

Omaha Central Blanks Yankton 1-0 For Lewis & Clark Title



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Omaha Central players celebrate their 1-0 championship victory over Yankton on Sunday in the Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic, at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND
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Omaha Central defeated Yankton Post 12 1-0 in the championship game of the 14th annual Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Tournament at Riverside Field in Yankton Sunday.

After winning the Vermillion pool, beating Sioux Falls Post 307, 1-0, and winning against Yankton, Omaha Central was able to win the tournament. It was a heart racing day on championship Sunday as Omaha Central played two 1-0 games.

"We are super proud of our kids," Omaha Central coach Gerald Kreber said. "Our pitching was outstanding and the chemistry on our team was great too."

"Playing seven innings two times, 14 total innings of one to nothing baseball, requires intense focus and we had it."

The only run of the ball game was scored by Omaha Central in the first inning. After an error by Yankton and a hit, an error trying to pick a runner off of first by catcher Adam Walter allowed Richard Stockton to score from second.

Cameron Nunez was game to pitch a complete game seven innings for Omaha Central, allowing six hits, three walks and zero runs while striking out three.

"My teammates always have my back," Nunez said. "I pitch to contact, that's how you win games."

"If you try to strike everybody out, the pitch count goes high and you can't go deep."

The play game came in the bottom of the seventh inning with two outs a runner on second and Yankton down to its last strike. Yankton was able to get a hit and bunt the runner over to second in the inning, and Austin Johnson was able to deliver a hit to center field. It looked

like Yankton was going to tie the ball game, but center fielder Zach Wilson was able to make a great throw to the play and get the runner out to end the game.

"It's a crazy way to win a game," Wilson said. "When I first saw the ball off the bat I thought maybe I could dive for it."

"Then it took a nice bounce, I was well in, and I saw the runner and I thought I had him."

"I just took a deep breath and threw it, and the catcher made the tag, that's all there is to it."

Wilson and Chris Smith were the only players with a hit for Omaha Central. Yankton's Hunter Cameron was also able to throw seven innings for a complete game striking out five, allowing two hits, two walks, and one unearned

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YHS Scores Big On Final Day

Stewart Earns Meet Honors As Gazelles Finish Fifth; Bucks Eighth

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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RAPID CITY – The Yankton Gazelles finished fifth and the Yankton Bucks placed eighth as the South Dakota State Track and Field Championships concluded at O'Harra Stadium in Rapid City on Saturday.

The Gazelles continued their momentum from Friday, with three individuals and three relays scoring points. The Gazelles finished with 65 points, led by the meet's field event Outstanding Performer, sophomore Emma Stewart. Rapid City Stevens edged Brandon Valley 105.5-103 for the team title.

The Bucks also scored in three relays, with one individual scoring in two events, to finish with 33 points. Sioux Falls Roosevelt easily outdistanced rival Lincoln 129.5-102 for the team title.

"It certainly was a goal of ours to get on the podium. We fell short, but the overall picture of our year is pretty good," said Yankton head coach Luke Youmans. "We have great momentum building, and any little bit of disappointment we have today we will use as fuel to come back next year."

Sophomore Madason Tessier had the busiest Saturday for the Gazelles, placing third in both the 100- (15.32) and 300-meter (47.06) hurdles, and running on the fifth place 1600 relay (4:09.08) and seventh place 800 relay (1:46.89).

With back-to-back four-race days, Tessier knew she had to prepare before and during the meet.

"I tried to get off my legs as much as possible," she said. "I stretched a lot, got plenty of sleep and got a lot of water."

Having the team in contention to be on the podium – the Gazelles finished 5.5 points behind fourth place Rapid City Central – gave an added boost.

"It definitely makes it exciting," Tessier said. "It makes you want to do better for the team."

Joining Tessier on the awards stand for the 300

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Lauren Graves takes off after getting the baton during the finals of the Class AA girls' 1600-meter relay at the South Dakota State Track and Field Championships on Saturday in Rapid City.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

ABOVE: Emma Stewart of Yankton was named the Class AA girls' outstanding performer for field events at the South Dakota State Track and Field Championships on Saturday in Rapid City. Stewart won the long jump and placed second in the triple jump. The sophomore also ran on two place-winning relays for the Gazelles.

RIGHT: Yankton's Charlie Stephenson flies over a hurdle on the way to a fifth place finish in the Class AA boys' 110-meter hurdles on Saturday.



A: Dvorak Earns Boys' Track MVP Honors

BY DYLAN HUGGINS
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RAPID CITY - Several area teams had a successful weekend at the State A track meet in Rapid City. The St Thomas More boys and girls team both took home first place.

The Dakota Valley girls came in fourth place with 42 points and the Bon Homme girls came in fifth place with 40.7 points. The boys of Bon Homme came seventh as a team with 36.5 points.

Ethan-Parkston stand-out Wes Dvorak cruised to first place in three different events, the 110-meter hurdles (14.54), 300-meter hurdles (38-.7) and long jump (22-5).

Dvorak said he practiced heavily before participating in the state meet.

"Just practice. Just keep doing it and the more reps you get, the better you'll get," he said.

Dvorak mentioned his strategy he has when competing in the hurdles.

"Just give it everything I got every time 100 percent every race and it just gets better," he said.

Dvorak discussed what the weather was like when participating in the long jump.

"The weather was bad. It was good that I got to do my prelims before my long jump to get warmed up. The key was just warming up," he said.

Jon Rosales of Vermillion participated in the 400-meter dash and finished fifth place with a time of 52.76.

Rosales was glad to finish in the top-5.

"It felt pretty good. Especially in the beginning I was injured. I hadn't run over a minute in one of my races," he said.

Rosales pulled his hamstring and was out almost a month. Rosales mentioned the crowd and how it's something the participants have to deal with.

"It's pressure, but it also helps you knowing that everyone else has to be in the same environment," he said. Brendan Bares of Bon

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B: Freeman Wins Combined Team Title; P-G Takes Boys' Crown

BY DYLAN HUGGINS
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RAPID CITY — Several area teams took home hardware in the South Dakota State Class B Track and Field Meet on Saturday in Rapid City, led by a combined team title for Freeman and a boys' team title for Platte-Geddes.

Platte-Geddes scored 60.5 points to beat out the Freeman boys for the team title. The Freeman girls finished third with 46 points, with the Gayville-Volin girls placing fourth at 34 points.

Freeman coach Rory Hermesen said it was a great weekend for his team.

"Good, we had a great weekend. Everyone performed up to what they're capable of and I'm really happen with the whole weekend," he said. Hermesen said it was his

team staying together that helped them be successful at the state meet.

"I think the team unity. These kids are pretty close and we have a pretty good group of seniors to hold the group together. Our seniors are really a major part," he said.

Brennan Schmidt was a big part in Freeman's success, winning three individual events – all in state-meet record time - and anchoring the Flyers to victory in the 1600 relay, the third straight year a Flyers team has won that event. He clocked meet records of 10.93 in the 100 and 47.54 in the 400 on Friday, and set the meet record of 21.99 in the 200 on Saturday.

Schmidt mentioned how it wasn't that easy, even though

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Freeman's Brennan Schmidt coasts across the finish line to win the Class B boys' 400-meter dash at the South Dakota State Track and Field Championships on Saturday in Rapid City. Schmidt, who ran a state record time of 47.54 seconds in the prelims, won the event, set meet records in winning two others and helped the Flyers to a relay title on the way to earning Class B track events Outstanding Performer honors. Freeman finished second in the boys' race and third in the girls' race to claim the combined team title for Class B.