

SCOREBOARD

VOLLEYBALL

**FRIDAY'S S.D. SCORES**

Aberdeen Roncal def. Webster, 25-17, 25-15, 25-14  
 Avon def. Menno, 25-22, 25-19, 25-14  
 Brookings def. Yankton, 25-20, 20-25, 25-15, 25-13  
 Canton def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-24, 25-23, 14-25, 25-17  
 Chester def. Dell Rapids, 25-8, 25-10, 25-23  
 Deuel def. Flandreau, 25-15, 20-25, 25-14, 25-18  
 Edmunds Central def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-13, 25-9, 25-7  
 Elk Point-Jefferson def. Ponca, Neb., 25-19, 25-9, 25-14  
 Elkton-Lake Benton def. Iroquois, 25-11, 25-8, 25-15  
 Harrisburg def. Lennox, 25-16, 25-20, 25-16  
 Highmore-Harrod def. Stanley County, 27-25, 14-25, 25-18  
 Howard def. Garretton, 25-13, 25-20, 23-9, 25-15, 15-8  
 Huron def. Pierre, 25-18, 25-20, 25-16  
 Huron def. McCook Central/Montrose, 25-20, 25-17, 27-25  
 McIntosh def. Eureka/Bowdle, 16-25, 28-26, 25-21, 25-19  
 Miller def. Wessington Springs, 25-9, 25-12, 25-20  
 Parker def. West Central, 25-12, 25-10, 25-8  
 Pine Ridge def. Crow Creek, 25-18, 25-13, 25-7  
 Redfield/Doland def. Sisseton, 17-25, 25-7, 25-20, 25-16  
 Rosholt def. Grant-Deuel, 25-21, 26-24, 25-22  
 Sioux County, Neb. def. Oelrichs, 25-14, 25-19, 25-23  
 Sioux Falls Christian def. Beresford, 25-18, 25-12, 25-15  
 Summit def. Waubay, 25-12, 25-12, 25-7  
 Tri-Volley def. Tea Area, 25-17, 25-22, 25-21  
 Viborg-Hurley def. Bon Homme, 25-8, 25-21, 25-22  
 Wilmot def. Florence/Henry, 25-21, 25-21, 25-15

**New Underwood Triangular**  
 Edgemont def. New Underwood, 25-17, 25-21, 25-22  
 Wall def. Edgemont, 23-25, 25-23, 25-10, 25-22

**Rapid City Central**  
 Rapid City Central def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 25-13, 25-21, 18-25, 25-17, 15-4

FRIDAY'S NEB. SCORES

Elk Point-Jefferson, S.D. def. Ponca, 25-19, 25-9, 25-14  
 Sioux County def. Oelrichs, S.D., 25-14, 25-19, 25-23  
 Sterling def. Johnson-Brock, 25-20, 25-18, 21-25, 25-14

**Ansley-Litchfield Triangular**  
 Ansley-Litchfield def. Pheasanton, 25-12, 25-23

**Elkhorn Valley Triangular**  
 Madison def. Elkhorn Valley, 25-13, 26-24

**Logan View Triangular**  
 Wisner-Pilger def. Logan View, 25-17, 28-26

**Wisner-Pilger def. Scribner-Snyder, 25-20, 25-17**

FOOTBALL

**FRIDAY'S S.D. SCORES**  
 Wall 42, Lyman 14

**FRIDAY'S NEB. SCORES**  
 Adams Central 74, St. Paul 0  
 Allen 36, Winnebago 32  
 Arthur County 64, Walhalla 12  
 Aurora 41, York 28  
 Beatrice 14, Crete 13

Blue Hill 62, Wood River 22  
 Broken Bow 42, Ainsworth 14  
 Burning-Davenport/Shickley 47, Harvard 12  
 Cozad 34, Ogallala 7  
 Elba/North Loup-Scottia 58, Minature 18  
 Elgin Public/Pepe John 72, Neligh-Oakdale 26

Elkhorn Valley 52, Hyannis 51  
 Exeter/Milligan 42, Pawnee City 14  
 Falls City 25, Lincoln Christian 28  
 Gibson 7, Central City 3  
 Gilner 90, Cedar Valley 50  
 Grand Island 45, Lincoln High 0  
 Grand Island Northwest 44, Columbus 13  
 Guardian Angels 62, Omaha Nation 0  
 Harrington 30, Emerson-Hubbard 12  
 Hastings 38, Holdrege 14  
 Heartland 54, Red Cloud 29  
 Hemingford 48, Maxwell 17  
 High Plains Community 46, Nebraska Christian 0  
 Howells/Dodge 34, Clarkson/Leigh 8  
 Humphrey St. Francis 60, Bancroft-Rossalie 0

Kearney 57, North Platte 0  
 Kenesaw 74, Axtell 14  
 Lewistown 44, Meridian 12  
 Lincoln Southeast 21, Lincoln Plus X 6  
 Lincoln Southwest 20, Lincoln East 0  
 McCook 27, Lexington 0  
 McCook Junction 65, Franklin 18  
 Millard North 37, Omaha North 31  
 Millard West 37, Bellevue East 20  
 Mullen 70, South Platte 14  
 Norfolk 47, Lincoln Northeast 13  
 Norris 55, Seward 0  
 North Central 54, Boyd County 14  
 Omaha Bryan 17, Omaha Northwest 14  
 Omaha Christian Academy 54, Cedar Bluffs 12

Omaha Creighton Prep 31, Omaha Central 18  
 Omaha Gross Catholic 14, Omaha Skutt Catholic 7  
 Osceola 58, Mead 34  
 Palmer 48, Shelby 6  
 Parkview Christian 56, Nebraska Lutheran 12

Platteview 29, Waverly 7  
 Plattsmouth 27, Nebraska City 0  
 Randolph 54, Pender 22  
 Sioux County 78, Arcadia 22  
 South Sioux City 28, Schuyler 6  
 Spalding/Spalding Academy 73, Heartland Lutheran 0  
 St. Mary's 32, CWC 24  
 Wahoo 62, Ashland-Greenwood 0  
 Wauneta-Palisdale 38, Silver Lake 22  
 Winslow 74, Newcastle 6

S.D. PLAYOFFS FIRST ROUND

**Tuesday, Oct. 23**

**CLASS 11AA**  
 No. 9 Rapid City Central at No. 8 Brookings  
 No. 12 Aberdeen Central at No. 5 Yankton, 6 p.m.  
 No. 10 Watertown at No. 7 Pierre  
 No. 11 Douglas at No. 6 Sioux Falls Lincoln

**CLASS 11A**  
**Region 1**  
 No. 4 Milbank Area at No. 1 Dell Rapids  
 No. 3 Madison at No. 2 West Central  
**Region 2**  
 No. 4 Lennox at No. 1 Harrisburg  
 No. 3 Tea Area at No. 2 Dakota Valley  
**Region 3**  
 No. 4 Little Wound at No. 1 Todd County  
 No. 3 Chamberlain at No. 2 Cheyenne-Eagle Butte

**CLASS 11B**  
 No. 4 Pine Ridge at No. 1 Spearfish  
 No. 3 Belle Fourche at No. 2 Hot Springs

**Region 1**  
 No. 4 Moberg-Polk at No. 1 Aberdeen Roncalli  
 No. 3 Webster Area at No. 2 Deuel

**Region 2**  
 No. 4 Garretton at No. 1 Tri-Volley  
 No. 3 Canton at No. 2 Flandreau

**Region 3**  
 No. 4 Bon Homme at No. 1 Winner  
 No. 3 Parkston at No. 2 Wagner

**Region 4**  
 No. 4 Hill City at No. 1 St. Thomas More  
 No. 3 Bennett County

**CLASS 9AA**  
**Region 1**  
 No. 4 Tri-State at No. 1 Clark-Willow Lake  
 No. 3 Miller at No. 2 Leoia-Fredrick

**Region 2**  
 No. 4 Ipswich-Edmunds Central at No. 1 Deutrook Area  
 No. 3 Elkton-Lake Benton at No. 2 Howard

**Region 3**  
 No. 4 Parker at No. 1 Kimball-White Lake  
 No. 3 Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan at No. 2 Gregory

**Region 4**  
 No. 4 Newell at No. 1 White River  
 No. 3 Lemmon-Melchost at No. 2 Potter County

**CLASS 9A**  
**Region 1**  
 No. 4 Wosley-Wessling at No. 1 Warner  
 No. 3 Eureka-Bowdle at No. 2 Herred-Sealy

**Area**  
**Region 2**  
 No. 4 Hanson at No. 1 Canistota  
 No. 3 Arlington at No. 2 Hamlin

**Region 3**  
 No. 4 South Central at No. 1 Corsica-Stickney  
 No. 2 Wilmot at No. 3 Irene-Wakonda (wild card cannot host in first round)

**Region 4**  
 Pairings TBD after Friday games. Faith will be No. 1 seed

**CLASS 9B**  
**Region 1**  
 No. 4 Dell Rapids St. Mary at No. 1 Waverly-South Shore  
 No. 3 Lake Preston at No. 2 Castlewood

**Region 2**  
 No. 4 Marion at No. 1 Viborg-Hurley  
 No. 3 Centerville at No. 2 Avon

**Region 3**  
 TBD at No. 1 Hildcock-Tulare  
 No. 3 Sully Buttes at No. 2 Faulkton Area

**Region 4**  
 TBD at Harding County  
 TBD at Colome

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**East**

N.Y. Jets 3 3 0 500 133 141  
 New England 3 3 0 500 188 137  
 Miami 3 3 0 500 120 117  
 Buffalo 3 3 0 500 137 192

**South**

Houston 5 1 0 833 161 118  
 Indianapolis 2 3 0 400 110 145  
 Tennessee 2 4 0 333 114 204  
 Jacksonville 1 4 0 200 65 138

**North**

Baltimore 5 1 0 833 161 118  
 Cincinnati 3 3 0 500 149 163  
 Pittsburgh 2 3 0 400 116 115  
 Cleveland 1 5 0 167 134 163

**West**

Denver 3 3 0 500 170 138  
 San Diego 3 3 0 500 148 137  
 Oakland 1 4 0 200 87 148  
 Kansas City 1 5 0 167 104 183

TRANSACTIONS

**BASEBALL**

**American League**  
 TEXAS RAIDERS—Named Dave Magadan hitting coach.

**National League**  
 HOUSTON ASTROS—Named John Mallee hitting coach and Dave Trembley coach. Announced pitching coach Doug Brocail and coach Dave Clark will also return for 2013.

**National Basketball Association**  
 BROOKLYN NETS—Exercised the three-year contract option on G MarShon Brooks.  
 CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Exercised the three-year contract options on G Kyrie Irving and F Tristan Thompson.  
 WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Exercised the four-year contract options on G John Wall, F Trevor Booker, G Kevin Seraphin and G Jordan Crawford and the three-year contract options on F Jan Vesely and F Chris Singleton.

**FOOTBALL**  
 National Football League  
 NFL—Fined the Washington Redskins and Buffalo Bills \$20,000 each for violating league procedures on reporting injuries. Fined Detroit DE Lawrence Jackson \$15,750 for hitting

Cross

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recent years, senior Jake Vollmer (6th last year), and moved Tristen Erickson up to varsity.

“Michael’s been playing football, so I’ve been holding my breath each Friday,” Bjorneberg said. “Ryan’s been running fast and Jake’s peaking at the right time. They’re all getting after it.”

Vollmer, who had been the top runner for Region 3B rival Irene-Wakonda, transferred to Parker due to his parents changing jobs.

“Sometimes you worry about team chemistry in a situation like this, but he’s made us deeper and tougher,” Bjorneberg said. “Jake’s such a great kid. He fit right in. He’s hard-working and respectful.”

With Irene-Wakonda, which had finished second to the Pheasants each of the past two seasons, out of the team race, Dupree, Philip and Freeman Academy look to stand in Parker’s way.

“Most everyone I’ve talked to out west has said that Dupree is running well,” Bjorneberg said. “Freeman Academy is four runners deep and solid.”

With all of the attention of defending back-to-back state team and individual titles, Parker has tried to focus within instead of on all of the hype.

“They have that goal there (winning state), and they will go after it,” Bjorneberg said. “But we’re trying to get them to run like they would at any other meet.

“We want them to enjoy it. This is the last time around for those seniors.”

Here is a look at the other Class B and A teams represented at today’s state meet. The Class B girls’ race will begin at 1 p.m., followed by the Class A girls’ race at 1:30 p.m., the Class B boys’ race at 2 p.m. and the Class A boys’ race at 2:30 p.m. Award will follow the Class AA girls’ race at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Class B Boys

Freeman Academy

The Bobcats turned themselves into a solid team and a state meet contender by running as a pack.

“Their big strength is that they run close together as a team,” said Freeman Academy head coach Suzanne Koerner. “Toward the end of the season, there was usually only 20 to 40 seconds between our first and fourth runners.”

Only senior Ben Brockmuller came into the season with state experience, but senior Matthew Graber, junior Cole Hofer, freshman Ryan Haggerty and seventh grader Brennen Haggerty have worked to make the Bobcats competitive.

“We don’t have that guy that’s top 15 to 20, but it could happen. We’re hoping to get a couple in to place (top 25),” Koerner said. “When we end up as a team could be interesting.”

Keeping that closeness between the runners could give the Bobcats an edge.

“If our guys work together and run as a pack, it could be to our advantage,” Koerner said.

Individuals

Viborg-Hurley’s Seth Engen (Sr.) and Layne Meyers (So.), Avon Junior Brant Blaha, Alcester-Hudson sophomore Marcus Ireland, Centerville sophomore Nick Nixon, Freeman sophomore Cody Roth, Irene-Wakonda sophomore Jack Johnson, Marty freshman Anian Iron Elk and Scotland eighth grader Damien Fuerst will also compete today.

Johnson, an eighth place finisher a year ago, has been a physical and emotional leader for an Eagles squad that lost several runners and its head coach from a year ago.

“I call him my assistant coach,” said Irene-Wakonda head coach Bridget Healy. “He’s really helped me with workouts for the courses we run at. He’s such a fantastic young runner to work with.”

Class B Girls

Freeman

With two returning state placers from a sixth place team a year ago, the Freeman Flyers feel confident about their team heading into state.

“Our goal for the girls was to qualify as a team,” said Freeman head coach Rory Hermesen. “They ran pretty well and were able to do that.”

Sophomore Cailey Roth, third a year ago, and freshman Rebecca Eberts, 24th last year, give the Flyers a solid 1-2 punch.

“We’ve got a couple good runners, and they’ve been running well all year,” Hermesen said. “I think they’ll be right up there and able to medal again.”

Senior Dina Soulek and sophomore Shelby Jensen round out the quartet for the Flyers.

Gayville-Volin

One place  
 That is all that separated the Gayville-Volin girls from hardware a year ago.

“That disappointment has fueled a young but tough Raiderette squad, according to head coach Larry Buffington.”

“Last year we had a younger team, and they got a lot of experience. They tasted a little success by winning the conference and region titles,” he said. “Then they go to state hoping to get a trophy, and they just missed it. That made them hungry, and they’ve paid the price to become better.”

Leading the blue and gold pack is freshman Genevieve Clark, who finished sixth at state a year ago. Sophomore Kella Baria and eighth graders Megan Hirsch, Alyssa Iiams and Laura Nelson fill out the Raiderettes’ front.

Nelson finished second to Clark in the Region 3B meet on Oct. 10 in Freeman.

“Those two girls have worked their way into the top 10, realistically in the top seven,” Buffington said. “They’ve earned the right to be up there.”

The other three Raiderettes have competed for that third scoring spot, trading finishes throughout the season.

“You’re only as good as your third runner, and we’re fortunate to have three girls that could be our third runner,” Buffington said. “That’s important, because our fifth runner could end up pushing back someone else’s third runner, and that could be what allows us to beat them for a trophy.”

“All five runners are important.”

The Raiderettes have also had the benefit of some extra help in practice. Gene Borman, the former Yankton High School cross country and track coach, has served as a volunteer assistant for the Raiderettes this season.

Buffington hopes to see the Raiderettes focus on their race, not the stakes involved.

“If each one goes out and runs their own race, gives us their best, we’ll do just fine,” he said. “If they do their best, it will be good enough.”

Irene-Wakonda

Despite finishing fourth in Region 3B, the Irene-Wakonda girls will still get to compete as a team at state, thanks to qualifying three runners: freshman Andrea Sokolowski, eighth grader Andriana McDonald and seventh grader Raven Jensen.

Senior Tyler Hohn placed third in regions, with sophomore Nick Zolnowski eighth and senior Kyle Hohn 17th. Also competing for E-P are senior Myles Bilas and sophomores Hunter Jackson and Ethan Murtha.

Finishing above last year’s mark is a goal, but Digmann and his squad have much higher aspirations.

“Our goal is top eight,” he said. “We’d really love to finish in the top four, but it would take a really good meet.”

Wagner

The Red Raiders have only been able to compete as a team for three weeks, but it was long enough to earn their way to state.

Senior Tyler Dion did not join the trio of junior Nick Dion and freshmen Trajan and Trevor Holiday until three weeks ago, but his arrival gave Wagner the fourth runner it needed to be eligible to compete as a team. The addition paid off, with the Red Raiders finishing second in Region 4A and qualifying for state.

“At regions they coach all their personal bests,” said Wagner head coach Brian Fiagen. “They seem to be improving each race.”

Nick Dion has been the squad’s leader, with four meet titles under his belt this season.

“Nick came out with a mission,” Fiagen said. “He’s been top four in every race.”

Despite having the team together for only a short time, Fiagen feels they have the potential to make waves.

“As a team we expect a plaque (top 4), if not a trophy (top 2),” she said. “Nick could get second if he runs his best race.”

Individuals

Beresford’s Josh Manning (Sr.), Thaine Sira (Sr.) and Peter Auch (Fr.), Dakota Valley’s Graham Bacon (Jr.) and Ben Cork (Sr.), Vermillion senior Nathan Ford, Elk Point-Jefferson sophomore Hunter Paulsen and Platte-Geddes sophomore Josiah Brink will also compete in the race.

Ford finished 20th at state a year ago.  
 Bacon put himself into the state meet top-five discussion with a strong runner-up finish in the Region 3A meet. Dakota Valley head coach Tiffany Wendling likes the junior’s chances.

“He’s such a smooth runner and is very strategic,” she said of the Big Sioux Conference champion. “His goal is finishing in the top three to five.”

Cork, making his first state meet appearance, has ties to the Panthers’ last state meet appearance as a team.

“We knew he had it in him, and he really did qualify as a senior,” Wendling said. “His brother Andrew was on the team in 2006, the last time the Dakota Valley boys qualified.”

Class A Girls

Dakota Valley

It’s a good thing that the Panthers are good runners, because they’re not old enough to drive.

Dakota Valley sends four freshmen and two eighth graders to Huron, including returning state placemaker Claire Johnson (19th). The Panthers came out of the tough Region 3A, but coach Wendling was not surprised.

“They’re such a competitive group. I didn’t think they were intimidated by it,” she said. “They saw most of the teams (in the region) at either the Big Sioux meet or Lennox, so they looked for where they needed to be.”

AREA CALENDAR

**Saturday, October 20**

CHEER & DANCE S.D. State Championships at Watertown  
 CROSS COUNTRY, COLLEGE Mount Marty Inv. (MMC, 10:30 a.m.)  
 CROSS COUNTRY, PREP S.D. State Championships at Huron  
 FOOTBALL, COLLEGE North Dakota State vs. USD at Sioux Falls (6 p.m., XFL-FM, Video Sports Network)  
 SOCCER, MEN'S MMC at Presentation (2 p.m.)  
 TENNIS, WOMEN'S MMC at Midland (10 a.m.)  
 VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S Waldorf Tourn. (MMC vs. Mayville State, 11:30 a.m.; MMC vs. Waldorf, 1 p.m.); USD at Fort Wayne (6 p.m.)  
 VOLLEYBALL, GIRLS' Eagle Showdown at Lake Andes (Andes Central, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Tripp-De-

**Sunday, Oct. 21**  
 Arizona at Minnesota, noon  
 Green Bay at St. Louis, noon  
 Baltimore at Houston, noon  
 Washington at N.Y. Giants, noon  
 Dallas at Carolina, noon  
 New Orleans at Tampa Bay, noon  
 Cleveland at Indianapolis, noon  
 Tennessee at Buffalo, noon  
 Jacksonville at Oakland, 3:25 p.m.  
 N.Y. Jets at New England, 3:25 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 7:20 p.m.  
 Open: Atlanta, Denver, Kansas City, Miami, Philadelphia, San Diego  
**Monday, Oct. 22**  
 Detroit at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, October 21**

GOLF, WOMEN'S Pat Bradley Inv. at Lakewood Ranch, Fla. (USD)  
 SOCCER, MEN'S JV MMC at Sioux Falls (3:30 p.m.)  
 SOCCER, WOMEN'S USD at South Dakota State (1 p.m.)  
**Monday, October 22**  
 GOLF, MEN'S F&M Bank APSU Inv. at Hopkinsville, Ky. (USD)  
 GOLF, WOMEN'S Pat Bradley Inv. at Lakewood Ranch, Fla. (USD)  
 VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S Omaha at USD (7 p.m.)  
 VOLLEYBALL, GIRLS' Watertown at YHS (7 p.m.); Lewis & Clark Conf. Tourn. (Allen, Bloomfield, Hartington, Ponca,

Markus White.  
 BIG EAST CONFERENCE—Named Paul Brazeau senior associate commissioner for men’s basketball.  
 DUKE—Named Tom Cuffe assistant women’s cross country and men’s and women’s track and field coach.

mont-Amour, 9 a.m.); Southeast South Dakota Conf. at Tyndall (Crofton, Harrington Cedar Catholic, Niobrara Valley Cent. Tourn. (Niobrara-Verdigré), Northeast Neb. Activities Cent. at Plainview (Creighton, Laurel-Concord-Cresheim, Randolph); Alcester-Hudson vs. Viborg-Hurley at Viborg; Dell Rapids at Beresford; Ethan vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Tripp; Gayville-Volin at Avon; Gregory at Andes Central; Irene-Wakonda at Canistota; Madison at Parkston; Marion at Freeman; Parker at Howard; Platte-Geddes at Winner; Scotland at Menno (Senior Night); South Central at Wagner; Tea Area at Dakota Valley (Senior Night); Vermillion at Harrisburg  
**VOLLEYBALL, GIRLS' JV** Watertown at YHS (4:30 p.m.)  
**VOLLEYBALL, GIRLS' SOPH** Watertown at YHS (5:45 p.m.)  
**VOLLEYBALL, GIRLS' 9TH** Watertown at YHS (4:30 p.m.)

DE Quinon Copies \$10,000 and LB Aaron Maybin \$7,875 for separate hits on Indianapolis QB Andrew Luck during a game last weekend.  
 BUFFALO BILLS—Promoted OL David Snow from the practice squad. Released OL Reggie Wells.  
 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Waived DE

if they petition up as expected) in the state.  
 Without knowing for certain the exact alignments for next fall, this will still make it a priority for Yankton to make as many improvements as possible as they will still be tested by strong ESD foes and eventually rapidly growing Harrisburg (and likely Tea Area).  
 Pierre and Brookings feature plenty of young talent to compete for an ESD and 11AA title next year and if O’Gorman does not petition up they will be the obvious runaway favorite. If the Knights do move up, then Watertown will likely drop to 11AA. Even though the Arrows struggled this year, they are the only ESD squad besides Brandon Valley to have a winning record against the Bucks in the past decade (6-5) and will certainly challenge again.  
 One step the Bucks have already taken is to support Yankton’s involvement in joining the Sioux Falls-based South Dakota Junior Football program. Likness even helped arrange a camp with the younger players before his varsity season got under way, and hopes that the participating athletes will learn proper football fundamentals and techniques as young as possible.

Divide

From Page 8

against the private Sioux Falls Catholic institution.

“At the same time O’Gorman was dominant, Yankton had a run on the Sioux Falls schools as well,” Olson added. “If you look back at the playoffs since 1981, O’Gorman and Yankton are littered all over the pages in the semifinals and championship games.”

Those 11 Yankton squads that made it to the DakotaDome shared basic traits: Dominant line play, stellar defense and a punishing ground attack.

This style led to some great games, as the Bucks won their first five titles by an average of only five points, until their final championship, a 35-14 blowout of Washington in 2002.

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Just how dominant was Yankton against its Sioux Falls public school counterparts throughout the first two decades of the playoff era? The Bucks posted a perfect 15-0 record against Lincoln (7-0), Washington (5-0) and Roosevelt (3-0), including playoff games, from 1981 until their final title in 2002.

That supremacy on the gridiron was not exclusive to Sioux Falls public school opponents. During those same 22 years, Yankton was 135-38 (.780 winning percentage) against all ESD competition. The Bucks posted an overall winning percentage of at least .619 against all opponents during that stretch. For most competitors, it was much higher, such as a 22-1 record against Aberdeen Central and a 22-2 mark versus Huron.

Even the stiffest competition that the Bucks faced, Brandon Valley and O’Gorman, fell to the red and white a majority of the time. Yankton was 13-8 against the Lynx and 8-5 against the Knights including playoff games from ‘81-’02.

That success, including a pre-playoff era record of nine ESD crowns and five states titles from 1965-1980, created a culture and tradition unique to the Yankton area.

“When I started, football was something that every boy in Yankton aspired to do,” Miner said. “We had more of a sense of community — there was less movement of people in and out. If you grew up in Yankton you could create that tradition.”

Coaching

This extraordinary run of success came as the Bucks cycled through three different head coaches during that 22-year period. Max Hawk led the Bucks from 1965 until 1994 and won the first three of Yankton’s playoff-era state championships.

Hawk’s long-time defensive specialist, Miner, took over in 1995 and promptly led the Bucks to another title in his first season at the helm.

In 1999, it was Likness who took over after Miner stepped down and won a title in his inaugural year as head coach and followed that up with a second title in 2002.

Even though Yankton had three different head coaches in a six-year period from 1994-1999, the continuity within the staff was exceptionally strong.

“We always had really good staff