

Arrows Look To Ground High-Flying Bucks

Yankton Aims To Build On Pioneer Day Win Over O’Gorman

BY JEREMY HOECK
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With their high-energy, homecoming win over Sioux Falls O’Gorman in the rearview mirror, the Yankton Bucks are in rebound mode.

As in, how does Yankton (2-3) back up that performance tonight (Friday) at Watertown? The two teams kick off at 7 p.m. in Watertown.

The hometown Arrows (2-2), for one, have been concerned this week with slowing down Yankton’s high-flying offense — under head coach Arlin Likness — which has averaged 334.2 yards of offense.

“Arlin does a good job adjusting to the talent he has, and they have done some things like with O’Gorman that

you have to be on your toes with,” Watertown coach Steve Svendsen said this week.

“Playing Yankton, you have to be prepared mentally, and you can’t make mistakes.”

A week ago, the Bucks didn’t make many mistakes with their ‘Buck Spread’ offense that utilizes three quarterbacks in a spread formation. The scheme got started quick against O’Gorman, thanks to the surprise element and a no-huddle look.

And to answer a common question, yes, the Bucks are using that offense again, Likness said.

“There was an edge for us not to huddle,” he said. “There were definitely some things available that we didn’t take advantage of, but part of

that was some of those things weren’t in yet.”

Of course, Yankton would really like another solid defensive performance like the one against O’Gorman. The Bucks are allowing 30.4 points and 311.8 yards of offense to opponents — 153.4 on the ground and 158.4 through the air.

“If our defense can make stops, that’ll be key for us,” Likness said. Enter Watertown.

The Arrows, much like O’Gorman last week, will look to run the ball first, but they do have a passing threat in quarterback Logan Gabriel (Sr., 38-86, 473 yds, 3 TD, 4 INT).

Watertown averages 186 yards on the ground, with 130 of those each game coming from senior Shay Brat-

land (521 yds, 5 TD) — whom Svendsen called an “impact player.”

“We have to be able to run the ball for us to be successful,” the coach said. “It allows us to do some play action pass stuff, to keep control of the ball. That’s something we need to do.”

An area of concern for the Bucks, Likness said, is Watertown’s speed. And with good reason.

The Arrows return three of the four runners from last year’s state champion 400-meter relay squad, with Bratland, Jess Poppen (Sr., WR, 13-163, 2 TD) and Joe Foley (Sr.).

“They’re more open than O’Gorman, and they have the size and speed to control the clock,” Likness said. “They have maybe the fastest

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YHS GAMEDAY

Yankton (2-3, 0-3 ESD) at Watertown (2-2, 2-1 ESD)
7 p.m., Watertown

SERIES SINCE 1981: Yankton holds a 20-15 advantage, including winning the last two.

LAST MEETING: Yankton rolled to a 44-0 victory in the 2012 season.

LAST WEEK: Yankton debuted the ‘Buck Spread,’ scoring touchdowns on its first three possessions in a 24-14 victory over Sioux Falls O’Gorman.

Watertown edged ESD newcomer Harrisburg 17-14.

NEXT UP: Yankton has its final home game of the season, hosting current 11AA frontrunner Pierre. Watertown travels to Sioux Falls to face O’Gorman.

FOLLOW THE GAME ONLINE: The *Press & Dakotan* will host a live chat during the game. Find it here: http://www.yankton.net/yhs_gameday/

Gazelles Open State Softball Today In S.F.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Yankton Gazelles open play in the State ‘A’ varsity softball tournament, which is scheduled to begin today (Friday) at Sioux Falls’ Sherman Park, with the feeling that they have played better late in the season, even if their 14-18 record may not completely reflect it.

“I thought we would have a little better record, but it seems like we’re playing better lately,” said Gazelles head coach Bernie Goeden. “We’re getting more confident. The girls should have confidence playing against any team.”

The Gazelles have relied upon an offense that batted .315 as a team, led by senior shortstop Andi Sprakel’s .430 average (20 runs scored, team-high 22 RBI).

“Andi’s played shortstop just about every game, and the rest of our infield is set,” Goeden said. “Bailey Kortan (.313, 2 HR, 18 runs) was hurt early, but she’s back playing second, and we’ve pretty much had Jennifer Feilmeier (.322, 7 doubles, 1 HR, 20 runs, 19 RBI) at third and Brynn Albers (.229, 10 RBI) at first.”

Brooke Loecker (.303, team-high 6 triples, 11 RBI) and Abby Schulte (.228, team-high 26 runs, 2 HR, 12 RBI) have shared duties between left field and catcher, with Loecker handling most of the catching duties. Heather Hauer (.393, 22 runs, 10 RBI) has roamed center field, with Madison Dangler (.288, 5 doubles, 20 runs, 19 RBI) in right when she’s not pitching. Jaclyn Arens (.282, 17 RBI) and Kalyn Peterka (.286, 17 RBI) have also been key contributors offensively.

Arens (2-11, 5.90 ERA, 46 K in 78 1/3 IP) has handled many of the challenging pitching assignments, with Dangler (8-3, 3.64 ERA, 24 K in 57 2/3 IP) and Peterka (4-4, 3.41 ERA, 16 K in 39 IP) giving the team depth on the rubber.

“Jaclyn usually gets the tough assignments, and it’s had an effect on her record. She usually throws against the other team’s better pitcher,” Goeden said. “Madison has been a pleasant surprise. She’s effectively wild (32 walks), but she keeps batters off guard.”

Yankton comes into state as the lowest seed (10th) and having lost four straight, but Goeden still feels good about the Gazelles’ chances.

“It is what it is,” he said the team drawing the bottom seed despite beating both seventh seeded Brookings and ninth seeded Mitchell at the ESD Tournament a week ago. “I think they’re ready to surprise a few people. Hopefully the girls go in with some confidence.”

Goeden feels that, because no team has a dominant pitcher, the field is wide open.

Yankton opens against Brookings, currently scheduled for 10 a.m., with the winner facing second-seeded Sioux Falls Washington. The tournament is set to run through Saturday, but the schedule may be changed due to expected poor weather conditions.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net



LEFT: Hartington Cedar Catholic's Alexis Arens serves the ball during Thursday night's home match with Guardian Angels Central Catholic in Hartington, Neb. RIGHT: Hartington's Samantha Huss, 14, taps the ball around the block of Plainview's Karissa Eichberger during their match Thursday night in Hartington, Neb. Hartington notched a 3-0 victory in the Lewis & Clark Conference contest.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Volleyball: Wildcats Power Past Plainview

Lancers Beat Dakota State For Tenth Victory

MADISON — The Mount Marty College volleyball team survived playing without veteran setter Caitlyn Illg, rallying to beat Dakota State 13-25, 25-20, 23-25, 30-28, 15-9 in non-conference action on Thursday at the DSU Fieldhouse.

The win improved MMC to 10-11 on the season, the first time since 2008 that the Lancers have won as many as 10 matches in a campaign.

Allison Cross led the way for the Mount Marty of-

fense, recording 19 kills and hitting .500 on the match. She also recorded four assisted blocks.

Amber Dysthe, the freshman from Parker, filled in admirably for Illg, recording 37 assists, nine kills, 15 digs and four assisted blocks.

Also for MMC, Bailey Kuchta posted 10 kills and 10 digs, Courtney Miller had 21 digs, Kristie Tessmer had 10 digs and Lexie Branson had five assisted blocks in the victory.

For Dakota State, Caitlin

Pick notched 17 kills and Brittney Anderson had 14 kills to lead the way. Former Dakota Valley standout Kylie Martin had 10 kills, 10 digs and three ace serves. Former Parker standout Tessa Weeldryer added six blocks (2 solo). Stacey Schuller finished with 50 assists and 15 digs, and Kat Gonzalez had 24 digs for the Trojans.

Mount Marty returns to Great Plains Athletic Conference play on Tuesday, traveling to Morningside.

13 digs to lead Winner past Wagner 25-23, 25-21, 25-19 in a key Class A showdown Thursday night in Winner.

Cassidy Hanson added 10 kills and 18 digs for the Warriors (17-2), while Sara Husher also had a double-double with 31 set assists and 13 digs.

For Wagner (12-4), Kim Koupal posted 11 kills and 17 digs, Kayla Deurmeier had 20 set assists and Gina Soukup had nine kills. Defensively, Brooklyn Tolliver posted 21 digs and Delaynie Dickerson added 16 digs.

Wagner visits Tri-Valley on Saturday and Wagner hosts Gregory next Tuesday.

WAGNER (12-4).....23 21 19
WINNER (17-2).....25 25 25

Bon Homme 3, Menno 0

TYNDALL — The Bon Homme Cavaliers beat the Menno Wolves 25-13, 25-20, 25-19 in volleyball action Thursday.

In the win for the Cavaliers, Caitlin McLout led the team with 15 kills and three blocks. Alie Adams also contributed to the win with six aces and 20 assists. Kelsey Sutera led the cavaliers defensively with 19 digs.

For Menno, Christina Herbolt had three kills and four digs and Madison Huber had three aces with six assists.

Next Bon Homme will play Dakota Christian in Tyndall

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 7A

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Hartington beat Plainview 25-14, 25-12, 25-15 in high school volleyball action Thursday.

In the win for Hartington, Camie Stratman led the team with nine kills, five aces and 14 digs. Shelby Hochstein also contributed to the win with six kills, five aces and 17 digs. Abby Lammers had 21 set assists for the night with eight and Sophie noecker led the team defensively with 18 digs.

Next Hartington will play Laurel-Concord at home and Plainview plays at O’Neil on Tuesday.

PLAINVIEW (3-9).....14 12 15
HARTINGTON (10-5).....25 25 25

Tri-Valley Conf.

Viborg-Hurley 3, Ponca 1

GAYVILLE — With 13 kills, 11 digs and three aces, Katelyn Graber lead the Viborg-Hurley Cougars in a 3-1 win (25-21, 23-25, 30-28, 25-23) against Ponca Thursday night in the Tri-Valley Conference in Gayville.

Hannah Jorgensen added 14 kills, seven blocks and four digs in the win, while Abbey Hora put up 12 kills and nine digs. Kayla Anderson also had 15 digs.

Viborg-Hurley faces Alcester in the Tr-Valley Conference Saturday, while Ponca faces Sergeant Bluff at home.

PONCA (4-10).....21 25 28 23
VIBORG-HURLEY (11-7).....25 23 30 25

Gayville-Volin 3, Centerville 0

GAYVILLE — Kelia Barta put up 20 kills, six digs and two aces to lead the Gayville-Volin Raiders in a 3-0 win (25-18, 25-16, 25-18) Thursday night against the Centerville Tornados in the Tri-Valley Conference.

Vanessa Dyken added 29 assists and seven digs in the win, while Rachel Haas had four kills, four digs, three blocks and three aces.

No stats were reported for Centerville.

Both teams participate in the Tri-Valley Conference Saturday in Alcester.

CENTERVILLE (0-11).....18 16 18
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (9-2).....25 25 25

Viborg-Hurley 3, Gayville-Volin 1

GAYVILLE — Megan Knock recorded 66 assists and eight digs Thursday night as the Viborg-Hurley Cougars defeated the Gayville-Volin Raiders 25-20, 25-22, 29-31, 25-17.

Katelyn Graber had 16 digs and 14 kills in the win, with Abbey Hora contributing 11 digs and 11 kills.

Vanessa Ryken had 29 assists and nine digs for the Raiders, while Kelia Barta added 16 digs, 13 kills and three aces. Genevieve Clark also had 15 digs and nine kills.

VIBORG-HURLEY (10-7).....25 25 29 25
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (9-2).....20 22 31 17

Ponca 3, Centerville 0

GAYVILLE — Hannah Albrecht had eight kills and three blocks Thursday night to lead Ponca in a 3-0 win (25-12, 25-19, 25-14) against the Centerville Tornados in the Tri-Valley Conference.

Maddie Carlson added 13 digs in the win, while MacKenzie Boyle added 12 digs. Melissa Schram contributed 12 assists.

No stats were reported for Centerville.

CENTERVILLE (0-11).....12 19 14
PONCA (4-10).....25 25 25

Other Matches

Winner 3, Wagner 0

WINNER — Kelsey Bertram recorded 12 kills and

Yankton, Crofton Shine At Marsha Koebernick Invitational

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. — The boys’ and girls’ teams from Yankton and Crofton earned top honors at the Marsha Koebernick Invitational cross country meet, held on Thursday at Covington Golf Course.

In the Class A girls’ race, Yankton’s Annie Kruse (18:24.17), Savannah Woods (19:12.75) and Madison McClure (19:53.79) finished 1-2-3 as the Gazelles ran away with the team title. Lauren Graves (20:30.56) finished seventh, Whitlee Larson (20:52.28) placed 11th and Tristan Roy (23:34.21) finished 48th as

Yankton finished with 13 points. Omaha Central was a distant second with 57 points, as the Gazelles put four runners in front of their first.

Crofton’s Quinn Wragge (20:48.43) and Kendy Kube (20:54.03) finished 1-2 as the Warriors put five runners in the top eight. Jazmin Wubben (21:37.31) placed fifth, Vanessa McFarland (21:48.37) finished seventh, Kyla Dendering (21:57.86) placed eighth and Keeley Hagge (22:29.47) finished 13th as the Warriors finished

with 15 points. Norfolk Catholic placed second at 23 points.

Yankton’s Brice Cowman easily claimed the boys’ Class A race, finishing in 16:10.27 to beat Spirit Lake’s Tanner Goetsch by 46 seconds. Yankton’s Justin Grode also made the top 10, placing fourth in 17:07.02. Paul Fanta and Andrew Peitz placed 11th and 12th, and Kyle Bergeson placed 22nd as the Bucks edged Omaha Central 25-44.

Crofton’s Alex Janssen (17:13.31) finished second to Omaha Gross’ Nick Larsen (16:07.56) in leading the

Warrior boys to a 28-34 victory over Gross in the boys’ team standings. Drew Eskins (17:37.88) placed fourth, Cole Steffen (18:08.24) finished eighth, Josh Goeden (19:20.79) placed 15th, Jake Neuhalen (19:37.02) placed 16th and Mark Lange (20:13.13) placed 21st for Crofton.

Yankton finished second in both JV team races. The Yankton girls were led by medalist Tessa Folkers (20:58.14). Brody McClure placed second in 18:30.11 to lead the Yankton boys.

Yankton also took the team title in the 9th-10th boys’ race, led by Samuel Gusso’s winning time of 17:58.62.

Crofton’s Haley Arens won the middle school girls’ race, finishing the 2,000-meter event in 7:27.10.

All races were 5,000 meters, with the exception of the 2,000-meter middle school races.

Yankton will next compete on Oct. 12 in the Eastern South Dakota Conference Championships. First-year team Harrisburg will host the event, an 11 a.m. start.