

Patriots Escape Yankton In OT To Advance



Yankton's Chase Huber, right, knocks away a point-blank shot attempt by Lincoln's Daniel Murillo, 7, preserving the shutout in their Class AA boys' soccer quarterfinal on Saturday at Yankton Trails Park in Sioux Falls. Lincoln scored in overtime to claim a 1-0 victory.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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SIoux FALLS – On Sept. 22, Sioux Falls Lincoln handed Yankton its worst setback of the season, a 6-1 pounding at Yankton's Lewis & Clark Soccer Park. On Saturday at Yankton Trails Park in Sioux Falls, the Patriots needed a lucky goal to sneak away with a home playoff victory.

Alexander Woods scored on a scramble in front of the net with 3:25 left in the first overtime, the only goal in Lincoln's 1-0 victory over Yankton in the quarterfinals of the South Dakota Class AA Boys' Soccer playoffs.

The victory sends defending champion Lincoln (9-2-2) to the semifinals at second-seeded Aberdeen Central (11-2), 4-1 winners over Sioux Falls Roosevelt on Saturday afternoon.

"To go to overtime, when you're ranked 11th against number three," said Yankton head coach Warren Brenner. "I'll take that game any day."

The Yankton Bucks pressured Lincoln early and often in the first 20 minutes. The Patriots had their chances as well, including four corner kicks in the final 20 minutes of the first half, but the game went to the break scoreless.

"They had good blocking of the play in the middle of the field," said Lincoln head coach Doug Townsend of the Bucks' defense. "They were preventing us from getting the ball off our feet."

Much of the second half was played in the middle third of the field, but both defenses made plays when threatened, leaving the game scoreless after 80 minutes.

"Our defense was improved, and our midfield kept attacking," Brenner said. "We were able to throw off their timing."

In the 86th minute, Lincoln drew a corner kick. Yankton goalkeeper Trevor Rafferty leaped to grab the shot, but had it knocked out of his hands as he came to the ground. Woods was there to bury the loose ball in the net.

"There was a pile-up in front of the goal," Townsend said. "Some times they'll call a penalty and the ball will come out. Some times they let them play."

"Alax was able to heel the ball in during the melee."

Yankton had scoring chances during the final three minutes of the first overtime and in the second overtime, but could not find the back of the net.

"I'm proud of these guys. They stepped up and gave it everything they had," Brenner said. "That's what it's about."

"They didn't come out with the win. But they came out with success. It was a good game all around."

The Bucks finished with 15 shots on goal. Rafferty made 12 saves in goal for the Bucks.

Lincoln will make the trip to Aberdeen on Tuesday in hopes of returning to the state championship match. For the Patriots to make the return trip, they will need to play better, according to Townsend.

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Penguins Stuff USD On D-Days

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Known as a coach that knows defense, Bo Pelini is now developing a contender at Youngstown State.

And his top-ranked defense looked the part on Saturday.

In what was a highly-anticipated Missouri Valley Football Conference opener with Pelini returning to the Midwest, Youngstown State dominated the University of South Dakota 31-3 in front of 10,015 fans at the DakotaDome.

The No. 10-ranked Penguins (3-1) have now allowed six points over the last two games and have only suffered an eight-point loss to FBS Pittsburgh this season — Pelini's first after being fired at Nebraska.

"As an overall football team, we're a work in progress, but I'm seeing the potential," he told the media after Saturday's game.

Youngstown State was the more physical team and frustrated the Coyotes (2-2) all game. The Penguins never allowed USD to get its run game going — a staple of the Coyotes' previous two wins.

"We're a team that says we want to run the ball, and we couldn't run the ball," USD

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South Dakota's Nick Jacobs, 56, dives to try to corral Youngstown State running back Martin Ruiz during their Missouri Valley Football Conference football game on Saturday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Making Their Mark: Bison Blast Past South Dakota State 28-7

BY COREY KORTH
Jackrabbit Sports Service

BROOKINGS — Wanna beat four-time defending national champion North Dakota State in football?

Here's how not to go about that task:

- Get dominated in the trenches.
- Consistently fail to stop the Bison on key third-down conversions.
- Fail to convert on third down yourself.
- Fail to establish a running game.
- Miss tackles.
- Drop passes.
- Commit penalties. Lots of them.

The list could go on, but you get the idea — it was not a good night for South Dakota State University's Jackrabbits on Saturday.

No. 2-ranked NDSU dominated No. 7 SDSU to post a 28-7 Missouri Valley Conference victory in front of an all-time record crowd of 17,348 fans at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium. Frankly, it was pretty clear

pretty early that this game wasn't going to live up to the pregame hype.

"Congrats to North Dakota State," SDSU coach John Stiegelmeier said after the game. "As much as I'd like to blame our coaches, myself, or our players for [our performance], I gotta give credit to North Dakota State for their game plan and their players' energy and belief."

The Bison (3-1) were in control from the start, rolling up a 21-0 halftime lead and never feeling threatened in beating SDSU (3-1) for the eighth straight time. By the time it was over, the Bison had stamped all over the Jackrabbits' hopes of making the statement that their program was ready to challenge NDSU for Football Championship Subdivision supremacy.

NDSU limited the previously potent SDSU offense to only 58 yards in the first half while its offense piled up 221 yards. For the game, the Bison held the Jackrabbits to

—4 yards rushing and stifled SDSU standout receiver Jake Wieneke. He caught only three

balls for 39 yards.

"We're not playing with confidence right now," Stiegelmeier said during a halftime television interview. That didn't change for the rest of the game.

Dual-threat quarterback Carson Wentz led the way for the Bison with 183 passing yards, 54 rushing yards and two touchdowns — one passing and one rushing.

"We had arguably the best game plan we've had in a long time," Wentz said. "I think there's some things we exploited and we did a heck of a job."

So the reigning FCS champions still have the Jackrabbits' number: SDSU has not defeated NDSU since 2009 and has suffered two playoff losses to the Bison during that time.

SDSU junior quarterback Zach Lujan dealt with pressure seemingly all game as Bison defenders took up residence in the Jackrabbit backfield. Lujan was sacked three times and hit another seven times. He finished 19-of-38 passing for

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JENNA CROYMANS/JACKRABBIT SPORTS SERVICE

South Dakota State running back Brady Mengarelli steps out of bounds after gaining yards against North Dakota State University on Saturday during a Missouri Valley Conference game. The play was called back because of a penalty.

GAZELLES VOLLEYBALL

Brookings (8-9)
at Yankton (3-8)

7 p.m., Summit Center

LAST MEETING: Brookings swept Yankton 3-0 on Sept. 3 in Brookings.

LAST TIME OUT: Yankton completed the season sweep of Mitchell, beating the Kernels 3-1 on Thursday. Brookings went 2-2 in an event in Huron on Saturday, beating Washington and Spearfish, and losing to Lincoln and O'Gorman.

NEXT UP: Yankton gets no rest, hitting the road to face Harrisburg on Tuesday. Brookings hosts Watertown on Thursday.

Denver Holds Off USD 3-1

DENVER—Kayla Principato and Becca Latham combined for 22 kills as the Denver Pioneers (16-4, 4-1 SL) beat South Dakota (6-11, 0-4 SL) 25-13, 25-13, 19-25, 25-20 Sunday in Hamilton Gymnasium.

Principato had 12 kills for the Pioneers and Latham added 10 more. Setter Piyusha Boteju recorded a double-double with 17 assists and 10 digs. Junior Audrey Reeg and sophomore setter Brittany Jensen each had a double-double for the Coyotes. Reeg led South Dakota with 11 kills and had 18 digs while Jensen had a match-high 32 assists and 13 digs. The Coyotes are back in action next weekend as Oral Roberts comes to town. The game is at noon on Sunday in the Coyote Den.

Tri-Valley Conf. First: Ponca 3, Alcester-Hudson 0

ALCESTER — Ponca (Nebraska) captured the Tri-Valley Conference Volleyball Tournament championship on Saturday by sweeping Freeman Academy 25-23, 25-16, 25-18 in Alcester.

In the win for Ponca, Rachel Kneiff recorded 11 kills, six blocks and five digs, while Elizabeth Watchorn added 14 kills and 15 digs. McKenzie Boyle chipped in with 13 digs and Sadie Finnegan had 29 set assists.

Freeman Academy (14-2) was led by Hannah Voder and Chelsey Heeg, each with nine kills, while Sarah Miller added 21 set assists.

PONCA.....25 25 25
FREEMAN ACADEMY (14-2).....23 16 18

Third: Baltic 3, Gayville-Volin 0

ALCESTER — Maddie Polzin posted 19 kills and 19 digs to lead Baltic past Gayville-Volin 25-11, 25-18, 25-15 for third place Saturday at the Tri-Valley Conference Tournament.

Molly Sittig added 23 set assists and Maddy Roberts had 22 digs for Baltic (12-4).

For Gayville-Volin (8-4), Genny Clark recorded 12 digs and eight kills. Grace Dangel had 19 set assists and Viola Ishmael posted 12 digs.

BALTIC (12-4).....25 25 25
GAYVILLE-VOLIN (8-4).....11 18 15

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Coyotes Surge Past Pioneers For First Summit League Win

USD Wins 4-1

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota soccer team finally got the offensive breakthrough it wanted.

And it also happened to come in a conference game against the preseason favorite.

Spurred by two goals from Corey Strang and a handful of other good looks at the net, the Coyotes defeated Denver 4-1 in Sunday afternoon's Summit League game in Vermillion.

Just about everything went right for the Coyotes (3-9, 1-1), who had been shut out in six games this season.

"We haven't had this feeling in a while," said Strang, a junior from Temecula, California, who scored twice in the second half.

"For me personally, and for the team, it's hard to describe it."

Not only did the Coyotes score their most goals in a conference game since 2009, they beat a strug-

gling Denver (0-9-1, 0-1) squad that was picked to win the league.

More than that, though, USD was simply looking to rebound from consecutive games where it didn't score — including last Friday's league opener.

"It's been frustrating the last few games, because we could tell we weren't doing something majorly wrong, but something still wasn't right," head coach Mandy Green said.

On Sunday, there was plenty to cheer about.

Of their 12 shots, more than half came on clear looks at the goal — the Coyotes had a shot hit the post, one sail right over the top and a couple more go just wide.

"We've had this potential for a while, we just had to show it out here," said sophomore Courtney Baker, who scored USD's first goal.

With the game tied 1-1 at halftime, the Coyotes broke through in the second half. Strang scored in the 61st minute and then in the 67th minute, and senior Brenna Bills added another goal in the 86th minute.

By that point, the Coyotes were in control of the Pioneers, the reigning league tournament runner-up.

"This is a great win for us," Green said. "Hopefully this gets us back on track."

While it was certainly a signature win, she said the Coyotes also realize they have six Summit League games remaining — they are at North Dakota State next Sunday.

"Hopefully this is a reversal of fortunes," Green said.

In what way?

Previous seasons saw the Coyotes pile on the goals in non-conference play, but then struggle to score in conference games. Last year, for example, USD scored nine of its 33 goals in eight Summit League games.

That will be the key down the stretch, Strang said: Ensuring Sunday wasn't an anomaly.

"We're still working on the consistency," she said. "Now we have to carry this forward."

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota's Courtney Baker is congratulated by teammate Kasha Meyer, 24, after her first-half goal in a Summit League soccer match with Denver on Sunday at the USD Soccer Field.