

CLASS A

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Platte-Geddes

The Black Panthers enter with plenty of athletes qualified for the state meet.

Keagan Ringling is looking contend for a medal in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:07.6.

Jordan Kollogg is coming into the long jump with the 12th best distance (19-7.75) and is also qualified for the triple jump (39-9), while Ty Wilkins comes into the pole vault with a height of 10-6.

Wilkins will also compete in the long jump (18-3.5).

Carter Kemnitz is qualified in three events — the 100-meter dash (11.5), triple jump (40-5.5) and pole vault (9-6) — while Matthew Randall will run in the 300-meter hurdles (44.0).

Vermillion

The Vermillion Tanagers have a solid group of kids going into the state meet, and they are looking to bring the Vermillion track program back to familiar haunts.

"Our kids are really excited about this meet," Vermillion head coach Lenni Billberg said. "We are going into this track as an underdog, and we feel that it is a great thing."

"The Vermillion track program has been down for the past couple of years and now we are back and want to make a good showing," she added.

Cody Olson is coming into the 200-meter dash (23.1) in the middle of the pack, but one good day can push Olson into the finals.

"I'm really excited for Cody; last year he missed the qualifying time by one tenth of a second," Billberg said. "He has dropped a full second off of his 200 time and it would be wonderful for him to sneak into the finals."

The Tanagers also qualified their 1600 (3:32.4) and 3200-meter relays (8:32.7).

"Our guys in the 3200 relay have dropped 30 seconds off their time in the last month," Billberg said. "We are in the fast heat and that where we want to be, all our boys have to do is run one race and give it their all."

Wagner

Wagner is looking to make the rest of the state to take notice of the Red Raiders this year.

"Our boys are looking to go up there and make a statement," Wagner head coach John Tyler said. "We have a large number of senior boys going up to state, and our goal this year is to make it in the top eight."

Brandon McAdaragh has been the state meet before, but he is looking for some better results this year. McAdaragh comes in with the second-fastest time in the 1600 (4:39.70) and fifth-fastest in the 3200 (10:14.40).

"Brandon has qualified for the state meet since he was an eighth grader, but he has never placed," Tyler said. "He has been on a mission this year and has run very consistent. I'm looking for him to do very well."

Tat Johanssen, who finished sixth in the 2009 state meet, comes into the discus with the fifth-best throw (160-10). Johanssen also came in with the eighth-best throw in the shot put (47-0.5).

"Tat should place in both of those events," Tyler said. "He is a great competitor and he has done a great job throwing the shot put for his first year."

Mitch Breen has placed in the pole vault before, but is looking to improve from his eighth-place finish from last year. Breen entered tied with the fifth-best height (10-6).

"Mitch had a great week of practice," Tyler said. "He has been a little inconsistent this year, but with this state track meet experience, he could easily rise to the occasion and go over 11 feet."

Trevor Gregor is looking to medal in the discus as he comes in with the seventh-best throw (155-1), while Matthew Fleming is coming in tied for eighth place in the high jump (6-1).

The Red Raiders have their 3200 and medley relay heading to state, with the 3200 coming in with their third-fastest time (8:27.2).

"I know our boys are jacked up for the 3200



Wagner's Jessica Koupal flies over a hurdle during a meet earlier this season. She is the top-ranked competitor in the pole vault, and is ranked in both the 100 and 300 hurdles for the Red Raiders, who will look to improve on their second place finish from a year ago.

P&D FILE PHOTO

relay," Tyler said. "We have four great individuals competing in that event, and I'm looking for them to come out with a great performance."

Girls

Beresford

The Beresford Watchdogs are looking to improve on their finishes during the season at the state meet.

"I think because our region was as tough as it has been," Beresford head coach Kelly Knutson said. "We have a some young athletes, but we are ready for the state meet."

One of those young athletes is Ashley Ostrom, who enters in the middle of the pack of flight two. She is coming in with her best throw

of 115-3.

"I think since Ashley is in the middle of flight two I don't think there is a much pressure put on her," Knutson said.

Molly Kennedy had the third-best triple jump coming into the state meet (34-11.25). She also qualified for the state meet in the high jump.

"Molly has gotten stronger as the year has progressed," Knutson said. "She has done as well as she would have liked in the high jump, but she is looking to possibly set a personal record at the feet at the state meet."

The Watchdogs also have two relay teams heading up to state with their 3200-meter and sprint medley relay team.

"Our goal is to medal in both of those events," Knutson said. "I don't think that our

girls have really hit their peak yet. If they hit their peak at the state track meet, we will have a great shot to medal."

Bon Homme

Bon Homme only has a handful of girls attending the state meet, but the ones that they do have some make some noise for the Cavaliers.

Cassie Schuurmans, who placed fourth at the state meet last year, comes into the state meet with the second-best triple jump (36-0.5).

"With Cassie being a senior, she knows what it takes to win," Bon Homme head coach Byron Pudwill said. "She has been tested multiple times through out the year and she knows what it takes mentally and physically."

Bree Souhrada has a tough road to climb being in the bottom part of the discus (95-10).

"The discus throw is a funny event, if the weather is right and if it is her day than she could easily set a personal record," Pudwill said. "I think that's the only time in the discus."

The sprint medley is looking to be a solid event for Bon Homme at state.

"We have big hopes for the sprint medley," Pudwill said. "Tara Ronke, Sara Burbach, Raquel Sutura and Caitlin Macaulay is the only event, so they should be rested and ready to go out and perform well."

The lack of numbers might be end up being a factor, but the team is going look for all the points they can get.

"As far as points go, we are going to take what we can get," Pudwill said. "We kind of wish that we could have gotten a few more kids qualified to help us out with depth, but we are just hoping that our girls have fun out there."

Dakota Valley

The Dakota Valley Panthers are young, but are looking to gain some valuable experience for the years to come.

"We also tell the girls we want to have fun out there," Dakota Valley head coach Erin Schlee said. "We are a very young team and this track meet will be a big experience boost for most of the girls on the team."

There are a few girls that are coming into the state meet that are seniors. MaKayla Perryman is qualified in the 400 and 800-meter run, which she is in the middle pack in both of them and could possibly be in medal contention.

"MaKayla is one of the best competitors I have ever seen," Schlee said. "She is in the slow heat, so she is going to have to make sure that she finishes first in that heat."

"Whitney Dunn is the only other senior and she is going to have to work hard to finish in the top eight being that she is towards the bottom of the pack," Schlee said.

Jenna Kittler is an eighth grade looking to gain experience but potentially medal as well. She is coming into the track meet with the ninth best time in the 3200-meter run (12:35-4).

"Jenna was the varsity cross country, so she has some big meet experience," Schlee said. "If she runs with the right group of people, I wouldn't put it past her to finish 6th or 7th."

The medley relay has three eighth grades and one sophomore and are looking to cut down on their time.

"Our relay is looking to get their best time of the season," Schlee said. "It is going to be tough to place in this event, so we are looking to gain experience for next season."

Elk Point-Jefferson

The Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies are sitting well to score some big points from familiar and unfamiliar faces.

Chrissy Strassburg enters with the top time in 400-meter dash (58.9) and the second-best time in the 800 (2:23.7).

"Chrissy is an outstanding competitor and I know she really wants to win that 400 title," Elk Point-Jefferson head coach Justin Clercx said. "The 800 is something that she has just started running in the last couple months and I wouldn't be surprised if she placed well in both of those events."

A surprise on the year came from first year jumper, Tascha Donnelly, who comes in with the fifth-best triple jump mark (34-2).

"Tascha has been a big surprise. She is a junior, but this is her first year out for track," Clercx said.

The Huskies have three relays heading up to state 800, 1600 and medley. The teams are high hopes for all of the relays and have a chance to medal in all three of them.

"The 800 relay is going to be the toughest relay to medal in, because Strassburg won't be running because of her other events," Clercx said. "The 1600 relay has good expectations, because we don't feel like we have run our best race and we feel like we can get in the top five. The medley is the relay we are looking forward to, we are looking to go top three."

Ethan-Parkston

The Ethan-Parkston Trojans will be looking to perform well in multiple events to put up some strong team points.

Marie Malloy enters with the top mark in the long jump (17-6.5). She is also looking to do well in the 100-meter dash (12.8), where she is in the middle of the pack.

Alena Labor could possibly come away with two strong finishes in the 1600-meter run (5:24.70) and the 3200 (11:58.60).

Kiana Wiechmann could finish medal in the high jump (5-0), where she is coming in tied for sixth.

The Trojans have two relays 400 (52.40) and medley (4:32.80). Both relays could potentially come away with a medal.

Platte-Geddes

The Black Panthers have a good chance of scoring some points with the amount of depth coming into the state meet.

Destinni Girton has the potential to medal in the high jump (5-2), where she is tied for the second-best height in the state.

Kelroe Griese will have a busy weekend, qualifying for three events 200 (28.6), 400 (1:02.6) and triple jump (32-11).

Alex Hirt is going to have to perform well in the pole vault coming in tied for eighth (8-0), while many girls are tied at (4-10) in the high jump and Emily Johnson is one of those girls.

Vermillion

The Vermillion Tanagers have had an up and down season and are looking to get back on the right track at the right time at the state meet.

Sarah Day enters with a chance to contend for a medal in the 400-meter dash (1:00.9). Her time was the eighth-best in the state and needs to continue to improve at the state meet.

"Sarah has gotten faster and faster as the year has went and she is in a great heat," Vermillion head coach Lenni Billberg said. "I expect Sarah to make the finals."

Beth Szymanski is the throws for the Tanagers and comes in the ninth-best throw in the discus (116-1) and 11th in the shot put (36-5).

"Beth has high expectations in the discus with the distances as close as they are anything could happen," Billberg said. "The shot put is an event that she doesn't really like, but it has been good to her all season."

Vermillion's 1600 and medley relay teams might have an advantage going into the meet with the freshness of the athletes.

"Our relays have been up and down this season getting the right relay together," Billberg said. "We are looking a lot fresher and we are looking for some good times."

Wagner

The Wagner Red Raiders have athletes that have been to the state meet before and are looking to continue some of that success this season.

"We set a goal at the beginning of the season and it was to win it all," Wagner head coach John Tyler said. "We want our girls to do the best they can, but I think anything less than a fifth place finish will be a big disappointment."

Jessica Koupal came in this season as the defending champion in the pole vault and she didn't miss a beat, coming into state with the best height (11-3). Koupal also came in with the fourth-best time in the 100-meter hurdles (15.40) and ninth in the 300 hurdles (48.60).

"Jessica has set her goals pretty high," Tyler said. "She is looking forward to replacing as the pole vault champ and her goal is to place first in two events this year."

Jillanne Doom is coming looking to be in a good spot to come away with some key team points. Doom came in with the fifth best time in the 800 (2:24.9) and 1600-meter run (5:32.50).

"Being that Jillanne is a senior, I think she is ready to go out with a bang," Tyler said. "I've never seen an athlete work as hard as she has."

Sydney Breen is in the middle of the pack in the 300 hurdles (51.0) and pole vault (8-0).

"Sydney on a good day, nine and half feet is possible," Tyler said. "I look for our pole vaulters to help each other out and I think that eight feet will place."

There are eight jumpers that came in qualified with five feet, one of those jumpers is Devon Brecke.

"She is a gamer and since there are a bunch of girls at the same height it is going to come down to misses," Tyler said.

The 1600 and 3200-meter relay squads are going to have to work hard to place well at the state meet.

"Our two mile relay is going to have to run very well to place well," Tyler said. "Both of our relay are going to be a long shot, because they both are going to run very well on Friday."

Damewood K's 10 As Tappers Blank Crofton

CROFTON, Nebraska — Josh Damewood tossed a three-hitter, striking out 10, to lead Yankton to a 13-0 win over Crofton in South Central League amateur baseball action Thursday.

Damewood helped his own cause went a 4-5 effort at the plate, including three doubles. Zach Lambrechts went 2-3 with a home run and four RBI. Rand Thygeson went 3-5, driving in two. Trey Krier and Andy Turbak each had two hits, including a home run, in the win.

Joe Wiebelhaus, Chad Guenther and Kyle Mueller had hits for Crofton. Guenther's hit was a double.

Damewood allowed just two runners past second base in the victory. Mike Sturm took the loss.

Yankton travels to Menno Sunday. Crofton is off until June 3, when it hosts Lesterville.

YANKTON (2-0).....205 040 2 — 13 1 1
CROFTON (0-3).....000 000 0 — 0 3 1
 Josh Damewood and Ross Heine, Mike Sturm, Bill Guenther (6) and Gary Redden

doubled and singled in the win.

Tyler Miller's double was the lone Menno hit.

Wakuilinski allowed one hit over four innings for the win. Doug Hall took the loss.

Wynot, 3-1 overall and 2-0 in SCL play, hosts Pierce in Cedar County action Saturday and Freeman in SCL play Sunday. Menno hosts Yankton Sunday.

MENNO.....001 00 — 1 1 2
WYNOT (3-1).....340 36 — 16 11 1
 Doug Hall, Bo Bruckner (5) and Tate Bruckner, Kevin Kurz (5), Brian Wakuilinski, Brett Wiebelhaus (5) and Drew Lawrence

VFW Teener
S.C. Stars Maroon 5-2, Lakers 3-0
 SIOUX CITY, Iowa — The Sioux City Stars maroon squad swept Yankton in VFW Teener baseball action Thursday.

Sioux City took the opener 5-3.

Shay Robinson doubled and singled, driving in two, and Landon Withrow had two hits and a stolen base to lead Yankton. Mitch Mueller and Tanner Termansen each had a hit and a run scored. Mitch Gullikson reached base three times, once by hit.

Gullikson went the distance in the loss.

Sioux City completed the sweep, despite a complete game three-hitter by Termansen, with a 2-0 victory.

Withrow doubled and Lane Sawatzke singled for Yankton.

Termansen struck out four in six innings of work. Yankton, 0-2, hosts Sioux Falls West Tuesday at Sertoma Park.

Softball
Yellow Jackets 8-10, S.F. Diamonds 6-5
 The Yankton Yellow Jackets swept the Sioux Falls Diamonds in girls' softball action Thursday at Riverside Park.

Yankton won the opener 8-6 behind two hits from Heather Hauer and a double from Abby Bartlett. Also for Yankton, Mikayla Trenhaile, Savannah Steffen and Ellen Andersen had hits.

Hauer struck out three in 2 1/3 innings of work. Becky Frick got the final two batters, striking out one.

Alicia Gregoire, Hauer and Savannah Woods each had two hits as Yankton won the nightcap 10-5.

Anderson added a hit in the win.

Frick went the distance, striking out four.

The Yellow Jackets play in the Vermillion Summer Slam Tournament Saturday and Sunday.

Lightning 16, Crofton 6
 The Yankton Lightning stopped Crofton 16-6 in girls' softball action Thursday night.

Jaclyn Arens, Kalyn Peterka, Jenny Feilmeier, Kaylee Ulmer and Jaclyn Rothschad each had two hits for Yankton. Andi Sprakel, Abby Schulte, Madison Dangler and Karlee Kozak also had hits. Taylor Rotherberger and Molly King drove in runs in the victory.

For Crofton, Tiff Tramp, Mackenzie Johnson, Maria Wortmann, Allison Arens and Kristin Tramp had hits.

Dangler, Jaclyn Arens and Peterka pitched for Yankton. Tiff Tramp and Allison Arens threw for Crofton.

The Lightning play in the Vermillion Summer Slam Tournament Saturday and Sunday.

Crofton 6, Lightning 2
 Amy Mueller, Tiff Tramp and Maria Wortmann had hits to lead Crofton past the Yankton Lightning 6-2 in girls' softball action Tuesday.

Andi Sprakel had two hits for Yankton. Jenny Feilmeier, Jaclyn Arens and Kara Ulmer had hits for the Lightning.

Tramp picked up the win. Arens and Kalyn Peterka pitched for Yankton.

YHS Sweeps ESD All-Sports Team Awards

BRANDON — Yankton claimed top honors in the boys' and tied for top honors in the girls' division of the Eastern South Dakota Conference All-Sports Awards for the 2009-10 school year.

Points are awarded in reverse order of place for seven boys' sports and nine girls' sports.

In the boys' division, Yankton finished with 42 points, led by an ESD title in golf and high finishes in several other sports.

Watertown finished second with 40.5 points, followed by Pierre (36.5) and Aberdeen Central (36).

The Gazelles claimed titles in cross country, competitive dance and track and field to finish with 51.5 points, tying Watertown. Aberdeen Central was third with 48 points.

YHS

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Fitzsimmons, Ryan Ford, Chris Hoffman, Neil Hohenthaner, Kipp Kinsley, Josh Lundgren, Ethan Metheny, Michael Rucker, Zach Sage, Evan Schroeder, Logan Smith, Tyler Sternhagen and Logan Ulmer, several of which will be competing in individual events.

Younmans said that everyone on the team has the potential to contribute.

"There could be on or two events where you get two, three points you weren't expecting," he said. "Those points could be the difference between finishing fifth or sixth (as a team), fourth or fifth."

"That's why it is a team activity. You have to have everyone contribute to move up the chain."

The first day of competition will be held at the Brandon Valley High School track, with competition in all classes moving to Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls Saturday.

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