

MMC, South Dakota Athletes Shine At Sioux City Relays

BY CHRIS RILEY
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SIoux CITY, Iowa — After a cold and windy week, Saturday provided some relief as athletes from Mount Marty and the University of South Dakota competed against other area colleges in Day Two of the Sioux City Relays, held at Elwood Olson Stadium on the campus of Morningside College.

WOMEN

On the women's side, Amber Ewers, Tess Johnson and Yankton-native Rachel Weinandt competed on both the 1600 meter relay and 1600 meter sprint medley relay teams as the Coyotes claimed first place in both events. Molly Ervin (1600) and Tanasha Clarke (sprint medley) rounded out those relays squads.

Former Gazelle runner Ashlea Johnson was a member of USD's "B" sprint medley team that placed fourth.

Briar Cliff saw two local athletes finish with top-four finishes during the day. Wynot's Haley Howery and Yankton's Jayna Specht both ran on the Chargers' fourth-place 3200 meter relay squad while Specht added a fourth (800 meter relay) and a sixth (1600 meter relay) in other events.

In other running events, Coyotes Katie Wetzstein (4th), Yankton's Megan Hilson (6th) and Amber Eichkorn (7th) had top-

seven finishes in the 1500 meter run while Ervin added a third-place finish in the 400 meter hurdles.

Mount Marty's Kelli Norrid, a sophomore from Winner, placed 16th in the 100 meter hurdles and added a 14th-place effort in the 400 meter hurdles.

"Kelli ran a nice race (400 hurdles) in her first time out this season," Lancers coach Randy Fischer said. "We are hoping to get her time down a bit more to get ready for conference in a few more weeks but for now her season looks very promising."

The Lancers also got a top-10 finish in the 3000 meter steeple chase with sophomore Beth Finnegan (Ponca, Neb.) placing ninth.

In field events, the Coyotes placed first and third in the pole vault - which was held at the DakotaDome due to conditions - with Emily Grove clearing 13-06 for the victory and Madison Mills vaulting 13-00 for third.

Mount Marty's April Winne was fourth in the high jump as the Olivet-native went 5-2.25, just missing out on second-place finish because of more jump attempts.

"April had a great meet for just her second time out this year," Fischer added. "I think she has the potential to get 5-04 or 5-05 and do well at conference for us once that rolls around."

Wagner-native LaShawn Medicine Horn

placed just behind Winne in the high jump in fifth with a leap of 5-00.25.

In the long jump, former Crofton High School standout Holly Hegge (sophomore) placed sixth with a leap of 16-07.75.

"Holly is making great progress," Fischer noted. "She (along with Winne and Norrid) is making a nice transition from basketball to track in spite of the challenging weather when it has been tough to find quality time outside."

Sophomore Abbey VanDenBerg placed eighth in the long jump for the Lancers and finished third in the triple jump - the event that she earned an All-American award in at March's indoor championships. VanDenBerg's jump of 35-10.50 was less than a foot off of first place and was beat out by a pair of Division II jumpers from USF.

"Abbey had a nice meet," Fischer added. "The jumps are tough in the cold weather so we are hoping that with some warmer weather later this month she can qualify for nationals for outdoor."

Yankton-native and Lancer sophomore Emily Anderson placed eighth in the triple jump (33-07.25).

Rounding out the women's action was South Dakota freshman Meghan Dennis with a victory in the Javelin by over 30 feet, with a throw of 151-04.

Breanna Janovy claimed another victory

for the Coyotes in the discus with a toss of 148-01. Teammate Kayla Lester placed fourth (126-02).

MEN

In what Coyotes' junior Jeff Mettler described as a "tune-up" meet, the USD distance men put on quite a show on Saturday afternoon.

Following a 1500 meter run that saw Mettler claim a three-second victory (3:56) along with a 10th place effort by USD's Stephen Nielson, the Coyotes went on to claim six of the top nine spots in the 5000 meter run just a couple hours later.

Mettler led a USD top-three sweep in the 5000 with a clocking of 14:47, just one second ahead of teammate Brant Hasse. Coyote freshman Mubarik Musa placed third while Yankton-native Alex Hohenthanner was fifth. Ethan Marquardt placed eighth and Benson Langat finished ninth.

"That 5000 was awesome," Mettler said. "We talked to coach a little bit before and we wanted to have a pack of guys in front. To have that it was really fun - we've been putting a lot of work so to have a group of guys like that was pretty nice."

Even though Saturday was still unseasonably cool, Mettler still said it was quite an

Regional Runners Set For Today's Boston Marathon

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Today marks the annual Super Bowl of distance running, the 117th annual Boston Marathon.

Just under 30,000 runners will line up for the start in tiny Hopkinton, Mass., 26.2 miles west of the finish line near Copley Square in central Boston.

The Boston race is a premier event, both because of its status as the world's oldest annual marathon and as a rare marathon that requires participants to meet strict qualifying standards in a recent marathon based on their age division.

Held on each Patriot's Day — a holiday commemorating the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord that officially began the Revolutionary War - a total of 32 runners from South Dakota are entered in this year's race.

Leading the local charge will be Mitchell's Thomas Madut. Madut, 26, a former standout at Sioux Falls Lincoln High School and All-American at Dakota Wesleyan, placed 46th overall last year in the event, with a clocking of 2:35:18 — a pace 5:56 per mile. That time was good enough for 26th best out of all American runners.

Another runner registered for the race is Bruce Allen of Flandreau. Allen also ran last year, finishing in 3:45:22 (5,482nd overall) before capturing the River Rat Half-Marathon title in Yankton less than two weeks later.

Thirteen of the 32 registered South Dakota runners are from Sioux Falls, with Brandon sending three runners east and Rapid City being represented by two.

Besides Madut, who will start in the first corral of the first wave with the elite men at 10 a.m., the top returning South Dakota runner from a year ago is Sioux Falls' Ed Thomas. Thomas, 53, ran 3:34:41 last year to finish 3,687th overall, 206th in his age division.

A number of Ethiopian and Kenyan runners are expected to challenge for the men's crown, with Jason Hartmann being the favorite for the United States after last year's Olympic Marathon contingency of Meb Keflezighi, Ryan Hall and Abdi Abdirahman all dropped out in recent weeks due to injury or illness.

Hartmann best marathon time of 2:11:06 is more than six minutes slower than some of the African favorites.

On the women's side, 2012 Olympians Shalane Flanagan (10th at London games) and Kara Goucher (11th at London games) will each try to become the first American female since 1985 to win Boston.

Flanagan, a Massachusetts native, along with her training partner Goucher, will also have to deal with a pack of experienced and talented runners from Eastern Africa.

Over 500,000 spectators are expected to line the 26.2 mile course along with nearly 1,000 media members — including fans who pour into Kenmore Square for the final mile from Fenway Park after watching the Red Sox play their annual Patriot's Day morning game.

You can follow Chris Riley on Twitter at twitter.com/ChrisCRiley

Lancers Go 1-3 On Weekend

SEWARD, Neb. — The Mount Marty College baseball team split a pair of one-run games with Concordia, dropping the opener 7-6 before taking the nightcap 10-9.

The games were played in Seward, Neb., due to wet field conditions in Yankton. The games were played as MMC home games.

In the Lancers' victory, Michael O'Connell went 3-4 with a double, and Zac Hollenback went 3-4 to lead MMC. Nik Davis went 2-4 with a double and two RBI. Jared Miller went 2-4 with three RBI. Mathias Godsil, Bryton Carlson, Tyler Edler, Nick Sehr and Sam Sparen added hits.

Andrew Yerrell and Eric Ellison each had three hits for Concordia. Kyle Ivanoff homered among his two hits. Nolan Schaefer doubled and singled for the Bulldogs.

Josh Cleveland (3-3) picked up the win despite giving up seven runs, six earned, in four innings. A.J. Griffith pitched the seventh for his second save. Kyle Godfrey gave up all 10 MMC runs, six earned, for the loss.

In the nightcap, Schaefer tripled and scored in the eighth to lift the Bulldogs to the extra-innings victory.

Schaefer and Daniel Wilkerson each had two hits, with Wilkerson recording a home run and a double. Ray Finley doubled in the win.

For MMC, Davis doubled and singled, and O'Connell had two hits

'Dons Take Two From USD

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — One of the constants in what is shaping up to be a rather memorable season for the University of South Dakota softball team have been close games.

Fifteen times has the result been by one run.

On a chilly Saturday afternoon in Vermillion, the Coyotes dropped a pair of close games to Fort Wayne in Summit League action — by scores of 2-1 and 7-4 in nine innings.

"We lose by one and then go extras, so I think we're close," said USD head coach Amy Klyse, whose team falls to 25-14 overall and 8-3 in conference. Eight of those losses have come by one run.

"We just weren't so much today."

In a weekend series that was trimmed from three games over two days to just a Saturday doubleheader, the visiting Mastodons (20-8, 4-0) rode the left arm of pitcher Miranda Kramer.

The sophomore from Burlington, Iowa, struck out 15 Coyotes in the opener and added four more in relief in game two — winning both ends.

USD didn't help itself in crunch time, combining to strand 18 runners on base and issuing 10 walks in the second game.

In short, there are some things to work on, sophomore Matley Jones said.

"Working more together and communicating more on defense are right up there," said Jones, who was 5-for-8 with three RBI on the day. "We need to execute at the end of games."

The Coyotes broke through with one run in the bottom of the fifth of a scoreless game one, when Morgan Hancock doubled and Jones followed with an RBI single.

Fort Wayne responded in the sixth with two runs to lead 2-1.

USD had a chance to tie the game in the next frame, but Allie Daly was thrown out at home on a grounder.

There weren't many missed chances on the day against Kramer. She was especially tough against USD's top four hitters in the lineup — they combined to go 0-for-12 with 11 strikeouts.

Erica Denney, who struck out seven and walked just one, took the loss for the Coyotes.

"They had a lot of infield hits; too many," Klyse said. "If we see them again, or another team like them, that's something we'll have to work on."

The Mastodons struck early in game two, getting three runs in the top of the first inning. The lead reached 4-0 in the third.

Though frustrated most of the day offensively, the Coyotes started their rally in the fourth, getting a Jones RBI single. Then in the fifth, consecutive RBI singles by Yvon Minogue, Yankton native Christine Broders and Jones tied the game 4-4.

Fort Wayne broke the tie with three runs — on just one hit — in the top of the ninth off Denney to lead 7-4. There were two bases loaded walks and a fielders choice throw that scored a run.

The Coyotes were then able to mount a rally in the bottom of the seventh against Kramer.

"We came back hitting in game two; made it close, but they executed all day," Klyse said.

Was it any consolation to hang tough with one of the league's best?



"They're a great team, so it's nice to give ourselves a chance," Jones said. "We just didn't pull through. But there are still positives from that."

In what figures to again be a busy week on Nygaard Field (this time because of games, not necessarily weather), the Coyotes will play six games through the end of the week.

Omaha comes to town Tuesday for a doubleheader, followed by a single game Wednesday. Oakland then visits for a 3-game weekend series.

With still 12 Summit League games to play, the Coyotes are well aware of what lies ahead, Klyse said.

"Our goal is to get to the conference tournament," she said. "None of these kids have been there, so we need close games like these to get us ready."

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ABOVE: Fort Wayne's Stephanie Beuther (17) manages to beat the tag at third base by South Dakota's Christine Broders during softball action Saturday afternoon in Vermillion. The Coyotes were able to retire the next batter to end the inning and rob Beuther of a chance to score.

RIGHT: South Dakota's Christine Broders of Yankton gets a hit early in the first game of a Saturday double-header with Fort Wayne, held at Nygaard Field in Vermillion.

PHOTOS BY DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK



Scott Beats Cabrera In A Playoff At Augusta



Adam Scott celebrates winning The Masters at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, Sunday. Scott beat Angel Cabrera on the second playoff hole for the first Masters victory by an Australian.

JEFF Siner/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Adam Scott finished the job this time, and put an end to more than a half-century of Australian misery at the Masters.

With the two biggest putts of his career, Scott holed a 20-footer for birdie on the 18th hole of regulation that put him into a playoff with Angel Cabrera, and then won his first major championship Sunday with a 12-footer for birdie on the second extra hole.

"We like to think we're the best at everything. Golf is a big sport at home, and this is the one thing in golf we hadn't been able to achieve," Scott said. "It's amazing that it's my destiny to be the first Australian to win. It's incredible."

Scott leaned back and thrust his arms in the air after the putt dropped on the 10th hole, a celebration for all of Australia and personal redemption for himself.

It was only last summer when Scott threw away the British Open by making bogey on his last four holes to lose by one shot to Ernie Els. The 32-year-old handled that crushing defeat with dignity and pledged to finish stronger given another chance. "Next time — I'm sure there will be a next time — I can do a better job of it," he said that day.

Scott was close to perfect, and he had to be with Cabrera delivering

some brilliance of his own.

Moments after Scott made his 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole for a 3-under 69 to take a one-shot lead — "C'mon, Aussie!" he screamed — Cabrera answered with an approach that plopped down 3 feet from the cup, one of the greatest shots under the circumstances. That gave him an easy birdie and a 2-under 70. They finished at 9-under 279.

They both chipped close for par on the 18th in the first playoff hole, and Cabrera's 15-foot birdie putt on the 10th grazed the right side of the cup.

With his long putter anchored against his chest, Scott's putt was true all the way. The Masters had been the only major that never had a champion use a long putter. Scott's win means four of the last six major champions used a putter pressed against their belly or chest, a stroke that might be banned in 2016.

What mattered more to Scott was that the Masters had been the only major an Australian had never won. He was among dozens of golfers who routinely rose in the early hours of Monday morning for the telecast, only to watch a horror show. The leading character was Greg Norman, who had four good chances to win, none better than when he blew a six-shot lead on the last day to Nick Faldo in 1996.