



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

LEFT: Yankton's Savannah Woods, left, and Annie Kruse set the pace during the varsity girls' race of the Yankton Invitational cross country meet on Thursday at the HSC Course. Kruse won the race, with Woods finishing second. RIGHT: Yankton's Brice Cowman turns a corner during the varsity boys' race at the Yankton Cross Country Invitational. Cowman won the race.

Cross Country | Yankton Invitational

YHS Runners Earn Varsity Sweep

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Even though there were only four schools competing and no team scores were kept, obstacles weren't hard to find for the Yankton Gazelles cross country team.

Annie Kruse and Savannah Woods made sure their squad kept pushing.

The Yankton tandem went 1-2 in the varsity girls' race, while Bucks' junior Brice Cowman won the varsity boys' title at Thursday's Yankton Invitational at the HSC Course.

Without top runner Whitlee Larson, who went down with a season-ending injury in the past week, the defending state champion Gazelles didn't miss a beat in a total field that included five schools. Kruse, a junior, won the individual title in a time of 15:04.17, just ahead of Woods, a freshman (15:08.96).

"We really miss having Whitlee out there with us, but it's always about the team. She's still there supporting us," Kruse said. "When you still have people to run with you and push you, it's a good feeling."

The Gazelles put their top four runners in the top 12 places, highlighted by the neck-and-neck pace by Kruse and Woods. Kruse surged at the end to win.

"We talked about just staying together; pushing each other," Woods said. "I wasn't

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ANNIE KRUSE, GAZELLES JUNIOR

quite as nervous as I usually get. Plus it helps when you've got all these fans cheering you on."

The annual 7-race meet also featured runners from Sioux Falls O'Gorman, Vermillion, Norfolk, Neb. and some younger athletes from Gayville-Volin. Coming off a loaded meet last Friday in Norfolk, Thursday's invitational was slated before Yankton competes in the tough South Sioux City Invite next Thursday.

"We purposely want it this way, small and intimate for our kids to have some success," YHS coach Dave Dannenbring said. "When you've essentially got three AA schools (including Norfolk in that mix), it's the perfect size and a nice change of pace for us."

The atmosphere naturally spurred on the Gazelles, who also saw Ashtyn Haak finish eighth (16:49.69), Tristan Roy take 12th (17:08.06), Anna Ordaz take 19th (18:33.41) and Sara Hicks finish 22nd (18:47.13).

"When you can have two girls around

that 15 minute mark on this course, that's a great thing," Dannenbring said. "Ashtyn and Roy are both improving for us, and they showed that today."

With a freshman/sophomore and middle school race sandwiched around the varsity race, every Yankton runner got a taste of that atmosphere, Kruse said.

"It really gives you a boost of confidence," she said. "When you've got everyone cheering for you, it helps you for down the road."

That support undoubtedly helped Cowman in the varsity boys' race. He led the entire way and clocked a winning time of 16:25.43, nearly a full 15 seconds ahead of Norfolk standout Benjamin Protzman.

"I knew there was some competition from O'Gorman, but there's definitely some pressure when you're all alone out front," Cowman said. "It's always harder to gauge yourself all alone. It's nice to run with someone."

The Bucks put three runners in the top 12, including Ryan Olson in sixth (17:49.33)

and Jacob Bies in 12th (18:16.74). A group of eight other Yankton runners also competed in the race.

"We're trying to get our guys under that 17 minute time, which would be pretty good," Dannenbring said. "The key is for them to keep getting better, to keep pushing."

In the freshmen/sophomore division, Vermillion's Madisen Martinez won the girls' race with a time of 17:36.15, while O'Gorman's Tiegien Lindner won the boys' race in 14:25.75 — ahead of Yankton's Paul Fanta and Ethan Klimisch.

With two weeks until the Eastern South Dakota Conference (ESD) meet in Brookings, Yankton has time to continue work together in the wake of Larson's injury, Kruse said.

"You just have to keep going," she said. "Savannah and I are lucky that we have each other."

"The ESD meet is the one we're waiting for; to see where we are."

From there, Yankton will have one meet remaining before the Oct. 20 state meet in Huron.

"I'm looking forward to getting back on the Huron course, to redeem myself," Cowman said. "It's been a while, and I'd like to do a lot better than my freshman year up there."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

YHS GAMEDAY

Yankton (4-0)
at Brookings (2-2)

7 p.m., Coughlin-Alumni Stadium

LAST MEETING: Yankton's Connor Fitzsimmons rushed for 182 yards and Evan Schroeder rushed for 94 yards as the Bucks downed Brookings 39-6 on Sept. 23, 2011.

LAST WEEK: Yankton celebrated Pioneer Day with a 42-14 rout of Aberdeen Central.

Brookings lost its second straight game, a 34-26 decision at Pierre.

NEXT UP: Yankton faces a tough test at Sioux Falls Roosevelt. Aberdeen Central returns home to face Huron.

FOLLOW THE GAME ONLINE: The Press & Dakotan will host a live chat during the game. Find it here: <http://www.yankton.net/yhsgameday>

Bucks Look To Remain Unbeaten

BY CHRIS RILEY
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After a two-game homestand where they out-scored opponents 86-14, the undefeated Yankton Bucks once again hit the road today, this time to square off against the 2-2 Brookings Bobcats at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium in Brookings.

Yankton, 4-0 and tied with Sioux Falls Roosevelt for the fourth-place ranking in the Class 11AA South Dakota Sportswriters Association Poll, allowed 21 points in their season-opening win in Pierre and has allowed just 21 points combined in the three games since.

Even though it may be tempting for the Bucks to look ahead to next week's road trip at Roosevelt and their October 5 home game versus top-ranked Washington, Yankton head coach Arlin Likness knows that he must keep his team's thoughts solely on defeating the Bobcats.

"We know we have to be focused and be ready for every game that we play," Likness said after last Friday's sloppy 42-14 defeat of Aberdeen Central.

Brookings outscored Huron and Mitchell 59-14 in their first two games of the season, both victories, but then got pounded by Brandon Valley 38-0 at home in week three and lost to Pierre by eight points last Friday.

First year Brookings coach Lee Schmidt knows that his team will be in for a challenge to contain the Bucks hard-charging offense.

"Yankton's size and speed make slowing down their running game a major challenge for our defense," Schmidt said. "We need to eliminate big plays and not turn the ball over."

Turnovers are definitely something that have worked in Yankton's favor this season so far, as the Bucks currently sit at plus-13 in the turnover column with 14 takeaways and only one turnover through four games, a fumble on their opening drive deep in Aberdeen Central territory last week.

A main key for the Bucks tonight will be to come away with victory while minimizing injuries. Sophomores Levi Davis and Jordan Lightner filled in for running back Even Schroeder last week after Schroeder was injured in the first quarter of Yankton's week three 44-0 blowout of Watertown. Lightner injured an ankle himself early in last week's contest but he returned later in the game.

Logan Van Winkle and Tanner Termansen also went down last week with injuries, with neither returning to action. It is crucial that Yankton begins their toughest stretch of the season against Roosevelt next week as healthy as possible.

The Bucks look to have their hands full with the Bobcats first

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Gazelles Swept At Washington

SIoux FALLS — Sioux Falls Washington blanked the Yankton Gazelles 9-0 in their regular season girls' tennis finale on Thursday in Sioux Falls.

Sarah Rockne, Sarah Santos, Alexa Bryan, Taylor Rothenberger, Kaitlyn Frank and Anna Kokesch all suffered singles losses for the Gazelles.

Yankton, now 10-14, will compete in the Eastern South Dakota Conference tournament next Thursday in Brookings.

S.F. WASHINGTON 9, YANKTON 0
SINGLES: Berkeley Darr SFW def. Sarah Rockne 6-0, 6-2; Mical Johnson SFW def. Sarah Santos 6-0, 6-1; Jessica Ackert SFW def. Alexa Bryan 6-2, 6-2; Maycee Trujillo SFW def. Taylor Rothenberger 6-3, 6-2; Cassidy Kruger SFW def. Kaitlyn Frank 6-2, 6-2; Eliana Stanley SFW def. Anna Kokesch 6-0, 6-1.
DOUBLES: Darr-Johnson SFW def. Rocke-Rothenberger 6-3, 6-0; Ackert-Trujillo SFW def. Santos-Bryan 6-2, 6-3; Kruger-Stanley SFW def. Frank-Jaclyn Arens 6-2, 6-3
JV: Alyssa Schmidt SFW def. Arens 8-2; Abbie Kneip SFW def. Maddy Logue 8-1; SFW def. Mimi Garcia 8-1; SFW def. Anne Knoff 8-0; SFW def. Olivia Jeffcoat 8-0; SFW def. Ashley Lacey 8-0; SFW def. Laurel Friedenbach 8-0



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Avon libero Amanda Reiff takes a knee to dig out a ball as teammate Emily Mudder looks on during the Lady Pirates' volleyball match with Irene Wakonda on Thursday in Wakonda.

Parkston Survives MCM 3-2

SALEM — Whitney Weber put up 18 set assists, 13 digs and two aces Thursday night to lead the Parkston Trojans in a five-set volleyball victory against the McCook Central-Montrose Fighting Cougars.

Parkston won by scores of 17-25, 25-19, 25-15, 19-25, 15-11.

Kenzie Lee recorded 11 kills, 10 digs and two blocks for the night, and Krista Radke had 14 assists.

For the Fighting Cougars, Brianna Painter had 24 digs, Laura Klaudt had 20 assists, Anna Olinger recorded 13 kills and Jean Skoglund made 14 digs.

Parkston travels to Tripp to face Tripp-Delmont/Armour, and McCook Central-Montrose will travel to Dell Rapids.

PARKSTON (6-7).....17 25 19 15
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONTROSE (3-10).....25 19 15 25 11

Freeman 3, Menno 1

FREEMAN — The Freeman Flyers got 15 kills and 13 digs from Dina Soulek in a 25-19, 23-25, 25-7, 25-19 high school volleyball win over Freeman on Thursday night in Freeman.

Grace Gering had 29 assists, five digs, two aces and one kill for the Flyers (3-5), while Shelby Bauer added nine digs, four aces and two kills.

For the Wolves, Courtney Schaeffer made six assists, five digs, three kills and three aces, while Christina Herrboldt had 12 digs, two kills and one ace. Britney Haberman recorded seven digs, four kills and two blocks.

Menno and Freeman both travel to Marion on Saturday to compete in the Cornbelt Conference.

MEMNO (1-6).....19 25 7 19
FREEMAN (3-5).....25 23 25 25

Hartington 3, Osmond 1

OSMOND — Hartington defeated Osmond Thursday night 25-19, 25-23, 22-25, 25-18 in Osmond.

For Osmond, Courtney Hochstein made 35 assists, 14 digs and two kills. Michaela Dendering had 19 kills, two aces, two blocks, one assist and one dig, while Camie Stratman put up 15 digs, five kills, two assists and two aces.

No stats were reported for Hartington.

Hartington will travel to Wakefield on Tuesday to play in the Wakefield/Wausa Triangular, while Osmond will participate in the Lindsay Holy Family Triangular.

HARTINGTON (8-4).....25 25 22 25
OSMOND (3-3).....19 23 25 18

South Central 3, Bon Homme 1

TYNDALL — Shailyn Schweigert led the South Central Cougars in a win against the Bon Homme Cavaliers Thursday night 25-13, 25-27, 25-21, 25-17 in Tyndall.

Schweigert put up 12 digs, five assists and two aces, and Tess Bentz had 16 digs and one ace for the Cougars. Courtney Dummer recorded 12 digs, and Ashley

Green had 10 kills.

For Bon Homme, Jody Kriz had 26 blocks, Alie Adams had 24 assists, Vanessa Navratil made 21 digs and Emily Pechous 16 digs and seven kills.

The Cavaliers will travel to Dakota Valley on Tuesday and South Central will face West Boyd in Butte, NE.

SOUTH CENTRAL (5-7).....25 25 25 25
BON HOMME (8-8).....13 27 21 17

Creighton 3, Wausa 1

WAUSA, Neb. — Creighton defeated Wausa in four sets on Thursday night by the scores of 25-17, 18-25, 25-19, 15-18.

Leading Wausa on the night was Abbi Hegge with 11 kills, three blocks, one assist, and 17 digs. Gabby Swanson added 23 assists, five digs, and a block. Leanna Rosberg had 16 digs, six kills, and an ace. Brittanii Claussen had 10 digs and six kills for Wausa.

After the loss, Wausa moves to 2-8 on the year and will play in a triangular in Wakefield against Crofton and Wakefield, on Sept. 25.

CREIGHTON.....17 25 25 25
WAUSA (2-8).....25 18 19 18

Alcester-Hudson 3, Elk Point-Jefferson 1

ALCESTER — Alcester-Hudson defeated Elk Point-Jefferson by the scores of 25-16, 25-21, 9-25, 25-20.

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