

Bears Track Duo Headed To Nebraska-Kearney



Laurel-Concord-Coleridge seniors Ellie Arduser, left, and Sadie Petersen signed National Letters of Intent to attend the University of Nebraska-Kearney and compete for the Lopers in track and field on Wednesday.

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

A short enrollment decrease dropped the Laurel-Concord-Coleridge High School basketball teams from the Class C ranks down to Class D for this past season — joining the track programs. And yet, the small Northeast Nebraska school continues to produce NCAA-caliber girls' track recruits. The trend continued Wednesday when seniors Ellie Arduser and Sadie Petersen signed to compete in track and field at Division II Nebraska-Kearney. "I can't wait for next year,"

Arduser said. "It'll be a cool experience."

The duo joins Bethany DeLong (2010, Colorado State) and Kelsey Dietrich (2014, Wayne State) as recent LCC standouts to sign letters of intent for track.

"To have two at the D2 level is pretty special," head track coach Nate Sims said. "And it's icing on the cake that they're going to the same place."

They didn't plan it that way, though. Arduser — whose sister, Morgan, plays basketball at UNK — was the first to commit, followed by Petersen a couple months later.

"It's awesome, I'm glad I'll get to be on a team again with Sadie," said Arduser, who committed to UNK back in December.

Not originally a scholarship recruit, Arduser said the Lopers coaches offered a scholarship after her standout performance at the Dan Lennon meet last month in Vermillion — she won the triple jump at 36 feet, 9 1/2 inches.

Arduser hasn't slowed down since. Earlier this season, she broke the school record in the triple jump, reaching 36-9.

In Petersen's case, she also had family ties to

UNK. She had cousins who attended the school, and their feedback always stuck in her mind.

"They always talked positively about it," Petersen said. "And when I went on a visit, I fell in love with it; the facilities, just everything."

Petersen, who chose UNK over Northwest Missouri State, said she never originally planned to continue her track career in college.

"Before my freshman year, I never thought I'd want to run in college," she said. "I just fell more in love with it."

Both athletes played key

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Young Lancers Continue Growth

MMC Sees Improvement Despite Sweep By Raiders

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

A chance to inch closer to the school record for wins since the program restarted in 2000 will have to wait for the Mount Marty College softball team.

There is still time for the Lancers to eclipse the 14-win mark (set in 2004), but they would have preferred instead to keep pace in the Great Plains Athletic Conference.

Northwestern didn't help matters, as the Red Raiders swept Mount Marty by scores of 5-4 and 15-4 in Wednesday's conference doubleheader at Riverside Park.

"It's been a better season, for sure," said MMC sophomore — and leading hitter — Amber Krause, who was 4-of-7 with three doubles on the day. "We have a lot better team, overall."

"It's exciting, but it's just games like these."

The Lancers (10-17, 3-11), who have eight regular season games remaining, left 12 runners on base in the doubleheader — preventing them from making the full comeback in game one and at least making things interesting midway through game two.

"To be honest, I'm just stunned with the way we didn't come back," head coach Albert Fernandez said. "All year we've come back and played so well after losing close games. I think we were all shocked with the outcome."

Mount Marty, which had split its last two GPAC doubleheaders, has seen significant progress in two key areas this season: Hitting and pitching.

After Wednesday's doubleheader, the Lancers are batting .271 as a team, which



is nearly 30 points higher than last year, and have a team earned run average of 4.78 — nearly two runs better than a year ago.

"Everyone is more confident at the plate, and you can just tell, our whole lineup is better," said junior third baseman Olivia Rodriguez, who homered in game one.

Although the Lancers committed five fielding errors in Wednesday's second game, they have just over half the total number of errors from 2014 — another area of progression, Krause said.

"Our defense is a lot better," she said. "As a pitcher, I can trust them a lot more. And we're hitting better."

Junior newcomer Cassidy Janicek, who had a 2-run single in game two, ranks second on the team in hitting (.364), while freshmen sisters Kelsey Mitera (.327) and Jenn Mitera (.270) have also given the Lancers more pop in the

lineup.

Rodriguez, who had two hits and two RBI on Wednesday, brought the Lancers closer in game one with her first home run of the season.

"It's really nice to get a big hit for the team," she said.

The only thing the Lancers can do now is move on, their coach said.

"As hard as it is and as disappointed as I am, we have to keep going," Fernandez said.

Mount Marty returns to action today (Thursday) for a non-conference doubleheader at Presentation College in Aberdeen, starting at 2 p.m.

What will be key over the final eight regular season games?

"Confidence," Krause said. "We need the confidence. We get down on ourselves too much, but we have to believe in ourselves."

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Northwestern swept Mount Marty 5-4 and 15-4 on Wednesday at Riverside Park.

ABOVE: Mount Marty College runner Karlee Kozak, left, beats a diving Northwestern first baseman Laura Hurley to first base during the first game of their Wednesday GPAC doubleheader at Riverside Park.

LEFT: Mount Marty's Kelsey Mitera reaches down to loft a sacrifice fly to right field during the first game of Wednesday's GPAC doubleheader against Northwestern at Riverside Park.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Viborg-Hurley Boys, B-E Girls Win Gayville-Volin Invite



Freeman's Taylor Hermesen watches her tee shot on Hole No. 11 during her round of the Gayville-Volin Invitational golf tournament, held on Wednesday at Hillcrest Golf and Country Club in Yankton. Hermesen earned medalist honors in the event.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

The Viborg-Hurley boys and Bridgewater-Emery girls claimed top honors in the Gayville-Volin Invitational golf tournament, held Wednesday at Yankton's Hillcrest Golf and Country Club.

Viborg-Hurley, led by the 1-2 finish of Robert Jensen (87) and Cody Thompson (89), finished at 288, 13 strokes ahead of Canistota. Canistota was led by Drew Seubert, who shot an 89 and lost a playoff for second.

The Bridgewater-Emery girls posted two of the top three scores to finish at 325, 80 strokes ahead of Centerville.

Freeman's Taylor Hermesen earned medalist honors with a 94. Bridgewater-Emery's Autumn (98) and Maisie (99) Hurd finished second and third.

BOYS' DIVISION

TEAM SCORES: Viborg-Hurley 288, Canistota 301, Irene-Wakonda 319, Alcester-Hudson 322, Freeman 326, Gayville-Volin 336, Marion 364

INDIVIDUAL: Robert Jensen, Viborg-Hurley 87; Cody Thompson, Viborg-Hurley 89; Drew Seubert, Canistota 89; Greg Engbrecht, Marion 95; Landon Larsen, Irene-Wakonda 95; Zach Ronning, Alcester-Hudson 96; Caden Namminga-Jost, Gayville-Volin 101; Shay Jolley, Canistota 102; Levi Waldauser, Freeman 103; Colton Sommer, Bridgewater-Emery 108; Bailey Sage, Freeman 110; Brandon Hoffman, Canistota 110; Kaden Mork, Irene-Wakonda 111; Dausyn Pravacek, Freeman 112; Lucas Nelson, Viborg-Hurley 112; Grant Johnson, Alcester-Hudson 113; Nick Johannsen, Alcester-Hudson 113; Randy Fuhrer, Irene-Wakonda 113; Luke Hummel, Gayville-Volin 117; Lincoln Langrock, Marion 117; Brayden Edwards, Freeman 118; Cameron Jueden, Gayville-Volin 118; Payton Bailey, Bridgewater-Emery 121; Joey Nugteren, Canistota 121; Nicholas Sorlien, Viborg-Hurley 123; Kade Satter, Centerville 124; Bret VanderZee, Marion 152; Payton Hejna, Gayville-Volin 161; Lee Weshe, Centerville 183

GIRLS' DIVISION

TEAM SCORES: Bridgewater-Emery 325, Centerville 405, Alcester-Hudson 414

INDIVIDUAL: Taylor Hermesen, Freeman 94; Autumn Hurd, Bridgewater-Emery 98; Maisie Hurd, Bridgewater-Emery 99; Ally Johnson, Centerville 119; Amy Ptak, Marion 120; Danielle Vinz, Bridgewater-Emery 128; Emily Ronning, Alcester-Hudson 129; Katelynn Skotvold, Centerville 132; Cali Constance, Alcester-Hudson 135; Darby Hurd, Bridgewater-Emery 135; Ashley Benson, Viborg-Hurley 141; Kellia Barta, Gayville-Volin 143; Grace Dangel, Gayville-Volin 145; Holly Van Wyk, Alcester-Hudson 150; Amanda Knudson, Centerville 154

TOP 15: Zach Kumm, Osmond 78; Brandon Clausen, Norfolk Catholic 81; Mason Hale, West Holt 83; Chad Bode, Elgin Public-Pope John 84; Bryce Kerkman, West Holt 85; Kyle Heathoff, Elgin Public-Pope John 85; Alex Fritz, West Holt 85; Austyn Ramm-Lech, West Holt 85; Trent Wingate, Norfolk Catholic 85; Shane Milnar, Norfolk Catholic 86; Mitchell Atkinson, Boyd County 87; Dominic Henry, Ainsworth 88; Seth Guiz, Osmond 89; Aric Kriener, Osmond 89; Alex Kumm, Osmond 89

Nebraska Boys Ewing Inv.

EWING, Neb. — West Holt put four golfers in the top eight to claim a seven-stroke victory in the Ewing Invitational boys' golf tournament on Wednesday.

West Holt finished at 338, beating out Osmond (345) and Norfolk Catholic (347) in the 13-team event.

Osmond's Zach Kumm won medalist honors with a 78, three strokes better than Norfolk Catholic's Brandon Clausen. West Holt's Mason Hale was third at 83.

Niobrara-Verdigre did not field a full team in the event. The Cougars were led by Brandon Asmus' 118.

TEAM SCORES: West Holt 338, Osmond 345, Norfolk Catholic 347, Elgin Public-Pope John 365, Chambers-Wheeler Central 396, Boyd County 411, O'Neill 433, Clearwater-Orchard 436, North Central 473, Ewing 476



Viborg-Hurley's Cody Thompson putts on the No. 13 green during his round of the Gayville-Volin Invitational golf tournament, held on Wednesday at Hillcrest Golf and Country Club in Yankton. Thompson finished in second behind teammate Robert Jensen, helping the Cougars win the boys' team title.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D