

YHS GAMEDAY

O'Gorman (3-2)
at Yankton (3-2)

7 p.m., Crane-Youngworth Field

LAST MEETING: Yankton's Brady Hale hit a field goal as time expired, then the Bucks scored in overtime for a 32-25 victory in the 2014 season.

LAST WEEK: Yankton suffered its first ESD setback of the season, a 31-0 loss at Pierre. O'Gorman rolled to a 42-10 victory over Watertown.

NEXT UP: Yankton hits the road to face ESD rival Huron. O'Gorman heads west to face ESD newcomer Rapid City Stevens, the Knights' final road game of the season.

FOLLOW THE GAME: Jeremy Hoeck (@hoeck) and James D. Cimburek (@jimburek) will follow the Bucks all season. Follow them on Twitter to keep up with the action.

Bucks Look For Spark Against Rival O'Gorman

Knights' Kueter Would Tie Yankton's Hawk On Top Of All-Time Wins List With O'Gorman Victory Tonight

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

In the wake of last week's shutout loss at Pierre, the Yankton High School football team has looked for ways this week to spark its offense.

What the Bucks need to work on for tonight's (Friday) game against Sioux Falls O'Gorman is simple, according to head coach Arlin Likness: Hanging on to the football.

"We just need to fundamentally execute on offense," he said this week. "If you look at our season, we're going into our sixth game and we have not executed what I'd say really well yet."

Having not been held scoreless in 27 games since 2012, Yankton com-

mitted seven turnovers — five interceptions and three fumbles — in that loss at Pierre. Confidence has played a key role in some of the offense's struggles this season, Likness said.

"In practice we look pretty good, but in game time, a lot of it is a confidence factor and reacting to different situations," he said.

As a result, Yankton (3-2) plans to start junior Nate Stephenson at quarterback and will transition senior Rayden Terca to a slot position or tight end, according to Likness. Senior Kenneth Schroeder also figures to see more time at a split end.

Part of those changes are out of necessity, Likness said.

"We've got to build some confidence in our kids, and we've had

enough injuries where we need people to step up," he said.

There's also a need to get guys like Tanner Frick, Sheldon Gant and Brendon Caskey more touches, the coach added.

"We've got to get the ball into their hands and see what they can do," Likness said.

In the case of Stephenson, the coaches have been impressed with his performances in junior varsity games where he has been efficient passing the ball out of an empty backfield, Likness said.

"Right now, anyway, what I like about him is that when he plants his back foot, he can really throw the ball," the coach said. "In Pierre, we seemed to hesitate a lot and did not

throw the ball on the money."

O'Gorman (3-2), on the other hand, has struggled at times with big lines, according to head coach Steve Kueter.

"We've had trouble with teams that can control the line of scrimmage," he said this week. "We have some kids getting better, but they're just not that big."

As a result of that size differential, the Knights have opened things up more a bit this season. Quarterback Luke Fritsch has passed 58 times for 527 yards and six touchdowns, and has rushed 79 times for 528 yards and 10 touchdowns.

As a team, O'Gorman has averaged 279 yards on the ground per game and has scored 18 rushing touchdowns.

While that part of the Knights' attack is still the main threat, Yankton

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Tennis | ESD Championships

Watertown Wins ESD Title

Yankton's Kouri, Garcia Each Finish Fifth In Singles Play

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Sophie Kouri was an alternate for the Yankton High School girls' tennis team at last year's Eastern South Dakota Conference (ESD) Championships.

She never saw the court. Instead, Kouri sat there and watched her teammates, all the while knowing next year she would get her chance.

A year later, she took advantage.

Kouri, a junior, was one of two players for a young Gazelles squad to capture a consolation title at Thursday's ESD Championships held in Yankton.

"I was kind of stressed out at first because I haven't won many ESD matches," said Kouri, who beat Pierre's Gracie Jones 8-2 for the flight two singles consolation title.

"Then I won a couple, so I was pretty pumped."

Kouri was joined by sophomore Mimi Garcia as the two Gazelles players to place in the tournament. Garcia earned the consolation crown — fifth place — at flight two singles, beating Pierre's Sydney Larson 8-3.

"I think I played really well for what I was hoping for," Garcia said. "I just had to push through and go after it."

With only two varsity players — Garcia and sophomore Anne Knoff — with ESD tournament experiences, the Gazelles were focused more on consistency rather than anything else, according to head coach Kim Velk.

"They all fought very hard and put forth their best effort, so that's all you can ask for," said Velk, whose team finished last among the nine teams.

Knoff, a defending ESD singles champion, suffered an injury early in the day and lost both of her matches at flight one. Also competing for Yankton were Josie Krajewski (flight four), Adrienne Kusek (five) and Olivia Tennant (six).

Although none of Yankton's doubles tandems earned a place, the main point was that they got experience.

"They didn't know what to expect, but I was pretty proud of them," Kouri said.

Added Garcia, "I thought everyone did really well for their first time."

Watertown, on the other hand, fielded a much more experienced squad on Thursday.

The Arrows captured the team championship with 332 total team points behind singles titles from Allie VanDerWeide (flight three), Hailey Hauger (flight five) and Abbi Cummings (flight six). They also got runner-up finishes from Rachel Kjetland (flight one) and Alli Cummings (flight two).

In short, Watertown covered all of its bases.

"In an ESD tournament, it really takes a team effort," coach Scott Ewald said. "You need to be able to bounce back if you lose and get your team some points."

Brandon Valley was second with 275 points, followed by Huron (264), Aberdeen Central (104), Mitchell (97), Pierre (92), Harrisburg (28), Brookings (25) and Yankton (22).

While the Arrows, and the rest of the field, will now turn their attention to the state tournament, Watertown will no



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Anne Knoff returns a shot during her flight one singles first-round match with Huron's Michelle Johnson in the Eastern South Dakota Conference Girls' Tennis Championships, held Thursday in Yankton.

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Gazelles Third In A, Crofton First In B At South Sioux

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. — The Crofton girls finished first in Class B and the Yankton girls finished third in Class A at the Marsha Koebnick Invitational cross country meet, held on Thursday.

Omaha Central (36) edged Sioux Falls Lincoln (41) for the Class A girls' title. Yankton, led by medalist Savannah Woods (18:48.26), finished third with 63 points.

Also for Yankton, Madison McClure (19:23.92) placed fifth and Tessa Folkers (20:38.12) finished 20th.

The Crofton girls put five runners in the top 10 to run away with the team title, 18-48 over Norfolk Catholic. Crofton's Haley Arens won in 19:11.63, with Krista Zavadil (20:59.35) fourth, Sam Altwine (21:36.34) sixth and Kyla Dendinger (21:45.09) seventh.

On the boys' side, Yankton finished fifth in Class A, while Crofton finished second in Class B.

Sioux Falls Lincoln won the Class A team title, led by medalist Gabe Peters (15:53.80). Sioux City North (52) was second, followed by host South Sioux City (60).

Yankton was led by Gabe Dannenbring (17:13.30), who finished 11th, and Andrew Peitz (17:22.47), who finished 15th.

Omaha Gross, led by the 1-2 finish of Jack Larsen (16:27.63) and Beau Larsen (17:04.44), beat out Crofton 25-37 for the team title. Crofton put four runners in the top 12, led by Jake Neuhalfen's (17:44.88) sixth place finish.

Yankton is off until Oct. 10, when it travels to Pierre for the Eastern South Dakota Conference Championships. Crofton is at the Mid-State Conference meet on Oct. 9 in Pierre, Nebraska.

GIRLS' DIVISION

Class A
TEAM SCORES: Omaha Central 36, Sioux Falls Lincoln 41, Yankton 63, Omaha Burke 74, Bishop Heelan 84, Sioux City East 90, South Sioux City 116, Sioux City North 124, Spirit Lake 140, Sioux City West 71.
TOP 10: 1, Savannah Woods, Yankton 18:48.26; 2, Kourtney Delperdang, Spirit Lake 19:07.50; 3, Caroline Sudbeck, S.F. Lincoln 19:13.87; 4, McKenna Paintin, Omaha Central 19:16.51; 5, Madison McClure, Yankton 19:23.92; 6, Kall Ryan, Bishop Heelan 19:32.74; 7, Brianni Jones, Omaha Central 19:41.11; 8, Avery Lester, S.C. East 19:47.00; 9, Jasmine Cooper, S.F. Lincoln 19:52.01; 10, Lilyana Yebra, S.C. North 19:59.37.

OTHER YHS: 20, Tessa Folkers 20:38.12; 37, Carly Vavra 21:44.26; 54, Lauren Eldsness 23:42.15

Class B
TEAM SCORES: Crofton 18, Norfolk Catholic 48, Woodbury Central 68, Ralston 86, Lawton-Bronson 88, Omaha Gross 108, Westwood 113, Wisner-Pilger 114, Pender 125.

TOP 10: 1, Haley Arens, Crofton 19:11.63; 2, Suzanne Putze, Woodbury Central 19:53.43; 3, Rylee Wright, Woodbury Central 20:47.75; 4, Krista Zavadil, Crofton 20:59.35; 5, Audrey Stelling, Norfolk Catholic 21:00.61; 6, Sam Altwine, Crofton 21:45.09; 7, Kyla Dendinger, Crofton 21:45.09; 8, Jade Adler, Ralston 22:04.54; 9, Carlie Bartlett, Pender 22:38.80; 10, Jessica Lange, Crofton 22:44.51.

OTHER CHS: 26, Keeley Hagge 24:35.27

BOYS' DIVISIONS

Class A
TEAM SCORES: Sioux Falls Lincoln 33, Sioux City North 52, South Sioux City 60, Omaha Central 61, Yankton 78, Spirit Lake 91, Bishop Heelan 106, Sioux City West 137, Sioux City East 150.

TOP 10: 1, Gabe Peters, S.F. Lincoln 15:53.80; 2, Alex Tollinger, Omaha Central 16:06.46; 3, Phoenix Larned, S.C. West 16:36.58; 4, Conner Ritz, Bishop Heelan 16:41.01; 5, Abdul Mohamed, South Sioux City 16:41.10; 6, Gavin Bush, S.C. North 16:43.88; 7, Dale Louden, S.F. Lincoln 16:56.99; 8, Henry Kitzke, S.F. Lincoln 17:02.70; 9, Camden Beller, S.C. North 17:04.73; 10, Ryan Maris, Spirit Lake 17:08.86.

YHS: 11, Gabe Dannenbring 17:13.30; 15, Andrew Peitz 17:22.47; 23, Brady Jaquith 17:43.82; 29, Sam Gusso 18:04.80; 33, Jordan Lucht 18:29.79; 39, Lincoln Megard 18:55.26.

Class B
TEAM SCORES: Omaha Gross 25, Crofton 37, Wisner-Pilger 49, Norfolk Catholic 60, Winnebago 81, Pender 100, Ralston 121, Westwood 158, Lawton-Bronson 161, Woodbury Central 182.

TOP 10: 1, Jack Larsen, Omaha Gross 16:27.63; 2, Beau Larsen, Omaha Gross 17:04.44; 3, Riley Ruskamp, Wisner-Pilger 17:26.88; 4, Jonah Heng, Norfolk Catholic 17:28.11; 5, Josh Springer, Pender 17:39.51; 6, Jake Neuhalfen, Crofton 17:44.88; 7, Aspen LaPointe, Winnebago 18:01.13; 8, Tanner Arens, Crofton 18:01.39; 9, Ben Larsen, Omaha Gross 18:15.66; 10, Jacob Von Seggem, Wisner-Pilger 18:25.74.

OTHER CHS: 11, Brady Stucky 18:27.81; 12, Justin Goeden 18:36.47; 29, Mark Lange 19:50.25; 39, John Haberer 20:56.98.

PARKER Inv.

PARKER — The Freeman Academy boys and Freeman girls swept team honors at the Parker Invitational cross country meet on Wednesday. The meet was held at Par-Mar Golf Course.

In the boys' division,

Gazelles Hold Off Mitchell 3-1



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Emily Oswald, 5, tips the ball around the Mitchell defense during their Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball match on Thursday at the Summit Center.

Volleyball: YHS Completes Season Sweep Of Kernels

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG
P&D Correspondent

Once again, the Mitchell Kernels proved a feisty opponent for the Yankton Gazelles.

The Kernels and their roster complete with nine freshmen were looking for their first win of the season against a team that escaped them 40 days ago.

The Kernels missed a chance at a win Sept. 10 as they came back from a 2-0 deficit and pushed the visiting Yankton team to a fifth game. The Gazelles managed a 15-7 fifth set for their second win of the season.

As on that night, the Gazelles won two games to open up Thursday night's Eastern South Dakota Conference match, but the Kernels battled back before the Gazelles took a 25-9, 25-17, 10-25, 26-24 win at the Summit Center.

"I was just really proud of our team and the way we responded at the end," Yankton senior hitter Becky Frick said after the match.

What the Gazelles responded to was a 24-22 fourth-game deficit to the Kernels.

It looked as if Mitchell was again going to push Yankton to a fifth game, but Frick and

Freeman Academy, Ponca Advance To TVC Final

GAYVILLE — Sixteen kills from Hannah Yoder helped Freeman Academy secure a victory over Gayville-Volin in the Tri-Valley Conference Tournament. The match ended 25-23, 25-23, 25-17 and sent the winning Bobcats to the championship match of the tournament.

Chelsey Heeg added 15 kills and four digs for Freeman Academy. Sarah Miller provided 23 set assists.

Genevieve Clark ended the night with 12 kills and 20 digs for Gayville-Volin. Grace Dangel provided 20 assists for her team.

Freeman Academy will compete in the final against Ponca (Nebraska) on Saturday and Gayville-Volin will play for third place against Baltic, both matches will be in Alcester.

FREEMAN ACADEMY (14-1).....25 25 25
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (8-3).....23 23 17

Ponca 3, Baltic 0
CENTERVILLE — The Ponca Indians swept Baltic 26-24, 25-17, 25-22 on Thursday night in Centerville to advance to the Tri-Valley Conference championship.

Elizabeth Watchorn had 10 kills and 19 digs to lead the

way for Ponca. Rachel Kneiff had seven kills and 10 digs, and Mackenzie Boyle totaled six kills in the win.

No stats available for Baltic.

Ponca will take on Freeman Academy in the TVC Championship on Saturday in Alcester, while Baltic will take on Gayville-Volin in the third place game.

PONCA (9-3).....26 25 25
BALTIC (12-4).....24 17 22

Freeman Academy 3, Alcester-Hudson 0
GAYVILLE — Freeman

Academy swept past Alcester-Hudson on Thursday night in the Tri-Valley Conference Tournament. The match ended with scores of 25-17, 25-20, 25-19.

Bethany Wollman led Freeman Academy with 13 kills and Ashaunte Carr recorded 12 digs.

Kassidy Walth ended the night with nine kills and four digs for Alcester-Hudson. Cassie Schiefen had 20 digs.

On Saturday, Freeman Academy will play for first place and Alcester-Hudson will play for fifth/sixth in

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