

Nebraska State Track & Field Championships

Local Athletes Fly High In Omaha

D: Big Day For Bees

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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OMAHA, Neb. — It's not a characteristic you typically associate with a bee, but on the opening day of the Nebraska State Track Meet, the Bloomfield Bees were flying high.

Bloomfield's Adam Haigh had a personal-best by six inches to finish fourth in the boys' pole vault on Friday at Burke Stadium, and two other Bees had great days to qualify for finals, setting up the potential for a great final day today (Saturday).

"We had some really good performances down here," said Bloomfield head coach Duane Wilken. "Our kids didn't appear to be intimidated."

Haigh cleared 13 feet, four inches, six inches better than he went at districts.

"I was scared at first. There are a lot of good vaulters out there," he said. "I definitely did better than I thought I would."

The junior said that he didn't feel completely comfortable until he cleared 13 feet. He then cleared 13-4 on his first attempt before dropping out at 13-8.

"After 13 I got a little jump, a little excited," he said. "My coach did a really good job of helping me."

Another Bee who was excited on Friday was senior Dakota Burgerhoff, who posted a career-best by a half-second to qualify second in the boys' 110-meter hurdle finals. He then missed the 100-meter dash final by just .033.

The 110 final was the culmination of two weeks of work where the senior did not do a lot of regular hurdle work.



Bloomfield's Dakota Burgerhoff flies over the final hurdle on his way to finishing second in his heat in the Class D boys' 110-meter hurdle prelims at the Nebraska State Track Meet on Friday in Omaha. Burgerhoff, who set a career-best by a half-second in the race, qualified second for the finals today (Saturday).

"All week we haven't practice on hurdles, but on sprinting between them," Burgerhoff said. "I told the coaches that I felt like I was ready to bust out."

That he did, as his 15.54 timing is a half-second better than the 15.8 hand-head time he clocked at districts. And, now that he is in contention, Burgerhoff has his sights set higher than when he came to Omaha.

"I'd make it here the last two

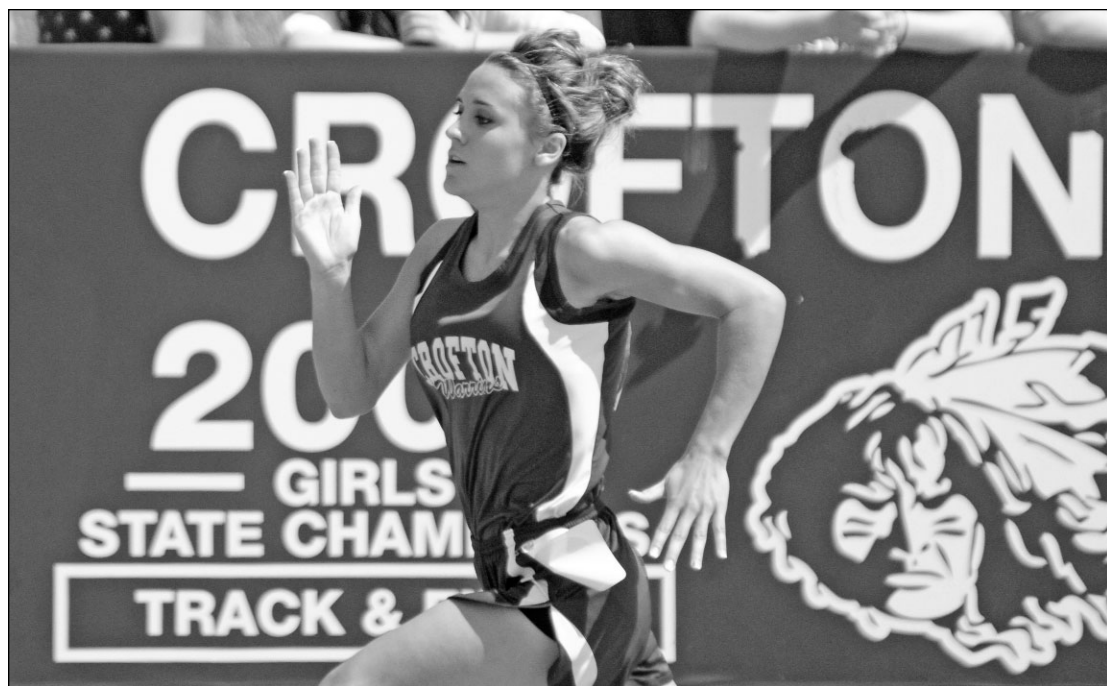


Bloomfield's Adam Haigh flies over the bar to clear a career-best 13 feet, four inches during the Class D boys' pole vault at the Nebraska State Track Meet on Friday in Omaha. Haigh finished fourth in the event.

PHOTOS BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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Class C: Crofton Girls Break School Relay Record



Crofton's Danielle Riesberg competes in the prelims of the Class C girls' 400-meter dash at the Nebraska State Track and Field Championships on Friday in Omaha, Neb. Riesberg qualified for today's (Saturday) finals in both the 400, where she is the defending state champion, and 200, and helped the Crofton 3200 relay win the day's first race in a school-record time.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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OMAHA, Neb. — It's not often that a returning state champion would consider herself "along for the ride." But that's how Crofton senior Danielle Riesberg felt about being a part of the Lady Warriors' school-record 3200 relay on Friday at the Nebraska State Track and Field Meet.

Riesberg helped blaze Crofton to a clocking of 9:37.35 in the relay — a full 15 seconds ahead of the team's school record and 20 seconds ahead of their district time — in helping the squad to 18 first-day points.

The senior, who is the returning state champion in the 400-meter dash, had not run on the relay until districts.

"We got to districts, and (the other relay members) said they still wanted me in it," she said. "I'd like to thank those girls for letting me be a part of it."

Sophomore Allison Arens got the Lady Warriors off to a fast

start. Seniors Bridget Arens and Riesberg followed, with Quinn Wragge closing the door.

"We figured if everyone took two seconds off their district time, we could get the school record," said Bridget Arens, a University of South Dakota basketball recruit. "We tried to get the job done and it worked."

Allison Arens followed up the relay effort by finishing second in the 3200 in 11:51.15, finishing behind Aquinas Catholic's Marissa DeWispelare (11:29.77), the four-time champion in the event.

"She set the pace," Arens said. "I went as fast as I could, hoping I could stay up there."

Also for Crofton, sophomore Maria Wortmann just missed finals in the discus, recording a toss of 115-11 to place ninth. She is one of the top qualifiers in the shot put today (Saturday).

Riesberg posted the third-fastest prelim time in the 400

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Bon Homme Tops Vermillion 8-4 In District Baseball

VERMILLION — Bon Homme pounded out 12 hits to overcome seven errors to beat defending state champion Vermillion 8-4 in a Class B district high school baseball game Friday night at Prentiss Park.

Bon Homme scored three runs in the top of the first inning and pulled ahead 8-3 midway through the sixth inning.

Ross Kortan got the win on the mound, while Kodi Larson and Hunter Young each had two hits for Bon Homme, which will play Parkston next week.

Collin Bertram had two hits for Vermillion, while Colin Olson and Bertram each pitched two innings.

College: SDSU 4-12, Omaha 6-5

OMAHA, Neb. — Ryan Keele ended South Dakota State's hopes for a share of the Summit League regular season baseball title with a walk-off home run in the opener, but the Jackrabbits came back to rout Omaha in the nightcap as the two squads split a doubleheader Friday afternoon at the Ballpark at Boys Town.

Omaha, which won the opener, 6-4, moved to 26-22 overall and 19-6 in league play. The Jackrabbits, who took Game 2 by a 12-5 score, ended the day 31-20 overall and 16-9 in The Summit League.

The two teams conclude the regular season today (Saturday) with a 1 p.m. game.

Ryan's Son Named Astros President

HOUSTON (AP) — Reid Ryan has been introduced as the new president of the Houston Astros. Ryan, the eldest son of Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan, was the CEO of Ryan-Sanders Baseball, which owns the Triple-A Round Rock Express and Double-A Corpus Christi Hooks.

The 41-year-old Reid Ryan helped create the Express, an affiliate of the Texas Rangers and the Hooks, an Astros' affiliate.

His father played for the Astros from 1980-88 and spent four years beginning in 2004 as a special assistant to the general manager in Houston before joining the front office of the Texas Rangers. His famous dad and former Astros great Craig Biggio were on hand Friday for the announcement.

The younger Ryan takes over the position that was left vacant when George Postolos resigned on Monday.

Also on Friday, Astros' owner Jim Crane announced that he had agreed to a letter of intent to buy the Hooks. The sale is pending baseball and Ryan-Sanders shareholders' approval.

Report: Phelps Planning Comeback

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

Is Michael Phelps planning a comeback?

A report Friday evening from WBBH, an NBC television affiliate in Fort Myers, Fla., said Phelps will return to swimming with an eye toward competing at the 2016 Rio Olympics. The three-paragraph story on the station's Web site was posted by news anchor Peter Busch, who is the son of Frank Busch, director of the U.S. national swim team.

"The greatest Olympian of all time isn't hanging up his swimsuit, after all," the report said, without citing any sources.

Phelps went on Twitter to downplay the report, but he didn't specifically deny it either.

"Why do I keep getting texts about coming back?" he wrote. "Do (people) really believe everything they hear or read? There are (too) many (people) in

the world that think they have a 'story.'"

Busch followed with a tweet that said he felt "very confident with my info. Guess we'll see."

Phelps has said repeatedly his swimming career was over after winning 18 gold medals and 22 medals overall, both totals far more than any other Olympian. He retired at the age of 27 immediately after last summer's London Olympics.

There was no other immediate comment from the Phelps camp. A message was left with one of his longtime agents, Drew Johnson.

Officials at USA Swimming did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Just last weekend, longtime rival Ryan Lochte was clearly skeptical that Phelps would stick with his decision to retire from a sport he dominated for the past decade, especially when so many swimmers are competing well into their 30s.

and a designated video-review room are available at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, and indisputable video evidence would be necessary to overturn a call made on the field.

"In layman's terms, the games are so important, you want to get the right call," NCAA vice president of championships Dennis Poppe said. "When there's a comfort level and capability, why not?"

In cases where runners are on base and a foul call is changed to fair after a review, the umpire crew chief will consult with his partners and place the runners where he thinks they would have ended up had the call been correct initially. That means it's possible the crew chief would be required

Bucks Sit 14th At State Tennis

SIoux FALLS & BRANDON — The Yankton Bucks scored 45 points on Friday and improved one place after day two at the S.D. State Boys' Tennis Tournament, being held in Sioux Falls and Brandon.

Watertown, with a total of 527 points, surged in front of Rapid City Stevens to lead the team race by 21 points. Sioux Falls O'Gorman (489), Sioux Falls Lincoln (444) and Mitchell (359) round out the top five.

Yankton has one player still alive for a fifth-place championship and another in contention for a consolation title.

In flight four singles, Jason Shindler lost his quarterfinal match, but bounced back to beat Tate Crago of Mitchell.

Shindler will face Dillon Prissel of Aberdeen Central today (Saturday) for fifth place.

Luke Rockne beat Nate Ackert of S.F. Washington, 10-4, in the consolation semifinals at flight one singles. Rockne will

play Jacob Cersosimo of Mitchell in today's consolation finals.

At flight three, Yankton's Brandon Frick lost to Josh Jackson of S.F. Roosevelt, 10-3, in the consolation semifinals. Vermillion's Jacob Ford met the same fate, losing 10-6 to John Robidoux of Rapid City Central.

Yankton's Paul Fanta was eliminated by Matt Christopherson of S.F. Lincoln, 10-6, in the consolation semifinals of flight six.

The Bucks also had two players eliminated earlier in consolation action Friday — Ben Jensen (flight two) and John Fanta (flight five).

Yankton's flight three doubles team is still alive in consolation action. The Bucks will play either Brookings or Pierre today for the consolation title.

Vermillion scored 10 points on Friday and sits in 19th place with 16 points.

The tournament concludes today.

CWS Video Review Expands To Include OF Line Calls

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The use of video replay will be expanded at next month's College World Series to give umpires the ability to take a second look at a ball hit down an outfield line to determine if it's fair or foul.

Last year, instant replay was approved at the CWS for the first time and matched the major leagues' rules for use. The only plays eligible involved apparent home runs, and the situation never arose.

This year, the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee is going one step further.

Instant replay won't be used in NCAA regionals or super regionals because not all stadiums are equipped equally for video technology. Multiple camera angles

to make an educated guess at how many runners would advance home — a decision that could decide the national championship.

NCAA national umpire coordinator Gene McArtor said giving the crew chief the ability to place base runners was a "major talking point" on the rules committee.

"But I think people fail to understand that happens in other plays in baseball now," he said. "If you have interference of some kind, the umpire places the runners where he thought they would be. It's not exactly new. It's just an extension of that."

Half a dozen coaches declined to comment on the expanded video-review rule

or did not return phone messages. Asked about coaches' feedback he's received, McArtor said: "I think they're fine with it. The proof will be in the pudding when it happens."

McArtor described what would happen if bases were loaded, a ball was hit into the left-field corner and the third-base umpire's initial foul call was overturned.

"The crew chief will place the runners where he thinks they would have ended up," McArtor said. "The primary guidance we've given is that they should be conservative in that placement of runners. It

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