

# Commentary: Bucks, Tigers To Face Off For Second Seed

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Thursday's Yankton at Harrisburg football game could very likely decide the second seed in the upcoming Class 11AA football playoffs.

Entering the final week of play, Yankton (5-3) has a slight edge over Harrisburg (5-3) in the state's seed points rankings (also called power points), 42.5 to 42.125. Pierre (6-2) is a clear top seed at 43.125. Mitchell (5-3, 41.75) could slip ahead of the loser of the Yankton-Harrisburg game.

Yankton and Harrisburg had two spirited battles a year ago, both won by the Bucks. But both teams are drastically different from their 2014 versions. Regardless, it should be another exciting game between the programs.

(NOTE: Jeremy Hoeck will be in Harrisburg for the game. Follow him @jhoeck on Twitter for updates.)

Here is a look at the playoff picture for our other area teams. Post-season for Class 11AAA, 11AA and 11A teams begin on Oct. 29, while 11B and 9-man teams begin post-season play on Oct. 27. State finals are set for Nov. 12-14 at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

## Class 11A

Both Vermillion (1-7) and Dakota Valley (1-7) are likely to miss the playoffs, as they currently sit 14th and 16th. Eight teams qualify in Class 11A.



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton's Alex Withrow, 52, tries to pull down Aberdeen Central quarterback Gabe Swanson from behind during their Eastern South Dakota Conference football game on Sept. 18 at Crane-Youngworth Field. The Bucks travel to Harrisburg on Thursday, with the second seed in the Class 11AA playoffs on the line.

## Class 11B

Beresford (4-4) has completed its regular season and should be in good shape to advance.

Parkston (4-3) enters the week as fourth in its region, but sitting in the top "wild card" spot. The Trojans host Groton (6-1), and should advance to the post-season regardless of the outcome.

Wagner (1-6) and Elk Point-Jefferson (0-7) are not likely to qualify for state. Wagner is 7th among potential wild card teams (4 qualify), while EPJ is 10th.

## Class 9AA

Bon Homme (5-2), in its first season of 9-man competition, sits in good shape for a wild card berth, sitting in first among teams outside the top three in each region. The Cavaliers face a tough Canistota (7-0) team to end

the regular season.

## Class 9A

In Region 3, Scotland (6-1) has virtually locked up the top seed. Andes Central-Dakota Christian (2-5) sits in second and finishes against Marty (0-7), but is just a fraction of a point ahead of Hanson (3-4).

Tripp-Delmont-Armour (1-6), Marty, Platte-Geddes (1-6) and Menno-Marion (0-6) are currently on the outside looking in, with TDA having an outside chance to qualify if it beats Burke-South Central (4-3).

In Region 2, Gayville-Volin (4-3) and Parker (5-2) are in a battle for third and fourth. GV hosts Corsica-Stickney, while Parker travels to unbeaten Chester Area (7-0). Irene-Wakonda (3-4) sits as the "first team out" of the wild card picture, and needs

a win at home against Baltic and some help to qualify for the post-season.

## Class 9B

Alcester-Hudson (5-2) leads Region 2 and hosts Centerville (0-7) to finish the regular season.

Avon (2-6) is in 6th in the wild card standings. With its season complete, it would need a little help for its season to be extended.

Centerville will not likely qualify for post-season play.

## Nebraska

Post-season play in Nebraska begins Oct. 29 for 8-man and Oct. 30 for 11-man. Championships are set for Nov. 23 and 24 in Lincoln.

## Class C2

Crofton (6-2), despite

a victory over Hartington Cedar Catholic last week, is currently the second team out in Class C2. A win over West Holt (7-1) this week could put the Warriors into the playoffs.

Cedar Catholic (4-4) is the fifth team out in C2 and would need a win at Ainsworth (2-6) and some help to make a return to the post-season.

## Class D1

Creighton (7-0) ranks second in the state and should have no problem making the post-season, regardless of their outcome against Hartington-Newcastle (1-6).

Bloomfield (4-3) is the 31st team in the rankings (32 qualify). While both the Bees and Plainview (4-3) are currently in the playoff picture, the loser might get knocked out of this tightly-packed

division.

Niobrara-Verdigre (1-6) and Hartington-Newcastle are not likely to make the post-season.

## Class D2

Wynot (6-1) sits sixth overall in the Class and should be in regardless of this week's outcome against Lyons-Decatur Northeast (5-2). Randolph (5-2) should also be in good shape, currently in 16th entering this week's matchup at Osmond (6-1).

Allen (3-4) is on the bubble, the third team out and needing a win over Bancroft-Rosalie (0-7) – and possibly some help – to advance. Wausa (0-7) is unlikely to advance.

Follow @JCimburek on Twitter.

# USD's Biltott, Jessen Named Summit League Players Of The Week

ELMHURST, Ill. — Senior middle blocker Kelsey Biltott and sophomore setter Brittany Jessen earned Summit League Defensive and Offensive Player of the Week honors, as released on Monday.

Biltott receives her first career week award. She registered 17 total blocks during the week, including eight in a four-set home win over IUPUI. The eight blocks matches her season high and marks the

fifth-straight game that Biltott has recorded more than five total blocks. She averaged 1.70 blocks per set in leading the Coyotes to a 2-1 record during the week. Biltott is averaging 1.10 blocks per set on the season, which is the third best in the Summit League.

"Kelsey has worked really hard to improve her block," said South Dakota head coach Leanne Williamson. "She is that first part of our

defense, and she did a tremendous job of being a presence at the net. She is driven to make an impact, and she did just that this week."

Jessen receives her first career week award. She recorded 124 assists over three league matches, including 58 in a four-set win over IUPUI. Her 58 assists, ranks 13th in the program's history for most assists in four sets. Jessen has five matches this season with at least 50

assists and a streak of 17 matches with at least 30 assists. She averaged 12.40 assists per set, nearly two assists above her season average. Jessen currently ranks second in the Summit League with 10.56 assists per set.

"Brittany did an amazing job of running our offense this weekend," said Williamson. "She is really growing in her knowledge of the game. She is a big part of our team, and

she showed how big of an impact she has this week."

The Coyotes are back in action on Friday as they take on Oral Roberts in Tulsa, Okla., at 3 p.m. The Golden Eagles feature the other co-Offensive Player of the week, Laura Milos, who ranks in the top five in the nation in kills per set, attacks per set and points per set.

## 'I Shoot For The Girls' Tourn. Oct. 31

The Easton Yankton Archery Complex's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "I Shoot for the Girls" Tournament will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31 starting at 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. One hundred percent of profits go to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Archers may begin shooting at 2 p.m., but archers may come in at any time to begin shooting. This type of start is called a "trickle". The targets consist of four pink ribbons and are set at 20 yards. There will be 10 ends of four arrows each, shooting three large and one small "bonus" ribbon. The inside of the ribbon is worth 10 points and the pink portion is worth 5 points. There will be adult, young adult, youth, and cub divisions, all set according to the NFAA rules. The top three archers in each division will receive a winner's certificate. All scores will be entered into a national record keeping system.

Archers may register and pay the fee at yanktonarcherycomplex.org, or call the Yankton Archery Complex at 605-260-9282.

## O'Gorman Surges Past Gazelles

SIoux FALLS – Sioux Falls O'Gorman continued its late-season surge at the expense of Yankton, beating the Gazelles 25-12, 25-15, 25-9 in prep volleyball action on Monday in Sioux Falls.

"They did a lot of things very well," said Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste. "We struggled to get anything going.

Rylee Smith led a balanced O'Gorman attack with 11 kills and two blocks. Alex Anderson had 10 kills and two ace serves. Katie Messler posted nine kills. Cassidy Skuza had 29 assists, Grace Wallin had 17 digs and Grace Ortmann had two blocks in the victory.

No statistics were reported for Yankton.

The Gazelles host Pierre on Friday, the start of a season-ending stretch of three matches in five days. Yankton

hosts Sioux Falls Washington on Oct. 26 and travels to Huron on Oct. 27 to end the regular season.

"We have three days before another stretch of three in a row," Beste said. "Last week I thought we had three good matches: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We have three days to try to get back to where we have to be when the post-season begins."

In the JV match, O'Gorman claimed a 25-15, 25-18 victory. For Yankton, Emily Oswald, Josie Saylor and Maddy Hochstein each had three kills. Cameryn Specht had five assists. Jess Reinhardt added six digs.

O'Gorman won the sophomore match 25-15, 25-9; the freshmen 'A' match 25-11, 25-15; and the freshmen 'B' match 25-23, 25-15. No statistics were reported for these matches.

## USD's Saeger, Bergner Earn MVFC Honors

VERMILLION — South Dakota junior quarterback Ryan Saeger is Offensive Player of the Week and junior punter/place-kicker Miles Bergner is Special Teams Player of the Week as announced by the Missouri Valley Football Conference Sunday.

The announcement came on the heels of the Coyotes' 24-21 upset of second-ranked and four-time defending national champion North Dakota State Saturday in Fargo. The victory marked South Dakota's first win in Fargo since 1978 and snapped the Bison's MVFC-record 26-game home win streak.

Saeger accounted for all three touchdowns in Saturday's victory. He passed for 202 yards and ran for 92 more. Against the top third-down defense in the nation, Saeger completed eight of them, including six with his legs and two with his arm. Saeger

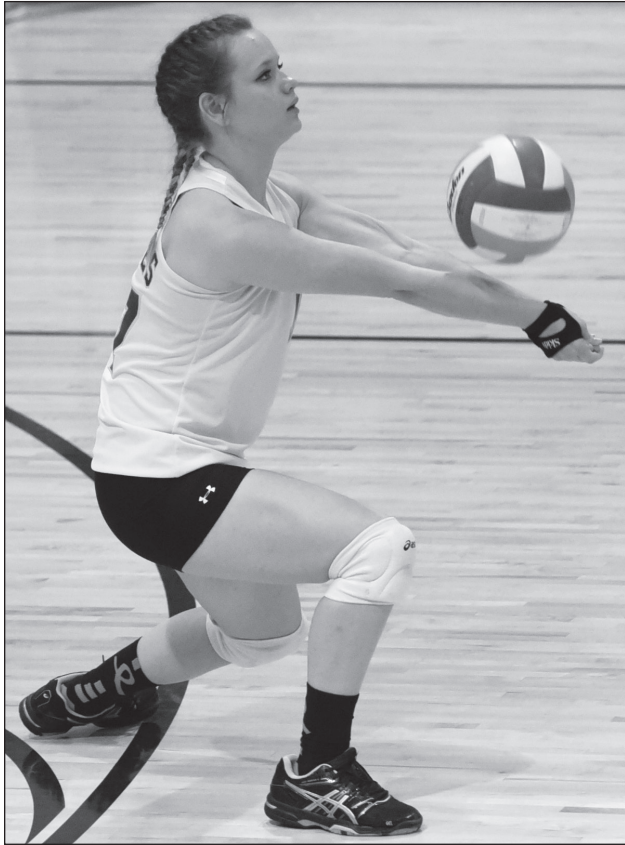
led the Coyotes on a 15-play, 72-yard touchdown drive that tied the game at 21-all with 4:47 remaining. He quarterbacked the 55-yard drive that setup the game-winning score.

Saeger threw two 8-yard touchdown passes and snuck in from a yard award for a third score. His 202 yards passing were three shy of his career high.

Bergner made a game-winning 33-yard field goal as time expired that gave the Coyotes the victory. He also averaged a career-best 49 yards on four punts and had a season-long of 61 yards. In addition, Bergner had two touchbacks on four kickoffs. This is the fourth time Berger has earned the weekly award.

South Dakota (3-3, 1-2 MVFC) returns to Vermillion and will host Missouri State (1-5, 0-3) at 2 p.m. Saturday inside the DakotaDome.

# Crofton, Cougars Advance To Knox County Final



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Menno libero Elizabeth Massey passes the ball during the Wolves' volleyball match against Centerville on Monday in Menno.

## Volleyball: Menno Scores Home Sweep Of Centerville

CREIGHTON, Neb. – The Crofton Warriors swept the Creighton Bulldogs 25-10, 25-12 in the semifinals of the Knox County Volleyball Tournament on Monday in Creighton, Nebraska.

For the Warriors, Monica Arens led the team with nine kills, Bre Allen led in digs with 10 and Madison Johnson lead the team with 11 assists. For Creighton, Jeanette Krueger was the team leader in kills with four. Tessa Vogt and Sydney Walton each had four assists. Bailey Zimmerer, Makayla Brockhaus, and Maycey Forker led the team with four digs each.

The tournament concludes today (Tuesday) in Creighton.

CROFTON (15-7).....25 25  
CREIGHTON (9-9).....10 12

## Niobrara-Verdigre 2, Bloomfield 0

CREIGHTON, Neb. – Niobrara-Verdigre swept Bloomfield 25-23, 26-24 in the

semifinals of the Knox County Volleyball Tournament.

For Niobrara-Verdigre, Ashley Guenther led with seven kills, Brittany Fisenbauer had a team-high 15 assists and three aces. Kylee McManigal also had three aces with a team-leading six digs.

Sarah Castaneda led Bloomfield with six kills. Britany Kerbel had a game-high 20 digs.

The tournament concludes today (Tuesday) in Creighton.

NIORARA-VERDIGRE (11-12).....25 26  
BLOOMFIELD (9-10).....23 24

## Niobrara-Verdigre 2, Wausa 0

CREIGHTON, Neb. – The Niobrara-Verdigre Cougars defeated the Wausa Vikings 25-15, 25-6 in high school volleyball action in the Knox County Tournament in Creighton, Nebraska on Monday.

For the Cougars, Ashley

Guenther led the team with nine kills. Brittany Fisenbauer finished with team-highs in assists with 15 and aces with five. Jace Forker and Alisa Hrbek were tops in digs for Niobrara-Verdigre with eight apiece.

No stats were reported for Wausa.

The tournament concludes today (Tuesday) in Creighton.

NIORARA-VERDIGRE (11-12).....25 25  
WAUSA (1-20).....15 6

## Creighton 2, Santee 0

CREIGHTON, Neb. – Creighton defeated Santee 25-8, 25-2 in the Knox County Volleyball Tournament on Monday in Creighton, Nebraska.

For Creighton, Bailey Zimmerer led the team in kills with four, and aces with eight. Tessa Vogt led the team in assists with eight. Zimmerer and Makayla Brockhaus had a team-high one dig apiece.

No stats were reported for Santee.

The tournament concludes today (Tuesday).

CREIGHTON (9-9).....25 25  
SANTÉE (3-16).....8 2

## Other Matches

### Menno 3, Centerville 0

MENNO – The Menno Wolves earned their ninth victory of the season in a 25-19, 25-20, 25-17 sweep of the Centerville Tornadoes in high school volleyball on Monday in Menno.

For the Wolves, Paige Heckenlaible led all players with 11 kills. Tara Spencer had a game-high 19 digs. Hailey Fergen led the Wolves in assists with 16. Marissa Buechler was the game's leader in aces with four, while also recording 13 assists.

Emily Snyder led Centerville with eight kills, Madeline Olson led with 11 assists, and Rebecca Hybattan was the leader in digs with 18.

Menno will return home to take on Avon Friday, while Centerville will host Freeman the same day.

MENNO (9-11).....25 25 25  
CENTERVILLE (6-19).....19 20 17

### Ethan 3, Avon 1

AVON – Ethan picked up its 14th victory of the season 17-25, 28-26, 25-22, 25-22