


WOKSAPE

Ryan Mors Takes Over as Activities Director

**BY
MICHAEL
RUCKER**

Yankton welcomes Activities Director, Ryan Mors. He is new to district this year.

“I am excited to be here, and it has been a fun experience so far,” Mors said.

Prior to taking this job, he had worked at Huron for eight years as a sixth grade teacher. He also was an assistant football, girls’ basketball, and track coach.

Mors then went to Freeman for five years where he was principal, head girls’ basketball coach, and head golf coach.

The Activities Director schedules events, makes sure the gym is ready, and ensures there are workers. The Activities Director also evaluates coaches and supervises events.

“He (Mors) is doing a really good job,” Chris Haynes, YHS head boys basketball coach, said. “His duties go far and beyond what people see.”

Arlin Likness, YHS head football coach, said that the Activities Director is in charge of the field, officials, ticket takers, and crowd control.

The responsibilities of an Activities Director vary greatly. Many people probably do not realize that he schedules

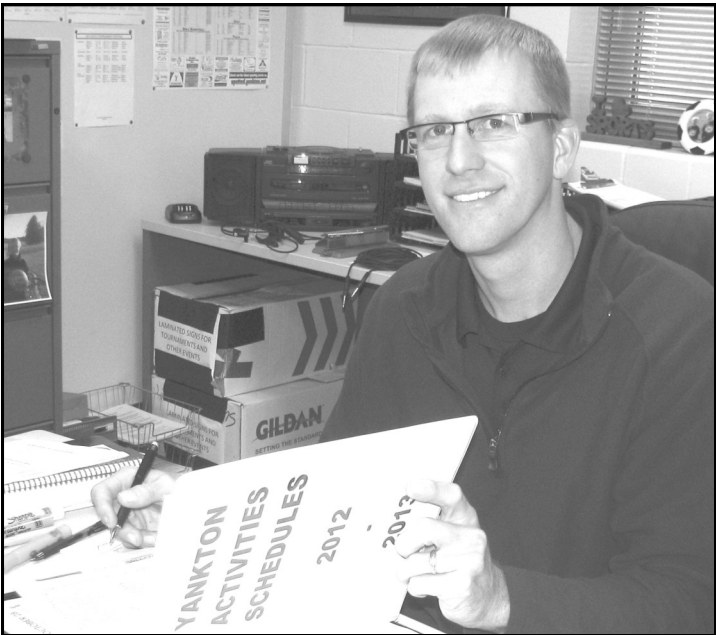


PHOTO BY TERI MANDEL

Activities director, Ryan Mors, is shown working on scheduling.

events/activities for both Yankton School District and the public.

The Activities Director addresses training rule violations and files accident reports from incidents that occur within the Yankton School District.

He works with Tracey Groten-huis of the Summit Activities Center to schedule public events. “Every day is unique and different,” Mors said.

One thing Mors has not had to deal with yet this year is rescheduling events.


“Rescheduling is difficult,”

Mors said. It is difficult to work around all the local activities, but not only that, he has to coordinate with the team they are rescheduling with.”

The position Mors holds as Activities Director has not always been what it is today. Bob Winter was the Activities Director for many years.

“It used to be just Athletic Director. Then, they added fine arts, P.E., and assistant principal,” Winter said. With these additional duties, the position changed from Athletic Director to Activities Director.

Yankton Girls Cross Country Runners Make History at State

**BY
ABBEY
VANMEETEREN**

The Yankton Gazelle Cross Country team finished the season by making history for Yankton.

The team has received seven state titles in the last ten years.

Although the team didn’t win another state title, the top two runners for the Gazelles finished first and second, which has never been done in Yankton.

“The girls ran a perfect race,” said Coach Dave Dannenbring.

Savannah Woods, a freshman, got first place in the meet with a time of 14:40. “The season was great, I loved how Annie and I kept improving with each other every meet, we would complain about hard practices or Saturday morning runs,

but in the end they all paid off at the state meet,” said Woods.


Annie Kruse, a junior, got second place with a time of 14:52. “I believe the state meet was the cherry on top of a great season and this year was another awesome and unforgettable experience,” said Kruse.

The last time a team went one and two at a state meet was in 1995 by the Rapid City Central girls’ team.

Overall the Gazelles finished seventh place in the state. Junior Ashtyn Haak finished 45th, seventh graders Tessa Folkers, Madison McClure, and Holly Hicks finished 57th, 75th and 80th. Sophomore Tristin Roy finished in 89th place.

Although the Gazelles didn’t win another state title, this meet will always be remembered by the coaches and all the runners on the team.

Yankton Boys and Girls Soccer Teams Both Place at State Contest

**BY
MEGAN
FORD**

Both Bucks and Gazelles club soccer teams headed west to Rapid City to compete in the state soccer tournament.

The Bucks opening game was set to be against the Watertown Arrows. Since the Gazelles were the eight seed going into state that meant they would be facing the number one team in the state, Sioux Falls Roosevelt.

“When I first found out that we would be playing Roosevelt, I felt like we had nothing to lose,” starting defender Morgan Bakke said. “We had another chance to show people how we can play. Since we already played them earlier in the season, we knew our strong and weak points against them.”

Roosevelt moved past Yankton with a 4-0 victory. Despite some good shots from the Rough Rider strikers, the Gazelles shut them down in the midfield and with that they were able to hold the Riders to 1-0 at half.

The Bucks blanked Watertown 2-0. Zach Benjamin scored arguably one of the best goals of the year off of a pass from Andrew Hummel.

“It was a well fought game but we came out on top,” said senior Zander Savage.

With the Gazelles loss, they played Rapid City Central the next morning.

“During our regular season game we lost to them 9-0, because of that we were happy with our 3-0 loss because it showed that we improved tremendously,” said senior goal-

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Yankton Bucks Conquer the Aberdeen Eagles a Second Time

**BY
DREW
KONOPASEK**

The Yankton Bucks easily advanced out of the first round at Crane Youngworth Field as they clobbered the Aberdeen Golden Eagles 44-20. This performance was similar on Yankton’s homecoming when the Bucks defeated the Golden Eagles 42-14.

The Golden Eagle defense looked as if they could hardly stop a Junior Leader rushing attack as the Bucks rushed for 205 yards behind Sophomore Jordan Lightner’s 9 carries for 56 yards and Sophomore Levi Davis’s 9 touches for 55 yards.

In addition, Michael Rucker passed for 152 yards and 3 touchdowns including a 55 yard bomb to James Hisek in the 3rd quarter where he juke multiple tacklers before he was tackled.

Rucker appeared to be at ease in the pocket as he connected with 5 different receivers and had no interceptions.

The Bucks defense looked like a steel curtain recording 5 sacks

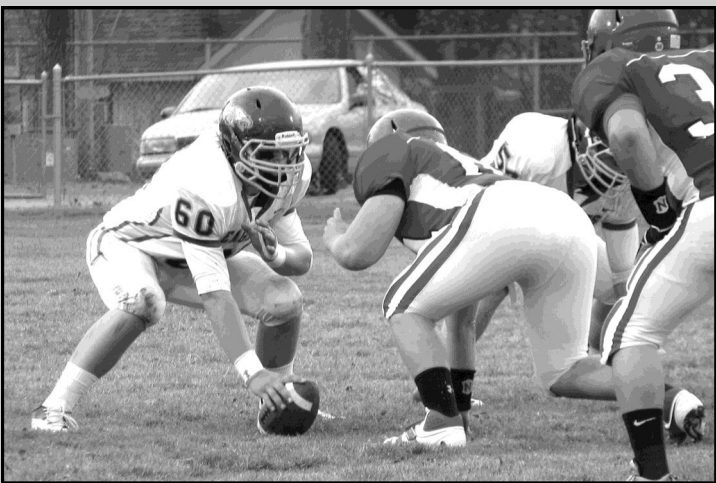


PHOTO BY OLIVIA CHRISTOPHER

An Aberdeen player looks for a way through YHS defenders.

and forcing the Golden Eagles to turnover the ball three times including a 12 yard interception return by Kolby LaCroix in the 4th quarter. Furthermore, the Golden Eagles recorded only 30 rushing yards on 23 carries.


Senior linebacker and running back James Hisek said, “The power eye was not working in the first quarter so we spread out the offense and picked apart the Aberdeen defense.”

The adjustment appeared to

work as the team averaged 15 points per quarter for the rest of the game. The Bucks play next week at 6 P.M. versus the O’Gorman High School Knights at McEneany Field as they look to end the winless streak against Sioux Falls football opponents.

The Bucks will have to play a spotless game but Senior Quarterback Michael Rucker is confident as he feels “if we work hard and focus all week we can beat O’Gorman.”

Yankton Gazelles Volleyball Digs Pink

**BY
MIKALA
HORA**

Last Tuesday the Gazelles volleyball team took on number one ranked Sioux Falls Roosevelt. Tuesday’s match was also the Gazelles “Dig Pink” night, where they had a bake sale to raise money for two local teachers battling cancer.

Teachers from the elementary, middle, and high schools also donated to the cause by donating five dollars to wear jeans to school that day. The energy in the gym high from the start as the Gazelles took the floor in their pink jerseys.

Yankton gave the Rough Riders a run for their money as they played aggressively throughout the match.

Junior defensive specialist, Riley Smith, said “We knew that aggressive serving would be our best way of getting them out of system to give us a chance at keeping the ball alive with what they were bringing back at us.”

Yankton started off serving very aggressively which did give them a chance to show off their hitting power in the front. Yankton ended up losing the match 3 sets to none.

Junior outside hitter, Brooke Wuebben, added “We knew that our serves would play a key role



PHOTO BY MATTIE BLAGG

Yankton volleyball players listen intently to Coach Woodward during the Dig Pink match.

in the game, and towards the end, we stopped being aggressive and missed too many of our serves, so serving aggressively is something we will need to work on.” Overall “Dig Pink” night was a success with the Gazelles combining with the teachers to raise \$1,900 dollars. The girls will play Monday the 22nd and again on Thursday the 25th to conclude their regular season.

Boys Cross Country Team Earns Seventh at State

**BY
JUSTIN
GRODE**

Yankton went to Huron for the South Dakota State Cross Country Meet last Saturday, October 20, 2012.

The Bucks and Gazelles both placed 7th at State. That was an improvement for the Bucks from last year’s 8th place finish at State.

The Bucks 7th place finish was led by Brice Cowman finishing 7th overall with a time of 16:24 along with Ryan Olson (17:44) and Justin Grode (18:01) who placed 36th and 46th respectively.

Cowman said this about the race, “The race felt great. I just

went out with the leaders and tried to stay with them as long as possible. Now that the season’s over I’m going to start building a base for track. I’m not really taking any time off.”

Also running for the Bucks at State were Jacob Bies (18:19), Evan Bergeson (18:21), Paul Fanta (18:52), and Andrew Struck (19:03). They were 55th, 58th, 70th, and 77th out of 105 of the best runners in the state.

Cowman, Olson, Grode, Bies, and Bergeson were the Bucks top five and they were scored according to their places at State resulting in 202 points which was good enough for 7th place by 20 points.

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