



P&D FILE PHOTO

**Yankton's Jaclyn Arens fires a pitch home during a home game earlier this season. The Gazelles begin play in the South Dakota Class A high school softball tournament today at Sioux Falls' Sherman Park. Yankton plays Rapid City Stevens at 10 a.m.**

## Gazelles Begin State Softball Today

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Yankton's 18-11 record was only good enough for the seventh seed in the South Dakota Class A high school softball tournament, which begins today (Friday) at Sherman Park in Sioux Falls. Head coach Bernie Goeden, though, feels the team has the talent to compete.

Yankton plays second-seeded Rapid City Stevens in the opening round of the nine-team double-elimination event. Through 29 games, the team is about where Goeden expected, even if the seed is not. "Record-wise we're pretty close to where I thought we'd be," he said. "I thought we'd get a higher seed at state."

The Gazelles have relied on a pair of young pitchers, Jaclyn Arens (9-10, 4.75 ERA, 55 K in 107 2/3 IP) and Kalyon Peterka (8-1, 4.86 ERA, 22 K in 49 IP), this season. While the strikeout numbers aren't high — the team is averaging three strikeouts per seven innings — the walk numbers are even better. Arens is averaging five strikeouts for every walk, walking just 11 of 513 batters faced.

"Our emphasis has been to throw strikes, let them put the ball in play," Goeden said. "We don't need strikeouts if we keep the walks down."

With a young pitching staff, the Gazelles had to rework their defensive lineup to handle a pitching-to-contact approach.

"We changed around our infield halfway through the season to strengthen our outfield," Goeden said. "We moved one of our infielders to the outfield so that we'd have more speed in the outfield."

Veterans Jessica Wirth and Abby Schulte, each with 10 extra-base hits on the season, have led the Yankton offensive assault.

"Our offense has come along pretty well," Goeden said. "Jessica is batting over .450 and Abby's over .400."

Wirth comes in to state batting .458 with two home runs, eight triples and 22 RBI. Schulte is batting .415 with a home run, a team-high six triples, three doubles and a team-best 30 RBI.

Andi Sprakel (.370, 1 HR, 3 triples, 4 doubles) is also a run-producer, with 20 RBI on the season. Karlee Kozak (.298, 4 doubles, 3 triples, 16 RBI) has scored 25 runs out of the leadoff spot. Hannah Horn (.203, 13 RBI, 20 runs), Brooke Loecker (.224, 4 doubles, 13 RBI, 14 runs), Arens (.240, 10 RBI, 11 runs) and Jennifer Feilmeier (.333, 2 doubles, 4 triples, 17 runs, 13 RBI) have driven in double digit runs. Taylor Hutchison (.200, 6 RBI, 7 runs), Kourtney Erickson (.125, 2 RBI, 6 runs) and Peterka (.424, 7 runs, 8 RBI) have also been contributors.

The Gazelles will need a strong defensive effort to extend their stay in the tournament beyond the three games the tournament format guarantees.

"We need to play good defense," Goeden said. "Defense has been both our strength and our weakness. If we play good defense, we stay in the game. If our defense lets us down, those are the games that are not competitive."

Yankton has allowed 167 runs on the season, 55 of which have been unearned. The Gazelles have scored 197 runs on the season.

The Class A tournament runs through Saturday. The Class B tournament, a six-team field that includes Dakota Valley, begins on Saturday and runs through Sunday at Sherman Park.

*You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at [twitter.com/aceman904](https://twitter.com/aceman904)*

# Bucks Host Top-Ranked Washington

BY CHRIS RILEY  
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One week after losing to third-ranked Roosevelt, the challenge gets even tougher for the Yankton Bucks as undefeated and top-ranked Sioux Falls Washington visits Crane-Youngworth Field tonight for a non-conference 11AA football contest.

The Warriors, 6-0, have been ranked first in the Class 11AA South Dakota Sportswriters Association Poll all season long after returning a number of starters from the 2011 squad that finished runner-up to Roosevelt in the state title game last fall.

Washington had been barreling through their competition this season, outscoring opponents by an average of 43 points per game until narrowly escaping Pierre with a 27-20 victory over the Governors last Friday. The Warriors turned the ball over six times in the tight victory.

According to Bucks head coach Arlin

Likness, that last fact shows just how tough Washington is this season.

"The biggest challenge is they have no weaknesses," Likness said. "Pierre got six turnovers against Washington and still lost. You can't afford to make many mistakes if any."

The Bucks saw a few of those mistakes come back to haunt them in last Friday's 35-21 loss to the Rough Riders at Howard Wood Field.

For the first time this season, Yankton (5-1), ranked fifth in the latest Class 11AA S.D. Sportswriters Association Poll) had more turnovers than takeaways last week, as the Bucks lost a fumble and also saw quarterback Michael Rucker throw two costly interceptions. Yankton also was unable to punch their opening drive into the end-zone despite two attempts at their opponents goal line.

"That goal line stand and the two interceptions, those three plays were very costly for us," Likness said.

Despite the miscues, Yankton's of-

fense still moved the ball against the Rough Riders, especially on the ground. Sophomore Levi Davis rushed 16 times for 102 yards while James Hisek (78 yards) and Jordan Lightner (41 yards) also played big parts in the rushing attack.

Hisek suffered a concussion in the fourth quarter of the loss and will be out this week, which paves the way for senior Evan Schroeder to return to the starting lineup at running back after missing parts of the last month with leg injuries.

Besides Hisek, also out of the lineup tonight will be two-way starter Dustin Hopper (head injury) as well as tight end and punter Troy Hunhoff (sprained ankle).

Brady Hale, who assumed kicking duties after starter Lane Sawatzke was injured two weeks ago against Brookings, will be called upon to punt in Hunhoff's absence.

**BUCKS | PAGE 9A**



**Washington (6-0) at Yankton (5-1)**

7 p.m., Crane-Youngworth Field

**LAST MEETING:** Washington handed Yankton a 29-14 loss at Howard Wood Field in 2011. Jon Hander was 14-20 passing for 203 yards for Washington.

**LAST WEEK:** Yankton suffered its first setback, a 35-21 loss to Roosevelt. Washington escaped Pierre 27-20 in Pierre. Nate Gerry scored all four Warrior touchdowns.

**NEXT UP:** Yankton takes a break from playing Sioux Falls teams, hosting Mitchell, Washington.

**FOLLOW THE GAME ONLINE:** The Press & Dakotan will host a live chat during the game. Find it here: <http://www.yankton.net/yhsgameday>

## PERFECT PHEASANTS



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

**The Parker double block of Amber Dysthe, 24, and Jaime Haase, 12, defend a spike by Scotland's Jessica Thum during their volleyball match Thursday night in Parker. Second-ranked Parker swept Scotland to move to 24-0 on the season.**

# Volleyball: No. 2 Parker Stays Unbeaten

**PARKER** — Second-ranked Parker rolled past Scotland in three sets on Thursday night by the scores of 25-11, 25-11, 25-12 in Class B volleyball action at Parker.

Amber Dysthe led Parker (24-0) with 32 assists, seven digs, an ace, a kill, and a block. Tessa Weeldreyer posted 13 kills, and two blocks. Jessica McKenney had six digs, four kills, two blocks, and four assists. Jaime Haase rounded out Parker with five kills and four blocks.

Scotland was led by Christy Mogck, who had 32 digs. Kendra Rokusek posted 21 digs. Carley Skorepa posted 19 digs, six kills, and six blocks.

Parker moves to 24-0 and will continue their perfect season bid on Saturday against Arlington at The Chester Challenge. Scotland drops to 6-9 on the year and plays in the Gayville-Volin Tournament on Saturday.

<b>PARKER (24-0)</b> .....	25	25	25
<b>SCOTLAND (6-9)</b> .....	11	11	12

**Beresford 3, Alc.-Hudson 2**  
**BERESFORD** — Beresford defeated Alcester-Hudson in a five set match Thursday night. The scores were 25-17, 16-25, 25-16, 24-26, 15-9.

Hannah Carnes led Beresford with 11 kills, four aces, and three digs. Ashleigh Oschner posted 18 digs. Ashley Ostrem had 14 digs and six kills.

Jessica Weigh had 23 digs, and eight kills for Alcester-Hudson. Skylar McConnell had 22 digs and an ace. Jamie Janses had nine kills, three blocks, and two assists.

Beresford moves to 9-9 on the year and will play at Tea on Tuesday. Alcester-Hudson drops to 15-7 and will go to Chester to take on Andes Central on Saturday.

<b>BERESFORD (9-9)</b> .....	25	16	25	24	15
<b>ALCESTER-HUDSON (15-7)</b> .....	17	25	16	26	9

**Viborg-Hurley 3, Baltic 1**

**VIBORG** — Viborg-Hurley defeated Baltic in four sets on Thursday night. The scores were 25-16, 25-12, 26-24, 25-20. Abby Weinzell led Viborg-Hurley with 13 assists.

Allie Walter had eight kills, four blocks, and three assists for Baltic. Morgan Forche had 11 kills and two assists on the night.

Leacadia Christensen posted 17 assists, eight digs, and a block for Viborg-Hurley. Danielle Voss also had 14 digs, seven kills, six aces, and a block. Katelyn Graber posted 19 digs, 17 kills, and two aces.

Viborg-Hurley moves to 16-5 on the year with the victory and will host Freeman Academy on Tuesday. Baltic will drop to 8-10 on the year and will host Colman-Egan on Tuesday.

<b>VIBORG-HURLEY (16-5)</b> .....	25	25	24	25
<b>BALTIC (8-10)</b> .....	16	12	26	20

**Crofton 3, Wayne 1**

**WAYNE**, Neb. — Crofton defeated Wayne 3-1 on Thursday in Nebraska volleyball action in Wayne. The Lady Warriors were victorious by scores of 25-19, 17-25, 27-25 and 25-20.

Allison Arens tallied 18 assists and five kills in the win while Bridget Arens added 9 blocks, seven kills and five digs.

<b>CROFTON</b> .....	25	17	27	25
<b>WAYNE</b> .....	19	25	25	20

**Bon Homme 3, Freeman 0**

**FREEMAN** — Bon Homme swept Freeman in three sets on Thursday night by scores of 25-23, 25-22, 25-23.

Emily Pechous led Bon Homme with 18 digs, five kills, and three blocks. Jody Kriz posted 27 digs, and three aces. Shawna Rezac had 10 digs.

Dina Soulek led Freeman with 13 kills, 13 digs, three aces, and two blocks. Grace Gering posted 23 assists, 11 digs, and two aces. Shelby Bauer had 15 digs and three kills on the night.

Bon Homme moves to 12-9 on the year and will host Scotland on Tuesday. Freeman will drop to 6-9 and will travel to Canistota on Tuesday.

<b>BON HOMME (12-9)</b> .....	25	25	25
<b>FREEMAN (6-9)</b> .....	23	22	23

**Dakota Valley 3, Harrisburg 0**

**HARRISBURG** — Dakota Valley continued their winning ways with a three set sweep of Harrisburg on Thursday night. The scores were 25-13, 25-17, 25-17.

Kylie Martin posted seven kills for Dakota Valley. Jayde Bergman added six kills on the night. Lindsey Smith recorded 20 assists.

Brittany Blakney led Harrisburg with 11 digs, six kills, and a block. Hailey Axtell posted nine digs, six kills, and an ace. Karli O'Connor added 12 assists and five digs on the night.

Dakota Valley moves to 16-2 and will host Lennox on Oct. 9. Harrisburg drops to 4-13 on the year and will host Dell Rapids on Oct. 9.

<b>DAKOTA VALLEY (16-2)</b> .....	25	25	25
<b>HARRISBURG (4-13)</b> .....	13	17	17

**Menno Triangular**

**MENNO** — Irene-Wakonda went 2-0 in Menno on Thursday night to claim the Menno Triangular. Gayville-Volin finished 1-1 while Menno went 0-2.

With the pair of victories Irene-Wakonda is now 5-10 on the year. With their split, Gayville-Volin now sits at 6-9 while Menno falls to 1-19.

**GAYVILLE-VOLIN DEF. MENNO 16-25, 25-18, 25-14, 25-21:** Kelia Barta posted 12 kills and nine digs to lead the Raider past Menno 3-1. After losing the first game 16-25, Gayville-Volin bounced back with victories of 25-18, 25-14 and 25-21 to pick up the win.

**IRENE-WAKONDA DEF. MENNO 25-10, 26-24, 25-20:** Chloe Nielsen recorded 10 kills as the Eagles won by scores of 25-10, 26-24 and 25-20.

**VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 9A**



MIKE CARROLL/HURON PLAINSMAN

**Yankton's Mikala Hora spikes the ball during a match against Huron on Thursday at Huron Arena. Hora had 19 kills, but Huron came away with a 3-0 sweep of the Gazelles.**

## Huron Sweeps Gazelles

**HURON** — After getting back to .500 on the season on Tuesday, the Yankton Gazelles let that water mark slip away with a 25-22, 25-19, 25-17 loss at Huron in Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball action Thursday night.

The loss dropped Yankton to 5-6, 4-6 in the ESD. Huron is now 8-5, 6-4 in the ESD.

"We started making adjustments and we got too careful," said Yankton head coach Leasa Woodward. "At the same time, Huron played a nice match. Defensively, they got through a lot of balls that dropped on our side of the floor."

Mikala Hora led Yankton with 19 kills and eight digs. Kelsey Fitzgerald had 13 kills, four blocks (2 solo) and eight digs. Maria Binder finished with 26 assists and 10 digs for the Gazelles.

Yankton will look to bounce back when it hosts Brandon Valley (6-8) on Tues-

day. The Lynx come in off a five-set victory over Mitchell Thursday night, and already own one victory over Yankton this season.

"We didn't play with energy tonight," Woodward said. "That's something the kids have to react to, and do a better job of on Tuesday. Also, we have to be better defensively."

Huron hosts Mitchell (8-5) on Tuesday. Huron swept the JV match 25-12, 25-14.

Yankton's lone win came in the sophomore match, a 20-25, 27-25, 25-19 decision. For the Gazelles, Erica Westerman had four kills and five blocks, and Kaylee Wootten had five kills to lead the way. Morgyn Jaquith had eight assists and Lindsay Larson had 11 digs in the victory.

Huron swept the freshmen matches, taking the 'A' match 25-10, 25-10; and the 'B' match 25-18, 25-21.

## Gazelles 14th At State Tennis

**RAPID CITY** — Defending state champion Sioux Falls O'Gorman holds a 26-point lead on Rapid City Stevens through first-day singles play in the South Dakota State Girls' Tennis Tournament, on Thursday in Rapid City.

O'Gorman stands at 290 points, with Rapid City Stevens at 264 and St. Thomas More at 262. Sioux Falls Roosevelt (258) and Aberdeen Roncalli (236) round out the top five.

Yankton sits in 14th place after the opening rounds of singles play with 72 points. Vermillion was scoreless in singles play on Thursday.

Yankton's Sarah Rockne (flight 1) and Taylor Rothenberger (flight 4) each earned first-round victories, then lost in the second round. Sarah Santos (flight 2), Kim Cap (flight 5) and Anna Kokesh (flight 6) drew unseeded first-round byes, then lost in the second round.

Rockne and Santos earned first-round consolation victories and remained alive in the tournament, according to the latest information made available by the SDHSAA. Kokesh also earned a first-round consolation win, then was eliminated.

Also for Yankton, Alexa Bryan went 0-2 at flight three singles and was eliminated. Rothenberger and Cap were also eliminated from singles play on Thursday.

Vermillion's Abby Weiss (flight 1), Libby Sykes (flight 2), Audrey Mueller (flight 3), Alex Rosdail (flight 4), Brandi Styles (flight 5) and Kirstyn Bohn (flight 6) each went 0-2 and were eliminated from singles play.

No doubles information was made available.

The tournament begins again at 9 a.m. (Mountain Time) today (Friday) at sites around Rapid City. The tournament runs through Saturday.

### Correction

The name of a varsity competitor for the Yankton girls' tennis team was left out of a state tournament preview of the squad, which appeared in Thursday's Press & Dakotan. Anna Kokesh, an eighth grader who competes at flight six singles for the Gazelles, was inadvertently omitted from the article.

We apologize for the error.