

SCL: Youth Movement Underway For Cardinals

BY JEREMY HOECK
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IRENE — There's a youth movement underway in Irene.

Traditionally one of the more veteran amateur baseball teams in the South Central League (SCL), the Cardinals are suddenly considerably younger. And faster.

"I'm a young guy, but on this team, I'm one of the older guys," said 23-year-old newcomer Alex Loes.

Irene, with the majority of its roster under the age of 25, has jumped out to a 4-0 start in the SCL. The Cardinals will play in Yankton on Thursday night to play the Class A Tappers at 7:30 p.m. at Riverside Field.

The key for the Cardinals? Speed.

"You can do more with speed than with power," manager Kendall Johnke said. "Power isn't always

going to be there, you can have a slump where you're not hitting home runs.

"You can't go in a slump with speed."

So far though this season, that youthful trend has paid off, according to Loes, a Mitchell native who is attending graduate school at South Dakota State.

"The team philosophy has turned a 180," he said. "The guys say they were always a home run team, and now we have a lot of speed."

Which probably works best with wood bats, he added.

Loes spent the previous two summers playing with the Class A amateur team in Mitchell, and got an up-close look at some of the best teams in the state — from Sioux Falls to Renner.

"All those teams can play small ball, but when the time comes, they can slug it out," Loes said.

A year after going 10-8 in the SCL and advancing to the state tournament, the Cardinals returned players like Matt Sees, George Sees, Simon Healy, Adam Gale and Brett Jensen, but added a crop of newcomers. Eric Anderson, Andrew Hora, Trevor Jacobsen, Jack Huether, Dylan Kludd, Jared Hybertson, Kirby Nitzschke, Mitch Dunbar, Sam Parkinson and Loes all joined the team.

Sure, there was some convincing needed to enlist the services of newcomers, but once committed, those youngsters didn't need much prodding to want to be there, according to Hora — a 2013 Viborg-Hurley High School graduate.

"You don't have to convince guys to come out," he said. "You're competing for spots in amateur, and that's a good thing."

Forgoing any early-season jitters, the Cardinals started strong with a 15-1 victory over Freeman in the

opener. Then came a come-from-behind 8-7 win over Lesterville, in which Irene was down 7-3 in the bottom of the ninth inning. Then came a 10-0 shutout over Scotland, and a 10-5 victory over Tabor.

Hora has picked up two of the wins on the mound, and the Cardinal pitchers — whoever steps on the mound — has been backed up by solid defense, Johnke said.

"What I'm so impressed with is our pitching and defense," he said. "You never know with young guys, but our pitching has done really well and our defense hasn't been making many errors."

Camaraderie has already made a huge difference, according to Hora.

"In amateur, you have nine guys who want to be there and want to be great," he said. "The competition is probably a little better here."

"You have nine great guys, instead of maybe just a couple." It also doesn't hurt to be sur-

rounded by other players your age, Loes added.

"I like it a lot," he said. "There are a lot of young guys my age; guys who like to show up every day to play."

"Nobody really takes it ultra serious, they're not diehards," he said. "I've been on teams in the past with guys who aren't that much fun to be around."

The Cardinals have yet to play unbeaten Crofton (4-0) or Yankton (3-1), but feel confident in their ability to hang with the SCL elite, Loes said.

"I think we've got a shot," he said. "The way our team is built, we can adapt to other styles of play."

"If a team wants to slug it out, we can do that, but we're good at getting guys on base."

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

P&D Star Chart

Area Athletes Tear Up The Track

A look at some of the top individual performances from our coverage area in the past week. Because of a scheduling conflict, the Nebraska State Meet honorees are included in this week's edition.

The track and field sections include all our area state medal winners. If we missed one, let us know.

This is the final "Star Chart" for the 2013-14 school year. It will begin again in the fall.

Boys' Golf

Derek Jueden, Hartington: Shot a two-day score of 167 to tie for 16th at the Neb. Class D Championship.

Dalton Lammers, Cedar Catholic: Shot a two-day score of 150 to place 7th at the Neb. Class C Championship.

Boys' Track & Field

Garrett Anderson, Irene-Wakonda: Won the Class B 200 (23.47), and placed 2nd in the 100 (11.20), the pole vault (13-0) and the 300 hurdles (41.37) at the S.D. State Meet.

Jake Anderson, Parker: Ran on the winning Class B medley relay (3:43.84) and the 5th place 800 relay (1:34.58) at the S.D. State Meet.

Zack Anderson, Parker: Won the Class B high jump (6-4) and placed 5th in the triple jump (41-3.3/4) at the S.D. State Meet.

Tristan Ashwell, Freeman: Ran on the winning Class B 1600 relay (3:31.06), the 3rd place 400 relay (45.09) and the 8th place medley relay (4:01.42) at the S.D. State Meet.

Graham Bacon, Dakota Valley: Ran on the 6th place Class A 3200 relay (8:30.30) at the S.D. State Meet.

Brendan Bares, Bon Homme: Ran on the 4th place Class A 800 relay (1:32.13) and the 6th place 400 relay (45.05) at the S.D. State Meet.

Ty Becker, Cedar Catholic: Ran on the 6th place Class C 3200 relay (8:25.48) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Brent Beckstrom, Beresford: Ran on the 7th place Class A 3200 relay (8:37.87) at the S.D. State Meet.

Dakota Bodden, Bon Homme: Placed 7th in the Class A 110 hurdles (17.18) at the S.D. State Meet.

Brad Bogue, Beresford: Ran on the 7th place Class A 3200 relay (8:37.87) at the S.D. State Meet.

Parker Boyden, Platte-Geddes: Ran on the 6th place Class B medley relay (3:52.35) at the S.D. State Meet.

Luke Burbach, Cedar Catholic: Ran on the 6th place Class C 3200 relay (8:25.48) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Kordell Buyc, Parker: Placed 8th in the Class B 110 hurdles (17.12) at the S.D. State Meet.

Tanner Carda, Tripp-Delmont-Armour: Ran on the 4th place Class B 3200 relay (8:34.68) at the S.D. State Meet.

Brice Cowman, Yankton: Placed 4th in the Class AA 3200 (9:45.75) at the S.D. State Meet.

Nick Dion, Wagner: Placed 8th in the Class A 1600 (4:44.33) at the S.D. State Meet.

Thierno Diop, Tripp-Delmont-Armour: Placed 5th in the Class B 400 (52.16) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 4th place 3200 relay (8:34.68).

Weslee Dvorak, Ethan-Parkston: Placed 2nd in the Class A long jump (21-10 1/4) and 110 hurdles (15.07) at the S.D. State Meet.

Carter Dykstra, Platte-Geddes: Placed 3rd in the long jump (20-3) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 6th place medley relay (3:52.35).

Tristan Erickson, Parker: Placed 2nd in the Class B 400 (50.70) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the winning 3200 (8:24.95) and medley (3:43.84) relays, and the 5th place 800 relay (1:34.58).

Kyle Fischer, Hartington: Ran on the 6th place Class D 400 relay (44.97) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Jared Fuelberth, Hartington: Ran on the 2nd place Class D 1600 relay (3:31.38) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Alex Gerlach, Platte-Geddes: Ran on the 6th place Class B medley relay (3:52.35) at the S.D. State Meet.

Christian Gruschin, Centerville: Placed 5th in the Class B discus (152-2) at the S.D. State Meet.

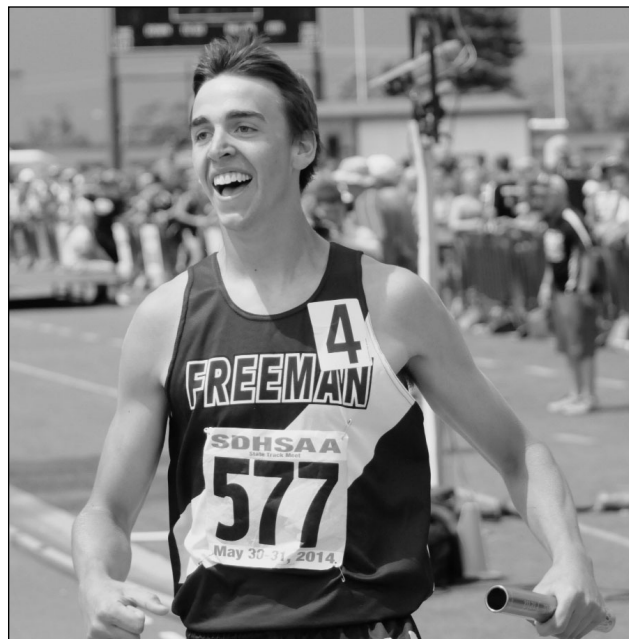
Ryan Haggerty, Freeman Academy: Placed 7th in the Class B 3200 (10:48.89) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 8th place 3200 relay (8:49.77).

Adam Haigh, Bloomfield: Finished 2nd in the Class D pole vault (13-10) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Logan Hansen, Viborg-Hurley: Placed 6th in the Class B 800 (2:04.21) at the S.D. State Meet.

Charles Harberts, Freeman: Ran on the 8th place Class B medley relay (4:01.42) at the S.D. State Meet.

Riley Haug, Hartington: Finished 8th in the Class D 110 hurdles (16.20) at the Nebraska State Meet. Also ran on the 6th place Class D 400 relay (44.97).



Freeman's Brennan Schmidt celebrates after anchoring the Flyers to victory in the Class B boys' 1600-meter relay at the South Dakota State Track and Field Meet in Sioux Falls. Schmidt is on the final 'Star Chart' for the 2013-14 school year.

Austin Hegge, Wausa: Won the Class D 100 (11.34), 200 (22.81) and long jump (21-4 3/4), and finished 2nd in the triple jump (43-5 1/2) at the Nebraska State Meet.

J.J. Hejna, Yankton: Won the Class AA high jump with a school-record mark of 6-8 1/4, and placed 2nd in the long jump (21-11 3/4) and triple jump (46-5 3/4) at the S.D. State Meet. Also helped the Bucks to a 7th place finish in the 1600 relay (3:32.62).

Kole Heller, Platte-Geddes: Won the Class B 100 (11.11) and placed 3rd in the 200 (23.79) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 6th place medley relay (3:52.35).

Kevin Hinseth, Irene-Wakonda: Placed 8th in the Class B discus (141-6) at the S.D. State Meet.

Cole Hofer, Freeman Academy: Ran on the 8th place 3200 relay (8:49.77) at the S.D. State Meet.

James Hofer, Yankton: Placed 8th in the Class AA pole vault (12-9) at the S.D. State Meet.

Eric Hunstad, Parker: Placed 8th in the Class B 300 hurdles (43.75) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the winning medley relay (3:4.384) and the 5th place 800 relay (1:34.58).

Alex Janssen, Crofton: Placed 3rd in the Class C 3200 (10:00.68) and 4th in the Class C 1600 (4:33.43) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Nick Jensen, Vermillion: Won the Class A shot put (53-11 1/2) at the S.D. State Meet.

James Kaiser, Cedar Catholic: Ran on the 6th place Class C 3200 relay (8:25.48) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Griffon Kalin, Hartington: Won the Class D 300 hurdles (40.04) at the Nebraska State Meet. Also ran on the 2nd place 1600 relay (1:32.35) and the 6th place 400 relay (44.97).

Jalen Kaufman, Freeman: Ran on the 8th place Class B medley relay (4:01.42) at the S.D. State Meet.

Brandon Kocmich, Avon: Placed 2nd in the Class C 200 (23.78), 3rd in the 100 (11.28) and 4th in the 400 (51.90) at the S.D. State Meet.

Blake Konstanz, Scotland: Tied for 5th in the Class B pole vault (12-0) at the S.D. State Meet.

Chase Kortan, Bon Homme: Placed 8th in the Class A long jump (20-7 1/4) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 4th place 800 (1:32.13) and 1600 (3:29.08) relays, and the 6th place 400 relay (45.05).

Seth Lackas, Randolph: Placed 7th in the Class D discus (136-8) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Adam Lan, Tripp-Delmont-Armour: Ran on the 4th place Class B 3200 relay (8:34.68) at the S.D. State Meet.

Clayton Lau, Tripp-Delmont-Armour: Ran on the 4th place Class B 3200 relay (8:34.68) at the S.D. State Meet.

Landon Leberman, Parker: Ran on the winning Class B 3200 relay (8:24.95) at the S.D. State Meet.

Charlie Long, Dakota Valley: Ran on the 6th place Class A 3200 relay (8:30.30) at the S.D. State Meet.

Jason Lupkes, Dakota Valley: Placed 2nd in the Class A discus (157-8) at the S.D. State Meet.

Tyrell Martz, Centerville: Placed 8th in the Class B pole vault (11-6) at the S.D. State Meet.

Steven McKee, Yankton: Placed 7th in the Class AA shot put (46-11) at the S.D. State Meet.

Austin Meester, Beresford: Ran on the 7th place Class A 3200 relay (8:37.87) at the S.D. State Meet.

Devin Millen, Bon Homme: Placed 7th in the Class A triple jump (40-0 1/4) at the S.D. State Meet.

Camden Myers, Ethan-Parkston: Placed 4th in the Class A high jump (6-2) at the S.D. State Meet.

Joe Noecker, Hartington: Finished 3rd in the 400 (51.29) and 8th in the 200 (23.48) at the Nebraska State Meet. Also ran on the 2nd place 1600 relay (3:31.38) and the 6th place 400 relay (44.97).

Noah Noecker, Cedar Catholic: Ran on the 6th place Class C 3200 relay (8:25.48) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Nolan Nordhues, Randolph: Finished 6th in the Class D 200 (23.27) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Seamus O'Malley, Centerville: Placed 7th in the Class B 200 (25.29) and 8th in the 100 (11.59) at the S.D. State Meet.

Michael Olson, Parker: Placed 3rd in the Class B 800 (2:01.95) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the winning 3200 (8:24.95) and medley (3:43.84) relays, and the 5th place 800 relay (1:34.58).

Ryan Olson, Parker: Placed 5th in the Class B 3200 (10:46.53) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the winning 3200 relay (8:24.95).

Ryan Olson, Yankton: Ran on the 7th place Class AA 1600 relay (3:32.62) at the S.D. State Meet.

Cole Paulson, Freeman: Placed 5th in the Class B 300 hurdles (42.67) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the winning 1600 relay (3:31.06) and the 2nd place 800 relay (1:32.35).

Blake Perryman, Dakota Valley: Placed 3rd in the Class A 800 (2:00.48) and 6th in the 1600 (4:39.20) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 6th place 3200 relay (8:30.30).

Cole Peterson, Dakota Valley: Ran on the 6th place Class A 3200 relay (8:30.30) at the S.D. State Meet.

Grant Preheim, Freeman: Placed 2nd in the Class B triple jump (42-0 3/4) and 6th in the 300 hurdles (42.78) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 2nd place 800 relay (1:32.35) and the 3rd place 400 relay (45.09).

Lee Rose, Yankton: Placed 7th in the Class AA long jump (20-7 3/4) at the S.D. State Meet. Also helped the Bucks to a 7th place finish in the 1600 relay (3:32.62).

Cody Roth, Freeman: Ran on the winning Class B 1600 relay (3:31.06) and the 8th place 400 relay (4:01.42) at the S.D. State Meet.

Steven Sanchez, Freeman Academy: Ran on the 8th place 3200 relay (8:49.77) at the S.D. State Meet.

Blake Savey, Yankton: Ran on the 7th place Class AA 1600 relay (3:32.62) at the S.D. State Meet.

Riley Schaap, Beresford: Placed 5th in the Class A 3200 (10:33.79) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 7th place 3200 relay (8:37.87).

Brennan Schmidt, Freeman: Won the Class B 400 (50.02) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the winning 1600 relay (3:31.06), the 2nd place 800 relay (1:32.35) and the 3rd place 400 relay (45.09).

Teagan Schroeder, Freeman Academy: Ran on the 8th place 3200 relay (8:49.77) at the S.D. State Meet.

Dan Silbral, Scotland: Placed 5th in the Class B shot put (46-11) and 7th in the discus (150-0 1/2) at the S.D. State Meet.

Zach Sutera, Bon Homme: Ran on the 4th place Class A 1600 relay (3:29.08) and the 6th place 400 relay (45.05) at the S.D. State Meet.

Scott Van Winkle, Bon Homme: Placed 3rd in the Class A pole vault (13-0) and 4th in the 400 (50.77) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 4th place 800 (1:32.35) and 1600 (3:29.08) relays.

Joseph Weier, Freeman: Placed 8th in the Class B 200 (52.23) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 2nd place 800 relay (1:32.35) and the 3rd place 400



Crofton teammates Kelsey Sanger, left, and Quinn Wragge take off during the Class C girls' 800-meter run at the Nebraska State Track Meet in Omaha. Both are listed in the final 'Star Chart' for the 2013-14 school year.

relay (45.09).

Pat Wortmann, Hartington: Placed 3rd in the Class D 800 (1:59.46), 6th in the 1600 (4:37.70) and 7th in the 400 (51.86) at the Nebraska State Meet. Also ran on the 2nd place 1600 relay (3:31.38).

Hunter Young, Bon Homme: Ran on the 6th place Class A 400 relay (45.05) at the S.D. State Meet.

Girls' Track & Field

Ellie Arduser, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge: Placed 8th in the Class C triple jump (33-6 1/4) at the Nebraska State Meet. Also ran on the 6th place 400 relay (51.83) and 7th place 1600 relay (4:13.10).

Allison Arens, Crofton: Placed 2nd in the Class C 1600 (5:26.62) at the Nebraska State Meet. Also ran on the winning 1600 (4:06.00) and 3200 relays (9:40.03).

Monica Arens, Crofton: Ran on the winning Class C 3200 relay (9:40.03) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Cortney Arkfeld, Wynot: Placed 3rd in the Class D 800 (2:22.37) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Kelia Barta, Gayville-Volin: Ran on the 6th place Class B medley relay (4:37.36) at the S.D. State Meet.

Danielle Beckmann, Yankton: Ran on the 4th place Class AA 1600 relay (4:03.87) and the 7th place 800 relay (1:47.21) at the S.D. State Meet.

Keely Bertram, Elk Point-Jefferson: Won the Class A 200 (26.73) and placed 2nd in the 100 (12.78) at the S.D. State Meet.

Sara Bohan, Dakota Valley: Placed 7th in the Class A 100 hurdles (15.95) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 4th place medley relay (4:24.50).

Rainy Brewer-Nysven, Irene-Wakonda: Placed 8th in the Class B pole vault (8-0) at the S.D. State Meet.

Genevieve Clark, Gayville-Volin: Placed 6th in the Class B 1600 (5:29.68) and 7th in the 3200 (12:30.37) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 3rd place 3200 relay (9:59.65) and the 6th place medley relay (4:37.36).

Lanny Clark, Gayville-Volin: Ran on the 3rd place Class B 3200 relay (9:59.65) at the S.D. State Meet.

Audra Corbit, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge: Tied for 4th in the Class C high jump (5-2) at the Nebraska State Meet. Also ran on the 6th place 400 relay (51.83).

Kelsey Dietrich, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge: Finished 2nd in the Class C 100 hurdles (15.76) and 6th in the 300 hurdles (47.00) at the Nebraska State Meet. Also ran on the 6th place 400 relay (51.83) and 7th place 1600 relay (4:13.10).

Hannah Eberts, Freeman: Ran on the 2nd place Class B 3200 relay (9:57.83) at the S.D. State Meet.

Cameron Eddie, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge: Ran on the 6th place Class C 400 relay (51.83) and 7th place 1600 relay (4:13.10) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Lexie Eifert, Ponca: Placed 6th in the

Class C 100 (12.98) and 8th in the 200 (27.20) at the Nebraska State Meet.

Reganne Engebretson, Platte-Geddes: Placed 8th in the Class B 100 (13.14) at the S.D. State Meet. Also ran on the 5th place 1600 relay (4:19.09) and the 6th place 800 relay (1:51.92).

Brianna Erickson, Platte-Geddes: Ran on the 5th place Class B 1600 relay (4:19.09) and the 6th place 800 relay (1:51.92) at the S.D. State Meet.

Sarah Erickson, Platte