



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Yankton's Hannah Bockholt, left, attacks against the Mitchell defense during their Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball matchup on Thursday at the Summit Center.

# Gazelles Sweep Past Mitchell

BY NICK ROBINSON  
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In an Eastern South Dakota Conference showdown, the Yankton Gazelles were able to stompede past the Mitchell Kernels in three sets on Thursday evening at the Summit Center in Yankton. The scores were 25-12, 26-24, 25-19.

"I was happy with the level of play," Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste said. "We did just about everything right in set one and in set two, we kind of lost focus. We always knew we were good enough to come back, but in set three we were able to get some other girls on the court, which was great."

Even in the loss, Mitchell head coach Deb Thill was impressed with her team's effort.

"We played 100 times better than Tuesday night," she said. "That was our main goal, we also wanted to do something better with the mental aspect of the game. I think that they did a really

nice job."

The Gazelles (6-8, 5-6 in ESD) started the contest on a roll. After a 4-0 run, Yankton took an 11-4 lead during the first timeout.

Thanks to great play around the net, Yankton was able to claim a 25-12 victory in set one.

Thill was looking for more ball movement from her team.

"We needed to pass the ball more and get the ball to our playmakers," she said. "That's what it comes down to in a game like this."

After a 7-3 start for the Gazelles, Mitchell (1-12, 0-11 in ESD) took Thill's advice and earned its first lead of the contest at 14-12.

Both teams went back and forth throughout the set, but the Gazelles won 26-24 by winning the last three points.

Beste and the Yankton coaching staff have been stressing the defensive aspect of the game.

"We have been stressing defense in practice a lot recently," she said. "In the first half of the season we stressed offense. But tonight, we had girls get to balls that they haven't gotten to last season."

In the last set, Yankton extended a 16-7 lead. However, Mitchell would not go down quietly into the night, as the Kernels inched to a 23-17 deficit.

The Gazelles front play proved to be too much for the Kernels, as they took the third set 25-19.

"We had chances to win," Thill said. "The first set was rough, but in the second and third sets we competed. We gave ourselves a chance to win."

Beste was impressed with her team's net play and the serving ability.

"I thought we blocked well and served aggressively," she said. "At the net, we swung hard and couldn't really stop us. If we can get the ball to their

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## Rocking The Castle

Mount Marty College held its third annual "Rock The Castle" basketball preseason event on Thursday at Laddie E. Cimpr Arena. Players from both the men's and women's teams were featured.

LEFT: K.J. DeCristino jumps over teammate Zach Telles to win a dunk contest Thursday night at Mount Marty College's 'Rock The Castle' event at Cimpr Arena.

BELOW: Chris Richardson competes in a dunk contest during Thursday night's Mount Marty College 'Rock The Castle' event at Cimpr Arena.

PHOTOS BY JEREMY HOECK/P&D



## YHS GAMEDAY

Yankton (6-0, 4-0 ESD)  
at Pierre (3-2, 2-1 ESD)  
7 p.m., Pierre

**LAST MEETING:** Yankton used a 19-point second quarter to claim a 29-23 victory in the 2013 season. Mason Strahl passed for 221 yards, including 145 yards to J.J. Hejna, in the contest.

**LAST WEEK:** Yankton traveled to Aberdeen to finish a 31-20 Pioneer Day victory over Aberdeen Central.

Pierre comes in off a bye. The Governors last played Sept. 26, beating Huron 37-6.

**NEXT UP:** Yankton finishes the regular season at home against Harrisburg.

Pierre travels to Brandon Valley

**FOLLOW THE GAME ONLINE:** The Press & Dakotan will post updates on Twitter during the game. Find it here:

www.twitter.com/YanktonSports

## Bucks Head To Pierre Tonight

BY NICK ROBINSON  
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The Pierre Governors are trying to do what the Yankton Bucks did to them last season: Play spoiler to an undefeated team.

"We need to do what Yankton did to us last season," said Pierre head coach Jayson Poppinga, whose Gobs host Yankton tonight (Friday) at 7 p.m.

"We have some guys back and we need to come up with intensity and fire this week."

The Bucks (6-0, 4-0 in ESD), who are looking for their first 7-0 start since 2005, are closing in on the back end of three games in eight days.

Yankton head coach Arlin Likness was happy with his team's effort in the 31-20 suspended homecoming victory over Aberdeen Central on Monday.

But, the celebration wasn't long, his team has its full focus on Pierre.

"It feels good to get those two games out of the way," Likness said. "We have to play Pierre, who has improved a lot. It tells us they are a good team and we also throw in that we spoiled their undefeated season last season. I know they will come out with both barrels loaded for us."

The Governors (3-2, 2-1 in ESD), the reigning Class 11AA state champions, lost 24 seniors from a season ago.

"As a high school program, we don't get to recruit, obviously," Poppinga said. "We are playing the hand we were dealt with. We told the guys to not try and be Alex Gray or Austin Christopher. We need our own identity."

After a rocky start to the season, the Governors feel that they have rightened the ship.

"It's crazy to see the improvement from the loss versus Watertown and O'Gorman," Poppinga said. "We have matured and grown as a team. Even though we lost to O'Gorman, we were right in the thick of things."

According to Poppinga, the bye week couldn't have come at a better time.

"Our bye couldn't have come at a better time last week," he said. "We had four key players out with injuries. Now, we get the majority of them back for the game on Friday. The intensity needs to be there if we want to have a shot to knock Yankton off."

Offensively, Pierre will

# Gazelles 11th After First Day Of State Tennis Tourney

RAPID CITY — The Yankton Gazelles sit in 11th after the opening day of the South Dakota State Girls' Tennis Tournament, which began on Thursday in Rapid City.

Sioux Falls Lincoln, Sioux Falls O'Gorman and St. Thomas More each have a perfect 300 points after the opening day. Rapid City Stevens is in fourth at 260, followed by Eastern South Dakota Conference champion Brandon Valley at 228.

Yankton scored 100 points on the opening day. Vermillion was scoreless on the opening day, but remains alive in consolation singles action today (Friday).

"Everyone did what they were supposed to do," said Yankton head coach Matt Termansen. "They played really well toward the end of matches, especially one doubles, six singles and four singles — they got

down early and came back and won matches."

Yankton freshman Anne Knoff opened flight five singles play with a decisive 6-1, 6-1 victory of Madison's Lacey Fedeler. The second-seeded Knoff will face Lincoln's Kaitlin Olson, an upset winner over Brandon Valley's Logan Hawkins, in the quarterfinals today.

Yankton's Sarah Rockne and Kaitlyn Frank advanced to the quarterfinals of flight one doubles with a 1-6, 6-3, (10-6) victory over Brandon Valley. The Gazelles draw second-seeded St. Thomas More next.

"We got a big upset win at flight one doubles. They beat a Brandon Valley team that had they had lost twice this year," Termansen said. "Now they're going against an extremely tough St. Thomas More team, whose only loss is to O'Gorman."

At flight two doubles, Yankton's Kim Cap and Anna Kokesh beat Vermillion's Rosdail and Brandi Styles 7-5, 6-1 in the first round, then fell to St. Thomas More 6-1, 6-1 in the second round. They bounced back with a 10-8 victory over Rapid City Central, and will face Aberdeen Roncalli in the consolation quarterfinals today.

At flight three doubles, Yankton's Knoff and Mimi Garcia dropped a 6-2, 6-2 decision to Watertown in the second round. The duo will face Aberdeen Central in the consolation quarterfinals today.

At flight one singles, Rockne dropped a 6-1, 6-3 decision to Roncalli's Erica Carrels in the second round. She will play in the consolation quarterfinals today.

Maddie Logue dropped a 6-0, 6-0 decision to Milbank's Gretchen Biersbach at flight two singles. She will

face Roosevelt's Allison Eichacker to open consolation play today.

Frank dropped a tough 6-7 (8-6), 6-2, (13-11) match with Aberdeen Central's Lindsey Simon in second-round action at flight three singles. She will play in the consolation quarterfinals today.

Garcia beat Pierre's Cassandra Ryckman 4-6, 6-2, (10-6) in the opening round at flight four singles, then was swept 6-0, 6-0, by top-seeded Abi Kosiak of O'Gorman. Garcia will face Spearfish's Maren Long to open consolation play today.

Kokesh opened flight six singles play with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Brookings' Morgan Logue, then dropped a 6-3, 6-3 decision to Lincoln's Sarah Ponwith. Kokesh will face Vermillion's Jane Ni Struckman-Johnson in consolation play today.

The tournament runs through Saturday in Rapid City.

# Area Volleyball: Bears Rally Past Howard 3-2

HOWARD — Devin Nelson recorded 23 kills as the Marion Bears held on to beat Howard 25-17, 25-21, 17-25, 22-25, 15-8 in high school volleyball action Thursday.

Michele Schoenwald added 10 kills and five ace serves for Marion (13-9), while Kaitlyn Engbrecht had eight kills and 16 set assists. Sarah Ptak chipped in with three aces.

For Howard (7-11), Kelsey Dawson had seven kills, Cayla Koepsell had three blocks, and Shelby Thompson added 13 set assists.

Both teams are in action next Tuesday, with Marion at Canton and Howard at Iroquois.

MARION (13-9).....25 25 17 22 15  
HOWARD (7-11).....17 21 25 25 8

## Irene-Wakonda Tri.

**Irene-Wakonda 3, Menno 2**  
WAKONDA— In the first of three games, Irene-Wakonda defeated Menno in a barn burning five set contest. The scores were 27-29, 26-24, 25-20, 8-25, 16-14.

Caitlin Hinseith led the Eagles (3-11) with 17 kills and five aces. Hannah Anderson added 31 assists for Irene-Wakonda.

Menno (1-18) was led by Courtney Edelmann, with 17 digs and four kills. Marissa Buechler added 16 digs in the loss.

**Gayville-Volin 3, Menno 0**

WAKONDA—The Lady Raiders were able to cruise past Menno in three sets in the second of three games on Thursday

evening. The scores were 25-15, 25-20, 25-13.

Kelia Barta led Gayville-Volin (11-3) with 23 kills. Addison Bertrand and Genny Clark combined for 27 assists in the victory.

Menno (1-19) was led by Laura Wollman with 12 digs and a kill.

Menno will travel to Hanson on Tuesday evening.

**Gayville-Volin (11-3).....25 25 25**

**MENNO (1-19).....15 20 13**

## Gayville-Volin 3, Irene-Wakonda 0

WAKONDA—Gayville-Volin was able to go 2-0 in the Irene-Wakonda triangular thanks to a three set sweep over the Eagles on Thursday night. The scores were 25-17, 25-13, 25-14.

Grace Dangel led the Lady Raiders (12-3) with 15 assists. Megan Hirsch added eight kills in the victory.

Taylor Lee led Irene-Wakonda (3-12)

with seven kills, while Maria VanDrisel had five digs.

Gayville-Volin will host its tournament this weekend, while Irene-Wakonda will travel to Alcester-Hudson.

**Gayville-Volin (12-3).....25 25 25**

**IRENE-WAKONDA (3-12).....17 13 14**

## Other Matches

**Baltic 3, Viborg-Hurley 2**

VIBORG— Baltic defeated Viborg-Hurley in five set dramatic fashion on Thursday evening. The scores were 25-14, 18-25, 22-25, 25-15, 15-5.

Maddy Roberts led Baltic (8-11) with 23 digs, while Makayla Roscek added 16 assists, 10 kills and eight blocks.

Angelique Lee led Viborg-Hurley (9-11) with 28 digs and 10 kills. Sam Boomgard added 15 digs in the loss.

Baltic will travel to Sioux Valley on Tuesday, while Viborg-Hurley will host Freeman Academy.

**BALTIC (8-11).....25 18 22 25 15**

**VIBORG-HURLEY (9-11).....14 25 25 13 5**

**Bridgewater-Emery 3, Avon 1**

AVON — Mallory Haiar recorded 12 kills and Justine Dye added 11 as Bridgewater-Emery beat Avon 25-18, 23-25, 25-18, 25-10 on Thursday night in Avon.

Aly Hanssen added 14 set assists and 13 digs for the Huskies (16-8), who host Gayville-Volin on Oct. 16 in Emery.

For the Pirates (6-14), Kacie Mudder had 10 kills, Amanda Reiff had 20 digs, Randi Hento contributed 12 set assists and seven digs, and Hanna Powers had four ace serves.

Avon hosts Freeman on Oct. 16.

**BRIDGEWATER-EMERY (16-8).....25 22 25 25**

**AVON (6-14).....18 25 18 10**

## Tri-Valley 3, Elk Point-Jefferson 1

ELK POINT — Emma Johnson recorded 14 kills and 12 blocks as the Tri-Valley Mustangs beat Elk Point-Jefferson