

Bucks 13th After Opening Day Of State Tennis

Five Teams Tied For First After First Two Rounds Of Singles, Doubles Action; Yankton's Frick, Hunter Rockne Advance To Quarterfinals

RAPID CITY — The Yankton Bucks sent two players to the quarterfinals on the opening day of the South Dakota State Boys' Tennis Tournament, which began on Thursday in Rapid City.

Yankton had 98 points on the first day, ranking 13th. Vermillion scored 12 points on the opening day.

Mitchell, Rapid City Stevens, Sioux Falls Lincoln, Sioux Falls O'Gorman and Sioux Falls Washington all were perfect on the opening day, finishing with 132 points.

Yankton's Brandon Frick advanced to the quarterfinals at flight five singles with a 5-

7, 6-2, 6-2 decision over Vermillion's Sam Craig.

Frick, the eighth seed, will face Mitchell's Brenden Lehr, the top seed, today (Friday). Craig draws Brookings' Andrew Crawford in consolation action.

Yankton's Hunter Rockne, the sixth seed at flight six, scored a 6-0, 6-0 decision over Huron's Colin Claeyes in the second round. He will face Mitchell's Gray Determan, the third seed, in the quarters today.

At flight one singles, Yankton's Luke Rockne opened with a victory over Milbank's Alex Cantine before dropping

a 6-2, 6-4 setback to Milbank's Jacob Cersosimo. Rockne will face Huron's Colin Claeyes in consolation play today.

Vermillion's Jacob Ford lost to Claeyes in opening round action. Ford will face Brookings' Baylor Dobbs in consolation action.

At flight two singles, Yankton's Jason Shindler drew an unseeded bye, then lost a 7-6 (7-1), 4-6, 6-3 decision to Lincoln's Brent Heflin in the second round. Shindler will face Vermillion's Kevin Helenium in consolation action today.

Helenium fell to Aberdeen's Adam Zummerman 6-1, 6-1, in the opening round.

Yankton's Greg Hauer, seeded seventh, was upset by Roncalli's Isaiah Vilhauer 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 in the second round at flight three. The senior will face Spearfish's Ryan Lahr in consolation action today.

Vermillion's Joe Swanson dropped a 6-2, 6-1 decision to Brandon Valley's Jack Talcott in the first round at flight three.

At flight four, sixth-seeded Paul Fanta of Yankton was upset by Stevens' Lucas Wright, 6-0, 6-1. He will face Madison's Logan Jager in consolation action today.

Vermillion's Andrew Callahan dropped a 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 decision to Huron's Schlader at flight six singles. He will face Brandon Valley's Dylan Kipp in consolation play today.

At flight one doubles, Luke Rockne and Shindler dropped a 6-1, 6-1 second-round match to Mitchell, then beat Aberdeen Central 10-3 in consolation action. The dual will face Aberdeen Roncalli in the consolation quarterfinals today.

Vermillion's Ford and Swanson were eliminated in consolation flight one doubles action by Rapid City Central, 10-3. The Tanagers dropped a 6-2, 6-3 decision to Huron in the opening round.

Yankton's Hauer and Fanta also remained alive in doubles play, thanks to a bye on the consolation round. The duo, who will face Watertown in flight two consolation quarters today, beat Pierre 6-2, 6-3 before dropping a 6-2, 6-4 decision to Stevens.

Vermillion's Helenium and

Craig scored a 10-2 victory over Milbank in flight two consolation play, their first win together this season (1-3). The Tanagers draw Pierre in the consolation quarterfinals.

Frick and Hunter Rockne also remained alive in doubles consolation after a 10-7 victory over St. Thomas More in flight three consolation action. The Yankton duo dropped a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 decision to Watertown in the first round.

Vermillion's Styles and Robinson also remained alive in flight three doubles consolation, beating Milbank 10-5. The Tanagers draw Brandon Valley in the quarterfinals.

Play continues today, with final round action set for Saturday.

Region 5B

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ished first with 121 total points. Parker was second at 111.5, followed by Irene-Wakonda (107), Gayville-Volin (79.5) and Viborg-Hurley (63) in the top five.

"This was a goal the kids had," Hermesen said. "You'd have to think this sets us up with some momentum going to state."

The same could be said for the Parker girls, particularly in the sprints and relays.

Junior Brittany Olson won the 200-meter dash (26.44) and 400 (1:02.0), and also anchored the winning 800 relay and 1600 relay. Senior Morgan Hay won the 100-meter dash (12.76) and also ran on three relays.

Olson said she was especially proud of her 1600 relay quartet, which included for the first time eighth-grader Chastin Mohr on the second leg.

"We knew it'd be an adjustment, but we wanted to get after it and not let someone else get first on us," Olson said.

Although 92.5 of its points came on the track, Parker remains confident heading to state with its girls' contingent, Olson said.

"We've got great depth," she said. "We've worked so hard this year for our goal." That goal? Repeating as the Class B combined team champion.

"I think we've got a pretty good shot again," Olson said.

Also among those who figure to have a big weekend in Sioux Falls on May 30-31 are Irene-Wakonda senior Garrett Anderson.

On Thursday, he won the 100-meter dash (10.97), the 200-meter dash (22.76) and



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Andrea Sokolowski, right, hugs assistant coach Mike King after the 800-meter relay at the Region 5B track meet, held Thursday in Menno.

the pole vault (13-0). He had a chance at a fourth title, but finished second to Freeman's Cole Paulson in the 300 hurdles.

"I really wanted four," Anderson said.

Still, Anderson said he was happy with his performances on a hot day — he pointed out that athletes could feel the heat radiating off the track.

"I know I can go faster out there, but I'm not too bummed with how it went," he said.

In the pole vault, especially, Anderson had one of his best days of the season. He tied his 2014 best at 13-feet, matching the mark he sat at last week's Tri-Valley

Conference meet.

"It's good confidence to do that again right before state," Anderson said.

That was exactly the goal for Scotland junior thrower Dan Stibral. He wanted to "rediscover" his groove in the lead-up to state.

Stibral won the shot put (48-1) and discus (143-8), and also ran in Scotland's medley relay.

"The discus went downhill for a couple meets, but coach and I worked on some footwork stuff," Stibral said. "This whole year has been a roller coaster."

In the discus, especially, he added. When it comes time for the state meet, Stibral said he will enter



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Scotland's Dan Stibral competes in the boys' shot put at the Region 5B track meet, held Thursday in Menno.

ranked in the top-5 in both events.

"I'll have to throw my best ever," he said. "I know I'll have to be perfect, but I'll keep working on the technique."

The Irene-Wakonda girls broke a pair of meet records. Lauren Sokolowski did so in the 100-meter hurdles (14.91), and she later won the 300 hurdles (47.22). The Ea-

gles also set a new record in the 400 relay at 51.65.

Both days of the Class B portion of the South Dakota State Meet will be held at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls, beginning May 30.

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State

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and junior Ty Becker.

"Even if they don't medal or score at all, as long as we improve, we'll be happy with the weekend," Cattau said.

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge

In all, the Bears will send nine athletes to state, but the story could be how the girls' contingent fares on the state's highest level.

"A number of them have been sitting fairly high in Class C for most of the year, and we've got a couple of chances to win events, which is obviously a huge thing for us," coach Nate Sims said.

LCC will have two girls competing in four events, led by Kelsey Dietrich. The senior has the top qualifying time in the 100-meter hurdles (15.2), and will also run in the 300 hurdles (49.0), as well as a leg in the 400 relay and 1600 relay.

The other 4-event competitor is junior Ellie Arduser, who is ranked eighth in the triple jump (34-3.75), and will also run in the 200 (26.1) and legs in both relays.

Another potential threat for a state title comes from junior Sadie Petersen. She ranks third in the 3200 (12:06.6) and also qualified in the 1600 (5:49.2). Competition will be key for her, Sims said.

"At a lot of her meets she hasn't had anyone around her, so she could knock off a significant amount of time if she has a pack right with her," Sims said. "I wouldn't be surprised to see her knock off 20-25 seconds (in the 3200)."

The girls will also have junior Audra Corbit in the high jump (5-0). In the 400 relay will be Arduser, Corbit, Dietrich and senior Cameron Eddie, while the 1600 relay will have Arduser, Dietrich, Eddie and junior Candice Rastade.

On the boys' side, the Bears will have three athletes, which is more than last year.

Senior Brett Haisch will compete in three events, the discus (130-10), 400-meter dash (54.5) and 300 hurdles (42.9). Sophomore Aaron Haahr will run in the 1600 (4:54.5) and 3200 (10:13.9), while junior Colton Jansen qualified in the 100 (11.1).

Niobrara-Verdigré

The Cougars will be represented by one athlete at state, as senior Cathryn Hanzlik qualified in the 400-meter dash (1:02.1).

Ponca

Junior Alexis Eifert highlights the Ponca track teams after she qualified in the 100 (12.5) and 200 (26.1).

Sophomore Kaylee Hamar will compete in the high jump (4-6), while junior Michael Walsh qualified in the long jump (20-6.25).

Class D

Allen
A total of eight athletes, four boys and four girls, will represent the Eagles at the state meet.

On the boys' side, senior Austin Connot will compete in the 800-meter run (2:10.2), and will also anchor the 3200 relay. That relay quartet also includes junior Nicholas Brahmsteadt, freshman Taylor Kumm and sophomore Sean O'Keefe.

For the girls, sophomore Alexis Oswald qualified in the 3200 (12:39.4), junior Courtney Reuter qualified in the 300 hurdles (52.4), sophomore Kaylen Smith will run in the 400 (1:06.6) and sophomore Gabrielle Sullivan will compete in the high jump (4-10).

Bloomfield

The Bees will be busy buzzing around the pole vault pit this weekend.

Bloomfield qualified three athletes for state, and all three will compete in the pole vault.

Senior Adam Haigh comes in with the second-best mark at 13-feet-6, four inches behind the top mark. Sophomore Kyle Young will also compete, at 10-6.

On the girls' side, freshman Amber Bruegman qualified at 6-6.

Hartington

The Wildcats have their eyes on a second consecutive boys' championship. Gone from last year are 25 points in individual events, but coach Blair Kalin isn't putting anything past this year's group, given the experience they boast.

"We've been really consistent, but when you get down there (to Omaha), everybody's fast. But our kids know that," Kalin said. "It's a different atmosphere.

But that's probably the biggest comfort I have, several of them have been there before."

In all, the boys will have nine athletes at Burke Stadium, including two relays.

The only returner to have placed in an individual event last year is senior Pat Wortmann. He qualified in the 400 (53.0), 800 (2:03.5) and 1600 (4:51.5), and will also run a leg in the 1600 relay. Last year, Wortmann took sixth in the 800 and eighth in the 1600.

Senior Joe Noecker will run in the 200 (23.1) and 400 (54.2), while fellow senior Riley Haug will run in the 110 hurdles (16.1) and 300 hurdles (43.7). Junior Tanner Fischer qualified in the 1600 (5:04.2) and 3200 (11:00.8), while junior Griffon Kalin enters in a tie for sixth in the 300 hurdles (42.2).

Senior Kyle Fischer will join Noecker, Kalin and Haug in the 400 relay, while sophomore Jared Fuelberth will join Wortmann, Kalin and Noecker in the 1600 relay.

In field events will be senior Ty Dybdal who comes in sixth in the discus (144-9) and senior Travis Burbach in the high jump (5-6).

"We're probably not as deep as we were last year, but we've got some kids with great times," coach Kalin said. "It's a situation where I think that's got to be an advantage for our kids. They're confident."

The Hartington girls, coached by Laura Noecker, will have eight athletes at state, including one relay.

Senior Sara Pinkelman qualified in the shot put (34-9.25) and discus (117-5.75), while junior Savannah Scoville will run in the 100 hurdles (16.6) and 300 hurdles (51.5). Sophomore Cami Stratman is ranked eighth in the long jump (16-5.5) and will also compete in the triple jump (34-5).

Freshman Sophie Noecker will run in the 100-meter dash (12.7) and 200 (27.3), while junior Samantha Huss qualified in the 400 (1:03.2). The Wildcats will also have three entrants in the pole vault — junior Shelby Hochstein (8-0), freshman Ryley Eickhoff (6-6) and freshman Sydney Lammers (6-6).

The quartet of Huss, Noecker, Stratman and Scoville will also run in the 400 relay.

Randolph

The Cardinals qualified four boys' athletes and four on the girls' side.

Wausa

The Vikings boys' squad, with eight athletes headed to state, have their eyes on a top-5 team finish, according to coach Greg Conn.

"When you get down there, things spread out. I've seen some stranger things," he said.

That goal will be heavily reliant on junior Austin Hegge. He enters the state meet with the best qualifying time in the 100-meter dash (10.9), is in a tie for third-best time in the 200 (22.8), fifth in the long jump (20-10.5) and seventh in the triple jump (42-0).

Wausa will also have senior Spencer Rosberg in the high jump (5-8), junior Kyle Kleinschmit in the 110 hurdles (17.0), junior Nicholas Story in the high jump (5-6) and sophomore Darren Nissen in the triple jump (41-3.75).

Conn referenced Nissen as a "unsung hero," because he has continually improved all season.

The Vikings also qualified their 3200 relay squad, with junior Jordan Burns, Story, senior Devon Munter and senior Austin Conn.

On the girls' side, Wausa will send three athletes to state, highlighted by senior Breana Gallup.

She comes in with the second-best qualifying time in the 3200 (12:18.8), fourth in the 800 (2:29.2) and will also run in the 1600 (5:47.2).

"Breana ran well at districts and has been putting things together," coach Conn said. "She's looking forward to it again. She has a mindset going in that she wants to get things done."

Senior Brittanii Claussen returns to the state meet after a 3-year absence in the long jump (15-5.75) and senior Leanna Rosberg will compete in the triple jump (34-1).

Wynot

In all, the Blue Devils will be repre-

Drivers Not Panicking Near NASCAR's Halfway Point

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — Jimmie Johnson knows the panic to make Sprint Cup's championship chase is coming.

The defending Sprint Cup champion is among those drivers yet to win a race this season, the first since NASCAR expanded its 10-race playoffs to 16 cars and put a bitter emphasis on wins over point standings.

Nine drivers have won the first 11 races, with Kevin Harvick and Joey Logano the two-time winners. And each new winner has gleefully talked of locking up a spot to race for a title.

For Johnson, it's far too early to fret about lost opportunities. Not with the Coca-Cola 600, NASCAR's longest race, coming up Sunday night at Charlotte Motor Speedway. "There are always different challenges in this sport and I know we'll get it," Johnson said Thursday.

Johnson got the week off to a strong start, taking the pole for the race with a fast lap of 194.911 mph. It was Johnson's fourth career pole here and he try for his record-breaking seventh Charlotte victory from up front.

"We had a strong race car all day and I'm obviously very pleased with my performance," he said.

Johnson's not worrying about his place this season. After all, he says the window to make the championship has widened with the increase from 12 to 16 teams "and I really don't think there's going to be 16 different winners."

The Sprint Cup series opened with seven different winners this season. Harvick ended that streak with a second victory this year at Darlington and Logano followed that with win No. 2 at Richmond.

senior Nolan Nordhues will compete in two sprints, the 100 (11.3) and 200 (23.2). He will be joined by junior Seth Lackas in the discus (140-6), junior Dylan Loberg in the shot put (45-3.5) and senior Garrett Watters in the shot put (45-5).

On the girls' side, freshman Alyssa Fye will run in the 3200 (12:39.8) and will run a leg in the 3200 relay. Other members of that relay include sophomore Elle Bernal, freshman Emily Bloomquist and sophomore Megan Fink.

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Wynot will also run in two relays, the 1600 (Arkfeld, freshman Carissa Kuchta,

senior Brittany Bruening and Heine), and the 3200 (Arkfeld, freshman Holly Lauer, Bruening and Heine).

On the boys' side will be two sophomores in throws, Cody Stratman in the long jump (20-6.75) and Keenan Wieseler in the high jump (5-6).

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