

# CLASS B

From Page 8A

before regions," Florey said. "I triple-jumped earlier and I came into the high jump a little tired, but I threw my arms up over the bar and somehow made it over the 6-2 mark."

Florey also got Andes Central on the board by placing sixth in the triple jump (40-9.5).

Stress fractures might have sidelined Menno pole vaulter Tyler Handel for most of the year, but he knew what to do when the heat was on. Handel came into the state meet with his best mark of 12-6, but he cleared 13-0. He couldn't keep up with Ipswich's Matt Braun, so Handel took a solid second place finish.

"This is only the third meet that I have jumped at this year," Handel said. "I've been out most of the year with those stress fractures. Jumping 13 feet a new personal record feels great."

Tripp-Delmont-Armour jumper Tyler Payer was looking to continue his strong finish from regions. Payer came home with a second place finish in the long jump (21-0) and was tied for sixth place in the high jump (5-11).

Marion's Brad Tunge continued his strong showing in regions by qualifying for today's finals in the 100, 200 and 400.

Centerville's Jack Foley is looking to medal in the 200 and 400. Foley comes into the finals with the fifth best time in the 200 (24.01) and the eighth best time in the 400 (52.16).

On the girls' side, Freeman did not have many points to end the day Friday, but look for that to pick up today because the Flyers qualified for the finals in four events on Friday.

One girl that was able to put some points on the board for Freeman was Cailey Roth. Only a seventh grader, she proved she could run with the best of them by placing fourth in the 800-meter run (2:25.6).

"Before the race, I was so nervous," Roth said. "After I finished with the race, I thought, 'Now I feel comfortable running at this level.'"

Roth was a little nervous going into the 800, but she may have found her stride as she gears up for the 1600-meter run today.

"I thought I ran very tough today, so I'm going to have to get some rest before the 1600," Roth added.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Andes Central's Cody Snyder fires the winning toss in the boys' discus at the South Dakota State Track Meet Friday in Sioux Falls.

Freeman's Taylor Waltner looked to place high in the 100 (12.76) and 200 (27.57), and Hillary Paulson in the 100 hurdles (16.29). The Flyers' 400 relay team (52.56) is also in the hunt.

Freeman Academy collected some points as its 3200 relay team landed in second place, thanks to a big anchor leg by Lillie Koerner. She took the baton in fifth place, but then made up some ground.

"I knew kind of the other girls that were running that leg and I knew what times they could run," Koerner said. "I knew what we were ranked and what we had to do, so I just went out and did it."

"Winning this event is just a big encouragement to some of the girls that haven't medaled before," she added.

Koerner looks to finish out the year strong with a high place in the 1600.

Scotland's April Winne has had trouble at the state meet before and it seemed to affect her again, but not before she tied for second in the high jump (5-0).

"It is hard to come in when we practiced yesterday and jumped 5-2 fairly easily," Winne said. "I've always had a hard time jumping here for some reason. I had confidence coming and clearing each height until 5-2, and then I started jumping conservatively."

Winne did see some success as she qualified for her first open race in her track career, claiming the last spot in qualifying in the 400 (1:01.55).

"It is going to hard and I've never made it in an open event before," Winne said. "I have to run and just know that it is my last race and give it all I've got."

Andes Central's Kellie Winckler has had a busy week after finishing fourth in the South Dakota State Class B Golf Tournament and, three days later, placing sixth in the triple jump (33-3).

"I knew there was a lot of good jumpers," Winckler said. "I was sitting eighth after my flight going into finals, I knew I could do better and just hoping to jump a little farther."

# CLASS A

From Page 8A

would have a chance," Breen said.

It did take Breen's third attempt to reach her new height, but she knew she could get over without a third miss.

"I have made it in practice; I just got my feet as high as I could and made it," she said. "My brother Mitch (Breen) and Jessica (Koupal) helped guide me through it as well."

Head coach John Tyler knew he would get an outstanding performance from Koupal, and was equally impressed by Breen's effort.

"I pulled them aside six months ago and told them I wanted 16 to 18 points out of them, and they delivered," Tyler said. "Jessica came in with a two foot advantage, so I felt confident with her. Sydney was just amazing. I can't say enough about their performance."

Wagner added to its point total in the 800-meter run with senior Jillanne Doom's fifth place finish, and even though Wagner was in the "slow" section of the 3200-meter relay, the Red Raiders stole a point after finishing in eighth place.

Koupal also put herself in position to score more than a few more points today (Saturday) as she qualified in the 100 and 300-meter hurdles.

"Both races will be very tight with tough competition," Koupal said. "I've been consistent with my times all year, so I am hoping to get off to a better start so I can get a better kick-off."

Doom will compete in the 1600-meter run, and LaShawn MedicineHorn and Devon Brecke will also compete in the high jump.

Tyler said Friday's performance gives the team confidence heading into today (Saturday).

"We are where we want to be, and we will see where we are at the end of the day," Tyler said. "There are a lot of talented girls in Class A, and they all have the same goals as we do."

The Dakota Valley's boys' total didn't look as impressive with only eight points, but the Panthers focus on the first day was getting qualified for the second day.

Even though Dakota Valley didn't get in as many events as it would like, the Panthers qualified for the 100, 200 and 400-meter dash, the 110-meter hurdles and the 400, 800 and 1600-meter relay.

"For our main events, the goal

was to get qualified and to set personal bests," senior Matt Green said. "There is definitely an opportunity to score points. We don't know how promising our goal is to win it, but it's a goal of ours. We just have to see how many points we get."

Dakota Valley head coach Vince Tucker said the team will have to work hard to make up points they missed on scoring on Friday.

"We qualified in a lot of events, but I figured we would get the medley in and maybe score in the 800," he said. "The heat was maybe a factor, but we did good."

There is a possibility there tomorrow, and it all depends on how sore they are when they get out of bed tomorrow," Tucker added with a grin.

The Panthers didn't go scoreless on the day as junior Matt Lupkes crushed his personal best with second place finish in the long jump.

Lupkes, who hadn't reached 21 feet until the region meet last week, hit a jump of 22 feet, five and a half inches to claim the silver.

"That was huge for all of us, and for him," Tucker said.

Lupkes wasn't the only athlete to put together a personal best, but his didn't illicit wows and handshakes from the rest of the competition.

Beresford junior Kyle McKelvey came into the state meet looking to surpass his personal best of 60 feet, three inches in the shot put.

But after a tough week of practice, McKelvey wasn't so sure he would get close enough to 60 feet. McKelvey was right. He didn't throw close to 60 feet. He threw 61 feet, nine and a half inches.

"I was nervous because I wasn't throwing well in practice, but I got a couple good nights sleep and had a lot of energy and adrenaline," McKelvey said. "I wasn't really trying to throw hard, but that's how you get the good throws."

McKelvey's performance this year will now fuel the two-time shot put champion in the off-season as he has his sights set on a new goal.

"I want the state record, which is 67 feet," McKelvey said with a slight grin. "I am going to hit the weights and work on my explosive-ness, and I want to break the record."

Ethan-Parkston sophomore Marie Malloy also had a goal of taking home some hardware, and she was willing to sacrifice to do it.

Malloy was participating in the long jump and was also scheduled to run in the 100-meter dash prelims, but decided to scratch in the 100 so she could focus on winning the long jump.

The move paid off as Malloy won the long jump with a distance of 18 feet, three quarters of an inch.

"It was a tough decision, but making the 100 finals was iffy," Malloy said. "I would rather have the state title. Next year I will hopefully be able to do both."

Not only did Malloy win the long jump, but she also broke the school record, which was held by her sister Maggie Malloy.

But Maggie was there to cheer "Sissy" on the whole way.

"I really wanted to beat my sister's record, which was at 17-7," Malloy said with a big smile. "She was hesitant at first, but after I got it, she just said 'Oh, records are meant to be broken.'"

Elk Point-Jefferson senior Chrissy Strassburg earned gold during the first day.

Strassburg won the 800-meter run, but not without a challenge as she overtook Clark/Willow Lake's Ashley Gruenwald with about 50 meters left in the race.

But the race went according to plan for Strassburg, who now has her focus on winning the 400-meter dash, a race that just eluded her last year.

"I waited until everyone made their move, and then I made mine; that was a pretty tiring race," Strassburg said smiling. "I am looking to get the title in the 400, but I am going to have to work hard for it because there will be tough competition for it."

Ethan-Parkston senior Alena Laber claimed second place in the 3200-meter run.

Bon Homme senior Cassie Schuurmans finished third in the triple jump, as did Wagner senior Mitch Breen in the pole vault.

Today's session will take place at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls with the field events starting at 9 a.m. and the running events at 9:30.

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