

# 9AA: Wildkats Hope To Follow B-E-E's Blueprint For First-Year Success

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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A year ago, Bridgewater-Ethan was where Kimball-White Lake is now: A first-year co-op with a ton of talent and history between the joined programs, finding their way to the state finals. But the Seahawks are hoping to prevent the Wildkats from replicating their result, a state championship.

Bridgewater-Ethan looks to defend its Class 9AA title when the Seahawks face Kimball-White Lake at the DakotaDome in Vermillion tonight (Friday), the prime-time game in today's nine-man football extravaganza. The Seahawks are in the second year of their current format, with Bridgewater joining Emery and Ethan after Bridgewater and Emery consolidated. Emery-Ethan had won three titles prior to the joining, while Bridgewater had won the state's first-ever championship game, the Class 9B title in 1981.

Kimball and White Lake have similar histories apart. Kimball claimed three titles in four years from 2001-04. White Lake, while co-oped with Plankinton, won titles in 1996 and 2002.

"They are a lot like us," said B-E-E head coach Jeff Van Leur, who mentored the Emery-Ethan success prior to the B-E-E co-op. "They've just gotten better every week."

KWL coach Dale Taylor said that the earlier successes for both program planted the seeds for the combined success.

"Some of these kids were grade school kids when we were earlier titles won," he said. "That's where this all started, them believing that something good can happen. Both Kimball and White Lake have had success in the past, and I definitely think that has a lot to do with (this year's success)."

Kimball-White Lake's success has been spurred by a pair of 1,000-yard rushers, Jacob Kirsch (1,077 yards, 13 TD) and Trevor Reinesch (1,042 yards, 12 TD). Quarterback Jesse Taylor has

just 209 yards and has thrown for 874 yards and 14 scores while executing the Wildkats' option offense.

Kyle Peters was the primary target, with 23 catches for 475 yards and four scores, but both Kirsch (12-158, 4 TD) and Reinesch (11-183, 5 TD) have also contributed with big catches.

Coach Taylor also credits the Wildkats' solid front line with opening up the field.

"Our offensive line is leading the way," he said. "Willie Norwood, Donnie Beckmen, Philip Schroeder, Lucas Konechne ... they've all done a great job."

The Seahawk defense that will look to contain the Wildkats is led by Anthony Huber (120 tackles), Seth Wethor (105 tackles) and Ryan Hanks (89 tackles).

"We have some good kids up front, like Steve Whistler, Adrien Heiter, Seth Wethor, Terry Weber and Franky Tuscha," Van Leur said. "It's a team effort. They've pulled together, and don't care who gets the glory."

Kendall Lindemann has been the Seahawks' main offensive weapon, rushing for 1,742 yards and 26 touchdowns. Huber is also over the 1,000-yard mark, with 1,269 yards and 15 touchdowns. QB Jace Connor, though not called on often to use his arm, has been effective, completing 30 of 37 passes for 292 yards and five scores. Wethor (12-100) and Ryan Hanks (11-115) have been primary targets.

The offensive line's growth during the season has allowed the typically-grounded Seahawks offense to move down the field effectively.

"Our line play has been big. We were young there and needed some seasoning," Van Leur said. "We have a bunch of kids there that have made the most of their opportunity."

As they are on offense for KWL, Reinesch (87 tackles, 3 INT) and Kirsch (80 tackles, 1 sack, 1 INT) are among the leaders of the Wildkat defense. Jess Taylor shares the team lead with three

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## WAVERLY-SOUTH SHORE VS. AVON

### SCHEDULES

#### WAVERLY-SOUTH SHORE

Date	Opponent	WSS	Opp
Sept. 2	Hamlin	40	14
Sept. 9	at Tri-State	54	19
Sept. 16	Wilmont	44	6
Sept. 23	at Clark-Willow Lake	68	28
Sept. 30	at Florence-Henry	70	8
Oct. 7	Waubay-Summit	60	8
Oct. 14	Great Plains Lutheran	60	6
Oct. 20	at Grant-Deuel	56	6
Oct. 25	Grant-Deuel	60	0
Oct. 31	Hitchcock-Tulare	46	6
Nov. 5	Viborg-Hurley	52	17

#### AVON

Date	Opponent	AHS	Opp
Aug. 26	at Tripp-DeMont-Armour	36	0
Sept. 2	Hanson (Sioux Falls)	32	28
Sept. 9	at Gregory	44	0
Sept. 16	Andes Central	38	0
Sept. 23	at Scotland	38	0
Sept. 30	South Central	48	13
Oct. 7	Corsica-Stickney	6	34
Oct. 14	Marty Indian	64	0
Oct. 25	Estelline	48	6
Oct. 31	Dell Rapids St. Mary	42	6
Nov. 5	at Harding County	38	8

### PROBABLE STARTERS

COYOTES OFFENSE				
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt
WR	2	Sam Pond	5-11	150
QB	4	Taylor Zemlicka	6-1	190
WR	21	Chris Arthur	6-2	170
RB	22	Brent Zemlicka	5-10	160
TE	23	Jordan Buchholz	5-9	170
WR	24	Tyson Zemlicka	6-2	205
G	69	Ellon Schmeling	6-1	253
C	62	Jesse Busch	5-10	280
C	93	Ridge Lindberg	6-2	280
COYOTES DEFENSE				
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt
DB	2	Sam Pond	5-11	150
DE	4	Taylor Zemlicka	6-1	190
OLB	14	Brandon Thyen	6-0	160
DB	21	Chris Arthur	6-2	170
MLB	22	Brent Zemlicka	5-10	160
OLB	23	Jordan Buchholz	5-9	170
OLB	24	Tyson Zemlicka	6-2	205
DB	46	Andrew Thyen	6-1	150
DT	93	Ridge Lindberg	6-2	258
OT	88	Nick Poppe	6-0	205
PIRATES OFFENSE				
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt
QB	44	Taylor Hentlo	6-2	220
LG	78	Jordan Johnson	6-2	250
RG	60	Taylor Mudder	6-2	250
LE	80	Luke Van Gerpen	6-4	200
RE	8	John Wynia	6-4	210
FB	20	Wyatt Beeson	5-9	160
RB	1	Duffy Ducheneaux	5-8	160
RB	4	Jackson Powers	5-9	170
QB	7	Nick Poppe	5-11	195
PIRATES DEFENSE				
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt
DT	60	Zach Johnson	5-10	160
DT	60	Taylor Mudder	6-2	250
NG	52	Austin Kniften	5-8	235
DE	8	John Wynia	6-4	210
DE	80	Luke Van Gerpen	6-4	200
LB	4	Jackson Powers	5-9	170
LB	20	Wyatt Beeson	5-9	160
LB	26	Devin Tolson	5-9	160
S	7	Nick Poppe	5-11	195

# 9B GAME DAY



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Waverly-South Shore quarterback Taylor Zemlicka (4) gets out in the open during the Coyotes' semifinal victory over Viborg-Hurley. W-SS was the top seed in the Class 9B playoffs, and face Avon in the state finals today (Friday) at 11 a.m.

### PREVIOUS ROUNDS

**FIRST ROUND:** Waverly-South Shore 60, Grant-Deuel 0; Dell Rapids St. Mary 30, Castlewood 24; Avon 48, Estelline 6; Viborg-Hurley 54, Scotland 0; Hitchcock-Tulare 26, Sully Buttes 12; Langford Area 30, Faulkton Area 12; Harding County 56, Colome 12; Dupree 32, Jones County 8  
**QUARTERFINALS:** Waverly-South Shore 46, Hitchcock-Tulare 6; Viborg-Hurley 57, Langford Area 34; Harding County 50, Dupree 0; Avon 42, Dell Rapids St. Mary 6  
**SEMIFINALS:** Waverly-South Shore 52, Viborg-Hurley 17; Avon 38, Harding County 8

### FINALS HISTORY

**WAVERLY-SOUTH SHORE:** This is the first finals involvement for the Coyotes, as well as for both towns involved in the school.  
**AVON:** The Pirates own four state titles, 2002 (9A), 2004 (9A), 2005 (9B) and 2008 (9A). They also lost in the finals in 2003 and 2009, both in Class 9A.

### OFFICIALS

**Referee** — Joe Frederickson, Milbank; **Umpire** — Rick Swenson, Milbank; **Linesman** — Don Weber, Milbank; **Line Judge** — Kevin Cantline, Milbank; **Back Judge** — Greg Cantline, Milbank

### MATCHUPS

**WSS OFFENSE VS. AVON DEFENSE**  
Led by 10 seniors, Waverly-South Shore is averaging 55.5 points a game and has scored at least 40 points in every contest. The Zemlicka trio will be the key. Avon's defense has allowed only 2.4 yards per rush attempt.

**AVON OFFENSE VS. WSS DEFENSE**  
Two words: Jackson Powers. The Avon senior has rushed for 1,038 yards and 18 touchdowns, but has been punted in the backfield by Duffy Ducheneaux (688 yards and 14 TD). The Coyotes will have a hard time keeping both down.

**SPECIAL TEAMS**  
Both teams haven't had to punt much this season. WSS punter Brent Zemlicka averages 28.2 yards per punt and Avon's Ducheneaux has averaged 20.3 yards on eight punts. No real edge either way.

**INTONABLES**  
The Avon Pirates are looking to make up for last year's inability to reach the Dome after reaching the title game in 2008 and 2009. Waverly-South Shore, meanwhile, is making its first-ever championship game appearance and has 10 seniors who will be looking to end the run with a title.

### WSS STAT LEADERS

RUSHING					
	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Brent Zemlicka	166	1610	9.7	68	25
Taylor Zemlicka	67	520	7.8	77	16
Zach Stricherz	21	269	8.1	37	4
COYOTES	263	1,411	9.2	77	47
PASSING					
	Com	Att	Yds	Int	TD
Taylor Zemlicka	115	174	1,954	9	29
COYOTES	116	177	1,967	10	29
RECEIVING					
	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Tyson Zemlicka	41	687	16.8	64	14
Sam Pond	35	679	19.4	55	7
Brent Zemlicka	20	234	11.7	48	4
COYOTES	116	1,967	17.0	64	29
PUNTING					
	No	Avg	Long	In20	
Brent Zemlicka	13	28.2	49	1	
DEFENSIVE LEADERS					
	Tack	TFL	Sack	INT	FR
Taylor Zemlicka	99	—	8.0	—	—
Jordan Buchholz	77	—	1.0	1	—
Tyson Zemlicka	61	—	6.5	2	4
Brent Zemlicka	59	—	3.0	—	2
Brandon Thyen	44	—	2.0	—	—
Sam Pond	28	—	—	2	1
COYOTES	601	—	23.5	8	15

### AHS STAT LEADERS

RUSHING					
	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Jackson Powers	115	1,038	9.0	68	18
Duffy Ducheneaux	81	688	8.49	44	14
Nick Poppe	62	309	4.98	41	4
PIRATES	447	3,123	6.98	68	52
OPPONENTS	348	841	2.4	NA	11
PASSING					
	Com	Att	Yds	Int	TD
Nick Poppe	27	63	328	4	6
PIRATES	29	66	410	4	8
OPPONENTS	30	104	433	6	3
RECEIVING					
	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Luke VanGerpen	4	33	8.3	25	0
John Wynia	3	86	28.7	58	1
Wyatt Beeson	3	410	14.3	58	8
PIRATES	29	410	14.3	58	8
OPPONENTS	30	104	4.2	NA	3
PUNTING					
	No	Avg	Long	In20	
Duffy Ducheneaux	8	20.3	NA	NA	
DEFENSIVE LEADERS					
	Tack	TFL	Sack	INT	FR
Jackson Powers	103	14	0	1	3
Devin Tolson	88	6	1	1	3
Taylor Mudder	60	7	1	0	0
Duffy Ducheneaux	60	3	0	1	0
John Wynia	57	6	0	0	2
Zach Johnson	38	9	1	1	1
PIRATES	624	73	11	7	18

### PREDICTION

Avon is the more playoff-tested team, while the Coyotes are probably more prolific. Look for Waverly-South Shore to get this one.  
**WAVERLY-SS 28, AVON 20**

# Late Score Sends Tri-Valley To 11B Crown Class 9B

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG  
P&D Correspondent

VERMILLION — Brett Page tossed a 5-yard touchdown pass to Andrew Buchman with 1:32 to play to bring the Tri-Valley Mustangs from behind and to a South Dakota State 11B championship as they edged the McCook Central-Montrose Fighting Cougars 18-14 in a nail-biter Thursday night at Vermillion's Dakota-Dome.

The Fighting Cougars fought to take a 14-12 lead and carried all the momentum in the second half, but a blocked punt opened the door for the Mustangs to grab state-championship glory.

The Mustangs drew first blood with a string of 11 runs and a 5-minute drive in which they converted three third downs, including a 1-yard gain on the third and inches at the Fighting Cougars' 44-yard line. Cooper Hausmann ended the drive by cutting back and scampering for a 21-yard touchdown.

Tri-Valley attempted a point-after kick, but it was wide-left, and the Mustangs led 6-0 with 4:48 to play in the first quarter.

After their second three-and-out, McCook Central-Montrose punted from their own 34 to Logan Koopman who drove to tough to bring down as he returned it 35 yards back to the Fighting Cougar 35, resulting in a met-punt of one yard.

A play later, Hausmann sprinted to the middle and outraced McCook Central-Montrose's Billy Kappeman to the endzone for a 35-yard touchdown run.

Again, the Mustangs were stopped on their PAT attempt, but they led 12-0 with 2:27 re-



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
McCook Central-Montrose running back Andy Kappeman looks for running room during the Class 11B championship game, Thursday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

maining in the first quarter.

The Fighting Cougars finally had something to cheer about after their third three-and-out as Andy Kappeman punted from their own 34 to Logan Koopman who drove to tough to bring down as he returned it 35 yards back to the Fighting Cougar 35, resulting in a met-punt of one yard.

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The Pirates will need to rely on their defense today against Waverly-South Shore, a team that has averaged 55.5 points a game and has scored at least 40 points in every contest.

Head coach Billy Kirch boasts 10 seniors on his 18-man roster, but those veterans were motivated to rebound from last year's first round playoff exit to Faulkton — despite going 8-0 in the regular season.

"Our juniors at the time took a look at those seniors and saw that heartbreak after that game," Kirch said. "Our kids didn't want to go through that again. We've approached every game like it's win or go home mentality; like every game is a playoff."

Unlike many 9-man teams, Waverly-South Shore throws the ball more than it runs.

Senior quarterback Taylor Zemlicka has completed 115-of-174 passes for 1,954 yards and 29 touchdowns.

His favorite receiver has been twin brother Tyson Zemlicka, a senior who has caught 41 passes for 687 yards and 14 touchdowns. Junior Sam Pond (35-679, 7 TD) is

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