

Can Yankton Score A Hole-In-One With Disc Golf?



Jesse Bailey of Yankton describes his disc golf proposal for Yankton during a Wednesday morning presentation at 1 Million Cups.

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Jesse Bailey has a vision for the sport he loves. He wants to thrust Yankton on to the national disc golf stage.

"It doesn't matter where you are or who are you, you can play it," the 27-year-old Yankton resident said during a 1 Million Cups presentation Wednesday morning at the Avera Pavilion.

Bailey, a Wisconsin native and Mount Marty College graduate, began playing Frisbee golf when he moved to Yankton in 2009 and eventually helped form the disc golf league (called Yankton Ace Coalition) in 2012 – with an initial group of 20 players.

Since then, the league has grown to its current membership of approximately 50

members and could reach 100 within a year or two, Bailey said.

The growth of the sport within Yankton prompted Bailey – and his friends within the league – to consider the possibility of Yankton hosting national disc golf tournaments.

"Yankton could truly benefit from disc golf," Bailey told the crowd Wednesday.

A national tournament, he said, could attract hundreds of players and thousands of spectators.

In order to find itself on the national tour, however, Yankton would need to further invest in a disc golf culture, Bailey said. The town would need three top-tier courses and possibly a disc golf store, he said.

Yankton currently has four courses: Two 18-hole courses (Memorial Park, Gavin's Point) and two 9-hole courses (Pier-

son Ranch, Cottonwood).

The sport has also proven popular in area towns. There are also two courses in Vermilion, one in Tyndall, one in Pickstown, one in Beresford and one in Wausa, Nebraska.

Bailey said he talked with a national tournament organizer to get a sense for what Yankton would need to host a national tournament, and the response was that if Yankton could host smaller tournaments, word could spread.

"If we build it, they will come," Bailey said, smiling, at one point during his presentation.

There are a handful of potential locations for courses across the Yankton area, he told the crowd. Such locations include Riverside Park (nine holes), Meridian RV Park (18 holes), Weigand, across the Missouri River (18 holes), as

well as Paddlewheel Point and land west of Gavins Point.

The size of Yankton could also be a sign that the city could find itself on the national disc golf tour, Bailey said.

The National Elite Tour series, for example, has stops this year in Emporia, Kansas (population 25,000), Estacada, Oregon (2,900), Leicester, Massachusetts (11,000) and Fountain Hills, Arizona (23,000).

Also at Wednesday's 1 Million Cups gathering was Todd Larson, the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Yankton. He informed Bailey that there could be money available through grants for multiple-day tournaments, depending on the time of the year.

Bailey estimated that it would cost \$40,000 to build two

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Commentary

Legacy Of Hawk Remains Strong

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Many homes across Yankton feature some kind of 'Go Bucks!' sign or 'Go Gazelles!' sign in the front yard.

But one house in particular in this neighborhood has a sign on the garage that reads 'Yankton Buck Dr.'



This is where Max Hawk lives. This is the home of the 82-year-old former Yankton High School football coach who retired 21 years ago with 284 career victories, 18 conference titles and 10 state championships.

It was obvious on this afternoon that Hawk, still very visible on the Yankton athletic scene, is still surrounded by his legendary career.

Down in the basement of his home lies what a former *Press & Dakotan* sportswriter, the late Hod Nielsen, called the "wall of fame." And I see what he meant.

During the course of our nearly 2-hour chat, Hawk took me down in the basement to show me all of his memorabilia. Lining one wall are plaques, framed certificates, photos, team photos and gifts from over the years.

After his wife, Jane, painted the walls, all of the items came down. Most are back up now, but there are still others in hidden locations throughout the basement – some in boxes, a couple in a drawer and some stacked on a desk.

"There's so much stuff, I can't keep track of it all," Hawk says while crossing the room.

That's what happens when you coach for 38 years. Items tend to pile up. And yet, each item in this basement holds special significance for Hawk, who last coached a football game in 1994.

As I came to find out during my first-ever lengthy conversation with Hawk, behind that at-times rough, old-football-general exterior lies a kind, sentimental soul.

He's a man who takes great pride in what he did, but at the same point isn't beyond acknowledging that he fell into the right position in Yankton back in 1965.

"Everything just kind of fell into place for me," he says at



A Legacy Of Success

ABOVE: Former Yankton High School football coach Max Hawk stands near a wall in the basement of his Yankton home that is filled with plaques and other memorabilia from his 38-year coaching career. Hawk retired in 1994 after recording 284 wins and 10 state championships. His state record for career wins is likely to fall Friday by Sioux Falls O'Gorman head coach Steve Kueter, who tied the record last week with a win in Yankton.

LEFT: Former Yankton High School football coach Max Hawk looks at a framed photo of his 1994 Bucks team that went undefeated and won a state championship in Hawk's final season.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

State Tennis Opens Today

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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After a less-than-expected showing at the Eastern South Dakota Conference Girls' Tennis Championships, the Yankton Gazelles are out to prove that they are a better team when they take the court at the South Dakota State Girls' Tennis Tournament.

The Gazelles finished last in the ESD Tournament they hosted a week ago, but have responded to the disappointment exactly how coach Kim Velk would have hoped.

"They've been motivated to work harder," she said. "They've put more time into it, and pushed themselves further."

"ESD was an eye-opener for us."

Adrienne Kusek, the lone senior on the squad, said the team has worked hard in the final practices before state.

"We're excited to go," she



P&D FILE PHOTO
Yankton's Anne Knoff returns a shot during a match earlier this season. Knoff and the Gazelles open the South Dakota State Girls' Tennis Tournament today (Thursday) in Sioux Falls and Brandon.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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With the Mount Marty offense having gone six straight matches without scoring a goal, coach Peter Shepherd tried to push his players to be more aggressive.

The push paid off in ending the team's scoring drought, but not quite the winning drought.

Senior Alexandria Max scored her first career goal in the second half, but Northwestern held off the Lancers 2-1 in Great Plains Athletic Conference women's soccer action on Wednesday at Easton Field.

"We've been trying to work on crashing in, and that was a good demonstration of us actually getting up and crashing," Max said of the goal. "I saw someone misstep and the ball came straight to me. All I could think was 'kick it as hard as I can.'"

Northwestern got on the board in the 10th minute, when Jahdai Dunk chipped the ball in over the Lancer defense for a goal. Nineteen minutes later, Sarah Beaton found Alissa Christoffer on a run, and she broke away for a 2-0 Raiders lead.

"We let them get two early goals, and they came from lapses in concentration," Shepherd said. "We have to come out playing to our full potential right away."

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Northwestern Holds Off MMC 2-1



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Mount Marty's Alexandria Max, 4, celebrates after scoring a goal during the Lancers' Great Plains Athletic Conference women's soccer match with Northwestern on Wednesday at Easton Field.

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