



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Bridgewater-Emery's Maisie Hurd sinks a putt on the way to winning the Region 3B Golf title on Monday at Hillcrest Golf and Country Club.

Golf | Region 3B

Huskies, Blue Dragons Take Titles

BY JEREMY HOECK &
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Strong winds made for high scores during the Region 3B Golf Tournament on Monday in Yankton, but the Garretson boys and Bridgewater-Emery girls found a way to cut through the wind and score decisive team victories.

In the boys' division at Fox Run Golf Course, Garretson shot a 272 to finish 13 strokes ahead of runner-up McCook Central-Montrose. Viborg-Hurley was third at 290.

Garretson head coach Kari Stoltenburg felt the team's experience from the pre-region event a week ago helped her team take home the title.

"The greens were the biggest issue last week. They were quite a bit faster than what we'd seen," she said. "It's nice that we have played down here two times, and we're coming down again on Sunday."

Garretson's Micah Mader took home medalist honors with a 79, three strokes better than Drew Seubert of Canistota, the pre-region

winner. Robert Jensen of Viborg-Hurley was third with a 89, the only other golfer under 90 on the day.

Over at the girls' division at Hillcrest Golf & Country Club, it was the trio of sisters from Bridgewater-Emery that guided the Huskies to the team title.

Senior Maisie Hurd carded a 95, three shots in front of her junior sister Autumn Hurd. Eighth-grader Darby Hurd finished 15th with a 130, but she would have qualified for state anyway.

The Huskies had a team score of 323, well in front McCook Central-Montrose (356) which also qualified for the state meet.

"They've been consistent all year long," Bridgewater-Emery coach Scott Schultz said. "On a tough day like this and on a tough course like this, I'm very happy."

The top teams and individuals will return to Yankton May 18-19 for the South Dakota State Class B Golf Championships. The boys will compete at Fox Run, while the girls will compete at Hillcrest.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Garretson's Micah Mader watches his tee shot on Hole No. 11 during his round in the Region 3B Golf Tournament on Monday at Fox Run Golf Course. Mader shot a 79 to earn medalist honors and help the Blue Dragons to the team title. Qualifiers will return to Yankton for the S.D. State Class B Tournament May 18-19.

REGION 3B | PAGE 8

First Signs Of Summer



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Michael Lang (6) high-fives Sioux City Explorers teammate Brock Kjeldgaard (33) after Lang hit a home run in Monday night's exhibition game against the Sioux Falls Canaries at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field. Matty Johnson (1) also scored on the homer. The exhibition has become a May tradition in Yankton, signalling that summer is on the way.

Exhibition Celebrates 20th Year

Explorers Down Canaries 21-11
BY BEN HEGGE
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For the 20th consecutive year, the Yankton Morning Optimists Club has brought professional baseball to Yankton.

On Monday night, the Sioux City Explorers played the Sioux Falls Canaries on Riverside Field at Bob Tereshinski Stadium.

Both teams took advantage of a gusting wind blowing out to center field to put on an offensive show. The Explorers defeated the Canaries 21-11 in a game that featured a combined 28 hits and three towering home runs.

Fans who attended saw two talent filled rosters that included multiple players with minor and major league experience. Canaries outfielder Jason Repko was among those with a major league history, as he spent four seasons in the big leagues including a season with the Minnesota Twins.

The Yankton community had a strong showing in Monday's event with well over 100 local business's sponsoring the game. Despite cold temperatures and strong winds, a nicely sized crowd attended Riverside field to catch some early summer baseball.

"The community really gets behind us for this game," said Morning Optimist Club president Karla Olson. "The amount of fans that showed up and battled the cold weather really speaks for how supporting of a community we have."

Prior to the game both teams players and coaches shared their knowledge and experience with local youth members who attended a skills camp.

Seven year old from Beadle Elementary School Damian Janish was one of the many who had the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the game.

"They taught us how to field, catch and throw," said Damian. "I am going to use some things I learned this on my summer baseball team."

Janish like many of the youngsters looked up to and admired the players size and ability. "I can't believe how hard they throw," said Damian.

Giving back to the youth was the theme of Monday night's event, as the Yankton Morning Optimists Club presented local youth organizations like the Boys and Girls Club and Big Friend/Little Friend with donations. The

club also made a donation to the Corps of Engineers/Warren Hatch Dock.

"All of the support we get gives us a great opportunity to give back," said Olsen. "We would not be able to do what we do without the help of our generous sponsors."

However, there was something different about this years annual match up, as both teams took advantage of the newly turfed Riverside field.

Monday was also not only a fun baseball game for head Mount Marty coach Andy Bernatow, but it was also a family gathering. Bernatow and Sioux Falls Canaries manager Chris Paterson happen to be cousins.

"To have pro baseball players playing on turf in Yankton is great for advocating baseball in our town," said Bernatow. "This event really shows how baseball has transpired in this community."

From youth baseball to local clubs and organizations, all of Yankton benefited from Monday's game.

"This is always a really fun night for everyone involved, and we look forward to putting it on every year," said Olson.

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Mount Marty College student Azure Rodriguez, the 2015 Miss South Dakota Collegiate America, delivers a ceremonial first pitch before Monday night's exhibition baseball game between Sioux Falls and Sioux City at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

Nebraska Assistant Takes Over Augustana Volleyball Program

SIoux FALLS – Augustana College director of athletics Slade Larscheid announced Monday that Dan Meske has been named the new head volleyball coach at Augustana.

Meske, who becomes the eighth head coach in program history, takes over for Ashley Buckley who resigned on March 27 after seven seasons.

Meske will officially begin his duties at Augustana May 15.

Meske recently completed his eighth season as an assistant at the University of

Nebraska where she spent the last five seasons as a full-time assistant. He was promoted prior to the 2011 season after serving as a volunteer coach for the Huskers in 2009 and 2010. Meske was also a graduate assistant at Nebraska in 2006 and 2007. Meske was in charge of coordinating the Huskers' blocking defense as well as video scouting, team managers and assisting with camps. He worked primarily with Nebraska's middle blockers.

Vermillion Golfers Win Region 2A

SIoux FALLS – The Vermillion Tanagers ran away with team honors at the Region 2A Girls' Golf Tournament, held on Monday at Bakker Crossing Golf Course in Sioux Falls.

Vermillion put three golfers in the top seven to finish at 342 as a team, 23 strokes ahead of runner-up West Central. Sioux Falls Christian qualified as a team with a third place finish at 376. Canton also qualified as a team, having placed four golfers within the top 26.

Dakota Valley's Mary High earned medalist honors with

a 77, two strokes better than Vermillion's Kayla Stammer. Sioux Falls Christian's Kate Wynja was third at 80.

Also for Vermillion, Kyleigh Moran shot 82, Kate Brockevell 85, Emily Schmitz 96 and Audry Miller 97 on the day.

Besides High and the Vermillion team, area golfers qualifying for state included Beresford's Sadie Jensen (91), Taylor Watkins (101) and Elizabeth Petersen (102), Tori Johnson of Elk Point-Jefferson (86) and Dakota Valley's Makenna Krysl (97).

The South Dakota State Class A Girls' Golf Tournament is set for May 18-19 in Madison.

TEAM QUALIFIERS: Vermillion 342, West Central 365, Sioux Falls Christian 376, Canton 387 (qualified due to having four make individual cut).

INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS: Mary High, Dakota Valley 77; Kayla Stammer, Vermillion 79; Kate Wynja, SF Christian 80; Kyleigh Moran, Vermillion 82; Kennedy Fossum, Canton 85; Kate Brockevell, Vermillion 85; Alexa From, West Central 85; Tori Johnson, Elk Point-Jeff 86; Anna Perrenoud, SF Christian 87; Megan Hinkler, Lennox 88; Amanda Westwick, West Central 90; Sadie Jensen, Beresford 91; Janell Healy, West Central 94; Emily Schmitz, Vermillion 96; Lauryn Driscoll, West Central 96; Audry Miller, Vermillion 97; Makenna Krysl, Dakota Valley 97; Emily Beitzel, Canton 98; Alyssa Zirpel, Lennox 100; Natalie Poppens, Tea Area 101; Brooke Ehlers, Canton 101; Taylor Watkins, Beresford 101; Elizabeth Petersen, Beresford 102; Ashley Lanfiers, SF Christian 102; Amanda Lofland, Canton 103; Kacie Jacobsen, Canton 104

MMC's Rockne Honored By GPAC

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Vanessa Rockne has been involved with the Mount Marty College women's tennis program from almost the start.

The program was announced as a new sport at the school in November 2011. Rockne was announced as a recruit in May 2012.

And since then, the Yankton High School graduate has been the face of Lancer tennis. Rockne, now a 21-year-old junior, was named the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Player of the Year in 2013, and last week was named to the All-GPAC first team for 2015.

This past season may not have been the most successful for the Lancers (they lost all seven of their matches), but their flight one singles leader remained consistent.

"It was pretty well-rounded, I'd say," Rockne said Monday night. "I didn't get by with a lot of easy wins, that's for sure."

Why?

Because, as Mount Marty's No. 1 singles player, Rockne is always matched up with the opposing team's best players – much like a baseball team's first pitcher in the rotation.

"It does make it a little harder, but I've been playing flight one for so long that I actually find it more relaxing than stressful," she said.

Of the five matches Mount Marty competed in this past season (the Lancers forfeited one match), Rockne was 4-2 – her only losses came to Northwestern's Frankie Eszes and Nebraska Wesleyan's Gaby Chaparro, who were named co-GPAC Player of the Year.

"I like to compete, and when I'm facing the best, I know I'm being tested," Rockne said.

There were times this season where Mount Marty didn't have enough players to fill out a full team, but Rockne was always the anchor. The updated roster lists only juniors Lexie Klimisch and junior Lauren Janssen.

Having a two-time All-GPAC selection in only three years could, however, help boost the program, Rockne said.

"It's tough to say, because it's still a really new program," she said. "It can be tough to get recruits, but hopefully we can keep it going."

With the women's program now looking for a new head coach and a men's tennis program on the way at Mount Marty, having a tennis player have such early success could be a benefit, Rockne added.

"I hope it says that Mount Marty is not just an academic school," she said. "That it allows us to be both."

"Hopefully this shows that you can do both."

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