

# Coach: Game At Harrisburg Will Give Bucks ‘Direction’

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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The idea of a ‘trap game’ has not entered into the minds of the Yankton Bucks.

Why? Because they simply can’t afford a let-down for tonight’s (Friday) 7 p.m. regular season finale at Harrisburg.

Yankton (4-3), winners of three straight, climbed to number one in this week’s sportswriters poll, but still has some work to do to assure itself of post-season home games.

And so, game week for Harrisburg has taken on the same level of preparation as it did a week ago for previously-unbeaten Pierre, according to

Yankton senior lineman Steven McKee.

“You have to prepare just like it’s any other game,” he said this week. “We’ll practice this week just like we were playing another number one team.

“They’ll be ready to play, but so will we.”

In what will be the first-ever meeting between the two teams, plenty remains at stake on either side.

Yankton stands second in the Class 11AA power points at 44.571, behind Pierre (49.667) and just above Watertown (44.500).

Mitchell (43.500) and Brookings (40.857) fall in ahead of three teams — Harrisburg, Huron and Douglas —

at 39.667.

In short: A win for the Bucks could solidify home-field for the first two rounds of the playoffs. A loss would likely drop them down in the middle of the pack.

“We need to treat the Harrisburg game as a playoff game because of the repercussions with seeds and momentum,” Yankton head coach Arlin Likness said.

The Bucks have turned their season around from a 1-3 start due to the combination of a spread offense and an aggressive defense.

Yankton has averaged 206 passing yards per game, led by junior quarterback Mason Strahl (59-109, 990 yds, 5 TD, 3 INT). His favorite re-

ceiver has been senior J.J. Hejna, who has caught 29 passes for 683 and six touchdowns.

The biggest question for the Bucks, though, is replacing junior running back and linebacker Levi Davis (66 rush, 297 yds, 1 TD), who suffered a season-ending injury in last week’s win over Pierre.

“Will anyone step up?” Likness asked rhetorically. “This game helps to answer all of that before our week off.

“The game will give us direction on what we need to work on before the playoffs begin.”

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**YHS GAMEDAY**

**Yankton (4-3, 2-3 ESD)**  
**at Harrisburg (2-4, 1-3 ESD)**  
7 p.m., Harrisburg

**SERIES SINCE 1981:** First-ever meeting between the schools.  
**LAST WEEK:** Yankton upset top-ranked Pierre 29-26 and Harrisburg lost to Sioux Falls Lincoln 23-0.  
**NEXT UP:** Yankton is off next week and Harrisburg travels to Brandon Valley.

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

## Eastern South Dakota Conference Cheer & Dance Championships



Members of the Yankton dance team perform their kick routine at Thursday's Eastern South Dakota Conference Cheer & Dance Championships at the Summit Center.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

# Lynx Claim ESD Crown

BY NICK ROBINSON  
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The Brandon Valley Lynx dominated the eight-squad 2013 Eastern South Dakota Cheer and Dance Championships, held Thursday night at the Summit Activities Center.

The Lynx won both cheer and dance combined with scores of 229 and 252.17, respectfully.

The hometown Yankton Gazelles placed second in dance with an overall score of 222.83. Yankton placed last overall in cheer with 148.5 points.

“Our main goal all season was to continuously improve each competition,” senior dance member Mariah LaCroix said. “As long as we keep improving and scoring higher, the placing will take care of itself.”

Head dance coach Tiffany Mueller said she was proud of her team’s performance at the conference competition.

“We had a great routine,” she said. “They know it so well, but we haven’t

been able to nail it time after time. Tonight we went out there and just did it. I’m really proud of them — they did awesome. It was the best performance all season.”

Yankton took home second place in pom, kick and jazz, and did not compete in hip-hop.

“That’s definitely the best performance we have done all season,” LaCroix said. “We gave it our all, we wanted to place high and do better than we did a year ago (third place).”

Mueller said she feels consistent dancing will help Yankton prepare for the state competition.

“We have some things we need to work out before state, but this is a good confidence booster,” she said.

Despite the placement, head cheer coach Kerry Svatos said the performace was good.

“We were full of energy,” she said. “It’s nice to see them do that in front of a home crowd.”

Svatos said the placement and score did not reflect on how the Gazelles competed.

“I feel like our energy was great, especially our ending, which most schools struggle with,” she said. “We are working with a few new things, like some stunts and pyramids.”

The injury bug has also plagued the cheer squad memebtrs, who Svatos said are anxious to be healed by the state competition.

“We have a lot of injuries so far,” Svatos said. “But most of our girls will be coming back in time for the competition. Hopefully we can get healthy and live up to our full potential.”

Both squads are anxious to get into practice and work out their kinks for the state competition held at Stevens High School in Rapid City Oct. 25-26.

“We were pretty proud to take the feedback and get ready to keep getting better,” Mueller said. “We have some small issues that we need to fix. We had some spacing issues and just clean them all up for state.”

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Members of the Yankton cheer team perform their stunting tumbling routine at Thursday's Eastern South Dakota Conference Cheer & Dance Championships at the Summit Center.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

## State Soccer: Bucks Win Opener

SIoux FALLS — Chase Huber scored with one minute left in the first half and Yankton’s defense pitched a shutout as the Bucks beat Pierre 1-0 in Thursday’s first round of the South Dakota State High School Soccer Championships in Sioux Falls.

Yankton’s defense limited Pierre to only six shots, thanks to the backfield efforts of Derek Brenner, Treyson Slate, Connor Chambers and Casey Skillingstad. Landon Breen made two saves in net.

The Bucks, now 8-1-2, advance to play Sioux Falls Lincoln in today’s (Friday) 4:30

p.m. semifinals.

### Girls: Roosevelt 6, Yankton 0

SIoux FALLS — Top-ranked Sioux Falls Roosevelt scored five goals in the first half on the way to a 6-0 win over Yankton in Thursday’s first round of the S.D. State High School Soccer Championships.

Miranda Famestad scored four times for the Riders, while Kelsi Wipf, Grace Behm and Nicole Hatcher all added goals.

Yankton will play Brookings at 9 a.m. today (Friday) in an elimination game.

## Cowman, Kruse Win At Home Quad



ROB NIELSEN/P&D

Yankton's Brice Cowman, front, runs in front of the pack during the varsity boys' cross country race at Thursday's Yankton quadrangular at the HSC Course. Cowman ended up winning the race.

In their final tuneup before the state meet, the Yankton boys’ and girls’ cross country teams recorded the top individual finishes at a home quadrangular meet at the Human Services Center course.

Brandon Valley won the boys’ team title, while Harrisburg was first in the girls’ team race. Mitchell also sent runners to Yankton.

Yankton’s Brice Cowman was first across the line in the varsity boys’ race in a time of 16:39.94. Justin Grode finished sixth (17:33.99) for the Bucks, while Sam Gusso took 10th place (18:04.98).

On the varsity girls’ side, the Gazelles went 1-2 with Annie Kruse (14:31.90) and Savannah Woods (15:21.86). Harrisburg, however, went 3-4-5-8 to earn the team title with 31 points — Yankton was second at 38.

Also for the Gazelles, Whitlee Larson was ninth (16:29.20) and Lauren Graves finished 10th (16:31.57).

Yankton won the junior varsity boys’ title and Brandon Valley was first in the JV girls’ race.

## High School Volleyball

# Gazelles End Losing Streak

The Yankton Gazelles ended their 10-game losing streak Thursday night claiming a 4-1 victory against the Harrisburg Tigers in Harrisburg with scores of 18-25, 25-18, 25-14 and 25-22.

It was Yankton’s first win since Sept. 7.

“It’s really nice. We were in desperate need of a win,” head coach Tiffany Beste said. “We played really well. We got to some balls we hadn’t gotten to in a long time, and we had the most number of kills in a long time too.”

Becky Frick put up a total of 18 kills, 16 digs, two aces and two block in the win, while Haley Mines put up 24 digs. Brooke Wuebben had a total of 16 digs, while Ellie Fedders had 21 assists and two aces. Paige Thieman adding 19 assists, with Emily Bos adding seven kills.

Yankton moves to 2-13 in the regular season, with a 2-11 conference record.

Jordan Beiswanger had a total of 21 digs and five kills for the Tigers, while Dannoe Honner put up 18 digs and nine kills. Haley Bruggeman added seven kills, two aces and two blocks.

Harrisburg drops to 4-13 on the regular season and 3-9 in conference play.

The Gazelles host Brookings on Saturday, while Harrisburg hosts Brookings on Oct. 25.

“It was a tight one the last time we played up there,” Beste said. “Now we have to carry this over; keep the energy flowing.”

Harrisburg won the junior varsity match 25-23, 19-25, 31-29. Sophie Drotzmann and Kaylee Wootton each had five

kills for Yankton, while Ellie Fedders had nine set assists and Joselyn Salvatori had 28 digs.

Harrisburg won the sophomore game 25-13, 8-25, 27-25. Presley Pasco put up eight kills and two blocks for the Gazelles, with Julie Soto adding 17 assists and 15 digs.

Harrisburg won the freshman “A” game with scores 25-24 and 25-22. Kami Cornemann had three aces and two kills for the Gazelles, and Katie Hauser put up eight assists.

Yankton claimed the freshman “B” game 25-18, 22-25 and 25-20. Natalie Shoberg and Linze Cowman each had five aces in the win.

### Other Matches

#### Avon 3, Freeman 1

FREEMAN — Ariana Oorlog put up 10 kills and eight digs to lead the Avon Lady Pirates to a 3-1 victory against the Freeman Flyers Thursday night in Freeman.

Chesney Nagel added 10 digs, six aces, three kills and three blocks to the win, with Hanna Powers recording 19 assists. Amanda Reiff also had 10 digs and three kills.

Nicole Hinckley had 11 kills, five digs and four blocks on the night, with Shelby Jensen adding nine kills and 10 digs. Mady Pravecek put up 24 assists, four digs and three aces, and Vanessa Dowden recorded eight kills and five digs.

The Flyers host Hanson Tuesday, while Avon hosts Ethan Monday.

|                     |    |    |    |    |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|
| AVON (10-10).....   | 25 | 24 | 25 | 25 |
| FREEMAN (3-12)..... | 20 | 26 | 19 | 24 |

#### Viborg-Hurley 3, Marion 1

HURLEY — With 18 digs, 16 kills and five aces, Abby Hora led the Viborg-Hurley Cougars in a 3-1 win against the Marion Bears Thursday night in Hurley.

Katelyn Graber had a total of 24 digs and nine kills in the win, while Megan Knock 32 assists, 14 digs, four aces and three kills. Hannah Jorgensen added nine

kills, five blocks, five digs and two aces.

Erica Schoenwald recorded 16 digs, 14 kills and four aces for the Bears, with Kaitlyn Engbrecht putting up 23 digs, 11 assists, five aces and two kills. Renae Kayser also had 17 digs, 10 assists and two aces.

Marion hosts Alcester Monday, while the Cougars host Irene-Wakonda Tuesday.

|                           |    |    |    |    |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| MARION (13-10).....       | 25 | 16 | 23 | 13 |
| VIBORG-HURLEY (13-8)..... | 22 | 25 | 25 | 25 |

#### Bon Homme 3, Corsica-Stickney 1

TYNDALL — The Bon Homme Cavaliers beat Corsica-Stickney 17-25, 25-12, 25-22, 25-17 in volleyball action Thursday.

In the win for the Cavaliers, Caitlin McLouth had 18 kills and Iiz Kubal had seven kills. Alie Adams had 32 assists for the night and made 15 digs. Kelsey Sue-tra had six kills and five aces.

For Corsica-Stickney, Micayla Bamberg had 11 kills and five blocks. Jackie Dethlefsen had three aces, six kills and three blocks. Rachel Milligan had three aces and 24 assists for the match.

In the junior varsity match Bon Homme won 25-15, 25-21 and in the C-match Bon Homme won 25-6, 25-7.

Next Corsica-Stickney will play at Sanborn Central Monday and Bon Homme will play Parkston at home Tuesday.

|                              |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| CORSICA-STICKNEY (4-14)..... | 25 | 12 | 22 | 17 |
| BON HOMME (16-5).....        | 17 | 25 | 25 | 25 |

#### Parker 3, Parkston 1

PARKER — The Parker Pheasants beat the Parkston Trojans 25-10, 25-19, 20-25, 25-21 in volleyball action Thursday.

In the win for the Pheasants, Jenny Smith led the team with 38 assists and made 13 digs. Alison Sanner had 20 kills and made 18 digs. Morgan Hay made 14 digs and Contessa Harold had eight kills and five blocks.

For Parkston, Laura Weiss led the team with 12 kills, four blocks, four assists and five digs. Hanna Heisinger had five kills and made seven digs. Halli Heisinger had four kills, two blocks and two aces. Whitney Weber had one kill, 14 assists, five digs and two aces for the match.

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