

# Yankton Student Ready For First S.D. State Rodeo Finals

BY JEREMY HOECK  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

Two years removed from a serious facial injury, Carson Smith now faces a different kind of challenge.

Smith, an upcoming senior at Yankton High School, will compete for the first time in the South Dakota High School Rodeo State Finals, which begins next Wednesday and runs through Sunday in Belle Fourche.

The 17-year-old — one of 15 area riders to qualify — will participate in two events, Breakaway Roping and Goat Tying.

During her sophomore year, Smith broke her jaw in an accident at a rodeo in Valentine, Neb. Her injury required four screws and a plate to repair her jaw.

Though she was unable to ride for four weeks instead of the original 6-week estimate, Smith said she felt bad for creating such a scene.

"It was my brother's first rodeo, and I felt like I ruined it for him," she said. "Everything is fine now, though."

Smith, whose family lives north of Utica, has continued her passion for riding since the accident. She pointed to her aunt winning a state rodeo championship many years ago as motivation.

"That's always been my goal," Smith said.

This year has been a solid first step toward that goal for Smith, who has been



Smith

riding competitive she was 13 years old.

At the first East Region event on May 31 in Huron, Smith finished 44th in Breakaway Roping and 28th in Goat Tying. She also competed in Pole Bending, taking 48th place.

At the second East Region rodeo on June 7 in Watertown, Smith jumped to ninth place in Breakaway Roping and 10th in Goat Tying.

Smith was riding a new horse, named Pablos, for the region event in Watertown, she said.

"He hasn't been off grass for very long, and he was fat and pretty sassy," Smith said. "He didn't know the pattern at all. A lot of horses have their own mind."

Of the two events, Smith said Goat Tying — where riders are timed in an at-

tempt to tie three legs together — is her best one. Where tying is a timed event, roping requires riders to lasso a calf.

"In goat, you don't have to worry about chasing it down; you know you'll get it," Smith said. "Roping is a fifty-fifty shot. If you miss it, you're pretty much done."

To help her practice those routines, Smith uses her family's own rodeo arena near its home, and she also uses a friend's space for roping practice.

An experienced rider, Smith finds herself alone in that passion when she comes to school in Yankton — she is the only Yankton student qualified for the state finals.

"It's more my thing; they really don't understand how it works," Smith said. "I tell them about it all the time, though."

A number of other area riders will compete at the S.D. High School Rodeo State Finals, as well.

The male participants include: Ryan Alley (Parkston), Wyatt Andersen (Viborg), Seth Andersen (Viborg), Dean Christensen (Beresford), Cameron Fanning (Parkston), Dalton Fischer (Viborg) and Miles Kreeger (Wagner).

The female riders include: Rachel Blaha (Avon), Brandi Cwach (Platte-Geddes), Sydney Davidson (Parkston), Payton Donnelly (Elk Point-Jefferson), Taya Heisinger (Parkston), Katie Lukes (Parker) and Harlee Jo McKenney (Viborg).

*You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)*

## Hobie 17 North Americans Regatta

# Boaters Fight Wind, Enjoy Lake



BY JEREMY HOECK  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

Though he shares the name of a popular singer, Phil Collins is starting to make a name for himself in the world of boating.

A resident of Oklahoma City, Collins defended his title in the Hobie 17 North Americans regatta — a series of boat races — on Friday afternoon at Lewis & Clark Lake. The week-long event featured three days of races on 17-foot catamarans.

Collins has now finished first in the North Americans event three times in the last four years — the one exception was second place in 2011.

"A person always has doubts, but yeah, it feels really good to know you come out of a tough event like this in first," Collins said. "You ask yourself all the time, 'Did I do the right thing?'"

"But I guess most of the time I do," he added, smiling.

This week's tournament marked the second stop on the summer-long tour for Hobie Cat Division 7, which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska. The next stop will be the BEYC

Green Lake Regatta on June 29-30 in Green Lake, Minn.

Yankton's Lewis & Clark Lake will host another Division 7 regatta on July 20-21.

Not a stranger to the Upper Midwest, Collins — who traveled north with his wife, Beverly — did say, however, that Lewis & Clark Lake presents unique challenges.

"There are so many shifty winds with some gusts," he said. "There's just something about it here, though; it's very calming. We've loved being here."

Asked about strategy involved with a regatta, Collins again pointed to the wind as a major factor — he called it a "moving physics lesson." The wind affected this week's regatta schedule, as a lack of wind on the lake prevent races from being held on Thursday.

"You can't go straight up wind, you have to zig zag, and pick and choose your angles," Collins said. "You have to follow the wind around and try to anticipate where it's going."

"It's a thinking man's sport."

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PHOTOS: JEREMY HOECK/P&D

**LEFT:** Phil Collins approaches landfall at Lewis & Clark during Friday's final race of the Hobie 17 North Americans regatta. Collins finished first in the 6-day tournament near Yankton.

**ABOVE:** These boaters approach the shore at Lewis & Clark Lake on Friday afternoon as part of the Hobie 17 North Americans regatta.

# Litke: Golf And 'Crime-Stoppers' A Dangerous Mix

BY JIM LITKE  
AP Sports Columnist

ARDMORE, Pa. (AP) — "Hello, Merion Golf Club. May I help you?"

"Yes. Can I speak to a rules official from the U.S. Golf Association, please. I saw a twig move."

"Sir, thousands of twigs get tossed around here every day. It's a golf course."

"Yeah, but this one was moved by Tiger Woods' backswing, in a fairway bunker on No. 16."

"Excuse me, but how would you know that? There's no place for fans to see anything on 16. There's barely places to stand on that hole."

"I'm not there. I'm in Phoenix, watching on an 80-inch high-def TV."

"I'm sure it's very nice, sir. But when did this allegedly happen?"

"Thursday. And there's no 'allegedly' about it. I just got home from an out-of-town wedding and started watching the DVR. I re-wound it eight times, twice in super slo-mo. And I'm on the rules committee at my club. He broke Rule 13-4c — moving a loose impediment lying in a hazard."

"But it's Sunday, sir. And this is the U.S. Open. Mr. Woods is on the verge of winning his first major in five years. He's on the last hole."

"I know, but he should have been penalized and he needs to be disqualified. He signed an incorrect scorecard Thursday. A rule is a rule."

Someday soon, golf is going to regret letting people watching from home phone in rules violations. Consider what happened at this year's Masters a dry run.

During the second round there, Woods hit a ball that ricocheted off the flagstick and into the pond at No. 15. Soon after, a viewer — later revealed to be David Eger, a Champions Tour golfer who once ran the USGA's rules committee — notified tournament officials that Woods had taken an improper drop before hitting his next shot. The next day, Masters officials reviewed the sequence a second time and penalized Woods two strokes, but quickly cited another rule to avoid disqualifying him for signing an incorrect scorecard.

At the U.S. Open on Thursday, the claim by at least one viewer that Steve Stricker took an illegal drop at No. 3 found its way to the USGA rules committee. Later the same day, as many as a half-dozen other viewers contended Adam Scott grounded his club in a hazard at No. 5. After reviewing both shots, the USGA decided no violation occurred.

So it may take a unique set of circumstances, but if they ever align, all this armchair officiating is going to test the notion that golfers are more honorable than their counterparts in the other pro

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# OH, SO CLOSE



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton Blitz's Jarett Rueb, 4, shows his frustration after missing a shot on goal as Vermillion goalkeeper Jacob Chausse dives to deny the opportunity during their U-12 boys' soccer match as part of the Yankton Invitational youth soccer tournament on Friday at Yankton's Lewis & Clark Soccer Complex. The teams tied 3-3. Friday's scores and the schedule for Saturday and Sunday matches in all 12 divisions are located in today's Scoreboard section, Page 13. Photos from the event will be on [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net)