



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Centerville's Brittany Austin fires the discus during the finals of the girls' event at the Tri-Valley Conference track and field meet on Tuesday in Centerville. Austin was one of two recruits announced Wednesday by Mount Marty College.

MMC Adds Another Centerville Recruit, Also Signs Green

BY JEREMY HOECK
 jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The women's basketball program at Mount Marty College again tapped into the Centerville talent pool for another recruit.



Austin

By adding Brittany Austin on Wednesday, the Lancers will now have three former Tornados in their program. Samantha Blake played on MMC's junior varsity team last season, and Kieran O'Malley — one of the top scorers in state history — also signed to play in Yankton.

"Yeah, it's a comforting feeling to know I have them there," said Austin, who will also compete in track at Mount Marty. "They're two of my teammates, but they're two of my closest friends too."

Austin, a 5-foot-7 guard, finished her high school basketball career with the second-most assists in school history and was a 4-time All-Conference performer.

Now she'll join a growing list of Centerville graduates at Mount Marty.

"It was Castlewood for a while, now it's Centerville," joked MMC head coach Tom Schlimgen, whose program also announced the signing of South Central 5-foot-10 forward Ashley Green.

Though she originally planned to pursue volleyball and basketball at the collegiate level, Austin said she realized it would work out better to avoid such close seasons.

Plus, Mount Marty track coach Randy Fischer offered her the flexibility to focus on shot put and discus in the spring after basketball finishes.

"I'm sure it'll be a blast," Austin said.

There was also a sense of relief Wednesday, she said, when her college decision became final.



Green

LANCERS | PAGE 9

USD Softball Begins Tournament Play Today

BY JEREMY HOECK
 jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — It's post-season time for the University of South Dakota and the focus is on toppling North Dakota State.

Sound familiar? This time, the Coyotes will contend with the Bison at the Summit League Softball Championships, which begins today (Thursday) in Fargo, N.D.

South Dakota (29-18, 12-7), the three seed and first-year entrant into the field, opens with Fort Wayne (31-13, 12-4) at 4 p.m. today. North Dakota State and Kansas City meet in the other game, at 1 p.m.

Not only is NDSU the host school,

it is the favorite to win the title. The four-time defending tournament champion Bison come in as the top seed at 30-14 overall and 17-1 in the Summit.

The Bison reached 30 wins for the seventh straight season and have won 17 of their last 18 games — the only setback to USD, last weekend in Fargo.

"We'd only have to beat them once, not in a whole series, and we know we can do it," said Christine Broders, USD's junior shortstop from Yankton.

The Coyotes handed the Bison their first Summit League loss last Friday, but were swept Saturday by scores of 4-1 and 7-5. In two games against NDSU pitcher Whitney John-

son, arguably the best in the league, USD combined for 10 runs and four home runs — one by Broders.

"We were really happy when we won. That was the team we wanted from day one, and it was nice to play on their field," Broders said. "That pitcher was the best one in the conference, and I don't think she was expecting us to do that."

The immediate focus, however, remains on Fort Wayne, USD coach Amy Klyse said. A potential showdown with the Bison will have to wait.

"With the way we played against NDSU, we're confident knowing our girls can compete and beat anybody in the league," Klyse said.

The challenge now for USD is to

beat Fort Wayne. The Mastodons swept the Coyotes 2-1 and 7-4 (9 innings) on April 13 in Vermillion.

Fort Wayne pitcher Miranda Kramer is tied with Johnson for the league lead in wins (21) and ranks first in the conference in strikeouts (240).

"We've gone back and looked through everything, and they have a mix of speed and power," Klyse said. "They play solid defense, and they have a solid pitching staff. It's going to be a great matchup."

The Coyotes are no slouches themselves, though. Allie Daly leads the league in home runs (13) and

SUMMIT | PAGE 9

Wausa Girls Take D-3 Title



The Hartington boys won their fourth straight District D-3 track and field title on Wednesday in Hartington, Neb. Wausa edged out Hartington for the girls' title.



ABOVE: Hartington's Adam Hochstein, left, and Pat Wortmann lead a tight pack early in the boys' 3200-meter run. Wortmann and Hochstein finished 1-2 in the race, each qualifying for state in the event.

LEFT: Wausa's Breana Gallup celebrates her victory in the girls' 3200-meter run.

BELOW: Hartington's Michaela Dendinger fires the discus during the girls' event. Dendinger won the discus easily, then needed a big toss on her final throw to win the shot put.

PHOTOS BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D



Track: Wildcats Earn Fourth Boys' Title In A Row

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
 james.cimburek@yankton.net

HARTINGTON, Neb. — The Wausa Lady Vikings had been on the wrong end of a couple of close team finishes over the past two years. On Wednesday, they put themselves on the right end of it.

Wausa beat out defending champion Hartington 82-72 to claim team honors in the District D-3 Track and Field Meet, held Wednesday at the Hartington Sports Complex.

The Hartington boys had little difficulty winning their fourth straight district title, outscoring Randolph 169-98 for top honors.

But Wausa entered the final race of the day, the 1600-meter relay, with a slim three-point lead on the Wildcats. A runner-up finish in that event wrapped up the title.

"We'd been short a couple times this season," said Wausa head coach Greg Conn after the victory. "At the (Lewis & Clark) Conference meet, Ponca got us by four. At our own meet, we finished six points out of first."

"Today, everything fell in to place."

That list of close calls included a five-point finish behind Hartington in the 2013 District D-3 meet.

Abbi Hegge's sweep of the long (16-2) and triple (34-10) jumps got the Lady Vikings going on the right path.

"Our jumps have been getting us started all year," Conn said. "Austin and Abbi, brother and sister, both qualify in the long and triple, Austin with a PR (personal record). Adam Kleinschmit worked his butt off all year, and it finally paid off."

Austin Hegge won with marks of 21-4 1/4 in the long jump and placed second in the triple jump

DISTRICTS | PAGE 9

Baseball: Nine From Mount Marty Honored By GPAC

BY JEREMY HOECK
 jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Its season ended rather abruptly, but there was good news to be had Wednesday for the Mount Marty College baseball team.

When the All-Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) lists were released by the league office, the Lancers had nine players recognized.

The better news? Seven of those nine guys will be back for 2014.

"We didn't really have a senior heavy squad this year, and that experience will hopefully take us deeper in the playoffs," said junior first baseman Jared Miller, who was named to the All-GPAC First Team alongside sophomore center-fielder Zac Hollenback.

"That really gets me excited, when you think about it."

Mount Marty, which finished the season with a 19-25 record, was eliminated on the first day of the conference tournament last Thursday.

A week later, the Lancers put Miller and Hollenback on the conference first team, sophomore third baseman Mike O'Connell on the second team, five players in the honorable mention category and two others (including O'Connell) on the Gold Glove squad.

"I wish we could've been dog-piling in some big celebration instead of this, but I'll take it," said Hollenback, who batted .342 with 53 hits and a team-high 41 runs out of the leadoff spot.

The Las Vegas, Nev., native did exactly what the Lancers needed, according to head coach Andy Bernatow.

"He's really evolving as a player and was a real bright spot," Bernatow said. "In terms of his demeanor, he tried to

help the team out when we need to."

For his efforts, Hollenback was recognized by the league coaches.

"I was happy, of course," he said. "I feel honored. I've never gotten an award like this. It definitely shows all my hard work paid off."

A middle-of-the-order threat, Miller led the team in hits (58), doubles (15), home runs (58), RBI (38) and slugging percentage (.603).

"That's a pretty good deal for Jared, when you think that this, conference has some good first basemen with good numbers," Bernatow said. "He's been really steady throughout his career."

Asked about an improvement in his offense from year two to year three with the program, Miller joked that he "found more holes this year."

O'Connell, a native of Kalispell, Mont., was a guy who worked hard to

eliminate some of those holes in the field, Bernatow said.

Originally recruited as a designated hitter, O'Connell batted .265 with 39 hits and 23 runs batted in playing all 44 games this season.

"He really took it to heart that he wanted to be a position player," Bernatow said. "He worked really hard, tweaked his throwing motion and became a great fielder."

Mount Marty also had five other players receive Honorable Mention recognition — Yankton native Nik Davis (So., OF), Dominic Wieseler (Sr., P), Cassidy Key-Darlington (Sr., P), A.J. Griffith (Jr., P) and Bryton Carlson (So., DH).

The pitchers combined to record 14 complete games in 30 starts. Key-Darlington led the staff in innings (65) and tied with Griffith in wins (4), while Wieseler was first among the trio in

strikeouts (54) and earned run average (2.80).

Davis batted .281 with 34 hits and 15 RBI in 121 at-bats, while Carlson hit .301 with eight RBI — all the while battling back from knee surgery a year ago.

The Lancers also put senior right fielder Mathias Godsfil on the Gold Glove Team.

Godsfil's development really took off after he made the switch to the outfield after a log-jam after first baseman, the position he was recruited from, Bernatow said.

"He was a late bloomer as far as the athleticism we saw," Bernatow said. "In the last two years, he's been as good as our conference has had in right field."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

I-W Girls, Baltic Boys Win TVC Golf Crowns

The Irene-Wakonda girls and Baltic boys claimed team golf titles at the Tri-Valley Conference meet, held Wednesday at Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton.

On the girls' side, the champion Eagles carded a team score of 264, a total of 40 strokes in front of Alcester-Hudson.

Irene-Wakonda had the top three individual finishes, led by champion Maggie Kribell (90), and Sydney Nielsen (92) and Makayla Mohr (93).

On the boys' side, Baltic finished first with a team score of 242. Irene-Wakonda was second at 264, while Gayville-Volin, Viborg-Hurley, Alcester-Hudson and Centerville all competed.

Baltic went 1-2 in the individual race, with champion James

Chapman (74) and Dylan Brende (82). Robert Jensen of Viborg-Hurley was third at 82, followed in the top five by Irene-Wakonda's Landon Larsen (85) and Baltic's Matt Moen (86).

GIRLS' DIVISION
 TEAM SCORES: Irene-Wakonda 264, Alcester-Hudson 304
 TOP 10: 1, Maggie Kribell, Irene-Wakonda 90; 2, Sydney Nielsen, Irene-Wakonda 92; 3, Makayla Mohr, Irene-Wakonda 93; 4, Chantel Brende, Baltic 97; 5, Kassie Boese, Irene-Wakonda 109; 6, Mackenzy DeLoy, Baltic 111; 7, Brigita Rasmussen, Alcester-Hudson 121; 8, Abbey Farley, Alcester-Hudson 123; 9, Jordyn Hubert, Alcester-Hudson 123; 10, Kassie Van Wyk, Alcester-Hudson 128

BOYS' DIVISION
 TEAM SCORES: Baltic 242, Irene-Wakonda 264, Gayville-Volin 283, Viborg-Hurley 291, Alcester-Hudson 304, Centerville 322

TOP 10: 1, James Chapman, Baltic 74; 2, Dylan Brende, Baltic 82; 3, Robert Jensen, Viborg-Hurley 82; 4, Landon Larsen, Irene-Wakonda 85; 5, Matt Moen, Baltic 86; 6, Justin Ostrom, Irene-Wakonda 86; 7, Andy Pospisil, Gayville-Volin 88; 8, Ian Hofer, Freeman Academy 92; 9, Dawson Wiedrich, Irene-Wakonda 93; 10, Noah Brown, Baltic 94

Niobrara-Verdige Invite
 NIOBRARA, Neb. — Osmond had three golfers finish at 80 or

better to win team honors at Wednesday's Niobrara-Verdige Boys' Invite at the Niobrara Valley Golf Course.

The champion Tigers carded a team score of 340, nine strokes in front of Clearwater-Orchard.

Crofton was third at 364. Niobrara-Verdige's Coy Reynolds was first overall at 80, two shots better than Aaron Hauf of Clearwater-Orchard. Osmond's Zach Kumm was third at 83, while teammates Blake Kriener and fifth (83) and Matt Blunck seventh (85).

TEAM SCORES: Osmond 340, Clearwater-Orchard 349, Crofton 364, Chambers-Wheeler 373, Bloomfield-Wausa 388, Niobrara-Verdige 399

TOP 10: 1, Coy Reynolds, Niobrara-Verdige 80; 2, Aaron Hauf, Clearwater-Orchard 82; 3, Zach Kumm, Osmond 83; 4, Dalton Willby, Clearwater-Orchard 83; 5, Blake Kriener, Osmond 83; 6, Marcus Clausen, Bloomfield-Wausa 85; 7, Matt Blunck, Osmond 85; 8, Brock Mueller, Crofton 86; 9, Tate Schutt, Clearwater-Orchard 87; 10, Brandon Hegge, Crofton 89

Coach Cleared Of Charges No Longer At MSU-Mankato

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A former head football coach for Minnesota State University, Mankato, who was cleared of child pornography charges last year but reassigned to an administrative position, is no longer employed at the university, the school said Wednesday.

However, a faculty union said Todd Hoffner was fired and that it has filed a grievance over his termination.

Hoffner's last day on the university's payroll was Tuesday, school spokesman Dan Benson told The Associated Press. He declined to say whether Hoffner was fired or left on his own, calling it a private personnel matter, and also would not give further details.

Hoffner was charged with possession of child pornography in August after school officials found videos of his naked children on his work-

sued cellphone, which he had turned in to be repaired. A judge cleared him in November, ruling that the short videos of his children acting silly after a bath were not child porn and showed nothing illegal.

After the criminal case was dismissed, university officials removed Hoffner as head football coach, re-assigned him to an administrative role, as assistant athletic director for facilities development, and suspended him for 20 days for an unspecified reason. He tried to fight his reassignment and suspension through his union, the Inter Faculty Organization, which represents faculty in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

His attorney, Chris Madel, referred questions to the union. In a statement Wednesday, the union said the school terminated Hoffner and that the union immediately filed a

grievance. That grievance will be combined with an earlier grievance over Hoffner's January suspension and reassignment and heard by an arbitrator this summer, the union said.

"We expect Coach Hoffner to prevail," the union said.

Hoffner does not have a listed phone number. KEYC-TV reported that Hoffner declined to answer questions from a reporter who went to his house in Eagle Lake.

KTOE radio first reported Hoffner's separation from the school. Hoffner had a 34-13 record in his four years at Mankato. He was beginning a new four-year contract when he was escorted off a practice field in August, a few days after he returned his malfunctioning phone to the school. University technicians found the videos and notified university officials, who contacted police.