



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Logan Wagner of Mount Marty College watches her tee shot off on the No. 3 hole during Thursday's MMC Women's Golf Invite at Fox Run Golf Course.

College Golf | Mount Marty

Wagner Wins MMC Invite Crown

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Though it didn't make up any ground in the conference race, the Mount Marty College women's golf team still took a significant step forward on Thursday. In the confidence department.

The Lancers finished second at their home invite on Thursday at Fox Run Golf Course, the final tuneup before next Monday's fourth and final Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) qualifier. Northwestern, the second-seeded team in the league, won the invite with a score of 355, 13 strokes ahead of Mount Marty.

"I think it was a good practice for everybody, to see the whole 18 holes against almost all the teams," said MMC freshman Logan Wagner, who was the individual champion with a round of 84.

"Hopefully it'll be something we can continue on Monday."

Dakota Wesleyan — which did not compete in Thursday's invite — leads the GPAC by 50 strokes over Northwestern after three qualifiers. From there, Morningside, Mount Marty and Concordia round out the top five.

"It's been a climb for this program,

so to finish second like this and have a chance for third on Monday is awesome," MMC head coach Tom Schlingen said.

He said the program is "greatful" for its two seniors, Caitlyn Roth and Emily Jo Bronemann, who have helped along the younger golfers — the rest of the team is sophomores and freshmen.

It was the play of two freshmen, in particular, that paced the Lancers once again Thursday. Despite the day's cold and windy conditions.

"The weather was awful, but you just have to deal with it," said MMC freshman Kellie Winckler, who finished eighth at 88. Five golfers finished at 88.

That meant golfers had to change the clubs they used — more power into the wind and less power with the wind at their back — depending on the hole, Winckler said.

On one 120-yard hole in particular, Winckler used a club normally reserved for over 150 yards, she said.

Briar Cliff's Dawn Chapman, with the

next

■ Yankton Will Host The Fourth & Final GPAC Women's Golf Qualifier Next Monday.

third-best score in the GPAC race, took second Thursday at 85, as did Northwestern's Taylor Malenke.

Also for the Lancers, Roth, Kristi Skuza and Azure Rodriguez all shot a 98, while Elly Mueller carded a 103 and Bronemann shot a 104.

The home invite allowed the Lancers to not only get another competitive round on their home course, but an opportunity to survey the GPAC field, Winckler said.

"Now we know what these teams can shoot here," she said. "It helps because we're here all the time; we know the course really well."

Thursday went a long way toward Mount Marty's goal of passing Morningside for third place in the GPAC race, Schlingen said. The highest the Lancer women's program has ever finished in the conference is seventh place, last year.

The Lancers are down by six strokes to the Mustangs in the conference standings heading into Monday's final round, but edged Morningside by seven strokes Thursday.

"We'd like to take third, obviously,

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Area Athletes Ready For Howard Wood Relays Today

BY JEREMY HOECK
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While some of their peers are gearing up for graduations right around the corner, track athletes at the University of South Dakota are far from done with their season.

And one of the traditional highlights of that season begins today (Friday) and continues Saturday at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays in Sioux Falls — where college and high school athletes combine for one of the largest meets in the area.

"We've been telling our kids, 'It's this time of the year where every other college kid is ending their school year, and we're amping it up,'" USD women's head coach Lucky Huber said week.

"We're just glad we're not traveling. That's probably the biggest advantage, that we can call this a kind of a home meet."

Another of the highlights of the Relays? Poor weather.

Last year, for example, the meet was marked by rain, which eventually canceled the evening session Saturday.

The weather forecast for the weekend, however, calls for temperatures in the low 60's with gusting winds and a 10 percent chance of rain both days.

"We've actually been pretty fortunate this spring; had some nice meets," Huber said.

Sandwiched between the prestigious Drake Relays (last weekend) and the Summit League Outdoor Championships (May 15-17), the Howard Wood Relays are a welcomed "breath" for the Coyotes, according to Huber.

"Our kids have been off traveling to California and Drake, but that's the grind of our season," he said. "It's a nice weekend to get back into a routine."

The only other Division I schools that will send athletes are Nebraska-Omaha, North Dakota State and South Dakota State, yet those are three of the better teams in the Summit League — particularly on the women's side.

"Both schools are a good challenge to us," Huber said. "We're in a tough spot, because we're probably not as good as we'd like to be."

"But we'll go in there and do the best we can, and I feel like we'll be pushed pretty well."

And while the "lowkey" meet is still light on D-I athletes, there's still plenty on the line for the Coyotes, Huber said.

Among the projected highlights for the Coyotes will be in field events, particularly in men's throws.

USD's Cody Snyder has the top time in the discus as an unattached thrower (he is redshirting), while the Coyotes have the next two best marks — Dustin Valind and Kyle McKelvey.

McKelvey also has the top qualifying mark in the shot put, and Denton Stephens has the third-best mark in the hammer throw.

Also for the Coyote men, Mubarik Musa has the top

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GPAC Baseball Tournament

No. 7 Lancers Stay Alive



Mount Marty Survives Day One At GPAC

ABOVE: Mount Marty junior Brandon Nickolite sends the ball home during the Lancers' second-round matchup with Midland during the Great Plains Athletic Conference baseball tournament on Thursday in Mitchell. Nickolite started both of the Lancers' games on Thursday, pitching six innings in each. He picked up the win in the opener and took the loss in the nightcap.

LEFT: Mount Marty second baseman Tyler Edler kicks up some dirt as he fields a ground ball during the Lancers' matchup with Midland in the Great Plains Athletic Conference baseball tournament on Thursday in Mitchell.

PHOTOS BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

MMC Plays Elimination Game Today At 12:30

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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MITCHELL — After struggling against the top teams in the Great Plains Athletic Conference by playing "conventional" baseball, Mount Marty College and coach Andy Bernatow tried something a little different.

That got the Lancers one victory against a nationally-ranked team and a close loss to another team receiving votes in the national poll on the opening day of the GPAC Baseball Tournament, Thursday in Mitchell.

"We played them during the regular season, and they went 3-1 against us. The conventional method didn't work," Bernatow said. "What we looked

at was having our pitchers get one time through the order."

The Lancers threw three starters in the first game, and one starter and three relievers in their second game. Junior Brandon Nickolite started both games Thursdays, earning the win in the first game, a 1-5 rout of No. 20 Northwestern, and taking the loss in the second, a 7-4 loss to Midland.

MMC now plays an elimination game at 12:30 p.m. today (Friday). If the Lancers win they will play a second game on Friday.

"We made mistakes, but they're correctable ones. I know my guys want to correct them," Bernatow said. "They're going to be eager to get to the field on Friday."

Midland jumped out in the first with three straight run-

also

■ Scores From The GPAC Tournament In Mitchell Can Be Found On **PAGE 8A**

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Track: Centerville Boys Win Ptak

MENNO — The Centerville boys' team beat Bridgewater Emery 132-111 to win the Erv Ptak Relays Thursday in Menno. On the girls side, Beresford beat Canistota 161-117.

Menno, Beresford, Freeman Academy and Marion were the other area teams competing in Menno.

Menno's Dylan Lehr won the boys' 100-meter dash in 11.50 and the 200 in 23.97.

For Centerville, Nick Wixon won the 3200 (11:24.68), Seamus O'Malley won the long jump (19-6) and Tyrell Martz was first in the pole vault (9-3).

On the girls' side, Freeman Academy's Clara Koerner was first in the 400 (1:05.8) and 800 (2:37.12), while teammate Bethany Wollman won the triple jump (29-1).

For Marion, Briana Davis won the 3200 (13:54.62) and Erica Schoenwald won the long jump (14-8.75).

Menno's Christina Herrboldt won the pole vault (8-4) and Beresford's Grace Quartier was first in the 1600 (6:24.53).

Terry Bong Inv.

CANTON—The Terry Bong Invitational took place on a cold day for track, but Tea Area boys' team still able to bring home honors on Thursday in Canton.

Tea Area claimed victories in five events, including first place in the 4x200 relay. Jeremiah Maka earned first place in the 100 hurdles while teammate Garret Welsh claimed victory in the 200.

Alecestor-Hudson competed as well, with Samuel Jensen earning second in the 200 meter race and the 4x800 relay team claiming fifth place overall. Teammate Inaki Mariones also gained fifth place in the long jump.

The Freeman boys took part as well in the invitational, taking home honors in two events. The 200 relay team claimed first place, along with the 400 relay team. The medley relay team took home contributed a second place victory as well.

NBA: Pacers, Thunder Force Seventh Game In Their Series

ATLANTA (AP) — David West led Indiana on a 16-4 run to end the game, extending the season for the top-seeded Pacers with a 95-88 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Thursday night.

Trailing 3-2 after losing at home for the second time in the best-of-seven series, Indiana was poised for an early summer when the Hawks pushed out to an 84-79 lead with just over 3 minutes remaining, cheered on by a raucous crowd.

But, for the fourth time in this back-and-forth affair, the road team won.

West seemed to make every big play down the stretch, scoring four straight points and forcing a huge turnover to begin the turnaround. West hit two more baskets in the final minute to wrap things up, finishing with 24

points. Game 7 is Saturday in Indianapolis.

Paul George also scored 24 points for the Pacers, making four straight free throws to help fend off a team that was trying to become only the sixth No. 8 seed to knock off a No. 1 seed.

The Pacers went with a smaller-than-usual lineup much of the game, trying to match up better with Atlanta spreading the court and shooting a bunch of 3-pointers. Roy Hibbert remained the starting center, but played only about 12 minutes for the second game in a row. Ian Mahinmi played nearly twice as long, giving Indiana a more mobile presence in the lane, while C.J. Watson and Chris Copeland

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