

# Soccer

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Pacheco. The second goal came in the 13th minute when Benjamin scored on a pass from Hummel. Landon Breen added two saves in the effort.

After the victory Yankton used their momentum from the first round victory to defeat Sioux Falls Lincoln 2-0.

Osmar Pacheco scored the first goal for Yankton in the 30th minute off a penalty kick. In the 48th minute, Andrew Hummel headed a John Dannenbring corner kick for a goal.

The Bucks tied with the Patriots 1-1 in the regular season.

“After we beat Lincoln, I knew that our momentum would take us to be state champs,” Andrew Hummel said.

Yankton had their biggest competition yet; the then number one ranked Spearfish Spartans.

Spearfish handed Yankton one of their two losses on the season.

“Spearfish came in thinking we didn’t deserve to be there, that we got lucky,” junior keeper Landon Breen said.

The Bucks proved to Spearfish and the rest of the state that they were the best team in the state, handing the

Spartans with a 3-0 loss in the championship game.

“Credit to them (Spearfish), they came out strong in the first 10 minutes and created a lot of opportunites to score,” Breen said. “We settled down and that’s when our championship soccer came out. We never looked back and dominated the rest of the game.

The first score for Yankton was a dagger to the Spearfish squad. Senior Zander Savage stole the ball and crossed it to Benjamin who headed the ball for a goal (25th). Yankton roared back with a goal five minutes (30th) later when Dannenbring had a lengthy pass to Pacheco who scored in the corner. The final goal for the Bucks came back again when Pacheco passed it to Benjamin who headed it into the net (35th).

“Benjamin may not be tall, but he plays tall,” coach Warren Brenner said. “He nails his timing and he is great at it (header) ; he put in the time and effort to play great.”

The formula the Bucks used for success in the state tournament was a constant change of tempo and that they wanted to work the sidelines to their advantage.

“We changed pace at will,” Brenner said. “We turned the tide on them (Spearfish) and they couldn’t handle it and then they just broke down.”

During the offseason coach Brenner sent out a letter to the players stating how the coming year would be a difficult but rewarding season.

“The players came in and the majority of them were in good shape,” Brenner said. “There was a lot of hard work done for the players before and during the season. We then found places for the players and they put the effort in and wanted it.”

The Bucks finished the season with a 10-1-2 record. Yankton was led on the offensive side of the ball with 35 goals scored and only 11 goals given up on the season.

This is also the first time Yankton has won a state soccer title for boys since 2005.

“It was really a fun year and you could definety see our players come together as a team towards the end of the season,” Derek Gravholt said.

The Bucks will lose five seniors for next years squad (Zach Benjamin, Derek Gravholt, Andrew Hummel, Cameron Luken, and Zander Savage).

“We would do anything for each other and give 100 percent for each other and for the sake of the team,” Benjamin said.

You can follow Nick Robinson on Twitter at [twitter.com/the-FRANCHISE\\_9](#)



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Several members of Yankton's boys' and girls' soccer programs were named to the South Dakota All-State soccer teams, announced earlier this week. Honorees include (front) Brianna Newman, 2nd team; Zach Benjamin, 2nd team; Morgan Bakke, Honorable Mention; (back) Andrew Hummel, 2nd team; Landon Breen, 1st team; Derek Brenner, 1st team; and Osmar Pacheco, 2nd team.

# Divide

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ing this season.

Wins over Sioux Falls schools have become a rarity for ESD schools, over the last few years. Prior to Brandon Valley's two victories this season, the last ESD team to beat a Sioux Falls school was Mitchell's home win over Lincoln last fall.

That's a far cry from the glory days of the ESD, according to former Watertown coach Doug Schooley. A Yankton native and former Bucks standout, Schooley coached at Wartertown for 13 years (1990-2002) and won titles in 1996 and 2001.

“If you wanted to win back then, you knew you’d have to beat O’Gorman,” Schooley said. “The other Sioux Falls schools al- ways had good athletes, but it wasn’t to the level of the ESD. But now, it’s the opposite. The ESD isn’t quite what it was, and the Sioux Falls schools are more organized.”

## ESD In The ‘Glory Days’

The ESD was at its heyday in the mid 1990’s and early 2000’s when a league team won the 11AA title from 1994-96 and from 1998-2002. Yankton remains the last ESD school, in 2002, to win a state championship.

Even at the advent of the three-class system, however, the conference dominated. Yankton, under former coach Max Hawk, was the year-in and year-out favorite. He guided the Bucks to four title games between 1981-85, each time matching up against Sioux Falls O’Gorman.

The style of football in those days was simple: Dominate the lines and push people around, Schooley said.

“A lot of it had to do with how Max coached,” Schooley, who later served as athletic director at Watertown, said. “Yankton was always one of the teams to beat. I grew up playing for him and learning his style, so some of that philosophy I brought with me to Watertown.”

The ESD was so dangerous that a case could be made that fighting for a conference title was more difficult than winning a state championship.

“You knew you could compete for a state title, but maybe not even win the ESD,” said Thelen, whose 1992 Huron squad won the 11AA championship but lost a memorable ESD showdown in Yankton.

“That was one of the most exciting games I’ve been a part of,”



P&D FILE PHOTO

Aberdeen Central's Jared Hannigan, 14, rears back to throw during the 2009 Class 11AA football fields. The game marked the last appearance by an Eastern South Dakota Conference member.

he said of the game at Crane-Youngworth Field. “The thing I remember is that it had the most college football players on the field at the same time.”

Brandon Valley was another school that found success at the playoff level after joining the ESD in 1989 with coach Mike Klinedinst. After winning 11A championships in 1984, 1985 and 1988, the Lynx won 11AA titles in 1989 and 1990.

“They were very competitive in those days,” Schooley said. “They ran a different kind of foot- ball, more of a ‘run and shoot,’ which was so much different than the I-formation Yankton had. Some of that was based on the talent they had.”

Talent was never really an issue for Schooley in Watertown. He estimated that his 2001 state champion squad boasted 5-6 future college players, three of

whom played at South Dakota State.

“That just doesn’t happen anymore,” he said. “But yet, I look at Aberdeen in ‘09 when they played right with Wash- ington, that was because Aberdeen had some really talented kids. I just don’t think, overall, there’s the number of real good athletes that there was before.”

## Changing Tides

Specific reasons for the decline of the ESD in recent years has been hard to pinpoint, the coaches interviewed said. Whether it’s purely numbers, or the current crop of talent, or development or coaching, results are mixed.

Other athletic options for kids during the fall months may also play a roll in declining football numbers, Thelen said. Golf, cross

country and club soccer may pull athletes away from football, or in some cases, divide their at- tention.

“If you split them, it’s hard to get really good in those areas,” he said.

At Brandon Valley, the third- largest ESD school, Garrow said he prefers his players to take part in other sports. Sure, he said having the ability to play kids one side of the football or

the other is key, but it’s beyond that.

“I don’t really promote this, but I see a lot of one-sport kids in the public schools; those spe- cialty kids,” Garrow said. “It’s not just receivers or quarterbacks, it’s linemen and linebackers, those kids are spending most of their off-season in the weight room.”

There are benefits for Bran- don Valley players, Garrow ad- mits, specifically when it comes to proximity and its training op- portunities. The Lynx program has developed connections with South Dakota Junior Football, which Yankton joined this sea- son, but Garrow said there’s something to be said about high school coaching.

“I’m in my eighth year and we’ve had the same coaches for eight years,” he said. “Our kids know a little bit of what our of- fense is and what type of defense we use, and you can’t replace that familiarity.”

Of the eight schools in the ESD, three have had the same head coach for at least 14 years. Huron’s Michael Postma is the longest-tenured coach at 17 years, followed by Aberdeen Cen- tral’s Mike Flakus (15) and Yank- ton’s Arlin Likness (14). Two conference schools have first- year coaches, Lee Schmidt at Brookings and Steve Svendsen at Watertown.

Still, no matter what school it is, the prospect of preparing a season knowing the odds are stacked against the ESD for an 11AA title is daunting, according to Pierre coach Joe Kramer.

“Those schools that are down in the middle of the ESD or even in the bottom, those teams will go into the season and can’t honest- ly think getting to the dome is possible,” he said. “I’m not a Vegas guy, but I wouldn’t be bet- ting on it. Your chances are very slim.”

## Playoff Changes

The imbalance alluded to by many ESD coaches was ad- dressed by the South Dakota High School Activities Associa- tion, which added a fourth 11- man class — 11AAA — starting with the 2013 playoffs.

The eight largest schools will move into the 11AAA ranks,

while the next eight-highest en- rollments will make up the new 11AA format. Under the current figures, Washington, Roosevelt, Lincoln, Rapid City Central, Rapid City Stevens, Aberdeen Central, Watertown and Brandon Valley would comprise the new AAA grouping.

Garrow, for one, said he is not in favor of the restructuring, but said “We’ve made it known that we prefer to be in the upper class. In order to play to that level, you need to be at that level.”

There will likely be some movement in those lineups, as schools can petition between the two classes. Without any shifting, Yankton would stand as the largest 11AA school, though Sioux Falls O’Gorman is likely to petition up — giving Aberdeen and Watertown the option to move down.

When it comes to the ESD, however, not facing the Sioux Falls schools in the playoffs may be what the smaller schools prefer, Schooley said. Since 2005, the league owns just four playoff wins against Sioux Falls teams — the last one was Yankton over Brandon Valley in 2010.

“You have to look at what’s best for everybody,” Schooley said. “If there were teams in the ESD that didn’t feel they could compete with those big schools anymore, maybe that’s what best, I don’t know.”

Kramer pointed to the playoff system as another reason smaller schools struggle to com- pete with their larger foes. Under the current South Dakota playoff system, the first round is held on a Tuesday, the quarterfinals are the following Monday and the semifinals on a Saturday.

Put another way, a team like Pierre couldn’t necessarily afford key injuries.

“If you’re already at a disad- vantage, it becomes more signifi- cant because you don’t have the depth,” he said. “You’re forced to recover and play in a shorter pe- riod of time. I’m not trying to be negative about the big schools, they have great systems and great coaches, but the other part of the equation is the numbers game.”

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](#)

# SDSU Men Picked To Win The Summit League, SDSU’s Wolters Preseason Player Of The Year


ELMHURST, Ill. — South Dakota State is the overwhelming favorite to win the 2012-13 Sum- mit League Basketball Champi- onship according to the annual preseason poll of league coaches, SIDs and media. The Jackrabbits received 30-of-31 first-place votes (coaches may not vote for their own team) after claiming the 2012 Summit League Tournament title and representing the league in the NCAA Tournament. Head coach Scott Nagy returns four starters and eight-of-10 letterwin- ners from last season’s squad that finished 27-8 overall and 15-3 in Summit League play. SDSU guard Nate Wolters, the

2012 Summit League Tournament MVP and an AP honorable men- tion All-America selection, was the preseason choice for Player of the Year. The senior averaged 21.2 points, 5.9 assists and 5.1 re- bounds per game in 2011-12 and became just the fifth player in NCAA history to average 20 points, five assists and five re- bounds in a season.

North Dakota State, which earned the remaining first-place vote, finished second in the poll with 321 points. Oakland, a CIT semifinalist a year ago, placed third with 310 points followed by 2012 Tournament runner-up Western Illinois in fourth. IUPUI

edged Fort Wayne by two points for fifth while Kansas City, South Dakota and league newcomer Omaha rounded out the poll.

Western Illinois placed a league-high two players on the first team with Ceola Clark III, the only player in Summit League history to earn two Defensive Player of the Year awards, and Terrell Parks. Fort Wayne’s Frank Gaines, the NCAA’s ninthleading scorer last season, Oakland’s Travis Bader, who ranked third in the nation for three-point field goals per game, and North



AM 1450

**MORNING COFFEE**

**WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**Thursday, October 18**

7:40 am Yankton Conv/Vis Bureau (Lisa Scheve)

8:20 am Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm)

**Friday, October 19**

7:40 am Vermillion Chamber (Steve Howe)

8:20 am United Way (Pam Kettering)

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