

Soccer: 10 From Yankton Earn All-ESD Honors

Bucks Put Two On First Team, Gazelles Place Three On Elite List

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Eastern South Dakota Conference champion Yankton had two players named to the all-ESD boys' soccer first team. Yankton also had three named to the all-ESD girls' soccer team. Both squads were announced on Monday.

Yankton seniors John Dannenbring and Connor Chambers were named to the boys' first team. Yankton boys' coach Warren Brenner said both put in the extra work to prepare for this season.

"They worked year round. They dedicated a lot of time," he said.

"They both showed very good leadership skills, and encouraged their teammates to work out with them and take part in other activities to get ready for the season."

Dannenbring was an anchor in the middle of the field for the Bucks, said Brenner.

"John did quite a bit in the middle. He distributed the ball very well, passing to our strikers and outside midfielders," he said. "He improved quite a bit."

Chambers was a solid force on the defensive line.

"Defenders don't always get recognition, but Connor brought our rookie defense into line," Bren-

ner said. "We didn't have a lot of returning defenders, but he put in the extra time with the defense to lead them."

Seniors Patrick Weinandt and Alex Wieseler, and sophomore Treyson Slate were named honorable mention selections for the Bucks, who were a perfect 8-0 in ESD action.

"Patrick and Alex never got a lot of recognition over the years, but they have been a big part of the team for a number of years," Brenner said. "They've helped their teammates out and put in the extra effort to make the team better."

The Yankton boys finished 10-2-1

overall, falling to eventual champion Sioux Falls Lincoln in the state semifinals.

Seniors Taylor Ruter and Danielle Beckmann, and junior Brianna Benjamin earned first-team honors for the Gazelles (5-3-3), who missed a post-season berth by one seeding position.

"They carried a lot of respect from all of the teams in the conference," said YHS girls' coach Tyler Schuring. "They were complimented not only for what they accomplished, but how they played."

Ruter has been a part of Yankton's varsity program for several years, first as a defender and mov-

ing to a center midfield position a year ago.

"She stepped into the center mid last year and has been a leader for us the last two years," Schuring said of Ruter, who finished the season with five goals and six assists. "She has good field vision and helped lead the team on and off the field."

Beckmann anchored a Gazelle defense that, after giving up 60 goals a year ago, allowed just 13 in 11 matches this season.

"I knew she had potential, but she really put in the work this season," Schuring said. "She has great speed and aggressiveness."

Benjamin is also fast and aggres-

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Gazelles Stuff Bobcats 3-0

BY NICK ROBINSON
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During their second of a four-game home stand, the Yankton Gazelles volleyball team swept the Brookings Bobcats 25-19, 25-17, 26-24 on Monday evening at the Summit Activities Center.

Yankton (7-8, 6-7 in ESD) was led by junior Becky Frick with 17 kills, 16 digs, two blocks and two aces. Haley Mines added 21 digs and an ace. Charlotte Ekeren had four ace serves. Hannah Bockholt and Sophie Drotzmann each had five kills, with Bockholt also recording three assisted blocks. Paige Thieman had 17 assists. Josie Saylor contributed four kills and three blocks in the victory.

"I thought we came out okay, but got into a groove," Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste said. "The girls did something we haven't done all year, and that's coming back from a deficit to win. So, it's the little improvements that will grow our confidence and make us better as a team."

To start the close first set, the Gazelles 9-8. Midway through the set, Yankton used a 4-0 run to take a 17-13 lead.

After a late surge from the Bobcats (4-10, 3-9 in ESD), the Gazelles were able to hold onto the 25-19 victory.

The second set was a momentum boost for Yankton. After a consistent start, the Gazelles were down 14-11, but thanks to an 11-0 run Yankton was able to hold on to a 25-17 victory.

"That run was huge," Beste said. "When you're down and take a timeout, you kind of hope for those kinds of things. We made them try to win points and they struggled. The little things are helping us out."

In the final set, after back and forth play, Yankton was able to hang onto a 26-24 victory for its third victory in four matches.

"We are playing a lot better and confident," Beste said. "We served very well tonight. It was nice to see some of the points we got from our middle hitters. We did a lot of things consis-

tently." Looking back at their last matchup with Brookings, a five-set loss, Beste is impressed with how her team has improved.

"A lot of things have changed," she said. "We are in a different line up and our skill level continues to improve. I think our confidence is way better. Tonight, we had a few moments where the girls just did it themselves on the floor. I think it's starting to come together."

Yankton will look to continue its recent success with another Eastern South Dakota matchup on Thursday. The Gazelles will challenge the Harrisburg Tigers (7-9, 6-6 in ESD), who defeated Yankton in five sets earlier this season. The contest will also be Yankton's 'Think Pink' match for breast cancer awareness.

"We are looking at Harrisburg at home," Beste said. "It's another team we lost to in five on the road. It's one of those things where we hope to continue our success. They have great hitting and that's something we will need to try and limit."

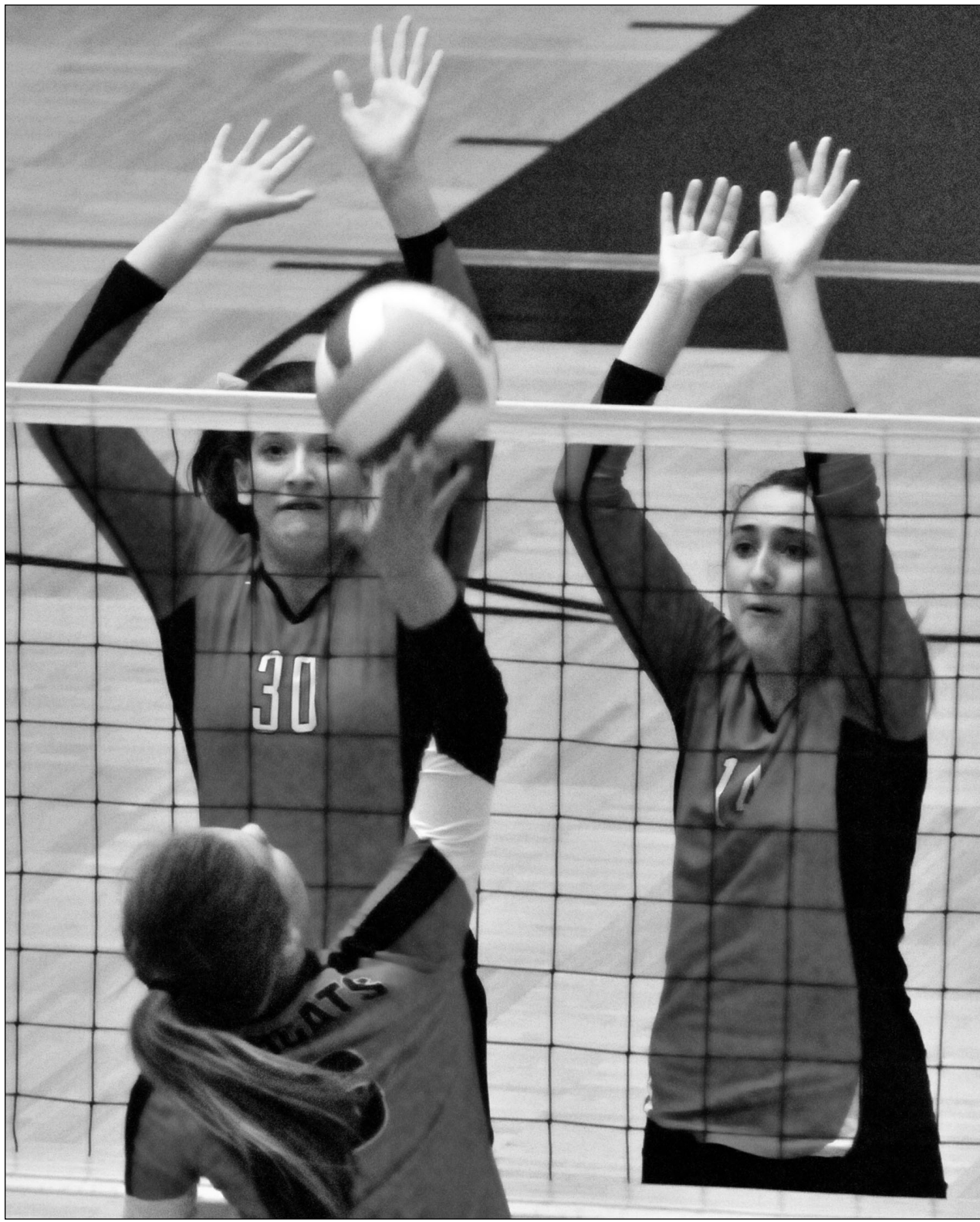
For the junior varsity match, Yankton was able to win in two sets, 25-23, 25-19. Danielle Salvatori led the Gazelles with 10 digs and two kills. Ellie Fedders had 12 assists, while Sydney Ingalls had nine digs.

In the sophomore game, the Gazelles were able to hold onto a tight victory, 25-17, 30-28. Lindsey Hale led with 16 digs and Cameryn Specht had four aces and 13 assists.

Yankton lost the freshman 'A' contest 25-19, 25-16. Emily Oswald led the Gazelles with six kills, while Kate Budig added five digs in the loss.

In the 'B' match, Yankton held onto a 25-20, 25-23 victory. Aurora Papstein led Yankton with six kills, while Destiney Fejfar added five digs.

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Yankton's Josie Saylor, 30, and Hannah Bockholt go up to block a Brookings attacker during their Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball match on Monday at the Summit Center.

Area Volleyball: Pheasants Sweep Past Beresford

BERESFORD — The Parker Pheasants made quick work of Beresford, sweeping the Watchdogs 25-15, 25-13, 25-8 in prep volleyball action on Monday.

Parker got 12 kills and four blocks from Riley Christensen, and 25 assists and eight digs from Jenny Smith to lead the way. Allison Sanner posted seven kills and nine digs. Contessa Harold posted six kills and four blocks. Brittany Olson and

Hannah Herlyn had eight digs each, and Lexi Olson, Lauren Hunstad and MaKenzie Dean had two ace serves apiece in the win.

For Beresford, Hannah Helpner had six kills and eight digs, and Katelyn Wilson had four kills to lead the way. Becca Nelson had nine assists for the Watchdogs.

Parker, 23-3, travels to Parkston on Thursday. Beresford travels to Tea Area today (Tuesday).

Parker won the JV match 2-0 and the C-match 2-1.

South Sioux City 3, Elk Point-Jefferson 1
ELK POINT — South Sioux City downed Elk Point-Jefferson 14-25, 25-22, 25-20, 25-21 in an inter-state volleyball showdown on Monday.

No statistics were reported for SSC. For EPJ, Miranda Stabe had 11 kills and 10 digs, and Drew Keuck had eight kills and 11 digs to lead the way. Amber Hanson posted 38 assists and four kills. Alicia Gregg had seven kills and Allison

Targonski had 27 digs in the effort. South Sioux City (8-10) heads into Iowa for a triangular with Sioux City Heelan and Sioux City North, hosted by North on Thursday. EPJ, 12-7, plays another Nebraska foe at Homer on Thursday.

McCook Central-Montrose 3, Canistota 0
SALEM — McCook Central-Montrose used a balanced attack to down Canistota 25-8, 25-13, 25-22 in prep volleyball action on Monday.

Danielle Hansen had nine kills and four ace serves, and Nicole Roth had

eight kills to lead MCM. Nicole Bies posted 16 assists. Taylor Miles finished with nine assists and four ace serves. Brianna Painter added 29 digs in the victory.

For Canistota, Sadie Anderson had six kills and Kalli Ortmann had five kills to lead the way. Karly Denison added 12 assists for the Hawks.

MCM, 8-12, hosts Garretson today (Tuesday) in Montrose. Canistota, which finishes its season with four straight home matches, begins that stretch with Freeman today.

CANISTOTA (2-20) 8 13 22
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (8-12) 25 25 25

Zavdil 15th After First Round At Neb. State Golf

COLUMBUS, Neb. — Crofton senior Mariah Zavdil ranked 15th after the first round of the Nebraska State Girls' Golf Tournament, which began on Monday at Quail Run Golf Course in Columbus, Nebraska.

Zavdil shot a 23-over 95 on the opening day. Morgan Thiele of Kearney Catholic and Ashton Boldt of Minden share the first-round lead at 84. The tournament concludes today (Tuesday).

MMC Volleyball Gain Momentum With Sioux City Sweep



Mount Marty's Allison Cross, 15, celebrates after a kill during the Lancers' Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball victory over Briar Cliff on Saturday. MMC won back-to-back GPAC matches for the first time under coach Candice Climer, and beat GPAC opponents other than Dakota Wesleyan for the first time since 2008.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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The Mount Marty College volleyball team was being selfish.

That's the joke, at least, for the way the Lancers began their conference season. Productivity in practice wasn't always translating into success on gameday.

"We weren't letting anyone else see how well we were doing," senior setter Caitlyn Illg said before Monday's practice at Cimpr Arena. "Now it's not a secret anymore."

Winners of two Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) matches last season, the Lancers jumped on to the league scene by winning two matches last week — against Morningside and Briar Cliff, both 5-set matches played in Yankton.

Not only did the Lancers (9-13, 2-6) beat Morningside and Briar Cliff for the first time since 2006, it marked the program's first league wins against someone other than Dakota Wesleyan since 2008.

Was it Mount Marty's biggest week in recent memory?

"I would say so," fifth-year head coach Candice Climer said Monday. "We've won some non-conference games over the

years, but when it's conference, it's huge."

"There are a lot of smiles right now." Especially on the faces of the six seniors, who had battled through a 4-44 conference record their first three seasons and then six consecutive losses to start this season.

Suddenly, things fell into place last Wednesday night.

"We just needed a little boost and to know that we could do it," said senior outside hitter Kristen Boyle.

"Now we're finally accomplishing things we've talked about since our freshman year."

Boyle and the other seniors — Courtney Miller, Roxy Ross, Caitlyn Illg, Kristen Boyle, Laura Groseth and Jena Peters (who transferred back to MMC this season) — were freshmen on the 2011 team that went 1-15 in GPAC action. It was the same result as sophomores, and last season was a 2-14 league record.

Progress was slow, but was inevitable, according to Groseth, a middle hitter.

"Freshman year, we were like, 'OK, this is a lot different than we're used to,'" she said Monday. "But by sophomore year and junior year, we couldn't get over that hump. 'Now we're over that hump and now

we've finally had that winning feeling."

There was one big moment prior to last week that may have sparked the Lancers, Climer said.

That came in the GPAC opener on Sept. 17 in Yankton against nationally-ranked Northwestern. Mount Marty had dropped the first two sets, but came out of the locker room following the break to see fans still in the stands.

It was a noticeable change from recent seasons, according to the coach.

"Our crowd could see it, but our girls didn't see it right away," Climer said.

"They saw that and it motivated them, knowing there was support here."

Another change this season has been an improved defense for the Lancers. Junior libero BreAnne Thege ranks second in the GPAC in digs per set (4.93) and ranks among the top-50 nationally.

That has always been a strength once the season started, according to Illg.

"Our defense held us for most of the matches at the start, but once our offense got on the same page, it was clear to see," she said.

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