

# Missouri Valley Football Conference Sets Another Record

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As the Missouri Valley Football Conference closed the book on its record-breaking 2014 season, there wasn't much remaining the league hadn't accomplished.

It sent half of its teams – five, a record – to the playoffs, and for the first time ever, two teams from the same league met in the championship game. And in both postseason polls, six Valley teams cracked the top-25.

That kind of showing was going to be difficult to beat, right?

"I thought last year was going to be hard to top, and here we are with another record," Illinois State head coach Brock Spack said Tuesday.

That record came Monday when the Valley occupied half of the top-10 in both major FCS polls, the STATS media and coaches – a first for the conference.

Though the order is slightly different, the teams are the same: North Dakota State, Illinois State, South Dakota State, Northern Iowa and Youngstown State. And for good measure, Indiana State is also among the top-25.

## also

■ Read Jeremy Hoeck's Q&A With USD Junior Offensive Line-man Nile Banks. [pressdako-tan.wordpress.com](#)

recognition.

"There isn't a team you can rest on," Spack said. "You never have any breathing room on a Saturday

afternoon."

South Dakota State head coach John Stiegelmeier, whose Jackrabbits boast their highest FCS ranking, was quick to caution that this week's news is probably more a carryover of 2014.

"I think initially we all need to acknowledge that it's a result somewhat of last year's success, which puts you in the top-25 initially," he said. "When you have success early, it moves you up."

In the case of SDSU (3-0), however, it climbed the rankings because of its FBS win over Kansas. The Jacks, though, have an

opportunity to climb even higher with a win Saturday over North Dakota State – even a loss isn't likely to drop the Jacks all that much.

That's the story with the Missouri Valley, which begins conference play this weekend: Nearly every matchup features a ranked team, which means a playoff-caliber team will lose.

"It's a fun league; a great league," Stiegelmeier said.

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## S.D. State Soccer Championships

# Bucks Advance With 3-0 Win



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Gabe Wenzlaff, center, blasts a shot past Watertown's Grant Carlson, 38, and Blake Mitchell for a first-half goal during their Class AA boys' soccer playoff match on Tuesday at Watertown.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Gabe Wenzlaff sends the ball into the net for his first goal of the match in the Bucks' Class AA boys' soccer playoff match at Watertown on Tuesday. Wenzlaff scored a hat trick and a 3-0 Bucks victory.

## Yankton Wins 3-0, Will Face S.F. Lincoln Saturday

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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WATERTOWN — Mired in a four-match losing streak, the Yankton Bucks boys' soccer team extended its season by finding the one thing that carried them during a six-match unbeaten streak in the middle of the season.

The team.

With "the team" written on the arm of each player and, more importantly, in the way the Bucks played, Yankton avenged a season-opening loss to Watertown with a 3-0 shutout of the Arrows in the opening round of the Class AA playoffs on Tuesday in Watertown.

The victory extended the season for Yankton (6-6-1) to a quarterfinal match at Sioux Falls Lincoln (8-2-2) on Saturday. The third-seeded Patriots beat Yankton 6-1 on Sept. 22, the third match in the Bucks' four-game skid.

"These guys played with excitement," said Yankton head coach Warren Brenner. "They played with a will to win. They played for each other. They played as a team."

"It was a really great turn-around."

Gabe Wenzlaff scored all three goals,

**"These guys played with excitement. They played with a will to win. They played for each other. They played as a team."**

### WARREN BRENNER

with two assists from Cole Lewno and the other from Chase Huber.

Wenzlaff credited Coach Brenner for inspiring the team.

"(Coach Brenner) said some things that put the switch on for us," he said. "We wanted to step up for our seniors, because of how much the playoffs mean for them."

Trevor Rafferty made 10 saves in goal and Brady Dangler made two stops to preserve the shutout.

The Yankton defense pressured Watertown early and broke through seven minutes into the match.

"The ball came over the top," Wenzlaff said of the first goal. "I probably should have laid off, but I gave it a boot and put it in the top right corner."

After surviving a Watertown corner kick and two other scoring chances, the Bucks broke free again. Wenzlaff received the ball off a free kick and scored at the 11:59 mark of the match.

"It was the same thing (as the first goal)," Wenzlaff said. "I came swinging across and made a connection."

The Yankton defense continued to frustrate Watertown through the rest of the half, including drawing a yellow card, as the Bucks took a 2-0 lead into the break.

The second half began much as the first half did, with the Bucks pressuring the Watertown back line. Wenzlaff completed the hat trick with 25:57 to play, finding an open net after Watertown's goalkeeper and last defender collided while going for a loose ball.

"We had the lead and we needed to finish it," Wenzlaff said.

Down 3-0 and facing the end of its season, the Watertown offense applied pressure to Yankton's back line. With 13:21 to play, a Watertown forward drew a yellow card on Rafferty, forcing him to sit for a span.

Backup goalkeeper Bradv Dangler

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## Volleyball: Avon Beats Scotland; Crofton Wins At Home Triangular

AVON – Avon defeated Scotland 14-25, 24-14, 25-14, 25-14 earning its fourth win in high school volleyball action on Tuesday in Avon.

Hanna Powers had a good game for Avon recording 20 assists, 17 digs, and five aces. Kacie Mudder led the team with 12 kills while adding 12 digs. Karisa Markel led all players with 23 digs. Lea Wormsbecher had a game-high six aces.

For Scotland, Taylor Gall was the leader in kills with seven, Alex Conrad led with 13 assists, and Shannon Fanning had a team-high 15 digs.

Avon will stay home to play Mitchell Christian Monday, and Scotland will travel to Parkston Thursday.

SCOTLAND (4-9)	25	14	14	14
AVON (4-9)	14	25	25	25

Crofton's next game is against West Holt and Norfolk Catholic's next match is against West Point- Beemer.

NORFOLK CATHOLIC	16	19
CROFTON	25	25

**Neligh-Oakdale Tri.**

**Bloomfield 2, Neligh-Oakdale 0**

NELIGH -- Oakdale, Neb- Both team fought hard, but Bloomfield did just enough to get past Neligh Oakdale 2-0. The final scores of both games were 25-23 and 25-19. The game was held in Neligh-Oakdale.

In the win for Bloomfield, Karley Jensen had 16 digs and seven attacks. Leah Poppe had 10 kills and eight digs. Kaci Millikan had five digs.

No stats were provided for Neligh-Oakdale.

Bloomfield's next match is Boyd County on October 6. Neligh-Oakdale's next match is against Pender on October 1.

BLOOMFIELD (8-3)	25	25
NELIGH-OAKDALE	23	19

**Bloomfield 2, Plainview 0**

NELIGH -- Oakdale, Neb- Bloomfield battled it out against Plainview on Tuesday night and came out on top 2-0. The final scores of each match were 25-18 and 25-13.

In the win for Bloomfield, Leah Pope had 12 digs and five attacks. Brittany Kerbe had 16 assists and Karly Jensen had seven attacks.

Bloomfield had a record of 8-3 on the season. Plainview's Max Preps page did not have one of the matches in and their fore a season record could not be determined.

No stats were provided for Plainview Bloomfield's next match is Boyd County on October 6. Plainview's

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# Aberdeen Central Blanks Gazelles

BY JACQUE SCOBY  
Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN – Yankton gave up two goals to defensive players and three goals to midfielder Allie Zueger Tuesday.

That was more than enough for seventh-seeded Aberdeen Central, which blanked the 10th-seeded Gazelles 5-0 in the first round of the opening round of the Class AA girls' soccer state playoffs at Swisher Field.

Central, which had beaten Yankton 3-0 during the regular season, wasted little time in getting on the board Tuesday. Olivia Schriver notched what would prove to be the game-winner in the seventh minute.

Zueger scored in the 14th and 33rd minutes to make it 3-0. Taylor Swiontek got on the board in the 64th minute and Zueger capped off her hat trick on a free kick in the 72nd minute.

"There were a couple teams in the state I did not want to match up with just because we don't match up on the field very well with them," said Yankton head coach Tyler Schuring. "Aberdeen is one of them. They're really good through the midfield. That's one of the spots we struggle with. They connected the ball well today and today they were definitely the better team."

Zueger's hat trick was the first of the season for the



JOHN DAVIS/ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS

Yankton's Payton Wolfgram, left, tries to block the kick by Aberdeen Central's Mikayla Santjer, right, as Hailey Holland, center, looks on during the first half of Tuesday's soccer playoff game at Swisher Field.

junior, who said Central's mentality coming into the match was one of attacking.

"Yankton always comes to compete," Zueger said. "We knew that. We knew coming into this game, we had to go into it like we did against

Brookings (on Saturday). We had to come in head-on."

Emma Yeske, Grace Imbery and Emily Schock were each credited with an assist in the game. Yeske fed Schriver for the opening goal, Schock assisted Swiontek, while Imbery

had the assist on Zueger's initial goal.

"We've been talking all week about how playing an opponent we've already played, it's easy to take them lightly," said Central head

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