



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

Attention Press & Dakotan Readers!
To ensure you get the most comprehensive and complete coverage of your Yankton Bucks championship game the Press & Dakotan will printed and distributed later than usual. You can expect to receive your paper late Saturday morning.
We apologize for the inconvenience.
GO BUCKS!

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Football Frenzy

HS, College Marathon Continues Tradition

(Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part series on South Dakota high school athletics.)

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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VERMILLION — Eight games. Three days. All under one roof. Welcome to the football fan's dream — a 60-hour span spotlighting seven South Dakota high school champions crowned by Saturday night's end.

Yankton fans are showing intense interest in tonight's (Friday's) game. The Bucks take the DakotaDome turf at 7:30 p.m. to defend their Class 11AA title against the Pierre Governors.

And for good measure, a packed DakotaDome will host Saturday's 1 p.m. grudge match between the University of South Dakota and rival South Dakota State University. The sold-out Missouri Valley Football Conference game holds national playoff implications for both squads.

The advance sell-out for the USD-SDSU football game isn't unique, said USD ticket sales coordinator Chris Kaufman.

"We sold out this home game two years ago in advance as well," he said. "It's great to have the demand for tickets that the South Dakota Showdown Series provides. Everybody knows this game will be sold out, and the large crowd will help electrify the atmosphere on Game Day."

Look for the packed football weekend to remain the same in future years, at least for now, according to executive director Wayne Carney of the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA).

"The three-day event hasn't been a problem or required a great deal of additional planning or adjustment," he said. "I don't think we will see a change for quite some time."

The state football championships are always well attended in the 10,000-seat DakotaDome, Carney said. However, certain teams draw especially well, and the location of competing teams also plays a huge factor, he said.

"For this year's finals, we have six schools under 100 miles away (from Vermillion)," he said. "We have Tri-Valley, West Central, O'Gorman, Washington, Yankton and Canistota. In addition, Madison is 110 miles away and might as well be included on that list."

Yankton sold out its allotment of reserved tickets in short order, and Pierre was expected to do the same, Carney said.

"Yankton is only 25 miles away (from Vermillion), and Pierre travels well," he said. He also looked for a huge crowd for Saturday night's Class 11AAA title clash between Sioux Falls rivals O'Gorman and Washington.

The figures back up that prediction, Kaufman said.

"Ticket sales are trending



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
Parents from Wolvey-Wessington celebrate as the Warbirds went on to beat Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central 36-22 in the South Dakota 9AA football state championship game Thursday afternoon in the DakotaDome.

4 Schools Propose Policy For Transgender Students In Sports

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Four parochial schools in the Nebraska School Activities Association have introduced a proposal on how schools should handle the participation of transgender students in sports.

The Lincoln Journal Star reported Thursday that the proposal, introduced in four of the association's six districts, would require students to participate in sports according to the gender listed on their birth certificates. Two of the four districts have passed the proposal and are awaiting legislative approval.

The association has met in executive session to discuss proposed policy on transgender students. NSAA Executive Director Jim Tenopir has said he knows of at least two schools in Nebraska that have transgender students who are interested in participating in sports.

JD Flynn, a spokesman for the Catholic Diocese in Lincoln, says their proposal isn't an attempt to circumvent any policy the association may draft, but an attempt to introduce a proposal that is fair to all students.

According to NSAA Associate Director Deb Velder, bylaw changes passed by members trump changes enacted by the board.

"Schools like (Pius X High School) wanted to represent in a proactive way the concerns their parents and students raised," Flynn said.

According to Flynn, requiring students to participate based on the gender listed on their birth certificates allows transgender students to play sports while addressing concerns about fairness and safety based on physical differences between males and females.

"We really do think this is most principally a matter of fairness," Flynn said.

According to the association district agenda, an explanation of the proposal notes that such

a policy would avoid "supporting or encouraging psychological or medical interventions" and respects the First Amendment rights of religiously affiliated schools.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska has written to the NSAA, encouraging the association to draft a policy that respects transgender students' participation in sports. The ACLU of Nebraska Legal Director Amy Miller said on Wednesday that policies based on gender listed on birth certificates might interfere with a student's privacy, and is inconsistent with guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The original proposal and an amended version are scheduled to be voted on by all six districts in January. If at least three districts pass one or both proposals, they will move on to the NSAA's representative assembly, which meets in April.



Hero Worship At Webster

Students at Yankton's Webster Elementary School dispensed some appreciation to some of the school's staff Thursday night when the school presented the program "Unsung Heroes" at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. The program paid tribute to the janitors, secretaries, bus drivers, nurses and others who make the school run and let the students learn in a comfortable environment. Students from grades 1-5 participated in the annual program. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
David Zach, Lisa Heth, Kevin Koliner and Kimberly LaPlante (not pictured) discuss human trafficking in a noon forum at Mount Marty College.

Panelists Weigh Issue Of Human Trafficking

BY REILLY BIEL
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The fight against human trafficking has some strong allies.

On Thursday, Mount Marty College's (MMC) Noon Forum focused on human trafficking. Three of the four panelists were all people who work to stop human trafficking in the state, while the fourth panelist, David Zach, the lead singer of Remedy Drive, travels regularly to southeast Asia to help with the cause there. Remedy Drive also performed at MMC Thursday night.

Zach became involved in fighting human trafficking when he learned about the activities of warlord Joseph Kony in Uganda. After watching a film about Kony and his use of child soldiers, Zach's young daughter said, 'Why God not protect those boys?,' Zach recalled.

"There was a fire simmering inside me for a long time and when she said that, I couldn't get it out of my mind," said Zach. "I was haunted by how safe and comfortable this culture was and how little it had to do with issues like boy soldiers and brothels."

This fire inspired Zach to pen lyrics about human trafficking which led to Remedy Drive's most recent album, "Commodity."

Before the album's completion, Zach was approached by a member of The Exodus Road, an abolitionist group that works to free underage girls trapped in the sex trafficking industry in southeast Asia. The group uses hidden cameras to enter brothels and meet with underage girls through

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River City



Meridian Bridge Makes Movie Magic
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TOMORROW: Affordable Care Act Hits The Road

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK
NORTH
OF 15TH STREET