

# Top-Ranked Madison Faces Rival West Central In Dome Debut

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Since 1993 more West Central seasons have ended on the DakotaDome turf than all other sites combined, including a state record six straight titles from 2000-05.

But the Trojans have not won a title since 2005, and top-seeded Madison aims to keep it that way for at least one more year.

Former Big 8 and current Dakota XII Conference rivals Madison and West Central face off in today's prime time game in the South Dakota football finals, a Class 11A showdown at 7:30 p.m.

Madison takes an unbeaten 11-0 record into the Dome, including a 24-21 victory over West Central on Sept. 27.

"I don't know if anyone 'plans' to go to the championship, but we definitely had higher expectations," said Madison head coach Max Hodgen. "We've taken it one game at a time and built confidence,

built wins, and it's catapulted us to within a win of what we've been working for."

While the Trojans are Dome regulars, this will be the first appearance ever for the Bulldogs. They are the only team among the 14 finals teams that has never been to the Dome, though nine-man teams Leola-Frederick and Potter County have only had one school in their co-ops make the finals.

"The community is very excited," Hodgen said. "We've had great support, even in our down years."

On offense, the Bulldogs have relied on the duo of Rush Milne (1,364 yards rushing, 33 TD) and quarterback Jacob Giles (1,702 yards, 12 TD, 5 INT). Preston Nordling (31-685, 6 TD) has been a primary threat in the passing game.

"Madison is one of those spread teams. They like to get their athletes out in space," said West Central head coach Kent Mueller. "Nobody's been able to shut them down."

The Bulldogs have lived up to their name on defense, with three players posting 10 tackles for loss or more this season. Tyler Currey (98 tackles, 12.5 TFL, 2 sacks) and Bradyn Steffen (51 tackles, 12.5 TFL, 5 sacks, 2 INT) have led the charge, with Jordan Unterbrunner (49 tackles, 10 TFL, 2.5 sacks) and Nordling (37 tackles, 7.5 TFL, 2 INT) also causing opposing offenses fits.

"We've been very solid up front on both sides of the ball," Hodgen said. "Our four defensive linemen make it tough to run inside, and we've got speed on the edge."

"It's pretty easy for me to coach. We just play a base defense. We try not to over-coach it."

West Central has battled the injury bug, but now have quarterback Noah Matson (381 yards, 7 TD, 1 INT) back behind center.

"With Matson returning at QB, that's

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## 11A

**No. 1 Madison (11-0)**  
**vs. No. 3 West Central (9-2)**  
7:30 p.m., DakotaDome

**MADISON**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY:** First-Ever Appearance  
**ROAD TO THE DOME:** beat Milbank Area 55-0; beat Vermillion 54-11; beat Dell Rapids 48-7  
**RUSHING:** Rush Milne 214-1,364 yards, 33 TD; Mitch Hansen 49-294, 3 TD; Brody Fredericksen 50-247, 4 TD  
**PASSING:** Jacob Giles 97-174, 1,702 yards, 12 TD, 5 INT  
**RECEIVING:** Preston Nordling 31-685 yards, 6 TD; Carter Kasuske 29-394, 2 TD; Mason Hemmer 11-227, 1 TD  
**DEFENSE:** Tyler Currey 98 tackles, 12.5 for loss, 2 sacks, 1 INT; Johnny Monroe 51 tackles, 3 TFL; Bradyn Steffen 51 tackles, 12.5 TFL, 5 sacks, 2 INT; Jordan Unterbrunner 49 tackles, 10 TFL, 2.5 sacks; Nordling 37 tackles, 7.5 TFL, 1 sack, 2 INT; Giles 26 tackles, 1 TFL, 4 INT

**WEST CENTRAL**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY:** 1993 — beat Winner 20-14 (11A); 1994 — lost to Douglas 20-14 (11A); 1996 — beat Belle Fourche 43-7 (11A); 1997 — beat Sisseton 50-0 (11A); 1998 — beat Winner 34-7 (11A); 2000 — beat Belle Fourche 47-14 (11A); 2001 — beat Lead 33-0 (11A); 2002 — beat Lead 42-7 (11A); 2003 — beat Hot Springs 48-7 (11A); 2004 — beat Tri-Village 19-0 (11A); 2005 — beat Milbank 49-13 (11A); 2007 — beat St. Thomas More 51-13 (11A); 2011 — lost to Dell Rapids 35-0 (11A)  
**ROAD TO THE DOME:** beat Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 54-0; beat Tea Area 47-7; beat Hot Springs 35-29  
**RUSHING:** Cole Tirrell 101-986 yards, 16 TD; Cody Bussell 114-917, 11 TD; Cody Miller 89-583, 12 TD  
**PASSING:** Noah Matson 28-44, 381 yards, 7 TD, 1 INT; Jace Hansich 12-28, 202 yards, 2 TD, 1 INT  
**RECEIVING:** Bussell 9-128, 1 TD; Alex Vogt 6-119, 1 TD; Matt Johannesen 5-89, 2 TD  
**DEFENSE:** Brayden Swartwout 61 tackles, 1 INT; Justin Boll 41 tackles; Tirrell 36 tackles, 4 INT, 4 FR; Miller 36 tackles, 2 sacks

## 9AA

**No. 2 Arlington (10-1) vs. No. 4 Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan (10-1)**  
2:30 p.m., DakotaDome

**ARLINGTON**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY:** 2004 — beat Gettysburg 30-28 (9AA); 2005 — beat Stickney-Mount Vernon 39-14 (9AA)  
**ROAD TO THE DOME:** beat Webster Area 22-20; beat Elkton-Lake Benton 28-23; beat DeWitt 34-29  
**RUSHING:** Luke Weber 161-1,173, 6 TD; Andrew King 142-772, 17 TD  
**PASSING:** King 57-96, 1,252 yards, 14 TD, 6 INT  
**RECEIVING:** Weber 17-472, 4 TD; Tanner Lemme 12-336, 2 TD; Zach Riche 4-66, 3 TD; Thomas Toucedo 8-77, 3 TD  
**DEFENSE:** Weber 5 INT, King 4 INT

**BRIDGEWATER-EMERY-ETHAN**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY:** 1981 — Bridgewater def. Colome 6-0 (9B); 1993 — Emery-Ethan lost to Irene 35-14; 2001 — Emery-Ethan beat Harding County 20-6 (9AA); 2003 — Emery-Ethan beat Northwest-Em-Cresbard 51-13 (9AA); 2007 — Emery-Ethan beat Gregory 33-14 (9AA); 2009 — Emery-Ethan lost to Howard 40-16 (9AA); 2010 — beat Viborg-Hurley 48-34 (9AA); 2011 — beat Kimball-White Lake 36-24 (9AA)  
**ROAD TO THE DOME:** beat Deuel 50-0; beat Hill City 49-8; beat Gregory 30-8  
**RUSHING:** Wade Miller 219-1,655 yards, 26 TD; Jordan Grosdidier 144-1,041 yards, 15 TD; Blake Bartscher 94-608, 5 TD  
**PASSING:** Bartscher 42-64, 562 yards, 6 TD, 1 INT  
**RECEIVING:** Miller 10-301 yards, 3 TD; J.D. Shape 9-112 yards, TD, Camden Myers 12-99 yards, 1 TD

## 9AA: Seahawks Aim For Another Title Run

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan head coach Jeff Van Leur had to do some things he hadn't planned on this season, including replacing a quarterback that was at the helm of the Seahawks when they won the Class 9AA title two years ago.

One thing, though, went according to plan: finishing the season on the Dakota-Dome turf.

The Seahawks will face Arlington in a battle of 10-1 squads today (Thursday) in the 2:30 p.m. game in Vermillion.

B-E-E lost three linemen — two to concussions and one to a broken ankle — for parts of this season. They were without quarterback Jace Connor, who rushed for 127 yards and passed for 62 more when the Seahawks won two years ago, due to a work-related injury.

"We had a little adversity this year," Van Leur said. "We became a team early. We had to do things that we weren't planning on."

But the team's focus stayed on playing for a championship, the third in four seasons as B-E-E. Emery-Ethan won three titles, all under Van Leur, while Bridgewater won a title in 1981.

"Part of it is tradition. Every year, we ask our kids to pick the day they want to turn in their pads," Van Leur said. "And every year, they pick the Monday after the state finals."

Stepping in for Connor has been Blake Bartscher, who has completed nearly two-thirds of his 64 passing attempts for 562 yards and six touchdowns. Bartscher, who has thrown just one interception on the season, has also rushed for 608 yards and five touchdowns.

"Blake's a good athlete who stepped in and worked hard," Van Leur said. "Connor worked with him some as well."

Wade Miller (1,655 yards, 26 TD) and Jordan Grosdidier (1,041 yards, 15 TD) have handled much of the offensive workload. Miller is also the team's leader in receiving yards (301) and touchdown catches (3).

"Early in the year, we needed those kids to step

up," Van Leur said. "They've shown how unselfish they are."

The Seahawks have also had to mature on defense. After the team's lone setback, 30-20 to Howard, B-E-E bounced back with consecutive shutouts. In three playoff games, the Seahawks have allowed just 16 points.

"We need some of our kids to learn to play disciplined football," Van Leur said. "Now our defense is a team effort."

That B-E-E defense faces an Arlington team whose dual-threats of Luke Weber and Andrew King have the Cardinals in the Dome for the first time since winning back-to-back titles in 2004 and 2005.

Weber has rushed for 1,173 yards and caught 17 passes for 472 yards, combining for 10 scores. King has 772 yards rushing, leading the team with 17 scores, and has thrown for 1,252 yards and 14 touchdowns.

"It's nice to have two guys that can run like they do," said Arlington head coach Steve Gilbertson. "You can't key on either one."

Tanner Lemme (336 yards, 2 TD), Zach Riche (66 yards, 3 TD) and Thomas Toucedo (77 yards, 3 TD) have also been effective receivers.

Defensively, Weber has five interceptions and King four picks for the Cardinals.

Unlike the Seahawks, who have won by 22 points or more in all three playoff games, the Cardinals have had to work for their victories, averaging a four point margin of victory and winning the past two weeks by five points each.

"That makes them battle-tested," Gilbertson said of the close calls. "They've been in games like that before, so they don't panic. They don't lose their cool. They just keep playing."

Both teams feel that the game won't be decided by their skill players as much as their linemen.

"Controlling the trenches is big, both on offense and defense," Van Leur said.

Game time is 2:30 p.m. in the DakotaDome, the second of three games set for today.

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## Potter County Looks To Start New Tradition

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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The name Potter County is a newcomer to the state championship field.

Its history, though, tells a different story.

Potter County, a third-year collaboration of traditional power Gettysburg and Hoven, will be making its first title game appearance today (Thursday) when the Battlers face unbeaten Leola-Frederick in the 11 a.m. Class 9A final at the DakotaDome.

"Oh yeah, we've definitely talked about it," Potter County head coach Vern Smith said this week.

Gettysburg has made seven previous trips to the Dome and has yet to walk away with a title — losing in

1982, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2008.

Last year's senior class at Potter County was the last group in the previous 14-15 years that did not make it to the dome, save for one player who was there as an eighth-grader, Smith said.

"All the kids know someone who played there, and they've at least watched the games on TV or were there in person, so it's not totally strange," said Smith, whose team comes in with a 10-1 record.

Leola-Frederick, on the other hand, is making its first title game appearance since 1982 when Frederick beat Gettysburg. Thirty-one years,

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## 9A

**No. 1 Leola-Frederick (11-0) vs. No. 3 Potter County (10-1)**  
11 a.m., DakotaDome

**POTTER COUNTY**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY:** 1982 — Gettysburg lost to Frederick 34-15 (9A); 2000 — Gettysburg lost to Stickney-Mount Vernon 41-28 (9AA); 2001 — Gettysburg lost to Kimball 76-28 (9A); 2003 — Gettysburg lost to Avon 44-22 (9A); 2004 — Gettysburg lost to Arlington 30-28 (2004); 2006 — Gettysburg lost to Scotland 20-16 (9A); 2008 — Gettysburg lost to Avon 37-8 (9A)  
**ROAD TO THE DOME:** beat Corsica-Stickney 42-0; beat Herred-Selby Area 44-30; beat Howard 22-8  
**RUSHING:** Chayce Hall 91-762 yards, 10 TD; Hayden Simon 77-399 yards, 5 TD; Colton Hall 69-372 yards, 3 TD  
**PASSING:** Chayce Hall 58-110, 984 yards, 16 TD, 7 INT  
**RECEIVING:** Mitchell Hinkley Luke Vogel 15-282 yards, 6 TD; 14-167 yards, 3 TD; Tanner Heuer 11-239 yards, 4 TD; Mitchell Rausch 7-151 yards, 2 TD  
**DEFENSE:** Hinkley 126 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 INT; Ryan Sundberg 107 tackles, 1 INT, 2 FR; Chayce Hall 65 tackles, 3 INT, 4 FR; Simon 65 tackles, 2 sacks, 2 INT, 1 FR; Tanner Heuer 51 tackles, 4 INT

**LEOLA-FREDERICK**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY:** 1982 — Frederick beat Gettysburg 34-15 (9A)  
**ROAD TO THE DOME:** beat Viborg-Hurley 56-6; beat Lemmon-McIntosh 38-0; beat Walsey-Wessington 38-34

No information were submitted by Leola-Frederick



P&D FILE PHOTO

Wynot's Maggie Schulte puts up a layup between three Lindsay Holy Family defenders in their Class D2 semifinal game at the 2013 Nebraska State Girls Basketball Tournament in Lincoln, Neb. Schulte signed a National Letter of Intent to attend NCAA Division II Wayne State and play basketball for the Wildcats.

## Schulte

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of Schulte's decision, Wieseler said.

"I joked with her (Wednes-

day) about it," Wieseler said. "I asked, 'Wouldn't you love to do that all again?' She said, 'No way.'"

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

## Bertram

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portant to have versatility."

Typically a program that recruits closer to home, BHSU was able to snag an East River product — the Yellow Jackets boast one player from this side of the state this season, Cassidy Kotelman of Brookings.

Family connections should help ease the strain of

being so far from home, Bertram said. Plus, she eventually plans to see her younger sister, Kalla, play in high school.

"It's far, yeah, but at least my grandparents are only three hours away, and I have an aunt and uncle who live in Wyoming," Keely said.

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## Cyclones Escape USD

AMES, Iowa — The University of South Dakota went toe-to-toe with 22nd-ranked Iowa State for 32 minutes, but the Cyclones pulled away late to claim an 88-72 victory over the Coyotes in women's college basketball action on Wednesday.

USD led by as many as seven in the first half before Iowa State closed to a 35-34 edge at the break. In the second half, Iowa State went on

a 21-3 run with 8:41 left to put the game out of reach.

Hallie Christofferson led Iowa State (2-0) with 25 points and 12 rebounds, including a 10-10 effort from the line. Nikki Moody had 20 points, including 9-10 from the line, and seven assists. Brynn Williamson added 18 points in the victory.

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## Bartos

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year archery coach Rodney Estrada, himself a Level 4 coach. Estrada informed Bartos of the school's upcoming tryouts and asked if she was interested.

"I decided it'd be something worth trying," she said.

Members of the Bartos family (which includes father Dan, mother Estell, along with six other children) then drove down to Georgia — "that was long," Cedar joked — and not only watched Bartos try out for the team but got to explore the campus.

"Coach then said he'd like to have me on the team," Bartos said. "I was surprised when I heard about the opportunity."

According to scholarshipstats.com, four schools sponsored varsity level archery last year and that because archery is not an official NCAA sport, there are "no institutional limits on athletic scholarships."

"To get a scholarship like this is pretty rare in archery," said Eric Tollefson, the JOAD and elite coach with the NFAA in Yankton. "There really aren't that many schools in the country, probably fewer than ten, that have archery as a varsity sport."

"To be offered one of those speaks well of her ability."

Emmanuel College, an NCAA Division II school in Franklin Springs, Ga., kick-started a coed archery team

this fall under noted Level 4 coach Rodney Estrada. The program plans to have 20 athletes on scholarship this fall, according to the school.

Such schools as Columbia University boast similar varsity archery programs, but still, it's not a widely accepted notion that recruits can receive scholarships for that sport, Tollefson said.

"People just don't think of archery as a scholarship option," he said. "You can do it as a club sport, but to realize you can get money for it is huge."

"If I can help get my college paid for and do something I love, it's a win-win."

Allowing Bartos the opportunity to compete at national tournaments across the country certainly helped colleges like Emmanuel that are starting archery see Bartos, according to Tollefson.

"Once we got her in front of coach Rodney at nationals, he saw the way she handled herself at that level," he said. "She did very well."

To that end, Bartos held her own in a 70-woman division. That performance, on the backs of other top efforts at other national tournaments, earned Bartos a national ranking of 23rd in her age division.

Now, on the idea of being so far from home?

"It's still sinking in," Bartos said. "I'm definitely used to being around my family all the time, and now I'll be halfway across the country."

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## Wynot Advances To Class D2 Semifinals

GILTNER, Neb. — The Wynot Blue Devils scored twice in a 42-second span in the final minute to rally past Giltner 52-50 in the quarterfinals of the Nebraska Class D2 football playoffs on Tuesday in Giltner, Neb.

Wynot, 11-0, will host Falls City Sacred Heart in the semifinals on Monday. Start time is set for 3 p.m.

Trailing 50-38, Wynot's Jackson Sudbeck hit Brady Stratman for a 10-yard touchdown pass with 56 seconds left. The Blue Devils recov-

ered the ensuing outside kick, and Stratman caught a 9-yard touchdown pass from Sudbeck with 12 seconds left. Dawson Sudbeck caught a tipped pass on the two-point conversion attempt to give Wynot the lead for good.

Jackson Sudbeck finished 27-47 passing for 378 yards and five touchdowns. He also rushed for 114 yards and two scores.

Davis Wieseler caught 12 passes for 208 yards and a touchdown. Stratman rushed for 56 yards and caught 11

passes for 135 yards. Austin Lange and Tristan Wieseler also caught scoring passes in the win.

Ben Hinrichs rushed for 179 yards and a score, and was 9-15 passing for 109 yards and four touchdowns to lead Giltner, the 2012 Class D2 champions. Christian Leichy rushed for 137 yards and two scores. Jared Hastings and Nick Preissler each had four catches and two touchdowns in the effort.

WYNOT (11-0).....8 14 16 14 — 52  
GILTNER (9-2).....8 20 16 6 — 50

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