

Track | Howard Wood Dakota Relays

# USD's Miles Gets Premier Nod



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&amp;D

South Dakota assistant track coach Derek Miles is greeted by meet volunteers during Friday's session of the Howard Wood Dakota Relays. Miles, a USD graduate, is a three-time Olympian in the pole vault, who retired from competition after the 2012 Olympics. He was presented with proclamations from S.D. Governor Dennis Daugaard and Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether, declaring May 3 as Derek Miles Day.

## Coyote Men, Women Have Big Day Despite Windy, Cool Conditions

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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SIoux FALLS — It was only fitting that on "Derek Miles Day" that one of his protégés won the men's pole vault.

Miles, the three-time Olympian and University of South Dakota assistant coach, was recognized during the Friday session of the 88th Howard Wood Dakota Relays for his accomplishments, as well as his contributions to the sport and to the Relays.

"It's always fun when you're being recognized locally for something you've done in the past," said Miles after the recognition. "This is a great event with a tremendous support system."

The day started for Miles and USD with freshman Peter Chapman winning the men's pole vault, clearing 16 feet. Sioux Falls' Jagger Gran also cleared 16 feet in finishing second.

"He actually looked pretty good today," Miles said, referring to the cool conditions and the strong cross-wind that hampered the event. "He had six inches on 16-6, and that's what I think it will take to make the NCAA First Round. We'll get back to work and figure out what it takes to get over that next bar."

The pole vault was competed on a man-made platform placed in the middle of the football field inside the Howard Wood track. With the bar being located near the 40-yard-line, the competition was right in the middle of the action.

"It's a good place to jump," Miles noted. "I think that if you get some good competition here, you could see a national best mark here."

## also

■ Jeremy Hoeck Will Post Updates Saturday From Howard Wood. [twitter.com/jhoeck](https://twitter.com/jhoeck)

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Breanna Janovy won the women's shot put with a toss of 43-7 1/2.

Former Coyote Kenna Wolter beat out her former teammates Tess (36-5 1/2) and Ashlea (36-4 1/4) Johnson to win the women's triple jump. Wolter went 39-9 3/4.

In the men's triple jump, Cody Linder finished second at 43-8 1/2.

On the track, Alexa Duling started her final collegiate competition in the state in typical fashion, beating out North Dakota State standout and Watertown native Brittany Page in the 200-meter dash. Duling clocked a 24.32, 0.24 faster than Page. USD's Analisa Huschle (24.97) and Molly Ervin (25.21) placed third and fourth.

Duling felt the race was not bad, despite the wind.

"When you only run around half the track, you usually get a little bit of a tail wind," she said. "Even though the weather was not great I wanted to get out and compete. You never know what the weather will be like for conference or nationals, and I wanted to have experienced it, whatever it might be."

The other field event competitions also proved to be a medals boon for USD.

Denton Stephens won the hammer throw (181-0), with teammate Cody Snyder winning the discus (165-5) by nearly 24 feet over teammates Kyle McKelvey (141-8)

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## Parker Overcomes Drop To Win Relay

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&amp;D

Parker's Duane Jongeling anchors the Pheasants to victory in the Class B boys' 3200 relay at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays on Friday in Sioux Falls.

SIoux FALLS — Even though the cold wind meant that the feel of the baton was not what it normally is, the Parker boys' 3200 relay squad had its normal feel, finishing first.

Parker survived a dropped baton on the first exchange to run away with the victory in the Class B race, one of several highlights for area teams on the opening day of the Howard Wood Dakota Relays, Friday at Howard Wood Field.

Parker's Ryan Olson got the race started, and was preparing to hand off to Jake Vollmer when things went wrong.

"I must have zoned out," he said. "I reached out to hand it out, then I just dropped it."

Vollmer felt the baton hit his hand, but it wasn't there when he closed that hand.

"I picked it up right away," he said. "I wanted to be close

enough so that Michael (Olson) and Duane (Jongeling) could run them down."

Michael Olson got the baton with Parker in fifth place. Two laps later, he handed off to Jongeling with the lead.

"I know Dewey (Jongeling) can make up a lot of space, but I was trying to get into first," he said. "I felt good the last 200, so I kicked it in as much as I could."

Jongeling pounded things home as the team clocked an 8:32.73, 11 seconds better than runner-up James Valley Christian.

"I tried to go out as fast as I could," he said. "In the last 200, I looked up at the video screen and no one was around me, so I coasted in."

The big victory against some of the state's top small-school teams was a confidence boost heading in to the final few meets of the regular season.

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## Yankton Wins 11 Titles At SF O'Gorman Invite

SIoux FALLS — Yankton athletes won 11 titles, with J.J. Hejna involved in four and Ryan Olson involved in three, at the O'Gorman Invitational track and field meet on Friday in Sioux Falls.

Hejna won the high jump (6-3), long jump (21-4) and triple jump (44-3 1/2), and helped the Bucks to victory in the 1600 relay (3:44.60). Olson, who was also a part of that relay victory with

Bradey Sorenson and Derek Brenner, also won the 400 (52.95) and 800 (2:04.79).

Alexander Savage won the 100 (11.64), finished second in the 200 (23.73) and helped lead the Bucks to victory in the 400 relay (45.78). Richard Culver, who was also on that winning relay, finished second in the long jump (20-3) and helped the Bucks to a run-

ner-up finish in the medley relay (4:04.21).

Lee Rose and Tim Cross completed the 400 relay foursome. Levi Davis, Connor Chambers and Hiram Alvarez rounded out the medley squad for the Bucks.

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## Back-Flip: Saunders Returning To T'Wolves Front Office

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor sat before a throng of media, swallowed hard and said what many in and around the organization had been thinking for about nine years.

It was a mistake for him to sign off on the decision to fire Flip Saunders as coach back in 2005, less than a year after Saunders led the team to the Western Conference finals, Taylor said. And it was time for Taylor to right that wrong.

Saunders was named the team's new president of basketball operations on Friday, a five-year deal that includes a minority ownership stake in the franchise he helped turn from a laughingstock into

a consistent winner. Saunders replaces David Kahn, who was fired Thursday after four years with the team.

"I've made a lot of great decisions in my life and a lot of things in business that have worked well," the billionaire owner said. "Occasionally, I've made a wrong decision. And perhaps supporting Flip leaving our organization as coach is one of those things I did wrong."

Bringing Saunders back into the fold marks a return to the only real success



Saunders

the team has had since coming into the league in 1989. He coached the Wolves from 1995-2005, leading them to eight straight playoff appearances, including a run to the Western Conference finals in 2004.

Saunders was fired the next season, and the franchise has cratered since his departure. Kevin Garnett was traded, Kevin McHale was fired and the Wolves have not been back to the playoffs since Saunders was on the sideline.

Even after a difficult exit, Saunders managed to maintain a close relationship with Taylor. The two talked often as Saunders worked his way through coaching jobs in Detroit and Washington. So when

the opportunity came about to bring Saunders back, Taylor didn't hesitate. He said he had a list of eight candidates, including Phil Jackson, ready if Saunders said no, but never had to call one of them.

"Is it a homecoming?" said Saunders, the former University of Minnesota standout who kept his home in the state even after he was fired by the Wolves. "My house has always been here, so I really never left."

The possibility of rekindling their working relationship came up over the last month or so. Saunders had been in conversation with Taylor on behalf of a couple of different groups that were inter-

ested in buying the Wolves. Those deals never worked out, and Saunders said that he could see Taylor wasn't as interested in selling the team as he may have let on.

The two then decided to execute a plan for Taylor to keep the team and Saunders to join as president and limited partner.

"His commitment here is a big one," Taylor said.

Taylor also said he has taken the team off the market and has offered to buy out his other limited partners and strengthen his hold on a team that he saved from

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## Huskers Say 2013-14 Season Already A Sellout

BY ERIC OLSON  
AP Sports Writer

Nebraska officials knew this fall's opening of a new arena would bring an attendance bump for the long-struggling men's basketball team.

They didn't know it would be this much this soon.

The athletic department announced Friday that the public's allotment of tickets is sold out — six months before the first game at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

"It's quite amazing," said Marc Boehm, the associate athletic director for basketball. "There are a lot of happy faces over here."

The new arena in downtown

Lincoln will seat 15,147 for basketball. The only tickets left are the ones that must be held back for the visiting team and about 100 student tickets that are expected to be sold soon.

Public season-ticket sales are up 95 percent — from 6,917 last season to 13,500. Student ticket sales are at 1,516, compared with 1,165. The Huskers have never before gone into a season sold out.

"Our program has momentum and people are excited to see where we can take this thing," coach Tim Miles said.

The previous high for season-ticket sales was 12,000 in 1992-93.

The Huskers were 15-18 over-

all and finished in 10th place at 5-13 in the Big Ten in Miles' first season. Average attendance was 10,352 in the final year at the Devaney Sports Center.

Miles said he thought it would be possible to sell out the new arena.

"But I didn't expect it this soon. No way," he said. "I'm glad to have a waiting list, and I hope that waiting list piles up. I hope everyone shows up and stands up and yells at the top of their lungs. It should be a great thing."

The \$179 million arena is the centerpiece of the West Haymarket Development project, which will include hotels, restaurants, parking and shopping located a

## Coyotes Hand NDSU First Summit Loss

FARGO, N.D. — South Dakota softball handed North Dakota State its first Summit League loss of the season and ended the Bison's 15-game winning streak with a 5-1 victory on Friday at Ellig Sports Complex. The Coyotes lost the second game of the doubleheader 4-1.

The first game loss was the first for the Bison since March 20 at Nebraska. The game two victory, NDSU won the league's regular season championship for the second straight season.

Erica Denney (17-7) went the distance in the opener and struck out six batters while surrendering only three hits and zero earned runs. She retired 11 straight batters from the first to the fourth inning and six straight to end the game.

Missy Blackburn (4-2) earned the start in game two and allowed four runs over six innings of work. She also struck out two and walked two in the loss, her first in Summit League play.

Katie Dinning was 4 of 6 with one double and one run scored on the day, while Matley Jones and Christine Broders (Yankton) each homered and Katie Cochran scored two runs.

South Dakota entered the top of the third inning of game one trailing 1-0. The Coyotes loaded the bases for Yvon Minogue with a walk and two singles. Minogue hit a ground ball to NDSU second baseman Cheyenne Garcia, whose throw home sailed high and allowed Cochran and Lindsey Boyd

to score and give USD a one run lead.

Back-to-back home runs in the top of the sixth inning from Jones and Broders helped the 'Yotes stretch their lead to three runs. Later in the inning Cochran scored after Minogue hit into a bases loaded fielder's choice, bringing the score to 5-1, the eventual final.

The Bison scored their only run of game one in the bottom of the first inning.

NDSU scored the first four runs in the day's second game. South Dakota's lone run came in the top of the sixth on consecutive doubles by Cochran and Minogue.

The Coyotes will play a third game against the Bison at noon today (Saturday).