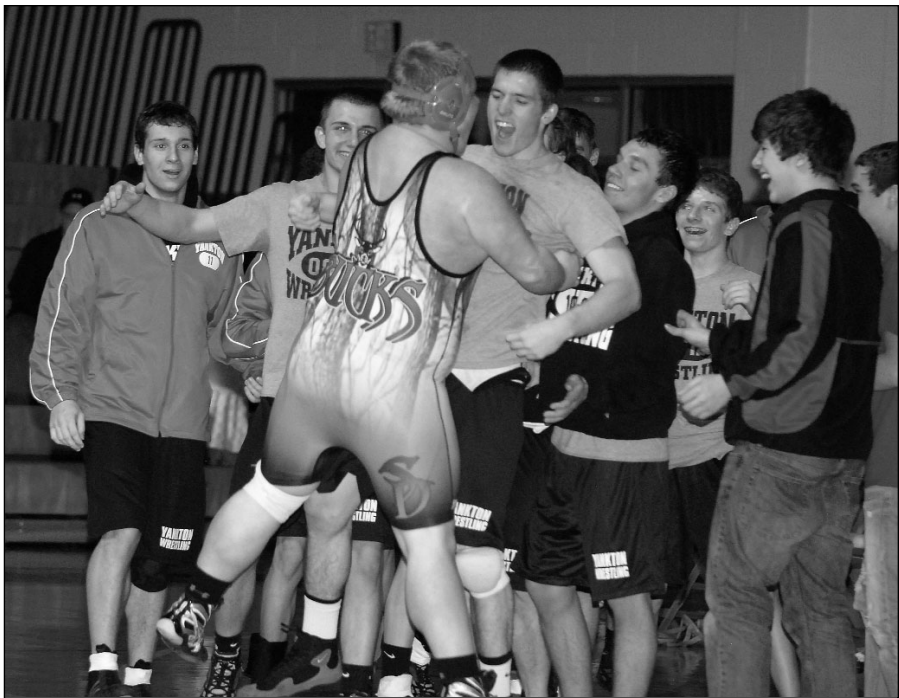
After a decision made by Coach Hage to switch junior Cody Hanzlik to 170 pounds and bump sixth-ranked senior CJ Warren to 182 paid off tremendously for the Bucks.

"It's like a chess game," Hage said. "We try to put our guys in the best possible way and that switch was able to do that for us."

Top-ranked Mason Bender pinned Yankton's 170-pound Hanzlik in 3:32.

Warren pinned the inexperienced 182 pound Brandon Burkhart in 1:31 to give the Bucks a 36-24 advantage heading to

WRESTLING | PAGE 8



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton senior Royce Reisner, center, celebrates with his teammates after recording a heavyweight pin to give the Bucks a 42-36 wrestling victory over Brandon Valley on Friday night at the Summit Center. Reisner pinned Erik Ode of the Lynx in 51 seconds to send Yankton to the win on Parents Night.

BRAD POPPE | DOUBLE DUTY ON THE SIDELINES

Juggling Roles Mean Long Days

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third part of a continuing series following Avon basketball coach Brad Poppe throughout the 2012-13 season.

AVON — It was one of those nights that have most coaches pulling out their hair out. The Avon girls held on by the skin of their teeth to beat rival Andes Central, helping Coach Brad Poppe pull within two of his 300th coaching victory in girls' basketball.

Twenty minutes later, he was back on the sidelines, trying to help the Avon boys get their fourth win of the season.

That scramble is one that will take place eight times for Avon this winter, as Poppe continues to balance the rigors of coaching both squads. The teams also had one date where the girls played on the road while the boys played at home later in the day. A delay in the girls, game made things closer than planned.

"An official went down in the girls, game," noted Avon Athletic Director Tom Culver. "I had to drive Brad back to Avon to make sure he got back on time."

Earlier this week, Poppe and Avon had a long day in Mitchell. After starting the day with school at 7:45 a.m., he took both teams to Mitchell Christian, where one JV game and one varsity game went into overtime. By the time he got back to Avon with the boys' teams, it was almost midnight.

"That made for one long day," Poppe said. "But the kids came in Wednesday and we had a good practice. The kids were resilient after a late night."

On Thursday, Avon utilized its two gyms to keep the schedule closer to on track. Both JV games started at 5 p.m., and the boys' JV game only lasted two quarters due to a lack of numbers for Andes Central. While Poppe isn't typically on the bench for the JV teams, he does like to keep an eye on the games.

"A lot of times I'll move between the two gyms, try to watch both games," he said. "At the end of the third quarter of the girls' JV game, I'll go down to the



locker room to meet with the girls, go over the game plan."

Since Poppe can't leave the girls' varsity bench after the third quarter to talk to the boys, boys' assistant coach Paul Thiry does some of the pre-game talk. The team also spends a little more time in the locker room during pre-game warm-ups.

"During warm-ups we'll go down to the locker room a few minutes early so that we can review, make sure we get everything covered," he said.

Thiry, though, said that his duties during a doubleheader aren't that much different than when only the boys play.

"I'm still out with the 'B' team and join the varsity when they go out," he said. "I make sure the guys are in the locker room getting ready, but Brad does a lot of the pre-game stuff."

After the girls' game, girls' assistant coach Amy Yost takes

care of many of the post-game duties.

"Amy gets the girls' stuff put away, makes sure the girls get the locker room picked up," Poppe said. "I rely on her for some of those things after the game."

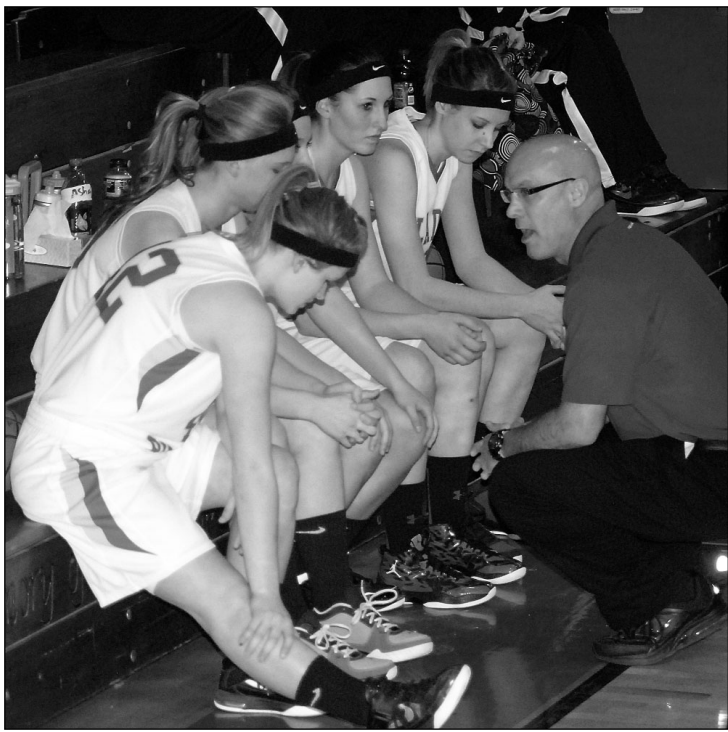
While Yost does not see her duties being much different on a doubleheader night, she said that girls, boys, coaches and everyone else have helped make everything run smoothly.

"Both the boys and girls have been flexible," she said. "When Poppe has to leave on the bus with the boys, the girls continue to work hard through the rest of practice."

"It's been a positive experience, and everyone has worked hard to make it work for the kids."

The boys saw a two-game win streak broken Thursday night,

POPPE | PAGE 8



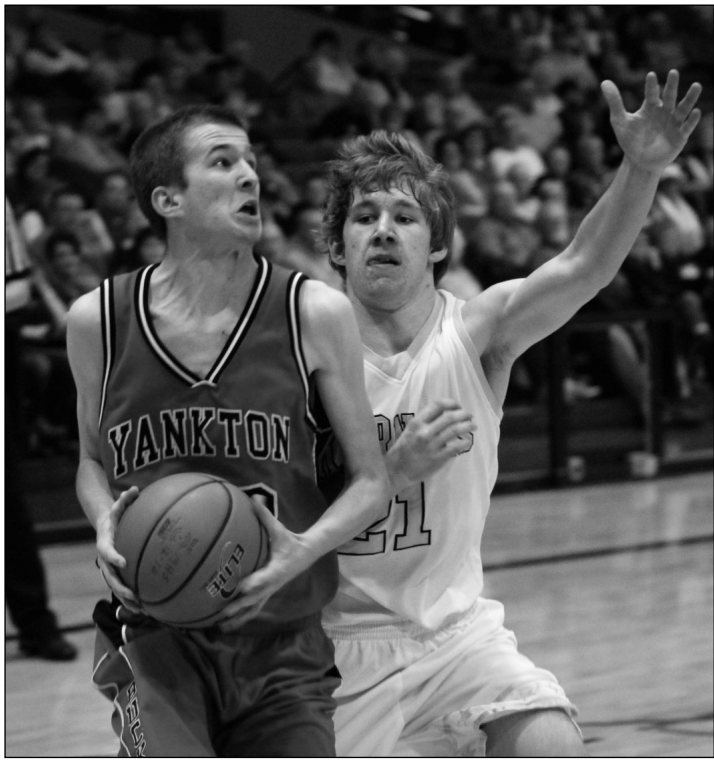
Pulling Double Duty In Avon

ABOVE: Avon's Brad Poppe instructs his boys' team during the Pirates' home game with Andes Central. Poppe, who serves as head coach for both the boys' and girls' varsity teams at Avon High School, has kept his energy and enthusiasm up despite his busy schedule.

LEFT: Avon basketball coach Brad Poppe gives instructions to his girls' team prior to Thursday's home game with Andes Central. The game was part of one of eight doubleheaders for Avon.

PHOTOS BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Boys: Balance Sends Bucks Past Mitchell



BROOKE CERSOSIMO/MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLIC

Landon Breen, left, of Yankton drives past Mitchell defender Ethan Jones during their ESD boys' basketball game Friday night at the Corn Palace in Mitchell. Breen recorded a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds as Yankton scored a 60-46 victory over the Kernels.

MITCHELL — The Yankton Bucks had nine players reach the stat sheet, three in double figures, in a 60-46 ESD boys' basketball victory Friday night over the Mitchell Kernels at the Corn Palace.

Michael Rucker and J.J. Hejna each scored 15 points, while Landon Breen recorded 10 points and 11 rebounds.

It was on defense, though, where the Bucks may have really turned on the pressure, according to head coach Chris Haynes.

"Mitchell's a dangerous team; they average quite a few points and are hard to guard, so we're really happy with the defensive and rebounding effort," Haynes said. "That's a great effort by our kids."

Yankton (3-6) shot 47 percent from the field and were 13-of-15 at the free throw line. Brady Hale added five points, while Andrew Hummel and Ryan Olson both scored four points to a balanced effort.

"We have to be balanced like that. We can't rely on one kid, and we've got seven or eight guys who can step up," Haynes

said. "That's the kind of performance we need."

The Bucks are off until they host three-time defending state champion Sioux Falls O'Gorman next Thursday.

"That'll be a huge test," Haynes said. "They're obviously well coached, so we have to continue to get better."

Yankton also won all four sub-varsity games, including a 51-43 JV victory. Chipper Granflaten had 16 points and 12 rebounds, while Ryan Olson added 14 points.

The Bucks won the sophomore game 37-33 behind nine points from Matt Fitzgerald.

In freshmen action, the Bucks won the 'A' contest 62-37 behind 16 points from Bradey Sorenson, and 12 each from Blake Savey and Tanner Frick. Yankton won the 'B' game 41-29 thanks to eight points from Chase Huber.

YANKTON 60, MITCHELL 46
YANKTON (3-6, 2-5 ESD)
Michael Rucker 5-10 4-4 15; Andrew Hummel 2-5 0-0 4; Landon Breen 4-6 2-2 10; J.J. Hejna 4-8 7-9 15; Brady Hale 2-6 0-0 5; Ryan Olson 2-3 0-0 4; Zach Benjamin 1-2 0-0 3; Reid Sawatzke 1-4 0-0 2; Kellen Soulek 1-3 0-0 2. TOTALS: 22-47 13-15 60.

MITCHELL (3-9, 1-7 ESD)

BOYS | PAGE 9

Girls: Hartington Top Queen Bees; Winner Edges 'Cavs

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Ashley Morten's 22 points led Hartington to a 60-43 win over Bloomfield on Friday in Nebraska girls' basketball action.

Myranda Fischer and Camie Stratman also had double digit scoring performances for the Wildcats with 14 and 10 points respectively.

Hartington, 5-9, plays at Plainview on Tuesday.

Bloomfield, 3-11, travels to Wausa on Tuesday.

BLOOMFIELD (3-11).....8 17 33 43
HARTINGTON (5-9).....13 25 45 60

Winner 54, Bon Homme 48

TYNDALL — The Winner Warriors defeated the Bon Homme Lady Cavaliers Friday night with a score 54-48 in Tyndall.

Cassidy Hanson led the Warriors with 13 points and seven rebounds on the night, with Kennede Mathis adding 12 points. Kelsey Bertram also contributed five steals and four assists.

Karlee Kozak recorded 12 points and two assists for the Lady Cavaliers, while Kelsey Sutura put up 11 points and six rebounds. Emily Pechous also added 10 points.

Bon Homme hits the road to face Andes Central on Thursday, and the Warriors travel to Miller on Monday.

WINNER (6-5).....15 28 43 54
BON HOMME (5-8).....7 20 34 48

Scotland 71, Platte-Geddes 60

PLATTE — Scotland scored a 71-60 road victory over Platte-Geddes on Friday night in Southeast South Dakota Conference action in Platte behind Aisha Abbink's 33 points.

Kennedy Asche added 15 points, eight rebounds and five steals for the Lady Highlanders while Carley Skorepa scored 14 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

For P-G, Josie DeGroot recorded 24 points, six rebounds and five steals while Kelly Knudson added 13 points, 10 assists, nine rebounds and six steals.

With the win, Scotland improves to 8-3 and hosts Bridgewater-Emery on Tuesday.

Platte-Geddes, 9-3, hosts Parkston on Tuesday in Platte.

SCOTLAND (8-3).....19 32 50 71
PLATTE-GEDES (9-3).....11 35 48 60

Crofton 68, Plainview 27

CROFTON, Neb. — Allison Arens and Bridget Arens led Crofton in a 68-27 victory against Plainview Friday night in Crofton.

Allison and Bridget each scored a total of 18 points in the win, with Allison adding five steals, four assists and three rebounds and Bridget contributing four rebounds, three steals and

GIRLS | PAGE 8