

# Atlanta Shines On Starr

Falcons Take USD Linebacker In Seventh Round; Bryant, O'Neill Also Get NFL Opportunities

BY JEREMY HOECK  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

Tyler Starr is taking his talents to Georgia. Starr (6-5, 250), the record-setting linebacker from the University of South Dakota, was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the seventh round (255th overall) of the NFL Draft on Saturday. Starr, who spent the day in his hometown of Little Rock, Iowa, with his family, was the second to last player taken. He left Sunday for Atlanta. "This is an unreal feeling," Starr said in a statement. "We waited all day long for this to

happen, and when it did we were overwhelmed. My son, Hunter, turns three (Sunday) and it was great to celebrate this day with him. I fly to Atlanta soon and I can't wait to get started." Starr led the MVFC in sacks (9.0), tackles for loss (15.0) and forced fumbles (4) this past season. He finished second on the team in tackles with 71. He also had an interception and was credited with four pass breakups. During his three seasons in Vermillion, Starr accumulated 196 tackles, including a program record 27 sacks and 13 forced fumbles. Starr's selection gives USD

NFL draftees twice in a three-year span, as offensive lineman Tom Compton was picked by Washington in the sixth round (193rd overall) in 2012. Starr is the 13th Coyote taken in the NFL draft, and the first Coyote linebacker selected since Craig Austin was taken by the Seattle Seahawks in the 1982 draft. Starr, however, wasn't the only Coyote player to hear from an NFL team over the weekend. Cornerback Jarrid Bryant signed a free agent contract with the St. Louis Rams and offensive lineman Cody O'Neill was invited to the Minnesota Vikings minicamp. For Bryant, a native of Corona, Calif., spent just one of his five collegiate seasons on the defensive side of the ball.

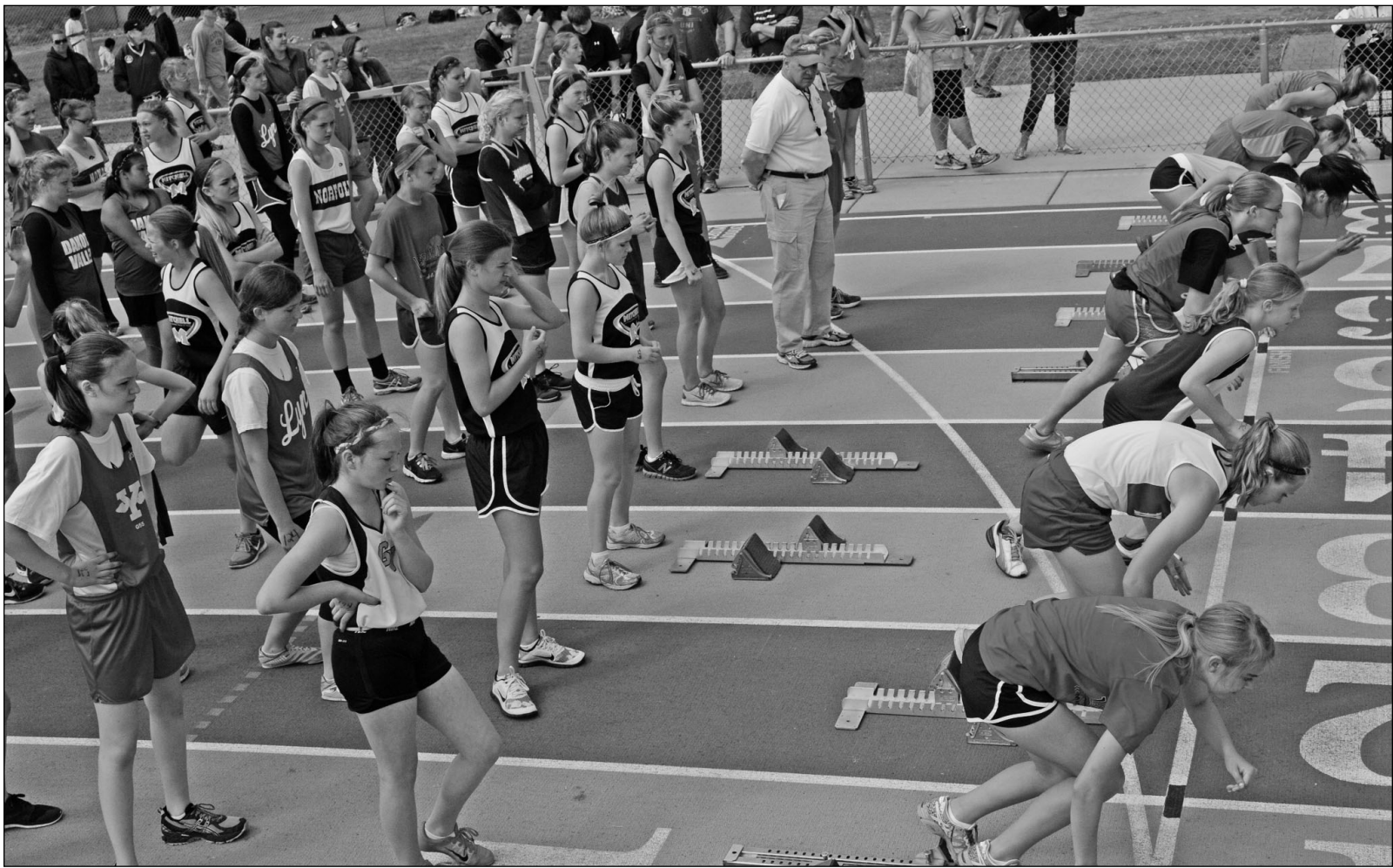


P&D FILE PHOTO  
South Dakota's Tyler Starr stares in against the UC Davis offense during their football game in the 2013 season. Starr was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the seventh round on Saturday.

COYOTES | PAGE 10

Track & Field | Yankton Junior High Relays

## Area Middle Schoolers Get Big Test



BY ADRIENNE KUSEK  
[sports@yankton.net](mailto:sports@yankton.net)

For many middle school track and field athletes the Junior High Relays in Yankton, held Saturday at Williams Field, is the biggest meet they will see until they are varsity high school athletes. For Aurora Papstein the extra competition made her push herself to do her best. "I was nervous, but the good competition makes you push yourself harder," she said. Papstein placed second in the eighth grade girls shot put with a toss of 31 feet for Yankton. "It was a great opportunity to compete against people you don't normally," Papstein said. The Junior High Relays give middle schoolers a taste of what high school track is like. "This meet makes me very excited to do high school athletics next year," Papstein said. Another Yankton athlete that excelled at the Junior High Relays was Brady Jaquith. He won the eighth grade boys' 1600 and placed second in the 800. "The more competition definatly helped me push myself to run faster," Jaquith said. "Since it's such a big meet I just wanted to get first and get a PR (personal record)," he said. Another advantage the large meet has for middle school athletes is that they gain confidence. "When they start the day the kids are nervous," Coach Doug Harr said. "But as the day goes on and they see that they are placing in their events and see that they can compete, it's a huge self-esteem boost." Jaquith agreed to that, "I have better confidence and a better idea of what I'm going to see next year," he said. "For the seventh graders a meet like this is an eye-opening experience," Harr said. "It's the first time they have competed with this many athletes."

Vermillion's Makenna Druecker said that the competition helped her get the meet record in the seventh grade girls' 100 meter dash. "Having fast girls with me helped me to go faster." It was the biggest meet she had competed in. "With more kids there is different competition," Harr

RELAYS | PAGE 10

### Future Stars Take To Williams Field

Over 800 area middle schoolers competed in the 64th annual Yankton Junior High Relays, held Saturday at Yankton's Williams Field.

ABOVE: A host of girls wait their turn as during the 100-meter dash at the 64th Yankton Junior High Relays on Saturday at Williams Field. Over 200 individuals competed in the 100-meter dash alone in the event, including 69 in the seventh grade boys' division and 68 in the seventh grade girls' division.

RIGHT: Skyler Olson of Gayville-Volin won the seventh grade boys' high jump, clearing five feet. Besides area schools like Yankton, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Vermillion and Dakota Valley, athletes from Brandon Valley, Canton, Harrisburg, Mitchell and Norfolk, Nebraska competed in the event.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D



### Track & Field: 3 Coyotes Win At Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. — Teivaskie Lewin won the men's long jump, Brant Haase won the men's 1,500-meters and Madison Mills won the women's pole vault as the South Dakota track and field teams competed at the Nebraska Invitational on Saturday. It was the Coyotes' final meet before The Summit League Outdoor Track and Field Championships, which start on Thursday in Fargo, N.D. Lewin won the long jump with a mark of 23 feet, 0 inches, topping Nebraska's Justin English by seven inches. Lewin also placed third in the 110-hurdles in 13.99, breaking The Summit League's top-time of 14.19 that he set last weekend at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays. Brant Haase added a win and led the Coyotes to a sweep of the top-three positions in the men's 1,500 with a time of 3:57.43. Isaac Allen finished second at 3:59.10 and Stephen Nielson was third in 3:59.69. Mills took the women's pole vault title with a mark of 13-28", beating Nebraska's Paule Andrie on attempts. Mills cleared that height on her first attempt while Andrie needed two attempts. Two men set new personal records while recording second-place finishes. Denton Stephens set a new PR in the hammer throw with a mark of 190-10. That mark broke his previous best by an inch and ranks second on USD's all-time performance list. Mach Dojok finished second in the 800 in 1:51.68, breaking his previous best time of 1:51.90 by .22 seconds.

In the men's discus, Cody Snyder finished second while competing untached with a mark of 177-11 while Dustin Valind was third with a mark of 158-2. Connor Fitzsimmons rounded out the men's top-three finishes with third-place finishes in the long jump (21-11) and triple jump (43-10 1/2). Outside of Mills, the women recorded four second-place finishes. Meghan Dennis placed second in the javelin (137-4), Kati Nelson was runner-up in the 400 hurdles (1:05.64), Katie Wetzstein finished second in the 1,500 (4:38.31) and Ashley Thompson was runner-up in the triple jump (39-10 1/2). Thompson finished behind USD graduate assistant coach Kenna Wolter, who won the triple jump with a mark of 42-4 3/4. Danielle Waldner finished third in the shot put (46-11), Elysa Reinke was third in the discus (134-1) and Amber Eichkorn was third in the 1,500 (4:41.35) to round out the USD women's top-three finishes. The women's 4x100 and 4x400 relays also added wins. The 4x100 team of Amber Ewers, Molly Ervin, DeAsia Garrett and Ravan Kott won in 48.54 while the 4x400 team of Nelson, Lindsey Montileaux, Rachel Weinandt and Jessica Feldman won in 4:06.35. South Dakota will compete at The Summit League Outdoor Track and Field Championships before sending competitors to the NCAA West Preliminary Round in Eugene, Ore., starting on May 29.

### SFC Girls, Madison Boys Win Titles

MADISON — The Sioux Falls Christian girls and Madison boys claimed top honors at the Dan Barker Relays track and field meet, held Saturday in Madison. Led by Class A MVP Miranda Velgersdyk, Christian edged host Madison 197.5-192. West Central was a distant third with 121 points. Velgersdyk won three events and was a part of two meet records. She clocked a Class A record 58.6 in the 400 to claim that title, then helped the Chargers to a meet-record 3:58.6 in the 1600 relay. Velgersdyk also won the 200 (26.6). Kara Koth was a part of four wins for SFC, running on victorious 800 (1:47.7) and 1600 relays, and winning the long jump (16-1 1/2) and triple jump (36-2 1/2). Kristin Stern was also a part of both Charger relay wins. Irene-Wakonda's Lauren Sokolowski was named Class B MVP, setting a meet record in the 110-meter hurdles (15.0). She also helped the Eagles to third place finishes in the 400 and 1600 relays and a fourth place finish in the 800 relay. Tayler Anderson's four-win day helped Madison to a 237.5-170 victory over Sioux Falls Christian. Anderson, the Class A MVP, won the 100 (11.0), 200 (22.7) and the long jump (20-10 1/4), and anchored the Bulldogs to victory in the 400 relay (44.5). Tyler Hare (400 in 52.6, 400 relay),

Tyler Currey (shot put at 46-1 1/2, discus at 163-2) and Carter Kasuske (high jump at 6-1, triple jump at 40-2 1/2) were also two-event winners for the Bulldogs. Matt Johnson swept the hurdle races for Sioux Falls Christian, clocking a 16.8 in the 110-meter race and a 43.2 in the 300-meter race. Caden Skinner, Jake Vandekamp and Collin Fligge were a part of 1600 (3:39.9) and 3200 (8:24.3) relay wins for SFC. Irene-Wakonda's Kevin Hinseth earned Class B MVP honors, finishing second in the discus and third in the shot put. Platte-Geddes Inv. PLATTE — The Wagner girls and Corsica-Stickney boys claimed top honors in the Platte-Geddes Invitational track and field meet, held Saturday in Platte. Wagner scored 110 points, beating out Chamberlain (99) and Corsica-Stickney (75). Rachel Dion won the pole vault (6-9) for the Red Raiders. Wagner also won the 1600 (4:31.29), 3200 (11:01.03) and medley (4:49.59) relays. Winner's Chloe Bartels earned girls' MVP honors, winning the 800 (2:29.08), 1600 (5:46.05) and 3200 (12:51.33). Corsica-Stickney scored 138 to win the boys' honor, beating out Winner (124) and Platte-Geddes (87). Lee Lauck swept the 110 (15.62) and 300 (44.39) hurdles for the Jaguars. Corsica-Stickney won the 400 (46.49), 800 (1:34.50) and 1600 (3:39.32) relays. Wagner's Nick Dion earned MVP honors, winning the 1600 (5:08.86) and 3200 (11:02.42). He placed second in the 800.

### Region 3A Golf, Menno Relays Postponed

The late Sunday showers and expected Monday rains have forced postponement of two area sporting events. To report a schedule change, athletic directors and/or coaches are asked to contact the Press & Dakotan at [sports@yankton.net](mailto:sports@yankton.net), by fax to 1-605-665-1721, or by phone to 1-605-665-7811, ext. 106. — The Region 3A Girls' Golf Tournament, scheduled to be played at Mitchell's Lakeview Golf Course, was pushed back to Tuesday, May 13. — The Menno Relays track and field meet was postponed. No makeup date has been set.