


WOKSAPE

Defending ESD Champs Start Season off on the Right Foot

 **BY NICK ROBINSON**

The defending co-ESD conference champion Yankton Bucks have started out their 2012 campaign with two wins over ESD foes Pierre and Huron, putting their record at 2-0 in the young season.

Yankton opened play with a nail-biting 27-21 victory over the Pierre Governors on Sat. Aug 25th in Pierre. The Bucks went into halftime with a 27-14 lead and couldn't put the ball in the end zone.

Yankton played a solid first half where they held the Pierre offense to being limited with their passing attack. The offense also showed off their weapons at the skill positions. The second half the Bucks showed they were tired.

Leading the Bucks were seniors James Hisek with 67 rushing yards and Evan Schroeder with 40 rushing yards. Senior Michael Rucker had 76 passing yards on the night. Defensively for the Bucks, James Hisek led with seven tackles. Seniors Kellen Soulek and C.J. Warren posted six tackles in the win.

The Bucks had a hard time defending the Pierre Governor running attack, where their backs posted over a hundred yards rushing.

"It felt good to get the first game out of the way," Warren said. "We were pretty tired after the first half and were kind of sluggish."

A short six days passed and the Yankton Bucks again headed on the road, this time to take on the Huron Tigers in Huron. The Bucks rolled to a 30-6 victory over the Tigers.

Huron's first three possessions were turnovers which helped Yankton gain an early lead, and they never looked back.

During the second half, the Bucks used their running game to lock up their second win of the young season.

The defense continued to pressure the Huron offense into punt after punt after punt in the ESD contest. Rucker and his receivers had a bit of a hard time connecting on the right routes to cap the game.

Yankton's C.J. Warren, James Hisek, J.J. Hejna, and Kolby LaCroix all had interceptions against Huron's Adam Zwanziger.

LaCroix however took his the distance for a pick six. Yankton also made the Tigers cough up the ball once, with a total of five Huron Tiger turnovers.

"Whenever you win the turnover battle, you have a much better shot at winning the game," Soulek stated.

Also, Michael Rucker broke the Yankton all time passing record with an eight yard touchdown pass to sophomore Jordan Lightner. Rucker threw for

101 yards.

Even though the Bucks rolled through the contest, they still showed some signs of some needed improvement.

"We need to have more execution with the lineman we need need to be able to block," head coach Arlin Likness said.

Evan Schroeder was the lead rusher with a total of 152 yards on 20 carries.

"Our defense really stepped up against Huron," Soulek said. "Our defensive backs played great, swarming to the ball. All around it was a great effort by the whole team."

The Yankton Bucks hosted the Watertown Arrows on Sept. 7th for the home opener. However, the score was not available at press time.

Yankton will host Aberdeen Central on homecoming, this Friday, Sept. 14, at Crane Youngworth Field at 7 p.m.

Following the homecoming game, Yankton will head to Brookings to take on the Bobcats on Sept. 21st.

Yankton won't return to Crane until October 5.

Rucker Thrashes Bucks' All-Time Passing Record

 **BY NICK ROBINSON**

Records are made to be surpassed and shared by different people in different times who share one common talent. A fourteen-year-old record was surpassed on Friday Aug. 31st—not just any record, but maybe one of the most decorated achievements in Yankton High School athletics.

Senior Michael Rucker has had three years as starting quarterback to add to his resume, where he exceeded all-state and Buck legend Mike Stotz (2,336 yards) as the all-time leading passer in Yankton Bucks' football history. Stotz also was a 3 year starter for the Bucks (1997-1999).

"I followed them (the Bucks) last year; with the numbers he (Rucker) was putting up, I knew he would break the record early in his senior year," Mike Stotz said. "I'm happy for him and the team that they are performing at a high level."

Rucker broke the long standing record with an eight yard pass to Sophomore Jordan Lightner at Huron (where the Bucks won 30-7 in ESD action). He passed for 101 yards on eight completions. Only three games into the season, Rucker has 2,409 yards passing.

"I couldn't believe it. I was completely shocked. But getting it on a touchdown pass, that's sweet," Rucker added. "I was just thinking that the play worked well because he was wide open and I was just glad we put up six points there."

As much as it is a great accomplishment for Rucker and this years' Yankton team, Rucker is not satisfied with just the record. He and the team are expecting great things for the rest of the season.

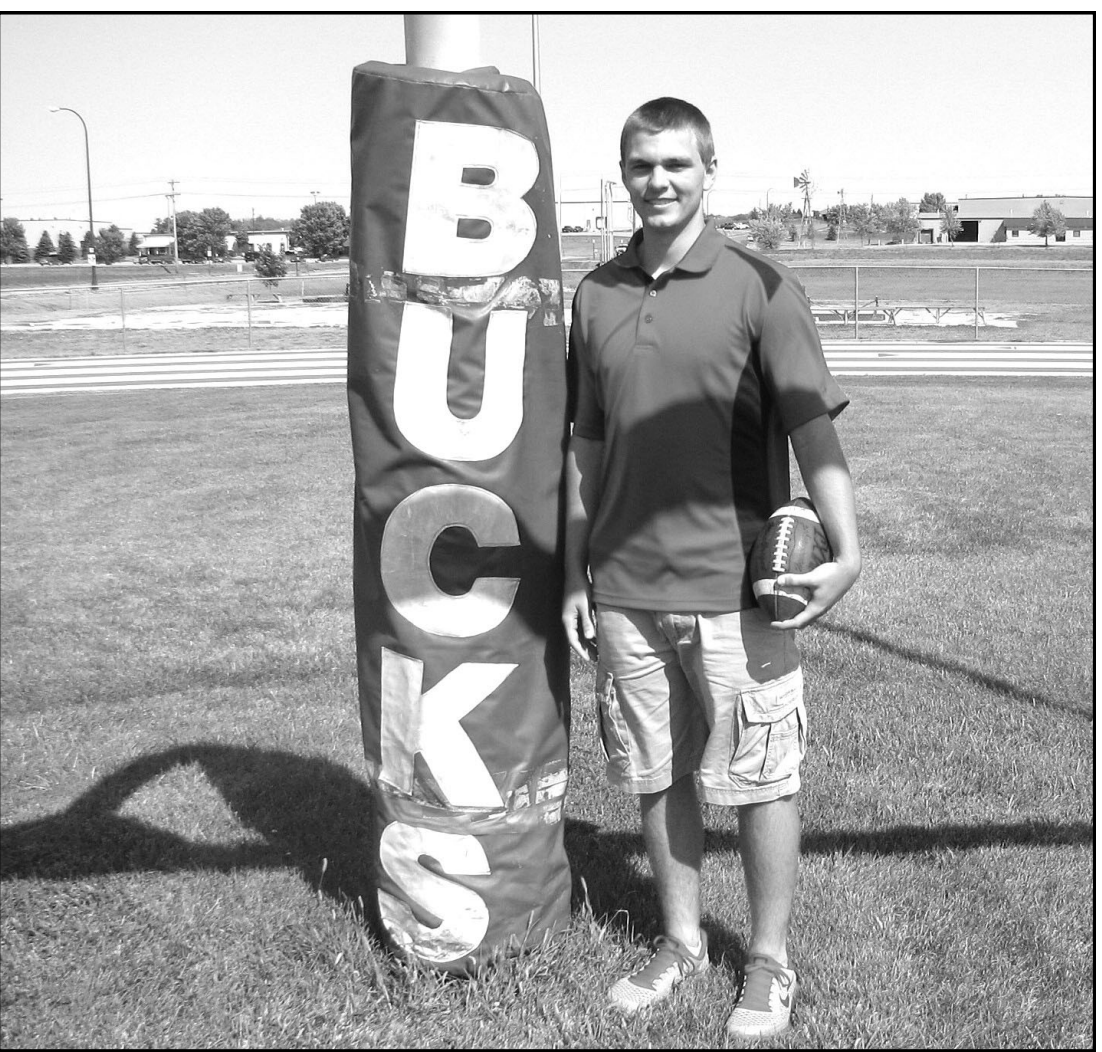


PHOTO BY NICK ROBINSON

Yankton quarterback, Michael Rucker, has earned the title of all-time leading passer for YHS.

"To complete my resume as quarterback and a 3 year starter at Yankton I'd say we would have to have to build off of last years' season and have a great one (season)," Rucker stated. "Not just me passing, but pulling out wins and going deep into postseason play."

One of the many things that both Rucker and Stotz have in common other than holding the record are having great players around them and coaches that put them in position to succeed.

"They (Rucker and Stotz) are great leaders, and have good work ethic," head football coach

Arlin Likness added.

Stotz does have one thing that Rucker does not, however: a state championship. Stotz and the Bucks finished their 1999 season with an undefeated record. Yankton beat Sioux Falls O'Gorman 28-23 in the state championship game.

When asked what Stotz would say to Rucker if he had the opportunity he said, "Congrats on breaking this record. Have fun, and enjoy it. You get to play in front of a great community and play with your friends."

What else could a high school senior football player ask for?

For Rucker to join Stotz and the other Yankton Bucks that have played in the Dakota Dome in front of thousands would be very special to him.

"I can't even put it into words for you," Rucker said. "It would be very special for this team and for our town."

You can follow Michael Rucker and the Bucks on Sept. 14th (Friday) for homecoming as Yankton hosts Aberdeen Central at 7p.m.

After this game, the Bucks spend two weeks on the road before returning home to host Washington on October 5.

YHS Volleyball Team Finding its Stride

 **BY MATTIE BLAGG**

The Yankton Gazelle volleyball team gained victory s two weeks ago as they faced Pierre's Lady Governors.

Everything was going well for the Gazelles as they took the win in the first match beating the Lady Govs 25-12.

Although Pierre gained more points in the second match than they did in the first, the Gazelles had the upper hand and won with a difference of seven points.

The final score between the two ESD schools was 25-22. Luckily, the victory was given to the Gazelles.

"Going from eighth grade volleyball to varsity volleyball is kind of intimidating," says freshman Becky Frick. "I need to pay attention and concentrate since it's a faster pace than what I'm used to."

Both teams fought hard and success hit Yankton for this home game. Junior Brooke Wuebben ended the night with nine digs. Along with Wuebben, senior Kelsey Fitzgerald had a great night with 11 kills out on the floor.

"Being out on the floor with the girls is a fun experience, especially with the crowd



COURTESY PHOTO

Yankton junior, Emily Bos, is shown practicing her serve.

cheering us on in the back-ground," Frick explains. "It's a whole new feeling when it's you out there instead of being up in the stands which is where I was just last year."

Senior Maria Binder led the Gazelles with the most ace serves, finishing with six.

Although they lost their first game against Huron, the battle involving the Lady Govs boosted their team spirit. The girls plan to give Yankton several wins in their upcoming games.

Gazelle Tennis Team Hitting Mid-Season Stride

 **BY ABBEY VANMEETEREN**

The Yankton Gazelle tennis team started off their season in the hot summer sun. The girls have been practicing since Aug. 6th to make sure they have a memorable season. The competition is tough this year, and the girls want to make sure that they're one of the top notch teams.

They've had eleven matches with a record so far of 4-7. Like the boy's tennis team, they're a very young team. The biggest competition they're up against this year will be O'Gorman and Rapid City Stevens in their state matches. Also, their closest competition is Brookings. It'll be tough this year, but they're working hard. The girls practice every day after school when they don't have matches. Practices for these ladies consists of warming up and just running drills.

"In practice, we like having fun, but we make sure to get things done," says junior Taylor Rothenberger.

The team is coached by Ms. Ginger Larsen. "We love our coach," says lone senior Sarah Santos. "She's so happy and inspirational, and she keeps our confidence up. And that's just what we need for our team this year."



COURTESY PHOTO

Yankton senior, Sarah Santos, prepares to serve.

The girls have the rest of the season to show everyone what they can do with their skills and positive attitudes. The girls travel to Sioux Falls Lincoln tomorrow to battle Lincoln and Mitchell.

Bucks Golfers Look to Continue Hot Streak

 **BY ASHLEY EILERS**

The YHS boy's golf team is off to a great start with twenty-four kids out this year. Brandon Frick stated, "I joined golf, because I enjoy playing the sport with friends. Getting out of school for tournaments is a plus."

Golfing takes a lot of practice. Golfers may have some excellent shots one day, and the next day, they are on the completely opposite fairway.

Brandon Frick said, "My strength would be hitting a pretty straight ball, and I'm pretty good at chipping."

Chris Eilers said his strength is "using my irons and driving the ball."

Brady Wiedmeier also agrees, "Driving a long ball is easiest." On the flip side, golfers may

have some bad days too. Chris Eilers stated, "My weakness in golf would be to hitting out of the sand bunkers."

Brandon Frick added, "I need to work on driving a long ball and my putting has been a little off lately."

Golfers each have a favorite course. Chris Eilers said, "I like Hillcrest, because it has nice long fairways with trees bordering it, so it helps me judge where to hit the ball."

Brady Wiedmeier also commented that he too likes Hillcrest because, "It is a nice course to golf on."

The boy's golf team has played in seven golf tournaments so far this school year.

On August 28th, at the Mitchell dual, Brandon Frick carded an 81, which helped the team win the tournament.

The Bucks golfers travel to Sioux Falls Lincoln on Sept. 13.



PHOTO BY LOGAN VAN WINKLE

Yankton golfer, Brandon Frick, tees off last week during the Yankton Invitational held here on Friday, September 7th.

Yankton XC Runners are in Top Form

 **BY GREG HAUER**

"The Yankton Bucks and Gazelles cross country teams have an optimistic future ahead of them," said Ryan Olson, junior and member of the YHS cross country team.

Mr. Dave Dannenbring, Bucks' and Gazelles' cross country coach, showed off his finely tuned athletes' abilities a few weeks ago at the boys and girls O'Gorman invitational.

"As a whole, the boys placed 4th overall," Dannenbring added. "As individuals, a lot of promise was shown."

Brice Cowman finished 4th overall at the meet followed by Justin Grode in the 14th position and Ryan Olson finished in the 16th position. The Bucks still have a lot of making up to do with the loss of two key varsity runners, Kipp Kinsley and Logan Smith.

The Gazelles cross country squad had a splendid performance, placing 3rd at the O'Gorman Invitational. The Gazelles dominated the leader boards with 2nd, 6th and 7th place finishes coming from Whitlee Larson, Annie Kruse, and Savannah Woods. "The season has been going great so far. Everyone has been training hard and encouraging one another along the way," said junior Whitlee Larson.

The Yankton Bucks and Gazelles Cross Country teams' upcoming meet is in Norfolk on Friday, September 14.

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