

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

Predator Calling In Knox Co. Hills

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

Our plan was to slide over to the hills in Knox County, taking advantage of the cold weather we'd been having to do some predator calling.

The perfect scenario would be, setting up at an elevated position with our backs up against one of the thousands of cedars growing throughout the hills with a north wind in our face. Any way that was the plan, but as anyone who's spent much time in the outdoors knows, sometimes things just don't turn out the way we'd hoped.

Arriving at our first calling location, which was a huge harvested corn field with a wooded draw covering the south side of the property, which would have been perfect with the north wind we'd hoped for.

Unfortunately, the wind had switched and was blowing hard from the south, limiting the area for us to find a hide as



Gary HOWEY

the only cover was on the south end with very few elevated locations for us to call from as well as putting us right up against the ravine we'd hoped to call.

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Larry Myhre (Sioux City, Iowa), Bill Christensen (Hartington, Neb.) and I would have to improvise and do make do with what we had.

The only elevated area was one or two cedars perched on the top of a small knoll, where Larry, who'd be doing the calling took up position while Bill and I moved down the hill to a tree pile.

Larry, using his mouth calls, started with a quiet Jack Rabbit squeal as not to spook any critters that might be close by. After a short pause, he upped the volume, getting louder and louder, attempting to push the calls out farther against the strong wind to the north end of the property.

After hunting with him for decades, I knew his calling pattern, calling a minute or so and then setting silently, watching the open area in front of us for any sign of movement, then after three dying rabbit renditions, he's switch to his howler.

Since it was the beginning of the coyote mating season, his first howl was that of a female, hoping to draw a lonesome male out of the cover and after it drew no response he'd switch to the male coyote challenge howl, thinking it would draw a male out looking for a fight.

He'd call for about a minute, then we'd wait, watching intently for any movement coming our way, then call again, repeating the process and as we were just about



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

Columnist Gary Howey is set up waiting on a coyote that would be approaching the call.

to give up on our first hide, Larry noticed some movement in the wooded draw below him. It didn't look like a coyote, something just wasn't right, at first he thought it might be a mountain lion as it moved through the timber, but once it broke into the open and made it's way towards Larry's call, it was easy to see what it was.

Below him, where we were set up, was just over the rise between us, blocking our view, so we had no idea he'd spotted something.

When Larry calls, he follows a certain pattern and when suddenly the calling stopped, I slowly glanced over to my right where Larry was located and noticed his rifle was up and he was peering through the scope and using his lips to mouth squeak.

About the same time as the female came over the rise both Bill and I spotted her, detecting something wasn't right. she crouched, peering in our direction. before we had a chance to bring our rifles up, Larry's 243 barked and the mangy almost hairless coyote went down hard.

Larry was unaware the rise between us was obstructing our vision to the north had been waiting for us to fire. When the coyote stopped, crouched down, looking our way, he fired before the coyote bolted, dropping it with one shot.

The coyote was in bad shape, with no hair on her tail or underside and very poor hair on her back, looking much like a giant rat.

Mange is a nasty disease found in coyotes and fox as well as some domesticated animals, it's caused by parasitic mites which embed themselves into either the skin or

hair follicles. The poor critters that become infested with mange scratch at the infected areas, causing their infected hair to fall out, leaving them naked to the elements.

The poor helpless critter that came into Larry's call was put out of her misery as there was no doubt in our minds that because of the poor shape she was in, she wouldn't have survived the colder weather arriving later that winter.

Arriving at the second area we'd plan to call, it was obvious it was excellent calling country with several wooded draws running through the property as well as good grass along one side.

Because of the south wind, our second set up would once again be tough to call, as the only real open area for us to bring the coyotes across would put the wind at our back, allowing the coyotes to wind us before we could see them.

Once again, we'd be forced to set up in an area with very little open ground in front of us, giving the coyotes a lot of cedar trees to hide behind as they came in.

Larry set up on one side of a large cedar tree while Bill and I were forced to set up to the back on either side of him, watching a ravine which came up quickly, with scattered cedars, giving us very little open ground for us to watch for the coyotes coming in.

As usual, Larry started with his rendition of a dying Jack Rabbit call, pause a bit, calling again and then go into his howl.

He'd just finished his second group of calls when I noticed something off to my right, about the same time Bill noticed it. It was a big well furred coyote moving quickly up out of the ravine heading out behind us trying to wind us.

Both Bill and I tried to get a bead on it, but the cedar trees covering the hillside gave the coyote the cover it needed to slip away.

We made several more hides, with the prevailing south wind not allowing us to get into position where we had a clear field at any coyotes coming into the calls.

Still, we didn't have a bad hunt, seeing two coyotes on our first two sets, putting one out of her misery while eliminating one more predator that could have been hunting next years upland game birds.

You can bet the next time conditions are right, we'll be back at it calling predators in the hills of Knox County.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. Howey is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series which can be seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you're looking for more outdoor information, it can be found at www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK?P&D

Watertown's Stacey Dunbar, left, deflects a shot by Sioux Center's Jenna King during their opening round game in the South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association JV Girls' Hockey Tournament on Friday at Alcoa Arena.

Lakers

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some good passing. But, we could have done better with our cycles."

Watertown ended the game with 19 shots on goal to eight from Sioux Center.

With the victory, Watertown advances to play the Rushmore Thunder (15-8) on Saturday at 4pm in the semi-finals. Sioux Center (7-11) will face the Pierre-Oahe Capitals on Saturday at 2pm after the loss.

"We're ready for them (Rushmore)," Hamann said. "We still have some things we need to work on to reach the championship."

You can follow Nick Robinson on Twitter at twitter.com/theFRANCHISE_9

Bucks Keep 5 Alive At State Wrestling

WATERTOWN — The Yankton Bucks will take five of their seven state qualifiers in to the final day of the South Dakota State Class A Wrestling Tournament after opening rounds of action on Friday at the Watertown Civic Arena.

One Buck, senior James Hisek, advanced to the semis at 160 pounds. Four other Bucks are alive in wrestlebacks and are guaranteed a medal: Noah Vetter (106), Casey Skillingstad (132), Matt Huber (145) and C.J. Warren (170).

The Dakota Valley Panthers put three wrestlers through to today (Saturday), all in the semifinals: Blake Perryman at 138, Taylor Lambert at 220 and Tanner Lambert, the defending champion at heavyweight.

Vermillion has two wrestlers advancing to today, both in the semifinals: Regan (145) and Brett

(152) Bye.

Action resumes at 10 a.m. today, with the championship round scheduled for this evening.

Class B

ABERDEEN — The top-ranked Parkston Trojans lived up to that ranking on opening day, advancing to today's (Saturday) final rounds of the South Dakota State Class B Wrestling Tournament at the Barnett Center in Aberdeen.

The Trojans have four through to the semifinals and five more alive in wrestlebacks, finishing the first day with 77 points. Philip Area (62), defending state champion Canton (61) and Wagner (50) are just off the pace.

Blake Bietz (113), Weslee Dvorak (145), Mitch Heisinger (152) and Brady Reiff (220) remain unbeaten in the Tournament. Reiff improved to 42-0 on the season with a pair of victories on Friday.

Also alive for Parkston are Dawson Semmler (120), Austin Ripp (132), Myles Bialas (138), Andrew Semmler (195) and Austin Bertram (285).

Wagner put three through to the semifinals and kept three more alive in wrestlebacks on the

opening day. Tyler Dion (138), David Koecer (160) and Trevor Lensing (170) will compete in the semifinals this morning, while Sage Zephier (126), Nick Dion (132) and Austin Soukup (145) open today's action in wrestlebacks.

Bon Homme's Duncan Stoeber remained unbeaten on the season as he advanced to the 106-pound semifinals. Alex Caba (113) and Lincoln Stoeber (126) also advanced to the semifinals, while teammate Blase Vanecek stayed alive at 170 for the Cavaliers, who rank seventh with 37.5 points.

Beresford also put three wrestlers through to the semifinals, ranking tenth after the opening day. Jared Lyle (113), Josh Manning (132) and Josh Casperson (182) advanced to the semifinals, while Nick Casperson (106) and Justin Haneke (120) remained alive in consolation.

Elk Point-Jefferson's C.J. Geary also advanced to the semifinals, earning a final-four spot at 195 points. Teammates Jared Hueser (138), Jared Limoges (145) and Nick Weis (152) also remain alive in consolation.

Scotland's Dan Stibral remained alive at heavyweight.

Action begins at the Barnett Center today at 10 a.m. The championship rounds are set for this evening.

Marlins

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Cross' effort in goal.

"She kept them in the game the first two periods," he said. "She played an amazing game - she should be very proud."

Flyers

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out the rest of her teammates.

"It was a team effort to get the win, and it feels great," she said. "We played Brookings last year as well, so it felt good to beat them in this tournament."

then begin at 3 p.m., with seven events to have finals.

Naturally, the ultimate goal for the Coyotes — walking away with the team trophy on Monday — would be a nice cap to his and the other seniors' careers, Burrus said.

"Most people wouldn't think winning a conference track meet would be all that cool, but it's one of the best feelings," he said. "Hopefully we can do that again."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Jacks

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own building by riding the energy of hosting the conference meet, DeHaven said. The Jackrabbits are sure glad their league event is so close to Brookings, he added.

"I think it's certainly a positive having it close. It's a place our kids are familiar with, and friends and family can come down," DeHaven said. "The only thing you worry about with having it this close is more distractions with family and things."

"The dome is a great site for an indoor meet, it promotes a good environment for track."

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Summit

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in the pole vault and sophomore Jeff O'Connell owns the top mark in the long jump. Former area standouts Cody Snyder (Andes Central) and Kyle McKelvey (Beresford) rank 1-2 in the shot put, respectively.

Senior jumper Cody Linder said the ultimate goal for USD throughout the indoor season was to prepare everyone for this weekend's conference meet.

"All our meets before conference are almost like practice; we work on certain things every time," Linder said. "They weren't scored, so it was all about building for this weekend."

On the women's side for the Coyotes, transfer Megan Glisar, a junior, leads the Summit League in the high jump. USD also boast the

top two marks in the pole vault, with junior Bethany Buell (14-2) and freshman Madison Mills (13-5.25). Buell's mark ranks fourth in Division I and Mills' is tied for 19th best.

The luxury of competing at home in their own facility gives the Coyotes certain edges, Buell said.

"It gives you a pretty big advantage and confidence," she said. "When you can have friends and family, and all of your teammates who can't see you jump all the time, it's a big deal."

Sunday's day one action begins at 9:30 a.m. with the women's pentathlon. Track and field events

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