



P&D FILE PHOTO
Yankton native Megan Hilson, left, of the University of South Dakota competes in the women's mile run during February's Dakota Realty Alumni Meet at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Hilson will conclude her USD career at the Summit League Outdoor Track & Field meet, which begins today (Thursday) in Fargo, N.D.

Summit League Track USD's Hilson Set To Finish Her Career

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — The competitive running career for Megan Hilson is down to one final meet.

Hilson, a Yankton native and senior at the University of South Dakota, will wrap up her career with the Summit League Outdoor Track & Field Championships, which begin today (Thursday) and run through Saturday in Fargo, N.D.

It wasn't that long ago, she admits, that she was running for the Yankton Gazelles.

"I don't even think my brain realizes what's happening," Hilson said this week.

"Every year has an end. But this is the end to my whole career. I think it'll be a total shock to my emotions."

It's been quite a ride for the 2010 Yankton High School graduate who has been running competitively since eighth grade — Hilson jokes that she took up running after realizing "I wasn't going anywhere with volleyball."

And so began a successful career in cross country and track.

"I'm excited to be done, but it's sad," said Hilson, who will run the 10,000-meter run in Fargo. "It's been so fun. The people I've met will be my friends for the rest of my life."

Hilson was one of 37 USD student-athletes to walk across the DakotaDome stage at last Saturday's commencement ceremony — Yankton native Alex Hohenhaner also received his diploma.

Hilson has not only been a valuable member of the cross country program, she also helped further USD's track success at the Division I level, according to women's head coach Lucky Huber.

"She's been such a joy to have in our program. She's been a hard working student and been so much fun to get to know," Huber said. "She came in and helped the program grow."

"She's been big in helping us recruit some other kids."

Hilson's four years with the Coyotes haven't come without setback, though.

A "freak" knee injury after the 2011 cross country season kept her out of both track seasons in the spring of 2012. And earlier this spring, Hilson hurt her back while

SUMMIT | PAGE 9

MMC's Wagner Named To All-GPAC Golf Team

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Even as one of the state's top high school golfers, Logan Wagner found college golf even more challenging than expected.

The biggest differences between Parkston and the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC)?

Big hitters and consistency.

And yet Wagner, a freshman at Mount Marty College, had no issues finding her way. She was named Wednesday to the GPAC Women's Golf All-Conference Team.

"It's not like high school where you have like one or two

good girls you're competing with," Wagner said. "You just have to be consistent."

"I realized you can't get too high or too low."

Wagner's scores, just like her team's, reflected that attitude.

Mount Marty finished fourth in the GPAC race, the best place in school history. And Wagner, with rounds of 84-90-86-81, tied for eighth place — also a best.

"Obviously it's great," she said. "Being a freshman, I put a lot of time into this season."



Wagner

"I knew I was close after the fall, so I was glad I could reach my goal."

Wagner was one of three freshmen on the list of 15 golfers, and all three — Amy Ahlers (Concordia) and April Barnett (Dakota Wesleyan) — finished in the top 10.

Another Mount Marty freshman, Kellie Winckler, earned Honorable Mention recognition by the GPAC after finishing in a tie for 18th place.

In the team race this year, the Lancer women finished fourth, 18 shots behind Morningside.

Northwestern was second, 59 shots behind Dakota Wesleyan.

Mount Marty, though, showed

it is on the rise, Wagner said.

"Coach (Tom Schlingens) talked about that with us, that we've gotten a little better every year," she said. "I think it'd awesome if we could get top two next and get to nationals."

Lauren Fitts, a sophomore at Dakota Wesleyan, was named Golfer of the Year for the second consecutive year. Adam Anderson of DWU was named Coach of the Year after the Tigers won their sixth title in a row.

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Track & Field | Nebraska District D3

Wildcats Sweep Titles



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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HARTINGTON, Neb. — When Hartington girls' track and field coach Laura Noecker mapped out how she thought the District D-3 meet would go on Wednesday, it looked like it would go well.

She just didn't expected it to go THAT well.

The Hartington girls more than doubled up runner-up Wausa, 156-74, as the Wildcats swept the team titles at the Nebraska Class D qualifying meet in Hartington, Nebraska.

"You score it all out. You don't tell anyone how you think it will turn out, but you do," Noecker said after her team collected the championship plaque. "I knew we had the athletes to win, but I didn't think we would win by that much."

The Hartington boys ran away with the title as well, 152-114 over Wausa, but a fast start by the Vikings had Hartington boys' coach Blair Kalin concerned early in the day.

"We were behind coming out of the field events, and that concerned me at the start," he said after the Wildcats won their fifth straight district crown. "But our runners are fairly strong, and I had confidence that they could make up the gap."

For the Hartington girls, several athletes got their days off to a good start in the field events early in the meet.

"We did some things up on the hill (where the throwing events are located). Sara Pinkelman wins the shot (34-9 1/4) and gets a 'PR' (personal record) to get second in the discus (117-5 3/4)," Noecker said. "Camie Stratman gets a 'PR' in the long jump (first with a 16-5.5), and that starts her day. She high-jumped well (third with a 4-10) and won the triple jump (34-5)."

Besides being a happy coach, Noecker also got to be a proud mother on Wednesday, as daughter Sophie won the 100 (12.7) and 200 (27.3) and helped the Wildcats to victory in the 400 relay (52.9) in her first district meet.

"I thought she could go (to state) in four events or she could stay home," Coach Noecker said. "She ended up

Home Cooking

Hartington claimed both the boys' and girls' titles of the District D3 Track and Field Meet on Wednesday. It was the boys' fifth straight title.

ABOVE: Hartington's Pat Wortmann claims the 1600-meter run at the District D-3 track and field meet on Wednesday in Hartington, Nebraska. It was Wortmann's third individual win of the day, and he followed with an anchor of the Wildcats' 1600-meter relay win.

LEFT: Hartington's Savannah Scoville flies over a hurdle on the way to winning the girls' 300-meter hurdles at the District D-3 track and field meet on Wednesday in Hartington, Nebraska.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

D-3 | PAGE 9

Bucks Tip Tigers 8-2

Yankton finished the regular season with an 8-2 victory over Harrisburg in club high school action on Wednesday at Riverside Field.

Reid Sawatzke and Levi Schmidt each had two hits and two RBI, and Wyatt Adam had two hits and a RBI for Yankton. Hunter Ryan doubled and singled. Sheldon Gant and Ben Cameron each had a hit and a RBI in the victory.

Sawatzke picked up the win, pitching six shutout innings with six strikeouts. He allowed three hits.

Yankton plays in the Region 2A Tournament on Saturday in Sioux Falls. Pairings will be determined later this week.

Vermillion 4, Beresford-Centerville 3

VERMILLION — The Vermillion Tangers advanced in the Region 2B Tournament with a 4-3 victory over Beresford-Centerville on Tuesday at Prentiss Park.

The win advanced Vermillion to a semifinal, facing the winner of tonight's Bon Homme-Dakota Valley game.

Jayce Huska had a hit and two RBI, and Travis Weber had a hit and a RBI to lead Vermillion. Carter Kratz, Jack Brown and Regan Bye added hits in the victory.

Cory Diefendorf had a hit and a RBI for Beresford-Centerville. Skyler Ingwerson and Caleb Johnke also had hits. Oliver Doeden drove in a run.

Ethan James picked up the win, with Jacob Odens pitching two shutout innings for the save. Logan Busch took the loss.

Lincoln Chr. Star Signs With USD

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Logan Power, a 6-foot-5 small forward from Lincoln (Nebraska) Christian High School, has committed to the University of South Dakota men's basketball program, he told the Press & Dakotan on Wednesday.

Power, who averaged 20.6 points, 10.8 rebounds and 2.2 steals per game as a senior this past season, said he committed to USD head coach Craig Smith late last week. Power will join the Coyote program this fall.

It wasn't until last summer, though, that Power ultimately chose to pursue basketball over football — a sport he also excelled in for Lincoln Christian.

"I was in the boat where I didn't know if I wanted to play football and basketball," Power said Wednesday evening.

By the end of the summer, following football camps and AAU basketball with NE Bison Red, hoops won out.

He had been in brief contact with the University of Nebraska staff while Smith was

still in Lincoln, but Power said the conversations "exploded" when Smith was hired at USD.

"I love the opportunity going into that program with the coaches they have. I feel like they're going in the right direction," Power said.

It didn't hurt, either, having an energetic coach like Smith to work with, he added.

"That's one of the first things I noticed with him actually, how excited and pumped he was to get started," Power said. "That's something I really love; something that makes me more excited."

As one of the bigger players on his high school team, Power said he played both in the post and on the perimeter.

"I like to play matchups, take what the defense gives me," he said. "I'll work hard, that's just how I am."

Power will join transfer Tre Burnette, a 6-foot-5 guard from Williston (N.D.) State, as newcomers to USD's 2014-15 roster.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

Bucks Go 1-1 To Finish Dual Season

MITCHELL — In the final regular season action before the Eastern South Dakota Conference tournament, the Yankton Bucks split a pair of boys' tennis matches on Tuesday in Mitchell.

Mitchell handed Yankton an 8-1 loss, but the Bucks later defeated Brandon Valley 6-3.

Luke Rockne won both of his singles matches at flight one for the Bucks.

Yankton will next compete at the ESD tournament on Friday in Pierre,

starting at 9 a.m.

MITCHELL 8, YANKTON 1
SINGLES: Luke Rockne YHS def. Jacob Cersosimo 10-8; Beau Brown MHS def. Jason Shindler 10-4; Alex Hegg MHS def. Greg Hauer 10-1; Kanin Nelson MHS def. Paul Fanta 10-2; Brenden Lehr MHS def. Brandon Frick 10-2; Gary Determan MHS def. Hunter Rockne 10-4.

DOUBLES: Cersosimo-Hegg MHS def. L. Rockne-Shindler 10-7; Brown-Nelson MHS def. Hauer-Fanta 10-6; Lehr-Jacob Dahme MHS def. Frick-H. Rockne 10-1.

J.V. Jacob Dahme MHS def. Nate List 10-1; Kyle Jamison MHS def. List 10-5; Carter Cavanaugh MHS def. List 10-1.

YANKTON 6, BRANDON VALLEY 3
SINGLES: Luke Rockne YHS def. Billy Trevillyan 10-7; Jason Shindler YHS def. Drake VanEgdom 10-3; Lucas Mutschelknaus BV def. Greg Hauer 10-7; Paul Fanta YHS def. Nathan Mutschelknaus 10-6; Brandon Frick YHS def. Mason Blue 10-8; Hunter Rockne YHS def. Dylan Kipp 10-5.

DOUBLES: Trevillyan-Mutschelknaus BV def. L. Rockne-Shindler 10-7; VanEgdom-Blue BV def. Hauer-Fanta 11-9; Frick-L. Rockne YHS def. Braden Roegers-Jack Talcott 10-2.

102-Year-Old Takes Ride At Indy

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A 102-year-old woman says she's disappointed racing great Mario Andretti couldn't go faster than 180 mph during their laps around the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Edith Pittenger of Muncie said she had a great time riding with Andretti in a two-seat race car Tuesday.

"He said 180 is the maximum," she told The Star Press. "I wanted to do 200, but he wouldn't do that."

Dozens of family members joined Pittenger at the speedway for what was her second trip around the track — in 2008, she rode with driver Arie Luyendyk Jr. She marked her 100th birthday two years ago by

going parasailing.

Pittenger ended her latest speedway laps with a drink of milk — just like the tradition of Indy 500 winners in victory lane.

Garett Cates said he was amazed by his grandmother's sense of adventure.

"I know people in their 70s and 80s who, I mean they're bedridden, and they can't get around or hardly do anything, but I mean my goodness she's 102 and she's going 180 miles an hour at least in a race car," he said.

Pittenger told WRTV she remembered first driving a car in the 1920s when she was 12 years old.