

Football | Presidents Bowl Luncheon

Huether: Journey Just As Important As The Battle

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

SIoux FALLS – Mike Huether took the opportunity Wednesday to share a story familiar to most Yankton High School football fans: The plight of quarterback Reid Sawatzke.

It's a story of success. Of setback. Of recovery. Of perseverance. And of another setback.

An ACL injury to his right knee kept Sawatzke – a football and basketball standout for the Bucks – out of action all of last year. He rehabilitated the knee enough to the point where he could return to the football field, where he took over the quarterback reins for the defending state champion Bucks.

Sawatzke, however, left last Friday night's home game with Mitchell after a first-half injury that was later determined to be another ACL tear. It all but ends his high school athletic career.

That determination and drive to return to the field prompted Huether – a Yankton native – to share the story at Wednesday's Presidents Bowl media luncheon in Sioux Falls.

"Like many athletes, he said, 'I'm not going to give up, I'm going to keep training and rehabbing,'" Huether said told the assembled crowd. "He came back, almost full strength, to compete for the Yankton Bucks.

"He said, 'I want to play football again,' and he did." On the one hand, Sawatz-

ke is far from the only athlete to suffer a season-ending injury, but his situation proved to Huether – as he relayed to the crowd – that athletics play such a key role in a person's life. The message was that the journey is just as important as the battle.

"There's a lot of truth to it," Yankton head coach Arlin Likness said, after conducting interviews with Sioux Falls TV stations to preview Saturday's game with Sioux Falls Washington.

"Like people say, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

It is just a matter of realizing that, Huether said.

In Sawatzke's case, the potential college recruit was bound for a solid career on the basketball court. And

while the second injury doesn't mean such an option is off the table, it means Sawatzke will have to turn his determination in another direction.

Likness said he had a conversation Tuesday with Sawatzke in which they talked about the "bigger plan."

"And through sports and through all these injuries, hopefully he'll find something he'll love to do with his life," Likness said. "That's part of growing."

Sawatzke's situation comes one year after former Yankton football standout Levi Kabella suffered his third career knee injury – he spent the last half of the 2014 football season cheering on



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton senior Reid Sawatzke and the Bucks salute the flag during the National Anthem at Friday's home opener against Mitchell. Sawatzke's story caught the attention of Sioux Falls major Mike Huether, a Yankton native, who talked about Sawatzke during the Presidents Bowl media luncheon on Wednesday in Sioux Falls.

BOWL | PAGE 8

“Togetherness Will Overcome Any Frustration”



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
University of Nebraska men's basketball coach Tim Miles addresses the crowd during the FCA Evening of Champions event at the Yankton High School main auditorium on Wednesday.

Optimism Fuels Husker Coach, S.D. Native

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

It was year two at Nebraska.

Tim Miles was about ready to lead his team out on the floor for a nationally-televised college basketball game at Michigan State.

Television cameras from the Big Ten Network were in the locker room to broadcast live Miles' speech to his Huskers; a potential recruiting boon, he now jokes.

A simple message on the white board was supposed to motivate his Huskers; pump them up for the game.

"There was some smattering of chuckling, because I think we have such a comfort with our team," Miles told a Yankton crowd Wednesday night. "The guys are like, 'Hey coach, nice one.'"

He turned around to the board. To his embar-

assment, he had spelled "togetherness" wrong. He had written "Tougherness is greater than frustration."

Nebraska went on to the win the game — which led to T-shirts being printed up with "Tougherness." It was Miles' optimism that fueled the moment (and the reason he can joke about it now), but as he said Wednesday night, there is also a life lesson from that light moment.

"In life, you always face frustration, but if you have a unity, your togetherness will overcome any frustration," the Nebraska men's head coach said during the FCA Evening Of Champions event at the Yankton High School theater.

That was a belief the 49-year-old Miles picked up from his days in Doland, a small town — population: 189

MILES | PAGE 11



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Mount Marty softball player Kelsey Mitera listens intently during the FCA Evening of Champions event at the Yankton High School main auditorium on Wednesday.

Volleyball: Lancers Sweep Morningside To Open GPAC Season

SIoux CITY, Iowa – Mount Marty College opened the Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball schedule with a 25-19, 25-18, 25-23 victory over Morningside on Wednesday at RVSC-Allee Gym in Sioux City, Iowa.

Sierra Kloth powered the Mount Marty offense, recording 12 kills without an error and recording two assisted blocks and two ace serves. Bailey Kuchta and Laura Cattle each had seven kills. Amber Dythse posted 16 assists and six kills. BreAnne Thege had 18 digs. Lindsey Jaixen posted 14 assists. Rachel Reiff added three assisted blocks in the victory.

For Morningside, former Dakota Valley standout Jayde Bergmann had 18 kills. Morgan O'Malley posted 20 assists.

MMC, 3-2 overall and 1-0 in GPAC play, travels to Presentation on Friday.

Tuesday High School

Cedar Catholic 3, Crofton 2

CROFTON, Neb. – Hartington Cedar Catholic rallied from a 2-1 deficit to beat Crofton 16-25, 25-19, 23-25, 25-19, 15-8 in Mid-State Conference volleyball action on Tuesday.

Jada Cattau had 16 kills and five blocks, and Maddie Wieseler and Taylor Lammers had 11 kills each to lead Cedar Catholic. Wieseler also had 16 digs, one off Abby Steffen's team-high 17. Emily

Feilmeier had 47 assists. Brianna Lammers posted four ace serves and Maggie Wiebelhaus had three ace serves in the victory.

For Crofton, Monica Arens had 20 kills and 15 blocks (three solo), and Kelsey Sanger had 15 kills, five blocks (one solo) and 18 digs to lead the way. Madison Johnson had 17 assists and three ace serves. Katie Petersen had six assisted blocks. Bre Allen had 27 digs. Brittany Guenther posted 16 assists. Samantha Stewart and Kaitlynn Vornhagen each had five blocks, with Vornhagen recording one solo block. Chelsea Wortmann had 14 digs for the Lady Warriors.

Cedar Catholic, 5-1, travels to Wakefield for a triangular with Wakefield and Pierce today (Thursday). Crofton, 2-1, travels to Wakefield today.

CEDAR CATHOLIC (5-1).....16 25 23 25 15
CROFTON (2-1).....25 19 25 25 19 8

Beresford 3, Irene-Wakonda 1

WAKONDA – Beresford battled past Irene-Wakonda 27-25, 25-20, 23-25, 25-21 in prep volleyball action on Tuesday.

Emily Stimes had eight kills and Katelyn Wilson had seven kills and four blocks to lead Beresford. Katie Diepfendorf had 33 assists. Bailey Twite posted 31 digs and six ace serves. Emma Williams had four blocks in the win. Caitlin Hinseth had 15 kills and eight digs to lead Irene-Wakonda. Hannah Andersen had 21 assists. Ashley Emmick had 17 digs and five ace serves. Taylor Lee finished with three ace serves and eight digs, and Maddie Mohr had five blocks for the Eagles.

Beresford, 3-0, travels to Dakota Valley tonight (Thursday). Irene-Wakonda, 2-2, hosts Bridgewater-Emery tonight in Wakonda.

BERESFORD (3-0).....27 25 23 25
IRENE-WAKONDA (2-2).....25 20 25 21

Wynot 3, Allen 1

ALLEN, Neb. – Cortney Arkfeld had 13 kills, four blocks, four ace serves and 16 digs as Wynot downed Allen 25-15, 25-13, 16-25, 25-13 in Lewis & Clark Conference volleyball action on Tuesday.

Skylar Arkfeld had seven kills and 19 digs, and Danielle Wieseler had 26 assists for Wynot. Olivia Wieseler posted 14 digs and Carissa Kuchta had 12 digs in the victory.

No statistics were available for Allen, which plays Bloomfield and Wausa in a triangular at Bloomfield tonight (Thursday).

Wynot heads across the border to face Viborg-Hurley tonight in Viborg.

Wynot cruised to a 25-8, 25-8 victory in the JV match.

ALLEN (2-4).....15 13 25 13
WYNOT (2-4).....25 25 16 25

Bloomfield 3, Osmond 1

OSMOND, Neb. – Kristin Thompson had 11 kills and seven blocks (five solo), and Brittany Kerbel and Leah Poppe each had seven ace serves as Bloomfield downed Osmond 25-15, 19-25, 25-17, 25-22 in Lewis & Clark Conference volleyball action on Tuesday.

Kerbel had 26 assists and Karly Jensen had three solo blocks in the victory.

For Osmond, Hannah Gutz had seven kills and three ace serves, and Caitlin Kumm had 16 assists and three ace serves to lead the way. Andrea Schmidt had three blocks and Cierra Pfanstiel had 10 digs for the Tigers.

Bloomfield hosts two more Lewis & Clark opponents, Allen and Wausa, in a triangular tonight (Thursday). Osmond travels to Emerson for a triangular with Emerson-Hubbard and Randolph tonight. BLOOMFIELD (2-1).....25 19 25 25
OSMOND (0-3).....15 25 17 22

Creighton 3, Plainview 1

PLAINVIEW, Neb. – Creighton was able to hold on for a victory after two close sets to defeat Plainview on the road 26-24, 22-25, 25-18, 25-15 on Tuesday night in Lewis & Clark Conference volleyball action.

Maycey Forker led Creighton's offense with 18 kills and anchored their defense with 26 digs.

Jenanelle Krueger led Plainview with five digs. Creighton will host Stuart today (Thursday) and Plainview will host Winside on Saturday.

CREIGHTON (2-1).....26 22 25 25
PLAINVIEW (1-3).....24 25 18 15

Andes Central-Dakota Chr. 3, Parkston 0

LAKE ANDES – Andes Central-Dakota Christian improved to 4-2 with a 25-22, 25-20, 25-21 sweep of Parkston in Little Missouri Valley Conference volleyball action on Tuesday.

Kennedy Muckey had 14 kills and Abbi Baan Hoffman had nine kills to lead AC-DC. Emily Houseman had 13 assists, Lydia Hansum had nine assists and Megan Mudder had 11 digs in the victory.

For Parkston, Paige Semmler had 10 kills and Halli Heisinger had eight kills, 15 digs and five ace serves to lead the way. Sydney Weber posted 17 assists and 13 digs. Nicky Weber added nine digs and three ace serves.

AC-DC, 4-2, hosts Sunshine Bible today (Thursday) at the Dakota Christian gym. Parkston travels to Corsica to face Corsica-Stickney on Sept. 15.

Parkston took the JV match in two sets. AC-DC took the 'C' match 2-1.

PARKSTON (1-6).....22 20 21
ANDES CENTRAL-DAKOTA CHRISTIAN (4-2).....25 25 25

VOLLEYBALL | PAGE 8

SDSU Fans To See Many Upgrades

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State's blue-and-yellow checkerboard end zones will soon have a surrounding structure befitting a Division I football program.

The Jackrabbits are a year away from transitioning out of the 50-year-old Coughlin-Alumni Stadium and into the new \$65 million Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

But even those attending Saturday's home opener against Southern Utah will notice dramatic improvements.

What was once considered a state-of-the-art scoreboard has been replaced with a 100-foot by 31-foot high-definition video display board that can show a combination of live video, instant replay, statistical graphics and animations.

The old end zone, with its student section and visitor-side bleachers reminiscent of a high school field, has a new concrete seating structure that wraps around half of the stadium, boosting this year's seating capacity to 17,000 and providing fans with their own bathrooms and concessions.

"I think for everybody, there's going to be a bounce in our step," football coach John Stiegelmeier said. "This has a whole different feeling. This has a feeling of a true stadium."

The Jackrabbits (1-0) are coming off a 41-38 upset road win over Kansas, the school's first victory against an FBS opponent.

Cam Jones, a senior tight end, said it has been amazing to watch the construction progress and he can't wait to take the field. He expects that the enclosed feel and extra fans will create a loud atmosphere that boosts home-field advantage.

"You'll definitely hear the extra couple thousand people in there," Jones said. "It will have a special feel to it."

The stadium is being funded through \$36 million in bonds to be paid off with stadium revenue, \$19.8 million in private donations, \$7.2 million from the SDSU Foundation and \$2 million from the university.

Other upgrades include a new visitors' locker room and the construction of a large entrance structure surrounding the old home-side grandstand that'll continue throughout the 2015 season.

At the end of the season, the old grandstand will be demolished and replaced with a modernized seating bowl that will boost capacity to about 19,350, according to Jeff Holm, South Dakota State's senior associate athletic director for facilities and operations. Once complete, the school will add community suites, executive suites, loge level boxes and club seats offering access to a large indoor bar and lounge. Artificial turf will replace the natural grass in 2016, too.

School officials estimate that the new digs will boost ticket income from about \$500,000 per season to \$1.6 million while bringing in an additional \$2.3 million from the premium luxury seating options.

Stiegelmeier said the new facilities are already helping with recruiting.

"It's been a really easy sell in terms of the commitment of our administration,"

SDSU | PAGE 11