


WOKSAPE

Bucks Track Team Continues to Shine in Recent Competitions

Gazelle Track Athletes Focus on Final Three Meets

 **BY JUSTIN GRODE**

On Friday, May 4, the Yankton Bucks attended a track meet in Sioux Falls. It was held at the O' Gorman High School track and many other A and AA schools also attended it.

The Bucks had many strong showings in multiple events. In the 100 meter dash, Alexander Savage led the Bucks with an 11.69 and was followed by Derek Brenner (12.06) and Levi Davis (12.57).

In the 110 meter hurdles, Justin Lillie led the Bucks with a time of 15.39 and was followed by Charlie Stephenson (19.15).

For the 200 meter dash, Alexander Savage led the Bucks by running a 23.45, and Levi Davis was next for the Bucks with a time of 24.79. Davis was followed by Lee Rose who ran 25.16.

The 400 meter dash was led by Lee Rose (55.18) and the next Buck was Mason Strahl (58.69). "I didn't think I'd do very well, because I didn't get to warm up—the meet had just been delayed an hour for thunderstorms, and I was put in the fastest heat, but during the last 200 meters, I passed a few people," said freshman competitor Lee Rose.

In the 800 meter dash Logan Smith ran the fastest for Yankton with a time of 2:04. The next two Bucks were Mason Strahl (2:15) and Levi Davis (2:16).

Kipp Kinsley led the Bucks for the mile also known as the 1600 meter run with a time of 4:37. Bryce Cowman (4:45) and Justin Grode (5:00) were the next to Bucks to finish after Kinsley.

The Bucks did well in the High Jump with Zach Sage leading them. Sage jumped 6-1 and not far behind was J.J. Hejna with a 4-11. Matt Fitzgerald jumped 5-3 also for the Bucks.

Casey Skillingstad and James Hofer both pole vaulted 11-0 in pole vault for the Bucks.

Connor Fitzsimmons dominated the triple jump with a jump of 43-8 and next for the Bucks jumpers was Matt Fitzgerald with a jump of 35-8. "At O'Gorman, I jumped my best—if I can jump like that at ESD or at state, I'll be happy," said Yankton senior, Connor Fitzsimmons.

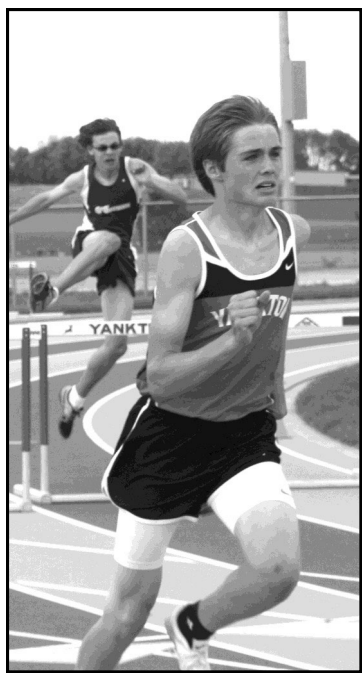


PHOTO BY MATTIE BLAGG

Charlie Stephenson looks ahead to the next hurdle.

Fitzsimmons also led the Bucks in the long jump with a jump of 21-5.5 which was his personal record.

In discus, Ty Soulek led the way for the Bucks with a throw of 139-0, and Terry Huber was close to him with a throw of 130-4. Brady Knodel also threw discus for the Bucks with a throw of 102-9.

Ty Soulek also led the Bucks in the shot put with a throw of 52-8.75 and next for the Bucks was Brady Knodel (42-10.5).

The 3200 meter run was won by Brice Cowman with a time of 10:08.

"I knew that I was the top seed after Kipp had to leave and wasn't in the race. A pack went out, and I basically stayed behind them to conserve energy. Then, on the second mile, they slowed down and I took off. It was between me and another kid for the second mile, and he pushed me through it," said Yankton sophomore, Brice Cowman.

The Yankton Bucks 4x100 team ran a 45.51 and the 4x200 team ran a 1:37.2 at the O' Gorman track meet.

The medley team ran a 3:57; the 4x800 team ran a 8:43, and lastly, the Yankton Bucks 4x400 ran a 3:39.

All in all, the Bucks performed well at the O'Gorman track meet and returned home with many medals.

The team is looking ahead to the final few meets which will round out a successful YHS Bucks track and field season.

 **BY SAVANNAH CHAMBERS**

The Gazelles are looking forward to a strong end to the season. They will finish the year with ESD in Yankton (May 12), Final Chance at Sioux Falls Roosevelt (May 17), and state at Rapid City (May 25-26).

It has been season full of talent and hard work. With the outstanding number of new freshmen joining the team, the Gazelles began to build a new team for the year and seasons to follow. Freshman Meggie Steiner took her chance trying a new part of track this year by pole vaulting. Her best vault was 7 foot 6 inches, and she is excited to see how her following high school years in pole vaulting will go.

Freshmen sprinters Rachael Dvorak, Kaylee Wootton, and Veronica Turner also commented on how the practices this year pushed and encouraged them to work hard and have fun during the season. Along with Steiner, Dvorak, Wootton, and Turner, many of the other freshmen excelled in their areas and are looking forward to the future.

Some of the older Gazelles have also been good role models and very encouraging leaders of the team.

Junior Kelsey Fitzgerald is one of the more experienced Gazelles who is always smiling and striving for improvement. She is glad for all the upcoming participants and said, "The



PHOTO BY MATTIE BLAGG

Yankton freshman, Julie DeWitt, leaps through the air in the long jump competition.


coaches have been putting in a lot of work to make sure everyone is prepared and ready to perform at state. I expect us to do well at state."

With all the personal records achieved by the Gazelles during this track season, they are looking forward to the final few meets, and ultimately state, as another chance to go out a try their best by challenging themselves.

This track season was a first for some and the last for some of our seniors, but no matter what year or how much experience they have, all the Gazelles agree the season has been good and pushed them to reach their goals.

Now, with the last three meets quickly approaching, they are focusing on technique and remembering all their training from earlier in the year.

Bucks Tennis Team Gears Up for End of the Season Matches

 **BY ABBEY VANMEETEREN**

The Bucks tennis team has been having a pretty awesome season this year. The record so far this year is 6-3. The wins are coming from Vermillion, against whom they've won four games.

The Bucks also came out on top in their games against Sioux City North and Sioux City Heelan. The boys seem to be improving one step at a time, and they're all getting excited for bigger matches coming up.

"I'm getting better every time I step on the court; it's been a lot of fun," said junior John Fanta.

The weather has been great for tennis this spring. There have only been a few rainy days, which give the boys plenty of practicing time outside on the court to get ready. The ESD competition is May 11, and state is from May 17 through May 19.

The team is eager to see how they can compete at the state level; and, Coach Muth has them working hard in practice, so they won't be disappointed. "This year at ESD, the toughest competition will be Watertown and Brandon Valley. And at state, the toughest competition will be Washington and O'Gorman," said Coach Muth.

The team can do well in both of these big matches, they just have to keep practicing and working really hard.

At this critical point in the season, everyone starts getting tired. School is getting out soon, so it makes it hard to concentrate in practice and have motivation. This does not seem to be a big problem for the Bucks though, because Muth makes the practices hard and productive, but at the same time, fun. "We do a lot of hitting and serving



PHOTO BY MATTIE BLAGG

Yankton freshman, Paul Fanta, follows through on a serve for YHS.

drills. The practices last until around 5:30," said Fanta.

The team does not have much time left to get ready before the big matches arrive, but the team members are constantly improving and working hard. "The season has been pretty good; it was definitely a good choice to go out for tennis," said junior Eric Stratman.

The teammates do have a lot of fun and would encourage anyone to give tennis a try next year. They always welcome new people.

"The practices are a lot of fun. Muth gives us a lot of drills to get better, but makes it fun for everyone. Every practice, I feel like I'm getting better," said Stratman.

The team is highly competitive.

"Muth is a great coach; he's competitive," said Fanta.

Coach Muth's competitive edge transfers to the boys in practice, and the competitors are hoping it will carry over into their remaining matches this spring.

The boys have been competing well all season, so they definitely hope to compete well in these final matches.

Also, the season is coming to a close, but they can always use more fans to cheer them on as they finish up the year.

Results for ESD matches held in Brandon Valley on May 11 were not available at press time.

The Bucks tennis team travels to Rapid City for state action later this week.

Gazelle Golfers Complete Regular Season Play, Prepare for State

 **BY ASHLEY EILERS**

The Yankton girl's golf team has been preparing for their upcoming state girl's golf tournament, which will be held on May 21 and May 22 in Sioux Falls. With only two weeks left until the State Tournament, the girls have been in full swing at practices.

In the past two meets, the girls have done exceptionally well.

Sophomore Amber Livingston stated, "Our team as a whole has been playing very well lately, with many of our girls shooting good numbers pretty consistently, we always have people we can count on."

The girls placed second in the Yankton invite held on April 20 and fifth in the Sioux Falls invite on April 30.

Since golf is drawing to a close, the girls have been perfecting every shot and stroke. During practice, they either play nine holes or they practice on the driving range and putting greens. "Lately, we have been working on individual

weaknesses whether it be the short game, long game, or actually playing the course," said Yankton girl's golf Coach Brett Sime.

To prepare for state, Coach Brett Sime commented, "As a team, we are stressing getting better at the short game."

Livingston said, "We practice a lot with our short game to see if we can knock off some unnecessary strokes."

Livingston added, "When we are on the range, Coach Sime watches our swing, so if we mess up, he can get us back on track; but, for the most part, he just tells us to do our best."

Sophomore Alyssa Schild appreciates Coach Sime's advice and said, "Coach Sime tells us to change our grip, and swing slower."

"Our last tournament was ESD, so we're just practicing for state by golfing at Fox Run and Hillcrest. We're working on our short game—chipping and putting," said junior Megan Mingo.

The girl's golf team has their sights set on finishing in the top three at the upcoming state competition!



Photography
by DeAnn

605.661.3180

104 Jerry Street, Yankton

For all your senior, family
and children's portraits

photographybydeann.com

photography by deann
on Facebook



Graduation Special!

2 Rooms up to 300 sq. ft. \$72.95

\$16.50 for additional rooms (traffic only)

665-5700 1-800-529-2450 Offer expires May 20, 2012



These Premium Paints Feature

Paint & Primer Together

SAVE 25% OFF Gallons

Yankton Paint & Decorating

406 Broadway • Yankton, SD • 665-5032

www.yanktonpaintanddecorating.com