

Twilight

FROM PAGE 11

Thing was, people joked that Monson looked like a football player out there on a cross country course. Weighing around 175 pounds when arrived at Mount Marty, Monson is now down 165 pounds. And yet, the good-natured ribbing continues.

“One person counting laps down at a Wayne State meet this season said I looked like a middle linebacker in the 10K,” Monson said, smiling.

In time, the passion grew for his new-found sport.

When he wasn’t competing for the Lancers during the cross country and track seasons, Monson was back home in Bryant swimming in the morning and running about 70-80 miles a week.

Back on campus, that passion was obvious, according to sophomore Mandy O’Malley.

“He’s so driven,” she said. “I’ll just be eating lunch sometimes and he’ll stop over and we’ll talk about our workouts. I’ll ask him, ‘Oh, what’d you do, run two miles like I did?’ Nope, he goes 20.

“Anything he sets his mind to, he goes all in,” O’Malley added. “It’s awesome to see that.”

Monson, who ran on a pair of relays for the Lancers at the 2013 Great Plains Athletic Conference meet, redshirted last year so he could have a final shot at nationals.

“I thought, ‘Let’s see how good you can be,’” he said.

It didn’t take long for him to find out.

Monson’s first action of this outdoor season was at the Midland Half-Marathon last December in Fremont, Nebraska. He won the men’s 13-mile race in a time of 1:13.39, automatically qualifying him for the NAA national meet. Athletes can qualify for the marathon at nationals by meeting certain times in the half-marathon.

“I think that’s the biggest accomplishment I’ve ever



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Wayne State’s Michaela Dendinger, a sophomore from Hartington, Nebraska, competes in the women’s hammer throw at the Mount Marty College Twilight track and field meet on Wednesday at Williams Field in Yankton. Dendinger finished second in the event with a toss of 174-8.

had,” Monson said. “My dad was there, and he never gets to any of my meets.”

Lancer Relay Shines

The track events at Wednesday’s Mount Marty Twilight kicked off with the women’s 3200-meter relay, which was won by the hometown Lancers.

And they were the only team running.

The MMC quartet of sophomore Caitlin Davis, junior Jordyn Hudelson, sophomore Berkley Rietveld and O’Malley clocked a 9:55.02, which was just off the school record in the event.

“We didn’t run our fastest

time, but with nobody running with us, it made us mentally stronger,” O’Malley said. “It’s hard for me, especially, because I don’t go off splits.

“I’m more competitive. I just go after the girl in front of me.”

The 3200 relay quartet had already put together a solid outdoor season, coming into Wednesday ranked fifth in the conference. Though the Lancers came up eight seconds slower than their season best (9:47.83), it was perhaps understandable given they didn’t have competition Wednesday.

“It’s difficult,” Rietveld said. “It felt like we were running in practice, honestly.”

The key to that relay group’s success may hinge on their tight-knit relationship, according to O’Malley. Three of the four – Hudelson, Rietveld and O’Malley – are all nursing majors, while Davis is a criminal justice major. “She gets frustrated with all the nursing talk, I think,” O’Malley joked.

The experience factor has undoubtedly helped the Lancers, she added.

“From last year, it’s night and day,” O’Malley said.

“We’re all a year older, and more comfortable with each other.”

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For Ballpark Design, It Could Be Different Game In Future

CHICAGO (AP) — Picture this.

It’s Opening Day 2050 and you are at Tomorrow Park cheering on your favorite team against the dreaded Cubs as they begin yet another championship defense.

You peer out toward the giant video board to catch a replay of a dazzling catch, only this isn’t one of those steel monoliths. It’s a hologram, and when the game’s over, it goes away.

Sound far-fetched? Well maybe not with the major role technology is playing in the way ballparks are designed these days.

“The market is changing on an almost annual basis, especially with the technology,” said Earl Santee, founder of architecture firm Populous. “The technology is actually changing the experiences that folks have at these venues. It’s hard to predict.”

How about an entire facade going electronic?

Mike Wekesser, sports design director for architecture firm AECOM, mentioned the annual Festival of Lights in

Lyon, France, where images depicting its heritage are projected onto centuries-old buildings and the city gets transformed for four days.

How would that work at a ballpark?

“The exterior skin could be constantly changing, be a reflection of what’s going on in the stands or going on within the community,” Wekesser said.

It would allow teams to project images of their players, broadcast interviews, discuss the most recent game, promote the history and direction of the franchise. And, of course, it could serve as ad space.

“At some point, we might just be looking on our phone or hand-held device so you don’t need the big board,” Wekesser said.

In an era where bigger is better when it comes to video boards — “the Jerry Jones effect,” he calls it — Wekesser does not see them going away or becoming a holographic image anytime soon.

Nor does NYU sports

business professor Robert Boland. But he can envision seats with touchscreen monitors being installed, giving spectators access to the producer’s feed from the truck along with more statistics and maybe even bringing gambling to the stands.

“Or some sort of interactive community where (you can say) ‘the next pitch will be’ or the ‘next hit will be,’” he said.

Even in the next few years, Santee anticipates noticeable changes at ballparks — video boards with 4K screens, for one. Another is virtual reality clubs that might allow fans to try to replicate that diving stop they just saw J.J. Hardy make, for example.

“You could walk into it and all three dimensions of the room would be part of the game,” Santee said. “You could be the guy in the outfield. One wall is the outfield, you’ve got fans on three sides. You go in there and you feel like you are completely part of the game.”

That’s part of a design trend away from large club

spaces. In their place are more gathering spots that are smaller in capacity, allowing teams to provide a greater variety of experiences at the ballpark.

It’s about catering to a younger and more diverse crowd, allowing fans to connect both face to face and electronically. And it’s about providing a unique experience.

“The population of the United States is changing, becoming more international,” said Drew Berst, sports business development leader at AECOM. “That means our stadiums now when it comes to attendance are relying less on existing, generational fan ship where one generation passes along to the next generation the love of the team.”

It’s also about melding the stadiums with the community, making it a place where people go year-round and not just on game days. It’s about concerts, weddings and bar mitzvahs, meetings, team stores, restaurants, museums and farmers markets.

BALLPARK | PAGE 14

SPORTS DIGEST

Golf: USD Seventh At Summit Championships

SEASIDE, Calif.—South Dakota’s women’s golf team finished in seventh place with a three-round total of 990 (+126) at the Summit League Championship Meet which concluded Wednesday at Bayonet Golf Course. The meet included 45 golfers from the Summit’s nine teams.

Defending champion Denver (+62) held off Oral Roberts to win the team title and with it, the Summit League’s automatic bid to an NCAA Regional Tournament. Oral Roberts, which trailed by eight strokes after round two, dropped 10 more strokes to Denver Wednesday and finished at 80-over-par. South Dakota State was third at 84-over-par.

Denver’s Elyse Smidinger overtook Oral Roberts’ Paola Aviles to win the individual crown with a score of 11-over-par. Smidinger carded her second consecutive 75, which was low for the day and one of 12 sub-80 rounds turned in Wednesday. Aviles, who entered round three with a one-stroke lead, had seven bogeys and one birdie in a final round 78. She finished two strokes back of Smidinger at 13-over-par. Denver’s Jessica Carly was third at 15-over-par.

South Dakota senior Kylie Gaughenbaugh shot an 81 Wednesday, improving her position by three spots and into 21st place. Gaughenbaugh finished the 54-hole tournament as South Dakota’s top scorer at 28-over-par.

Sophomore Kaitlyn Krzyzanowski carded a final round 80 for the low round of the day for the Coyotes. Her round included a birdie on the par-4 15th. Krzyzanowski finished the tournament at 33-over-par, good for 28th place.

Sophomore Brenna Lervick and freshman Abby Dufrane, USD’s top scorers heading into the tournament, placed 22nd and 30th, respectively. Both shot 85 in the final round. Lervick finished at 31-over-par and Dufrane at 34-over-par. Senior Janice Baumberger (+58) rounded out USD’s lineup.

For SDSU, sophomore Megan Mingo (Yankton) recorded her fifth top-10 finish of the season, tying for sixth after shooting a 76 in the final round to finish at 235 (77-82-76).

MMC Men Eighth At Northwestern

ORANGE CITY, Iowa – The Mount Marty College men’s golf team finished eighth in the Northwestern Spring Golf Invitational on Tuesday at Landsmeer Golf Course.

Yankton native Ben Jensen led the Lancers, shooting a 79 to tie for tenth. Austin Schweers shot 83, Robbie Neswick 88, Collin Matthews 95 and Dylan Brende 99 for MMC, giving the Lancers a team score of 345.

Midland shot 306 to win team honors, 12 strokes ahead of Dordt. Morningside’s Keegan Bak earned medalist honors, shooting a 74.

The Lancer men will return to Landsmeer for the final round of the Great Plains Athletic Conference Championships on Monday, April 27.

Youth Bowling: Yankton, Vermillion Among State Leaders

HURON – Bowlers from the youth programs in Yankton and Vermillion rank among the state leaders through two weeks of the South Dakota State USBC Youth Championships bowling tournament, being held in Huron.

The Vermillion Rollers rank second in the 500-599 division of the team event with a 2,786.

In doubles competition, Yankton’s Joe Losing and Josh Bern rank fourth in the 250-299 division with a score of 1,338. Bern also ranks third in the boys’ 125-149 singles event with a 748, and leads the boys’ all-event singles handicap (2,172) and scratch (1,551) for the 125-149 division, and the optional scratch event for the 159-below division with a 541.

In singles competition, Yankton’s Maia Achen ranks third in the girls’ 99-under division with a 725. Yankton’s Kellia Barta ranks third in the 150-over division with a 675. Yankton’s Carter Teply ranks sixth in the boys’ 100-124 division with a 706, and ranks fifth in the all-events scratch for the 100-124 division with a 1,226. Vermillion’s Kodie Lovejovs ranks sixth in the boys’ all-event scratch for the 150-over division with a 1,775.

The tournament runs through the weekend of May 3.

Basketball: Vermillion Fifth Grade Boys Win Pacesetter Title

HURON – A fifth grade boys’ basketball team from Vermillion claimed its division title at the Pacesetter South Dakota Youth Basketball Championship, held April 11-12 in Huron.

Vermillion beat Sioux Falls 34-19 for the division title in the tournament, billed as a “state championship” for youth basketball. The top two teams in each division earn an invitation to the “Four-State Championships,” held at Target Center in Minneapolis this summer.

The Wagner boys and Vermillion girls each earned a runner-up finish in the ninth grade division, also earning Four-State invites. In other results:

Vermillion topped Viborg-Hurley-Parker for third in the boys’ sixth grade division. Yankton beat Madison for third in the seventh grade boys’ division.

Parkston took the consolation title in the seventh grade girls’ division. Dakota Valley took the consolation title in the eighth grade girls’ division.

S.D. High School Football To Use Power Point System Similar To Hoops, Volleyball

PIERRE (AP) — The board of directors of the South Dakota High School Activities Association has endorsed a plan that will change the power point structure in high school football.

KCCCR-AM reports that the board has adopted a structure that will eliminate additional points being added to the power point system for scheduling an opponent from a higher class. At the same time, no points will be deducted for scheduling an opponent from a lower class.

The new system will instead focus on winning percentages. For example, if a school wins over an opponent with a 75 percent winning percentage or above, it will earn 50 power points.

The so-called Nebraska Plan will go into effect at the beginning of the 2015 season.

Huset’s Speedway Near Brandon Being Sold

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Badlands Entertainment Group is buying Huset’s Speedway near Brandon and will upgrade it and rename it Badlands Motor Speedway after the 2015 racing season.

The longtime 1/3-mile dirt track hosts races involving hobby stocks, modifieds, late-models and sprint cars. It also hosts special events including World of Outlaws sprint races. Three-time NASCAR champion Tony Stewart raced a sprint car there in July 2013.

Badlands CEO and Sioux Falls native Chuck Brennan says he’s a longtime fan of the track, and owning it is a dream come true. Terms of the deal weren’t disclosed.

Brennan says Badlands is planning a “massive face-lift” of the speedway that will cost millions of dollars over the next several years. The infield will host outdoor concerts, and a track hall of fame will be added.

We Want To Hear From You

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Be sure to include all pertinent information, including your name, phone number and your story idea or comment.

Track

FROM PAGE 11

Wildcat Inv.

HARTINGTON, Neb – The Hartington-Newcastle Wildcats hosted their annual meet on Tuesday at the Hartington Community Complex, and both girls and boys Hartington-Newcastle teams took first place.

On the girls’ side, Hartington-Newcastle finished with 163 total points and had five first place finishes. Wildcats who took home gold were: Camarie Stratman (long & triple jump), Jillian Jueden (shot put), Alexis Lammers (pole vault), and Savannah Scoville (100 hurdles)

Wynot finished in fourth place with 76 overall points. Kristi Bruening took first place in the discus, while Kortney Arkfield won the 400 meter dash. The Wynot girls’ also won first place in the 3200 meter relay and the 1600 meter relay.

Wausa placed sixth overall with 40 points, while Bloomfield finished just behind them with 15 team points.

The Hartington-Newcastle boys’ took first place with 123 points. The Wildcats won both the 4x100 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay. Griffon Kalin also finished first in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 42.84 seconds.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Irene-Wakonda’s Andrea Sokolowski clears the bar in the girls’ high jump at Tuesday’s Tri-State Invite in Gayville.

Wausa placed second as a team scoring 102 overall points. The Vikings were led by Austin Hegge, who took home gold medals in the 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, and the triple jump. Kyle Kleinschmit won the 110 meter hurdles at 16.58 seconds.

Wynot finished in sixth place with 42 points. The Blue Devils were led by Cody Stratman, who won the long jump with a mark of 31-05.50 feet. Bloomfield placed seventh overall with 39 points.

Conner Wilson won the 400 meter dash for the Bees with a time of 53.88.

Bear Inv.

LAUREL, Neb. – The Allen girls and Lutheran High Northeast boys claimed top honors at the Bear Invitational, held on Tuesday in Laurel, Nebraska.

Courtney Reuter won the 100- (17.0) and 300-meter (53.1) hurdles, and helped the Eagles to victory in the

400 relay (53.9) to lead Allen, which finished with 133 points. Bri Hingst won the long jump (15-5.5) was on the 400 relay win.

Ponca was second, taking four individual and two relay wins. Lexie Eifert won the 100 (12.7) and 200 (26.6) and anchored the Indians to victory in the 1600 relay (4:32.6). Kelsey Fields, who won the 400 (1:04.2) was also a part of the 1600 relay win. Cassie Stowe, who won the 800 (2:38.1), helped Ponca to victory in

the 3200 relay (11:02.6).

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge’s Sadie Petersen won the 1600 (5:48.9) and 3200 (12:07.3) on the day. Samantha Wolff of Lutheran High Northeast won both the discus (105-8) and shot put (35-3).

Kale Kucera had a hand in two individual and two relay wins for Lutheran High Northeast, which beat out Allen 136-113 for boys’ team honors. Kucera won the 200 (22.9) and 400 (52.3) and helped the Eagles to wins in the 400 (45.7) and 1600 (3:41.9) victories. Nate Stolze won the 300 hurdles (42.2) and ran on both winning relays. Nick Stolze, who won the 100 (11.1), was also in on the 400 relay win.

Walthill’s Orion Lamotte was also a double-winner, claiming the 1600 (5:02.6) and 3200 (10:37.0).

Jaguar Inv.

CORSICA – Andes Central-Dakota Christian standout Payton Johanneson won two titles at the Jaguar Invitational track and field meet, held on Tuesday in Corsica.

Johanneson won the high jump (4-11) and long jump (15-9.5). Teammates Erica Kitchenmaster (13.32) and Brooklyn Brouwer (13.36) went 1-2 in the 100, and Ahna Vander Pol won the 1600 (6:27.01) as AC-DC finished second to Class A Mount Ver-

non-Plankinton, 212 to 123, in the team standings. Tripp-Delmont-Armour scored 64 points on the day.

AC-DC’s Michael Maas won the 400 (55.3) to lead the boys, who finished with 53 points. Host Corsica-Stickney won the boys’ title with 158 points.

Titan Inv.

TEA – Dakota Valley’s Sara Bohan and Tea Area’s Payton Conrad were each three-event winners in the Titan Invitational track and field meet, held on Tuesday in Tea.

On the girls’ side, Bohan dominated the field in the 100- (16.17) and 300-meter (51.08) hurdle races, and claimed a five-inch victory in the long jump (16-11.5). Teammate Meredith Lammers swept the throws, with tosses of 96-10 in the discus and 30-5 in the shot put.

Vermillion’s Maddie Lavin won both the 400 (1:07.19) and 1600 (6:01.73).

On the boys’ side, Conrad swept the jumps, led by a convincing victory in the triple jump (41-10). He also posted 5-6 in the high jump and 20-0.75 in the long jump for winning marks.

Vermillion’s Logan Peterson, who won the 400 (55.50) and 800 (2:21.21), and Dakota Valley’s Brady Dam, who won the 100 (11.63) and 200 (24.50), were double-winners.