

Archery | #WAYC2015 Notebook

‘We Want To Stand Our Ground’

Team USA Defending Home Turf

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Danielle Reynolds knows the feeling of winning a gold medal. But that was halfway across the globe. Capturing another championship but this time in her home country would mean so much more, the 18-year-old archer from Arizona said Friday at the World Archery Youth Championships (WAYC) in Yankton. “This is our house,” said Reynolds, who won team gold at the 2013 WAYC in China. “We knew we could show the other countries what we can do.” That’s exactly what the United States archers did Friday, as six teams – four men and two women – won their way to this weekend’s finals of the week-long international tournament. Have the U.S. archers used the home-field advantage as a motivation? “Definitely,” said 14-year-old Daniel O’Connor from Georgia. “We want to stand our ground; show everyone who we are.” Mission accomplished, so far. In total, the United States has guaranteed itself of 13 medals this weekend, by virtue of having made the bronze medal match in 13 events.

Team USA will have archers in seven team finals and three individual finals, while two archers and one team will compete for the bronze. The WAYC team action Friday was, though, more of a showcase for the United States. “Everybody just killed it today,” O’Connor said. All four compound teams advanced to the gold medal match – not done very often in this tournament – and two recurve tandems made it to the finals. “This year, recurve has been doing amazing,” Reynolds, a compound shooter, said. “As a team, we all put in a lot of practice.” Reynolds and her two teammates on the Compound Junior Women team, which had earlier in the week set a world record for a one-day score, needed a comeback Friday to keep advancing. The trio rallied to beat Turkey by one shot (222-221) in the semifinals, and will face Colombia in today’s (Saturday) gold medal match. “Today was interesting. We were behind, but we thought, ‘We know our shot, let’s stick with it,’” Reynolds said.



United States archer Dane Johnson, left, fist-bumps Cole Feterl, right, during their Compound Cadet Men quarterfinal match Friday against Canada at the World Archery Youth Championships in Yankton.

olds said. “It wasn’t a given. It came down to the last shot.” Traditionally, the team scores are close, but another United States compound trio won its Friday matches by 10 and 4 points to reach the finals. O’Connor, teamed with 16-year-old South Dakota native Cole Feterl (Lennox) and Dane Johnson, a 14-year-old from Indiana, advanced to the gold medal match in the Compound Cadet Men. “My group is awesome,” Johnson said. “I feel so comfortable with them, and I can trust them with their shots.” Like a handful of the United States archers, Chris Bee wasn’t making his first trip to Yankton this week. But oddly enough, he was among the last of his teammates to arrive in town. Bee, an 18-year-old from Michigan, graduated from high school last Friday and got to Yankton on Sunday – later than the rest of his teammates.

Bee paired with Steven Manfull and David Houser to reach the finals of the Compound Junior Men Team. “Representing the U.S. in the U.S. is a really cool feeling,” Bee said. Echoing those sentiments was Johnson, who will also compete in the Compound Cadet Mixed Team gold medal match with Dahlia Crook. “It feels great to represent the U.S.,” Johnson said. “There’s a lot of pride.” Also reaching the gold medal matches for the United States were: * Compound Cadet Women: Crook, Cassidy Cox and Breanna Theodore * Recurve Junior Men Team: Collin Klimitchek, Zach Garrett and Caleb Miller * Recurve Cadet Men Team: Ryan Oliver, Geunwoo Kim and Minsoo Kim * Compound Junior Men: David Houser * Recurve Junior Women: Mac-

kenzie Brown * Recurve Junior Men: Collin Klimitchek The United States archers have been fortunate in that their parents and other spectators were able to easily make the trip to Yankton to cheer on the shooters. With that encouragement behind them, the archers have been able to develop an extra sense of pride, according to Bee. “When you’re shooting, you block everything else out,” Bee said. “But at night when you’re in the hotel, that’s when you start thinking about it.” Sure, the United States archers wouldn’t have changed their style if the WAYC was in China (like in 2013) or in Argentina (like it will be in 2017), but having the tournament in their home country makes a difference. “We want to represent the USA, no matter where we are,” Reynolds said. “We want to do our best.” But the fact that United States



Team USA archer Caity Farr lines up a shot during Friday’s Recurve Cadet Women match against Japan at the World Archery Youth Championships in Yankton.

archers could capture gold in their home country adds an extra level of excitement for this weekend, according to Bee. “I’m guessing we’ll have more people in the stands,” he said. “I bet all the volunteers will be there. “It’s a smaller town, but it’s a really big organization with people helping out.” As the week has elapsed, the archers have gotten more opportunities to talk with the over 500 volunteers around town, Reynolds said. “That’s amazing,” she said. “It’s a big deal to them. I’ve never seen that, even where I’m from.” The finals begin this morning (Saturday) with team matches at 9:30 a.m. and will then have individual matches starting at 10:40 a.m. With the entire tournament free and open to the public, the hope from the archers is that spectators will come out to watch, much like they did during last Sunday’s opening ceremony. “That was one of my favorite parts (in China),” Reynolds said. “You could hear the crowd. “I hope we have the whole place here full and cheering for us.” That would certainly raise the archers’ performance, according to O’Connor. “That brings a comfort level to it,” he said. “That would mean the world if they (spectators) showed up.”

‘Good Experience’ For Poland

With a large and vocal support group behind her, 16-year-old Polish archer Kamila Naploszek got an up-close look Friday of one of the world’s top recurve nations: Korea. Naploszek was on the Recurve Cadet Women team that lost to Korea in the quarterfinals. Poland was far from alone in losing to the Koreans, though. Korea, long known for its strength in recurve archer, qualified six teams

WAYC | PAGE 12

Arkansas Star Benintendi On CWS Stadium: ‘I Like It A Lot’

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Arkansas star Andrew Benintendi has no doubt he can hit a ball out of TD Ameritrade Park. He has already done it. The Razorbacks visited the cavernous stadium a month ago for a game against Creighton, and Benintendi homered to right field and had two other hits in a 6-2 victory. Benintendi went deep several more times during the Razorbacks’ College World Series practice on Friday. The Hogs play Virginia in the opener Saturday. “I like it a lot,” Benintendi said. “We played here earlier this year and I think that’s a big advantage for us.” Benintendi on Friday was named winner of the Dick Howser Award as national player of the year. He and Miami’s David Thompson enter the CWS having hit an NCAA-leading 19 homers each. Benintendi is savoring the week. The center fielder and his teammates advanced to Omaha as a No. 2 regional seed, and on Monday he was the No. 7 overall pick by the Boston Red Sox in the Major League Baseball draft. “It’s been a humbling time, I guess I could say,” he said. “I’ve had a lot of help to get where I am. I’m not doing this just for me but for everybody who has gotten me to where I am. I’m trying to soak it all in.” Benintendi has cooled off since coming out of the regular season batting .415 with 17 homers. He went 1 for 14 in the SEC tournament and is 5 for 19 in the NCAA tournament, dropping him to .380 for the season.

also

Find Out More About The 2015 College World Series, Which Begins Today. **PAGE 13** Hogs coach Dave Van Horn said Benintendi had difficulty dealing with the spotlight at the SEC tournament in Hoover, Alabama, especially after beating out the Nos. 1 and 2 overall draft picks, Vanderbilt’s Dansby Swanson and LSU’s Alex Bregman, for conference player of the year. “He has to go walk around the lobby and see other guys who were right there, like Swanson and Bregman,” Van Horn said. “That put a lot of pressure on him. Plus, he was only a sophomore. These guys are in their third year. He’s only been out of high school two years. I think it did bother him.” “I saw him swinging at pitches out of the zone, which he normally doesn’t do. Great player. Hopefully he’ll relax and just enjoy this moment.” **RUN AT YOUR OWN RISK:** Cal State Fullerton catcher A.J. Kennedy could play a major role in how the Titans fare in Bracket 2. He’s thrown out 19 of 42 base stealers, or 42.5 percent, a statistic that surely will draw notice from LSU, TCU and Vanderbilt teams that rank among the top 12 nationally in steals. In super regionals, Kennedy nailed three of five runners for a Louisville team that was third in steals. Asked if he had ever been around a catcher as good at throwing out base stealers, coach Rick Vanderhook threw out Kurt Suzuki’s name. Suzuki starred for the Titans

CWS | PAGE 12

USD’s Snyder Earns All-American Honors

Senior From Lake Andes Places Seventh In Discus At NCAA Meet

EUGENE, Ore.—South Dakota senior Cody Snyder earned All-America status in the discus at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore. Snyder launched the discus 193 feet, 8 inches on his second throw to take the lead of the first flight. The mark held onto sixth place headed into finals.

Snyder’s fifth throw landed near the 197-foot mark, but his foot stepped out of the ring resulting in a foul. Snyder ultimately finished seventh with a mark of 193-8. The Lake Andes native is the first Coyote from the state of South Dakota to earn All-America honors at the NCAA Division I level. Snyder becomes the

program’s 13th All-American. Snyder ends his collegiate career as a first-team All-American, a two-time Summit League discus champion, a member of three Summit League team titles and a career best throw of 194-6. Sam Mattis of Penn won the event with a toss of 205 feet.

Post 12 Goes 2-0 To Open 307 Tourney

RENNER – Yankton Post 12 went 2-0 on the opening day of the Post 307 Invitational American Legion baseball tournament, which began on Friday in Renner, Harrisburg and Sioux Falls. Yankton opened with a 7-1 victory over Paola, Kansas. Mason Townsend had a home run and a double, two runs scored and a RBI, and Brad Ulmer had two hits and two runs scored to lead Yankton. Ben Cameron had two hits and a RBI, Colin Muth and Austin Johnson each had a hit and a run scored, and Jordan Kathol had a hit and a RBI in the win. Muth picked up the win, striking out four in five innings of work. Hunter Cameron worked the final two innings. Yankton followed with a 4-2 victory over Apple Valley, Minnesota. Ulmer had a double, a single and two run scored, and Kathol had two hits and two RBI to lead Yankton. Ben Cameron had a hit and a run scored. Townsend and Levi Schmidt each had a hit in the victory. Landon Withrow pitched 6 1/3 innings to pick up the win. Hunter Cameron got the final two outs for the save.



Lesterville’s Cody Ulmer tries to run through Scotland catcher Anthony Walloch on an attempted steal of home during their South Central League amateur baseball action on Friday in Scotland. Ulmer was out on the play.

BASEBALL | PAGE 14