

Track & Field | Nebraska State Class C

Crofton Surprises To Open State

BY JEREMY HOECK

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OMAHA, Neb. — The 3200-meter relay wasn't supposed to be a highlight event for the Crofton Lady Warriors.

No, they came into Friday's Class C final with the second-worst qualifying time, set at the district meet last week. On paper, the Lady Warriors weren't a threat.

Instead, Crofton's quartet — which included two juniors and two freshmen — shaved off a full minute to win the relay title on Friday at the Nebraska State Track Meet in Omaha.

"Coming down here, that's how it goes," said junior anchor Quinn Wragge. "Those times don't mean anything. You just have to run the best you can."

And that's exactly what they did. Crofton's relay group of freshman Kelsey Sanger, freshman Monica Arens, Wragge and junior Allison Arens clocked a 9:40:03 to win by 14 seconds.

That was exactly why the group, who had two months earlier won yet another state basketball title, was especially excited after the race.

Crofton came into the state meet with a qualifying time of 10:41.4, a full 38 seconds behind Sutton's district time.

"They probably thought, 'Maybe they're not going to be the best,'" Sanger said, referring to the other schools, "but we had one of the best times we've had."

The Lady Warriors could-

n't have done it without the leadership of Wragge, whose split helped push Crofton ahead even further.

"We're so lucky to have Quinn," Monica Arens said. "I don't know what we'd do without her."

The same could be said of the two freshmen, Monica Arens and Sanger, according to Wragge. Neither athlete had competed at a state track meet.

"This is totally different," Wragge said, referring to the Burke atmosphere. "They did so well, I'm proud of them."

The Crofton girls weren't the only members of their school to exceed expectations on Friday.

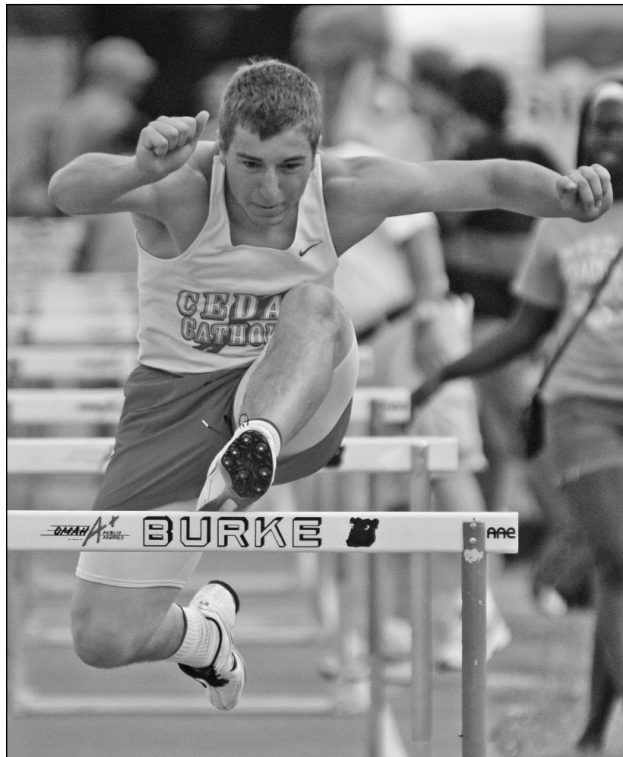
Senior Alex "A.J." Janssen shaved 11 seconds off his qualifying time to finish third in the 3200-meter run. Janssen clocked a 10:00.68 to finish behind champion Andrew Fields of Ord (9:44.93) and Collin Meusch of Kearney Catholic (9:56.3).

"I wanted to get out fast and maybe go for the school record," he said. "I didn't have enough to stick with it, but I'm just happy to be here."

Janssen agreed with the idea that district times, especially those by Crofton from a cold and windy day last week in Hartington, were a little deceiving.

"With the weather, we all assumed we could drop those times," Janssen said. "Most strong runners can persevere."

"The competition is the biggest thing."



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Jared Wiebelhaus of Hartington Cedar Catholic competes in the Class C boys' 110-meter hurdles prelims on Friday at the Nebraska State Track Meet in Omaha.

The competition was certainly a factor for Crofton junior Maria Wortmann in the discus.

Wortmann finished fourth in the event at 126-feet-9. She watched in the finals champion Alexandra Meyer of Superior launch a throw 155-feet.

With that in mind, Wortmann said she was just happy to see her name among the leaders.

"The last few years, I did-

n't do so hot down here," she said. "Last year I didn't even place."

This year, however, there was a marked difference, she added.

"I felt more relaxed," Wortmann said. "I'm just happy that I placed. I wish I could've done better, but I think fourth is really good."

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge junior Sadie Petersen was

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Crofton's Allison Arens, front, takes the baton from teammate Kelsey Sanger during the Class C girls' 3200-meter relay on Friday at the Nebraska State Track Meet in Omaha.

Class D: Wausa Duo Score Runner-Up Finishes



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Austin Hegge of Wausa competes in the Class D boys' triple jump on Friday at the Nebraska State Track Meet in Omaha.

BY JEREMY HOECK

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OMAHA — Heat wasn't about to slow down Breana Gallup.

No, the Wausa senior had already overcome quite an incident earlier in the week. The stitches on her forehead were painful evidence.

Gallup, who had to get stitches after hitting her head on a wall while making a snack last Monday, finished second in the Class D girls' 3200-meter run to highlight Friday's action for Wausa at the Nebraska State Track Meet in Omaha.

A Doane College recruit, Gallup led the 2-mile race for the first seven laps, but was passed on the final 200 meters by Anselmo-Merna junior Elizabeth Cramer.

"I thought if I just stayed loose, I could get it," said Gallup, who finished second in a time of 12:11.94. "But there are some pretty good runners."

"I had to go harder, but I just didn't have it."

Even before stepping on to the Burke Stadium track, Gallup suffered quite the lead-in to the state meet early Monday morning.

"I just wanted to make some mac and cheese, and I got really dizzy and nauseous, then passed out," said Gallup, who hit her head on a wall and opened up a good-sized gash.

The good news, she said? "I get the stitches out Tuesday, so I'm counting down the days," Gallup said, with a smile.

Gallup's runner-up performance in the 3200 was her best state meet finish of her high school career. She took third place in her freshman and sophomore years, and fourth a year ago as a junior. And in many of those

races over the years, Gallup had locked horns with Cramer. It was more of the same Friday, as Cramer won the title in 12:04.69.

"I thought I could get her if she did pass me, but no," Gallup said.

Another Wausa junior had perhaps a better day, and helped set his team up for a potentially celebratory Saturday.

Austin Hegge surprised many — including himself — by finishing second in the boys' triple jump with a season best mark of 43-feet-5.5.

"I've never gone over 39 down here, so I didn't really expect anything crazy," Hegge said.

After the preliminaries, Hegge was sitting fifth, but beat the jumper tied with him. He was then, however passed by under an inch.

"I just had to think, 'I'm going to beat him,'" Hegge said. "I was honestly just hoping for third."

Instead, Hegge earned his team eight points for second place, which could potentially play a huge role in the Vikings' bid for a top-3 team finish.

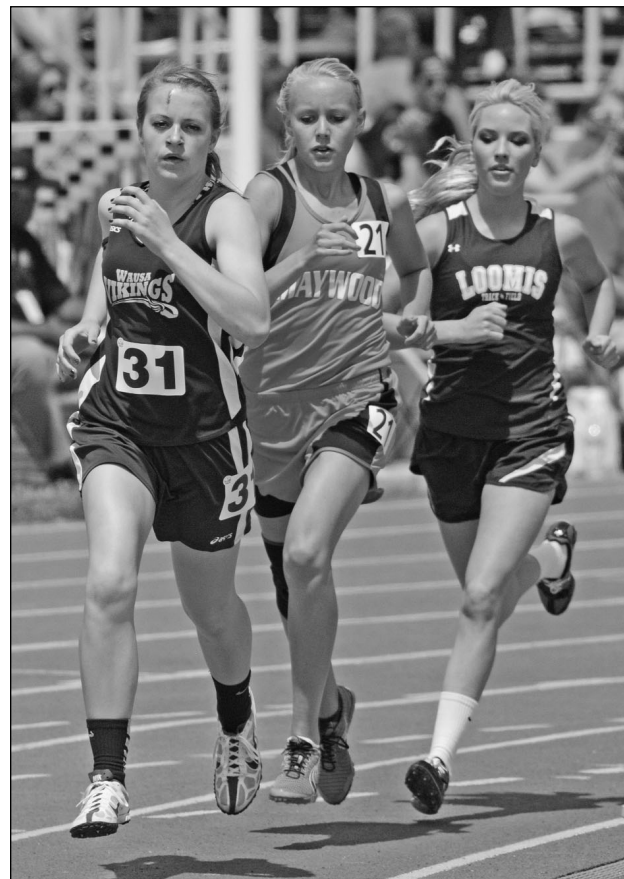
"It's amazing. He's always his last jump that's his best," Wausa jumps coach Tylor Fincher said. "It's always been that way."

Hegge wasn't done in the jumps, though. He qualified with the second-best clocking in the 100-meter dash prelims at 11.14, and later had the best prelim time in the 200-meter dash (22.77).

The Wausa boys also finished 11th in the 3200-meter relays in 8:45.49, which was another season best, according to head coach Greg Conn.

"When you have something like that, that's almost as good as a medal for those kids," Conn said.

On the girls' side for



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Breana Gallup of Wausa leads the pack early in the Class D girls' 3200-meter run on Friday at the Nebraska State Track Meet in Omaha. Gallup medaled in the event for the fourth straight year, earning a runner-up finish.

Wausa, Brittanii Claussen and Hartington's Cami Stratman tied for 12th in the long jump at 15-4.

It will be on the boys' side, though, where Wausa could be set up for a good final day in Omaha, Conn said.

"We're really excited about (today), but I'd say we're cautiously optimistic," he said.

In other area girls' finishes on Friday, Hartington junior Shelby Hochstein finished 23rd in the pole vault at 7-feet-6, while freshman teammate Sydney Lammers tied

for 24th at 7-6. Senior Sara Pinkelman finished 15th in the discus at 101-10.

The Wynot 3200-meter relay quartet finished 12th (10:44.31).

And on the boys' side, Tanner Fischer of Hartington was 11th in the 3200-meter run in 10:33.88, and Garrett Watters of Randolph took 12th place in the shot put at 46-4.

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

Bucks 12th Entering Final Day Of State Tennis

RAPID CITY — Four Yankton Bucks and two doubles teams remain alive entering today's (Saturday) final day of the South Dakota State Boys' Tennis Tournament, being held in Rapid City.

Sioux Falls Lincoln leads the team race entering the final day of competition with 524 points. Sioux Falls O'Gorman ranks second at 491, followed by Mitchell (477.5) and Sioux Falls Washington (458). Yankton is in 12th with 172.5 points. Vermillion scored 15 points.

Yankton's Brandon Frick will play for fifth place at flight five singles after going 1-1 on Friday. He dropped a 6-2, 6-2 decision to Mitchell's

Brenden Lehr, the top seed, before beating Washington's Aidan Hartwig 11-9. Frick will face Watertown's Seth Schamens in the fifth place match.

Yankton's Hunter Rockne advanced to the fifth place match at flight six singles. He dropped a 6-2, 6-2 decision to Mitchell's Gray Determan, then beat Aberdeen Central's Matt Hollan 10-6. Rockne will face Roosevelt's Spenser Smith in the fifth place match.

Yankton's Jason Shindler will play for the consolation title at flight two singles after wins over Vermillion's Kevin Helenurm, Huron's Devon Carroll and Brandon Valley's

Drake Van Egdom on Friday. He will face Roosevelt's Josh Jackson in the match.

Yankton's Greg Hauer will play for the consolation title at flight three singles after wins over Spearfish's Ryan Lahr, Brookings' Dalton Rittershaus and Pierre's Kaden Hight. He will face Watertown's Matt Gauger in the match.

Luke Rockne and Shindler will face Brandon Valley in the consolation final at flight one doubles after wins over Aberdeen Roncalli (10-4) and Huron (10-6) on Friday.

Hauer and Paul Fanta advanced to the consolation finals at flight two doubles,

and will face Pierre in that match. Yankton beat Watertown 10-3 and Rapid City Central 10-8 to advance.

Yankton's Luke Rockne was eliminated on the consolation quarterfinals at flight one singles, dropping a 10-1 decision to Huron's Colin Claeys.

Fanta was eliminated by Madison's Logan Jager in the flight four consolation quarterfinals.

Frick and Hunter Rockne were eliminated on the consolation semifinals at flight three doubles.

Vermillion's Sam Craig advanced to the consolation quarterfinals in flight five sin-

gles, beating Brookings' Andrew Crawford 10-3 before falling to Madison's Mitch Hansen.

Vermillion's Jacob Ford (flight one), Helenurm (flight two), Joe Swanson (flight three), Ryan Styles (flight four) and Andrew Callahan (flight six) were ousted in the opening round of consolation play.

Helenurm and Craig were eliminated by Pierre 10-2 in the flight two doubles consolation quarterfinals.

Styles and Daniel Robinson were eliminated in the consolation quarters at flight three doubles, dropping a 10-6 decision to Brandon Valley.

Irene Rallies Past Broncs

IRENE — The Irene Cardinals scored five runs in the bottom of the ninth to claim an 8-7 victory over Lesterville in South Central League baseball action on Thursday.

Irene led 3-0 before Lesterville scored seven unanswered runs to take a 7-3 lead into the bottom of the ninth. The Cardinals completed the rally as Adam Gale's single through a drawn-in infield to score the winning run from third.

George Sees had two doubles and Brett Jensen doubled and singled to lead