

Yankton Teams Head West For State Soccer

Gazelles Hope To Continue Surge

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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After an up-and-down season that saw the Yankton Gazelles girls' soccer squad go winless in seven straight matches, they find themselves right where they'd hoped to be all along.

Headed to Rapid City for the State Cup with confidence that they can make some noise.

Yankton takes the eighth seed into today's (Thursday) opening round, facing top-seeded Sioux Falls Roosevelt in the 5:30 p.m. (Central) match at Sioux Park. While the team has the low seed in the event, coach Dave LaCombe is confident in the progress the Gazelles made throughout the season.

"We have grown a lot since

our first game," he said. "They've developed into a team that will be very competitive at the state tournament."

The Gazelles played a good chunk of the season without senior goalkeeper Katie Greenway, sending sophomore Raquel Cole into the fire in her first season on varsity.

"Raquel did well," LaCombe said. "Once Katie came back, it took some time to get back in the groove."

Greenway preserved a shutout in her second match back, but the Gazelles were blanked themselves by Spearfish. Three matches later, Yankton broke through with its first victory since the opener, a

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No. 3 Bucks Boast Scoring Punch

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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As coach Warren Brenner watched the Yankton Bucks boys' soccer team work through the paces of a tough opening practice, he had a feeling that the Bucks were going to have a good season.

A 7-2-1 record later, Brenner feels even better.

Yankton takes the third seed into the South Dakota State Soccer Association State Cup, which begins today (Thursday) in Rapid City. The Bucks tied Sioux Falls Lincoln in the standings, but lost the second seed on goal differential.

"When we first did conditioning this fall was the first time I saw what they were capable of

doing," said Brenner, in his first year back at the helm of the Bucks after coaching the squad in the 2000s. "I was pleasantly surprised with how good of shape they came in. That's one of the reasons why the season has gone so well."

Another reason why the season has gone so well is the Bucks' dynamic duo up front. Senior Zachary Benjamin (9 goals, 4 assists) and sophomore Osmar Pacheco (10 goals, 5 assists) have combined to score more goals than seven of the other nine teams in SDSSA Class AA this season.

"I don't think you see that in many teams, especially teams in South Dakota, having two strikers

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Morningside's Amy Samuelson, left, tries to escape Mount Marty defender Alexandra Rojas during their Great Plains Athletic Conference women's soccer match on Wednesday at Easton Field. The Morningside defense recorded its third straight shutout with a 3-0 decision over the Lancers.

Parker, G-V Win 3B Titles

Pheasants Seek Third Straight Class B Crown; Raiders Go 1-2 In Girls' Race

BY JEREMY HOECK
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FREEMAN — As he easily coasted to the finish line, Duane Jongeling brought three fingers to his chest and let loose a wide smile.

The senior from Parker doesn't hide the fact that the Pheasants have a third consecutive state Class B cross country title squarely in their sights.

also "This year has been a little harder, actually. I've tried to push myself for better times more," Jongeling said after winning the boys' race at Wednesday's Region 3B meet at Valley View Golf Course in Freeman.

Region 3B meet at Valley View Golf Course in Freeman.

"It's all about getting that third one."

If Wednesday was any indication, it might be closer to a lock than the rest of the state would like to admit. Parker put four runners in the top six and finished first with six total points — well in front of Freeman Academy (24).

On the girls' side, Gayville-Volin repeated as region champs thanks to a 1-2 finish and 11 total points. South Central was second at 20.

The top three teams and top 20 individuals advanced to the state meet. And even though the Parker boys were fairly certain of qualifying everyone, there were still some pleasant surprises on Wednesday.

After Jongeling won by nearly a minute and a half (17:10.25), Jake Vollmer (18:44.56) and Ryan Olson (18:46.04) finished 3-4 respectively, while Michael Olson took sixth place at 19:02.99.

"Today was a perfect race for us," coach Phil Bjorneberg said. "For Ryan and Jake to pass Jack (Johnson of Irene-Wakonda), and for Michael to get sixth, was a huge accomplishment."

On a team that already returned its key runners, Parker gained the addition this year of Vollmer, a transfer from Irene-Wakonda. Ryan Olson called Vollmer's transfer "one of the sweetest moments of the year."

"It's actually a big relief,"



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Genevieve Clark of Gayville-Volin runs during the girls' race at Wednesday's Region 3B cross country meet at Valley View Golf Course in Freeman. Clark won the girls' race, helping the Raiderettes defend their region team title.

Olson said. "I don't feel like they're (Irene-Wakonda) always on your back now. We run now knowing there aren't too many worries."

Freeman Academy advances its team to the state meet, while Viborg-Hurley qualified two runners — Seth Engen and Layne Meyers.

Meanwhile, the Gayville-Volin girls — one of the youngest varsity teams in the state — continued its quest for a Class B championship. The Raiders were led by freshman Genevieve Clark, first in 14:59.95, and eighth-grader Laura Nelson in second place at 15:39.69.

Clark came up a few seconds short of the school record, despite dominating the 4K race from start to finish.

"I thought I could get the record, but I couldn't get to the kick I wanted," she said. "My body was telling me no."

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Parker senior Duane Jongeling flashes a "3" as he crosses the finish line in first place during Wednesday's Region 3B cross country meet at Valley View Golf Course in Freeman. Jongeling and the Pheasants are gunning for their third straight Class B state title.

Morningside Keeps Lancers Frustrated

BY VANCE JANAK
P&D Correspondent

Mount Marty senior Jose Marquez saw an opening and dribbled toward the Morningside goal.

But before the speedy midfielder could take a shot at goalie Evaristo Hernandez, a pair of pesky Mustang defenders knocked the ball away, leaving Marquez frustrated and the Lancers with an empty scoring opportunity Wednesday at Easton Field.

Marquez wasn't the only Lancer offensive player that Morningside's defenders left smarting during the Mustangs' 4-0 Great Plains Athletic Conference victory. Josh Koch took a pass from the middle of the field and started to attack the Morningside defense. The Yankton native ended up battling with two defenders as the ball was kicked out of bounds as Koch fell to the ground.

The ensuing corner kick resulted in one of the Lancers' seven shots on goal, but the overriding issue was another unsuccessful chance in what was a frustrating first-half that turned

into Mount Marty's 11th straight defeat.

"I was pleased with the way the guys came out," Mount Marty coach Nathan Epp said. "We had some chances to finish but we couldn't do it."

Mount Marty (1-12, 0-6 GPAC) needed to come through on one of those chances to match Morningside's early tally. Saxx Adams took a pass from Chico Hernandez and beat Lancer goalie Oscar Martinez-Mojica one-on-one two minutes into the match. Saxx added a second goal in the 43rd minute before netting two more in the second half. Derek White added a goal on a penalty kick.

After Mount Marty controlled the ball in the first half, Morningside (5-8-1, 3-2-1 GPAC) was in command after halftime. The Mustangs had several offensive players go unmarked, leaving Martinez-Mojica in many one-on-one situations. Though Martinez-Mojica came up with 12 stops, he was simply overwhelmed by Morningside's steady barrage of

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Mustangs Blank MMC Women

BY VANCE JANAK
P&D Correspondent

The Mount Marty women's soccer team couldn't crack Morningside's tough defense.

Although the Lancers spent many minutes possessing the ball during Wednesday afternoon's Great Plains Athletic Conference matchup at Easton Field, Mount Marty failed to convert any of its 10 shots on goal against a Mustang defense that earned its third straight shutout with a 3-0 victory.

Mount Marty suffered its second straight home setback after being outshot 29-10. Morningside's defense had a lot to do with limiting the Lancers (4-9, 1-5 GPAC) scoring chances. Perfectly placed Mustang defenders kept Mount Marty from getting close, uncontested looks or from making the simple passes to establish an offensive rhythm.

"In the first and the second half, we definitely had some opportunities. We've got to finish," Mount Marty coach Nathan Epp said. "When you don't score goals, the team just keeps getting flatter and flatter. Scoring goals gives everybody an energy boost."

Morningside knows that.

After playing to scoreless ties with Northwestern and Hastings last week, the Mustangs (6-4-4, 2-2-2 GPAC) finally found some offense against the second-to-last team in the 11-member conference. Morningside got the game's first goal in the 13th minute when Amy Samuelson took a pass from Kelsey Niles and beat Mount Marty goalie Jennifer Nelson one-on-one.

The advantage remained at 1-0 through halftime and for much of the second half until Breanna Turner scored in the 72nd minute. Miranda Gonka cashed in an assist from Carly Boor in the 78th minute to solidify the lead.

"We've been playing well and we've possessed the ball pretty

well throughout the year," Morningside coach Tom Maxon said. "It's good to finish off some of those things because the girls were lacking in some confidence. When you have a lot of chances on goal and you don't put them away, you start trying to figure where your scoring is going to come from."

Maxon knew Mount Marty would look to Allison Erwin and Jennifer Granflaten — a former Yankton High School standout — to lead the Lancers offense. The two freshmen each finished with four shots on goal but were ultimately left frustrated after not being able to beat Morningside goalie Felicia Reimann, who had six saves, or find teammates streaking to the goal.

"No. 15 (Erwin) and No. 8 (Granflaten) are both very, very good players," Maxon said. "So what we tried to do is not just defend well but attack enough so that their back group couldn't support their front group. So a lot of times that left No. 8 and 15 on their own. We were able to luckily snuff it out a few times."

Playing with a steady south wind at their backs in the second half, the Mustangs possessed the ball more yet failed to finish scoring opportunities. The constant pressure, however, on Mount Marty's defenders and Nelson, who recorded 12 saves in a little over 82 minutes of play, eventually resulted in Turner and Gonka putting the game out of reach.

The Lancers, who travel to Nebraska Wesleyan on Saturday, dropped to 1-6 in home matches this season.

"Overall, I haven't been very happy with our intensity the last two games," Epp said. "We've been playing flat and we haven't been attacking teams. We've lost some of the intensity and aggressiveness that we had earlier in the year. We've got to get that back if we want to have chances to win games."

New USD Facilities One Step Closer To Reality

BY JEREMY HOECK
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With approval from the state Board of Regents in hand, the University of South Dakota is one step closer toward an overhaul of athletic facilities in Vermillion, athletic director David Sayler said Wednesday night.

The regents on Wednesday approved USD's plans that calls for \$48 million for a basketball/volleyball arena and track/soccer complex, as well as a \$10.6 million Science, Health and Research Lab connector facility.

"All of the things we brought forward were moved on to the next phase," Sayler said. "We really appreciate the regents' support, letting us taking that next step toward getting this all done."

"All in all, it was a good day."

A bulk of Wednesday afternoon's presentation in Vermillion centered around how USD would fund the two projects, Sayler said.

The arena and track/soccer project will come from \$14 million in cash donations, a \$9.9 million pledge from the USD Foundation, \$3.4 million in athletic revenues and \$20.6 million in debt financing.

Ibanez Lifts Yankees Past O's

NEW YORK (AP) — Raul Ibanez lined a ninth-inning home run while pinch hitting for slumping Alex Rodriguez, then hit a leadoff homer in the 12th, giving the New York Yankees a stunning 3-2 win over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday night for a 2-1 lead in their AL division series.

Batting for baseball's highest-paid player, Ibanez homered to right-center with one out in the ninth inning off Baltimore closer Jim Johnson to tie it at 2. He then

hit the first pitch from Brian Matusz leading off the 12th.

Phil Hughes will start for the Yankees on Thursday night in Game 4 of the best-of-five series. Chris Tillman or Joe Saunders will start for Baltimore.

CARDINALS 8, NATIONALS 0: WASHINGTON (AP) — Chris Carpenter was every bit the postseason ace he's been in the past for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Taking the mound for only the fourth time in 2012, missing a rib after surgery to cure numbness on his right side, the 37-year-old Carpenter pitched scoreless ball

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Mount Marty's Isidro Rojas, 14, goes up for the ball as Morningside's Blake Fostvedt looks on during their GPAC men's soccer match on Wednesday.