

Press&Dakotan

DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JEREMY HOECK
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As I sit here at the computer on Friday night, our sports editor James Cimburek is up in Sioux Falls covering the Howard Wood Dakota Relays. The 2-day event, which brings together high school and college athletes, is back from a 1-year hiatus at Howard Wood Field.

By the time you read this, James and I will have switched places. He will be in town handling various assignments and I will be up at Howard Wood.

Though weather has seemingly always been a concern for the Dakota Relays weekend, it's still one of my favorite events to cover. It's a unique setup to have high school kids joining the "big boys," including a handful

High School, College Setup Makes Howard Wood Relays Special

of Division I schools — athletes from the University of South Dakota, South Dakota State and North Dakota State are competing this weekend.

That's truly a rare opportunity for kids from Yankton or Gayville-Volin or Irene-Wakonda, for example. It's not only a measuring stick for those athletes, but it makes for dual fanbases. You have your Yankton fans who will be out in full force (well, depending on the weather, I suppose) and you'll have your USD or SDSU parents at the meet. But you'll also draw in the average fans; those who probably wouldn't come out to a regular track meet.

Instead, they are treated to some of the best competition our state has to offer.

These are all reasons why I certainly don't mind braving 50 degree temperatures and 20-mile-an-hour winds. Or, in the case of 2011 (the last Howard Wood), the wicked sun tans I came back to Yankton with.

Norfolk Catholic Sweeps Invite

NORFOLK, Neb. — The hometown Norfolk Catholic Knights swept the team track titles at their home invite on Thursday in Norfolk, Neb.

Catholic won five events on the girls' side to finish first with 139 total points. Pierce was second at 95, while Hartington finished fifth at 53.

Hartington's Michaela Dendinger won both throwing events, the shot put at 40-11 and discus at 125-2.

On the boys' side, Norfolk Catholic was first in four events to take first place with 148 points. O'Neill was second at 87, followed by Hartington with 80.5.

For the third-place Wildcats, Adam Hochstein won the 1600-meter run (4:42.5) and Pat Wortmann won the 3200 (10:22.2).

No TOPSoccer Today

There will not be TOPSoccer in Yankton on Saturday, May 4. The action will resume Saturday, May 11 at 3 p.m.

in the southeast corner of Memorial Park.

TOPSoccer Season Underway

Yankton Youth Soccer Association began its Spring 2013 TOPSoccer season on Saturday April 20, in the southeastern corner of Memorial Park from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The season runs for 5 weeks, weather permitting. In the event of bad weather, there will be no soccer. TOP-Soccer is for players with physical, mental, social, and emotional special needs. You must be at least 4 years old to play TOPSoccer.

The focus is on fun. Players participate based on ability, not age. There is no charge to play TOPSoccer. The players learn basic soccer skills, and of course they play soccer.

Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated. Volunteers do not need to know how to play soccer. Some volunteers just become a buddy to a player who needs a little help or focus. Other volunteers who know how to play

soccer can participate in unified teams (special needs players with volunteers to fill a team).

For more information, contact Nancy Saunders at 665-7411.

SDSU Baseball Rained Out Friday

MACOMB, Ill. — Friday's opening game of a Summit League baseball series between South Dakota State and Western Illinois has been rained out.

The two squads are now scheduled to play double-headers both today (Saturday) and Sunday at Alfred D. Boyer Stadium.

The Jackrabbits enter the week 22-14 overall, including a 7-5 mark in The Summit League. Western Illinois is 13-26 overall, 4-8 in league play.

JASA Raises Record \$505,000

BROOKINGS — The 2013 edition of the Jackrabbit Athletic Scholarship Auction raised a record \$505,000, or-

ganizers of the event announced Friday.

"We truly appreciate the phenomenal support from our donors and friends in helping provide our student-athletes with scholarship support as part of a top-notch experience," Director of Athletics Justin Sell said. "The results of the auction help cap what has been another tremendous year for Jackrabbit Athletics both in competition and in the classroom."

More than 600 people attended the April 27 event at Frost Arena. The amount raised, which was about 30 percent more than the previous record in 2012 and a seven-fold increase from only four years ago, includes a matching gift from an anonymous donor. Nearly 200 items were up for bid between live and silent auctions during the evening.

The \$505,000 raised will help support more than 30 full scholarships for Jackrabbit Athletics.

USF Ink Standout Wing Ward

SIoux FALLS — University of Sioux Falls head men's basketball coach Chris Johnson announced that Charles

Ward signed a national letter of intent with USF Thursday and will join the Cougars' program this fall. Ward, a 6-2 wing from Phoenix, Ariz., is the second player to sign with USF this week.

Ward joins USF after playing one season at Western Nebraska Community College, where he averaged 20.0 points, 3.2 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.4 steals per game last season for the Cougars. In 31 appearances, Ward scored 20 points or more 15 times, and 30-plus on three occasions including two 37-point performances.

The latter of his two scoring clinics came in January, when Ward went 10-of-11, 4-of-4 from behind the arc to match a season and career-high 37 points vs. Otero Junior College. Ward scored in double figures in all but three games last season.

The Cougar's 2013-14 class now consists of two guards, Mack Johnson and Kebu Johnson, a wing in Ward, and a pair of front court players in Tom Aase and Daven Utley.

SCOREBOARD	
TRACK & FIELD	
NORFOLK CATHOLIC INV. May 2 at Norfolk, Neb.	
GIRLS' DIVISION	
TEAM SCORES: Norfolk Catholic 139, Pierce 95, O'Neill 78, Lutheran High Northeast 53, Hartington 53, Stanton 47, Wakefield 27, Pierce JV 24, O'Neill JV 4	
EVENT WINNERS: 100: Casey Sutherland, Pierce 12.8; 200: Jacy Bretschneider, Pierce 26.8; 400: Ari Rathke, LH Northeast 1:05.6; 800: Amy Miller, Norfolk Catholic 2:34.3; 1600: Dani Barelmann, O'Neill 5:57.4; 3200: Braska Patterson, Pierce 15.4; 300 HURDLES: Bailey Barnes, Norfolk Catholic 49.0; 400 RELAY: Pierce 52.2; 1600 RELAY: Norfolk Catholic 4:23.1; 3200 RELAY: Norfolk Catholic 10:40.1; DISCUS: Michaela Dendinger, Hartington 125-2; HIGH JUMP: Jaci Brahmer, Pierce 5-5; LONG JUMP: Megan Gebhardt, LH Northeast 15-0.25; POLE VAULT: Abby Beller, Norfolk Catholic 8-6;	
BOYS' DIVISION	
TEAM SCORES: Norfolk Catholic 148, O'Neill 87, Hartington 80.5, Lutheran High Northeast 72, Pierce 60.5, Stanton 34, Wakefield 24, Pierce JV 13, Norfolk Catholic JV 4	
EVENT WINNERS: 100: Kegan Ehlers, Norfolk Catholic 11.0; 200: Kegan Ehlers, Norfolk Catholic 22.6; 400: Kale Kucera, LH Northeast 58.2; 800: Josh Dolph, Wakefield 2:07.0; 1600: Adam Hochstein, Hartington 4:42.5; 3200: Pat Wortmann, Hartington 10:22.2; 110 HURDLES: Trent Spieker, Pierce 15.2; 300 HURDLES: Tate Laursen, O'Neill 41.2; 400 RELAY: Lutheran High Northeast 44.5; 1600 RELAY: O'Neill 3:33.9; 3200 RELAY: O'Neill 8:21.0; DISCUS: Dalton Bichlmeier, LH Northeast 151-9; HIGH JUMP: Lane Rohrich, Pierce 6-1; LONG JUMP: Jordan Beller, Norfolk Catholic 20-5.25; POLE VAULT: Jon Marvin, O'Neill 12-6; SHOT PUT: Beau Schommer, Norfolk Catholic 48-10; TRIPLE JUMP: Tyler Pettitt, Pierce 41-9	
BASEBALL	
GREAT PLAINS ATHLETIC CONF.	
May 2-4 at Hastings, Neb.	
Thursday, May 2	
NOTE: Games 1-8 are 7 innings	
No. 1 Northwestern 4, No. 8 Dakota Wesleyan 3, 8 innings	
No. 7 Hastings 6, No. 2 Doane 1	
No. 5 Nebraska Wesleyan 5, No. 4 Mount Marty 1	
No. 6 Midland 3, No. 3 Morningside 2	
No. 6 Midland 8, No. 7 Hastings 6	
No. 1 Northwestern 3, No. 5 Nebraska Wesleyan 1	
GAME 7: No. 2 Doane 2, No. 3 Morningside 0, Morningside eliminated	
GAME 8: No. 8 Dakota Wesleyan 4, No. 4 Mount Marty 3, 9 innings, Mount Marty eliminated	
Friday, May 3	
NOTE: Pairings For games 12 and 13 may need to be adjusted to avoid previously or recently matched opponents	
GAME 9: No. 1 Northwestern 16, No. 6 Mid-	
land 5	
GAME 10: No. 2 Doane 4, No. 5 Nebraska Wesleyan 0, NWU eliminated	
GAME 11: No. 8 Dakota Wesleyan 10, No. 7 Hastings 8, Hastings eliminated	
GAME 12: No. 6 Midland 7, No. 8 Dakota Wesleyan 4, DWU eliminated	
GAME 13: No. 2 Doane 10, No. 1 Northwestern 2	
Saturday, May 4	
GAME 14: No. 6 Midland (30-23) vs. No. 2 Doane (32-19), 11 a.m.	
GAME 15: Game 14 winner vs. No. 1 Northwestern (30-17), 30 minutes following game 14.	
AMERICAN LEAGUE	
Thursday's Games	
Tampa Bay at Kansas City, p.p.d., rain	
Boston 3, Toronto 1	
Chicago White Sox 3, Texas 1	
Detroit 7, Houston 3, 14 innings	
Baltimore 5, L.A. Angels 1	
Friday's Games	
Cleveland 7, Minnesota 6, 10 innings	
Oakland 2, N.Y. Yankees 0	
Seattle 4, Toronto 0	

AREA CALENDAR	
Saturday, May 4	
BASEBALL, COLLEGE Great Plains Athletic Conf. Tour. at Hastings, Neb.	
BASEBALL, PREP Beresford-Centerville at Lennox; Dakota Valley at Wagner-Avon-Lake Andes	
BASEBALL, JV Yankton at Brandon Valley (DH, 3 p.m.)	
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Great Plains Athletic Conf. Tour. at Sioux City, Iowa; USD at N.D. State (noon)	
GOLF, GIRLS' Milbank Inv. (Parkston)	
TENNIS, WOMEN'S Great Plains Athletic Conference Championships at Fremont, Neb. (MMC, 9 a.m.)	
TENNIS, BOYS' YHS/Aberdeen Central/Huron at Brookings (10 a.m.)	
TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR Great Plains Athletic Conference Championships at Seward, Neb. (MMC; Howard Wood Dakota Relays) (USD)	
TRACK & FIELD, PREP Howard Wood Dakota Relays (YHS, Alcester-Hudson, Andes Central, Avon, Beresford, Bon	
Homme, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Ethan-Parkston, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Menno, Parker, Platte-Geddes, Vermillion, Viborg-Hurley, 10 a.m.); Parker Inv. (Centerville, Ethan-Parkston, Parker, Viborg-Hurley, 9-30 a.m.)	
TRACK & FIELD, MS Yankton Junior High Relays (9 a.m.)	
Sunday, May 5	
BASEBALL, PREP R.C. Central at Yankton (DH, 1 p.m.); Bon Homme at Elk Point-Jefferson (DH); Hanson at Beresford-Centerville; Vermillion at Parkston	
BASEBALL, 9TH-10TH Harrisburg at Yankton (DH, 1 p.m.)	
Monday, May 6	
GOLF, BOYS' Highway 20 Inv. at Bassett GC (Niobrara-Verdigris, 10 a.m.); Pre-Region 3B at Elmwood, Sioux Falls (Freeman, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Parker, Viborg-Hurley, 10 a.m.); Pre-Region 4B at Lakeview GC, Mitchell (Andes Cen-	
tral, Avon, Platte-Geddes, Tripp-Delmont); Randolph Inv. (Bloomfield-Wausa, Creighton, Crofton, Hartington, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Randolph, Santee, 1 p.m.)	
GOLF, GIRLS' Eastern S.D. Conf. Championships at Fox Run, Yankton (YHS, 10 a.m.); Pre-Region 4A at Pierre (Bon Homme, Parkston, 9 a.m.); Big Sioux Conf. at North Sioux City (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, 9 a.m.); Pre-Region 3B at Elmwood, Sioux Falls (Freeman, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Parker, Viborg-Hurley, 10 a.m.); Pre-Region 4B at Lakeview GC, Mitchell (Andes Central, Avon, Platte-Geddes, Tripp-Delmont)	
TENNIS, BOYS' YHS at S.F. O'Gorman (4 p.m.)	
TRACK & FIELD, PREP Lennox Booster Club Qualifier (Dakota Valley, Ethan-Parkston, Vermillion, 4 p.m.); Menno Relays (Freeman, Freeman Academy, Marion, Menno, Parker, 9-30 a.m.)	
Texas 7, Boston 0	
Detroit 4, Houston 3	
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, p.p.d., rain	
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.	
Baltimore at L.A. Angels, 10:05 p.m.	
Saturday's Games	
Minnesota (Correia 3-1) at Cleveland	
(Kazmir 0-1), 12:05 p.m.	
Oakland (Colon 3-0) at N.Y. Yankees	
(Hughes 0-2), 12:05 p.m.	
Seattle (Iwakuma 2-1) at Toronto (Dickey 2-4), 12:07 p.m.	
Baltimore (F.Garcia 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Hanson 2-1), 3:05 p.m.	
Chicago White Sox (Avelrod 0-1) at Kansas City (Guthrie 3-0), 6:10 p.m.	
Detroit (Scherzer 3-0) at Houston (Harrell 3-2), 6:10 p.m.	
Boston (Lackey 1-1) at Texas (Ogando 2-2), 7:05 p.m.	
Tampa Bay (Price 1-2) at Colorado (Garland 2-2), 7:10 p.m.	
Sunday's Games	
Minnesota at Cleveland, 12:05 p.m.	
Oakland at N.Y. Yankees, 12:05 p.m.	
Seattle at Toronto, 12:07 p.m.	
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, 1:10 p.m.	
Boston at Texas, 2:05 p.m.	
Baltimore at L.A. Angels, 2:35 p.m.	
Detroit at Houston, 3:10 p.m.	
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.	
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
Thursday's Games	
San Diego 4, Chicago Cubs 2	
Philadelphia 7, Miami 2	
Washington 3, Atlanta 1	
St. Louis 6, Milwaukee 5	
Friday's Games	
Cincinnati 6, Chicago Cubs 5	
Philadelphia 4, Miami 1	
Pittsburgh 3, Washington 1	
N.Y. Mets 7, Atlanta 5, 10 innings	
St. Louis 6, Milwaukee 1	
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.	
Arizona at San Diego, 10:10 p.m.	
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.	
Saturday's Games	
Cincinnati (Cingrani 2-0) at Chicago Cubs	
(Samardzija 1-4), 12:05 p.m.	
St. Louis (Wainwright 4-2) at Milwaukee	
(Gallardo 3-1), 3:05 p.m.	
Washington (Strasburg 1-4) at Pittsburgh	
(Locke 3-1), 3:05 p.m.	
Miami (Fernandez 0-2) at Philadelphia	
(Hamels 1-3), 6:05 p.m.	
N.Y. Mets (Niese 2-2) at Atlanta (Teheran 1-0), 6:10 p.m.	
Tampa Bay (Price 1-2) at Colorado (Garland 2-2), 7:10 p.m.	
Arizona (Corbin 3-0) at San Diego (Richard 0-3), 7:40 p.m.	
L.A. Dodgers (Magill 0-0) at San Francisco (Vogelsong 1-2), 8:05 p.m.	
Sunday's Games	
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 12:35 p.m.	
Washington at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.	
St. Louis at Milwaukee, 1:10 p.m.	
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 1:20 p.m.	
Miami at Philadelphia, 1:35 p.m.	
Arizona at San Diego, 3:10 p.m.	
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.	
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco, 7:05 p.m.	

O'G Inv

From Page 7

The Bucks also got a victory from Brice Cowman in the open 1600 (4:39.53). Also for Yankton, Casey Skillingstad and Irene-Wakonda's Dustin Livingston tied for second in the pole vault (12-6), Michael Rucker finished second in the 300 hurdles (43.80) and Charlie Stephenson placed in both hurdle races, fourth in the 100s (17.77) and fifth in the 300s (45.52).

Rucker, Davis, Derek Brenner and Ryan Sternhagen teamed to place third in the 800 relay (1:37.10). Jared Rafferty, Connor Chambers, Kyle Bergeson and Andrew Struck teamed for a fourth place finish in the open 3200 relay (8:59.22) for the Bucks.

Yankton's girls were led by the 1-2 finish of Annie Kruse (5:24.69) and Savannah Woods (5:29.76) in the open 1600.

The Gazelles also got a vic-

tory from the foursome of Lindsey Hale, Janae Osborne, Erin Luken and Becca Moser in the 400 relay (53.47). The quartet also finished fourth in the 800 relay (1:55.24). Osborne teamed with Holly Hicks, Amanda Gravholt and Tessa Folkers to place fourth in the 1600 relay (4:44.19).

Also for the Gazelles, Madisen McClure placed second in the open 3200 (12:43.99). Kelsey Fitzgerald finished third in the long jump (16-10), Allie Murphy placed third in the shot put (36-2) and Becca Moser finished fifth in the 100 (13.44).

Irene-Wakonda's Lauren Sokolowski and Dustin Livingston highlighted the area effort in the meet.

Lauren Sokolowski won the 100 (15.33) and 300 (50.78) hurdles in Class A, as well as teamed with Haleigh Melstad, Taylor Lee and Andrea Sokolowski for fourth in the 1600 relay (4:41.17). Andrew Sokolowski and Lee were also in the Eagles' third place 800 relay, teaming with Bailey and Caitlin Hinseth. Melstad finished fifth in the 800 (2:42.05) for IW.

Livingston added a win in the 200 (23.78), a runner-up finish in the 110 hurdles (16.07) and a runner-up finish in the 800 relay with Dillon Buchanan, Trevor Hansen and Ashur Wiedrich (1:37.89). Those three teamed with Chris Heirigs to finish second in the 1600 relay (3:43.40). Buchanan also placed second in the 400 (54.45)

Vermillion was led by a victory in the medley relay, with Nathan Svendsen, J.T. Sorensen, Colin Olson and Austin Krier finishing in 3:45.93. Also for the Tanagers, Nathan Samudzi placed fourth in the 100 (11.53) and Nathan Ford finished fourth in the open 3200 (11:05.35).

For Avon, Chesney Nagel placed fourth in the 400 (1:03.94) and helped the Lady Pirates to a fifth place finish in the 800 relay, teaming with Emily Mudder, Amanda Reiff and Cheylee Nagel for a clocking of 1:56.51.

Also for Avon, Heidi Cap finished third in the girls' 800 (2:39.25) and Jonah Sturgeon placed third in the boys' 200 (24.15).

Preps

From Page 7

"It was good for us," Ryan Olson said. "We got to see what everyone looks like."

Also in the boys' 3200 relay, Dakota Valley (8:50.80) placed fifth, Beresford (8:55.10) finished sixth and Ethan-Parkston (8:59.38) placed seventh in Class A. Ethan-Parkston clocked their time in winning the slow heat.

In the girls' 3200 relay, Menno (11:00.75) placed seventh in Class B and Beresford (10:19.65) ranked eighth in Class A.

Two of the region's top middle distance runners held their own against an elite field in the girls' Special Event 800-meter run.

Yankton's Whitlee Larson placed fifth in 2:21.94, with Freeman's Cailey Roth seventh in 2:27.36. Ipswich eighth grader Macy Heinz, the Class B state meet MVP a year ago, won the race in 2:16.91.

Yankton's Casey Skillingstad just missed a career best, settling for a mark of 12-9 in finishing third in the boys' pole vault. The mark came on a day in which he competed twice, also competing at the O'Gorman Invitational across town earlier in the day.

"I thought it was pretty good

after a long day," he said. "I felt I could have done better, but I still have a couple of meets to improve."

Skillingstad said that the venue, with the pole vault in the middle of the football field inside the track, was a "game-changer."

"Everyone's watching. There's a lot more noise, so it's harder to concentrate," he said. "But it's also nice because everyone's encouraging you to get higher and higher."

Yankton senior Clara Schild recorded a personal-best toss of 39-6 1/4 in placing fifth in the shot put.

"I wanted to come out and get

qualifying standard," she said of her approach. "I did that and went over it, so that was exciting."

Another Yankton senior, Kelsey Fitzgerald, finished fifth in the girls' high jump with a mark of 5-1.

In the boys' 400-meter dash, Freeman's Brennan Schmidt clocked a 51.21 to place fifth. Avon's Brandon Kocmich finished eighth in 51.77.

Competition continues at 8 a.m. today (Saturday).

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904

I refuse to... settle for anything but 1st

Matt Dvorak, PT

Michelle Valencsin, PT

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