



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Logan Wagner of Mount Marty College putts on the No. 3 green during Monday's fourth and final GPAC women's golf qualifier at Fox Run Golf Course.

DWU Cruises To GPAC Women's Golf Title

BY JEREMY HOECK
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The Dakota Wesleyan women's golf had a lofty goal heading into 2014. It wanted to win the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) championship by 80 strokes.

Instead, the Tigers won another team title by 59 strokes. They closed out their sixth straight crown after Monday's fourth and final qualifier, at Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton.

"We just wanted to win this thing big," said DWU sophomore Lauren Fitts, who won the individual title for a second consecutive year.

"We wanted to keep on rolling before nationals."

And for the 11th straight year, the Tigers are headed to the NAIA National Championships, set for May 20-23 in Lincoln, Neb.

Dakota Wesleyan came into Monday's fourth round up 50 shots on Northwestern. And by the time the dust had cleared at Fox Run, the Tigers had ballooned their lead to 59 shots — 1308 to 1367. Mount Marty College finished in fourth place, best in school history.

"Any time you're up by that much, it's real easy to get lackadaisical," DWU coach Adam Anderson said. "But our girls knew we'd play well and win."

"We just had to keep things in focus."

The true drama for the final round was for the individual championship.

Fitts held a 2-shot lead over senior teammate Chelsea Burbuck, but finished with a 6-shot victory. Fitts carded a 77 (tied for the best mark on Monday), while Burbuck shot an 81.

"I felt more confident (Monday) than then last two rounds, actually," Fitts said later.

Fitts, a native of Brookings, started Monday's round strong with consecutive pars before "struggling," she said. A birdie on 15 and three straight pars to close the round, however, cinched the title.

And winning for the second straight year means more, Fitts said, when she can share the success with her teammates.

"It feels really awesome to follow up last year like

also

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Miller Repeats As First-Team All-GPAC

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The all-time hits leader in Mount Marty College baseball history has added one more honor to his resume, a second-straight first-team all-Great Plains Athletic Conference selection.

The senior first baseman was one of seven Lancers honored by the GPAC, which announced its league awards on Monday. He was also named to the league's "Gold Glove" team.

Miller batted .447 on the season, with 17 doubles, five home runs and 52 RBI. Defensively, he had just three for a .993 fielding percentage.

He finished his career with MMC records of 242 hits and 56 doubles, as well as 15 home runs and 165 RBI. He also had a .990 fielding percentage and played in 185 contests.

"Jared was one of the better players our conference has seen," said MMC head baseball coach Andy Bernatow. "He put up some pretty big power numbers, when you're talking the BBCOR (bat) era. He got a lot of hits in key situations."

Miller was honored by the GPAC all four seasons, earning second-team honors as a sophomore and honorable mention

7 Lancers Honored By GPAC



Miller

Blumenstock

Nelson

Hass



Hollenback



Mogensen



O'Connell

BASEBALL | PAGE 11

Minor League Baseball Comes To Yankton



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Sioux Falls Canaries runner Shelby Ford, left, dives back to first base after a run-down during Monday night's exhibition game against the Sioux City Explorers at Riverside Field.

Canaries Vs. Explorers

Fans, Players Enjoy Game

BY NICK ROBINSON
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An annual occurrence in Yankton is when the baseball fields turn green. And then there's the Yankton Morning Optimist Club and its hosting of a free professional exhibition baseball game at Riverside Field.

For the last couple of years, the Optimist Club arranged for an Interstate 29 battle between American Association rivals: The Sioux Falls Canaries and the Sioux City Explorers.

The Explorers were able to shut down the Canaries 19-0, behind six first inning runs to win the preseason opener for both teams at Riverside Field in Yankton on Monday evening.

Sioux City Fans Make Second Trip To Yankton

For a second straight season, Sioux City fans Edward and Audrey Knapp have made the drive to watch their beloved Explorers play

in Yankton.

"This is a very nice park you guys have here," Audrey Knapp said. "This is a great way to spend an evening."

The Knapps' also use this game to see new faces and players they've been watching since they started going to games.

"We came last season and we really like coming a lot," Edward Knapp said. "It really gives us a good preview of the team."

The Knapp's have been season ticket holders for four seasons and have some very memorable moments at Lewis and Clark Park in Sioux City and around the area.

One of their most memorable moments was watching then-rookie Adrian Martinez hit his first career home-run as a walk-off a season ago.

"That game was so fun to watch," Audrey Knapp said. "We just love baseball, it's so fun to watch. It's also fun to watch the umpires get in trouble."

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Golf: Bon Homme Boys Win Pre-Region 4B

MITCHELL — The Bon Homme boys and Burke-South Central girls claimed top honors in the final tune-up before post-season, the Pre-Region 4B Golf Tournament in Mitchell.

In the boys' division at Wild Oak Golf Course, Bon Homme shot a 259, 11 strokes better than Platte-Geddes and 18 better than Andes Central. Andes Central's J.J. Cooney shot a 74 to finish five strokes ahead of Bon Homme's Alec Johnson. The Cavaliers' Andrew Roland was third at 85.

In the girls' division at Lakeview Golf Course, Burke-South Central shot 302 to finish two strokes ahead of Mount Vernon-

Plankinton and four ahead of Platte-Geddes in the tightly-compacted standings. Burke-South Central's Sydney Benter earned medalist honors with an 88, three shots better than Scotland's Maggie Fiscel and eight better than Platte-Geddes' Niki Nelson.

The Region 4B championships will be held Friday at the same courses. The S.D. State Class B championships will also be on those courses on May 19-20.

BOYS' DIVISION
TEAM SCORES: Bon Homme 259, Platte-Geddes 270, Andes Central 277, Gregory 278, Burke-South Central 290, Scotland 292, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 296, Avon 308, Ethan 314, White Lake 320, Corsica-Stokrey 324
TOP 12: JJ Cooney, Andes Central 74; Alec Johnson, Bon Homme 79; Andrew Roland, Bon Homme 85; Jayden Van Zee, Platte-Geddes 88; Paul Taggart, Gregory 89; Jon Bakke, Gregory 89; Turner Serr, Burke-South Central 89; Cody Qualm, Platte-Geddes 91; Cody Steffel, Platte-Geddes 91; Collen Plooster, Platte-Geddes 93; Bobby Beach-Pattison, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 94; Tyler Kaul, Bon Homme 95

GIRLS' DIVISION
TEAM SCORES: Burke-South Central 302, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 304, Platte-Geddes 306, Bon Homme 315, Gregory 345, Scotland 351, Ethan 368, Tripp-Delmont 396
TOP 12: Sydney Benter, Burke-South Central 88; Maggie Fiscel, Scotland 91; Niki Nelson, Platte-Geddes 96; Hannah Karbo, Burke-South Central 97; Brenda Walloch, Bon Homme 98; Makaela Karst, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 100;

Kaleigh Erdahl, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 100; Mariah Swenson, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 104; Cassidy Plooster, Platte-Geddes 104; Macey Koopel, Platte-Geddes 106; Shelby Vissia, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 107; Becca Lehmann, Andes Central 107

LEWIS & CLARK BOYS HOMER, NEB. — Laurel-Concord-Coleridge shot a 342 to score a 13-stroke victory in the 10-team Lewis & Clark Conference boys' golf tournament, held Monday in Homer, Neb.

LCC beat out Hartington for team honors. Randolph and Creighton tied for third at 365.

Plainview's Sam Meuret shot a 71 for a nine-stroke victory in the individual standings. LCC's Jamie McCoy and Creighton's Tanner Homan finished second and third, each at 80. Plainview's Colin Wright placed fourth with an 81.

TOP 15: Sam Meuret, Plainview 71; Jami McCoy, LCC 80; Tanner Homan, Creighton 80; Colin Wright, Plainview, 81; Austin Gubbels, Randolph 83; Zach Kumm, Osmond 83; Collin Matthews, Homer 84; Brendan Groene, LCC 86; Mitchell Klooz, LCC 86; Evan Nicholson, Wakefield 86; Chase Denlinger, Hartington 86; Kolby Jueden, Hartington 88; Trey Morten, Hartington 88; Cole Wetzel, Creighton 88;

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Tennis: Yankton Tops Bishop Heelan 8-1

SIoux CITY, Iowa — The Yankton Bucks went south of the border to pick up an 8-1 victory over Sioux City Bishop Heelan in boys' tennis action Monday in Sioux City.

Yankton got singles victories from Luke Rockne (flight one), Greg Hauer (three), Paul Fanta (four), Brandon Frick (five) and Hunter Rockne (six).

The Bucks then won all three doubles matches, with Ben Jensen joining Hunter Rockne at flight six.

Yankton will host Vermillion for a dual on Thursday, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the YHS/SAC Courts.

YANKTON 8, SIOUX CITY BISHOP HEELAN 1
SINGLES: Luke Rockne YHS def Dustin Doerhart 6-4; Joe Keane SCBH def Logan Megard 3-0; Greg Hauer YHS def Daniel Briener 5-2; Paul Fanta YHS def Dongwan Lee 8-1; Brandon Frick YHS def Jack Youngblood 8-2; Hunter Rockne YHS def Zack Walkins 8-2
DOUBLES: Luke Rockne-Hunter Rockne YHS def Doerhart-Keane 8-1; Hauer-Fanta YHS def Briener-Lee 8-2; Frick-Ben Jensen YHS def Walkins-Jacob Kentner 8-1

Softball: Mount Marty's Krause, Kozak Honored By GPAC

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Two members of the Mount Marty College softball team were recognized by the Great Plains Athletic Conference, which announced its all-GPAC selections on Monday.

Freshman Amber Krause was named to the all-GPAC second team as an outfielder. Freshman shortstop Karlee Kozak was an honorable mention selection.

"To receive even honorable mention in this conference is good," said MMC head coach Albert Fernandez. "To get two true freshmen recognized is a great accomplishment."



Krause

struck out 57 and walked 24 in 111 2/3 innings of work.

Krause was one of four Lancers to appear in all 36 games this past season.

"She turned into a utility player for us, the way the season went," Fernandez said. "If she wasn't pitch-



Kozak

ing, she was playing center or left. She even took some reps at third base."

Krause said that one of the toughest adjustments for her was the aggressiveness of opposing hitters.

"The hitters at this level are a lot better. It took a while to alter my pitching to that," she said. "I got frustrated early."

Kozak batted .302 with seven doubles and 10 RBI on the season. "She started out fantastic for us and solidified the leadoff position,"

Fernandez said. "She put the ball in play, with just nine strikeouts in 106 at bats. To do that as a true freshman is impressive."

MMC finished 8-28 overall, 3-17 in the GPAC, but the Lancers finished strong for a second straight season.

"I think we should be a lot better next year," Krause said. "We had a lot of tight losses this year. We pulled out a win against Morning-side (the GPAC tournament champion), which was a big boost for the team."

Fernandez is also excited about the future. "Offensively I thought we had

good production this season, and we'll return some of our top offensive players," he said. "If we can add some more pitching experience and continue to improve our defense, our expectations will be high."

Morningside swept the major post-season awards, with Katie Steffen named Player of the Year, Jordan Johnson named Pitcher of the Year and Jessica Jones-Sitzmann named Coach of the Year.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net