

Tennis: Bucks Begin State Tourney Today

BY JEREMY HOECK
 jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

SIoux FALLS — The way head coach Brady Muth sees it, his Yankton Bucks tennis team is playing just the way it needs to in order to have a successful trip to state.

Yankton will look to continue its performance from the Eastern South Dakota Conference (ESD) meet at the South Dakota State Boys' Tennis Tournament, which starts today (Thursday) at sites across Sioux Falls and in Brandon.

"We're definitely playing our best tennis right now, and that's right where you want to be," Muth said. "We exceeded my expectations at ESD."

"It's definitely not a situation of aiming low and just being satisfied."

Yankton, which has only one senior among its six qualified players, finished sixth at the ESD Championships last week and got consolation singles titles from sophomore Luke Rockne and sophomore Jason Shindler.

The Bucks, who finished 15th at the state tournament a year ago with 106 total points, have only player seeded this year. Shindler, in his first year of varsity tennis, is seeded eighth in flight four singles with a 12-6 overall record.

"Being seeded at state is a nice accomplishment," said Muth, who also pointed to Yank-

ton's challenges. Junior Brandon Frick (9-6) went from a possible No. 8 seed in flight three singles to being unranked and matched up today with Sioux Falls O'Gorman's Sam Heckmann, who comes in 19-0.

Still, Muth said he was optimistic that if the Bucks play to their capabilities, they should go 5-1 in singles action today.

"We definitely have the potential to do that," he said.

Rockne enters with an 8-10 record in flight one singles and has teamed with sophomore Paul Fanta to go 8-10 in flight one doubles. The duo finished third at the ESD Championships.

Also for the Bucks, junior Ben Jensen is 2-12 at flight two singles, senior John Fanta is 6-6 at

flight five and Paul Fanta is 6-11 at flight six singles.

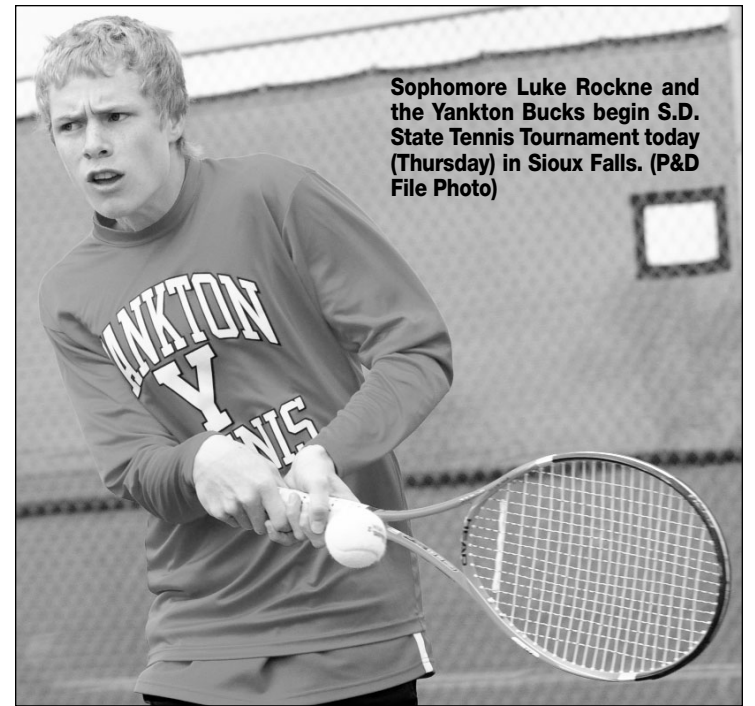
At flight two doubles, Jensen and Frick have posted a 6-10 record, while the flight three tandem of Shindler and John Fanta are 9-5.

Momentum also seems to be on Yankton's side coming into state, Muth said.

"We played outstanding at ESD," he said. "To get our doubles team on the podium was pretty good for a young team. Hopefully this trend continues."

First round singles matches begin at 9 a.m. today, with doubles matches to start at 1:45 p.m.

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Sophomore Luke Rockne and the Yankton Bucks begin S.D. State Tennis Tournament today (Thursday) in Sioux Falls. (P&D File Photo)

Nebraska State Track & Field

Area Teams Omaha Bound

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

OMAHA, Neb. — Eleven area teams will be represented as the Nebraska State Track and Field Championships begin on Friday at Omaha's Burke High School Stadium.

Competition begins for Classes C and A on Friday morning, with Classes D and B competing on Friday afternoon. All four classes will converge Saturday morning to complete the event.

Here is a look at the area teams competing. Teams are listed by class and in alphabetical order.

Class C

Creighton

Emily Boyle will look to give the Bulldogs girls points in the pole vault, as she enters the meet seeded fifth in that event. CHS has one other girl competing, Rebecca Eggerling in the long and triple jumps.

On the boys' side, Creighton has four athletes competing in six individual events, and has two relays qualified.

Bronson Pahl is qualified in the 400, 800 and 1600, with the 800 (seeded 8th) representing his best chance at hardware. Pahl is also part of the Bulldogs' 1600 relay with Reid Liska, Cole Thomas and Jakeb Ripp, a squad that will hope to match or improve on the fourth place finish CHS had in that event a year ago.

Thomas is entered in both the 100 and 200, seeded tenth in each. Ripp is entered in the long jump. Liska, Thomas and Ripp are also a part of the Bulldogs' 400 relay squad, with Brook Baller.

Also for the Creighton boys, Seth Wilmes is entered in the high jump.

Crofton

One year after the Crofton boys finished fourth, the Crofton girls will look to improve on that mark with a talented quintet headed to Omaha.

The foursome of Danielle Riesberg, Quinn Wragge, Bridget Arens and Allison Arens will compete in the 1600 and 3200 relays for the Crofton girls. Riesberg, Wragge, Allison Arens and Maria Wortmann will each compete in individual events for the Lady Warriors.

"We have five very competitive athletes headed down there," said Crofton head coach Rod Hegge. "I'll hate to lose Bridget and Dani after this meet, but all five of these girls have the will to win."

Riesberg, the defending champion in the 400-meter dash, will look to defend that title, as well as improve on her fourth place finish from the 200 a year ago. Allison Arens finished seventh in the 3200 as a freshman, and will hope to place in both that race and the 1600. Wortmann finished fifth in the shot put as a freshman, and entered in both the shot put and discus.

Wragge, who finished third in the 800 for Fillmore Central a year ago, is ranked second in that event entering state. The Crofton 3200 relay team enters the meet ranked first. The Lady Warriors' 1600 relay squad will look to improve on last season's fourth place finish.

While the Crofton girls are capable of scoring quite a few points this weekend, Hegge said that Kearney Catholic is the prohibitive favorite.

"Looking at Kearney Catholic, I think everyone else is hoping for second," he said. "They are loaded on the girls' side."

While the Crofton boys lost most of the

also

■ South Dakota Will Hold Its Region Track Meets Today. Full Coverage In Friday's P&D.

points that propelled them to fourth a year ago, a squad of mostly underclassmen will look to get CHS on the board this weekend.

"We've had a nice turn-around as far as results," Hegge said. "We came on at the end."

Alexander Janssen returns after finishing third in the 1600 and seventh in the 3200 a year ago. He is also part of the Warriors' 3200 relay squad with Benjamin Hegge, Mathew Gunther and Cole Steffen.

Senior Dakota Miller is entered in an odd trio of events, adding the 110 hurdles in with his shot put and discus competitions. Also for CHS, Evan Woodcockman is entered in the pole vault, Eric Kleinschmit is entered in the triple jump and Drew Eskins joins Janssen in the 3200.

Coach Hegge is hoping to see both his boys' and girls' teams challenge themselves this weekend.

"I'd like to see them get out of their comfort zone," he said. "I don't want them to be afraid to compete."

Hartington Cedar Catholic

Five seniors that have been responsible for much individual and team success at Cedar Catholic will hope to go out with a bang for the Lady Trojans.

Siera Becker, Katelyn Dicks, Emily Schremp, Lexi Steffen and Elizabeth Steffen will make their last competitive appearance for Cedar Catholic, looking to lead the squad to one more high state finish.

"Our girls have some experience in this meet," said Cedar Catholic head coach Chad Cattau. "We look for them to do some good things this weekend."

Lexi Steffen will look to build on the two individual medals she won a year ago, when she placed seventh in the high jump and eighth in the triple jump. She returns in both events.

Dicks, who finished seventh in the 300 hurdles a year ago, returns in that event as well as part of the 3200 relay, an event the Lady Trojans placed fourth in last season.

"Those two (Lexi Steffen and Katelyn Dicks) have had an outstanding four years in all three sports," Cattau said. "This is their final opportunity to represent our school. I look for big things from them."

Becker will compete in the pole vault as well as the 3200 relay. Elizabeth Steffen will compete in the discus. Emily Schremp, who ran on that 3200 relay a year ago, will compete in the long jump, as it runs at the same time as the relay.

Junior Bailey Steffen and freshman Monica Arens complete the 3200 relay squad for the Cedar girls.

Sophomore Alexandria Walter, who qualified in the sprints a year ago, will look to earn medals in both the 100 and 200. She enters the meet ranked in the top 10 in both events.

"Last year she was a little overwhelmed," Cattau said of Walter. "That year of experience should help her out. Hopefully she can go down there and perform well."

Also for the Cedar girls, Rachel Loecker is entered in the 3200.

Cedar Catholic has two boys headed to



Breana Gallup of Wausa is entered in four events this weekend at the Nebraska State Track & Field Championships. She finished third in the 3200 last year and fifth in the 1600.

P&D FILE PHOTO

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Iverson Ready To Showcase Potential At NBA Combine

BY JEREMY HOECK
 jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Colton Iverson's first day at the NBA Draft Combine did not involve any basketball-related activities.

Instead, the Yankton native and the 60 other players invited to the 5-day combine in Chicago spent Wednesday talking to reporters, posing for photographs, going through a series of medical tests, getting measured in multiple ways and sitting in meetings.

Welcome to the big show? "We didn't even touch a basketball, except for a photo shoot," Iverson joked Wednesday by phone from Chicago.

A 6-foot-11 (as was proven by measurements, despite him being listed at 6-10 last season) center from Colorado State, Iverson averaged 14 points and 9.9 rebounds as a senior. He spent three seasons with Minnesota before transferring to CSU, and redshirting in 2011-12.

While most of the big-school players have already done enough for NBA executives through actual game competition, other players like Iverson have a chance to improve their stock before the draft on June 27.

"You get a little taste of what it's like," Iverson said. "You get treated really well, and the hotel is filled with scouts, general managers or anyone from a team."

Such a heavy presence of team personnel also means each player is under an intense microscope, Iverson added.

"They're always evaluating you, so you have to always be ready," he said. "It's every little thing about you. That's why there's so much medical stuff, because if a team wants you to go get something looked at, you do."

The Combine, held at Attack Athletics in Chicago, will be televised on the ESPN family of networks and will be reaired on NBATV Saturday and Sunday.

Other notable players in attendance are Nate Wolters (South Dakota State), Cody Zeller (Indiana), Trey Burke (Michigan), Tim Hardaway Jr. (Michigan), Will Clyburn (Iowa State) and Trevor Mbakwe (Minnesota).

Getting to spend time with some of those players — including his former Minnesota teammate Mbakwe — has already been a highlight of his trip, Iverson said.



Iverson

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Heat Rally Past Bulls To Advance To Eastern Conference Finals

MIAMI (AP) — A fast start and faster finish were enough to send the Miami Heat back to the Eastern Conference finals.

LeBron James scored 23 points, Dwyane Wade added 18 and the Heat rallied from an 11-point second-half deficit to beat the Chicago Bulls 94-91 on Wednesday night and close out their second-round series in five games.

Chris Bosh scored 12 points and Udonis Haslem added 10 for Miami, which ran out to a 22-4 lead, then was outscored by a whopping 29 points over the next 27 minutes before recovering. The Heat outscored the Bulls 25-14 in the fourth.

Carlos Boozer finished with 26 points and 14 rebounds for the Bulls, who were without Derrick

Rose for the 99th straight game. Nate Robinson and Jimmy Butler missed potential tying 3-pointers on the final possession of the season for Chicago, which dropped the last four games of the series.

Robinson scored 21 points, Butler had 19, and Richard Hamilton 15 for the Bulls.

And there was drama, all the way to the end.

Robinson's 3-pointer with 1:43 left got the Bulls to 94-91, and Butler knocked the ball away from Chris Bosh for a turnover on the ensuing Miami possession. But Boozer missed an open 15-footer with about a minute remaining and, when Wade knocked the ball off Boozer's leg after a Miami miss with 45 seconds left, the Heat retained possession — with a fresh shot clock to boot.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins have been trying to get struggling starter Mike Pelfrey to be more aggressive by minimizing the pauses between pitches.

Pace didn't matter that much against Adam Dunn and the Chicago White Sox. The balls left over the plate were the biggest problem.

Dunn homered twice, doubled and drove in five runs, powering the White Sox past the Twins 9-4 on Wednesday.

The 6-foot-6, 285-pound first baseman hit a full-count changeup from Pelfrey in the third inning an estimated 421 feet to center field.

"The bottom line is he didn't get the ball where he wanted to. It didn't matter how long it took him to throw it," manager Ron

Gardenhire said. "If you leave the ball out over the plate to that guy, he's going to kill you."

Dunn hit a pair of two-run shots for his 35th career multi-home game. He's hit three home runs in the past two games and has nine this year. Dayan Viciedo also went deep for the second straight day, helping Dylan Axelrod (1-3) pick up his first victory this season.

Pelfrey (3-4) has three wins, but his ERA surged to 6.57, the third-worst in the majors among those with a qualified amount of innings. He gave up eight hits, five runs and two walks while striking out three, failing to record an out in the fifth.

"I put the bullpen in a bad spot. We come out and get a two-run lead and not being able to hold it, that stinks," Pelfrey said.

"So like I said, it's frustrating. I didn't pitch very well today. I'll try to get better. I wasn't as sharp as I would have liked to have been. I guess I'll have to figure something out."

Dunn is 8 for 28 with seven walks and two homers in his career against Pelfrey.

His RBI double off the wall in the fifth was the last batter for Pelfrey, who signed a one-year, \$4 million contract coming off Tommy John surgery. He spent his first seven major league seasons with the New York Mets.

Opponents are batting .339 against him, also the third-highest mark in the majors.

"At times he's getting on top and the ball's sinking good. At times it flattens out through the zone, and when that happened they ended up making him pay

for it," manager Ron Gardenhire said. "We'll just keep running him out there and see if we can get better as we go along here."

The Twins had a similar situation last season with Jason Marquis, another career NL starter who signed a one-year, \$3 million deal. Marquis was 2-4 with an 8.47 ERA when the Twins released him in May. Marquis wound up with San Diego.

Gardenhire and pitching coach Rick Anderson also tried unsuccessfully to get Marquis to work faster on the mound and attack the strike zone with more aggression. So far, they've exhibited more patience with Pelfrey.

Dunn showed the patience on Wednesday, with the Twins leading 2-0. He waited for the eighth pitch of his at-bat against Pelfrey in the third to send it deep.

Heat Rally Past Bulls To Advance To Eastern Conference Finals

Pelfrey Struggles Again; Twins Fall 9-4 To White Sox