

Bucks 34, Bobcats 33



JAMES CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton players pick up teammate Ryan Sternhagen, 30, after Sternhagen scored the go-ahead touchdown in overtime of the Class 11AA football championship game on Friday in the DakotaDome. Yankton stopped Brookings on a two-point conversion attempt to preserve a 34-33 victory.

CHAMPIONS!!!

Bucks Cap Perfect Season With 34-33 Win For State Title

BY NICK ROBINSON
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VERMILLION —On the biggest stage in over 13 years for the program, the Yankton Bucks football team fulfilled their ultimate goal: an 11AA state championship. Their return to dominance was accomplished with a 34-33 overtime victory over the Brookings Bobcats on Friday evening at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

"It feels great," Yankton coach Arlin Likness said. "We had a 24-6 lead and let them come back. Our kids had enough pride and determination to keep it together. This was our third overtime this year. Thankfully, we had the rabbits foot on our side again."

Senior quarterback Mason Strahl reached the summit of Yankton High School passers. He had 265 yards in the game (3,449 in career) and was also named the

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Brookings' Tyler Priest holds onto the shirttails of Yankton fullback Tim Cross as Cross powers for yardage during the Class 11AA championship football game on Friday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

Hoeck: Bucks Rise To The Occasion

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Stories will be told of the time Matt Fitzgerald came up with the play of a lifetime.

No, it wasn't a touchdown catch or a long scoring run.

It was one of those selfless plays that will define the 2014 football season for Yankton High School.

Fitzgerald, a soft-spoken senior, broke up a two-point conversion intended for standout Mikey Daniel and ensured that the Bucks capped off a perfect season with their first state championship since 2002.

Even in victory, Fitzgerald couldn't help but deflect praise — trust me, I tried pulling it out of him.

"They got big yards on that play all game, and I just saw him going out, so I went with him," he said, adding a smile. "I barely got my fingertips on it."

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YHS Championship Celebration • Monday, 5:30 p.m. • YHS Main Gym