

# WOKSAPE

## YHS Competitive Cheer and Dance Places 2nd at State

 **BY KATIE KOTSCHEGAROW**

The 2011 competitive dance and cheer season was very successful for both teams. Head coaches were Katie Nelson for the dance team, and Kerri Svatos and Angie Luken for cheerleading.

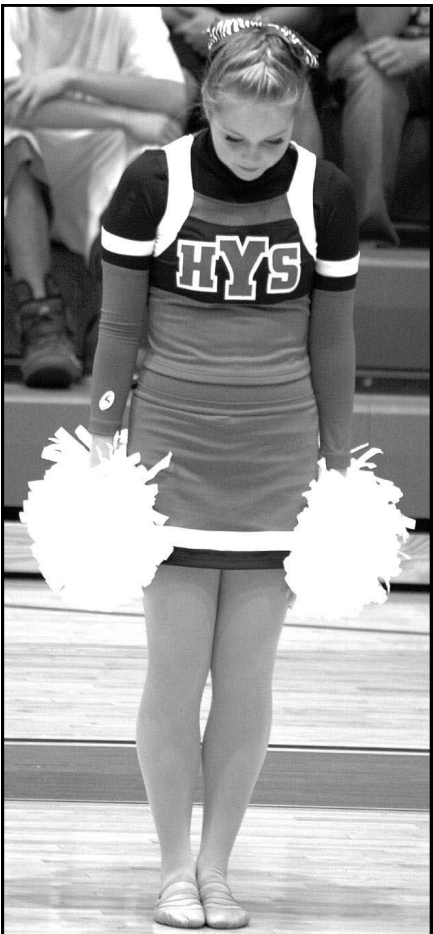
On Saturday, November 12th the cheer and dance squads both ended their season with a very successful completion. The cheer team ended with their highest score that they had all year long (222.5), but lost to Aberdeen by a half of point. The cheer squad had improved their score by an average of 30 points since the first invitational in Yankton. In the dance competition Yankton had improved all of their scores in all three categories: Pom, Jazz, and Kick. In Pom Yankton scored (273.5), Jazz (251), Kick (283). The dance team has improved their average total from the last state competition, even through losing 12 seniors last year, the team this year worked hard to fill in the spots of the missing seniors. On the team this year were three seniors: Megan Hiltunen, Courtney Clark, and Lindsey Lien. These girls were great leaders, and they worked really hard this year to make their team be the best they could be.

This year was coach Katie Nelson’s last year coaching; she has put a lot of work into the team and made the dance team the best they could be. In the middle of the season, the dance team had struggled with many injuries. In the beginning of the year the dance team started off as a small squad, but by state they had worked their way up to a large squad. Overall, the dance team placed 2nd in the state compe-

tion to their biggest competitor, Sioux Falls Washington.

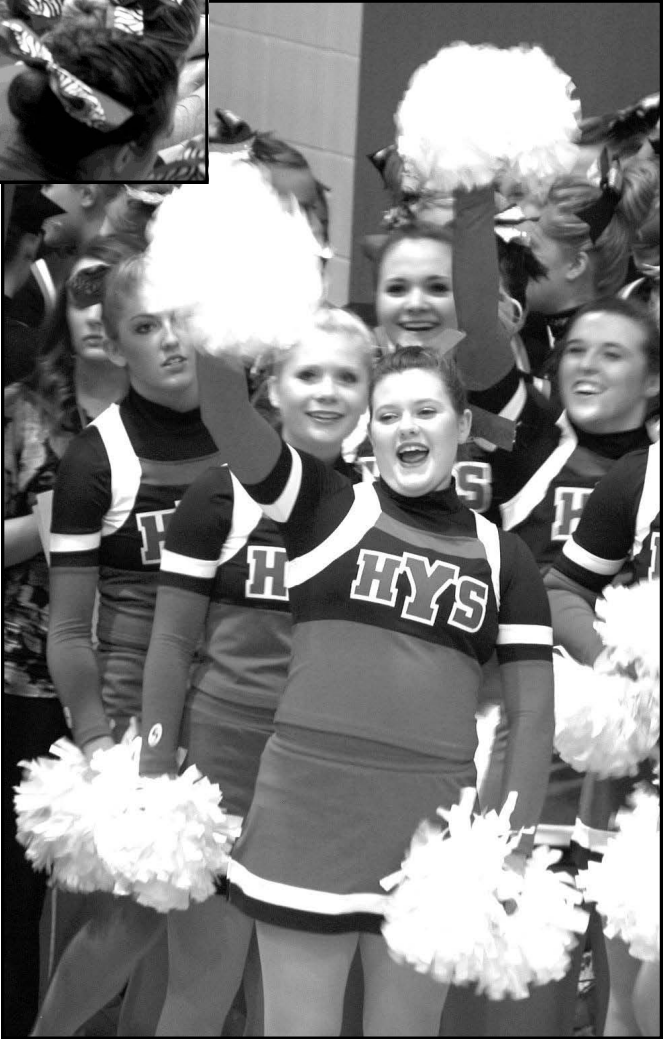
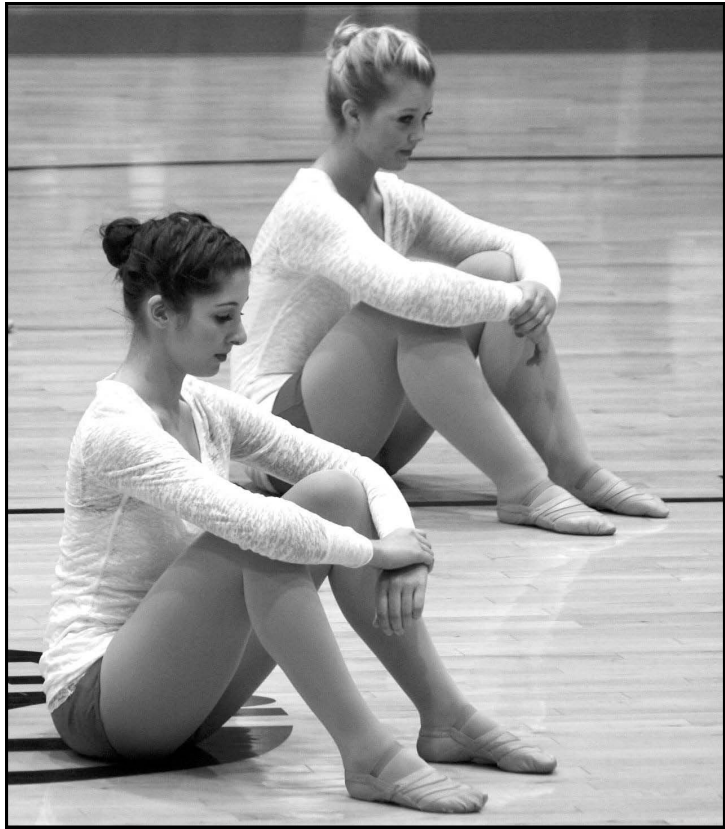
The small stunting non-tumbling cheer did exceptionally well at state by improving their overall score. At one point in the season, they had suffered many concussions and they changed their routine around a bunch, so that they could beat their biggest competitor Huron. At the state competition, the cheer squad scored 20 points better than the first competition. The team had four seniors: Courtney Fender, Kelsey Megard, Lindsay Vik, and Megan Christopher. The overall score was 222.5, and the loss was to Aberdeen by half a point. The girls worked hard over the season through many ups and downs, but they worked them out. Both teams had a very successful year and an awesome state performance. Morgan Privett said, “I think that we had the best team this year; we all actually got along and acted like a family, it helped us compete more together.”

Competitors felt the season went by fast but were satisfied with its outcome.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUE ZAVADIL

Clockwise from top: Sarah Pearson cheers; the cheer team waits to take the floor; jazz dancers concentrate; and the competitors sport matching bows.



## Gazelle Volleyball Commences

 **BY TORY GROSS**

The Yankton Gazelle Volleyball team’s road ended two weeks ago as they faced the Roosevelt Rough Riders.

The two were top five teams during the year, and they battled it out to see who would continue on to the state tournament.

Unfortunately, that team wasn’t the Gazelles. Roosevelt swept the match in three games, with scores of 25-15, 25-19 and 25-21.

It was a hard fought match, since both teams upped their defense to keep the ball in play.

Everything was going right for the Riders, and the Gazelles just couldn’t manage to find their rhythm.

“It was our lack of blocking that killed us,” senior Emily Fedders explained. “When you have a team like Roosevelt with hitters like that you need to get touches on the ball and we just couldn’t manage to do that.”

Roosevelt’s block was right on despite a threatening offense from Mikala Hora who had 15 kills. Fedders added 22 assists and Cornemann posted 16 digs.

It wasn’t their ideal ending, but the girls from the team will leave with a lot more than just a record.

The Gazelles end their 2011 season 16-5 and will lose nine seniors.

“It’s not fair at all that we are a 15-3 team not going to the state tournament,” Fedders explained.

“Although none of us will get to experience a state tournament, it was still an amazing year with amazing memories that I don’t think any of us will forget,” Fedders added.

Although it was an upsetting end to the season, honors to four of the girls were gained. Fedders, Cornemann, Hora, and Kelsey Fitzgerald earned a league-high four spots on the 14-member all-ESD Team.

Cornemann recorded 390 digs on the regular season and 1,005 for her career. She also posted 25 ace serves on the year.

Fedders finished the regular season with 618 assists, as well as 156 assists, 22 ace serves, 19 blocks and 45 kills. In her career the setter finished with over 1,300 assists.

Hora ended the regular season with 316 kills, 22 ace serves and 24 blocks. She also had 177 digs, ranking second on the team. Hora finished the season with 367 kills.

Fitzgerald ended the regular season with 234 kills, 51 blocks and 50 digs.

Each placement on the elite team was the result of the girls’ hard work and determination, and was very well deserved.

## All Athletes Must Undergo Concussion Prescreening

 **BY MEGHAN STEFANI**

Each YHS student involved in a school activity has to take a prescreening exam in accordance with the concussion policy being enforced at YHS and surrounding South Dakota high schools.

“This policy is not new this year,” YHS athletic trainer, Trevor Woods, said, “The legislation was brought through to the state senate to make it a law.”

From the point of view of an athletic trainer, Woods says that he knows if someone is experiencing a concussion.

If an athlete looks dazed or is not acting like himself or herself, Wood will evaluate this person by asking them simple questions that they should be able to answer. If the individual is unable to answer these questions,

chances are, he or she has a concussion.

Evan Schroeder, a junior who once sustained a concussion during a football game, said, “During the second quarter I felt light-headed and confused; in the third quarter I blacked out for a second and needed help up, then I didn’t pass the great Trevor Woods’ (concussion) test.”

With the new policy being enforced for the 2011-2012 school year, all athletes must complete a prescreening. Woods says that even with all the prescreening checks he has to perform on all the athletes, it doesn’t take much time.

Schroeder says that it is a good idea for every student and parent to sign a form about the concussion ABCs, and he agrees with the reasoning behind the new policy.

Woods said that he deals with

## Yankton Buck and Gazelle Basketball Season Begins

 **BY NICK ROBINSON**

It’s that time of year again — the fall sports are over and it’s finally basketball season.

The Bucks and Gazelles are hoping for good campaigns with seasoned veterans back from last year.

Both teams are going to be challenged this year with a tough conference in the ESD, but will also be in the thick of things when post season starts.

The girls come off a state tournament birth and an 8th place finish while the Bucks are hoping to bounce back from a rough year highlighted by an upset win over a top 5 Watertown team on senior night.

The Yankton Bucks have a solid core that saw a lot of playing time last year as juniors, now they’re seniors and ready to step up into the spotlight. Five seniors will be playing a huge role for YHS, and two starters from last year (Bryan Youngberg, and Connor Fitzsimmons) are returning.

“It’s good to have our main guys back, which helps us a lot. We have game experience so we know how fast it is on the varsity level,” senior Jackson Seitzinger said.

What will make or break the Bucks this year will be the ability of juniors to step up and run the offense to find the right shot.

The Bucks will be challenged by Mitchell who seems to rebuild every year, though this is Mitchell’s legendary Coach Gary Munsen’s last year—he is retiring after this year.

Also posing a challenge for Yankton will be Pierre who has a few 6’7” forwards and players who have seen varsity time since their sophomore year, and other formidable opponents include Brandon Valley and Brookings with their great guard play.

“Our district opponents are always fun to play. It will also be exciting to play Mitchell and Pierre, because they will be two of the top teams in the state this year,” Coach Randy Gross said, adding, “We need all of our seniors to be our leaders this year.”

The Gazelles are returning familiar faces for one last state title run.

Yankton had a great regular season and districts last year. The state tournament, on the other hand, ended up being a different story.

“Last year we got our goal of making it to state, now this year we know we can make it, but we want to go farther and hopefully play in the championship game,” senior Emily Fedders said.

Yankton will be led by a four year varsity player Chloe Cornemann who has committed to play basketball for South Dakota State along with Emily Fedders.

Yankton comes back this year with a lot of versatility, depth off the bench and a lot of athletes who can make plays.

This season is really up for grabs with surprising state champion Brandon Valley still in the mix, along with Washington, Lincoln and O’Gorman.

“We beat them (Brandon Valley) all three times we played them, so we feel like we could have been champs; it’s all how we finish. If we can do that we will be successful this year,” Fedders added.

The plan for the Gazelles this season is to come out motivated to finish games and take pressure the right way, and if they do that, they are primed for a good season and hopefully another state tournament birth.

“We have the potential to have a very good year. There are a lot of really good teams in AA this year so it will be an interesting and challenging season as well,” Gazelles’ head coach, Doug Pesicka, added.

Both Yankton High School teams start the season playing the Brookings Bobcats, the boys at Brookings and the girls at home on December 9th.

Then the Bucks and Gazelles meet up with Sioux Falls Washington on December 13 (home for boys, away for girls).

The state basketball tournament for boys is in Rapid City in March and the girls are in Brookings once again this year.



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