

Bucks, Raiders Look To Bounce Back



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton's Mason Strahl tries to escape Mitchell's Jon Jamison during their Eastern South Dakota Conference football game on Saturday at Yankton's Crane-Youngworth Field. Strahl and the Bucks head west to face Rapid City Stevens tonight (Friday). Start time is 6 p.m. Central.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Both the Yankton Bucks and Rapid City Stevens Raiders did not see what they were hoping for in last week's season opening games. The teams are hoping for better showings — and outcomes — when they take to O'Hara Stadium tonight (Friday).

The Bucks make their first — and longest — road trip of the season today, facing the Raiders in the opening game of Rapid City's "Rushmore Bowl." The game will begin at 5 p.m. Mountain (6 p.m. Central), with Pierre and Rapid City Central playing the nightcap.

Yankton comes in off a 27-21 loss to Mitchell, the Kernels' first win over Yankton since the 1987 regular season.

"We made more mistakes than we could get away with," said Yankton head coach Arlin Likness. "We committed turnovers, and not finishing plays hurt us on both offense and defense."

Stevens had a solid start, but ran out of gas down the stretch in a 34-9 loss to Sioux Falls O'Gorman.

"Right now we're struggling with depth," said Stevens head coach Scott Hagen, who made his Raiders' coaching debut last week after a successful run at Class 11A Sisseton. "O'Gorman had one offensive line, one defensive line, and we were playing a lot of those guys both ways."

In the loss, Raider running back Carter Wevik touched the ball just three times, something that was forced by the O'Gorman defense.

"The game dictated passing, based on the defense they ran," Hagen said. "We weren't as sharp as we should have been in the passing game. We had six to eight dropped passes, and four of those would have been 20-yards plus."

The Raiders rely offensively on junior quarterback Austin Hagen (239 yards, 1 TD), backed up by sophomore Brandon Soucy.

"Everything goes through our quarterback," Coach Hagen said. "He is expected to make reads at the line. For the most part, our quarterbacks did a good job of that."

Junior Jeremy Schick was the Raiders' leading receiver

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21st Annual Rushmore Bowl Tonight

Parking Shuttle Available For The Games

RAPID CITY — The Rushmore Bowl Committee in conjunction with Rapid City Central and Stevens High School, has announced the lineup for this year's 21st Annual Rushmore Bowl Event, Sept. 6 at O'Hara Stadium on the campus of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

The event begins at 6 p.m. Central, with the Yankton Bucks playing Rapid City Stevens. Rapid City Central plays Pierre in the 9 p.m. Central contest.

The Rushmore Bowl funds more than 120 activities in the Rapid City high schools and last year gave more than \$60,000 to the Central and Stevens Booster Clubs for dispersion.

Tickets will be good for both games, and will include the opportunity to win door prizes, including Denver Bronco tickets.

There will also be raffle tickets on sale during the event, with prizes including a Polaris 570 side by side UTV, a \$2,000.00 Travel Voucher, 4 iPad Minis and 4-\$250.00 gas cards. These prizes will be given away after the 3rd Quarter of the Central-Pierre game.

There will also be a park-

ing shuttle, beginning at 5 p.m. Central (4 p.m. Mountain) and running until the end of the second game. The parking shuttle lot will be located at the paved parking lot surface at Central States Fairgrounds just minutes from the stadium. The shuttle buses will run every 15 minutes and will deliver fans to the front gate of the stadium. Directions to the Parking Shuttle Lot are as follows: Going westbound on Interstate 90, take Exit 60 and proceed into town on North Street until you reach Cambell Street. At Cambell Street, turn left (south) and proceed to San Francisco Street (located across from Liberty Jeep). At San Francisco

Street, turn right and proceed to the shuttle parking lot, which is a fenced-in black top parking lot on your right. Park car, proceed to the shuttle pick up area and be delivered to the front gate of the stadium. When you want to return, report to the shuttle gate, board the bus and be delivered back to the shuttle parking area.

Fans are encouraged to use the parking shuttle.

For more information please contact the Central Activities Office at 394-4041 extension 4 or the Stevens Activities Office at 394-4016. Information is also available on the Rushmore Bowl page on Facebook.

YHS GAMEDAY

Yankton (0-1) at Rapid City Stevens (0-1)
6 p.m. CT, O'Hara Field

SERIES SINCE 1981: Yankton 9-4. Bucks have won four straight, with Stevens' last win coming in 1997.

LAST MEETING: Yankton beat Stevens 35-6 in 2005.

LAST WEEK: Yankton fell to Mitchell 27-21. Stevens lost to O'Gorman 34-9.

NEXT UP: Yankton returns home to face ESD rival Brandon Valley. Stevens travels to Sturgis.

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

USD Evaluating Its Options

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Two days after long-time men's basketball coach Dave Boots announced his sudden retirement, USD is still evaluating options on how to proceed.

Asked Thursday about the next step, athletic director David Herbster said there are no new developments and the administration continues to consider all options.

"For our players, the best thing they can do is conduct business as usual," Herbster said. "That's what our entire staff is doing."

That said, USD isn't interested in seeing the process drag on, he added.

"If it goes on too long without an announcement, people will start to wonder," Herbster said. "We don't want it to linger."

The administration does not want to set a time table for such a decision, Herbster said, adding that it's still early in the process.

In the 48 hours since Boots' resignation, USD has, however, sought advice from a number of sources — current coaches, athletic directors, search firms, other contacts — on how to proceed, Herbster said.

His staff has also received plenty of calls from interested coaches, as well as suggestions from other current head coaches.

"So close to the season, people naturally are curious," Herbster said.

Count former Coyote player Jeremy Kudera of Yankton among those curious. Kudera, who graduated in 2001 after a standout career with Boots, said that while "Coyote fans will certainly miss not having Dave there," he believes long-time assistant Joey James would do well in any kind of interim phase.

"I know Joey pretty well, and he wants this badly," Kudera said Thursday. "It's a big decision they have to make, because they've got a very good tradition over there."

"Joey's been with Dave for 11 years, so he can relate to the players he helped recruit," Kudera said. "On the other hand, he doesn't have any head coaching experience, but everyone has to start at some point."

Kudera, like the rest of the Coyote supporters, awaits a decision by USD — "It'll be an interesting process."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

Volleyball: Huron Sweeps Gazelles 3-0



MIKE CARROLL/HURON PLAINSMAN

Yankton's Paige Thieman sets the ball during the Gazelles 3-0 loss at Huron on Thursday.

HURON — The Huron Tigers got off to a fast start, hitting .458 in the opening set of a 25-11, 25-22, 25-19 victory over Yankton in prep volleyball action on Thursday at the Huron Arena.

"We looked super flat in game one," said Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste after the match. "We talked to them about playing hard and getting after it. In game three, we talked to them about getting after it at the net, and they responded as well."

Halee Allerdigs and Asia King each had 11 kills for Huron, with Jacey Hupp recording eight kills and Sami Zell notching seven kills. Kelly McCarty had 43 assists and four ace serves. King added two solo blocks in the win.

For Yankton, Becky Frick led the way with nine kills and two

ace serves. Paige Theiman posted 10 assists and two ace serves. Haley Mines added eight digs.

Yankton, 0-3, hosts Pierre on Saturday. Start time is 5 p.m.

"We improved throughout the match tonight, but we talked about stepping onto the court and being ready to play," Beste said. "For this team, the best thing is to be on the court. The more matches these girls get to play, the better they will get."

Huron swept all three sub-varsity matches.

In the JV match, a 25-11, 23-25, 25-22 decision, Yankton was led by Ellie Fedders with seven assists and eight digs, and Sophie Drotzmann with three kills and three ace serves.

In the sophomore match, a

25-15, 19-25, 25-18 decision, Presley Pasco had seven kills and Josie Sayler had five kills to lead the offense. Julie Soto had 12 assists and two ace serves.

Huron won the freshmen match 25-15, 26-24. No statistics were reported.

Andes Central 3, Avon 2

AVON — Dennisha Johannesson had 20 assists and 16 kills to lead the Andes Central Eagles to a 3-2 prep volleyball win against the Avon Lady Pirates on Thursday night in Avon.

Payton Johannesson added 16 kills, 14 assists and 12 digs to the win, while Dillera Overak put up 13 digs. Hanna Powers had 27 assists for Avon, with Chesney Nagel contributing 15 digs and 14 kills on the night. Ariana Oorlog also had 10 kills, 10 digs and six aces.

The Lady Pirates travel to play against Tripp Saturday, while Andes Central faces Parkston in Lake Andes.

ANDES CENTRAL (1-1).....19 31 19 25 12
AVON (0-3).....25 29 25 14 12

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Q&A: Receivers Coach Middleton Prepares For Return To Kansas

BY JEREMY HOECK
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As it looked for any kind of insight into the Kansas program it will be facing Saturday, the USD football team didn't have to look far.

First-year wide receivers coach Matthew Middleton joined the USD staff earlier this year after spending the 2012 season as a graduate assistant coach with Kansas.

Middleton, a native of Kansas City, was a four-year starter at Ottawa (Kan.) University from 2004-07. He was on the staff at Nebraska-Omaha from 2009-10 and at Chadron State College in 2011.

He joined USD head coach Joe Glenn at Wednesday's Yankton Quarterback Club luncheon, and later took a few minutes to talk about the Jayhawks.

With both Kansas and USD coming off 1-win seasons, I would imagine both are in a similar spot to want to really

turn the page in 2013?

"Both teams want to win this year, but we have more returners here. Last year they added a whole new personnel and all these junior college kids. It's still to be determined how that works out for them. For us, the chemistry is a lot better (than 2012). We had more guys stay around this summer, even some of the freshmen came early."

Is there a lot of optimism at Kansas this season?

"For sure. They brought in some new kids to help out the passing game, which was pretty down. They already have the run game established with (James) and (Tony) Pierson, so that creates a lot of excitement."

What kind of player is Jake Heaps, their transfer quarterback from BYU?

"He's a great kid, very polite in everything he says. He can talk it like a coach out there; he knows the system.

Starting off the season, it'll be interesting to see how he handles it, but he's been a freshman before. He's been through those first-game jitters before."

What's Memorial Stadium like?

"Oh, it's great. The chants they have going on, and the hill (on one side of the stadium), it's a very energetic and live atmosphere."

Do all those FCS upsets last weekend stoke the fires for you guys more than they already were?

"It shows our guys that yes, it can happen. It's a bigger-name opponent, so you already want to play up to that level. We know that it comes down to applying the gameplan and being consistent."

Follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.



P&D FILE PHOTO

South Dakota wide receivers coach Matthew Middleton, left, watches a drill during a recent USD football practice. Middleton spent last season on the staff at the University of Kansas, and will return there with the Coyotes this Saturday.