

Bucks Win State AA Boys' Soccer Title

Yankton Blanks Spearfish 3-0 For First Title Since 2005

BY RICHARD ANDERSON
Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY — The Yankton Bucks used a spurt of energy in the first half and it was enough to spoil the Spearfish Spartans' bid for a Class AA boys state soccer title Saturday at Sioux Park.

The Bucks scored all three goals in the opening half for the 3-0 win. It was Yankton's first state soccer title since 2005.

"These guys have been working hard all season long," said Yankton head coach Warren Brenner, who took a little water shower from his players after the final whistle. "They put the time in, they put the extra effort in and they've improved week-after-week, game-after-game. It showed today."

"It's a team that wanted it, was willing to put the effort in and understood that greatness is what you have to earn and that's huge. The guys from day one have been putting that extra effort in."

Yankton's Zach Benjamin scored two of the three goals by

using his head ... on two headers. The first came 25 minutes into the match after Zander Savage stole the ball along the sideline and got it into the middle, enabling Benjamin to score.

Benjamin's second goal gave the Bucks a 3-0 lead when he took a long pass Osmar Pacheco and perfectly headed it past the Spearfish keeper.

In between Benjamin's goals, Pacheco took a long pass by John Dannenbring from midfield and out-ran a Spearfish defender for the ball and hit a hard shot to the right corner of the net.

"You couldn't ask for a more perfect game," Brenner said. "The cross from over the top and the two headers and the finish at the net, you practice that and you hope it pays off. Today it did."

Spearfish head coach Jim Hill said their biggest problem defensively was that they let players go.

"We're marking people and we just let them slip away from us," Hill said. "Once they go away from us, they are quick enough up there.

We didn't deal with it well. Two of the three goals should have never happened. But they did."

The Spartans put a little pressure on the Bucks early in the match and had some opportunities in the second half. But each time, they came up empty.

"They did a good job of using their speed and that was it," Hill said. "It showed in the second half. We held them back and held them back. We had six good opportunities in the second half to score and never did."

The Bucks finished 7-2-1 on the season and the keys to their success, Brenner said, were conditioning and teamwork.

"They work together well, they play together well. You just feel it," Brenner said. "That's really been the key. You don't get every many teams like that."

For the Spartans, the tournament's top seed, it was a tough way to end the season, especially losing in the championship game.

"It was a struggle and they (Yankton) won the struggle," Hill said.



BENJAMIN BRAYFIELD/RAPID CITY JOURNAL

Yankton players react after beating Spearfish 3-0 in the South Dakota Soccer Association high school club soccer championship Saturday at Sioux Park.

Jackrabbits Roll Into MVFC Lead

BY JEREMY HOECK
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BROOKINGS — There were firsts to be found all over Coughlin-Alumni Stadium on Saturday night.

Sure, the South Dakota State football team scored on the first play in the first, second and fourth quarters, but it was the end result after the final horn that may be the most important.

First place in the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

Taking the field already knowing they could move atop the standings after a loss by top-ranked North Dakota State, the 20th-ranked Jackrabbits scored a touchdown in three ways in beating Western Illinois 31-10 in front of 10,727 fans.

First place or not, the focus was on the task at hand, according to SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier.

"We're 1-0, and that's all that matters," said Stiegelmeier, whose Jacks (5-1, 3-0) out-gained the Leathernecks 209-60 on the ground. "It was a struggle sometimes on offense, but it's exciting that we can return the opening kickoff and an interception."

"That's a complete game; a complete effort."

As if on cue to get things rolling right away, Yankton native Tyrel Kool took the opening kick 100 yards — unofficially 103 — for a touchdown, setting the tone for the home team.

Asked later about his return, the SDSU senior was able to joke that he heard a fan would win an ATV for just such an occurrence.

"It was great blocks," Kool said. "Right when I got the ball, Tief (Trevor Tiefenthaler) made the call



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota State's Tyrel Kool returns the opening kickoff during the Jackrabbits' 31-10 victory over Western Illinois on Saturday in Brookings. The senior from Yankton scored on the play, returning the kickoff 100 yards.

USD Falters At Missouri State For 12th Straight Road Setback

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — Austin Witmer capped a furious fourth-quarter rally by Missouri State with a 33-yard field goal as time expired, giving the Bears a 27-24 victory on Saturday.

Missouri State (1-6, 1-3 Missouri Valley) scored 17 points in the final 5:27 of the game. Kierra Harris hit Julian Burton with a 60-yard touchdown pass with 5:27 left and Harris found Eri Christophel for a 25-yard scoring strike with 1:45 remaining.

Quarterback Josh Vander Maten rushed for 125 yards and two touchdowns for South Dakota (1-5, 0-3) and Marcus Sims gained 116 yards on the ground with a TD.

Vander Maten completed 13 of 22 passes for 164 yards, but was sacked five times.

MISSOURI ST. 27, SOUTH DAKOTA 24

	SDak	MoSt
SOUTH DAKOTA	14	7
MISSOURI ST.	3	0

First Quarter

SDak—Sims 2 run (Robb kick), 10:10.
SDak—Vander Maten 12 run (Robb kick), 4:44.
MoSt—FG Witmer 47, 1:26.

Second Quarter

SDak—Vander Maten 1 run (Robb kick), :21.

Third Quarter

MoSt—Cooper-Falls 3 run (Witmer kick), 8:15.
SDak—FG Robb 44, 3:20.

Fourth Quarter

MoSt—Burton 60 pass from Harris (Witmer kick), 5:27.
MoSt—Christophel 25 pass from Harris (Witmer kick), 1:45.
MoSt—FG Witmer 33, :00.
A—8,001.

	SDak	MoSt
First downs	25	17
Rushes-yards	57-211	25-69
Passing	164	214
Comp-Att-Int	13-22-0	20-34-0
Return Yards	0	68
Punts-Avg.	4-40.3	5-42.6
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0

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Oakland Blanks South Dakota 2-0



JILANNE DOOM/P&D

South Dakota's Teagan Eberle, 32, and Oakland's Kristin Steffes, 12, chase down a loose ball during their Summit League women's soccer match on Sunday at the USD Soccer Field.

Soccer: Gazelles Finish Eighth At State; MMC Swept At Nebraska Wesleyan

RAPID CITY — The Yankton Gazelles girls' soccer team finished eighth in the state tournament after a 4-2 loss to Sioux Falls Washington on Saturday in Rapid City.

Erin Luken scored her first goal of the season for Yankton, converting a pass from Brianna Benjamin. Morgan Tessier put away a Megan Ford pass for the other goal.

Defensively, Katie Greeneway made seven saves in goal for Yank-

ton. Raquel Cole made one save for the Gazelles.

After the tournament, Yankton's Brianna Newman was announced as a second-team all-state selection. Teammate Morgan Bakke was named an honorable mention selection.

Boys: Vermillion 2, Harrisburg 1

RAPID CITY — The Vermillion Tanagers won their first Class A boys' soccer title with a 2-1 overtime victory over Harrisburg on Saturday in Rapid City.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Aside from a five-minute stretch in the first half, one of the nation's youngest teams hung with the defending league champions.

Ultimately, though, experience won out.

Kyla Kellermann, the Summit League's leading soccer, had a pair of goals within five minutes of each other in the first half and Oakland held on to beat South Dakota 2-0 in women's soccer action Sunday afternoon.

"It's really frustrating, but the thing I love about our team is that we don't give up," said USD freshman defender Allison Giddings, who played 71 high-energy minutes against a fast-paced and aggressive Golden Grizzlies offense.

"We never feel like we're out of a game."

The Coyotes, 1-11-3, dropped to 0-4-1 in league play and have scored two goals in those six conference matchups. There weren't many chances to score on Sunday — Oakland out-shot USD 13-7.

"I'm very happy with how we played," Coyote coach Mandy Green said. "We're at a point where it'd be easy to give up; to get frus-

trated, but they just keep plugging away."

Kellermann scored her seventh goal of the season 19:10 into the first half on a rebound in front of the net, and added her eighth goal at the 24:17 mark.

It was evident early on that the second-place Golden Grizzlies (7-4-3, 4-1) played at a speed faster than the Coyotes, a pace that led to numerous scoring chances.

"We failed to track their runners early on, and they got open more than they should have," Green said. "But once we eliminated that, we settled down."

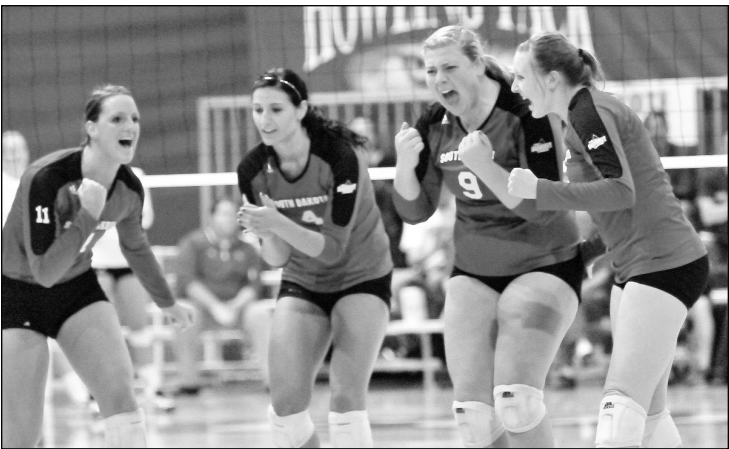
The Coyotes were able to read Oakland's through-balls and crosses better in the second half, Giddings said, slowing down one of the league's best offenses.

"We finally got it together and gave ourselves a chance," Giddings said. "We didn't panic after those two goals, we stayed compact on defense."

The shots were an even 5-5 in the second half, though USD was never able to punch the ball through Oakland's goalkeeping tandem of Shannon Coley and Payj O'Shea.

So far, that's been the story of

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Tori Kroll, 9, and her University of South Dakota teammates celebrate a point during Sunday afternoon's Summit League volleyball match against Western Illinois at the DakotaDome.

Leathernecks Sweep USD

BY JILANNE DOOM
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VERMILLION — Riddled with attack and communication errors, the Coyotes just could not find a rhythm.

The University of South Dakota women's volleyball team fell to Western Illinois 3-0 Sunday on their home court, 25-12, 25-19, 27-25. The Leathernecks (9-12 overall, 3-7 Summit) are one of only two Summit League conference opponents that the Coyotes had defeated earlier in the season, but USD could not catch a break to grab the repeat victory.

"I think we knew what he had to do and we just didn't execute," senior outside hitter Kim Bulaga said. "We knew we could have beaten this team like we did the last time. We knew they'd be tough but we should've taken care of them when we were at home and we didn't."

Along with several communication errors, the Coyotes recorded 22 attack errors compared to the

Leathernecks 12 and were out-killed 46-36.

The first set started out slow as USD found themselves in a 7-1 deficit before calling a time out. As defense and serve receive continued to struggle, the Leathernecks were up as much as 14-2 until Bulaga broke their streak with a kill. The Coyotes chipped away a few more points but their opponent found the holes in the defense to grab the first set 25-12.

After the USD coaching staff made several lineup changes, the Coyotes came out with a little more fire, battling back and forth at the net. Western Illinois again began to pull away by targeting USD's soft spots until a time out was called at 17-12. Bulaga and freshman Sydney Dimke each grabbed a couple kills to bring the Coyotes back in contention but more hitting errors ended the second set 25-19.

"When somebody's not performing, if they have a few errors,

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