

WOKSAPE

Bucks Basketball Team Continues to Struggle in Post Season Play



BY
**NICK
ROBINSON**

The regular season is over and Yankton has finished with a 3-16 record.

Disappointing, yes, but with a lineup change, the Bucks have become a scrappier group, playing hard on the defensive side.

Districts are finally upon us; the seeding goes as followed: Lincoln hosts Yankton in the one seed vs. four seed.

Washington hosts the Bobcats of Brandon Valley, a two vs. three seed match-up. In order to get to state, you must win two games to qualify.

The Bucks played in Aberdeen earlier this month where the Bucks took home a victory over the Eagles, 63-51.

Yankton had stellar defensive play and did not let Aberdeen senior, Josh White, get hot at all.

After the victory on the road, Yankton hosted rival Watertown. Last time Yankton played them; junior Tanner Heiser lit the Bucks.

This time, the Bucks managed to keep Tanner Heiser from scoring excessively, but it was his older brother, Blake who added points to the board.

The Arrows claimed the victory 47-41 over a hampered Bucks team. The Bucks played Watertown closely, shutting down the hot shooter, Tanner Heiser.

The scores are very similar, but the two games were quite different. Then, Yankton hosted Pierre Governors, and even with their big man Zach Hanson out with an injury the Bucks couldn't get the job done.

Pierre won by ten points, with a score of 58-48. The Bucks were out-gunned with Pierre throwing down a few dunks. Yankton was led by Connor Fitzsimmons and sophomore J.J. Hejna, with fourteen apiece.

"We weren't playing our best basketball, but I feel we got something out of this game," Connor Fitzsimmons added.

On senior night, the Bucks hosted a scrappy Huron team. It was a nail biter with the Huron Tigers just barely getting the edge. The Tigers won 54-44, it was much closer than the score intended.

"It's sad to think we won't play here again. We have had a lot of fun memories here," Jackson Seitzinger added.

Seitzinger had twelve points while junior Michael Rucker added ten points for the Bucks.

Yankton played their first regional game at Lincoln this past Tuesday, the number two Patriots were too much for the Bucks to handle.

It was almost like the rim was three times the actual size with Lincoln shooting 57% in the first half.

The final score was 65-42, with sophomore JJ Hejna leading Yankton with twelve points and six rebounds.

Seitzinger also had twelve points and six boards along with four steals.

Every player got some action for the Bucks. Sioux Falls Washington defeated Brandon Valley.

As the end of the season comes, Yankton has had quite a few close games; and, they are definitely a good group of players and fun to watch.

The Bucks headed to Brandon (March 2nd) this Friday for the district final game. Results of that matchup were not available at press time.

Winner takes all, with the winner of that game advancing to regionals.

The state tournament is slated for March 15-17 in Rapid City once again this year at the Rushmore Center.

Young YHS Wrestling Team Gains Experience at State Meet



BY
**SAVANNAH
CHAMBERS**

With all the excitement following the Region 2A Wrestling Tournament at Vermillion High School, the Bucks headed to Aberdeen for the final matches of the year.

With thirty-two teams and 224 athletes, the competition at the State "A" 2012 Wrestling Championship was going to be intense. Carrying their heads high with the thought of their rankings in regionals, Spencer and Skillingstad with 3rd, Warren and Hisek with 1st, Smith with 2nd, and Strahl with 4th, the boys walked onto the mats for the last time this season.

The morning session of rounds on Friday was a rough start for the Yankton High School wrestlers. With six losses out of the eight wrestlers who made it to state, it wasn't looking like the start the team had hoped for.

But, with win from Logan Smith and a pin by James Hisek the Bucks looked onward and started to focus for their next matches. "Since I got first at regionals, I knew my first round wasn't going to be that tough, and I wanted to take advantage of it," said Hisek.

In the second session, Spencer Huber came back from his early defeat with a pin over Nixon from Brookings. Along side Huber, Casey Skillingstad and CJ Warren came back with wins,



PHOTO BY KATIE GREENEWAY

Yankton senior, Logan Smith, takes control of his match at the state competition. Smith placed 3rd in the competition.

and Thomas Kruse fought back with a pin over Novak from Todd County.

Levi Davis and Mason Strahl ended their season in round two when they received their second losses.

As freshmen, they will take the experience of this year's state and apply it to next season where the team looks forward to

seeing them back and watching the improvement. "Nearly everyone won at least one match at state, which is great experience," said coach Ryan Hage.

The third session on Saturday morning continued to narrow down the competition.

Huber, Hisek, Warren, and Kruse all received their second losses and joined Davis and

Strahl in cheering on the remaining Bucks, Skillingstad and Smith. Skillingstad fell to Larson of Sioux Falls Washington, ending his sophomore State Wrestling Tournament in 6th place.

Smith, the only senior this year, team captain, and past State Champion, had both the team and audience on their feet

as he wrestled for the last time in his high school career. Smith was up against Gee from Dell Rapids who had beaten him earlier this weekend in round two. Showing no signs of doubt, Smith overcame Gee for his spot of 3rd place.

Overall, the Yankton Bucks placed 18th as a team with 35.5 points.

Gazelles Defeated in Two Games of District Play; Will not Advance to State



BY
**TORY
GROSS**

Four intense months of practice and games have all led up to this point: the post season. The Yankton Gazelles ended their regular season with a 14-5 record. Despite that success, the season that matters began on Tuesday and, unfortunately for Yankton, it began with a loss. The Gazelles were defeated 48-45 by the Brandon Valley Lynx at the Summit Activities Center on the first night of SD Girls AA district matchups.

Strong defense by both teams made for a low-scoring first half. Both the Lynx and the Gazelles struggled to score during the opening minutes of the game. They fought back and forth, alternating baskets, which resulted in a score of 11-11 at the end of the first quarter. It was the same story in the second quarter, sending the teams into the locker room at halftime tied at 21.

When play resumed, Brandon Valley didn't waste any time, coming out with a powerful offensive surge that racked up eight straight points out of half-time. Junior Mikala Hora responded with a lay-up, leaving the Lynx to lead by a narrow margin.

Yankton would not stay down for long as key shots from seniors Chloe Cornemann and Emily Fedders tied up the game at 32-32. Brandon Valley's Allison Koehn answered back with a three. The Gazelle posts had no



PHOTO BY MOLLY HENRICKSON

Gazelles defend the Lincoln Patriots.

answer for Koehn, who seemed able to score at will both inside and at the three-point line.

Heidi Hoff's offensive performance was another factor in the Gazelles' loss. Her aggressive moves to the basket resulted in fouls, time after time, and she was deadily from the free throw line. Despite Yankton's heroic efforts during the last two minutes of the game, Brandon Valley held their lead with two more clutch

charity line buckets from Hoff.

"We lacked team communication on our defense when we needed it," explained senior Jenn Granflaten. "Brandon Valley executed their offense and hit a lot of open threes that they shouldn't have."

Playoff action resumed on the Gazelle's home court Thursday evening. Although the team put forth a valiant effort against the Lincoln Patriots, it was not enough as the Gazelles fell short 48-37 in their third place game of the District 2AA Girls' Basketball Tournament.

A dominating performance from Lincoln's Cera Ledbetter made it tough to keep up. The six foot junior led her team with an incredible 12-13 shooting effort and her game high of 29 points to secure the win.

It was Yankton's shooting that caused a struggle. They shot just 22 percent from the field in the first half opposed to Lincoln's 48. Chloe Cornemann had the high of the night with 11 while Mikala Hora had 10.

Although the Patriots advance, the road has ended for eight Yankton seniors. "It's hard to even think that our high school career has ended. We had an amazing season and we deserve to be at the state tournament," senior Emily Fedders said. Although disappointed, Fedders, and her teammates, are positive about their season. "Even though the ending was not at all what we expected or wanted, I know that I am going to remember my teammates, coaches, and every memory this team gave me for the rest of my life."

Bucks Baseball Team Readies for Season



BY
**LOGAN
VANWINKLE**

Boys high school baseball is right around the corner. Some of the guys have been doing some off season hitting at Mount Marty College. The Bucks will start throwing this week and practice starts March 12th.

Coach Rob McClemans says "We are going to have a lot of opportunities for young players."

McClemans wants to see some leadership out of the veter-

an players such as Alex Mueller who saw a lot of time in the infield last year. Alex Wagner also saw a good amount of time on the mound. "I want to see our older players be leaders," McClemans mentioned

Mount Marty College has been letting the team use their batting cages and gym during the off season, so the team can get in there to do some throwing and batting.

"There should be plenty of good games this year, without any one rival game, because all the teams we play in the region

are very good teams that we can compete with," McClemans adds.

Junior Zach Benjamin goes to Mount Marty once a week, and he says "I just go there for extra batting practice before the season starts."

Coach McClemans feels that they have talent to compete at varsity level. Last year, the Bucks lost in the championship game of the regional tournament. They look to avenge that loss, qualify for state, and hopefully place at state this season.



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