

‘Buck Spread’ Breaks YHS Out Of Rut

‘School Yard’ Scheme Helped Bucks Beat O’Gorman, End Two-Game Skid

BY JEREMY HOECK

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The last time Yankton used the so-called “Buck Spread” offense, with its lateral passes and multiple quarterbacks, Ty Hauger was in first grade.

That was in 2002.

Eleven years later, Hauger and the other 11 seniors on the Bucks’ roster this fall got to utilize the unique offensive formation, and with immediate success. Yankton scored touchdowns on its first three drives in last Friday night’s 24-14 homecoming win over Sioux Falls O’Gorman.

Hauger, who happened to also be celebrating his 18th birthday on

the same day, and his teammates called the scheme “school-yard,” but said they welcomed the change — which could be more than a one-game feature.

“That first time at practice, I thought coach was crazy,” Hauger said Monday. “He showed us on the board in class, but when we got out to the field and ran the first play, I couldn’t believe how well it worked.”

The idea is simple: Three quarterbacks on the field at the same time, with lateral passes enabling the ball to come from three different locations.

Yankton’s version has a 3-man front — a center and two guards — with a tackle and receiver split to

online

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was junior Brady Hale.

“I love it, because nobody knows what to do with it,” Hauger said. “We know all the things we can do with it, but it takes you a while to figure it out; how to defend it.”

In short, the element of surprise is key. By the time O’Gorman adjusted to the formation, the Bucks led 21-0 after 14 minutes, nine seconds of action.

each side, with a quarterback behind them. A running back, either Levi Davis or Jordan Lightner, stands next to the quarterback, which in Friday’s case

“That was the fastest twenty-one points we’ve put up this year, and against a good team, too,” Yankton head coach Arlin Likness said Monday. “There were some very good positives out of it.

“It just shows, there’s hope.”

For a team that needed a win Friday, the Bucks (2-3) may have a turned a corner following the victory, according to senior tackle Steven McKee. Yankton actually vaulted from No. 8 in the Class 11AA power points to No. 4.

“Everybody forgot the first half of the season,” McKee said. “I think it turned the season around. It was a huge confidence boost.”

And if dusting off the playbook for a new — yet old — scheme was necessary, the Bucks were all ears.

“It took me back to the school yard, when you run formations like that, but that’s what made it fun,”

McKee said.

And likewise just as frustrating for the opposing defense.

In the Buck Spread, Hale would relay a play from the sidelines to the offense, but wouldn’t call out the play verbally for the defense to hear. When he was ready, Hale would clap his hands, and from there, senior center Alex Dangler could snap the ball whenever he wanted.

Mixing up those snaps were key, Dangler said.

“One of the times, the (O’Gorman) lineman was shifting around, and that’s when I snapped it,” he said Monday.

Even with all the completed passes Friday, there was one series late in the third quarter in which Hale had three consecutive throws

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Rocking The Castle



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

The Mount Marty College women's basketball team poses for a photo prior to the “Rock The Castle” event on Monday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. The second annual event featured both the women's and men's basketball teams in a “Midnight Madness” type event to introduce them to fans and draw support for their upcoming seasons. The MMC men begin their first season under head coach Andrew Baker on Oct. 30 at Dakota State, while the women open Nov. 1 at home against Grace.

Lancers Look To Get Fans Excited

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Following what a lot of schools do on ‘Midnight Madness,’ Mount Marty College unveiled its women's and men's basketball teams in style Monday night.

The main theme? There's plenty of excitement at Cimpl Arena.

And the Lancer squads were anxious to show off some of what they can do at the second annual ‘Rock The Castle’ event, which featured scrimmages, three-point shooting contest and slam dunk competition.

“It’s good to have the summer off, but once practice started, we were excited,” said senior point guard April Winne, one of two returning starters for the Lancer women.

It was a pair of Mount Marty freshmen, though, who stole the show.

Logan Wagner of Parkston won the three-point shoot-out, while men's freshman Ben Hegge of Crofton, Neb. was clearly the crowd favorite.

Hegge joked later, “The star who didn’t even take a shot.”

Spurred on by the MMC baseball players in atten-

dance, Hegge constantly heard his name being chanted.

“It was fun with those baseball guys here,” Hegge said. “It would’ve been lame if everyone just sat there and watched.”

He even surprised the crowd by coming out of the locker room for an impersonation of new head coach Andrew Baker — complete with exaggerated yelling and clipboard throwing.

“We practiced that, believe it or not,” Hegge said. “I wasn’t actually going to do Baker, but at one of our practices, we were messing around and I started acting like him.

“The guys said, ‘You should do Baker.’”

With their coach, instead, running things from the scorer’s table, the Lancer men, pushed the pace in their scrimmage — they played a 10-minute spurt.

It gave more players plenty of opportunity to see the court, which should be a regular sight this season.

“We don’t have any seniors, but we should be competitive,” Hegge said. “We’ll do more than people expect. They might think, ‘They don’t have any seniors,’ but it’s like we’re all a leader out there.”

When it came time for their scrimmage, the 11-player fastbreak tempo — with new groups cycling in all the time — seemed appropriate for the Lancer women.

They figure to do plenty of running this season.

“We’ll do more pressing like some of the other teams in our conference, but I think we’re ready for it,” Winne said.

The Lancers, 16-14 a season ago, return a pair of starters, Winne and Allison De Kam, as well as a host of other key players — they also brought in a solid recruiting class.

“We’ve got so much versatility this year,” Winne said.

“We have girls who aren’t just shooters or drivers, they’re both, even our bigs can run.”

Will the Lancers be in the running for an NAIA National Tournament bid?

“We really hope so,” Winne said. “If we work hard like we have been and be consistent, we should be a really good team.”

Capping off the night was a dunk contest, won by junior Tyler Payer.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

MMC men's basketball player Nermin Krdzalic goes up for a dunk during the “Rock The Castle” event on Monday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Despite not having a senior on the roster, the Lancer men have renewed optimism under first-year head coach Andrew Baker.

Home Finale



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton shortstop Andi Sprakel fires the ball to first base during the opening game of the Gazelles’ doubleheader with Sioux Falls Roosevelt on Monday at Sertoma Park. The games marked the end of the regular season for the Gazelles, who open play in the state tournament on Friday in Sioux Falls.

Wagner Sweeps Past Vermillion

VB: Trojans, Panthers Earn Victories

VERMILLION — The Wagner Red Raiders swept Vermillion 25-20, 25-16, 25-23 in prep volleyball action on Monday.

Kim Koupal led Wagner with 12 kills, 12 digs and three ace serves. Gina Soukup posted eight kills and 11 digs. Kayla Deurmeier had 18 assists, with Krista Dvorak posting 12 assists. Brooklyn Tolliver had 16 digs and Emily Brunasing had four blocks to lead the Red Raider defense in the victory.

Josie Huber notched 11 kills and 11 digs to lead Vermillion. Rachel Finnegan had six kills and 13 digs. Sarah Hughes-Berheim posted 21 digs and three ace serves in the effort.

Wagner, 12-3, travels to Winner on Thursday. Vermillion, 9-5, travels to Sioux Falls Christian today (Tuesday) in Dakota XII Conference play. Vermillion won the JV

match 2-1 and the C-match 2-0.
WAGNER (12-3)25 25 25
VERMILLION (9-5).....20 16 23

Parkston 3, Freeman 0

FREEMAN — The Parkston Trojans claimed a 25-9, 26-24, 25-8 victory over Freeman in prep volleyball action on Monday.

Laura Weiss had 12 kills and Hailli Heisinger had seven kills and three ace serves to lead Parkston. Whitney Weber posted nine assists and eight digs, and Sadie Schoenfelder and Sydney Weber had seven digs each in the victory.

Vanessa Dowden and Erika Sage had four kills each to lead Freeman. Mady Pravecek had 14 assists. Haley Glanzer added 14 digs and Shelby Jensen added seven digs in the effort.

Parkston, 10-5, hosts Tripp-Delmont-Armour today (Tuesday). Freeman, 2-7, travels to Ethan on Thursday.

Parkston won the JV match 25-21, 19-25, 15-7; and the C-match 25-4, 25-21.

PARKSTON (10-5).....25 26 25
FREEMAN (2-7).....9 24 8

Dakota Valley 3, Sergeant Bluff-Luton 0

NORTH SIOUX CITY —

Lindsey Smith posted 38 assists, 11 digs and six ace serves to lead a balanced Dakota Valley attack in a 25-18, 25-19, 25-19 victory over Sergeant Bluff-Luton (Iowa) on Monday.

Jayde Bergmann had 10 kills and two blocks, Hannah Bauer had nine kills and Erica Johnson had eight kills to lead the Dakota Valley net attack. Bauer had 10 digs and three ace serves, Meg Williams had 12 digs and Johnson had nine digs in the win.

For SBL, Miles Ludwigs, Lauren Waite and Kelsey Krohn each had six kills. Brianna Eaton posted 14 assists and three ace serves. Jessica Becker added 16 digs in the effort.

Dakota Valley, 15-2, travels to Bon Homme today (Tuesday). SBL, 7-5, plays at the Council Bluffs (Iowa) Thomas Jefferson Tournament on Saturday.

Dakota Valley (15-2).....25 25 25
SERGEANT BLUFF-LUTON (7-5).....18 19 19

Nighthawks Earn First Win

TRIPP — Tripp-Delmont-Armour notched its first win of the season with a 36-0 triumph over Marty Monday afternoon.

The game started on Friday, but was suspended due to lightning.

Gunnar Dally (3 yards and 2 yards) and Shane Koster (8 yards and 1 yard) both scored a pair of touchdowns for the winners, 1-4. Austin Fischer added a 4-yard scoring run.

Dally and Koster rushed for 77 and 75 yards, respectively, for the winners, who collected 246 yards of total offense.

Defensively, Dustin Fischer, Austin Fischer and Tanner Carda each recorded six tackles for TDA. Isaiah Heth had two stops for Marty.

Marty travels to Avon Friday, while Tripp-Delmont-Armour has a bye.

MARTY.....0 0 0 0—0
TRIPP-DELMONT-ARMOUR.....14 22 0 0—36

JV: Yankton 23, Brandon Valley 20

BRANDON — Reid

Sawatzke rushed for two touchdowns, passed for a touchdown and a conversion, and kicked a field goal to have a hand in all 23 points of the Bucks’ 23-20 victory over Brandon Valley in JV football action on Monday.

Rayden Terca rushed for 104 yards and Tanner Frick rushed for 71 yards to lead the Yankton offense. Lee Rose caught two passes for 67 yards, including a 52-yard scoring strike with seven minutes to play, giving Yankton the lead for good.

Rose also had six tackles, and Alex Withrow had five tackles for the Yankton defense. Charlie Stevenson picked off a pass in the victory.

Yankton, 2-3, hosts Norfolk on Monday, Oct. 7.

Twins Keep Gardy With 2-Year Deal

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Ron Gardenhire had every reason to leave and the Minnesota Twins had every reason to let him walk away.

They had partnered for 12 seasons — an eternity in this day and age for a franchise and a manager. They had won a lot of games together — 998 to be exact — and six division titles. They also have endured three straight seasons of at least 96 losses, and the loyal fan base is starting to get impatient.

If ever there was a time for a fresh start, this appeared to be it. But that’s not how the Twins operate. And Gardenhire isn’t one to walk away when times are toughest.

The Twins and Gardenhire agreed to a new two-year extension on Monday, keeping the second-longest tenured manager in the big leagues in the Twin Cities through the 2015 season.

“My father was a military guy and said the easy thing to do was walk,” said Gardenhire, who just finished the final season of his existing contract. “The hard thing to do was stay and try to make it better. That’s what I’m going to try to do here. I want to make it better.”

Gardenhire has a career record of 998-947 (.513) as a major league manager, and trails only Tom Kelly on the Twins’ all-time win list (1,140). But all the losing the last three years was starting to wear on the fans, many of whom wanted to see some big changes made to an organization seems lost its way after being a model franchise last decade.