

Dell Rapids Dominates 11A All-State Team

BY CHRIS RILEY
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When a team wins a football state championship game with a 47-0 blowout, you can bet that there are some talented individuals on that squad. That is the case with Dell Rapids, as the Quarriers placed six individuals on the Class 11A All-State Team to lead all squads.

Those players include five seniors who guided Dell Rapids to an 11-1 record and their third state title in a row, along with sophomore sensation Riley Schmidt. Schmidt was selected as the special teams player, as he averaged over 32 yards on kick returns and nearly 22 yards on 12 punt returns.

"Riley is an electric player and made big plays in all aspects of the game - offense, defense and special teams," Dell Rapids head coach Steven Hansen said.

Schmidt led the Quarriers in all-purpose yards (1407) and touchdowns (15).

State title game runner-up Harrisburg placed four individuals in the All-State squad, while Dakota Valley and Tea each had four players named. West Central and Spearfish rounded out the teams with multiple players being named, with three apiece.

Teams are chosen by the South Dakota football coaches Association and released by the South Dakota Sports-writers Association.

Twenty-six of the 28 individuals selected are seniors, with Schmidt (So.) and Tea Area's Cooper Hansen (Jr.) the lone non-seniors chosen.

Offense
 Quarterback: Andrew McCuen, Harrisburg. McCuen led the Tigers to the DakotaDome with 1600 yards passing and 891 yards rushing along with 28 total touchdowns (16 passing, 12 rushing).

"Andrew is a great player but an even better human being," Harrisburg coach

Brandon White said. "He has been our leader offensively for two years and is the face of Tiger football."

Fullback: Cole Langer, Dell Rapids. The 245-pound bruiser rushed 91 times for 800 yards - 8.8 average - and 13 touchdowns for the state champion Quarriers. 2012 is the third consecutive year that Langer has been named to the 11A All-State team.

"Cole is the smartest player I have ever coached," Hansen said. "Not only is he a great football player but he is a great athlete and an even better kid who treats everybody with respect."

Running Backs: Tanner Lambert, Dakota Valley. Lambert led the Panthers with 1,759 rushing yards on 255 attempts - 6.9 average - and also scored 17 touchdowns. He is a repeat 11A All-State selection.

"Tanner is by far one of the most physical players I have ever coached," coach Jason Jund said. "He was our

team MVP and holds every possible rushing record at DV. He is tied with his brother Taylor for the best our school has ever seen."

Nate Rotert, Spearfish. Rotert led the Spartans to the 11A semifinals with 15 touchdowns. He had 127 carries for 1245 yards (9.8 average) and 19 receptions for 199 yards (10.5 average).

"Nate has been our go to guy for the last two seasons - amassing over 2500 yards," coach Bruce Bresee said.

Wide Receivers: Mitchell Nissen, Tea Area. He led the Titans with 26 receptions for 517 yards (19.9 yard per catch) and three touchdowns.

"Mitchell was our outside/vertical threat and any team that played us knew they had to know where he was on the field," coach Craig Clayberg said. "He has great hands, runs good routs and really takes pride in his blocking, which sprung a lot of long runs for our backs." Trevor DeSchepper, Harrisburg. De-

Schepper caught 39 passes for 840 yards (21.5 average) and 12 touchdowns.

"Trevor became one of the premier wide receivers in class 11A and has been one of our great leaders the past two seasons," coach White said.

Tight End: Bryce Koch, Dell Rapids. Koch caught 16 passes for 470 yards (29.4 average) and seven touchdowns.

"Bryce is a big target with great hands," coach Hansen said. Offensive Tackles: Nick Buckley, Dakota Valley. Buckley was a key blocker for over 3500 yards of total offense for the Panthers.

"Nick is the ultimate team player," coach Jund said. "He never quit and made play after play for us despite being undersized each week."

Ryan Radzak, Harrisburg. He anchored the line for an explosive Tigers team that reached the 11A state finals.

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Veteran Bucks Open Season Today

YHS Returns Seven State Qualifiers, Eight Seniors

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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With seven returning state qualifiers and eight seniors in the practice room, the Yankton High School wrestling team has high expectations for its 2012-13 campaign.

Yankton opens the 2012-13 season at Eastern South Dakota Conference rival Huron today (Tuesday).

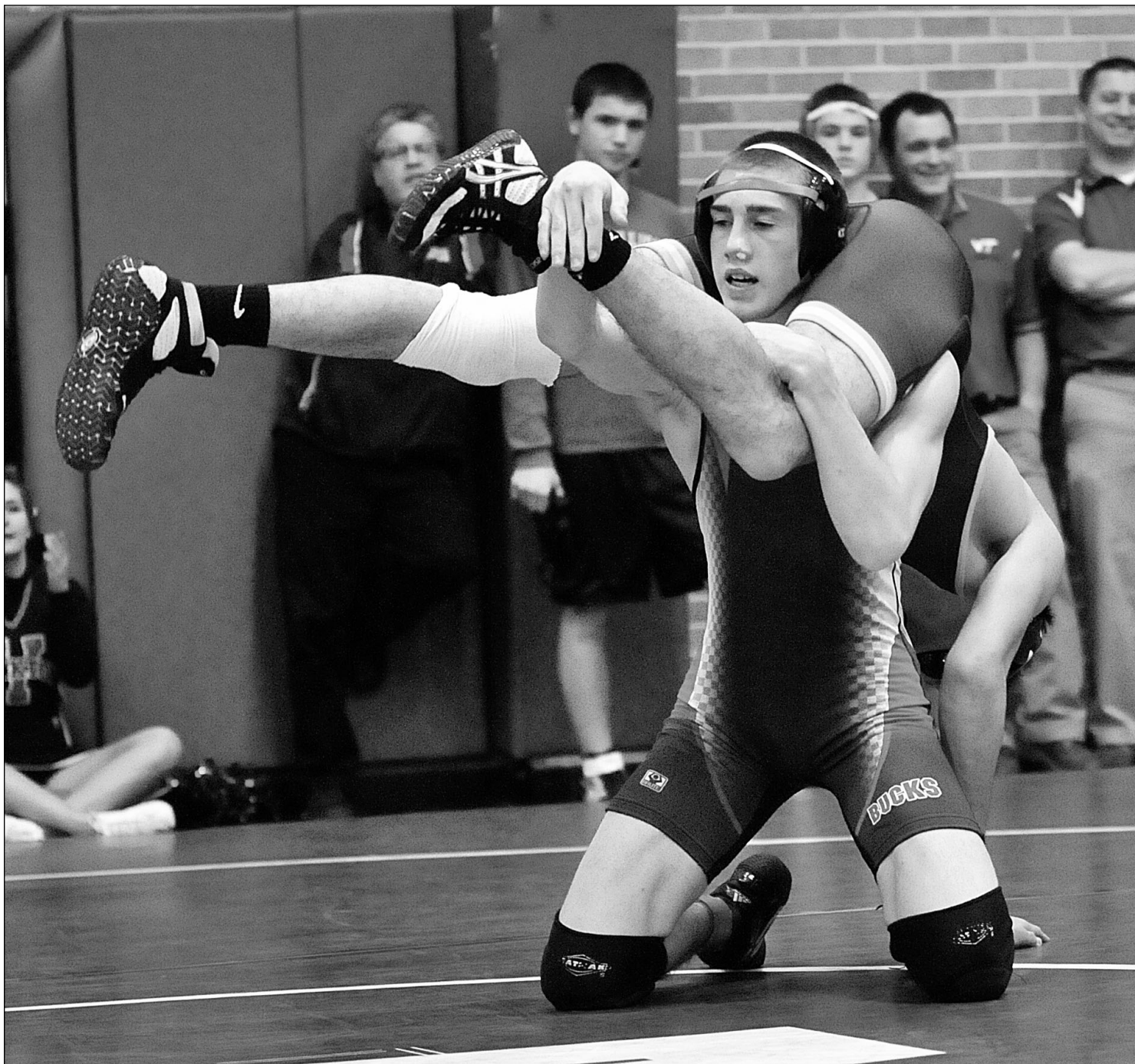
The Bucks return three seniors who wrestled at state a year ago: James Hisek, C.J. Warren and Thomas Kruse. Also back are Robbie Borgstrom, Matt Huber, Talon Nieman, Royce Reisner and Ryan Schiltz.

"We have a big group of seniors, and they know what I expect," said Yankton head coach Ryan Hage. "They've been working very hard."

"We've got a nice big group of young kids, and they've been working just as hard as the seniors. Our younger kids are feeding off what the seniors are doing."

Leading that group of underclassmen is the Bucks' lone returning state placewinner from a year ago, Casey Skillingsstad (6th at 132). Sophomores Levi Davis and Mason Strahl, and freshman Spencer Huber also return with state tournament experience.

Also back are juniors Cody Hanzlik and Ty Novak, and sophomores Dakota Borgstrom, Dylan Borgstrom and Michael Montoya.



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton's Casey Skillingsstad looks to turn the tables on an opponent during a match in the 2011-12 wrestling season. Skillingsstad, a junior, finished sixth at 132 pounds a year ago and is one of seven returning state qualifiers for the Bucks, who open the 2012-13 season tonight (Tuesday) at Huron.

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Gazelle Gymnasts Score 127.05 In Opener

SIOUX FALLS — The Yankton-Bon Homme gymnastics team opened the season with a score of 127.05, finishing second to Mitchell in a triangular hosted by Sioux Falls Washington on Monday.

Mitchell's Quinci Herli swept all four individual events to win all-around honors with a score of 35.8. Herli tied with the Gazelles' Charlotte Taggart on the uneven parallel bars (8.4), and claimed top honors in the vault (9.3), floor exercise (9.25) and balance beam (8.85).

The Gazelles' Elsie Kotalik placed fourth in the all-around with a score of 32.55. She also placed fourth in the floor (8.9) and beam (7.9). Also for Yankton-Bon Homme, Haleigh Diede tied for third on the bars (7.95) and Ashtyn Haak placed fifth on the beam (7.65).

Haak posted an all-around score of 31.7, while Diede finished at 31.6.

Mitchell edged the Gazelles by four-tenths of a point in the JV team race, 111-110.6.

Sophie Bisgaard led the junior Gazelles with a runner-up finish in the all-around, posting a score of 28.65. Bisgaard also won the floor exercise (8.2) and finished third on the vault (8.0), bars (6.05) and beam (6.4).

Elle Hiltunen placed fifth in the all-around (24.9), finishing second on the beam (6.5), fourth on the floor (7.7) and tied for fifth on the vault (7.9).

Kaitlin Guthmiller won the balance beam (6.7). Miranda Hallberg placed second on the bars (7.05), with Nicole Knox placing fifth (5.15). Emma Stewart tied Hiltunen for fifth in the vault (7.9).

Next up for the Gazelles is the Sioux Falls Invitational on Friday. Start time is 4 p.m.

VARSITY
 TEAM SCORES: Mitchell 136.75, Yankton-Bon Homme 127.05, Sioux Falls Washington 102.95
 ALL-AROUND: Quinci Herli M 35.8, Elsie Rew M 33.95, Nicole Wittstruck M 32.85, Elsie Kotalik YBH 32.55, Emily Prill M 32.05
 VAULT: Quinci Herli M 9.3, Elsie Rew M 9.0, Josie Dierks M 8.75, Nicole Wittstruck M 8.6, Kayla Kerr M 8.55
 BARS: Quinci Herli M 8.4, Charlotte Taggart YBH 8.4, Josie Dierks M 7.95, Haleigh Diede YBH 7.95, Nicole Wittstruck M 7.85, Baylee Tordsen W 7.85
 BEAM: Quinci Herli M 8.85, Emily Prill M 8.55, Elsie Rew M 8.1, Elsie Kotalik YBH 7.9, Ashtyn Haak YBH 7.65
 FLOOR: Quinci Herli M 9.25, Elsie Rew M 9.15, Nicole Wittstruck M 8.95, Elsie Kotalik YBH 8.9, Emily Prill M 8.9

JUNIOR VARSITY
 TEAM SCORES: Mitchell 111, Yankton 110.6, Washington 32.85
 ALL-AROUND: Bailey Roden M 30.15, Sophie Bisgaard YBH 28.65, Nina Hansen M 27.45, Sarah Ramsay M 26.6, Elle Hiltunen YBH 24.9
 VAULT: Tiana Youngstrom M 8.6, Bailey Roden M 8.1, Sophie Bisgaard YBH 8.0, Sarah Ramsay M 7.95, Nina Hansen M 7.9, Elle Hiltunen YBH 7.9, Emma Stewart YBH 7.9
 BARS: Bailey Roden M 7.7, Miranda Hallberg YBH 7.05, Sophie Bisgaard YBH 6.05, Nina Hansen M 5.95, Nicole Knox YBH 5.15
 BEAM: Kaitlin Guthmiller YBH 6.7, Elle Hiltunen YBH 6.5, Sophie Bisgaard YBH 6.4, Nina Hansen M 6.35, Bailey Roden M 6.3, Sarah Ramsay M 6.3
 FLOOR: Sophie Bisgaard YBH 8.2, Sarah Ramsay M 8.15, Bailey Roden M 8.05, Elle Hiltunen YBH 7.7, Mercedes Dufek M 7.65

Vermillion Gymnasts Open Season Today

BY CHRIS RILEY
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VERMILLION — A new season brings with it new opportunities for the Vermillion gymnastics team. Longtime coach Mark Upward's Tanager squad begins their 2012-2013 competition tonight (Tuesday) in a home dual against Sioux Falls Lincoln.

"We lost a couple of gymnasts from last year due to moving and health reasons, so we don't have a lot of depth in our line up," Upward said. "We will really rely on our (top) girls to pull the load for the team."

One of those top girls is senior Jade Fosvedt. Fosvedt returns after leading the Tanagers with an 18th-place individual finish on the beam in the Class A state tournament last year.

Others that Upward is counting on include seniors Morgan Hower (all-around), Alexis Reich (floor) and Rory Tucker (beam, floor) as well as freshman Cheyenne Mallory (all-around) and junior Anna Hammond (all-around).

"Those six gymnasts will be the nucleus of our team with support from younger gymnasts," Upward added.

Mallory as well as seventh-

grader Anneliese Taggart should be the top newcomers to the Tanager varsity program. "Cheyenne has come in this year ready to work and learn," Upward said. "She is providing a spark to all who want to improve. Anneliese is showing promise and is looking to move into the varsity ranks for us at some point this year. She has been learning new skills that will compliment her routines as she progresses."

Vermillion placed ninth at the state tournament a year ago after an eighth-place finish in both 2011 and 2010. That is something Upward thinks his team can improve upon.

"Our goal is to place in the top four at state," he said.

The Tanagers will return home to host the Winter Wonderland Invitational on December 29 before finishing the balance of their schedule on the road.

They travel to Yankton to dual the Gazelles on January 17.

The 2013 Class A state tournament will be held in Rapid City on February 15-16.

You can follow Chris Riley on Twitter at twitter.com/ChrisCRiley

Stokes Leads Vols Past Cold-Shooting Oakland

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Jarnell Stokes scored 19 points and went 7-of-8 from the floor Monday as Tennessee relied on suffocating defense to roll to a 77-50 victory over cold-shooting Oakland.

Oakland shot just 28.6 percent (16-of-56) overall and went 2-of-16 from 3-point range. The Golden Grizzlies (2-5) were coming off a 70-52 loss at Michigan State on Friday in which they shot 27.6 percent (16-of-58), their worst field-goal percentage since joining the Division I ranks in 1999.

Trae Golden added 18 points and seven assists with only one turnover for the Volunteers (4-1). Tennessee shot 52.8 percent (28-of-53) overall and 71 percent (22-of-31) from inside the 3-point arc.

Oakland had beaten Tennessee each of the last two years, but the Golden Grizzlies never had a chance Monday. Tennessee (4-1) took an early 15-2 lead and never looked back.

Travis Bader scored 18 points and Corey Petros added 10 points for Oakland.

MOREHEAD STATE 73, NORFOLK STATE 67: MOREHEAD, Ky. (AP) — Jarrett Stokes' 3-pointer with 27 seconds remaining put Morehead State ahead to stay with the last of 16 lead changes in a 73-67 nonconference victory over Norfolk State on Monday night.

Milton Chavis had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Eagles (4-2) and Devon Atkinson had seven assists, including on Stokes' go-ahead bucket.

Brandon Goode got an offensive rebound of Malcolm Hawkins' missed 3-pointer on the next possession for the Spartans (2-5), but Kahlil Owens stole it from him and Morehead State was able to put the game away at the free throw line.

Hawkins scored 18 points to lead Norfolk State, which has played all its games on the road. Kris Brown added 13 points and Jamal Fuentes had 11 assists.

Dylan Howard coached Morehead State. Sean Woods sat out a one-game suspension by the school for berating and shoving Atkinson during a loss to Kentucky last Wednesday.

Report: Denver To Join Summit League

BY JEREMY HOECK
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The Summit League appears ready to make a literal move toward its name — into the Rocky Mountains.

The University of Denver, a school without a football program, will join the 9-team Summit League starting in 2013, according to a report Monday by CBS Sports.

The school later Monday announced a press conference today (Tuesday) at 1 p.m. Central, only saying that it regards "conference affiliation."

University of South Dakota athletic director David Saylor said in a text message to the P&D that as of Monday evening, he hadn't received word from the Summit League on any addition.

By reaching into the Mountain Time Zone and adding Denver, the Summit League would boast 10 schools for the 2013-14 seasons. Already in the conference are Fort Wayne, IUPUI, Kansas City, Nebraska-Omaha, North Dakota State, Oakland, South Dakota, South Dakota State and Western Illinois.

Denver joined the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) in July after leaving the Sun Belt Conference last season. Joining the Summit would mean DU would be in a third league in three years.

The Pioneers joined the WAC in 2012 after spending 13 years in the Sun Belt. But departures within the WAC ranks — the league would be down to four schools for 2014 — made another change likely.

A private school located just south of downtown Denver, DU is mostly known as a hockey powerhouse. The Pioneers own seven NCAA titles in that sport.

Denver sponsors hockey, gymnastics and lacrosse, but the Summit League does not offer those sports.

For more on this story, read Wednesday's edition of the *Press & Dakotan*.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

USA Baseball Names Coaching Staff For '13 WBC

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Former star pitcher Greg Maddux will join Dale Murphy, Gerald Perry and three former major league managers as the United States baseball team's coaching staff under manager Joe Torre.

USA Baseball announced the staff Monday ahead of the 2013 World Baseball Classic. Former Padres and Phillies manager Larry Bowa will be the bench coach, former Mets skipper Willie Randolph the third base coach and former Angels manager Marcel Lachemann the bullpen and pitching coach.

Maddux, who won 355 games in the major leagues, will also serve as a pitching coach. Murphy is set to be first base coach.

The 2013 World Baseball Classic begins in March.



Maddux