

No. 2 Bucks Face Top-Ranked Pierre In ESD Showdown

BY JEREMY HOECK
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For a game midway through the regular season, tonight's (Friday) battle between Yankton and Pierre in the capitol city carries quite a bit of significance.

Both coaches would agree, yes, it's a big game.

"It really is," Yankton coach Arlin Likness said this week. "More so as a measuring stick than anything else."

The showdown between the last two Class AA champions – ranked 1-2 this season – features an unbeaten Governors (4-0) squad and a Bucks (3-1) squad whose only loss is to Sioux Falls Washington.

In the scheme of the Eastern South Dakota Conference, Pierre and Yankton figure to battle it out for the Class AA title, but they both also

have higher aspirations.

"Every year the title seems to go through Yankton," said Pierre coach Jayson Poppinga, who more than once said he doesn't believe Yankton's lone loss is a fair representation of the Bucks.

Both teams would also like a win heading into their respective games next week against Sioux Falls teams: Yankton hosts O'Gorman and Pierre travels to play Washington.

"You never want to say one game is a make or break on your year," Poppinga said. "You just want to take care of business."

Beyond just the game at Pierre, that's what the Bucks are looking for, according to Likness: Taking care of business.

In last week's 36-25 win over Aberdeen Central, the Bucks used five sacks and three interceptions –

one for a touchdown – to overcome a nearly 300-yard performance from an opposing receiver.

"It could've been easy to fold up when things aren't going your way," Likness said. "Hopefully we grow from it and learn from it."

The challenge now, Likness said, is to combine that aggressive pass rush and consistent blocking from the offensive line into one all-around, solid performance.

"We have to put that all together," he said. "It's more of a mental frame of mind, to know it's possible if you put in the work."

That kind of work might be necessary to slow down Pierre quarterback Brevin Kaiser.

The senior has averaged 204 yards passing and 68 yards rushing each game, and has combined to score nine touchdowns – to go along with

three interceptions, but just three sacks.

"It obviously puts more of a strain on the defense when you have the ability to go out and throw and run if you have to," Poppinga said. "It's like having an extra running back."

Which is exactly what concerns Yankton.

"He's very smart and makes good choices," Likness said. "He has the ability, when it's not there, to tuck and run. He takes what you give him."

The Governors also boast a pair of weapons at receiver, with Erin Severyn (15 catches, 210 yards, 1 TD) and Zach Strand (15 catches, 135 yards, 1 TD). And on defense, Pierre has gotten four sacks from Seth Neal and three interceptions from Strand.

A win for Pierre tonight would give the Governors a two-game lead on

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Yankton (3-1)
at Pierre (4-0)

7 p.m., Pierre

LAST MEETING: Yankton rolled to a 37-0 victory over the Governors in the 2014 season, extending a shutout streak to 10 quarters.

LAST WEEK: Yankton celebrated Pioneer Day with a 36-25 victory over Aberdeen Central. Pierre rolled to a 37-12 victory over Huron.

NEXT UP: Yankton hosts rival Sioux Falls O'Gorman. Pierre travels to Sioux Falls to face Washington.

FOLLOW THE GAME: Jeremy Hoeck (@jhoeck) and James D. Cimburek (@jdcimburek) will follow the Bucks all season. Follow them on Twitter to keep up with the action.

Gazelles Roll Past Huron 7-1

HURON – Thanks to 37 shots, 18 on goal, the Yankton High School girls' soccer team secured a spot in the playoffs by routing Huron 7-1 on Thursday in Huron.

Brianna Benjamin recorded a hat trick and assisted another goal, while Haley Schild – in her second game back from injury – added a pair of goals. Madason Tessier and Jaiden Boomsma also scored.

"It's really a test when you play a team that puts 11 players behind the ball defensively, and it's tough to break them down," Yankton coach Tyler Schuring said. "We moved the ball well through the midfield and set up a number of good opportunities, some we capitalized on, but many we forced and put over the goal."

Haleigh Diede and Britney Bradwisch both added an assist in the win, while Schild and Amanda Gravholt both made two saves at goal.

Yankton, which closes the regular season 4-6-2, will open playoff action next Tuesday on the road against an opponent to be determined.

Yankton won Thursday's junior varsity game 5-0 behind a pair of goals from Jaiden Boomsma, as well as goals from Sadie Fedders, Madison Schroeder and Kylie Bochman. Lilly Fedde had an assist, while Fedders made three saves and Chloe Perakslis one save at goal.

Boys

Huron 2, Yankton 0

HURON – The Huron Tigers finished the regular season with an 8-3-1 record after a 2-0 shutout of Yankton in Eastern South Dakota Conference boys' soccer action on Thursday.

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Running In The Rain



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton runners get off the line to start the varsity boys' race at the Yankton Invitational on Thursday at the HSC Course.

Vermillion's Lavin, Mitchell's Cowins Win In Yankton

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND
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Vermillion sophomore Maddie Lavin won the girls' individual title and Mitchell senior Riley Cowins captured the boys' crown at the Yankton Invitational cross country meet in Yankton at the Human Services Center course on Thursday.

Lavin found herself in second place for most of the race behind Yankton senior Savannah Woods, who placed second. On the final backstretch, Lavin was able to pass Woods to finish in first place. Behind Lavin and Woods was a group of six Mitchell runners that finished third through eighth, led by senior Mary Krause.

"Maddie looked great, she had a really good finish," Vermillion coach Kelly Fischbach said. "It's good to see her get that confidence back and run in the front."

Along with the win Lavin is focused on the state meet. "It's good to have a couple of wins under my belt before

going to state," Lavin said. "I am happy because my times have gotten a lot better over the season, and this is one of my best."

Going into the final backstretch, Woods was in the lead, but started to slow down with an apparent cramp in her side, allowing Lavin to pass her.

"Maddie Lavin from Vermillion is good, and Savannah had a good lead on her, but she just had something in her side, we thought she had appendicitis," Yankton coach Dave Dannenbring said.

"She had a pretty good commanding lead on the race, but that's what happens, it's fortunate it happened here and not at the state meet."

"She ran pretty well, she is a good competitor," Woods said. "I had a pretty big cramp on the back stretch, it was not comfortable."

Lavin felt bad that Woods was hurting in her final home race as a senior.

"It was a good win, but I wish we could have finished

together," Lavin said.

For the boys' side Cowins was in the lead for the race's entirety, with Yankton's Sam Gusso, a senior running just behind for the majority of the race. Gusso led a group of Yankton runners to place second, while junior Andrew Peitz finished in third and senior Gabe Dannenbring in fourth.

"It was good, I had a battle with that first Yankton boy, I thought he was going to give me some trouble," Cowins said.

"After the first lap I thought the Yankton kid was going to take over, but after that I just got in stride and finished out."

Despite not winning, Dannenbring was happy with how his team performed in the meet.

"Well we would always like to win, but that I how it goes," Dannenbring said. "We knew the Mitchell kid was pretty good, he had a good day, and the boys tried to

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Cedar Catholic Wins Metteer Inv.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Cedar Catholic's Brandy Wiebelhaus putts during her round in the Metteer Invitational on Thursday at Wayne Country Club.

Golf: O'Neill's Harmon Wins With An 83

WAYNE, Neb. – Hartington Cedar Catholic put two scores in the top eight and three in the top 14 to claim top honors in the 18-team Metteer Invitational girls' golf tournament, held on Thursday at Wayne Country Club.

Cedar Catholic finished at 397, beating out Battle Creek (401), O'Neill (402) and West Point-Beemer (403).

O'Neill's Hailee Harmon won the event, shooting an 83 to finish two strokes ahead of Laci Fox of West Point-Beemer. O'Neill's Paige Gaughenbaugh was third at 89, followed by Cedar Catholic's Cassidy Ulrich (92) and Battle Creek's Abby Westerman (93).

Crofton-Hartington placed eighth at 440, led by Tory Tammen's seventh place finish of 95. Laurel-Concord-Coleridge scored 456 to place ninth, led by Emily Klooz's 103.

TEAM SCORES: Hartington Cedar Catholic 397, Battle Creek 401, O'Neill 402, West Point-Beemer 403, Norfolk Catholic 423, Wayne 435, Columbus Scutus 438, Crofton-Hartington 440, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 456, Boone Central 486, Pierce 518, Wayne JV 521, Schuyler 547, Plainview 562, Norfolk JV 578

TOP 20: Hailee Harmon, O'Neill 83; Laci Fox, West Point-Beemer 85; Paige Gaughenbaugh, O'Neill 89; Cassidy Ulrich, Hartington Cedar Catholic 92; Taylor Finko, Battle Creek 93; Abby Westerman, Battle Creek 94; Tory Tammen, Crofton-Hartington 95; Brandy Wiebelhaus, Hartington Cedar Catholic 97; Kiley Sorell, Boone Central 97; Emily Telen, Wayne JV 98; Emerson Belitz, Columbus Scutus 100; Kaitlyn McAllister, Wayne 100; Nicole Zavadi, Crofton-Hartington 101; Ireland Biltoft, Hartington Cedar Catholic 101; Faith Lemnoz, Battle Creek 101; Anna Loberg, Wayne 102; Anna Vandergriend, West Point-Beemer 103; Emily Klooz, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 103; Mady Doggett, Norfolk Catholic 103; Paige Meier, West Point-Beemer 105

VB: Rough Riders Hold Off Yankton 3-1

SIoux FALLS – Sioux Falls Roosevelt won the final two sets to defeat Yankton 3-1 in high school volleyball action Thursday night at Roosevelt High School. The Rough Riders won by scores of 25-13, 18-25, 25-18, 25-22.

For the Gazelles (2-7), they were able to bounce back from a 3-1 loss to Huron on Tuesday night, and showed flashes of a team improving, according to head coach Tiffany Beste.

"I thought we came out and competed tonight," she said. "Roosevelt was a very nice team, but I wasn't disappointed, really, at any time with the way we competed."

Senior Becky Frick again paced Yankton with nine kills and 21 digs, while senior Hannah Bockholt contributed

three ace serves, seven kills and five block assists.

Sophomore setter Cameryn Specht had 14 set assists and 15 digs, while junior Lindsey Hale tallied 18 digs.

The key now for the Gazelles is build off the positives from the match, their coach said.

"If we can continue to play the way we did tonight, we'll improve over the course of the season," Beste said. "We only get better in matches like tonight."

Yankton will open a three-match homestand Saturday against unbeaten Aberdeen Central.

In sub-varsity action Thursday, Roosevelt defeated Yankton 21-25, 25-21, 25-11. The Gazelles got eight kills from Josie Sayler, five kills

from Emily Oswald, 12 set assists from Cameryn Specht and three blocks (two solo) from Kate Budig.

The Rough Riders won the sophomore match 25-21, 25-21, while Yankton got seven kills and four blocks from Kate Budig, 15 set assists from Anna Savey, and 14 digs from Holly Mines.

In freshman action, Roosevelt won the 'A' match 7-25, 25-15, 25-15. Yankton got nine set assists from Noel Kusek, 10 digs and two blocks from Ashley Muller, and nine digs from Baylee Kenney.

Yankton won the 'B' match 23-25, 25-9, 15-7 behind four kills and three ace serves from Megan Haselhorst. Courtney Wenande had nine set assists and Megan McCorkell added 10 digs.

No. 1 Chargers Down No. 2 Dakota Valley

NORTH SIOUX CITY – Ellie Voss totaled 15 kills to help lift top-ranked Sioux Falls Christian to a 25-22, 27-25, 25-19 victory over second-ranked Dakota Valley in a Class A showdown on Thursday night in North Sioux City.

Voss also had two blocks and two ace serves for SF Christian. Shelby Zomermaand, Kylie Van Egdon, and Ashley Lamfers each had six kills.

Shaya Johnson had eight kills to lead the Dakota Valley attack. Merideth Lammers totaled 18 digs, and Hanna Cummins had 15 assists.

Sioux Falls Christian will host Vermillion next Tuesday, while Dakota Valley will have a road game against Sisseton on

Saturday.
DAKOTA VALLEY (12-2).....22 25 25
SIOUX FALLS CHRISTIAN (18-1).....25 27 27

Battle Creek Tri.

Battle Creek 2, Crofton 1
BATTLE CREEK, Neb. – As part of Thursday night's volleyball triangular in Battle Creek, Battle Creek was able to defeat Crofton 25-22, 22-25, 25-16.

No stats were reported for Battle Creek.

In the loss for Crofton, Monica Arens had 10 kills and four blocks, Kelsey Sanger had nine kills and 23 digs, Katie Petersen had eight kills and Brittany Guenther had 14 set assists.
.....22 25 16
CROFTON (7-5).....25 22 25
BATTLE CREEK.....25 22 25

Wisner-Pilg. 2, Crofton 1

BATTLE CREEK, Neb. – Wisner-Pilger defeated Crofton 2-1 in a three

set game that ended 25-20, 25-13, 25-23 on Thursday night at a triangular in Battle Creek.

Crofton's Kelsey Sanger had seven kills and Monica Arens added six more. No stats were reported for Wisner-Pilger.

Both teams are in action at home on Tuesday night with Crofton hosting Norfolk Catholic and Wisner-Pilger hosting Madison.

CROFTON (7-5).....25 13 23
WISNER-PILGER (8-2).....20 25 25

Ewing Triangular Spalding Academy 2, Niobrara-Verdigre 0

EWING, Neb. – Spalding Academy defeated Niobrara-Verdigre 26-24, 25-16 on Thursday at a triangular in Ewing.

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