

Track & Field | Howard Wood Dakota Relays

Muntefering Enjoys Return To State

Parkston Native, CSU Standout Wins 1,500 At Rain-Shortened Meet

BY JEREMY HOECK

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SIoux FALLS — Alex Muntefering had traveled too far to let cold temps and wet conditions ruin his day.

No, the Parkston native and junior from Colorado State University was having too much being back in his home state.

Muntefering, who said he pleaded with his CSU coaches to let him make the trip, won the men's 1,500-meter run at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays on Saturday in Sioux Falls.

"It was so cool. I just really love South Dakota and being back here," he said, shortly after a brief post-race chat with his former Parkston coaches Rob Van Laecken and Buck Timmins.

"I don't know how to describe it, it's so comforting."

A former South Dakota high school state track and cross country champion, Muntefering, 23, was quite familiar with Howard Wood Field, specifically the atmosphere.

It was ultimately what brought him back to South Dakota, he said.

"I was playing out the race in my head a few hours ago and I could just see it clearly," Muntefering said. "I've run here so many times, but I didn't know what to expect with this one."

The only athlete from a non-regional school, Muntefering didn't have the strongest start to Saturday's race. But as has become his norm, he finished strong.

He led the entire final lap and crossed the finish line in a time of 3:50.35, a full two seconds ahead of Dakota State University's Andy Coy.

As he crossed the finish line and looked up to the big video board at Howard Wood Field, Muntefering let loose a wide smile. His trip had been capped off in style, he joked later.

Of course, convincing his CSU coaches to let him participate wasn't the easiest thing to do.

"They were really supportive," Muntefering, who traveled with one of his coaches, said. "They said, 'Oh we don't know, it's not something that usually occurs.' They told me that if it meant that much to me, they were all for it."

Another obstacle for Muntefering? Saturday's cold and rainy weather.

The track surface at Howard Wood was already slick before Muntefering lined up for the 1500, and the weather never improved — meet officials eventually decided to cancel the Saturday evening session.

"It's just such a bummer that it was so cold and wet out here," Muntefering said. "But then I snapped out of it, and thought how blessed I am to have this opportunity. No matter what the weather

was, I wasn't going to complain."

That proved to be a similar thought among athletes at Howard Wood.

Kyle McKelvey, a sophomore thrower at the University of South Dakota, battled through wet conditions to win the college men's shot put on Saturday. The top-ranked thrower in the Summit League won the event with a toss of 53-feet-1.1, besting teammate Cody Snyder (52-6.75).

"The conditions just weren't really good, and it affected everyone in the field," McKelvey said. "I don't think anyone hit what they wanted to hit."

As the only Division I throwers in the field, McKelvey and Snyder weren't trying to do anything spectacular as far as records, McKelvey said.

Ultimately, though, the atmosphere was worth the weather stress.

"It's fun to relive the Howard Wood energy," McKelvey said. "I had a good past here, so it's fun to come back and compete."

"It's not a huge meet, but it's got some value to me."

Though in a shortened day, USD athletes were quite successful on Saturday.

Jeff O'Connell won the men's long jump (22-4.25), an event that had only three entrants. The Coyotes also won the medley relay, beating out Augustana and Northern State.

On the women's side, USD went 1-3-4 in the 100-meter hurdles, led by champion Alexa Duling with a time of 14.09. Duling later scratched in the 400 hurdles.

Also for the Coyote women, Analisa Huschle won with the top preliminary time of 12.25 — the finals were not held.

The women's pole vault was moved indoors to the Sanford Complex because of the wet conditions at Howard Wood. Emily Grove of USD was the champion at 13-feet-11.75. Bethany Buell was one of five athletes scratched from competition.

High school athletes found similar frustrations.

"It was just too hard to get going, but I guess whatever happens, you have to deal with it," said Viborg-Hurley's Tyler Gerdes, who finished fifth in the boys' long jump (20-1.75).

Gerdes, the defending state champion in that event, later ran a leg in Viborg-Hurley's champion 800-meter relay quartet. Even then, he battled the conditions.

"I came out of the blocks and slid; thought I was going to face plant," he said. "Then I came around and stepped on Andrew's (Hora) feet."

Because of the weather, Yank-



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Parkston native and Colorado State runner Alex Muntefering nears the finish line of the college men's 1,500-meter run on Saturday at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays in Sioux Falls.

Yankton Bucks Split With R.C. Central, Brookings On Busy Sunday

Garrison Brockberg finished five strong innings and six different Bucks had hits as Yankton downed Rapid City Central 4-2 in high school baseball action on Sunday at Riverside Field.

Lane Sawatzke had a double and a RBI, and Brad Ulmer had a hit, a RBI, a run scored and a stolen base to lead a balanced Yankton attack. Mitch Gullikson had a hit and three stolen bases. Kaleb Bromley had a hit and a RBI. Sam Wendte and Dustin Hopper added hits in the victory.

Brady Hale pitched the final two innings for the save.

Yankton continues a run of seven games in five days with a game at Sioux Falls Lincoln today

(Monday). The varsity game is at 5:30 p.m., with a JV game to follow.

Brookings 5, Yankton 2

Despite having to start eighth grader Mason Townsend on the hill, Yankton held its own against Brookings before dropping a 5-2 decision on Sunday.

Townsend, who made an emergency start due to the busy Bucks' schedule, left the game in the fifth inning with Yankton trailing only 3-2.

Sam Wendte had a double, a RBI and a run scored, and Tanner Termansen had a hit and a RBI to lead Yankton. Lane Sawatzke had a hit and a run scored. Dustin Hopper and Brad Ulmer added hits.

Yankton 3-1, BV 2-11

VALLEY SPRINGS — Yankton survived a 3-2 10-inning battle with Brandon Valley in the opener, but dropped the nightcap in a varsity

baseball doubleheader with the Lynx on Friday.

Lane Sawatzke had two hits, a run scored and a stolen base, and Brad Ulmer had a double and a run scored to lead Yankton. Sam Wendte had a hit and a RBI. Andrew Hummel and Zach Benjamin each had a hit, with Hummel stealing two bases and Benjamin stealing one. Tanner Termansen and Kaleb Bromley added hits.

Mitch Gullikson picked up the win in relief of Benjamin.

Brandon Valley took the nightcap 11-1. Wendte had the lone Yankton hit, with Benjamin scoring the only Bucks' run. Sawatzke took the loss.

Frosh

Yankton 12, Harrisburg 6

Collin Muth went 4-5 with a triple, two doubles and five RBI as Yankton doubled up Harrisburg 12-6 on Sunday.

Hunter Ryan, Tanner Frick and Sheldon

Gant each had two hits for Yankton. Levi Schmidt, Adam Heine, Levi Stevens and Tyler Guthmiller added hits.

Reid Sawatzke picked up the win.

Yankton 5-11, Mitchell 4-0

Mason Townsend's walkoff single gave the Bucks an opening win on the way to a doubleheader sweep of Mitchell in JV baseball action on Friday.

Yankton won the opener 5-4, with Colton Diefenderfer recording two hits and a RBI. Mitch Mueller also had two hits. Collin Muth drove in two runs. Jordan Lightner and Matt Hilson added hits.

Mueller picked up the win.

Yankton rolled to an 11-0 victory in the nightcap, as Lightner, Townsend and Tyler Guthmiller each had two hits and a RBI. Hunter Ryan and Adam Walter each had a hit and a RBI. Levi Schmidt and Tanner Frick added hits.

Alex Crandall picked up the victory.

Softball

The Yankton Spitfire 18-Under girls' fastpitch softball team went 1-2 on Sunday at Sertoma Park.

The Spitfire will host the Norfolk Impact on Tuesday, May 21, at Riverside Park.

MIDWEST DIRT DEVILS 7, SPITFIRE 6: Elizabeth Bye and Shelby Christopherson each had a hit and a RBI to lead Yankton. Karlee Kozak and Haley Hinseth also had hits. Jessica Wirth drove in a run in the effort.

Katie Koletzky took the loss, striking out four.

S.F. IMPACT 3, SPITFIRE 1: Jessica Wirth had two hits and a RBI for Yankton. Elizabeth Bye, who struck out four in taking the loss, also had a hit.

SPITFIRE 14, MADISON 2: Andi Sprakel had two hits and three RBI, and Elizabeth Bye had two hits and two RBI to lead Yankton to victory. Haley Hinseth posted a two-run double, Katie Koletzky had a hit and two RBI, and Brooke Loecker added a hit in the victory.

Koletzky struck out three in picking up the win.

Athletes Hand The Cold, Break Records At Junior High Relays



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Gabe Wenzlaff gets out of the blocks during the eighth grade boys' 800-meter relay at the annual Junior High Relays on Saturday at Williams Field. Yankton finished second to a meet-record performance from Mitchell in that race, but Wenzlaff helped the Bucks to victory in the 1600-meter relay.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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It was only fitting that the weather for the annual Yankton Junior High Relays fit the weather for the entire 2013 season: cold and miserable. But the Yankton Bucks and Gazelles handled it like they had all season — without complaint.

Yankton athletes combined to win seven titles in a deep field at the meet, held Saturday at Williams Field in Yankton.

Yankton middle school track and field coach Doug Haar was impressed with the determination that not only the YMS athletes, but all of the more than 900 athletes competing on a cold, rainy Saturday, showed during the meet.

"I was impressed with all the kids that came through. They were very good sports," Haar said. "They went out to compete, and not one of them complained about the weather."

With several of the regular meet volunteers scattered to both the Howard Wood Dakota Relays for the Yankton varsity and the Great

Plains Athletic Conference meet for Mount Marty College, a number of individuals stepped up to fill the gaps.

"This was probably the largest middle school track meet in the area," Haar said. "Without the help and support of a number of individuals, it would not have been a success."

The meet was the culmination of the season for YMS, one that Haar felt was a success in part because young athletes continued to join the team throughout the season.

"We had a lot of kids out, and we had kids coming out three, four weeks after the season started," he said. "There's a ton of potential in these seventh and eighth grade teams this year, a lot of potential."

Here is a look at the highlights from each division:

8th Grade Boys

The Mitchell sprint crew combined for three individual and three relay victories, including two meet records, both involving Spencer Neugebauer.

Neugebauer won the 100 in 11.38, then anchored the Kernels to victory in 800 relay in 1:40.37, both meet records. He was also part of

MMC 9th, 10th In GPAC As Doane Sweeps Titles

SEWARD, Neb. — The Mount Marty College women's track and field team finished ninth and the men's team finished 10th at the Great Plains Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships, which concluded Saturday in Seward, Neb.

Doane College swept the women's and men's team titles. The Tiger teams each scored an identical 198.5 points over their respective 22 events to take home the trophies to Crete, Nebraska.

Outstanding Performer-of-the-Meet Honors went to Morningside's Neeia Cooperwood who scored 37 points and Doane's Zack Lindsley who scored 30 points.

Three meet records were set as the Morningside Men's 4x800 (Taylor Chapman, Jay Welp, John Harris, and Monte Larsen - 7:38.64), Zack Lindsley from Doane in the discus (189-09), and Erin DeVries from Doane in the pentathlon (4738 points) all placed themselves in the GPAC Outdoor Track and Field Record Book.

The MMC women scored 18 points, with Katie Smelker accounting for 12 of them with third place finishes in the 5,000 (18:40.93) and 10,000 (38:25.41). Abbey VanDenBerg placed sixth in the triple jump (36-7 3/4), then teamed with Kelli Norrid, Holly Hegge (Crofton, Neb.) and April Winne (Scotland) for an eighth place finish in the 400 relay (52:27). The Lancer foursome of Jordyn Hudelson (Elk Point), Tess Byrd, Jade Steinberg (Yankton) and Beth Finnegan placed seventh in the 3200 relay (11:23.68).

The Lancer men finished with three points. Jordan Pater placed seventh in the 10,000 (33:32.27). Neil Hohenthanner (Yankton) placed eighth in the decathlon (4,931 points), which ranks as the third-best score in MMC history.

Competing for Concordia, former Hartington, Neb., Cedar Catholic standout Jonathan Becker finished third in both the 110 (14.80) and 400 (55.29) hurdle events.

For Briar Cliff, Yankton native Jayna Specht and former Wynot, Neb., standout Haley Gowery teamed up as part of the Chargers' sixth place 3200 relay (10:12.33). Specht was also a part of the Chargers' eighth place 1600 relay (4:09.07).

Former Scotland standout Haley Brunke, competing for Dakota Wesleyan, placed fourth in the 10,000 (39:11.60) and eighth in the 5,000 (19:15.69). Also in the race, Freeman native Lillie Koerner (Dordt) finished eighth in the 800 (2:23.34) and Crofton, Neb., native Taylor Kube (Morningside) finished eighth in the men's 10,000 (33:32.27).

NENAC

LAUREL, Neb. — West Holt won a combined 10 events to sweep the team track titles at the Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference meet last Friday in Laurel, Neb.

The girls' team race was the closest, as West Holt beat Laurel-Concord-Coleridge by 11 points, 143-132.

The hometown LCC Bears won eight events, with three double winners. Sadie Petersen finished first in the 1600-meter run (5:52.9) and 3200 (12:35.8), while Kelsey Dietrich won the 100 hurdles (16.8) and 300 hurdles (52.0). Ellie Arduser was first in the 200-meter dash (27.5) and triple jump (33-10).

Creighton's Emily Boyle was first in the pole vault (9-6) and Randolph won the 3200 relay.

On the boys' side, West Holt won six events to finish first with 180 total points. Randolph was second at 122, followed by Creighton at 98.

For Creighton, Jake Ripp was a double winner in the long jump (19-4.25) and pole vault (10-0), while teammates Cole Thomas won the 200 (22.9) and Seth Wilmes won the high jump (5-10).

For Randolph, Justin Korth was first in the 3200 (10:46.9) and Jacob Svitak won the discus (148-0). The Cardinals were also first in the 3200 relay.

Mitchell's victories in the 400 relay and the 800 sprint relay.

Parker Wenzel, who won the 110 hurdles, and William Campbell, who won the 200, were also a part of Mitchell's 400 relay win. Matt Muth was a part of all three relay victories, with Jed Schmidt a part of the 800 and sprint medley relays.

Yankton won the 1600 relay, with the four-some of Tyler Strahl, J.C. Horton, Austin Keller and Gabe Wenzlaff winning in 4:12.33.

Gayville-Volin's Grant Rice won the discus with a toss of 135-11. The Raiders' C.J. Lee cleared 10-4 to win the pole vault.

8th Grade Girls

Gayville-Volin standout Laura Nelson won both the 800 (2:33.90) and 1600 (5:40.70), beating out Dakota Valley's Madison Gray and Marisa Schulz in each race.

Norfolk's Madelyn Meier was also a double-winner on the day, taking the 100 (13.08) and long jump (14-1).

Yankton had two victories, both in the throws. Savannah Steffen won the discus (74-0) and finished second in the shot put, while Josie Saylor claimed the shot put (27-1 1/2).

7th Grade Boys

Harrisburg's foursome of Allan Charrin, Collin Kehrwald, Zach Andela and Jack Anderson won the 800 and sprint medley relays. (Harrisburg's 800 relay time was 4:12.33.)