

Gazelles Third, Bucks Fifth At ESD

ABERDEEN — The Yankton Gazelles finished third and the Yankton Bucks finished fifth in their respective divisions of the Eastern South Dakota Conference Track and Field Championships, held on Saturday in Aberdeen.

The Aberdeen Central girls and Brandon Valley boys each ran away with the team titles. Aberdeen scored 161 points, well ahead of Pierre (102) and Yankton (90). The Lynx boys scored 159 points, beating out Watertown (115) and Pierre (113), with the Bucks scoring 63 points.

“We finished about where we thought we’d finish,” said Yankton head coach Luke Youmans. “We had some things go our way, and we had some places where we missed opportunities to score.”

The Gazelles had two individual champions, junior Hailey Luken in the 100-meter hurdles (15.56) and senior Clara Schild in the shot put (39-2 1/4).

“Neither one of them came in as a favorite,” Youmans said. “That made it even more special for them. It’s fun when you have kids that rise to exceed expectations.”

Another thrower who shined at ESD was Adrienne Kusek. The freshman came in to conference ranked 19th in the discus, but pulled out a runner-up finish with a toss of 113 feet, 10 inches. She also finished fifth in the shot put (34-11).

“She had a great meet,” Youmans said. “It was a lot of fun to see her come out of no where.”

Two other Gazelles who recorded runner-up finishes on the day are a little more familiar to YHS fans: senior Kelsey Fitzgerald and junior Whitlee Larson. Fitzgerald matched her season best in finishing second in the high jump (5-4) and placed fifth in the triple jump (34-5). Larson finished second in the 800 (2:23.89) and was part of the Gazelles’ runner-up 3200 relay (10:12.56) and third place 1600 relay (4:20.35).

“Kelsey Fitzgerald had a great day in multiple events. The same with Whitlee Larson,” Youmans said. “We had a lot of girls contributing in a lot of areas today.”

Junior Annie Kruse and freshman Savannah Woods each medaled in the two distance events. Kruse placed third in the 3200 (11:42.49) and fourth in the 1600 (5:31.07), while Woods finished fourth in the 3200 (11:47.33) and fifth in the 1600 (5:34.07).

Senior Jessica Wirth also took home two individual medals, a fourth in the 200 (27.44) and a



fifth in the 100 (13.00). Sophomore Danielle Beckman also took home a sprint medal, clocking a sixth place showing in the 200 (27.56). The Gazelles also took home fifth place finishes in the 400 (52.94) and medley (4:41.35) relays, and a sixth place in the 800 relay (1:53.68).

Junior J.J. Hejna was the top scorer for the Bucks, taking home seconds in the high jump (6-5) and triple jump (43-1), and finishing third in the long jump (20-1). The high jump mark was a career best.

“J.J. had a great day. He had the monster day, because everything he had was prelims and finals, and in between he had to go clear heights in the high jump,” Youmans noted. “Not only did he clear them, he had a season and career best, and had a couple good attempts at 6-7.”

Junior Brice Cowman placed second in the 3200 (10:01.15) and third in the 1600 (4:39.53). He also helped the Bucks’ 3200 relay (9:03.48) to a fourth place finish.

“Brice was going for places,” Youmans said. “We knew because of the conditions that times wouldn’t be good, but Brice did a great job.”



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ABOVE: Yankton's J.J. Hejna goes over the bar in the boys high jump Saturday at the Eastern South Dakota Conference Track and Field Championships at Swisher Field in Aberdeen. Hejna placed second in the event with a season-best mark of 6-5, and added a second place finish in the triple jump and a third place finish in the long jump. His points helped the Bucks place fifth in the boys' team standings.

LEFT: Yankton's Hailey Luken competes in the prelims of the 100-meter hurdles Saturday at the ESD Track Meet. Luken won the finals, one of two individual victories for the Gazelles on the day. Clara Schild won the shot put, helping Yankton to a third place finish in the girls' team standings.

PHOTOS BY JOHN DAVIS/ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS

Fort Wayne Wins Summit Title; USD Puts Two On All-Tourn. Team

FARGO, N.D. — Tournament MVP Ashleigh Bousquet went 3-for-3 and hit two home runs to lead Fort Wayne to a 7-4 win over North Dakota State University to win the Summit League Softball Championship on Saturday, May 11, at the Ellig Sports Complex.

Fort Wayne (34-14) advances to the NCAA tournament. The Mastodons advance to the NCAA tournament for the first time.

North Dakota State (33-16) forced a second championship game with a 7-4 win in Saturday’s first game. The loss ended a string of four straight Summit League tournament titles for NDSU.

South Dakota softball’s Lindsey Boyd and Kate Snow have been named to the Summit League All-Tournament Team according to a release by the league on Saturday night.

Boyd, a junior third baseman, was 2 for 6 with a pair of stolen bases and a walk in the ‘Yotes’ two tournament games.

Snow, a senior, was 2 for 6 for the tournament, including a 2 for 3, two RBI performance in the opener against Fort Wayne.

The Coyotes were 0-2 at the Championships with losses to Fort Wayne and Kansas City.

Woods Keeps It Dry And Wins TPC

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A weekend filled with sharp words between Tiger Woods and Sergio Garcia came down to one last showdown Sunday in The Players Championship, this one staged across the water in a tiny, terrifying section of the TPC Sawgrass.

Tied for the lead with two holes to play, Woods kept his shots on land and made two pars.

Garcia hit three balls into the water for a quadruple bogey-double bogey finish.

If there was special satisfaction in beating Garcia again, Woods kept that to himself. What mattered was having a chance to win, closing it out like he does so often, and capturing the richest prize on the PGA Tour for the first time in a dozen years.

“We just go out there and play,” Woods said. “I had an opportunity to win the golf tournament when I was

tied for the lead today, and I thought I handled the situation well and really played well today when I really needed to. And that’s something I’m excited about it.”

Woods allowed the final hour to turn into a tense duel by hooking his tee shot into the water on the 14th hole for double bogey. But his short game bailed him out to save par on the 15th and make a critical birdie on the 16th, and he was solid on the final two holes for a 2-under 70.

If only it were that simple for the Spaniard.

Garcia was standing on the 17th tee shot, staring across to the island green to watch Woods make his par. He took aim at the flag with his wedge and hung his head when he saw the ball splashed down short of the green.

Then, Garcia hit another one in the water on his way to a quadruple-bogey 7. The meltdown was complete when Garcia hit his tee shot into the water

on the 18th.

“It’s always nice to have a chance at beating the No. 1 player in the world, but unfortunately for me, I wasn’t able to this week,” Garcia said.

Woods was in the scoring trailer when he watched on TV as Swedish rookie David Lingmerth missed a long birdie putt that would have forced a playoff. It raced by the cup, and Lingmerth three-putted for bogey.

“How about that?” Woods said to his caddie, Joe LaCava as he gave him a hug.

Woods finished on 13-under 275.

He won The Players for the first time since 2001 and became the fifth multiple winner at Sawgrass since The Players moved to this former swamp in 1982. It was his 78th career win on the PGA Tour, four short of the record held by Sam Snead. And it was his first time winning with his girlfriend, Olympic ski champion Lindsey Vonn, at the tournament.

USD Teams Second In Summit League

MUNCIE, Ind. — Five Coyotes and a relay team recorded wins while two USD freshmen swept the Newcomer of the Championship awards for the second-straight year at the Summit League Outdoor Track and Field Championships on Saturday. Both teams finished second in the final standings.

The Coyote men finished with 168 points, while the women finished with 154.5 points. North Dakota State won both titles, with the men accumulating 249 points and the women recording 241.5 points.

Alexa Duling defended her 400-meter hurdles league title with a league record time of 58.59 seconds. She broke the previous record of 59.49 that Whitney Carlson of NDSU set in 2010. Duling also added a second-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles in 14.12.

In men’s field events, freshman Peter Chapman won the pole vault with a season-best vault of 16 feet, 8 inches. The freshman topped second-place Jesse Morrow of NDSU at 16-4 and USD teammate Kevin Sarekhani in third at 15-6 1/4.

Cody Snyder (Lake Andes) added a victory in the discus with a throw of 184-1, topping NDSU’s Blake Nelson in second by over 18 feet (165-5). USD’s Kyle McKelvey (Beresford) finished fifth in the event at 156-7.

On the track, Michael Burrus won the men’s 100 in a career-best time of 10.62, while Brandon Kovash finished fifth in 10.84. In the 200, freshman Christian Nielsen took the title in 21.49 with Burrus placing fourth in 21.71. Burrus, Nielsen, Kovash and Erik Hill combined to add a win in the 4x100 relay with a time of 40.92.

Nielsen, who also added a fourth in the 400 in 49.17 and was part of the 4x400 relay team that finished fourth in 3:17.48, was named the Men’s Newcomer of the Championship. Over four events, Nielsen scored or helped score 30 of the Coyote men’s 168 points.

USD freshman Meghan Dennis claimed the women’s Newcomer of the Championship honor after setting a new league record in the javelin (157-10) on Thursday and placing sixth in the discus on Saturday (147-6). It was the second-straight year USD swept the Newcomer of the Championship awards, with McKelvey and Analisa Huschle earning the honors last year.

Outside of the winners, three women and four men recorded top-five finishes. For the women, Breanna Janovy was third in the discus at 154-3, Rachel Weinandt (Yankton) was fourth in the 800 in 2:16.48 and Tess Johnson was fifth in the triple jump at 37-10 3/4.

The women’s 4x400 relay team placed second in 3:48.30 and women’s 4x100 relay team finished fifth in 46.85 to round out the USD women’s top finishers.

Cody Linder finished third in the men’s triple jump with a mark of 47-5, Hill placed third in the 400 hurdles (53.20) and fourth in the 110 hurdles (14.53). Jeff Mettler was fourth in the 1500 (3:56.33) and Bernard Lukas was fifth in the 400 hurdles to round out the men’s top-five finishes.

For South Dakota State, Parkston native Luke Leischner finished the meet in fine fashion, winning the 400 in 47.80 and helping the Jackrabbits to victory in the 1600 relay in 3:14.63. Leischner was also on the Jacks’ 400 relay, which finished third in 42.03.

For the SDSU women, Krista Creager (Yankton) finished fifth in the 800 (2:16.52).

Both teams will next be in action at the NCAA Preliminary Round in Austin, Texas, starting on May 23.

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Diamond Roundup: Bucks Go 0-3 On Road Trip



Yankton starter Garrison Brockberg delivers to the plate during the first inning of the Bucks' 14-10 loss to Pierre on Sunday at Bob Shelden Field in Brookings.

BROOKINGS — Brookings overcame a three-hit performance by Yankton’s Andrew Hummel to edge the Bucks 7-6 in club high school baseball action on Sunday at Brookings’ Bob Shelden Field.

Mitch Gullikson went 2-2 with two runs scored and four stolen bases for Yankton. Sam Wendte also had two hits. Brady Hale tripled, and Zach Benjamin, Tanner Termansen, Kaleb Bromley and Brad Ulmer all had hits. Bromley and Termansen scored a run each in the effort.

Ben Cameron took the loss, with Hale pitching in relief.

Yankton is now off until region play on Saturday.

Pierre 14, Yankton 10

BROOKINGS — Pierre survived Yankton’s six-run second inning to claim a 14-10 victory over the Bucks in club high school baseball action on Sunday at Brookings’ Bob Shelden Field.

Andrew Hummel and Kaleb Bromley each had two hits and a RBI for Yankton, with Hummel scoring twice. Brad Ulmer had a

hit, two RBI and a run scored. Lane Sawatzke and Zach Benjamin each had a hit and two runs scored, with Sawatzke also driving in a run. Sam Wendte and Will Steward each had a hit and a RBI in the effort.

Garrison Brockberg took the loss, with Austin Johnson pitching in relief.

Roosevelt 3, Yankton 0

SIOUX FALLS — Sioux Falls Roosevelt held Yankton to one hit in a 3-0 decision on Saturday.

Sam Wendte had the lone Yankton hit.

Lane Sawatzke took the loss, allowing one run over four innings. Mitch Gullikson threw in relief.

Region 1B

Bon Homme 9, Beresford 0

TABOR — Bon Homme used a seven-run fourth inning to pull away to a 9-0 victory over Beresford in the opening round of Region 1B East action in the S.D. club high school baseball playoffs on Sunday in Tabor.

Ross Kortan had two doubles

and Zach Sutera had two hits to lead Bon Homme. Chase Kortan and Hunter Young added hits in the victory.

Ross Kortan struck out eight over four innings for the win. Chase Kortan and Mike Mesman combined to preserve the shutout, as the Cavaliers teamed up for 13 strikeouts in the seven-inning game.

Ty Knutson took the loss for Beresford, which finishes with a 7-4 record.

Bon Homme, 8-3, will advance to face the winner of Tuesday’s Dakota Valley-Vermillion game at a date and time to be announced.

Softball

USSSA Tourn.

SIOUX FALLS — The Yankton Lightning were eliminated in the second round of tournament play at the 16-Under USSSA Softball Tournament on Sunday in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls Fusion White sent

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