

Yankton's Dannenbring, Chambers Named To All-State Team

Soccer: Bucks' Slate Named To HM List

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

Three members of the Yankton Bucks boys' soccer team were recognized by the state's coaches, as the All-State soccer teams were announced on Monday.

Seniors John Dannenbring and Connor Chambers were named to the first team. Sophomore Treyson Slate earned honorable mention accolades.

Yankton head coach Warren Brenner credited both seniors with playing key roles in the Bucks' run to the Class AA semifinals this season.

"Both John and Connor definitely earned it," he said. "They had

to work hard to make a difference on that team. They spent a lot of time on and off the field this season, spending time with other players. That paid off huge for us."

Dannenbring anchored the Bucks' midfield, sparking an offense that scored 35 goals in 11 regular season matches this season.

"John controlled the midfield well this year," Brenner said. "Opponents had to make the effort to shut him down this year."

While Dannenbring would classify himself as a "defensive" player, the senior scored five goals — including two on penalty kicks in the Bucks' quarterfinal win over Pierre — and had seven assists.

"I knew I had to play both de-

fense and offense," he said. "I watched a lot of stuff online, looking at the great players, and tried to replicate what they do. I knew I had to be quicker, faster, stronger than opponents this year."

Dannenbring would have preferred a state title to individual honors, but said he was "glad he got to represent Yankton soccer."

"It wasn't my goal. My goal was to win state," he said. "But this is a little thing to keep me happy from the loss to Lincoln (in the semifinals)."

Dannenbring hopes to continue his playing career at the collegiate level, and is exploring his options.

Chambers anchored a Buck defense that allowed just 10 goals in 11 matches this season. The Bucks shut out five opponents during the

regular season.

"Connor has been a defensive player almost his entire career," Brenner said. "He was definitely a striker's nightmare. He challenged strikers, and they worked for every shot they got."

Chambers credited his teammates for helping make him a better defender.

"They always pushed me to be the best player," he said. "They kept me motivated."

Chambers does not plan to continue his competitive playing career collegiately, but hopes to continue playing recreationally.

One of the players who will be expected to step into a bigger role next season is Slate, who helped anchor the Yankton defense despite being just a sophomore.

"Treyson is going to be a future leader," Brenner said. "He has a lot of skills and soccer smarts, and he works hard. He's not afraid to take the lead, which is one of the reasons why he and Connor worked so well in the back."

"It's going to be fun to watch him next year."

Yankton finished with a 10-2-1 record and an unbeaten record in the Eastern South Dakota Conference.

In Class A, Freeman Academy's Ryan Haggerty was named second-team All-State.

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Football

Seven Bucks Named All-ESD

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

The best team finish in nearly a decade netted the Yankton Bucks some post-season recognition.

Seven members of the top-ranked Bucks football team were named to the all-Eastern South Dakota Conference team, as selected by the league's coaches.

"This might be the most we've had on there since I've been here," said Yankton head coach Arlin Likness, who took over the program in 1999. "You always want more. When you are 9-0 and having a good year, you want as many on there as you can."

Quarterback Mason Strahl, lineman Nick LaFave, tight end Evan Greeneway and receiver Brady Hale were all selected on offense. Lineman Tim Cross, linebacker Matt Fitzgerald and defensive back Ryan Sternhagen were honored on defense. Offense was selected first, followed by defense and special teams.

Unlike last year, when more than two-thirds of Strahl's school-record 1,712 passing yards went to all-state receiver J.J. Hejna, the Bucks have spread the ball out, with a nearly 50-50 break between rushing and passing yardage.

"Mason's numbers were pretty good, but our running backs weren't high because we do it by committee," Likness said. No Yankton back averages more than the eight carries a game by Strahl. "Brady was a legitimate receiver, but that takes him off as a punter or kicker."

Strahl has 1,391 yards on the season, leaving him just 175 yards away from Michael Rucker's career passing record of 3,278 yards. Hale (33-409, 2 TD), Greeneway (22-349, 2 TD) and Parker Kuchta (21-193) have been leading targets. Strahl also has 135 yards rushing with six touchdowns, good enough for second on the team.

Helping lead the way for the offense has been LaFave.

"He anchored us on the line last year, and has been a leader for us this year as a senior," Likness said.

Besides his receiving skills, Greeneway has been a weapon in the running game for the Bucks, using his 6-7 frame to clear the way for the Bucks' backs.

"He's a true tight end," Likness said. "He not only gets the ball down field. His blocking has gotten better and better."

Cross has been a disruptive force in the defensive line, leading the team in sacks with six and ranking second with 7.5 tackles for loss. He also has an interception return for touchdown.

"His quickness and strength have allowed him to get to the ball," Likness said. "He's gelled into place this season."

Fitzgerald, who was one of the team's leading receivers a year ago, has focused mostly on defense this season with positive results, including 2.5 sacks and a team-best 12.5 tackles for loss.

Football | Class 11B Quarterfinals

Trojans Trump Canton



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

A pair of Parkston defenders, including Brady Reiff (43), meet Canton running back Andrew Oliver in the backfield during their Class 11B football quarterfinal on Monday in Parkston. The Trojans dealt their second straight playoff shutout, beating the C-Hawks 46-0.

Parkston To Face MCM In Semis

BY VANCE JANAK
P&D Correspondent

PARKSTON — The Parkston Trojans turned the rematch of last year's Class 11B state championship game into another easy victory Monday night.

The top-seeded Trojans put together a dominant effort en route to a 46-0 quarterfinal win over defending 11B champion Canton. Parkston (10-0), who advances to host No. 5 McCook Central/Montrose (10-0) on Saturday, scored on its first five possessions while rolling up 151 yards of offense in the first half.

The Trojans' defense was equally impressive. Parkston didn't allow No. 8 Canton (6-4) to earn its initial first down until the C-Hawks' fifth possession. Parkston gave up just 98 yards of offense, blocked a punt and recovered a fumble on another punt.

"We had a little chip on our shoulder from last year," Parkston do-it-all senior

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Playoffs: Faulkton Holds Off Avon 62-48



JOHN PAPENDICK/ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS

Avon's Devin Tolsma, right, tries to dodge a Faulkton defender during their Class 9B quarterfinal game on Monday.

FAULKTON — Darin Wieseler ran for 172 yards and four touchdowns as Faulkton Area beat Avon 62-46 in Monday night's Class 9B quarterfinals in Faulkton.

Kurt Beidler passed for 251 yards and three touchdowns for the Trojans (9-1), who advance to Saturday's semifinals at Canistota.

In the loss for the Pirates (6-3), Devin Tolsma carried 26 times for 172 yards and a touchdown. Logan Mudder added 89 yards and two scores on the ground, and passed for 112 yards and a touchdown — to Tolsma.

AVON (7-3).....8 16 6 16 — 46
FAULKTON AREA (9-1).....16 16 14 16 — 62

9AA: Kimball-White Lake 20, Arlington 12

ARLINGTON — Eighth-seeded Kimball-White Lake upset Arlington 20-12 in Monday

night's Class 9AA quarterfinals in Arlington.

Eathen Gaulke took 55 carries 371 yards for three touchdowns for Kimball-White Lake.

For Arlington, Andrew King had 15 carries for 122 yards and one touchdown. King threw one touchdown pass to Logan Kangas.

Kimball-White Lake will play Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central in Saturday's semifinals.

9AA: Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central 42, Elkton-Lake Benton 14

WESSINGTON SPRINGS — Landon Ochsner ran for 173 yards and two touchdowns as Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central rolled past Elkton-Lake Benton 42-14 in Class 9AA quarterfinal action Monday.

With this win, WWSSC extends their record to 9-1 and gets them a place in Saturday's semifinals against Kimball-White Lake.

Austin Messmer had two touchdowns of his

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Cubs Club New Underwood 54-6

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

ALCESTER — A year after losing on the road in the quarterfinal round, the Alcester-Hudson Cubs were determined to at least do one better in 2014.

Mission accomplished. Scoring the game's final 46 points, the undefeated Cubs blasted New Underwood 54-6 in Monday night's Class 9A quarterfinals in Alcester to earn a date in Saturday's semifinals at Howard.

"This feels a lot better," said A-H junior quarterback Grant Johnson, who ran for three touchdowns and passed for three scores.

"This feels good."

With New Underwood focused on stopping Colin Walth (who ran for nearly 300 yards last week), the Cubs turned to Johnson to lead the offense.

And he produced a big game for Alcester-Hudson (10-0), carrying the ball 19 times for 223 yards.

"Colin had a big game last week, and they wanted to take him away," Johnson

said. "But I give all the credit to our line. They gave me a couple lanes and I just had to run hard."

Early on, however, the game appeared even.

New Underwood (8-2) got within 8-6 on a Brandon Koch 46-yard touchdown run late in the first quarter.

Walth ensuing on a 2-yard run on the scoring drive, and following a Lyle LaFramboise interception, the Cubs answered with Johnson's 10-yard touchdown pass to Logan McConnell in the second quarter.

Up 22-6, Alcester-Hudson never looked back.

"To be honest, the difference was our line, on both sides," Cubs head coach Brian Haak said. "We controlled both ends, and that allowed Grant to get some time to throw, or tuck it in and run."

Johnson, a 6-foot speedster, scored on a 25-yard touchdown run and early in the third quarter ran in from 37 yards out. On the Cubs' next drive, he found Gavin



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Alcester-Hudson's Logan McConnell, 21, trots into the end zone for a touchdown during Monday night's Class 9A quarterfinal game against New Underwood in Alcester.