



Yankton's J.J. Hejna clears the bar during the boys' high jump at the First Dakota Relays on Thursday at Yankton. Hejna won the event at 6-0, and attempted to break the YHS school record of 6-8. JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Area Athletes Enjoy Smaller ‘Relays’

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Charlie Stephenson is literally surrounded by reminders of the goal he is aiming to break.

The Yankton High School junior hurdler makes no qualms about it: He wants to break the 300-meter hurdles mark owned by his father, Rob.

“That’s the race I want to win,” Charlie said Thursday at the First Dakota Relays at Williams Field.

Rob Stephenson ran a 40.6 in 1986, a time that ranks sixth in the YHS record books. And yes, he reminds Charlie.

“He asks me a lot, ‘What was your time?’” Charlie said. “And then I hear it from my little brother (Nate). He always says, ‘You’ll never beat dad.’”

Charlie, who has run a

42.0 twice this year, won both hurdles events on Thursday — with a time of 16.0 in the 110 and 42.3 in the 300.

Still, as he pointed out, his desire to seriously threaten his father’s 300 mark remains strong.

“It’s nice to have something to shoot for,” Charlie said. “That’s one of the best things you can have in sports, a goal.”

As a freshman, Charlie was running in the 47-48 range, and improved to 43.5 as a sophomore. Now, as a junior, he’s consistently in the 42 range.

“Maybe next year I can get there,” Charlie said of his father’s record. “It’s definitely a possibility.”

According to his head coach, that goal may be reached sooner rather than later. Luke Youmans referred to Stephenson as a “model of consistent growth.”

“We always talk about staples of our program; those kids that always seem to improve at every meet,” Youmans said. “And Charlie is absolutely one of those kids.”

During his 300 hurdles race, Stephenson was the only Class AA athlete to compete. He was joined by Class A and B competitors, but said such a variety can only help him.

“I love this meet. Usually there’s better competition, but we can see where we’re at,” Stephenson said. “It reminds you that you’re not the only ones out there.”

To that end, Yankton’s annual home meet featured a smaller number of teams. There were athletes from 10 other schools — Beresford, Bon Homme, Brookings, Dakota Valley, Gayville-Volin,



Yankton's Madason Tessier takes off with the baton after taking it from teammate Erin Luken during the girls' 800-meter relay at the First Dakota Relays on Thursday at Yankton. Yankton won the event in 1:48.6. JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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Brookings’ Gannon Sets State Record In Triple Jump

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Alexis Gannon had herself quite a day Thursday in Yankton.

The senior from Brookings set the state record in the girls’ triple jump, and later set a top-5 all-time mark in the long jump. And for good measure, she anchored the Bobcats’ winning 400-meter relay.

The first accomplishment, though, was by far the highlight.

Gannon won the triple jump with a mark of 41 feet, 4.5 inches, which broke the previous South Dakota record by one foot and ranks seventh nationally.

“It means so much to me,” Gannon said.

During the preliminaries Thursday at Williams Field, she jumped 40-2.5, which at the time ranked second all-time. Gannon’s next jump was the record-breaker, and she scratched on

her final attempt.

“I could tell right away when I got up that it was a good one,” she said. “I help up my feet up and turned around and knew it was big.

“That was just unreal.”

A University of North Carolina signee, Gannon set the state record in her freshman year back in 2011, but the mark was broken in 2012 by Colette Christensen of Rapid City Central at 40-4.5.

“So getting it back my senior year really meant a lot,” Gannon said, “because it was my goal all year to jump over 40 feet.

“I love having it back.”

Gannon said Thursday’s meet schedule played a key role in her setting the record.

At nearly every other meet, the girls’ long jump is held before the triple jump, meaning Gannon’s has



Brookings' Alexis Gannon completes a triple jump of 40-2 1/2 at the First Dakota Relays on Thursday in Yankton. She went a state-record 41-4 1/2 in the finals. JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

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Crofton Girls Win At Randolph

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Crofton won the Randolph Invite girls’ division Thursday beating Laurel-Concord-Coleridge scoring 157-101 respectively. Creighton won the boys’ team title.

Crofton’s Quinn Wragge won the 400 meter dash in 1:02.5, Maria Wortmann won the 800 in 2:38.32, the discus in 140-08, and the shot put with 40-07, and Mirah Sage won the pole vault with 7-0.

The Lady Warriors also took first in the 1600 relay in 4:16.49.

For Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ellie Arduser won the 200 in 27.54 and triple jump in 33-09, Sadie Peterson won the 1600 and 3200 in 5:50.98 and 12:25.52 respectively, Kelsey Dietrich won the 100 and 300 hurdles in 15.73 and 50.75, Audra Corbit won the high jump with 5-0. The Bears also won the 400 relay in 53.57.

On the boys’ side, Crofton’s Alex Janssen won the 3200 in 10:27.93.

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge’s Brett Haisch won the 400 in 54.32, while teammate Aaron Haahr won the 1600 in 5:04.95.

Fort Wayne Rallies Past USD In Summit League Tourney

FARGO, N.D. — South Dakota held an 8-3 lead in the sixth inning, but it was Fort Wayne that walked off with a 9-8 win in a Summit League Tournament winner’s bracket contest Thursday morning at Ellig Sports Complex.

The Mastodons (39-13) tied the game on a catcher’s interference in the sixth and won it on a bases-loaded walk in the seventh. They advance to take

on the winner of North Dakota State and IUPUI at noon Friday for the right to play in the championship game. Fort Wayne has won 10 in a row.

South Dakota (29-21) will take on top-seeded North Dakota State (30-16) at 12:30 p.m. Friday in an elimination game. NDSU lost 15-8 against fourth-seeded IUPUI.

The tournament schedule originally had USD and NDSU

competing at 5:30 p.m. Thursday. A four-hour rain delay Thursday afternoon pushed two games, including USD-NDSU, to Friday.

South Dakota belted four home runs to build its lead and knocked out Summit League Pitcher of the Year Miranda Kramer in the process. Katie Dinning hit a two-run homer in the third to give USD a 2-1 lead. Allie Daly led off the

fourth with a homer and Lindsey Boyd’s solo shot in the fifth made it 4-1. Katie Cochran hit a three-run shot off reliever Megan Flenniken that made it 8-3.

USD issued two walks and hit a batter before giving up a grand slam to Larissa Franklin that made it 8-7 with one out in the seventh. Two walks and a hit batter reloaded the bases and the tying run came home

when catcher’s interference was called during Audrey Minta’s at bat.

Kayti Hanson led off the seventh with a single for Fort Wayne. A throwing error on a sacrifice bunt put two on with nobody out. Franklin popped out to short for the first out. Ashleigh Bousquet was hit by a pitch to load the bases and Dani Pugh walked to score Hanson from third.

Tennis: Bucks Sweep Past Vermillion



Yankton's Greg Hauer returns a shot during the 'Dr. Tim Mulhair Challenge' dual with Vermillion on Thursday at the YHS/SAC Tennis Courts. Hauer beat Vermillion's Joe Swanson 6-0, 6-1, to help the Bucks to a 9-0 victory. JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

The Yankton Bucks won all nine varsity matches on the way to a 9-0 sweep over Vermillion in a boys’ tennis dual Thursday at the YHS-SAC Courts.

Picking up singles wins for Yankton were Luke Rockne (flight one), Jason Shindler (two), Greg Hauer (three), Paul Fanta (four), Brandon Frick (five) and Hunter Rockne (six).

In doubles action, Luke Rockne and Shindler paired up, while Hauer and Fanta, and Frick and Ben Jensen teamed up for wins.

Yankton travels to Brookings Saturday for a quadrangular with the Bobcats, Huron and Aberdeen Central. Vermillion travels to Sioux City East today (Friday).

YANKTON 9, VERMILLION 0

VARSITY DIVISION

SINGLES: Luke Rockne YHS def. Jacob Ford 6-2, 6-3; Jason Shindler YHS def. Kevin Helenurm 6-2, 6-1; Greg Hauer YHS def. Joe Swanson 6-0, 6-1; Paul Fanta YHS def. Ryan Styles 6-0, 6-1; Brandon Frick YHS def. Sam Craig 6-3, 6-6 6-6; Hunter Rockne YHS def. Andrew Callahan 6-2, 6-4.

DOUBLES: L. Rockne-Shindler YHS def. Ford-Swanson 6-2, 6-3; Hauer-Fanta YHS def. Helenurm-Craig 7-5, 6-2; Frick-Ben Jensen YHS def. Styles-Callahan 6-4, 6-2.

JUNIOR VARSITY DIVISION

SINGLES: Gerrit Dykstra YHS def. Andrew Callahan 6-6; Ethan Klimisch YHS def. Daniel Robinson 8-3; Guthrie Scoblic YHS def. Tim Ellison 8-4; Malan Moody YHS def. Caleb Blue 8-2; Avery Brockberg YHS def. Justin Bendesky 8-2; Jacob Smith YHS def. Avery Mollet 8-6 7-4; Owen Mechling YHS def. Ray Werners 8-2; Austin Ahlers YHS def. Avery Mollet 8-0; David Wang YHS def. Michael Maldonado 8-4; Austin Devoux YHS def. Giang Nguyen 8-3.

DOUBLES: Callahan-Robinson def. Dykstra-Werners 8-4; Moody-Daniel Nowak YHS def. Ellison-Blue 8-2; Klimisch-Scoblic YHS def. Bendesky-Mollet 8-4; Mechling-Wang YHS def. Brockberg-Ahlers 8-2.

O’Gorman Takes Two From Bucks

Sioux Falls O’Gorman won a pair of pitching duals on Thursday over Yankton in sweeping a high school club baseball doubleheader at Riverside Field.

The Knights won the first game 3-0 and won game two 4-1.

In the first game, Yankton’s Colin Muth struck out six batters in six innings on the mound to take the loss.

Mitch Gullikson and Mason Townsend had hits for Yankton.

In the second game, Lane Sawatzke pitched six innings

and struck out six batters to take a no-decision. Brother Reid Sawatzke took the loss in relief.

Brad Ulmer had two hits including a double for the Bucks, while Muth singled twice and drove in a run. Townsend doubled, and Lane Sawatzke and Sheldon Gant both had a hit.

Yankton, now 12-9 overall and 1-3 in region action, hosts Sioux Falls Roosevelt tonight (Friday) at 6:30 p.m. at Riverside Field.

Texans Make Clowney Top Pick Of NFL Draft

NEW YORK (AP) — For nearly three years, Jadeveon Clowney couldn’t wait to get to the NFL, and the league was just as eager to add the player some called the best defensive prospect in a decade.

No surprise: Clowney is the Texans’ man.

But Thursday’s first pick of the 2014 NFL draft didn’t come without some intrigue about how it would all turn out. There had been criticism of Clowney’s work ethic last season and questions about whether the Texans

would hold or trade the No. 1 slot.

“I just been proving a lot of people wrong throughout my life,” Clowney said. “Growing up, I grew up hard. I always said I’m going to do something great. Hopefully, I’m going to be a Hall of Famer one day.”

Houston will take that.

Rarely does a team not reveal the top overall choice until it is announced, and there was wide speculation the Texans had soured on the defensive end, whose junior season at South

Carolina was accompanied by criticism he played it safe to stay healthy for the pros.

After Commissioner Roger Goodell announced the pick, fans filling Radio City Music Hall to capacity applauded Clowney as he held up his index finger, his eyes moist, a relieved look on his face. Just like the 30 prospects on hand, the fans were extra eager to see who would wind up where after the draft was pushed back from late April because the theater was unavailable.