

Class AA

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jump, and will compete in the triple jump today to conclude her prep career.

Also in that long jump, eighth graders Lindsey Hale (15-10 1/2) and Emma Stewart (14-4 1/2) placed 15th and 24th.

As the Gazelle throwers were getting the day off to a great start, Yankton's distance runners did the same. The foursome of Erica Westerman, Annie Kruse, Savannah Woods and Whitlee Larson blew away the slow heat in the 3200 relay, finishing fourth overall in 9:52.13.

"On paper we were a little out of it," Youmans said of the relay. "But we knew if we ran it tough we could compete."

Later in the day, Kruse finished third in the 3200 (11:08.24) and Larson placed eighth in the 800 (2:20.52). Seventh grader Madisen McClure finished 15th in the 3200, clocking an 11:54.71.

"If you ran a personal best (Kruse did), you can't walk away feeling disappointed. It's hard to go to any meet, do your best and not feel good," Youmans said. "Maddie competed hard, competed well.

"They need to carry this over into the next 12 months, especially as a springboard into the summer to get ready for cross country."

The Yankton girls sent one individual and one relay to today's finals. Junior Hailey Luken clocked a 16.13 to earn a spot in the 100-meter hurdles final, then teamed with Brenna Fitzsimmons, Danielle Beckmann and Jessica Wirth to clock a 50.67 and make the 400-meter relay finals.

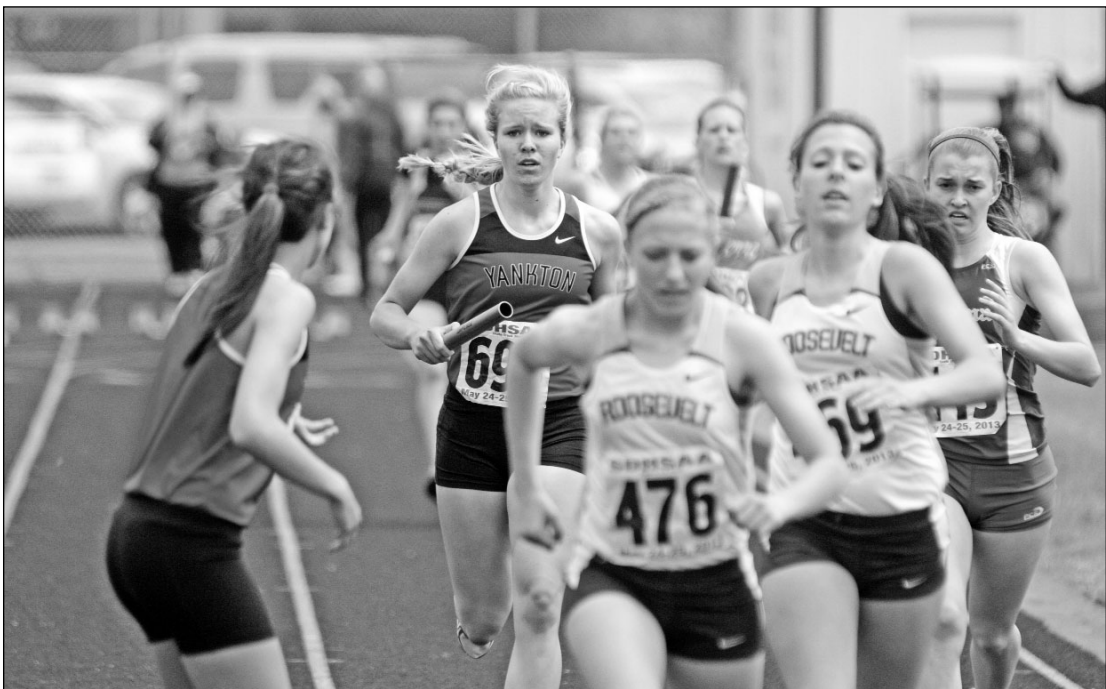
Yankton missed the finals in the other three relays, but set season-best times in the 800 and 1600 relays.

"Coming in to the relays we were optimistic, but only our girls' 4-by-1 made it," Youmans said. "But we ran some of our best times in the relays. It's hard to be disappointed when you run your best times of the season."

A trio of juniors got the Yankton boys' day off to a good start as the Bucks scored 17 points on the day.

"One of the things that our coaching staff commented on at the end of the day was that the bulk of our points came from the upperclassmen, but not necessarily the seniors," Youmans said. "It's going to be fun to see what they can do in the next 12 months."

In the pole vault, Casey Skillingstad and James Hofer each cleared 13 feet to place fifth



ABOVE: Yankton's Erica Westerman, center, heads toward teammate Annie Kruse, facing away on left, during the girls' 3200 relay at the S.D. State Class AA Track and Field Meet on Friday in Brandon. Yankton ran a 9:52.13 in the slow heat to place fourth overall.
BELOW: Yankton junior Richard Culver gets off to a good start in his preliminary heat of the boys' 100-meter dash on Friday in Brandon. Culver clocked a 11.49 to advance to finals.

and seventh.

For Hofer, the mark was a career best and was aided by the Mitchell squad.

"I was on a new pole at the end, one that we borrowed from Mitchell. We help each other out," he said. "(Clearing 13 feet) gives me confidence that I can keep improving."

The swirling winds that brought the storms that twice delayed Friday's session made for challenging vaulting conditions, Skillingstad said.

"After a few vaults, I was able to get focused and block the wind out," he said.

Skillingstad also didn't enter the competition until 13 feet, a strategy that helped him finish ahead of Hofer and the other vaulter whose last cleared height was 13 feet. It also helped Skillingstad have the energy to nearly clear a career-best 13-6.

"That was our coach's plan for me," he said. "Hit 13 feet without knocking the bar over, which would help me place higher on the stand."

As the Bucks were flying over the bar, junior Richard Culver got the Bucks going on the track. His time of 11.49 earned him a spot in the 100-meter dash final.

Junior Brice Cowman finished fifth in a tough 3200 field, clocking a 9:33.12, a career-best by 11 seconds. In that race, Brookings' Addison DeHaven clocked a state and state meet record of 9:00.19.

Junior J.J. Hejna took home a pair of medals on Friday, finishing fifth in the high jump (6-3) and sixth in the long jump (20-10 1/4). Also in the long jump, sophomore Lee Rose (20-3 1/2) fin-



ished 10th and Culver (19-5 1/4) placed 18th.

Yankton just missed hardware in the 3200 relay, clocking an 8:33.35. It was a season best by over 13 seconds.

The Bucks also had season-best times in the other four relays, finishing 10th or 11th in each: 44.98 in the 400 relay, 1:34.11 in the 800 relay, 3:36.06 in the 1600 relay and 3:46.40 in the medley.

Among the highlights for YHS today will be longtime assistant coach Carmen Robinson receiving the South Dakota High School Activities Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Aberdeen Central has 65 1/2 points to lead the girls' race, with pre-meet favorites Rapid City Central (37) and Stevens (35) looming. Sioux Falls Washington and Roosevelt, the pre-meet favorites on the boys' side, have 54

and 41 1/2 points to rank first and second.

A state meet record shared by a former Buck went by the waysides on Friday, as Roosevelt's Jack Lembcke recorded a toss of 63 feet, 10 1/2 inches. The old mark of 62-1 was shared by Yankton's Lance Wipf (1993) and Aberdeen's George Amundson (1969)

The meet concludes today at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls, with competition beginning at 9 a.m. with field events and 9:30 a.m. with running events.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at [twitter.com/JCimburek](#)



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Tyler Gerdes of Viborg-Hurley competes in the boys' long jump on Friday at the South Dakota State B Track Meet at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls. Gerdes won the event with a jump of 21-2.

Class B

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frustrating, though."

He also qualified for the finals in the 110-meter hurdles, 200-meter dash and ran a leg in the Eagles' qualifying 800-meter relay.

"It was hard with that wind on the final stretch, but it was one of our better times," Livingston said of the track events.

While the boys' team race figures to be close today (Saturday), the girls' race is all but locked up.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Genevieve Clark, left, of Gayville-Volin trails Tori Moore, front, of Ipswich during the girls' 3200-meter run Friday at the South Dakota State B Track Meet at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls.

Ipswich recorded an eye-popping 60 points on Friday and leads Timber Lake by 20. Gayville-Volin sits fourth at 17 points.

All of those points for the Raiders came from their distance runners, highlighted by freshman Genevieve Clark's second-place finish in the 3200-meter run (11:26.21). Tori Moore of Ipswich was first at 11:22.49.

"I knew it'd be a challenge, staying with Tori," Clark said. "I scratched my 800 and ran the medley, so I was already tired."

"Those few laps I knew were going to hurt a little bit. But second will work."

Freeman, meanwhile, got eight points from sophomore Cailey Roth who took second in the 800 (2:20.7). Ipswich eighth-grader Macy Heinz, last year's Class B MVP, was first at 2:16.89.

Roth said, though, she busted out a new strategy.

"Usually, I started hard and died at the end. It's been a while since I've finished strong; probably eighth grade," Roth said. "But I thought if I could stick with Macy, and when she starts going, I would start going."

"With the way I ran and the time I got, I'm really happy."

Roth spent Friday sporting blue streaks in her hair and long, blue socks in memory of a classmate who committed suicide last December

"He was out for track. He wasn't the best, but he loved it," Roth said, pointing out that the tragedy brought together both Freeman public and Freeman Academy. "I thought, 'Let's do this for him.'"

"Just feeling that he was there with me is amazing," she added. "It's our way of remembering him."

The meet continues today with track events at 9 a.m. and field events at 9:30 a.m.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](#)

Class A

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in the pole vault and Dakota Valley's Kylie Martin placed fifth in the shot put.

Bon Homme's Scott Van Winkle placed sixth in the 300M hurdles with Bon Homme also placing third in the 4x200M relay. Ethan-Parkston placed second in the 4x100 relay and first in the 1600 sprint medley, and Colin Olson placed fourth for Vermillion in the 400M dash. Vermillion also placed second in the 4x400M relay.

Krier participated in the 1600 sprint medley for Vermillion, taking fourth. He said the win made his teammates confident for the final day of competition.

"Taking the win for the prelims is a great thing because you know you're going to have a good seed for the finals," he said. "We're still nervous for tomorrow just because the times are all so close, but we know that everybody will do their best, and we just have to focus on that to run our best time tomorrow."

In field events Ethan-Parkston's Anthony Huber placed third in the discus, while Dakota

Valley's Wade Treloar placed first in the pole vault.

Perryman, who took sixth in the 800 final for Dakota Valley said his finish came as a surprise, but also left him confident for today (Saturday).

"I didn't think my heat was going to be as slow as it was - it was supposed to be a faster-paced race," he said. "For the mile tomorrow I actually think I'm sitting pretty well, and I hope I can use my competitiveness to get into a higher rank."

For Krier, more than anything the competition throughout the weekend meant his work had finally paid off, he said.

"It felt really good competing as a senior," he said. "We definitely think about getting here from the very first meet. We know that we're going to push ourselves throughout the whole season to prepare ourselves for the state meet, so it's something we look forward to all season."

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at [twitter.com/ENiebrugge](#)

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WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Tuesday, May 28

7:40 am Yankton City Mgr. (Amy Nelson)

8:20 am United Way (Jody Roose)

8:45 am Dakota Museum (Crystal Nelson)

Wednesday, May 29

7:40 am The Center (Christy Hauer)

8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)

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