

# Yankton Set To Host Soccer, Softball Tournaments

## Soccer Turney Draws Nearly 70 Teams

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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With nearly 70 teams from three states coming to Yankton this weekend, the Yankton Invitational youth soccer tournament has grown in to one of the bigger youth sporting events hosted by the community.

While there have been few changes for this, the ninth edition of the event, one major change is moving the U-8 and U-10 divisions away from Memorial Park. The U-8 teams will play at Lewis & Clark Soccer Complex, while U-10 teams will play at soccer fields near the Summit Activities Center.

"Memorial Park has taken a beating the past couple of years,

and parking has always been an issue there," said tournament co-coordinator Lori Rust. "We asked the city if we could move it to the Summit, and they agreed."

The rest of the action will take place at Lewis & Clark, with games beginning tonight (Friday) and running through Sunday afternoon. The final matches of the weekend are set to begin around 4:15 p.m. on Sunday.

Among the 69 teams entered in the event are 12 from Yankton, mostly in the younger levels.

"We have four teams that were put together just for this tournament. One of those teams will continue to compete after this weekend," Rust said. "We're hoping to build the Yankton program. We have a couple of age

groups were we don't have a club team right now, and we're hoping to find someone to step up and coach a club team for those age groups that don't currently have teams."

Putting together four teams just for the tournament doesn't involve just finding the kids, according to co-director Betty Bray.

"Usually the coaches are responsible for collecting all the paperwork," she said. "Then I get it to the state for approval."

With each team guaranteed a number of games, finding officials and volunteers to keep each field going and on schedule

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## Softball Turney Continues To Grow In 21st Year

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The 21st annual Yankton Girls' Softball Association Invitational begins tonight (Friday) with a single game. YGSA president Robin Wirth wouldn't mind seeing the tournament grow to the point where even more games were held on Friday.

The main portion of pool play for the annual event will be held Saturday, as 27 teams will participate in the annual event, being held at Sertoma and Riverside Parks. Tonight's single game, between Yankton's Shamrocks and Crush, will be a 7 p.m. start at the south Summit Center field.

Teams from South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa will participate, with two teams traveling from

Rapid City to participate. Sergeant Bluff, Iowa; Norfolk, Neb.; Brookings, Dakota Valley; Mitchell, Lennox and Sioux Falls will also have teams participating in the event.

"We have a pretty good turnout," said Wirth, who also coaches one of the Yankton teams in the tournament. "This brings a lot of outside revenue into the community."

Some of the teams this weekend are in the U-10 division, the first year that YGSA has sponsored that division in this event.

"We tried it last year, but only our Yankton teams signed up," Wirth said.

The older division was added at the last minute. With tournaments in Madison and Sioux Falls this weekend, several

teams waited until the last minute to sign up in the U-18 division.

"At one point we didn't think we'd have enough," Wirth said. Her U-18 team, the Spitfire, and the U-16 Lightning had planned to play in Sioux Falls this weekend if enough U-18 teams were not found. The Lightning will play in the U-18 division this weekend.

With 40 pool play games on five fields — four at Sertoma Park and another at Riverside Park — scheduled for Saturday, a lot of volunteer effort is needed to keep everything on track.

"We ask all of the Yankton

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Find Schedules For Both Tournaments In Today's Scoreboard/9A • Look For Photos On Spotted This Weekend

## Several, Area Student-Athletes Recognized By Summit League

ELMHURST, Ill. — A total of 71 student-athletes from the University of South Dakota, 12 Yankton High School alumni and several others with area ties were named to the Summit League's Academic Distinguished Scholars list for the winter and spring seasons.

South Dakota State led the way with a league-high 76 Distinguished Scholars just ahead of USD. Newcomer Omaha was next with 63 honorees followed by Western Illinois (56 recipients), Oakland (53 recipients) and North Dakota State (51 recipients). Fort Wayne and IUPUI were next as each institution had 49 honorees with Kansas City placing 34 on the list. Men's and women's swimming and diving associate member Eastern Illinois had 12 student-athletes earn Distinguished Scholar honors.

Among the area student-athletes honored for USD were Connor Fitzsimmons, Alex Hohenthaler and Tyler Sternhagen, all of Yankton, and Tad Schurmans (Tyndall) in men's track and field; Ashlea Johnson and Rachel Weinandt, both of Yankton, Jilane Doom (Wagner), Kristin Steffen (Crofton, Neb.), Elizabeth Szymonski (Vermillion) and Brittan Liston (Alcester) in women's track and field; Jack Foley (Centerville) for men's basketball, Marc Gubbel (Yankton) for men's golf, Nicole Funk (Dakota Dunes) for women's golf, Stacie Kjelden (Vermillion) for women's swimming and diving

For SDSU, Layne Somsen (Yankton) and Paul Jacobson (Dakota Dunes) were honored for baseball; Kipp Kinsley (Yankton) and Luke Leischner (Tripp) were honored in men's track and field; Krista Creager and Jenna Grossenburg, both of Yankton, and Rochelle Wynia (Platte) were honored in women's track and field; and Chloe Cornemann (Yankton) was honored for women's basketball.

Also, Omaha's Ashley Kneifl (Yankton) was honored in women's swimming and diving.

A total of 514 Summit League student-athletes from baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's golf, softball, men's and women's swimming & diving, men's and women's tennis and men's and women's track & field were recognized as Distinguished Scholars.

In order to be named a Distinguished Scholar, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.60 grade-point average in the semester in which they compete and must use a year of eligibility.

## Tappers Ground Flying Squirrels



Yankton Tappers runner Heath Arens, right, slides under Sioux Falls Flying Squirrels catcher Trevor Hurley during their non-league game Thursday night at Riverside Field.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

## Softball: Spitfire Split Pair In Norfolk

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Yankton Spitfire got hits from seven different players on the way to a 9-0 victory over the Norfolk Impact in girls' softball action Thursday night.

Elizabeth Bye had a double, a single and an RBI to lead a balanced Yankton attack. Katie Koletzky had two hits and two RBIs, and Haley Hinseth had two hits and a RBI for the Spitfire. Brooke Loecker posted a two-run double, Andi Sprakel had a two-run single and Karlee Kozak and Tay-

lor Ruby added hits in the win.

Koletzky picked up the win on the rubber.

The Spitfire will play in the Yankton Girls' Softball Association Tournament on Saturday and Sunday.

### Norfolk Golden Girls 8, Yankton Spitfire 7

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Norfolk Golden Girls needed two innings of international tiebreaker rules to defeat Yankton 8-7 in girls' softball action on Thursday

night in Norfolk, Neb.

Jessica Wirth had two hits, including a three-run home run, to lead Yankton. Elizabeth Bye also homered, driving in two. Haley Hinseth doubled and singled.

Karlee Kozak had two hits. Andi Sprakel and Paige Thieman added hits in the victory.

Bye took the loss despite striking out nine.

The Spitfire played one game each against the Golden Girls and Impact, with the Yankton Lightning also facing both teams.

Hale had two hits and three stolen bases for Yankton.

Cameron added a hit.

Hunter Young went the distance in the six-inning game, striking out five, to pick up the win. Walter took the loss.

## NFL To Limit Bags Brought Into Stadiums

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP) — Bring yourself to the game. Leave the cooler and backpack at home.

The NFL is tightening stadium security starting this preseason, limiting the size and type of bags fans can bring to the game.

The restrictions are designed to enhance security while speeding up entry into stadiums.

With the exception of medically necessary items, only clear plastic, vinyl or PVC bags no larger than 12 inches by 6 inches by 12 inches will be allowed. One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags also will be OK, as will small clear plastic bags approximately the size of someone's hand, with or without a handle or strap.

One of those clear bags and a small clutch bag will be allowed per person.

Binoculars, cameras, and smartphones also will be permitted.

Banned items will include purses larger than a clutch bag; coolers; briefcases; backpacks; fanny packs; cinch bags; seat cushion

ions; luggage; computer bags; and camera bags or any bag larger than the permissible size.

The league is encouraging fans not to bring any bags to games.

"Our fans deserve to be in a safe and secure environment," Jeffrey Miller, the NFL's chief security officer, said Thursday. "Public safety is our top priority. This will make the job of checking items much more efficient and effective. We will be able to deliver a better and quicker experience at the gates and also provide a safer environment. We appreciate our fans' cooperation."

An NFL committee on stadium security recommended these measures in May and the owners have approved them.

A secondary buffer area well outside the stadium will be established where security personnel will check for prohibited items or bags being carried toward the ballpark. Fans with prohibited bags will be turned away until they dispose of those bags. Stadium personnel

are being encouraged to have approved bags on hand to give to fans, or to have a place outside the restricted areas to check items, so that fans can reclaim after games.

Recently, the NFL has done patrols and bag checks and also used metal detectors to upgrade security. The new policy announced Thursday has worked well at colleges such as Penn State, Michigan and Michigan State, which do not permit any bags in their stadiums. Boston's TD Garden allows only clutch bags.

The NFL ramped up security at the draft in late April, its one major event since the Boston Marathon bombings. In a statement Thursday, the league said:

"We had been discussing a new approach to bag restrictions before the Boston Marathon incident. We have come up with a way to do it that will actually make access more convenient for fans than it has been. We think the fans will embrace and appreciate it."

## New Nets Coach Kidd: I Have 'A Lot To Learn'

NEW YORK (AP) — Meet the new guy, Jason Kidd.

Less than two weeks after ending his long, All-Star career, Jason Kidd acknowledged he has "a lot to learn about coaching" Thursday as he took the Brooklyn Nets job despite having no experience leading a team from the bench.

Now a point guard who was all about assists in his 19 years on the court will be looking for a little help.

"Nervous," the 40-year-old Kidd said when asked how he felt. "I'm a rookie. I go from being one of the oldest players in the league to now a rookie coach. I'm very excited about this challenge. We have a special opportunity to achieve a championship-caliber team."

Kidd retired earlier this month after one season with the New York Knicks, and the Nets decided to hire him to replace P.J. Carlesimo — a move that comes with

some obvious risks since Kidd has never been a head coach.

"Jason Kidd embodied everything that we were looking for," Nets general manager Billy King said. "One thing people always thought about Jason is he was somebody who always worked hard and that's a sort of thing I think will translate into coaching. Does he have a learning curve?"

Yes. I think if you know Jason, he doesn't take something and want to be good at it, he wants to be great."

Kidd is rejoining a franchise he led to consecutive NBA Finals appearances in 2002-03 when they played in New Jersey. He spent 6 1/2 seasons with the Nets, averaging 14.6 points, 9.1 assists and 7.2 rebounds, and is their career leader in numerous statistical categories.

He is second on the NBA's career list in assists and steals, won an NBA title with Dallas and has

two Olympic gold medals.

Terms of the deal that made Kidd the 18th coach in franchise history were not disclosed.

"This is a great challenge, so I'm looking very forward to this," Kidd said. "Yes, I have a lot to learn about coaching, but when I played I felt I was an extension of the coach."

Carlesimo wasn't retained after leading the Nets into the playoffs, where they lost to the Chicago Bulls in the first round. He went 35-19 after replacing Avery Johnson, who was fired in December.

Kidd said he was also contacted by Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban to offer him the opportunity to rejoin that franchise and learn the business operations. But he interviewed with the Nets on Monday and they chose him as their coach after talking with Indiana Pacers assistant Brian Shaw.