

GPAC Baseball: Mount Marty Earns Split With Midland

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The Mount Marty College baseball team split a doubleheader with the Midland Warriors in Great Plains Athletic Conference action on Sunday afternoon at Riverside Field in Yankton.

The Lancers were toppled by the Warriors in the first game 10-5. But, Mount Marty College came back and won the second of the twinbill 6-5.

In the first game, Lancer ace Cassidy Key-Darlington got the nod on the hill.

During the first inning, Key-Darlington struggled to get in the groove. Midland took advantage by scoring three runs, to give themselves a commanding lead from the starting gate.

The Lancers marched back,

however, putting two runs on the board to cut the Warrior deficit. Sophomores Zac Hollenback and Bryton Carlson scored on a two-RBI double by Michael O'Connell.

In the second inning, Key-Darlington settled down and fanned two of the three batters he faced.

Senior second baseman Sam Sparen took advantage of a wild-pitch and an error by Midland pitcher Dillon Cotner to knot the game at three a piece.

The third and fourth innings were a struggle for the Lancers, as they went down in the order twice in a row.

During the fourth, Midland broke the tie with a two run RBI double by junior out fielder Andrew Cassidy.

In the fifth inning Midland scored two runs to add to their 7-3 cushion they built on Mount Marty.

In the bottom of the inning, junior slugger Jared Miller connected on a fastball and sent the ball out of the park. The Lancers cut the lead down to 7-5 on Miller's fourth bomb of the year.

The sixth inning proved to be the Achilles heel for the Lancers, as they could not stop Midland. The Warriors scored two runs on a two RBI double by Vinne Osri. The Lancers were forced to take Key-Darlington out of the game and put in senior reliever Brian Bartlett.

With runners in scoring position and hope hanging like a thread, the Lancers ended their threat by freezing on a line-drive double-play to give Midland its second conference win of the year.

Key-Darlington got the loss in the contest, giving up eight earned



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty first baseman Jared Miller, right, applies a tag to Midland's Miguel Ramallo for the out on a pick-off by Lancer pitcher Cassidy Key-Darlington during the opening game of the Lancers' Great Plains Athletic Conference doubleheader with Midland on Sunday at Riverside Field.

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South Dakota's Alex Hohenthanner, left, leads the way over the water barrier early in the men's steeplechase at The Duals track and field meet on Saturday at Yankton's Williams Field. Hohenthanner, a sophomore from Yankton, won the event and placed fourth in the 5,000-meter run on the day. USD swept teams from South Dakota State, North Dakota and Omaha to claim the event. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)

USD Sweeps 'The Duals'

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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With winds howling through Yankton's Williams Field throughout the brisk April Saturday, the University of South Dakota men's and women's track and field team was not looking as much for high marks as it was high effort.

And USD saw just that, sweeping through The Duals — formerly the Dakota Duals — against teams from South Dakota State, North Dakota and Omaha.

The format was a refreshing break in the early part of the season, said USD women's coach Lucky Huber.

"This part of the season gets to be kind of a grind, but having this meet helped make it a little more fun. We had kind of a scored meet, had a good crowd here with parents," he said. "I think that makes it a little easier to get fired up, and we had a good day."

The USD women had the upper hand against all three programs, including a 122-65 victory over an Omaha team that beat the Coyotes at the Summit League Indoor Championships in February at the DakotaDome.

"Omaha handed it to us indoors. They got second in the indoor meet, so we wanted to see how we could stack up with them," Huber said. "We feel like we've improved over the last month. Obviously adding a few more bodies to our team helped that a little bit."

The USD women also beat SDSU 111-83 and UND 125-53.

The Coyote men beat SDSU 121.5-76.5 and UND 136-48. Omaha does not have a men's track and field program.

"I thought our kids didn't use weather as an excuse. We got pretty high marks," said USD men's coach Dave Gottsleben. "I think for what we wanted to accomplish today, we wanted to be successful and win the duals, and we did that."

Alexa Duling continued her early success, winning the 100- (13.88) and 400-meter (1:01.54), and anchoring the Coyotes to victory in the 1600 relay (3:53.48).

The 400 hurdles, an event in which Duling competed in the 2012 Olympic Trials, continues to be a work in progress, she said.

"The part of my 400 hurdle race that I ran into the wind I thought I ran better than the part that was with the wind. I've been focusing more on attacking the first part of my race. I feel like I need a couple more, then I'll be able to roll the whole thing," she said. "It's like baby steps with me in this race, for some reason. Hopefully each week keep progressing a little further around the track and, by first round of nationals, hopefully, be ready to roll."

USD also had top-three sweeps in the 400 and pole vault, with Ashley Sveum (400, 58.02) and Emily Grove (pole vault, 13-0 1/4) taking

victories. The Coyote women also got victories from Amber Eichkorn in the 5,000 (18:15.13), Megan Glisar in the high jump (5-10 1/2), Meghan Dennis in the javelin (136-5), Breanna Janovy in the shot put (44-2 3/4) and Tansha Clarke in the long jump (18-4 1/2).

Gliser, who just missed at 6-0 1/2, which would have been a personal best, felt good about her effort.

"I'm really happy with how today went. My coach and myself figured out a lot of good stuff today, especially if we were to have this wind. It's not easy jumping in it," she said.

"That last bar, even though I didn't get it, was going to be a personal best. I feel like, if I had some fresh legs underneath me, it would have been a more successful day."

Also for the USD women, Yankton native Ashlea Johnson finished second to Clarke by 1 1/2 inches in the long jump, and finished fifth in the triple jump (35-4 1/2). Former Vermillion standout Elizabeth Szymonski placed fifth in the javelin (104-3).

A pair of double-winners paced the Coyote men. Former Andes Central standout Cody Snyder swept the shot put (56-7 1/4) and discus (184-6), while Erik Hill swept the 110- (14.89) and 400 (57.39) hurdles.

USD swept the top four positions in the men's 5,000, with Brant Haase winning the race in 15:20.70. Mubarik Musa was second (15:27.89), Jeff Mettler third (15:30.12) and Alex Hohenthanner was fourth in 15:35.22. Mettler also won the 1,500 (4:09.68), while Hohenthanner, a Yankton native, won the steeplechase (9:45.43) on his high school home track.

"On a day like today, we're not competing with time, especially with the wind," Hohenthanner said. "I just went out there and just ignored time and competed, and it worked out."

Also for the USD men, Denton Stephens won the hammer throw (182-11), Jeff O'Connell won the long jump (23-2), Michael Burrus won the 100 (10.78) and Christian Nielsen won the 200 (21.39). The Coyotes also won the men's 400 (42.69) and 1600 (3:24.55) relays.

Former Beresford standout Kyle McKelvey finished second in the shot put (54-1 3/4), third in the discus (157-5) and fourth in the hammer (162-0). Former Yankton standout Connor Fitzsimmons placed third in both the long jump (21-10) and triple jump (43-2 1/2). Former Bon Homme standout Tad Schuurmans placed fifth in the 100 (11.36). Former Yankton standout Tyler Sternhagen placed fifth in the 400 (52.21) and anchored the Coyotes to victory in the 1600 relay.

The event, which was originally scheduled to be held in Brookings, will be the only true home meet on the USD outdoor schedule. The Coyotes, though, will be in the region this

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota's Alexa Duling clears the final hurdle on the way to victory in the women's 100-meter hurdles at The Duals track and field meet on Saturday at Yankton's Williams Field. Duling would also win the 400-meter hurdles and anchor the Coyotes to victory in the 1600-meter relay on the day.

YHS Wins Five Events At BV

BRANDON — The Yankton track and field team earned five titles, including four on the girls' side, at the Brandon Valley Invitational on Saturday in Brandon.

Seniors Kelsey Fitzgerald and Jessica Wirth, and juniors Whitlee Larson and Annie Kruse led the way for the Yankton girls. Fitzgerald won the high jump (5-1), placed fourth in the triple jump (32-4 1/2) and fifth in the long jump (16-0). Larson won the 800 (2:25.0) and finished second in the 1600 (5:33.2). Wirth won the 200 (27.5) and placed fourth in the 100 (13.5). Kruse ran away with the title in the 3200 (11:18.0), winning by more than 20 seconds.

Sophomore Danielle Beckmann also earned two top-six finishes for Yankton, placing third in the 100 (13.4) and sixth in the 200 (28.5). Senior Clara Schild placed second in the shot put (37-9 1/4). Freshman Savannah Woods finished fifth in the 3200 (11:58.7). junior Hailey Luken tied for fifth in the high jump (4-8).

The Yankton girls also finished third in the 1600 relay (4:16.7), fifth in the 800 relay (1:56.6) and sixth in the 400 (53.3), 3200 (10:47.3) and medley (4:55.7) relays.

Junior Casey Skillingsstad was the lone victor on the boys' side for Yankton, winning the pole vault with a mark of 11-6. Junior J.J. Hejna earned two top-six finishes: fourth in the triple jump (41-8 1/4) and sixth in the high jump (5-9).

Also for the Yankton boys, junior Brice Cowman placed second in the 3200 (9:48.2), junior Ryan Olson finished sixth in the 400 (53.5) and senior Alexander Savage finished sixth in the 200 (23.3). The Bucks also finished third in the 400 relay (45.4), fifth in the 800 (1:36.3) and 1600 (3:43.0) relays, and sixth in the 3200 (8:57.9) and medley (4:08.3) relays.

Yankton hosts Brandon Valley and Mitchell in a triangular on Tuesday. Start time is set for 4 p.m.

College

Dordt Inv.

SIOUX CENTER, Iowa — The Mount Marty College track and field team posted one runner-up finish and six third place marks at the Dordt Invitational on Saturday.

Leading the way for MMC was Katie Smelker, who clocked an 18:52.12 to finish second in the 5,000-meter run. The MMC women also got third place finishes from Abbey VanDenBerg (triple jump, 34-6 3/4), Scotland native April Winne (high jump, 5-2 1/4) and Beth Finnegan (steeplechase, 15:04.90). MMC also placed third in the women's 3200 relay (11:48.03) and fifth in the 400 relay (53.58).

VanDenBerg's triple jump performance led a 3-4-5 finish for MMC in the event, with Yankton native Emily Anderson (33-10) fourth and Sadie Fedor (33-8) fifth. Anderson also finished fifth in the high jump (4-10 1/4).

Also for the Lancer women, Holly Hegge (Crofton, Neb.) finished eighth in the long jump (15-7) and Samantha Rus finished eighth in the hammer throw (85-0).

The MMC men were led by Armour native Tyler Payer, who placed third in the long jump (21-0) and seventh in the high jump (5-10 3/4). Samuel Lopez also earned a third place finish, clocking a 1:59.30 in the 800-meter run.

Also for the Lancer men, Mychal Bierwagen placed fourth in the steeplechase (11:37.65), with teammate Ryan Oye fifth (11:39.49). Jordan Pater placed fifth in the 5,000 (16:14.49). Yankton native Logan Ulmer finished sixth in the 110 hurdles (17.24) and seventh in the 400 hurdles (1:08.01). Vermillion native William Mart finished sixth in the discus (131-0).

Briar Cliff's Jayna Specht (Yankton) finished fifth in the women's 800 (2:24.99), with Dordt's Lillie Koerner (Freeman) eighth (2:25.02). Also for Briar Cliff, Haley Gowery (Wynot, Neb.) placed seventh in the 1,500 (5:35.69). Desi Beckmann (Yankton) finished eighth in the 400 hurdles (1:13.45) and Tascha Donnelly (Elk Point) finished eighth in the triple jump (32-7 3/4).

Next action for Mount Marty is the Sioux City Relays, April 12-13 at Roberts Stadium in Sioux City, Iowa.

Crimson Tide Inv.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Nebraska's Morgan Wilken won the women's discus, giving the Huskers one of their seven victories at the Crimson Tide Invitational on Saturday.

Wilken, a senior from Crofton, Neb., won with a toss of 168-8.

Vance Butler Inv.

SIOUX FALLS — Augustana's Molly Kokesh placed fifth in the women's 1,500-meter run at the Vance Butler Invitational on Saturday in Sioux Falls.

Kokesh, from Scotland, clocked a 4:58.89 in the event.