

Bucks Host Huron To Open Playoffs

Top-ranked Yankton (8-0) will host 0-8 Huron to open the Class 11AA football playoffs on Thursday, Oct. 30. The pairings were announced late Thursday evening.

Start time has been set for 7 p.m. at Crane-Youngworth Field.

The teams did not meet during the regular season. Yankton has won 19 straight meetings with the Tigers, dating back to the 1993 season.

The Bucks finished with the overall top seed and will have home field throughout the 11AA playoffs. With a victory over Huron, Yankton would play the winner of the first-round matchup between Mitchell and Harrisburg, to be played in Harrisburg.

The other half of the 11AA bracket features Watertown at second-seeded Brookings, and Pierre at third-seeded Douglas.

Teams in 11AA and 11AAA begin play on Thursday, Oct. 30. Teams in smaller classes open on Tuesday, Oct. 28, as they have one more elimination round prior to the finals. Teams will be reseeded after the first round.

Vermillion will travel to Tea Area in the 11A playoffs, a rematch of a Sept. 19 matchup that Tea Area won 41-14. Both teams are 4-4.

Also in 11A, Dakota Valley (2-6) travels to Lennox (4-4) in the opening round. Lennox beat the Panthers 42-20 on Sept. 5.

In Class 11B, unbeaten

Parkston (8-0) hosts Lead-Deadwood (3-5) in the first round. Bon Homme (5-3) travels to Winner (7-1), a team that beat the Cavaliers 40-14 on Sept. 5.

Two area teams made the playoffs in Class 9AA, both opening on the road. Menno-Marion (5-3) travels to Elkton-Lake Benton (6-2), while Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian (5-3) opens at Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central (7-1). PGDC dropped a 68-19 decision at WWSSC on Sept. 26.

Three area teams advanced in Class 9A, with two facing each other. Gayville-Volin (7-1) travels to unbeaten Alcester-Hudson (8-0), while Viborg-Hurley (5-3) takes on Howard (8-0). Howard and Alcester-Hudson had the same power points total, but the Tigers held a better opponents' power points average and drew the top seed.

In Class 9B, defending champion Avon (6-2) will open at home against Burke-South Central (4-4), while Scotland (4-4) travels to Canistota (7-1). Avon opened with a 76-27 victory over BSC.

The championship games in all seven classes will be held Nov. 13-15 at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Look for coverage of area teams throughout the playoffs and coverage of all seven state championship games in the *Press & Dakotan* and online at www.yankton.net

Avon, Centerville Score Five-Set Victories

AVON — The Avon Lady Pirates needed five sets to hold off Menno 25-15, 25-13, 12-25, 17-25, 15-5 in high school volleyball action Friday in Avon.

Kacie Mudder and Livi Jurrens both had eight kills for the Pirates (8-14), while Amanda Reiff had six kills and 24 digs. Hanna Powers added 18 set assists and four ace serves.

For Menno (1-22), Tara Spencer had five kills and four blocks. Abby Herboldt had five kills and 28 digs, and Devon Bloch added two blocks and seven ace serves.

Avon visits Gayville-Volin next Monday in Gayville and Menno hosts Scotland next Tuesday.

MENNO (1-22).....15 23 25 25 5
AVON (8-14).....25 25 12 17 15

Centerville 3, Freeman 2

FREEMAN — The Centerville Tornados picked up their third straight win Friday night in the form of a 5-set victory over the Freeman Flyers. Set scores were 24-26, 25-23, 14-25, 25-20, 15-5.

Shannon O'Malley led the Tornados with 5 kills, 13 assists, and 9 digs. Logan O'Toole totaled 6 kills and 11 digs.

The Flyers got a strong performance out of freshman Ashley Glanzer, as she had 16 kills, 34 assists, and 15 digs. Shelby Jensen also added 13 kills and 11 assists for Freeman.

On Monday night, Centerville hits the road to take on Flandreau Indian School, while Freeman has a home game against Marion.

CENTERVILLE (8-17).....24 25 14 25 15
FREEMAN (4-15).....26 23 25 20 5

Dak. Val. 3, Vermillion 0

VERMILLION — Defending Class A



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

The Dakota Valley duo of Lindsey Smith, 10, and Anne McCabe, 12, team up for a block against Vermillion's Chloe Nielsen during their match Friday night in Vermillion.

state champion Dakota Valley swept Vermillion 25-13, 25-15, 25-20 on Friday night at Vermillion High School.

Lindsey Smith led the Panthers (18-3) with 33 set assists and also had four kills, while Shayla Johnson had 13 kills. Meredith Lammers and Elizabeth Lammers both recorded eight kills.

For Vermillion (4-18), Melanie LeCates had a match-high 16 digs.

Dakota Valley hosts Tea Area next Monday and Vermillion closes its regular season next Thursday at home against Elk Point-Jefferson.

DAKOTA VALLEY (18-3).....25 25 25
VERMILLION (4-18).....13 15 20

Alcester-Hudson 3, Canton 0

ALCESTER — The Alcester-Hudson

Cubs picked up their 14th win of the season in the form of a 3-set sweep, 25-18, 25-19, 25-14, over Canton on Friday.

Kassidy Walth compiled 14 kills and 19 digs in the victory. Sierra McConnell also added 10 kills and 10 digs for the Cubs (14-10).

Alcester-Hudson will have a road game Monday night against Viborg-Hurley. Next action for Canton (1-23) will be a home matchup versus Lennox next Thursday night.

CANTON (1-23).....18 19 14
ALCESTER-HUDSON (14-10).....25 25 25

McCook Central-Montrose 3, Marion 0

MARION — McCook Central-Montrose defeated Marion 25-20, 25-18, 25-23 in Class B volleyball action Friday

night. Allison Schallenkamp and Dani Forster led MCM (9-14) with 7 kills apiece. Nicole Bies added 16 assists along with three ace serves for the Fighting Cougars.

For Marion (17-9), Devin Nelson totaled a match-high 13 kills and 18 digs.

On Monday, McCook Central/Montrose will have a home game against Hanson, and Marion will travel to Freeman.

MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (9-14).....25 25 25
MARION (17-9).....20 18 23

College: Midland 3, MMC 0

FREMONT, Neb. — No. 12-ranked Midland University swept Mount Marty College 3-0 in Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball action Friday night in Fremont.

Set scores were 26-24, 25-18, 25-19. "If we could've finished the first set, it might've been a different story," said MMC coach Candice Climer, whose team at one point led 18-11 in the opening set. "That was a momentum-busting type of thing."

Allison Cross led the Lancers (10-16, 2-7) with 10 kills and two blocks, while Bailey Kuchta had six kills. Caitlyn Illg recorded 17 set assists and Jena Peters had three ace serves.

On defense for MMC, BreAnne Thege had eight digs, Kayla Jones added seven digs and Kristen Boyle had two blocks.

"Overall, I'm still pleased," Climer said. "We ran some good offense, and I thought we played pretty well against the number one team in the GPAC."

Mount Marty returns stays in Nebraska to play Nebraska Wesleyan today (Saturday) at 1:30 p.m.

Kickers

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gles, like any kicker, but he fought through the kinks and never gave up.

"The beginning of my career was rough," he said. "I turned to be reliable, though, during my sophomore season. I stuck with it and it really payed off for me."

After proving to head coach Arlin Likness and staff he was certified, Leibfarth went on to set the record for field goals made in a season his junior year with nine and most points after his senior year with 46.

"My senior year, we went undefeated, we were only down one time the whole season," he said. "We won by three after I kicked a field goal with two minutes left. Granted, it wasn't a game winner, but it was as close as I could get to one."

A memorable moment was in the 2002 state championship, in a 35-14 victory over Sioux Falls Washington, when the Bucks rumbled the DakotaDome with a fake field goal.

"During the state championship, we ran a fake field goal, and I layed down a nice block," Leibfarth said. "It was fun to get out there and actually hit someone."

After graduating, he decided to further his kicking career at the University of South Dakota.

"My time at USD made me very informed and I learned from the kicker in front of me," Leibfarth said. "It was really under the microscope type of situation. It made me realize I couldn't be afraid of failure and that when you kick, everyone in the whole place is watching you."

During his last few years as a Coyote, he saw back home, that there was another kicker blossoming. His name: Layne Somsen.

"Layne is a natural athlete and I helped him with pointers," Leibfarth said. "I don't know how much I helped him, but I know them being a great athlete helped."

Layne Somsen

Somsen, a pitcher in the Cincinnati Reds organization, looked at Leibfarth for guidance swinging his leg.

"This is weird, but I noticed a trend that we all have learned from the same tree," he said. "I learned from Frank, I called him and he taught me the techniques of kicking. I did the same thing with Lane (Sawatzke), it's really weird how that has progressed."

Once Somsen knew he had a decent leg, he went to camps to perfect his game. Playing both ways also helped him stay loose on the field.

"I went to a kicking camp and it was just a natural thing," he said. "I was always on the field, unlike kickers now who are just there to kick. I didn't have to warm up, I just got out there and did it."

A favorite memory for Somsen was his game winning field goal over then number one ranked Sioux Falls Roosevelt on homecoming. Not only did that kick shock the state, but it penciled him into the record books for the longest field goal in school history.

"My favorite memory hands down was the 53 yard field goal at home versus Sioux Falls Roosevelt," he said. "We were not even supposed to be in that game, so it was pretty special. I thought my leg was going to fall off."

After his high school career was over, Somsen had the chance to kick in college. But, the professional baseball player stuck with the game he loves.

"I kind of knew I could have had a future in kicking," he said. "I talked to coach (John) Stieglmeier at South Dakota State when he came down to recruit D.J. Eversley and Tyrel Kool. But, I think he knew I was a baseball guy and it didn't really go further than that."

Kicking has also helped him with the mental aspect of baseball.

"Kicking is just like baseball in a way, it's all mental," Somsen said. "You shouldn't feel any pressure, because you've done it before so many times. A key is not getting into your own head, it can eat you alive."

"It has really helped me with my baseball career. Being a pitcher every pitch you need to bring your all. So, the mental side of been there done that is key. If you have done it before, why

can't you do it now?"

Lane Sawatzke

A few years passed without a big leg on the Bucks sideline. Until last season, when Sawatzke — now a freshman at South Dakota State — came along.

"I grew up watching Leibfarth and Somsen kick," Sawatzke said. "It was something I wanted to continue. Those guys were great role models for me after watching their success."

Not just their help with techniques, but watching the success they had has helped Sawatzke throughout his career.

"Those two made a huge difference for me," he said. "Not just the pointers, but they were someone I could look up to. I want to be able to keep those guys alive with my kicking."

He knew he had a shot to be a good kicker at the camps he attended before his senior season.

"After going to a few camps, I got my confidence up," Sawatzke said. "I was able to hang with the guys who were going to big schools."

A favorite memory of his successful senior season, in which Sawatzke held the record for longest average kickoff in school history with 56.2 yards, was winning its homecoming game versus Sioux Falls O'Gorman.

"Homecoming last year was my favorite memory, when I hit a few clutch field goals to finally be able to knock off a Sioux Falls school," he said. "It felt good to finally get over that hump we weren't able to since the time Layne was around."

Sawatzke decided to walk-on to the South Dakota State football team this fall. It was a rough start, but now, he is getting a feel of kicking at the collegiate level.

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"This year has been different and kind of challenging for me," he said. "It was a tough start to go from the tee to the turf. But, I am doing good now. I've been getting great help from the coaches and upperclassmen at my position. I like South Dakota State because it is not too far, but not too close."

Brady Hale

Sawatzke passed the torch to current Yankton kicker Brady Hale.

"This season has been great so far," Hale said. "I have the best long-snapper I have ever seen in Jordan Lighter and Mason Strahl always gives me a great hold. I just go out there wherever on the field Coach Likness tells me to go, I try and kick it."

Hale credits the work he put in when he was young, after watching Somsen and Sawatzke kick, which helped drive him on and off the field.

"When I was younger, I would always go work on kicking with my dad for Punt, Pass, and Kick," he said. "I just kept practicing and got better at camps I have been going to. I realized I can compete with most of the guys in the nation."

During his freshman year of high school in 2012, Hale fulfilled a dream of being selected to compete at the national level for the Punt, Pass, and Kick during a Baltimore Ravens playoff game.

"Winning the Punt, Pass, and Kick was great for my confidence," he said. "Kicking is now a necessity of a team and it really propelled me to continue to get better."

His junior year, he sat behind Sawatzke, but soaked in every ounce of learning he could.

"Lane (Sawatzke) was great at helping me," Hale said. "We kick together a lot and he says we need to continue the tradition going of

great kicking at Yankton."

Hale has had a very successful senior season, making 7-of-11 on field goals and connecting on all 27 extra points.

"My favorite moment so far would either be tying Somsen's record at Aberdeen Central, or the 23 yard field goal that took us to overtime with O'Gorman," he said.

Breaking Somsen's record has been something Hale has looked at, but is more focused on helping his team win football games.

"If I break that record, it will just happen," Hale said. "I'm not trying to go out and break it. I want our team to score touchdowns. But, Coach Likness always tells me I have a 60 yard field goal in me. We will see, I guess."

He has been getting nothing but praise from the former Bucks kickers.

"It's tough to follow, but my parents keep me updated on the team," Somsen said. "I know Brady is a great athlete and has been kicking bombs. I have heard he's probably the best out of all of us."

What's Next?

The toughest part of the season for a kicker is coming up: The playoffs.

"With the playoffs coming up, it will be a lot harder to kick in the cold," Hale said. "Hopefully, I can get my leg going and the ball can fly."

Hale loves the trust he has gotten from his teammates this season.

Proceedings of
New Underwood
School District #51-3
Regular Session
January 16, 2013

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The Marina is located within Lewis and Clark Recreation Area 5 miles west of Yankton. Proposals are due by 3:00pm CST on December 8, 2014. Interested entrepreneurs can obtain a prospectus by contacting Sean Blanchette, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 523, E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501 or by phone at (605) 773-3391. It is also available for download at <http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/lewisand-clark/> and clicking on "Lewis and Clark Marina Prospectus."

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