

Wausa's Hegge Aims For Another Stellar Season

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

WAUSA, Neb. — Austin Hegge remembers the date well.

May 24, 2014. A Saturday in Omaha, Nebraska. A warm day when he nearly single-handedly guided the Wausa High School boys' track team to a state championship.

"I remember it easily," Hegge, now a senior, said. "It doesn't seem like that long ago to me."

With individual titles in the 100-meter dash (11.34), 200-meter dash (22.81) and long jump (21-4.75), as well as a second-place finish in the triple jump (43-5.5), Hegge scored 38 points by himself.

Wausa finished with 38 points, capturing fourth place in the Class D team race — Falls City Sacred Heart was first (49.5), followed by Sterling (44) and Hartington (40).

As nearly 11 months have passed since that sunny day in the capitol city, what stands out to Hegge about the memorable weekend?

"Our chance at winning this year," he replied, matter of factly.

"I think we have a good chance, with all the people we have who went down."



ABOVE: Wausa's Austin Hegge, second from right, wins the Class D boys' 100-meter dash at the 2014 Nebraska State Track Meet in Omaha.



RIGHT: Hegge takes off on the way to victory in the Class D boys' long jump at the 2014 state meet. Hegge also won the 200-meter dash and finished second in the triple jump, single-handedly lifting the Vikings to a fourth place team finish in the meet.

While that experience will undoubtedly help the Vikings in May, the key for Hegge is to continue his own momentum from a year ago.

"I'm just doing my best in practice, hoping I can do better in meets," he said.

This is where Hegge's internal fire comes out.

His goals come in three stages, he said.

• Not lose an event all season. His biggest challenges, in his eyes, before the state

meet will be the O'Neill meet and the Norfolk Classic.

• Break the Nebraska all-class record in the triple jump. Hegge — who says the triple jump is his "favorite" event — went 43 feet, 5.5 inches at state last year. The all-class record in Class D is 47-9, set in 1977.

• Lead Wausa to the Class D state title. The Vikings return four other athletes (Nick Story, Darren Nissen, Jordan Burns, Kyle Kleinschmit) who

competed in Omaha a year ago, and Hegge said the goal would be for them to be able to pick up at least 6-8 team points.

Sure, they may be lofty goals, but Hegge said he makes no apologies.

"If I don't have a goal, there's no point to doing track," he said. "It pushes me even more."

"Otherwise you don't want to go to practices." While Hegge will con-

tinue working to improve his times and marks in his four signature events, he could also see time in the 400-meter dash this season, he said — coach Greg Conn has tried to persuade the standout to attempt to break the school record.

One thing that won't change, though, for Hegge is his comfort level in Omaha, he said. Having now multiple

years of experience down there, he's ready for one final memorable weekend.

"After I won my first two events, I was really motivated," he said. "I'm just hoping to defend my titles this year."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

Nebraska Prep Boys' Track & Field

Bloomfield

COACH: Duane Wilken
ASSISTANTS: Kirk Hamm, Lydia Nixon, Jeff Fehringer
VITALS: Class D, District D-4, Lewis & Clark Conference

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Luke Fehringer (So.), Tyler Haigh (Jr.), Andrew Klintworth (Sr.), Conner Wilson (Sr.), Kyle Young (Jr.)

TOP PROSPECTS: Jeff Bertschinger (Sr.), Tyler Zach (Sr.), Cole Bruns (So.), Michael Castaneda (Fr.), Travis Doerr (Fr.), Jackson Eisenhauer (Fr.), Jared Hornback (Fr.), Reece McFarland (Fr.), Quinten Moles (Fr.)

Creighton

COACH: Ryon Nilson
ASSISTANTS: Layne Pahl, Zac Kliment
VITALS: Class C, District C-7, Lewis & Clark Conference
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Zac Hazen, Beau Schindler

Crofton

COACH: Rod Hegge
ASSISTANTS: Gail Peterson, Justin Bossman, Will Sanger

VITALS: Class C, District C-7, Mid-State Conference

TOP PROSPECTS: Tyler Koch (state qualifier), Dustin Bertschinger, Adrian Hernandez, Austin Proctor, Cole Steffen, Lane Weidner, John Haberer, Mark Lange, Brady Stucky, Joshua Allen, Tanner Crosley, Jaxon Guenther, Kaleb Johnson, Derek Maibaum, Noah McFarland, Grant Wragge, Max Boecker, Miles Bossman, Dylan Hoffman, Jaden Janssen, Noah Lancaster, Colby Lange, Trevin Mowery, Ethan Poppe

Hartington-Newcastle

COACH: Blair Kalin
VITALS: Class C, District C-7, Lewis & Clark Conference
LAST YEAR: The Hartington Wildcats won the conference and district meet, and then finished third at the



Hartington-Newcastle's Griffon Kalin

Class D state meet.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Tanner Fischer (Sr., state qualifier), Griffon Kalin (Sr., state champion 300 hurdles), Jared Fuelberth (Jr., state qualifier)

TOP PROSPECTS: Sean Dunn (Sr.), Austin Blatchford (Sr.), Wyatt Blatchford (Jr.), Matt Dunn (Jr.), Mason Hahne (Jr.), Devren Sudbeck (Jr.), Dayne Morten (So.), Andy Schmidt (So.), Danny Fischer (Fr.), Alex Kneiff (Fr.), Brian Santiago (Fr.), Cole Schmidt (Fr.), Corbin Sudbeck (Fr.), Dan Navarro (Fr.)

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge

COACH: Nate Sims
ASSISTANTS: Carol Manganaro, Shannon Benson, Jordan Taylor

VITALS: Class C, District C-7, Lewis & Clark Conference
LAST YEAR: Graduated Calvin Casey and Brett Haisch.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Collin Drirks (Sr.), Chayce Hirschman (Sr.), Colton Jansen (Sr., state partici-

nant), Aaron Haahr (Jr., state participant), DJ Spahr (So.), Jayden Reifenrath (So.)

TOP PROSPECTS: Charles Stanley

Niobrara-Verdigre

CO-COACHES: Mary Snowdon, Dana Konopasek
ASSISTANTS: Emily Janak, Kelsey Mitteis

VITALS: Class C, District C-8, Niobrara Valley Conference

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Xavier Sagaste (Sr.), Trenton Guenther (Sr.), Cade Kalkowski (Jr.), Tanner Hrbek (Jr.), Ian Kotrous (Sr.), Tommy Stark (Jr.), Aaron Pavelka (Jr.), Dillon Ives (So.), Isaac Justo (So.), Masi LaPointe (So.), Nate Sandoz (So.)

NEWCOMERS: Dakota Crosely (Fr.), Kobe Keo (Fr.), Ermínio Sagaste (Fr.), Christian Swalley (Fr.), Isaac Cook



Wynot's Cody Stratman

(Fr.), Kevin Rudloff (Fr.)

Ponca

COACH: Troy Evans
ASSISTANTS: Brady Starkweather, Jaime Hamar

VITALS: Class C, District C-7, Lewis & Clark Conference

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Alex Rickett (Sr.), Jordan Markworth (Sr.), Michael Walsh (Sr., state qualifier), Andrew Lamprecht (So.), Derrek Touney (So.), Justin Carmona (So.), Ryan Bentz (So.), Colton Krusemark

(Fr.), Connor Day (Fr.), Cullen Cook (Fr.), Hudson Schweers (Fr.), Joel Watchorn (Fr.), Joe Albrecht (Fr.), Michael Hegge (Fr.), Sam Brickett (Fr.), Steven Lieber (Fr.)

Randolph

COACH: Mark Anderson
VITALS: Class D, District D-3, Lewis & Clark Conference

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Dylan Loberg (Sr.)

NEB. BOYS | PAGE 14

Mead Lumber
Hometown Lumber Yard Since 1910
113 W. Main St., Vermillion
605-624-2655
2409 Broadway, Yankton
605-665-9651

The Pizza Ranch
Home of the Pizza Lover's Pizza!
Good Things, Every Day!
1501 Broadway
Yankton
665-1222

#1483
Walmart
Save money. Live Better.
3001 Broadway Ave.
Yankton, SD
605-665-1425

DOUBLE 'T' TRUCK STOP
30649 US Hwy. 81
Yankton, SD
605-665-9650

BONANZA Steakhouse
N. Hwy. 81, Yankton
665-6394
HOURS:
Sun.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
Fri. & Sat. 11am-10pm

Proudly supporting the student athletes of today and tomorrow.

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
501 Summit Street
Yankton, South Dakota
(605) 668-8000
www.averasacredheart.org