

Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

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



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

Don't go crazy in celebrating Yankton's first state boys' basketball tournament berth in six years. Don't throw a parade or call off school for a week. Don't buy up every balloon in town and throw a party.

Why? Because just going to state is not the ultimate goal of this Bucks' team. Even though it had been three years since the team's last 10-win season and six since its last winning season, the Bucks entered the 2013-14 campaign with the expectation that this season would be better. Even more, they did the work to make sure that would happen.

Yes, there have been stumbles along the way. Coach Chris Haynes would tell you that he had hoped they would win more than 12 games during the regular season, and that some of those losses were tough to bear. But while some outside the program complained about the new power points system, which put an

Don't Celebrate The Bucks Going To State ... Yet

11-win Sioux Falls Washington ahead of 12-win teams from both Brandon Valley and Yankton, the Bucks — for the most part — remained quiet and focused. When it came time to prove themselves, the Bucks came out focused and determined, avenging two losses the Brandon Valley with a convincing walloping of the Lynx. The Bucks did lose in the District 2AA final, but they did prove that they could play with a Sioux Falls Lincoln team that handed Yankton its lone out-of-hand loss. On Tuesday night, the Bucks survived a little adversity and beat a Watertown team — completing the difficult task of beating a team three times in one season. The Bucks will be headed west, playing at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center March 20-22. And Coach Haynes and the squad has made it clear that the trip isn't a vacation, but a quest to do things that a Yankton boys' basketball team haven't done in a long time. So don't celebrate the fact that Yankton is going to the state boys' basketball tournament. Go out to Rapid City, cheer on the Bucks and save the celebration for now. Hopefully, until after a state championship.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

TUESDAY'S S.D. BOYS

Region 1AA

Sioux Falls Washington 66, Sioux Falls Central 49

Region 2AA

Pierre 52, Rapid City Central 49

Region 3A

Sturgis 68, Aberdeen Central 56

Region 4A

Sioux Falls 56, Watertown 51

Region 5A

Pine 52, Rapid City Central 49

Region 6A

Sturgis 68, Aberdeen Central 56

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Region 41A

Sturgis 68, Aberdeen Central 56

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Sturgis 68, Aberdeen Central 56

AREA CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 12

BASKETBALL, MEN'S NAIA

Sioux Falls Washington 66, Sioux Falls Central 49

BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S NAIA