

Crofton Sweeps District C-6 Titles

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

HARTINGTON, Neb. — The Crofton team camp was understandably excited following Thursday's District C-6 track meet in Hartington.

How could the athletes not be after sweeping the team titles?

"I'm just thankful that I'm able to compete and get to state," said Crofton senior A.J. Janssen, who won both of his distance races to lead the Warriors to the boys' team crown. Crofton also won the girls' title.

"I just wanted to get down there," Janssen added.

He did exactly that, and he'll be joined by a handful of his teammates at next weekend's state meet in Omaha.

After winning the 1600-meter run (4:45.4) and 3200-meter run (10:10.1), Janssen said later he's not too focused right now on how those times would translate to Omaha.

The idea of returning to Omaha in front of an energetic crowd should help him, Janssen said.

"That's what you work for all year," he said.

Fellow Warriors senior Eric Kleinschmit knows all about working for something all spring.

Kleinschmit, who won the triple jump (40-7) and 110 hurdles (16.4), said he had been trying all season to reach the 40-foot mark in the triple jump, and was able to reach that goal Thursday.

Up next? "Hopefully I can get to 41 at state," Kleinschmit said.

Where the 110 hurdles is concerned, Kleinschmit admitted that he'd likely need his best performance of the season to place at state.

"You never know, I guess," he said. "Once the adrenaline starts, anything could happen."

Evan Woockman also won a pair of events for the Warriors, the pole vault (12-0) and 300 hurdles (42.9). Tyler Koch qualified for state by taking second in the shot put (41-11).

On the girls' side, Crofton took first place with 137 total points, out-distancing Laurel-Concord-Coleridge by 38.

Quinn Wragge was especially successful for the Lady Warriors.

The junior won the 400-meter dash (1:02.3) and the 800-meter run (2:26.5), and also anchored Crofton's winning 1600 and 3200 relays.

She later said that every athlete on the team can feel like they aided to the district title.

"Not everybody was actually out there running, but it gives everyone a sense of pride," Wragge said.

Of her individual events, though, Wragge pointed to the 400 as her greatest improvement this season.

"Last year I didn't even make it to state, but I feel like I've embraced it more; actually started liking it," she said, smiling.

Crofton junior Maria Wortmann also won two individual events, the discus (127-3) and shot put (41-2.5), and also ran a leg on the 1600 relay.

"I just knew I needed a decent throw in both for placing," she said. "You just have



Running For Omaha

Crofton claimed boys' and girls' team honors at the District C-6 Track and Field Meet, held on Thursday in Hartington, Nebraska.

ABOVE: Crofton's Quinn Wragge, center, leads the pack during the girls' 400-meter dash at the District C-6 track meet, held Thursday in Hartington, Neb.

LEFT: Crofton's Eric Kleinschmit flies over the hurdle during the boys' 110-meter hurdles at the District C-6 track meet, held Thursday in Hartington, Neb.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Ainsworth Takes District C-7 Titles

AINSWORTH, Neb. — On their home track, the Ainsworth boys and girls came away with team track titles at Thursday's District C-7 meet.

Ainsworth won the boys' title with 197 points, well in front of West Holt (90). And the Ainsworth girls out-distanced Elgin Public-Pope John 132-78.

On the boys' side, Ainsworth won 11 events, led by two double winners. Holden Smith won the 100 (11.4) and 200 (23.3), while teammate Landon Welke was first in the pole vault (14-6) and triple jump (42.9).

On the girls' side, Ainsworth won five events, led by Shandon Platt's top marks in the discus (125-9) and shot put (42-4.5).

For Creighton, Emily Boyle won the pole vault (8-4) and Rebecca Eggerling won the triple jump (33-2.5).

Cornbelt Conference

FREEMAN — Brennan Schmidt and Cailey Roth combined to win seven individual events as Freeman swept the team track titles at Thursday's Cornbelt Conference meet in Freeman.

The Freeman boys rolled up 212 total points, while the girls had 204.5 points.

Schmidt won the 100 (11.01), 200 (23.61), 400 (a meet-record time of 49.41) and 800 (2:77.77), while Cole Paulson won the 110 hurdles (16.3) and 300 hurdles (43.0).

Also for Freeman, Grant Preheim was first in the triple jump (40-6.5) and Josh Roth won the pole vault (9-0), and the Flyers were also first in the 400 relay.

Manno's Caleb Preszler was first in the discus (149-7) and on the girls' side, Roth had the top time in the 400 (1:01.19), 800 (2:26.0) and 1600 (5:28.17).

Freeman's Shelby Jensen won the 200 (27.64), Rebecca Eberts won the 3200 (13:21.59), Melissa Eberts was first in the triple jump (31-6) and Taylor Hermesen had the top mark in the discus (122-11).

The Flyers were also first in the 3200 relay (10:47.93).

Manno's Courtnee Edelman won the pole vault (7-3)

Tri-Valley Conference

BALTIC — The Irene-Wakonda girls picked up four individual wins from the Sokolowskis alone, finishing with seven titles overall, on the way to winning the Tri-Valley Conference track and field meet. The meet was held Tuesday in Baltic, with the pole vault held Wednesday in Centerville.

In the boys' division, Baltic edged out Irene-Wakonda by three points for the title.

Lauren Sokolowski continued her season-long dominance of the hurdles, winning the 110 (14.65) and 300 (48.30) events, and Andrea Sokolowski won the 200 (27.43) and high jump (5-1), as well as a runner-up finish in the 400. Shannon Sokolowski scored runner-up finishes in both hurdle races, as well as a fourth place mark in the long jump.

The Eagles' Rainy Brewer-Nysven claimed pole vault honors, clearing 7-9. Irene-Wakonda also won the 400 (53.15) and 800 (1:52.23) relays as they piled up 158 points, beating out Gayville-Volin (113) and Viborg-Hurley (100).

The Gayville-Volin girls won six events, sparked by the distance sweep by Laura Nelson. The freshman won the 800 (2:28.92), 1600 (5:26.56) and 3200 (11:49.05), with teammate Genevieve Clark second in both the 1600 and 3200. The Raiders also won the 3200 (10:20.89) and medley (4:45.27) relays, and DaNeila Jensen won the discus (101-10).

Nick Weber won the 110 hurdles (15.82) and the high jump (6-0), and the Bulldogs piled up 46 points in the relays as Baltic edged Irene-Wakonda 133-130. Nate Stadem won the 400 (54.05) and Tyler Johnson won the triple jump (39-2 3/4) for the Bulldogs. Baltic also won the 400 (47.04), 1600 (3:42.89) and medley (4:07.92) relays, and finished second in the 800 and 3200 relays.

Irene-Wakonda was sparked by the clean sweep from Garrett Anderson. The senior won the 100 (10.73) and 200 (22.26), the 300 hurdles (42.36) and the pole vault (13-0). Kevin Hinseth was a double-winner for the Eagles, taking the discus (143-0) and shot put (43-11 1/2).

Freeman Academy's Ryan Haggerty claimed the distance double, winning the 1600 (4:55.06) and 3200 (11:04.06).

Bon Homme Advances In Region 1B Tourney

TABOR — Bon Homme jumped out to a 6-2 lead, then held on for a 10-6 victory over Dakota Valley in the opening round of the Region 1B Baseball Tournament on Thursday.

Cole Uecker had three hits, including a double, and four RBI to lead Bon Homme. Mike Mesman had two hits and Zach Sutera doubled for the Cavaliers, who out-hit Dakota Valley 10-6. Eight different players scored in the victory.

Brady Dam had a triple, double and single for Dakota Valley.

Chase Kortan struck out seven batters in four innings of work for the win. Austin Carter took the loss.

Bon Homme, 11-3, hosts Vermillion on Sunday in the 1B East division final. Start time is 6 p.m. in Tabor.

Softball

Fury Red 10-10, Norfolk Kelly's 7-7

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Yankton Fury Red squad scored a pair of 10-7 decisions over Norfolk Kelly's in girls' fastpitch softball action on Thursday.

In the opener, Ellie Karolevitz (3-0) helped her cause with a hit and two runs scored. She also struck out seven batters in the victory.

Callie Boomsma had a hit and a run scored in the victory.

In the nightcap, Kate Beeman (1-0) struck out eight batters on the rubber, and had a hit, a stolen base and a run scored offensively for Yankton. Madysn Beeman and Molly Savelly each had a hit, a stolen base and a run scored in the win.

Fury Red, 4-0, returns to Norfolk on Tuesday, facing the Impact.

Vermillion Black 11-6, Ykn Crush 9-7

VERMILLION — Baylee Kinney's game-winning RBI helped lift the Yankton Crush to a split with Vermillion Black in girls' softball action on Thursday. Yankton won the nightcap 7-6, while Vermillion claimed the opener 11-9.

In the nightcap, Bailey Sejnoha and Bridget Nolz each had a hit and two RBI. Payton Vellek drove in a pair of runs. Elsie Marquardt, Brittany Davis and Kara Ulmer each scored in the win.

Ulmer picked up the win on the rubber, striking out eight. In the opener, Sejnoha and Nolz each had two hits and two runs scored. Riley Andrus had two hits, a run scored and a RBI. Davis drove in two runs and scored once. Chloe Koletzky had a hit. Vellek, Marquardt and Rachel Hamberg each scored.

Nolz took the loss, striking out three.

The Crush travel to Norfolk on Monday to face the Impact. They host a rematch with Vermillion Black on Tuesday.

Golf: LCC Wins At Randolph

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Laurel-Concord-Coleridge edged Hartington Cedar Catholic by two strokes in their final tuneup before district action next week, Wednesday's Randolph Invitational boys' golf tournament at the Randolph Golf Course.

LCC scored a 315 and Cedar Catholic scored a 317 on the day. Host Randolph shot 345, with Pierce carding a 351 on the day.

LCC's Jamy McCoy earned medalist honors with a 74, two strokes better than Crofton's Brock Mueller. Cedar Catholic's Logan Schumacher shot a 77 to place third, with LCC's Mitchell Klooz and Cedar's Dalton Lammers each shooting 78.

Both LCC and Cedar Catholic will be in Beemer, Nebraska, on Monday for the District C-2 Tournament. The event will be held at Indian Trails Country Club.

TEAM SCORES: Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 315, Hartington Cedar Catholic 317, Randolph 345, Pierce 351, Osmund 361, Crofton 363, Wayne 370, Hartington 398, Randolph JV 421.

TOP 15: Jamy McCoy, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 74; Brock Mueller, Crofton 76; Logan Schumacher, Cedar Catholic 77; Mitchell Klooz, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 78; Dalton Lammers, Cedar Catholic 78; Cory Peterson, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 80; Grant Howell, Cedar Catholic 81; Brad Kathol, Cedar Catholic 81; Brendan Groene, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 83; Brandon Gerdes, Pierce 83; Kaje Maly, Wayne 83; Andrew Schnoor, Randolph 83; Austin Gubbels, Randolph 83; Jared Burbach, Cedar Catholic 83; Mason Stubbs, Randolph 84.

Young Bowlers Fare Well At State



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Several members of the Yankton Youth Bowling program competed in the S.D. State USBC Youth Championships, held in Brookings. Competitors included (front) Dakota Mace, Connor Becker, Kelia Barta, Chase Heuther, Dylan Mace, Austin Donat, (back) Dylan Becker, Robert Jensen and Chandler Losing. Not pictured are Maia Achen, Brady Heuther, Joe Losing and Leila Barta.

BROOKINGS — Several area bowlers had strong showings at the S.D. State USBC Youth Championships, held weekends in Brookings during April and early May.

The Vermillion Coyotes won the team 600-over event with a score of 2,858.

In doubles competition, Tyson Hage and Josh Bern of Yankton finished eighth in the 200-249 division with a score of 1,386. Aaron Blackwell and Jakob McBride of Yankton finished 10th in the 300-over division with a 1,416.

In boys' singles competition, Joe Losing of Yankton rolled a 711 for ninth in the 99-under division. Ryan Brunick of Vermillion placed sixth in the 150-over division with a 761, with McBride (727) and Chandler Losing (725), both of Yankton, placing 17th and 18th.

Brunick also tied for fourth in the all-events handicap, 150-over division, with a 2,221. Avery Mollet of Vermillion finished fifth in the all-events scratch, 125-149 division, with a 1,499.

Yankton's Dylan Mace (565) and Austin Donat (555) placed third and fourth in the special scratch 500 tournament.