

Yankton Soccer Teams Ready For State Tourney

Bucks Seek Second Straight Title

BY JEREMY HOECK
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The Yankton Bucks aren't about to settle for one state championship. They want another one. And so begins a title defense for the third-seeded Bucks, who open play at the South Dakota State High School Soccer Championships today (Thursday) in Sioux Falls.

Yankton (7-1-2), which has allowed the fewest number of goals in the state, faces Pierre (2-3-5) at 9 a.m. today at Yankton Trail Park in Sioux Falls.



Throughout the season, the Bucks have not allowed themselves to sit back and relax after last year's state title, according to their coach.

"They've stayed pretty humble on everything, and

focused on what their jobs are," head coach Warren Brenner said. "They took the complacency side of it and completely threw it away. "If you're mentally not prepared, it can go sideways pretty quick."

True to form, Yankton's only loss this season came against top-ranked Rapid City Stevens. The Bucks closed the regular season with ties against Sioux Falls Lincoln and Pierre.

Brenner said it's probably a "good thing" that the Bucks are playing Pierre

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Gazelles Look To Topple No. 1 Riders

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Against the other seven teams that advanced to the state tournament, the Yankton Gazelles have scored at least one goal in every game — with the exception of Brookings, which they did not face.

The only question now is, how will Yankton's defense far on the state's biggest stage?

Eighth-seeded Yankton (4-6-0) opens with top-ranked Sioux Falls Roosevelt (10-0-0) at the South Dakota State High School Soccer Championships, which begins today

(Thursday) in Sioux Falls. Winners of two straight, including last weekend's play-in game, the Gazelles own one of the three goals allowed by Roosevelt during the regular season.

"We've scored against the top-notch teams in the state, so we know we can do it," Yankton head coach Dave LaCombe said. "It's our defense that needs to pull through. "If we can make no mistakes, that'll be the crucial part of the game."

It has been a season of momentum swings for Yankton, which boasts only one senior on the roster this season.

The Gazelles won their season opener, then lost three straight, went 1-2 in the middle stretch, then lost five straight and closed with consecutive wins entering the state tournament.

"We went through a long slump, with a lot of frustrations," LaCombe said. "We were trying to figure out formations and assignments to get us clicking. Finally toward the end we made some changes that seem to be working really well."

In the first matchup between the two teams this season, Roosevelt rolled past

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Bison Picked To Rule In Summit Men's Hoops; Jackrabbits 3rd

ELMHURST, Ill. — North Dakota State is the favorite to win the 2013-14 Summit League Basketball Championship according to the annual preseason poll of league coaches, SIDs and media. The Bison received 25-of-28 first-place votes after finishing as runner-up at the 2012 Summit League Tournament. Head coach Saul Phillips returns all five starters and 11 of 12 letterwinners from last season's squad that finished 24-10 overall and 12-4 in Summit League play.

NDSU guard Taylor Braun, a two-time All-Summit League selection, was the preseason choice for Player of the Year. The senior averaged 15.4 points, 5.2 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.5 steals per game and scored in double-figures in 21 of 24 games played during the 2012-13 season.

League newcomer Denver, which earned a share of the 2012-13 WAC regular season title and posted a first-round NIT victory last March, earned the remaining three first-place votes to finish second in the poll with 260 points.

South Dakota State, the two-time defending Summit League Tournament champion, placed third with 233 points. Last season's regular season co-champion, Western Illinois, was fourth in the voting. Omaha, Fort Wayne, South Dakota and IUPUI rounded out the poll.

Joining three NDSU players on the preseason All-Summit League first team are South Dakota State's Jordan Dykstra (12.5 ppg, 7.9 rpg). Second-team selections included South Dakota's Trevor Gruis (12.3 ppg, 6.1 rpg).

Nov. 8 marks the beginning of the 2013-14 season and the 14-game double round-robin Summit League schedule starts Jan. 9. The 2014 Summit League Basketball Championships will be held March 8-11, the sixth consecutive year in Sioux Falls.

High School Cross Country

Bobcats Claim 3B Crown



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Cole Hofer of Freeman Academy pushes himself to the finish line in third place at Wednesday's Region 3B cross country meet at Freeman's Valley View Golf Course.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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FREEMAN — Surprise didn't even begin to describe how Suzanne Koerner felt after watching her boys' team run to a championship.

No, the Freeman Academy coach called it "improbable."

Yet, that's exactly what her squad did Wednesday at the Region 3B cross country meet at Freeman's Valley View Golf Course.

The Bobcats capped off a day of new champions with the boys' team crown — after watching Burke-South Central edge defending champion Gayville-Volin for the girls' title.

"I was just hoping we would maybe eek out third. We weren't even thinking state," Koerner said later, while watching her boys hoist the trophy. "This is way beyond my expectations."

Instead, the Bobcats put five runners in the top 13 to beat Parker.

"Every single one had their best race ever," Koerner said. "When does that ever happen? Seriously?"

Not only did Freeman Academy unseat the three-time defending state champion Pheasants, the Bobcats put three runners in before Parker's third runner finished.

The Bobcats took first place with 11 points, followed by Parker at 24. Viborg-Hurley was the third team to qualify for state after finishing with 45 points.

Following Haggerty across the line was Tyson Vogt of Burke-South Central at 18:10.79, then came Academy

also

■ Full Results From The Region 3B Meet In Today's Scoreboard. **PAGE 9**



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Freeman Academy sophomore Ryan Haggerty sprints to the finish line in first place at Wednesday's Region 3B cross country meet at Freeman's Valley View Golf Course. The Bobcats won the boys' team title.

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Lancers Hang Tough In GPAC Loss

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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Even with fifth-ranked Northwestern taking a 3-0 win over Mount Marty, Lancer volleyball head coach Candice Climer saw what she has been waiting for: a fight from her team.

"We've had some down games, and I knew our potential was there — we just weren't showing up," she said following Wednesday night's match. "We had a different theme in practice, and I tried to get things going. I'm hoping after this game they see where they should be playing so hopefully we can get some more of those GPAC wins."

The Mount Marty Lancers kept with the Northwestern Red Raiders, ranked fifth in the nation, in their Great Plains Athletic Conference match at the Laddie E. Cimpl Arena, ultimately coming up just short with scores of 25-20, 25-23 and 25-20.

"I was pleased with the match," Climer said.

Middle hitter Laura Groseth said the same mindset can be found on the team.

"We're going for that tournament," she said. "We're not done — we're not stopping until we hit that tournament, we're not stopping until we hit nationals."

Northwestern led the entire first game after taking an early 11-5 lead and kept it to stay ahead 22-14 and finish 25-20.

"When we started off it was down, and I took that first timeout right away and said someone needs to get that big kill — get that big kill to light our fire, and let's go," Climer said. "That's when Groseth hit that first one, and you could feel it from there. We woke up and started warming up a little more."

Groseth said she noticed the difference too, which she attributes to their Tuesday practice.

"It was one of those practices where we had to cheer the entire time, and if we didn't we were on the line doing conditioning," she said. "It made you cheer every single time, and that's what brought the energy to this game."

"Keeping up with Northwestern is such an emotion booster. It boosts your confidence, it shows team cohesion and then you know what to do to outsmart that other team. We watch tapes every day after practice, and it all comes together."

The Lancers came back in game two to jump ahead 5-0, and managed to keep ahead with a 13-8 advantage, until the Northwestern took a 20-



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Mount Marty's Bailey Kuchta, left, goes up for the ball with Northwestern's Brooke Fessler during their GPAC volleyball match Wednesday night at Cimpl Arena.

19 lead. The Red Raiders claimed the set-two win 25-22.

"We led them 5-0 — that's what I was talking about from that Sunday's game. That wasn't my girls," Climer said. "These are my girls. This is

where they've been. Now let's see where we can go."

MMC took another lead in game three, 10-5 over the Red Raiders, but Northwestern tied the set 10-10 and after

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Volleyball: Viborg-Hurley Nips Bobcats; St. Mary's Tops HCC

FREEMAN — Three players had double-digit kills for Viborg-Hurley in a 25-14, 25-16, 14-25, 25-12 win Tuesday night over Freeman Academy in high school volleyball action.

Abby Hora posted 14 kills, 10 digs and four ace serves, while Katelyn Graber had 14 kills and 13 digs. Angie Lee chipped in with 13 kills and five blocks.

Megan Knock led the Cougars (13-10) with 38 set assists.

For the Bobcats (4-14), Hannah Yoder had 11 kills, Polly Carlson had six kills, and Bethany Wollman posted five kills and five digs.

Both teams are in action tonight (Thursday), with Viborg-Hurley hosting Marion in Hurley and Freeman Academy visiting Marty Indian.

VIBORG-HURLEY (13-10).....25 25 14 25
FREEMAN ACADEMY (4-14).....14 16 25 12

O'Neill St. Mary's 3, Cedar Catholic 2

HARTINGTON, Neb. — In a matchup between Northeast Nebraska powers, O'Neill St. Mary's edged Hartington Cedar Catholic 25-15, 18-25, 28-26, 20-25, 15-13 on Tuesday night in Hartington.

No stats were reported for St. Mary's (18-1).

For the hometown Trojans (16-6), Bailey Steffen had 14

kills, Karly Noecker added 10 kills, and Emily Feilmeier posted 32 set assists and 17 digs.

Cedar Catholic plays Boone Central tonight (Thursday) in Albion.

O'NEILL ST. MARY'S (18-1).....25 18 28 20 15
CEDAR CATHOLIC (16-6).....15 25 26 25 13

Crofton 3, Creighton 0

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Allison Arens had nine kills to lead Crofton over Creighton 25-14, 25-15, 25-10 on Tuesday night in Creighton.

Maria Wortmann added seven kills and 14 digs for the Warriors (16-2), while Brittany Guenther and MaKenzie Johnson each had 14 set assists.

No stats were reported for Creighton.

CROFTON (16-2).....25 25 25
CREIGHTON14 15 10

Wausa 3, Osmond 1

WAUSA, Neb. — Gabby Swanson recorded seven kills, six blocks and 20 set assists to lead Wausa past Osmond 25-20, 25-22, 21-25, 25-15 in volleyball action from Tuesday.

Tori Clausen chipped in with five kills and 12 blocks for the Lady Vikings (5-13), who visit Wynot tonight (Thursday).

No stats were reported for Osmond (1-14).

OSMOND (1-14).....20 22 25 15
WAUSA (5-13).....25 25 21 25