



# McKelvey Takes Aim At State Record



USD Recruit Has Shot Put Mark In His Sights As He Finishes Stellar Career At Beresford

Officially, Kyle McKelvey is a senior track standout at Beresford High School.

Unofficially, he serves as a kind of assistant coach, often times foregoing his own training to help his younger teammates.

"We don't have many upperclassmen, so I'm just helping the younger guys," said McKelvey, during an afternoon practice in late March inside — the weather outside was cold and gloomy — the small gym at the school.

Instead of actually working on his own technique, McKelvey was working with a new teammate who was in his first day of track practice. Calling them the "basics for now," the majority of the teaching revolved around footwork.

That sight was one his coach claims happens all the time.

"It's almost like we have to remind him that he's an athlete too; that he actually needs to work on his stuff," joked Beresford head coach Matt Coy.

And by the time McKelvey got around to focusing on his throws, the 12-pound shot was consistently clanking off the opposite wall — drawing wide-eyed looks from his younger teammates.

Though quiet and unassuming, there's no question McKelvey, a University of South Dakota recruit, is the leader.

Already a two-time state champion in the shot put, including last year's throw of 61-feet-9.5 that ranks 11th in state histo-

ry, McKelvey could be on the verge of a record-breaking senior season for the Watchdogs.

"My goal is to break the state record," he said matter-of-factly, of the mark currently at 67-feet-4. "What I really want to do is set the bar really high, maybe at 70. If I could hit that, I'd be ecstatic."

As evidenced by his work with teammates, McKelvey also has eyes on more than individual accomplishments.

At last year's state meet in Sioux Falls, Beresford scored a total of 29 team points by two athletes — McKelvey (1st, shot put and 2nd, discus) and Holden Cotton (2nd, high jump and 6th, triple jump).

"Our coach wants the boys' program to be top-placing every year," McKelvey said. "Only two of us scored points (at state) last year, so it would really help if we had a few others."

To that end, the rest of the Watchdogs' roster keeps pace with its senior leader.

But, make no mistake, when McKelvey buckles down and busts out a long throw in practice, they're all watching.

"Kyle's quiet, but when he gets working on his stuff, he's so focused," Coy said. "The kids know he works his butt off for that one event. I'm sure it's a little intimidating having to throw next to someone like Kyle, but his teammates love him."

And in that one event, the shot put, McKelvey has improved drastically each year during high school — thanks to the tutelage of noted throws coach Tom Rice, an assistant at Gayville-Volin.

Every Sunday, McKelvey, usually along with Beresford assistant coach Mikala Zimmerman and sister Hannah McKelvey (a thrower for the BHS girls' team), spends time working on technique.

"Tom started me out in seventh grade, suggesting I throw shot and discus," Kyle McKelvey said. "I never thought of it before, but I'm glad I got started."

## Target: 67 Feet, 4 Inches

Beresford senior Kyle McKelvey is aiming to better the state's high school record in the shot put, set by Custer's Eric Flores in 2006. Here is the top 10 all-time in the state of South Dakota, as compiled by the Aberdeen American News.

	Year	Mark
Eric Flores, Custer.....	2006	67-4
Tyg Long, Custer.....	2002	65-6
Aaron Jung, Watertown.....	2008	65-3
Eric Flores, Custer.....	2005	63-11
Dave Larsen, Brandon Valley.....	1979	63-10
<b>KYLE MCKELVEY, BERESFORD*</b> .....	<b>2011</b>	<b>63-8</b>
Bill Gassen, Rapid City Central.....	1999	63-1
Kevin Seibal, Vermillion.....	1979	62-2
George Amundson, Aberdeen Central.....	1969	62-1
Lance Wipf, Yankton.....	1993	62-1
Tim Treick, Rapid City Stevens.....	1973	61-11

**NOTE:** Because McKelvey's throw of 63-8 was recorded indoors, it does not count as a top-10 mark. It is included to illustrate where he ranks among the state's all-time best shot putters.

The rest of the state, not so much.

McKelvey earned fourth place at state during his freshman year in 2008 with a finals throw in the shot put of 50-feet. And then a year later as a sophomore, McKelvey tore his rotator cuff during football season, missed basketball season, but still returned in the spring.

He won a state title with a winning throw of 55-feet-1, though he didn't qualify in the discus. And then last year as a junior, McKelvey saw his championship throw in the shot improve to 61-feet-9.5.

All the while, the attention McKelvey was getting from Division I colleges increased exponentially.

Letters and other forms of communication started rolling in from Iowa, Oklahoma, Minnesota and Purdue, as well as track powerhouse Arkansas — its coach came to Beresford for a visit — and regional D-I programs USD and South Dakota State.

"Once he won state as a sophomore, and he was beating all those seniors, everybody wanted him," Coy said. "There

were meets last year, where the USD and SDSU coaches would come. And I know Kyle wouldn't say it, but I have to think he's anxious now to have to worry about who's there."

When USD announced its recruiting class earlier this year, McKelvey was on the list.

"It was a really nice thing to get off my back, honestly," McKelvey said. "The hardest part was telling coaches I wasn't interested, especially when they came all this way to see me throw. But I'm so happy with USD."

"Now I can worry about the rest of high school."

Taking off his track shoes and lacing up his casual shoes after the afternoon practice, McKelvey pointed out that during his six years of throwing, he's gone through only two pairs of shoes.

Inside, he has written his personal goals.

What does the current pair say?

"I haven't gotten around to it for the new pair yet, but I will," he said, without looking up. "I already know what my goals are. They're always on my mind."

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