

AREA DIGEST

Boys' Golf: Ponca Edges LHNE To Win Crofton Invitational

CROFTON, Neb. — Ponca needed a fifth-score tiebreaker to edge out Lutheran High Northeast for top honors in the Crofton boys' golf Invitational Friday at Lakeview Golf Course. Each team shot 373, but Ponca's fifth golfer finished four strokes ahead of LHNE's fifth to give the Indians the victory. Lutheran High Northeast's Colby Svoboda beat Ponca's Alex O'Neill and Crofton's Christian Nohr in a playoff for medalist honors. Each shot an 86, with Svoboda closing with a 40 on the second nine.

Gayville-Volin's Ben Sonichsen shot 90 to finish fourth. TEAM SCORES: Ponca 373, Lutheran High Northeast 373, Niobrara-Verdigre 405, Crofton 414, Homer 428, Gayville-Volin 456, West Holt 467. TOP 15: Colby Svoboda, Lutheran High Northeast 86; Alex O'Neill, Ponca 86; Christian Nohr, Crofton 86; Ben Sonichsen, Gayville-Volin 90; Broderick Baker, Lutheran High Northeast 91; Trenton Peterson, Ponca 92; Payton Baker, Lutheran High Northeast 93; Michael Kostros, Niobrara-Verdigre 94; Dale Krause, Ponca 95; Bryce Rossman, West Holt 95; Tanner Olson, Homer 96; John Kohles, Crofton 98; Josh Kemp, Niobrara-Verdigre 99; Nathan Gill, Ponca 100; Eric Watchorn, Ponca 100; Wyatt Reynolds, Niobrara-Verdigre 100.

Yankton's Muhmel Third In State Youth Bowling Tourney

MITCHELL — Kirsten Muhmel of Yankton finished third in the girls' handicap division of the South Dakota State USBC Pepsi Bowling Tournament, March 26-27 at Mitchell.

Muhmel was eliminated by Sioux Falls' Brookelyn Jellema in the semifinals, 260-232. Muhmel had advanced with wins over Nicole Till (253-218) and Lauren Cataguni (217-123), both of Sioux Falls, to advance. The tournament included 308 bowlers ages 12-under.

Area Teams Place At State Bowling

Two area teams earned top-10 finishes in the South Dakota State USBC mixed bowling tournament. The Tappers II squad of Beresford placed fifth with a score of 2,604. Vermillion's SOS I team placed tenth at 2,549.

Townsend Bowls 300 Game

Mike Townsend rolled a 300 game during regular league play in the Saturday Night Mixed bowling league on Saturday, March 26. Townsend finished with a 702 series.

Lakeview Thursday Men's League Meeting April 6

Crofton Lakeview Thursday Men's League will hold its organizational meeting on Wednesday, April 6 at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse. Anyone wishing to add a team to the roster or who would like to become a full-time or substitute golfer on a team should be present or contact Brenda at 605-661-0616 prior to the meeting.

AREA CALENDAR

Monday, April 4
BASEBALL, CLUB Corsica-Stoney-Armer-Plankinton at Mitchell (5:30 p.m.); Parkston vs. Wagner-Avon at Wagner (6 p.m.); Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian vs. Winner-Colome at Winner (5:30 p.m.)
GOLF, BOYS' Ponca Dual (Ponca)
GOLF, GIRLS' YHS at Brandon Valley (2 p.m.)
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE USD at UC-Santa Barbara (DH)
Tuesday, April 5
BASEBALL, COLLEGE South Dakota State at MMC (1 p.m., KVTK-AM)
BASEBALL, CLUB Brandon Valley at Yankton (5 p.m.)
BASEBALL, CLUB JV Brandon Valley at Yankton
GOLF, BOYS' Freeman Academy Inv. at Valley View GC, Freeman (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Marion, Scotland, 1 p.m.)
GOLF, GIRLS' Freeman Academy Inv. at Valley View GC, Freeman (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Marion, Scotland, 1 p.m.); Dakota Valley at Elk Point-Jefferson
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE MMC at Northwestern (DH, 5 p.m.)
TENNIS, BOYS' Brandon Valley/S.F. Roosevelt at YHS (1 p.m.); Luverne at Vermillion
TRACK & FIELD, PREP YHS/S.F. Washington at S.C. East (4 p.m.); Battle Creek Inv. (Randolph, 1 p.m.); Elk Point-Jefferson Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Elk Point-Jefferson, Ponca, Vermillion, 3:30 p.m.); Elhan-Parkston Early Bird at Parkston (Avon, Elhan-Parkston, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Wagner, 2:30 p.m.); Hartington Inv. (Hartington, Newcastle, Wymot, 1 p.m.); Knox County Relays at Creighton (Bloomfield, Creighton, Crofton, Niobrara-Verdigre, Wausa, 1:30 p.m.); Scotland Inv. (Bon Homme, Scotland, 2:30 p.m.); South Central Conf. at Lake Andes (Andes Central, Platte-Geddes); Turner County Relays at Centerville (Centerville, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Waukonda, Marion, Memo, Viborg-Hurley, 3 p.m.); Wayne Inv. (Hartington Cedar Catholic, 1 p.m.); West Central Inv. (Parker, 3:45 p.m.)
TRACK & FIELD, SOPH YHS/Brookings/S.F. Washington at S.C. East (4 p.m.)
Wednesday, April 6
BASEBALL, COLLEGE JV USD Club at MMC (5:30 p.m.)
BASEBALL, CLUB Vermillion at Beresford (5:30 p.m.)
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE MMC at Brian Cliff (DH, 4 p.m.)

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BUTLER

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Georgetown, Purdue, Florida State and Kansas, all except the Seminoles handily. That's the Colonial Athletic Association's fourth-place squad dusting opponents from the Pacific 10, Big East, Big Ten, ACC and Big 12.

"We went out there and we outplayed five (Bowl Championship Series) teams," Smart said. "Butler has done that. So it just shows, when you have a good program, you've got a senior-laden team, you've got a chance to win."

With four seniors among its top five scorers, VCU fit the bill. So did Old Dominion.

The Monarchs started three seniors and two juniors this season, won their second consecutive CAA tournament and absolutely were capable of reaching the Final Four. They were 2-1 against VCU and lost to Butler in the NCAA tournament on Matt Howard's buzzer-beating layup.

But no one fit the mold like Butler. The Bulldogs returned six of their top nine players, and that seasoning showed in tournament victories over BCS programs Pittsburgh, Wisconsin and Florida.

"I'm not surprised," Smart said of Butler's return to the title game. "Their program's rock solid. They've got a great coach. They've got a great system. They have players that every time they take the floor do so with a clear head. And when you have a clear head for winning, you have a great opportunity to win."

"Butler has an experienced team. They know how to win. They're not going to beat themselves" Stevens is 34, half Calhoun's age, and appreciates his Bulldogs' little-man appeal.

"I'm a fan of teams like Butler in other sports," he said. "The next thing I'm moving on to is the Masters, and I'm hoping I find somebody who I don't know anything about who wins at the end so I can root for them. It's the fun thing about sports, and it's fun to be the team that everybody is talking about in that light."

But for decades, convention has held that the Butlers and Masons and VCUs face too many roadblocks, that they can't win it all.

Men's Hoops

NCAA TOURNAMENT FINAL FOUR At Reliant Stadium, Houston National Semifinals Saturday, April 3 Butler 70, Virginia Commonwealth 62 Connecticut 56, Kentucky 55 National Championship Monday, April 4 Butler (28-9) vs. Connecticut (31-9), 8 p.m.

Women's Hoops

NCAA TOURNAMENT FINAL FOUR At at Conesco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis National Semifinals Sunday, April 3 Texas A&M 63, Stanford 62 Connecticut (36-1) vs. Notre Dame (30-7), 8 p.m. National Championship Tuesday, April 5 Texas A&M (32-5) vs. Connecticut-Notre Dame winner, 7:30 p.m.

City Bowling

MONDAY MIXED HIGH TEAM GAME: The Spits 483 HIGH TEAM SERIES: The Spits 1376

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Shane Bertsch 254 (errorless)-225-205, Frank Osborn, Sr. 204, Hal Somer 192, Jennifer Van Horn 230, Betty Adam 185, High 185

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Shane Bertsch 684, Hal Somer 547, Stephen Van Horn 501, Jennifer Van Horn 553, Betty Adam 539, Lonnie Remington 473

STANDINGS: Lucky Strike 32-11, Ten Pines 30-5-12.5, Country Bumpkins 25-18, Alley Kats 24-19.5, Misfitz 20-20, Bob's Hobby Supply 16-28, The Spits 16-28

HIGHLIGHTS: Marvin Guthmiller 3-10; Lonnie Remington 3-10

SATURDAY MIXED

HIGH TEAM GAME: 4 Friends 940 HIGH TEAM SERIES: 4 Friends 2653

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Mike Townsend 300 (errorless), Darwin Gerlach 259 (errorless), Matt Hoels 257 (errorless), Holly Kellen 195, Judy Bara 186, Edwens Turner 183

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Matt Hoels 731, Mike Townsend 702, Darwin Gerlach 675, Holly Kellen 550, Edwena Turner 521, Jen Townsend 510

STANDINGS: Ben's Bowling Crew 42-14, S. O. S. 42-14, Fearsome 4 Some 30-26, 4 Friends 26-30, Plath Chioproacic 26-30, Combiners 26-30, T. H. E. M. 24-32, Gutterbaltz 24-32, The Newbies 22-34, Flegg's Five Baggers 18-38; INC — Ups & Downs, Wild Things, Huether Seamless Gutters, Bazzards, Bowlers Under the Influence, Beaz Runners

HIGHLIGHTS: Andy Seiner - errorless 217-201, 2-7, 2-7-8; Matt Hoels - errorless 241; Jim Murphy - errorless 244; Donna Albrecht 2-7; Suzan Gengler 3-7; Blair Sedlaock 5-6; Mike VanWinkle 6-7-10; Jeff Brunken 3-10; Josh Voeltz 2-7; Patty Voeltz 2-7; Scott Plath 4-7

CLASSIC

HIGH TEAM GAME: Plath Chioproacic 907 HIGH TEAM SERIES: Plath Chioproacic 2656

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Jack Sieben 276, Chuck Turner 257, Tod Bak 256, Ryan Weverstad 255, Jimmy Hahn 255

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Chuck Turner 701, Ryan Weverstad 699, Jack Sieben 695, Scott Plath 689, Pat King 680

STANDINGS: Barta Electric 86, Eisenbraun & Associates 84, Yankton Motor 81.5, Fastenaw 81, Plath Chioproacic 64.5, H&K Ole 57, Lucky Strikers 44.5, Roden Apples 41.5

ALL-AMERICAN

HIGH TEAM GAME: First Dakota 824 HIGH TEAM SERIES: First Dakota 2379

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Barb Olson 206, Jane Rhoades 181, Candy Olson 176, Denise Aguirre 175

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Anne Mello 498, Jane Rhoades 498, Judy Nielson 492, Barb Olson 489

STANDINGS: EASW 20-7, BI Polar Rollers 20-4, Culligan Water 13-11, First Dakota 12-12, Vogt's Cleaners 12-12, Jansen's Uphostery 8-16 HIGHLIGHTS: Eleysha Scheuring 2-7; Jane Rhoades 5-10; Lisa Becker 5-10; Ruth Drotzman 3-7-10; Mary Haberman 3-10 (2)

City Hoops

"Certainly there are a lot of reasons to say you can't," Stevens said. "But it's a lot more fun to say you can, and it's a lot more fun to believe."

Late Monday night, all of college basketball may have to believe as well.

No. 8 Butler (28-9) vs. No. 3 Connecticut (31-9)

When: Monday, 8:23 p.m. CDT. Where: Reliant Stadium, Houston TV: CBS. Radio: ESPN.

How Butler got here: Defeated Old Dominion, 60-58; Pittsburgh, 71-70; Wisconsin, 61-54; Florida, 74-71 (OT); and Virginia Commonwealth, 70-62.

How Connecticut got here: Defeated Bucknell, 81-52; Cincinnati, 69-58; San Diego State, 74-67; Arizona, 65-63; and Kentucky, 56-55.

Coaches: Butler's Brad Stevens (117-24); UConn's Jim Calhoun (606-230; 854-367 overall).

Notable: If you are looking for high possession hoops and high scoring, you will be in the wrong place here. Every possession will be intense. Each team is here because of defense. UConn has held its NCAA opponents to 110-for-293 shooting (37.5 percent). Butler's opponents are shooting 107-for-262 (40.8 percent) ... UConn's stars Kemba Walker and Jeremy Lamb have scored 210 points in the tournament. Butler's stars Shelvin Mack and Matt Howard, have scored 191 ... UConn has 218 blocked shots this season; Butler has 59 ... In three Final Four games over the last two years, Butler has shot just 56-for-166 (33.7 percent). And nearly won all three games. Butler is shooting just 110-for-280 (39.3 percent) in five NCAA games this season. But the Bulldogs kept winning ... UConn is a below-average three-point shooting team (33.3 percent), but had been terrific in the NCAA until going 1-for-12 against Kentucky. Lamb is 11-for-17 from the arc in this NCAA ... In this postseason, UConn has beaten the regular-season champs of the Big East (Pittsburgh) and Pacific-10 (Arizona), as well as the tournament champions of the Mountain West (San Diego State) and Southeastern (Kentucky) ... Butler has beaten the Colonial Tournament champion (Old Dominion), the SEC regular-season champ (Florida) and Pittsburgh ... Butler and UConn played the second and third rounds in the same sub-regional (Washington).

Prediction: I always think the team that plays the first game Saturday has an edge on Monday, especially if the second game requires major effort to win. UConn looked exhausted at the end of the Kentucky game. Butler may not look it in layup lines, but the Bulldogs are Big East physical. At this stage of the season, even three extra hours can help. Butler has that time. Last season, Duke had the older team in the title game. This time, Butler has the far more veteran team. It is different playing for a championship than trying to get there. There is something tangible on the line. Players react in different ways. There is no way to undersell what UConn has done to get here. I can't imagine any team will ever win five Big East conference tournament games and five NCAA games again. People forget that Butler actually had two shots to beat Duke at the end last year — Gordon Hayward missed a short baseline shot before that half-court heave. These Bulldogs were in this exact spot a year ago. I think that matters. I like Butler.

Dick Jerardi, © Philadelphia Daily News

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table with columns for team names, scores, and game status. Includes sections for Women's Hoops, American League, NBA, NHL, and various football games.

TRACK

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135-8. Garner's toss is the eighth-best mark at SDSU.

Garner also finished second in the hammer throw with a throw of 175-0, ranked third at SDSU, and Jennifer Mack finished third in the event with a toss of 169-7, ranked fifth at SDSU.

Ashley Lange finished the triple jump with a second-place leap of 36-11.75, Erin Hargens finished the 5,000 meters with a third-place time of 17:54.37 and Krista Creager (Yankton) finished the 800 meters with a fourth-place time of 2:20.18.

For the men, Greg Vollmer won the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 9:10.53, the 10th best time at SDSU. Ben Jasinski also notched a win in the triple jump with a mark of 48-0.

Sam McInerney (Elk Point) and Arran Davis dominated the javelin with second and third-place finishes.

es. McInerney recorded a mark of 178-6, while Davis notched 177-7.

Sean Burns turned in a third-place finish with a shot put mark of 51-5.50 and a fourth-place hammer throw of 181-5.

Jared Ailts (Yankton) and Greg Beesley notched fourth-place finishes, Ailts in the 800 meters with a time of 1:57.02 and Beesley in the 5,000 meters with a time of 15:24.37.

Mount Marty College had two athletes earn top-10 finishes in the meet, which was dominated by NCAA Division I and II programs.

Trevor Lopour tied for sixth in the high jump, clearing 6-3. Daniel Filsinger placed 10th in the pole vault, clearing 13-7/4.

USD and SDSU head to Yankton for a double-dual with North Dakota on April 9. The meet is the lone home meet for USD this outdoor season.

Mount Marty is at the Northwestern Red Raider Invitational April 9.

Missouri Relays COLUMBIA, Mo. — The South Dakota

State men's and women's track and field teams turned in multiple event wins and top-five finishes at the Missouri Relays Saturday in Columbia, Mo.

The SDSU women's 4x100-meter relay team finished in the first-place spot with a time of 47.05 seconds. The team, consisting of Megan Bren, Brittany Garner, Heather Wollman and Ashley Odegaard, finished with the third-best relay time at SDSU.

After winning the preliminary 100-meter race Friday, Bren won the finals with a time of 12.50. Odegaard took third in the event with a time of 12.53.

Garner finished the pole vault with a third-place finish after a leap of 10 feet 11.75 inches.

Cally Strobel finished the day with a couple of top-four finishes with third in the 100-meter hurdles and fourth in the 400-meter hurdles with times of 15.76 and 1:04.77, respectively. Her 100-meter hurdles time is the 10th best time at SDSU.

On the men's side, Luke Lesichner (Parkston) won the 400 meters with a time of 47.37. He owns the school record in the event with 47.04. Dustin Gibbons came in third in the event with a time of 49.03.

Jake Schneller notched a second-place finish in the 800 meters with a time of 1:53.14, while Dominic Thielen followed in fifth with 1:55.15.

Rounding out the top-five finishers for the Jacks is Matt Dunbar with the fifth-place spot in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.91.

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