



Platte-Geddes' Alex Gerlach, left, celebrates after anchoring the Black Panthers to victory in the Class B boys' medley relay at the South Dakota State Track and Field Championships on Saturday in Rapid City. The win helped the Black Panthers to the Class B boys' title.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Class B

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he had a successful weekend.

"It hasn't been easy. Right now I'm feeling pretty sore and it's been a busy weekend. I took it easy in practice and we just kind of maintained so we could come out strong and we all were pretty healthy," he said.

Schmidt was also excited to break the all-time state record in the 400, a mark owned by former Freeman Academy standout Larry Miller.

"It's pretty special to keep the top two runners in the 400 and they both come out of Freeman," he said.

Schmidt talked about his team finishing first in the 1600 and the relationship he has with his teammates.

"We are all really tight. We go beyond working out in practice. We hang out at each other's houses on the weekends playing video games and doing what ever else. We wanted this bad and knew it was our last race," he said.

The boys of Freeman came in first place in the 1600 meter relay with a time of 3:29.24.

Cole Paulson of Freeman came in second place in the 110 meter hurdles with a time of 16.07.

Platte-Geddes coach Matt Maxon was pleased with his team at the state meet.

"Great weekend. We had a weekend where every boy I brought here performed at their best and obviously that's why we ended up winning the meet," he said.

Maxon said his athletes were ready to compete.

"They put in the work all year and it's just getting kids to believe in themselves.

"Going into this they were confident and they believed that they could do this and it turned out awesome," he said.

The Platte-Geddes boys came in first place in the 1600 sprint medley relay with a time of 344.27. The Black Panthers also won the 3200 meter relay with a time of 8:30.39.

Carter Dykstra of Platte Geddes came in second place in the high jump with a distance of 21-08.25. Zach Pettit came in second place in the 3200 meter run with a time of 10:29.59.

Gabe King of Irene-Wakonda came in second place in the triple jump with a height of 41-09.

Girls

On the girls' side, Irene-Wakonda's Lauren Sokolowski captured her fourth consecutive 100-meter hurdles champi-



Freeman's Shelby Jensen, 121, cracks a smile after holding off Hanson's Ellie Tuschen (158) and Parker's Karley Peters (292) to anchor her team to victory in the Class B girls' 1600-meter relay. The win helped the Flyers to a third place finish and the program to a combined team title.

onship with a winning time of 14.64.

Sokolowski was thrilled to defend her title yet again.

"It feels great and it feels so good to get that over with. Senior year ended up great and to get the record it's awesome," she said.

Sokolowski also credited her race to her biggest supporters.

"I have to thank my coaches and teammates for supporting me all the way. They knew I would do something great at the end of the year and this was it," she said.

Ipswich as a team came in first with 98 points. As for the girls, Macy Heinz of Ipswich placed first in all four of her events: the 200, 400, 800 and 1600.

In the 200, Heinz finished with a time of 25.10. The 400 she finished with a time of 57.87. 800 with a time of 2:15.07 and the 1600 with a time of 5:18.02.

Heinz was pleased with her weekend at the state meet.

"This has been a great weekend. Coming in I did have a little bit more pressure from winning four events last year," she said.

"I knew coming into that this weekend doesn't define me as an athlete whether it's good or bad," she said.

Heinz credited her coach for the success she's had in track.

"All credit goes to coach Thorson. I trust him 100 percent with all my training. He's gotten me where I am and each year he gradually ups my mileage and ups my training," she said.

Heinz said the weather wasn't much of a factor for her team this weekend.

"We've been trained to run through the bad conditions and so had it been bad I think our team would have pulled through.

Ipswich had the top two finishers in the girl's pole vault. Kristi Pond and Autumn Pitz both had a height of 10-00.

Ipswich girls also placed first in the 4x100 meter relay with a time of 51.14.

Erica Kitchenmaster of Andes Central-Dakota Christian finished second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.70.

The Freeman girls came in first place in the 1600 sprint medley relay with a time of 4:21.94.

Cailey Roth of Freeman came in second place in the 1600 meter run with a time of 5:25.26.

Roth also finished second in the 800 with a time of 2:20.35

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Yankton Juniors Go 0-4 At South Sioux

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. – The Yankton Junior Legion squad went 0-4 in the South Sioux City Tournament, held Saturday and Sunday.

Yankton hosts Brandon Valley on Tuesday.

WORTHINGTON 2, YANKTON 1: Nate Eichacker had three hits, and Caid Koletzky, Nathan Hein, Jakob Larson and Jackson Somsen each had two hits for Yankton.

Trey Bakke took the loss in relief after Jack Schoenfelder allowed three hits through seven innings of work.

NORFOLK 4, YANKTON 3: Chase Vogt, Caid Koletzky, Jakob Larson and Jackson Somsen each had a hit.

Kellen Franzen took the loss.

OMAHA CENTRAL 4, YANKTON 2: Nate Hein went 2-4 with a double, and Chase Vogt, Caid Koletzky, Trey Bakke and Jack Schoenfelder each had a hit for Yankton.

Carter Peterson took the loss, striking out five in 5 2/3 innings of work. Isaiah Woods got the final two outs.

WAYNE 4, YANKTON 0: Carter Peterson had the lone Yankton hit.

Caid Koletzky took the loss, allowing one earned run over six innings of work.

VFW: Mitchell Tourn.

MITCHELL – The Yankton Lakers went 3-0 to win the Mitchell Tournament, which concluded on Sunday.

The Lakers, 3-4, travel to Brandon on Wednesday.

LAKERS 5, S.F. CENTRAL 14s 2: Rex Ryken helped his cause with three hits, and Ethan Wishon doubled and singled to lead Yankton. Levi Wiersma had a hit and two RBI. Michael Drotzmann added a hit.

Ryken gave up two unearned runs in the complete game victory.

LAKERS 9, HARRISBURG 1: Ethan Wishon tossed a complete game no-hitter, striking out eight, and helped his cause with a triple, a single and four RBI in the win.

Michael Drotzmann had three hits and three RBI, and Rex Ryken had three hits and a RBI for Yankton. Case Roth had two hits. Sam Mooney, Cole Sawatzke and Levi Wiersma each had a hit.

LAKERS 8, S.F. CENTRAL 0: Owen Feser tossed a complete game one-hitter as Yankton won the opener.

Michael Drotzmann had a double and a RBI, and Cole Withrow, Peyton Mueller and Levi Wiersma each had a hit and a RBI to lead Yankton. Cole Sawatzke and Ethan Wishon each had hits. Owen Feser drove in a run.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Vermillion's Maddie Lavin leads the field after the opening lap of the Class A girls' 1600-meter run at the South Dakota State Track and Field Championships on Saturday in Rapid City. Lavin finished second in the event in 5:14.33.

Class A

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Homme came in third place in the 100 meter dash with a time of 11.05.

Bon Homme came in third place in the 4x100 meter relay with a time of 44.68.

The Cavaliers also finished second in the 4x200 meter relay with a time of 1:32.19.

Girls

Morgan Rothschadl of Bon Homme finished first in the 300 hurdles (44.94) and was naturally excited after the race about her title.

Rothschadl mentioned this year was the first year she was heavily involved in the hurdles.

"I did them a little last year, but not as much. It was the first time I majorly ran the 300 hurdles," she said.

"I was really nervous, I was excited too but I was definitely nervous," she said.

Rothschadl said she had plenty of practice with the hurdlers going into the state meet.

"I ran these a lot at every meet this year so just to practice. I practiced them in practice. I warmed up and I just ran," she said.

Morgan McAllister of Bon Homme came in first place in the pole vault with a height of 9-3.

Maddie Lavin of Vermillion finished second in the 1600-meter run and participated in the 1600 relay. In the 1600 meter run Lavin finished with a time of 5:14.33 and in the 1600 meter relay Vermillion finished with a time of 4:19.64.

Lavin was proud of how she performed at the state meet.

"It went really well. I'm super proud of our team. Everything was well deserved," she said.

"With all the effort we put into this season it's definitely showing especially since we didn't even make it to the 4x4 finals last year," she said.

Lavin said finishing second in the 1600 was awesome.

"That was awesome. It was a little bit of redemption from my 3200 because I didn't do as well in the two mile as I would have liked," she said.

"I just went out there



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Wes Dvorak of Ethan-Parkston was named the Class A boys' outstanding performer for running events at the South Dakota State Track and Field Championships on Saturday in Rapid City. Dvorak swept the hurdle races, won the long jump and placed third in the triple jump on the weekend.

knowing that I wanted to do really well and I was hoping for top three and it happened," she said.

Dakota Valley head coach Ramsey Fitzsimmons said her team was pleased with its performance at the state meet.

"We are very pleased with our performances this weekend. I don't think our weekend could have gone any better," she said.

Fitzsimmons said her team had been training hard all season.

"We knew we had a chance of possibly making the podium so we knew that as a team we needed to have the best individual and relay performances that we could have," she said.

"We've been training very hard all season long and we had a talented group of kids so we were ready to go."

The Dakota Valley girls finished third in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 4:08.20.

Marisa Schultz of Dakota Valley came in first place in the 3200 meter run with a time of 11:31.24. Teammate Sara Bohan came in first place in the long jump with a height of 17-05.50.

Josie Heeren of Elk-Point Jefferson came in second place in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:19.04.

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Yankton

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hurdles was freshman Kate Budig, who finished eighth in 48.89. She ran a personal best of 47.89 on Friday to sneak into the finals. She also competed in the high jump and rank on the Gazelles' seventh place 400 relay (51.36) on Saturday.

"It was a long weekend, but I loved every minute of it," she said. "I got my PR (personal record) in the 300 hurdles by two seconds and made finals. I'm happy with the results, and that the team has done well."

Senior Danielle Beckmann and sophomores Lindsey Hale and Stewart completed the 400 and 800 relay teams. Beckmann, senior Lauren Graves and freshman Cameryn Specht completed the 1600 relay squad.

Junior Savannah Woods followed up her 3200 title with a sixth place finish in the 1600, finishing in 5:17.85. While Woods didn't go out in front – as she did in her 3200 win on Friday – she still ran within a second of her season best in the event.

"I had to play the wind the right way," she said. "Coach Youmans told me to not take it out because of the wind, and it worked well."

Charlie Stephenson had a busy final day as a Buck,



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Madason Tessier glides over the final hurdle on the way to a third place finish in the Class AA girls' 100-meter hurdles at the South Dakota State Track and Field Championships on Saturday in Rapid City. She also finished third in the 300-meter hurdles.

placing fifth in both the 110- (15.54) and 300-meter (40.97) hurdles, and running on the Bucks' fourth place 400 relay (44.38) and sixth place 800 relay (1:33.53).

"I think it ended on a high note," he said. "My goal was to place, after what happened last year, so I was happy with how it ended."

Stephenson also credited

senior Mason Strahl (400 relay) and junior Coleton James (800 relay), who were late substitutions to the shorter relays.

"We stepped up, and the kids who had to jump in stepped up. They both ran very well," he said. "We didn't have our best times compared to this year, but we still did better than Yankton has

done in a very long time."

Strahl also rank on the 800 relay and seventh place 1600 relay (3:33.77). Senior Ryan Sternhagen ran on all three relays as well. Senior Lee Rose ran on the 400 and 1600 relays. Junior Blake Savey completed the 1600 relay.

Individually, Sternhagen (23.27) placed eighth in the 200 and Rose (52.71) placed eighth in the 400.

The Gazelles return every individual event place winner and all but three individuals who ran on relays at state.

"This girls' team is full of young kids that will be key components over the next few years," Youmans said. "There's no disappointment at the end of the season when you're going to see all these kids that will be back for one, two, three, even four years."

"There is a lot of anticipation for where the program could be in the next few years."

The Bucks graduate much of their state meet scoring, but Youmans said that the Class of 2015 set the tone for the future.

"This group of seniors came in with some goals. They fell a little short today, but not for the season as a whole," Youmans said. "They were great leaders, great senior athletes. Their examples will help us for years to come."

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