# Longtime Brandon Racetrack Ending Run As Huset's Speedway

all summer, and the fans will

be there when it happens,

But Rubin says parting ways with Huset's does not

at least a year or until they

don't want me anymore," he

said. "I'm not leaving Brandon.

Brandon's my home, and this

The racetrack came to life

is just another chapter in my

in the early 1950s, and was

built almost single-handedly

by Tilman Huset. Huset, who

was born on a farm near

mean retirement. "I'll be here

BRANDON (AP) — Huset's Speedway has been synonymous with the Rubin family for 61 years, but when the 2015 season wraps up, the Brandon racetrack will have new ownership and a new name.

Huset's Speedway has been purchased by Chuck Brennan, owner of Sioux Falls-based Badlands Entertainment Group. The longtime sprint car track will be renamed Badlands Motor Speedway following the 2015 season, bringing an end to the area-wide recognized Huset's Speedway name.

Steve Rubin said the decision to part ways with the racetrack was a difficult one to make.

"It was very hard," he told the Argus Leader. "There's been a Rubin involved in the race track since the beginning, starting with my dad, and I raised all my kids here, too."

But Rubin said it's the right time to start a new chapter in his family's life, and that Brennan is the right person to take over the operation and elevate it to the next level.

'When we took it over in 1988 the infrastructure needed an upgrade, so we took the

racetrack from what it was then and got it modernized, Rubin explains. "Now, to get it modernized to what people expect, is what Badlands is going to do. Their vision is really good, and it's going to be good for everybody.'

Outlaws sprint races start at the track Sunday. A farewell to Huset's Speedway concert is planned for Aug. 29.

"This is going to be a big year for Huset's," Rubin promises.

While there are big things to come, Huset's Speedway brought past excitement to Brandon. Most recently, race fans will remember how Tony Stewart's visit to the track backed up traffic for miles.

"We figured we turned away about 6,000 people," Rubin said.

But the track hosted other memorable events as well, including Patriot Day that featured a flyover by F-16s, Sen. George McGovern's last ride in a sprint car, visits by Tom Daschle, John Thune and Larry Pressler. "All of the senators have been here, the governors, many dignitaries,' Rubin said.

The Speedway was also the perfect backdrop for

concerts, monster trucks and thrill shows.

The Beach Boys, Willie Nelson and Ricky Nelson are just a few concerts that come to Rubin's mind.

"When we had the Beach Boys here in 1982, we had over 14,000 people then. Willie drew 12,000 and there were over 10,000 for Ricky Nelson," he said. "In the late '70s and early '80s we had big concerts out here. But concerts are a risk, and unless you do it a lot, it can be really tricky. We weren't really set up for it because we had to haul everything in for them.'

Brennan has plans to turn Badlands Motor Speedway

"He's going to pave the infield, put in new lighting and will put a concert stage will on one end of the infield, and the grandstand will be the overflow to accommodate over 20,000 people. It will be the biggest outside venue in

Rubin said Brennan plans to start underground infrastructure work this summer and have a timeline of having

'The fans are going to be

more interactive with the improvements. They're going to start and pick away at this

they'll go right along with it, and that will be a neat deal, Rubin said. "It's going to expand by leaps and bounds and it's going to be great for the community. Although folks may look at Huset's a seasonal venue, Rubin says the track requires year-round attention. "People don't realize that

it's a lot of work," he said. "They think you come out here one day a week, but it's a full-time job; it's more than full-time.

into an "entertainment venue," Rubin said.

the state."

it done by the Aug. 29 concert.

Lennox, Feb. 10, 1889, moved to the Brandon area when he was a young man. In 1931, he

life

built Huset's Service Station close to old U.S. Highway 16, about one-half mile south of where one day he would build his racetrack.

Huset's love for making an engine purr and racing moved him to build his own track. With an old road grader and a small bulldozer, he carved and molded a three-eighths mile dirt track from a cornfield. There were scoffers, but Huset saw the site as a natural fit for the racetrack.

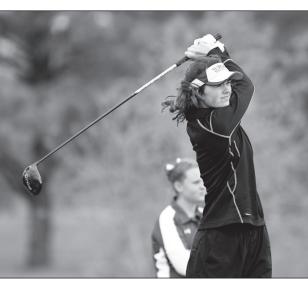
In the early years, stock car races, demolition derbies and powder puff races happened at the track.

A classier track, Soo Speedway, built within four miles of Huset's, once threatened the Brandon track, nearly controlling the local area racing scene. But when disputes between track owners and racecar drivers simmered at the new track that led the rac ers in 1958 to form the Sioux Falls Stock Car Association. The membership voted to quit racing at Soo Speedway, and approached Huset with the idea of leasing his track, but instead made arrangements to purchase it for \$14,000. The association hired a manager and had their first full year of

racing at Huset's in 1959. After a series of racetrack managers came and went, after many, many improvements at Huset's Speedway, the stockholders of the Sioux Falls Stock Car Association in 1987 voted to sell the speedway to Clarence Rubin and his sons, Greg and Steve. They purchased the Speedway for \$201,150.50, which included 48 acres of land, the track, buildings and equipment.

"I've been going here since I was a kid, a lot of people have," Rubin said. "But it was time and now the torch has been passed off. All I've been was a caretaker here. This place is bigger than me, and I've known Chuck for 30 years. When it comes to entertainment, he's it. He's really good at it and is probably one of the best in the country. He has the resources and can reach out to people to make things happen.'

Rubin said the Speedway has an estimated 600 season pass holders, and Sunday evening races average 2,000 to 3,000 people.



JOHN DAVIS/ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS Yankton's Beck Frick watches her drive on the second hole at Lee Park Golf Course Friday at the ESD Girls Golf Championship. The Gazelles finished second in the team standings. Full results were not available at presstime.

# **Golf: Crofton's Mueller** Wins MAC Title

WAYNE, Neb. - Crofton's Brock Mueller beat out Blair's T.J. Loudner for medalist honors, each shooting a 76, at the MAC Invitational boys golf tournament on Thursday in Wayne, Nebraska.

Tekamah-Herman's Russell Langley was third at 78. Four other golfers tied at 79.

West Holt won team honors, shooting a 329 for a Six-stroke victory over Blair. Tekamah-Herman was third at 350. Crofton shot 386 for 10th and Laurel-Concord-Coleridge shot 424 for 14th in the 15-team event. TEAM SCORES: West Holt 329, Blair 335, Tekamah-Herman 350, Columbus Lakeview 352, Guardian Angels Central Catholic 354, Wisner-Pilger 360, O'Neill 371, Oakland-Craig 378, Pierce 379, Crofton 386, West Point-Beemer 387, Boone Central 389, South Sioux City 414, Laurel-Concord-Concord 424, Wayne 427 TOP 20: Brock Mueller, Crofton 76; TJ Loudner, Blair 76; Russell Langley, Tekamah-Herman 78; Alex Fritz, West Holt 79; Vance Janssen, Blair 79; Bryce Kerkman, West Holt 79; Colten Remm, Columbus Lakveiwar 79; Mason Hale, West Holt 81; Christian Stastny, Wisner-Pilger 82; Noah Kreikemeier, Guardian Angels 83; Derek Haber, Tekamah-Herman 83; Cody Steuter,

Guardian Angels 84; Cody Mallette, Oakland-Craig Guardian Angels 34; Cody Mallette, Uakland-Craig 85; Joey Beacom, Wisner-Pilger 85; Brandt Radloff, Blair 86; Morgan Peatrowsky, West Point-Beemer 89; Andrew Brockmann, West Point-Beemer 89; Jordan Morse, Columbus Lakeview 89; Colby Drueke, O'Neill 89; Ted Maline, West Holt 90

#### BC Inv.

BATTLE CREEK, Neb. - Led by medalist Chase Largen's 79, Creighton shot a team score of 328 to win the Battle Creek Invitational on Thure

## **Region 4B**

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"It was better than Monday, but there's still room to improve," said Fiscel, who specifically referenced her recording a triple bogey on Hole No. 17.

"It's still awesome to win,

at Fox Run Golf Course, medalist Jayden Van Zee led the Black Panthers to a score of 244, 12 strokes better than runner-up Bon Homme. Kimball-White Lake was a distant third at 275.

"We played really well today overall," said Platte-Geddes head coach Frank Cutler. "Jayden had a great round, and the other guys came through, lowering their scores.'

fairways, was a big part of my game today," he said. "My short game was all right."

#### **Girls' Division**

Maggie Fiscel and Kristina Hlavac knew exactly what their teammate. Katie Winck



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Andes Central-Dakota Christian's J.J. Cooney watches his tee shot on Hole No. 1 during the Region 4B Golf Tournament on Friday at Fox Run Golf Course.

definitely." At the boys' tournament

Van Zee credits a strong game off the tee with helping him take the title with an even-par 72. Bon Homme's Alec Johnson, medalist in the pre-region event on Monday, was second with a 73.

"My driving, just hitting

Norfolk Catholic finished second at 333, led by Brandon Clausen's 80. Hartington Cedar Catholic, with finished third at 346, also had a golfer

at 80, Brad Kathol. AL OV, DI AU NALIIOI. TEAM SCORES: Creighton 328, Norfolk Catholic 333, Hartington Cedar Catholic 346, Battle Creek 350, Clarkson-Leigh 370, Madison 401 TOP 15: Chase Largen, Creighton 79; Brandon Clausen, Norfolk Catholic 80; Brad Kathol, Cedar Catholic 80; Shane Miner, Norfolk Catholic 81; Connor

Baldwin, Creighton 81; Trent Wingate, Norfolk Catholic 82; Drew Lanman, Battle Creek 83; Brady Brockhaus, Creighton 84; Cole Wetzler, Creighton 84; Will Kersten, Battle Creek 85; Eric Ehlers, Madison 85; Sam Anderson, Norfolk Catholic 87; Jaret Cerny, Norfolk Catholic 88; Conner Kramer, Battle Creek 89; Matt Schaefer Cedar Catholic 89

ler, needed to record for the Scotland Lady Highlanders to capture the Region 4B title – and spot in the state tournament.

So when Winckler walked off the No. 18 green with a round of 133, she was greeted by a pair of happy teammates and parents.

When Katie told us her score, we were really excited," Fiscel said. Added Winckler, the sen-

ior. "And then I cried."

Sure, Scotland was helped by Fiscel's score of 84, but Hlavac's round of 107 wasn't only a welcome sight for her team, but for her personally.

"I'm just happy I got to finish this time," said a smiling Hlavac, who hurt her ankle Monday and couldn't finish her pre-region round.

"I'm happy we made it." And it wasn't really close. The third-place team, Mount Vernon-Plankinton, carded a 346, one shot better meanwhile, got a 133 from its third golfer, but that 84 and 107 on the stat sheet loomed

"You need that one low score and another girl to stay steady," Gemar said. "And those seven strokes difference from Katie (compared to Monday) were huge for us.

Burke-South Central, meanwhile, got a 98 from Taylee Indahl, a 106 from Tressa Bull and a 111 from Hannah Karbo – meaning all three Cougars would have qualified for state anyway.

'They've played it twice now, so they'll be more familiar with it for state," coach Billie Jo Indahl said. "It's a good experience to play a course like this.

'There's more of a strategy you need here." Four other area golfers

qualified for the state tournament: Brooke Deurmier (110) and Becca Lehmann (116) from Andes CentralSchaefers (118) and Ripley Schaefers (125) from Tripp-Delmont.

Jeremy Hoeck

### Boys' Division

Besides Van Zee's 72, Platte-Geddes carded an 85 from Colton Plooster, an 88 from Riley Hoffman and a 90 from Coby Johnson, each getting in the top 15.

We've been pretty balanced," Cutler said of the Black Panthers. "Jayden and Colton have been right at the top, but the other kids can shoot well. Coby had an 80 here on Monday.'

Cutler is excited for his team's return to Yankton May 18-19 for state.

This is a fun group," he said. "It will be interesting to see what they can do in a week and a half.

Van Zee is also excited about the prospects of coming into state with one of the

congratulatory messages,

as well as the occasional

comment around town.

glory.

knew.

many coming on Facebook,

Evan, meanwhile, has

up to him and congratulate

him," Nicole said. "And he

Although there are

younger divisions of moto-

had no idea how the teacher

'He had a teacher come

even experienced the title

"It makes a big difference,

shooting 72," he said. "I want to stay in that area, build on it big time.'

Bon Homme put three golfers in the top 17: Johnson, Tyler Kaul (89) and Andrew Roland (94).

While Kimball-White Lake did not qualify as a team, the WildKats will score at state as a team after putting three golfers in the top 15: Devon Munsen (87), Tanner Blasius (94) and Lance Thiry (94).

Andes Central-Dakota Christian standout J.J. Cooney, who sat out of the pre-region event due to injury, finished third with an 83. Scotland's Tanner Iwan also qualified for state as an individual, shooting a 90 to place 10th.

- James D. Cimburek

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**Former UNI Baseball Coach Flourishing At Iowa** 

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) -Rick Heller never complained about the obstacles he faced as the overworked coach at overlooked Northern Iowa.

For 11 seasons, Heller simply did all he could to field a winner at a school with few ingredients for winning. In the end, none of it mattered. Heller cared more about Northern Iowa than Northern Iowa cared about baseball and the program was cut in 2009.

Six years and two jobs later, Heller is finally getting the recognition he never sought but has long deserved.

Heller has turned lowa into one of the nation's most surprising teams in just his second season.

The Hawkeyes, long the laughingstock of the Big Ten, are 34-12 and 15-3 in league play heading into this weekend's final regular-season series against Minnesota. They are ranked as high as 15th in the national polls and could reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 25 years.

"It's been a complete culture change ... the work ethic has gotten a lot better," infielder Jake Mangler said. "From day one, coach Heller has asked us to play hard. It's a simple thing that everybody can control. It's something that's overlooked. You say you play hard. But do you?'

Heller grew up in Eldon, Iowa and took over as the head coach of his alma mater, Division III Upper Iowa, just a year after graduating. He was with the Peacocks from 1987-99, turning a moribund program

into one that consistently competed for conference titles.

Heller went on to win 270 games at Northern Iowa, a remarkable achievement at the northernmost school of a lesser-known league. The Panthers didn't even have their

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# Payer

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"Most of the other kids were really good; better than he's used to seeing," Waylon said. "It was a whole different level.

A total of sixteen riders went around the course held indoors - for 10 laps, and Payer managed to lap five riders, which may have been the most nerve-wracking moment of the race, when he had to go around those slower riders.

"He said he thought he'd crash on the last lap," Waylon said. "Toward the end, I think he got a little nervous."

National championship in hand, Evan may not have realized the magnitude of what he had just accomplished, according to his father.

It was just another race for him," Waylon said.

'He knew it was a big one, but I don't think he thought of it like that.'

For the sport of moto-

cross in this area, however, it was certainly a noteworthy accomplishment.

Evan routinely competes in the Yankton Scramblers cycle club races - held five times a year at the track located west of Yankton - and has traditionally fared pretty well. Those races are well attended, Waylon said, but in general, it's not a very popular sport in the region.

Some do it around here," Waylon said, "but it's mostly southern states.

"But I bet it's more popular than a lot of us in Yankton would think.'

Much like a basketball player would compete for an AAU team, Evan has branched outside of the area to compete in larger, more prestigious races.

"Most people think we're crazy with how much we travel," Waylon said. "But trust me, it's all Evan. He wants to race.

Not thinking twice about it, Waylon said the family which includes two other children, a 9-year-old son and a 7-year-old daughter

winter than they ever have. There were trips to Oklahoma, Kansas and Wisconsin, as well as a couple trips out to Rapid City.

Wherever Evan wants to compete next, and as long as it's feasible for the family to make the journey, they'll hit the road.

"It's either ride or race for him," Waylon said. "That's what he loves to do.'

In the week since Evan's championship, his parents



rather young in the world of competitive racing. He would still have another year to compete in his same Junior Mini division next year in Las Vegas.

"He's got a lot of good years left," Waylon said, smiling.

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Monday, May 11 7:40 am Yankton City Manager (Amy Nelson) 8:20 am Yankton School Board (Wayne Kindle) 8:35 am Yankton High School (Jennifer Johnke) Tuesday, May 12 7:40 am The Center (Christy Hauer) 8:20 am New City Commissioner (Nathan Johnson) 8:45 am Dakota Museum (Crvstal Nelson)

have received a number of

- traveled more this past