

# Freeman's Schmidt, Crofton's Arens Earn Elite Honors

## Crofton's Arens Named Max Preps 2014-15 Nebraska Athlete Of The Year

VERMILLION — South Dakota freshman and recent Crofton High School graduate Allison Arens has been named the Max Preps 2014-15 Nebraska Female Athlete of the Year for her efforts on the volleyball and basketball courts and the track.

Arens led Crofton to Nebraska Class C state titles in basketball and track & field. She also helped the volleyball team finish runner-up. Arens teams up with older sister Bridget once again on the basketball court at South Dakota this fall.

Arens guided the girls' basketball team to four consecutive titles and turned in a prep career record of 106-5 while wearing the Warrior uniform. Arens earned three all-state honors and was a four-time all-conference honoree. Her 1,579 career points ranks 61st in Nebraska's all-class record book and her

220 career assists ranks eighth. As a senior, the point guard averaged 15 points, five assists and nearly three steals per game.

Arens' athletic talents were not limited to the basketball court.

On the track, she helped the Warriors to back-to-back team titles. This year, she tallied 19.5 points at the state meet by winning the 1,600-meter run in 5:16.60 and running a leg of the winning 4x800-meter relay. She also ran a leg of the runner-up 4x400 relay and placed fourth in the 3,200 meters.

The volleyball team placed second, the program's highest finish since 1993. Arens earned second-team all-state honors behind 254 kills, 320 digs, 35 blocks and 57 aces as a senior.

Arens was also involved in National Honor Society, Student Council and FFA.

## Freeman's Schmidt Named Gatorade Boys' Track & Field Athlete Of The Year

CHICAGO — Freeman standout Brennan Schmidt has been named the 2014-15 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schmidt is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Freeman High School.

The 6-foot-6, 155-pound senior sprinter won three individual state championships and anchored a winning 4x400-meter relay quartet this spring, leading the Flyers to a second-place finish as a team at the Class B state meet. Schmidt won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.95 seconds, the 200 in 21.99 and the 400 in 49.25. The 2015 Class B Outstanding Track Performer at the state meet, he set a meet record in the 100 semifinals (10.95) and an overall state record in the preliminary heat of the 400 (47.54).

Schmidt has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's yearbook staff, wind ensemble and concert choir, he has

performed in the school musical.

"Brennan Schmidt is a very gifted athlete who has pushed himself to excel and meet his goals," said Freeman High head coach Rory Hermesen. "He has sacrificed personal glory for the benefit of the team."

Schmidt has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of South Dakota this fall.

Schmidt joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jack Lembcke (2013-14, Roosevelt High School), Addison DeHaven (2012-13, Brookings High School), Tyler Schultz (2011-12, Custer High School), Tony Smoragiewicz (2010-11, Rapid City Central High School), Trevor Gebhart (2009-10, Washington), Alex Muntefering (2008-09, Parkston), and Matt Tetzlaff (2007-08, 2006-07, T.F. Riggs) among the state's list of former award winners.

## Resurgent A-Rod Scores 3,000th Hit

NEW YORK (AP) — The fan at Yankee Stadium who wound up with the ball that Alex Rodriguez launched for his 3,000th hit is holding on to the prize souvenir.

For now, anyway. "Told the Yankees I'm keeping it," Zack Hample tweeted during the game Friday night.

The 37-year-old Hample describes himself as a pro at catching home run balls, is credited with collecting more than 8,000 of them and has written books about the art.

Hample was sitting in the right-field seats and got the ball Rodriguez hit for a solo home run in the first inning against Detroit.

A day earlier, Hample tweeted "that man deserves favors from no one, least of all a fan."

Rodriguez mentioned the fan who caught Derek Jeter's home run ball for his 3,000th hit in 2011. That man was all too eager to return it to the former Yankees star.

"Where's Jeet's guy? That's the guy I needed," Rodriguez said. "I wasn't so lucky."

After catching the ball, Hample told reporters he had envisioned catching it as "a one-in-a-million" possibility.

"I don't know right now if I'm going to sell it," he said. "Depending on what the Yankees could offer, I would consider giving it back."

"I don't plan to give it back for a chance to meet him and four autographed bats, because I don't collect bats. I collect baseballs. Just having this ball is so meaningful to me, and I can't believe that I got it," he said.

Yankees spokesman Jason Zillo said efforts to have the man deal directly with Yankees president Randy Levine didn't work.

"As far as we're concerned, we have done everything we could to engage this guy in some type of discussion about some type of exchange. He had none of anything we were saying. He wouldn't engage at all," Zillo said. "He is not intending to give it to us."

"This guy is pretty well-documented. A professional home run catcher," Zillo said.

## Morrie Wachendorf First Dakota Classic Begins



Yankton's Jordan Kathol sends the ball home during Post 12's matchup with Vermillion to open the Morrie Wachendorf First Dakota Classic on Friday at Yankton's Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field. Kathol tossed a one-hit shutout as Yankton won 2-0. The tournament runs through Sunday.

## Kathol, Yankton Blanks Vermillion

Yankton's Jordan Kathol tossed a complete game one-hit shutout in a 2-0 Post 12 victory over Vermillion in the opening game of the Morrie Wachendorf First Dakota Classic American Legion baseball tournament on Friday at Yankton's Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

Yankton's two runs came on Sheldon Gant's RBI single in the fourth. Gant finished with two hits. Ben Cameron doubled and singled. Austin Johnson and Tanner Watts each had a hit and a run scored. Levi Schmidt added a hit in the victory.

Carter Kratz had the lone Vermillion hit.

Kathol struck out two and walked one, throwing just 67 pitches in the complete game victory. Jake Odens took the loss, striking out three in the complete game effort.

Yankton, 13-5, and Vermillion continue play in the tournament today (Saturday). Yankton plays Crofton at 11 a.m., followed by Crofton against Vermillion at 1 p.m., Vermillion against McCook-Miner at 3 p.m., McCook-Miner against Piedmont at 5 p.m., and Piedmont against Yankton at 7 p.m.

Play concludes on Sunday. Piedmont plays Vermillion at 11 a.m., followed by Crofton against Piedmont at 1 p.m., McCook-Miner against Crofton at 3 p.m., and McCook-Miner against Yankton at 5 p.m.

### Amateur Freeman 4, Tabor 3

TABOR — The Freeman Black Sox jumped out to a 4-0 lead and held on for a 4-3 victory over Tabor in South Central League amateur baseball action on Thursday.



Vermillion's Brandon Mockler just misses a sinking line drive in right field during Post 1's matchup with Yankton in the Morrie Wachendorf First Dakota Classic American Legion baseball tournament on Friday at Yankton's Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

## Gators Beat Virginia To Stay Alive Vanderbilt Earns Return Trip To CWS Final

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The way Florida has been swinging the bat, the Gators' shutout loss to Virginia looks like an aberration now.

The Gators scored four runs in the third inning and five in the sixth on their way to a 10-5 win over the Cavaliers on Friday, forcing a second Bracket 1 final at the College World Series.

Richie Martin doubled twice and reached four times as the Gators scored in double digits for the fifth time in six games. They are the first team since South Carolina in 2002 to score 10 or more runs in three CWS games.

"We have a tendency to have big innings," Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan said. "In order to have big innings, you have to have a consistent lineup, one through nine. We're getting a lot of contributions up and down the lineup, and it just allows us when we get things rolling to build some big innings."

The Gators (52-17) and Cavaliers (41-23) will play again Saturday, with the winner going to the best-of-three finals starting Monday against defending champion Vanderbilt or TCU. Virginia, which lost for the first time in eight NCAA Tournament games, is trying to make the finals for the second straight year.

Florida ruined the return of Virginia ace Nathan Kirby, who had been sidelined for nine weeks because of a strained back muscle. The Gators also avenged a 1-0 loss to Virginia on Monday. In that game, Brandon Waddell and Josh Shorz combined on a two-hitter.

This time, Florida's offense looked more like the one that outscored Miami 25-5 in two games the past week.

"They've got power. They've got speed. They've got a really, really nice club," Virginia

coach Brian O'Connor said. "I don't ever try to forecast what's going to happen during the game, but I knew it would take a good effort, starting with Kirby."

Just like his miserable night in the opener of last year's CWS finals against Vanderbilt, Kirby (5-3) couldn't make it out of the third inning. Florida tagged him for four runs on five hits in the third and made it 9-1 with a five-run sixth against Alec Bettinger and David Rosenberger.

"I just wanted to throw strikes, especially at this stage," Kirby said. "You see what happens when you give the other team momentum and a couple extra bases. They're going to capitalize."

Kirby retired five of his first six batters, and he picked off the other one. The trouble started with one out in the third. Nos. 8 and 9 batters Dalton Guthrie and Ryan Larson singled, Harrison Bader had an RBI groundout and Martin and Josh Tobias drove in runs with a double and single.

That brought on Bettinger, who retired seven of eight before the Gators' offense rose up again.

"I just think that we're coming together as a team at the right time," Martin said. "We haven't really put everything together as an offense, defense and pitching-wise, so it's nice to get this going in the postseason when it matters."

Gators starter Logan Shore (11-6) won for the second time at the CWS. He went 6 1/3 innings, allowing four runs and eight hits. Bobby Poyner limited the Gators to two hits and an unearned run over the last 2 2/3 innings.

"At the start of the SEC tournament, everyone just started hitting, especially when I'm on the mound," Shore said. "Seems like every single game they're putting up double-digit runs, which is awesome. It gives you a lot of confidence going into a new game. I gave up a run in

## Kicking Off A Weekend Of Soccer



John Dannenbring, left, and Osmar Pacheco battle for possession during the second annual Yankton Soccer alumni game, held Friday at Lewis & Clark Soccer Park. The event is the kickoff of the Yankton Soccer Invitational, which is being held today (Saturday) and Sunday.