

Lancers Earn Split With Morningside

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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For a second straight day, the Mount Marty College softball team got half way to where they want to be.

MMC earned a Great Plains Athletic Conference split with Morningside — which came into the final weekend of the regular season one game behind conference front-runner Hastings and one game ahead of Northwestern for third — in a twinbill at Riverside Park.

It was the second straight doubleheader split for a Lancer team that came in to the week with a 1-17 record (1-9 GPAC). MMC is now 3-5 at home on the season.

"These last couple of wins have been a big boost," said MMC third baseman Michaela Bunde. "We're starting to do what we need to in order to play with these conference teams."

Morningside took the opener 10-0 behind a six-inning no-hitter by Jordan Johnson. In the nightcap, the Lancers answered a Morningside score with two in the bottom of the fourth, then

held on for a 2-1 victory.

In the nightcap, the Lancer defense made an early statement to end a Mustang threat. With runners on second and third, Lancer right fielder Karley Seuntjens caught a fly ball off the bat of Morningside's Mackenzie Neely, then threw out Kristina Neumann as she tried to advance to third, ending the threat.

Morningside broke through in the fourth. Johnson drew a one-out walk, advanced to second on a wild pitch then scored when a two-out pop-up was lost in the sun.

"We let in a run on a defensive miscue," said MMC head coach Albert Fernandez. "But we showed the ability to come back and score. That was a huge momentum shift."

MMC wasted little time in answering the run. Jaime Gregory led off with a single, then stole second and scored on a throwing error as Seuntjens tried to bunt her over to third. Seuntjens advanced to third on another Mustang error, and was there with two outs when Bunde smacked a double to the right center wall, giving the Lancers the lead.

"My big problem is that I'm a pull hitter, and they were throwing me outside all day," Bunde said of the decisive at-bat. "I tried to wait on it and send it that (to right), and it went that way."

Morningside stranded two runners on in the sixth. Bunde turned a slap-swing pop-up into a double play to end the game. It was the fourth double play turned by the Lancers in the doubleheader.

Jessica Finch picked up her second victory in as many days, allowing three hits and one unearned run.

"Jessica has had two good outings two days in a row. The team knows that if they do a good job and support her, we have a chance to win," Fernandez said. "Today the defense showed that they'll support our other pitchers as well."

In the opener, the MMC defense committed two errors — only of which played a factor in a run — and made several strong plays behind



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty second baseman Lauren Orwig makes a diving stop of a ground ball during the opening game of the Lancers' doubleheader with Morningside on Friday at Riverside Park.

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RiverRat Marathon Set For Today

BY CHRIS RILEY
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For those runners and cyclists who have trained through a less than perfect spring, Saturday morning's mild forecast for the fourth annual RiverRat Marathon and Bike Ride will be their reward.

The events, which include a marathon, half marathon, 5,000-meter run and bike race/ride, will depart from Riverside Park early this morning (Saturday) while winding their way through various Yankton-area trails.

The longer races and bike ride head west of town and down Chalkstone Hill before returning to finish at Riverside Park while the 5,000-meter run utilizes the Meridian Bridge as a feature of the route.

Race director Bruce Schild said that he is encouraged by the number of race entries despite a cold and wet end to winter which has continued into April.

"Earlier on we were thinking that maybe we topped out (on registrants) and it would be the same as last year, but it has been picking up," Schild said. "The late entries all have to do with the weather forecast, but the majority of our racers are marathon or half marathon runners and they sign up regardless because they are training regardless of the weather."

According to Schild, all of the races should be at or exceed last year's entrants, something that is helped along by the fact that the RiverRat committee keeps making subtle race improvements as the race's reputation gets out to more and more people each year.

This year the course will be USA Track and Field (USATF) certified for the first time, meaning that marathon participants can potentially use their race times as qualifiers for the 2014 Boston Marathon if they meet their age and gender-specific time requirement. Former Bucks and Gazelles track coach Jim Miner volunteered his time to ensure that the course met the USATF standards.

Runners and cyclists will be cheered on and supported on the course by volunteers from the Yankton Science Club, Yankton Track Club and the local National Guard. The three groups split proceeds from the event.

"We put the race together for those groups," Schild said. "Because of that, we want those groups helping us out and they can't get money without the event being successful. At the same time, we can't attract people if it's a poorly run event so it goes hand in hand."

Schild said that spectators can expect to see runners from all over the nation — last year's men's marathon champion was from Oregon — as a number of athletes choose the RiverRat race as part of their quest to complete a marathon in all 50 states.

"All of the 50-states say what a beautiful course we have," Schild said. "They say it is a hidden gem and just love the scenery, especially by the lake."

Race times are staggered with the marathon and marathon relay kicking things off with a 7:30 a.m. start time from the Riverside Park shelter, with all of the other races to follow shortly after, culminating with a kid's fun run at 10:30.

Schild said that anyone and everyone is more than welcome to come cheer the runners and cyclists on from Riverside Park all the way out to Lewis and Clark Lake — and especially as they head back up Chalkstone hill just west of Yankton.

"We encourage spectators to come out and cheer them."

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

Archery | IFAA Championships Begin

Competitors Manage 'Hectic' Trip To Yankton For Tournament



ABOVE: Su-Andri van Schalkwyk, front, of South Africa concentrates on the target during Friday's opening day of the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Indoor Archery Championships at the Easton Complex in Yankton.

LEFT: Kendra Hunhoff of Yankton counts her score on the target during Friday's first round at the International Field Archery Association (IFAA) World Indoor Archery Championships at the Easton Complex in Yankton.

PHOTOS BY JEREMY HOECK/P&D

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Johann Francois Grundlingh has one word to describe his journey from South Africa to Yankton.

"It was hectic," said Grundlingh, who, along with about 20 other South Africans spent 43 hours traveling from their home town to Yankton for the IFAA World Indoor Archery Championships.

The 3-day tournament, featuring archers from all across the world, began Friday at the Easton Yankton Archery Complex and continues through Sunday.

Grundlingh's itinerary read like this:

First came the international flight to Atlanta. After a 7-hour layover came a flight to Indianapolis. From there came a 3-hour layover before a flight to Sioux Falls.

The final leg of the journey was a simple bus ride to Yankton.

"One guy left his bow in Atlanta," Grundlingh said. "But it arrived the next day. It could have been worse."

South Africa is one of a handful of countries represented this weekend in Yankton. Others include Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, as well as the United States.

Like in the United States, archery is a consistently growing sport in popularity in South Africa. The combination of firearm licenses being difficult to obtain, more exotic game to hunt and youth archery programs makes his country a hotbed, Grundlingh said.

"It's a family sport, and parents bring their kids out to shoot all the time," he said. "It's definitely growing."

Among the nearly 200 archers competing this weekend, a good portion of them are youth. And a bulk of those young archers hail from South Africa.

Wilhelm Rieker le Roux, 18, is one of them.

"There are more clubs outside of schools that teach you archery," le Roux said. "I was excited to come to the states and see what it's like over here. I've wanted to come for a while."

Now that he's here, le Roux

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Mount Marty's April Winne tries to go over the bar during the girls' high jump at the Mount Marty College Twilight track and field meet on Friday at Williams Field. It is the lone home meet on the MMC schedule.

MMC Shines In Lone Home Meet

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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For a week that started off with wind and snow, the athletes at Mount Marty College's Twilight Meet couldn't have asked for better track weather Friday and it showed in the results. In almost every event, season best times were topped.

Leading the way for the host Lancers were Katie Smelker and Abbey VanDenBerg who both won their respective events. In the 5,000-meter run Smelker ran a season high 18:47.8 to win the event. Meanwhile, VanDenBerg posted a national qualifying distance of 37-2.25 in the triple jump.

"The weather today was just huge," said Mount Marty track and field coach Randy Fischer. "We just needed warm weather. For (VandenBerg) when it is warm she jumps extremely well. That contributed to her big day. It also set her up for the conference meet."

"She has been such a good leader for us it is great to her succeed."

Fischer added that Smelker, who is already a national qualifier in the marathon, used today's meet as a training run.

"She will run the 5,000 meter as well as the 10,000 meter next week at the conference so it was great to see her get that personal best time," he said. "This is the best she has ran outside this year and it was very good to see. Jordyn Hudelson is also very close to breaking out. She is getting better and is so close to that break out race, hopefully she gets it next week."

Other place winners for Mount Marty included Hudelson, fourth in the 5,000 meter, 20:14.1; VanDenBerg, sixth in the long jump, at 16 feet 10 inches; Holly Hegge, fifth in the long jump at 17 feet 1.5 inches; April Winne, tie for third in high jump; and Emily Anderson fifth in the triple jump.

Fischer noted this was Hegge's personal best as well.

The University of South Dakota women also captured two top places when Breanna Janovy tossed the shot put 44 feet, 8 inches and when Lindsey Montileaux crossed the finish line in 2:19.6 to win the 800 Meter dash.

USD's women, who had eight in the top five of the shot put, javelin



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Mychal Bierwagen of Mount Marty College prepares to land in the water during the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase at Friday's Mount Marty Twilight Meet at Williams Field.

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