

# Track & Field: Region 4B Teams Shine At State Meet



The Parker track and field team takes the awards stand after winning the Class B combined team title at the South Dakota State Track and Field Meet, which concluded on Saturday in Sioux Falls. Parker finished second in the girls' division and third in the boys' division. Other teams from Region 4B also fared well, as Gayville-Volin tied for third in the girls' division, and the boys' division saw Viborg-Hurley in second and Irene-Wakonda in fourth.

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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SIoux FALLS — If the teams from Region 4B had not already thrust themselves on the state's radar, they have now.

Four of the top five boys' teams at the South Dakota State B Track Meet in Sioux Falls, which concluded Saturday in Sioux Falls, were from the region — as were two of the top three girls' teams.

Ipswich ran away with the girls' crown, but Parker took second and Gayville-Volin tied for third place. And on the boys' side, Herreid-Selby Area beat defending champion Viborg-Hurley by eight points, while Parker, Irene-Wakonda and Freeman rounded out the top five. Not bad for one area.

"Basically six of the top nine teams on both sides are from our region; that's crazy," said Parker coach Phil Bjorneberg, whose program won the Class B combined team title.

The Parker girls accumulated 37.5 points (well behind Ipswich's 116), while the Pheasants boys rolled up 58.5 points for third.

"The guys we knew would be in the mix, but the girls weren't talked about as much," Bjorneberg

said. "It's not a total shock, but until it happens, you just don't know."

Relays were again a strength for the Parker girls. The Pheasants won the 800 and 1600 relays, and took second in the 400.

The squad had to replace Anna Leloux on the relays from a year ago, but still continued their Class B dominance — thanks to the anchor of senior Tessa Weeldreyer.

"We had three girls back, though, but we still had to adjust," Weeldreyer said. "(The 800) is my favorite race, because it's more of a team effort. We all have the same passion for track."

Ipswich, which set a Class B record with 116 total points, has only three seniors among its 19 athletes from the state meet. Eighth-grader Macy Heinz was named track MVP after winning the 400, 800, 1600 and running a leg in the winning 3200 relay.

Gayville-Volin, with 35 points, tied with Sully Buttes for third place, but freshman Genevieve Clark said she believes the Raiders aren't far from competing for a title.

"We're hoping we can get some field events qualified next year," Clark said. "I think we can; we've

got some younger girls on the way up. "Then we can really be competitive here."

The boys' team race was significantly closer. A total of 34 points separated Herreid-Selby Area from fifth-place Freeman.

A big reason why Herreid-Selby Area unseated Viborg-Hurley from their championship mantle was Dakota Thorstenson. He was seeded seventh in the triple jump, but won the title at 41-feet-7. That leap of eight points proved to be the difference for the team championship.

Viborg-Hurley, though, still found success.

Tyler Gerdes ran on the winning 400 and 800 relays, both of which the Cougars won for the second straight year.

"It's pretty crazy when you think about it, but that was our goal, to win both again," Gerdes said.

Trevor Jacobsen finished second in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, while Tyler Novak was fourth in the 100 and sixth in the 200.

CLASS B | PAGE 9

## Baseball | S.D. State B Tournament

# STM Ousts Bon Homme

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SIoux FALLS — Nicknamed "Big Cat," Lincoln Feist was able to scratch out a rather gutty performance on the mound.

And as a result, St. Thomas More won another state high baseball title.

Aided by a strong start from the big lefty, the Cavaliers beat Bon Homme 4-1 in Monday night's championship game at the S.D. State Class B Baseball Tournament in Sioux Falls.

St. Thomas More, which finished the season 14-0, has now won three championships in the last five years.

"Every one is special," head coach Jeff Pekny said. "I'm very proud of it. That's our expectation every year."

Bon Homme, on the other hand, comes up just short of its second title in the last three years. The Cavaliers (11-4) won the crown in 2011.

Monday, however, was a tale of only a few plays, according to head coach Gary Kortan.

"We equaled them, for sure, but a few plays didn't go our way," said Kortan, whose team beat Harrisburg 6-1 in Monday's semifinal.

"A few of those go the other way and the score could be opposite."

The tournament was condensed to three games at Augustana's Ronken Field, with no third-place game. They were originally moved across town after wet field conditions at Sioux Falls Stadium.

St. Thomas More (14-0), however, didn't seem to mind a change of venue.

After beating Deubrook-Deuel-Esteline-Castlewood-Hamlin 7-2 in the first semifinal, the Cavaliers turned to their ace in the biggest game of the season. He responded with a complete game 6-hitter.

"We got away with not throwing him in the first game; Patrick (Yantes) threw a great game," Pekny said. "He (Feist) twisted an ankle there late, but he's something special."

After combining for 13 errors in its district and region victories to get to state, Bon Homme committed three miscues in Monday's final.

St. Thomas More, the 2009 and 2010 state champion, started the scoring first with a 2-run single by A.J. Schaeffbauer in the bottom of the third inning — a liner that went off the glove of a Bon Homme infielder.

St. Thomas More added a pair of runs in the fourth, after a passed ball brought in a run on a squeeze and another run later coming in on an infield error by Bon Homme.

Down 4-0, the Cavaliers of Bon Homme County found the scoreboard on an RBI triple by Kodi Lar-



Bon Homme runner Chase Kortan, center, scores a run during Monday night's championship game against St. Thomas More at the S.D. State Class B Baseball Tournament in Sioux Falls.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

## Jackrabbits Win Summit Title, Will Face Oregon Friday

BROOKINGS (AP) — The South Dakota State baseball team is headed to its first NCAA Division I regional tournament after capturing the Summit League title.

The Jackrabbits will face Oregon at 8 p.m. CDT Friday in the opening round of the Eugene Regional.

South Dakota State (35-22) topped North Dakota State 1-0 in the first game Sunday in the Summit League baseball championship. Starting pitcher Shane Kraemer allowed five hits, no walks and struck out two in 5 1/3 innings to improve to 4-2 with two wins. Layne Somsen got the final six outs for his first save of the year. South Dakota State also took the opener Sunday 2-0.

## Tappers Flirt With No-Hitter In Win At Menno

MENNO — The Yankton Tappers took a no-hitter into the seventh in an 11-0 victory over Menno in South Central League baseball action on Sunday in Menno.

Trey Krier struck out eight batters over six no-hit innings for Yankton. Menno's Josh Berndt got a two-out single off Jake Broscha to end the no-hit bid.

Dillon Schenkel, Jesse Bailey and Krier each had two hits for Yankton. Tate Bruckner, Jared Miller, Corey Bromley and Mike Janish added hits.

Tom Sattler took the loss. Yankton, 2-0 in league play, hosts Scotland on Thursday, the home debut of the Tappers. Menno travels to Avon on Thursday.

YANKTON ..... 107 000 3-11 13 0  
 MENNO ..... 000 000 0-0 1 2  
 Trey Krier, Jake Broscha (7) and Corey Bromley, Tom Sattler, Dylan Lehr (4) and Jay Thaler

## Crofton 5, Avon 2

AVON — Crofton's Matt Tramp, Aaron Losing and Rand Thygeson combined on a three-hitter as the Bluejays downed Avon 5-2 in SCL baseball action on Sunday.

Nick Hegge, Joe Wiebelhaus and Alex Mueeller each had two hits for Crofton. Cody Wilken and Scot Donner had the other Bluejays hits.

Nick Honke had all three Bards hits. Tramp pitched five innings for the win. Losing and Thygeson each pitched two innings of shutout relief. Nate Harrington went the distance in the loss.

Both teams are now 1-1 in league play. Crofton hosts Freeman and Avon hosts Menno on Thursday.

CROFTON ..... 102 002 000-5 8 1  
 AVON ..... 000 020 000-2 3 1  
 Matt Tramp, Aaron Losing (6), Rand Thygeson (8) and Carl Schieffer, Nate Harrington and Joey Cuka

## Wynot 10, Freeman 5

WYNOT, Neb. — Lee Heimes had four hits and scored four times as Wynot downed Freeman 10-3 on Sunday in SCL action.

Scott Heimes had three hits and four RBI for Wynot. Matt Hames had two hits and two RBI in the win.

For Freeman, Mitch Wollman had three hits. Brett Scherschligt added two hits.

Scott Morrison pitched five shutout innings for the win. Lee Scherschligt took the loss, with Brett Scherschligt striking out five in 5 2/3 innings of relief.

Wynot hosts Tabor and Freeman travels to Crofton, Neb., on Thursday.

WYNOT ..... 402 000 030-3 10 5  
 FREEMAN ..... 000 020 000-2 3 1  
 Lee Scherschligt, Brett Scherschligt (3), Scott Morrison, Brett Wiebelhaus (6), Mitchell Bruening (9)

## Lesterville 18, Tabor 6

TABOR — The Lesterville Broncos jumped out to a 14-1 lead on the way to an 18-6 rout of Tabor in SCL action on Sunday.

Cam Schiltz had three hits, including a grand slam and a double, and Tyler Edler had two doubles and two singles to lead Lesterville. Ian Powell had three hits. Cody Ulmer doubled and singled, and Zach Johnson added a double in the win.

Nate Kloucek had two hits and Chad Hovorka doubled for Tabor.

Edler picked up the win. Chris Suterera took the loss.

SCL | PAGE 9

# Softball: Spitfire Sweep S.D. Flash, Split With Norfolk

VERMILLION — The Yankton Spitfire went 3-1 on a busy Sunday in girls' fastpitch softball action at the Vermillion Armory Field.

Yankton went 2-0 against the South Dakota Flash in league action, then split with the Norfolk (Neb.) Impact in non-league games. The games were not a part of the Summer Slam Tournament, which was also going on in Vermillion over the weekend.

The Spitfire host the Wayne (Neb.) Dirt Devils in a double-header on Thursday at Riverside Field. Start time is 6:30 p.m.

SPITFIRE 1-2, S.D. FLASH 0-1: Yankton scored a pair of one-run victories over the South Dakota Flash on Sunday.

In the opener, Andi Sprakel's single in the eighth broke a scoreless tie and gave Yankton a 1-0 victory.

Sprakel and Jessica Wirth were each 2-3 for the Spitfire. Karlee Kozak, Lizzy Bye, Haley Hinseth and Taylor Ruby each had hits.

Katie Koletzky picked up the win, striking out five.

In the nightcap, Bye struck out 12 and added a hit at the plate in a 2-1 Yankton win.

Ruby had a hit and a RBI, and Kozak, Hinseth, Sprakel and Koletzky added hits for the Spitfire. Brooke Loecker drove in the other Yankton run.

SPITFIRE 6-1, NORFOLK IMPACT 2-3: Lizzy Bye went 3-3 with two solo home runs, and struck out six on the rubber to lift Yankton to a 6-2 victory over Norfolk in the opener.

Hainey Hinseth, Brooke Loecker and Abby Schulte each doubled, with Schulte also driving in a run. Karlee Kozak and Shelby Christopher-

son added hits. Taylor Ruby drove in a run in the victory.

Norfolk took the nightcap 3-1 despite six strikeouts from Katie Koletzky.

Kozak had two doubles, and Bye had two hits and a RBI for Yankton. Schulte added a hit.

## Summer Slam

VERMILLION — The Sioux Falls Flash outslugged the Yankton Lightning 9-8 to eliminate Yankton from tournament play at the Summer Slam Tournament on Sunday in Vermillion.

The Lightning had gone 3-1 in pool play, including a win over the Flash.

S.F. FLASH 9, LIGHTNING 8: Madison Dangler had two hits, including a home run, and

three RBI to lead Yankton. Brynn Albers also homered, driving in two. Heather Hauer had two hits and a RBI. Sophie Drotzmann and Jennifer Feilmeier added hits.

Jaclyn Arens took the loss, striking out two.

## SATURDAY

LIGHTNING 6, SOUTH SIOUX CITY EXTREME 1: Dangler struck out 10 as Yankton opened Saturday play with a victory.

Feilmeier had a double, a single and three RBI to lead Yankton. Bailey Kortan had a hit and two RBI. Albers, Arens, Kalya Peterka and Morgan Rothschild added hits. Drotzmann drove in a run.

BROOKINGS OUTLAWS 10, LIGHTNING 4: Kortan had two hits and a RBI, and Drotzmann had a hit and a RBI to lead Yankton. Albers, Arens and Peterka also had hits. Dangler drove in a run.

Ellen Andersen and Arens each pitched, each striking out one.

LIGHTNING 6, S.F. FLASH 3: Four different players had two hits each as Yankton doubled up the Flash.

Arens had two hits and two RBI, and Dangler had two hits and a RBI to lead Yankton. Albers and Rothschild also had two hits each. Feilmeier added a RBI.

Arens struck out two to pick up the win.

LIGHTNING 9, DAKOTA VALLEY PATHERS 3: Arens and Dangler each had two hits as Yankton downed Dakota Valley.

Dangler had a triple, a single and a RBI for Yankton. Arens had two hits and two RBI. Albers doubled, Feilmeier and Kortan had hits, and Hauer and Rothschild drove in runs in the victory.

Rothschild and Dangler combined to pitch in the victory, with Dangler striking out five over 2 1/3 innings of work.

"Practices were tough at times and it was hard to keep going, but I love it so much so it was worth it."

Also competing in the 4x100 relay, Luken is looking forward to improving for the future.

"I'm running with three of my best friends and we work great as a team," she said. "It was well balanced and everything went really well for us. It's great because last year we had the same relay and placed fifth, and with just losing one member for next year should keep up pretty solid."

Assistant coach Carmen Robinson was also recognized with the distinguished service award for her 38 years of coaching at the meet.

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/ENiebrugge

STATE | PAGE 10