

# Coyote Golfers Set For Their ‘Super Bowl’

## USD Men Begin NCAA Regional Today

BY JEREMY HOECK

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Try as it might to treat this week’s tournament just like any other, it’s not exactly the same for the University of South Dakota men’s golf team.

This isn’t the Coyote Classic. Or the Jackrabbit Invite. It’s the big stage.

A week and a half after capturing their first Summit League championship, the Coyotes are out in Washington for the NCAA Bremerton Regional – their first regional appearance at the Division I level. The 3-day, 54-hole tournament begins today (Thursday) at Gold Mountain Golf Club.

“We’re just all smiles,” USD head coach Nick Hovden said after Wednesday’s official practice round. “We’re soaking it all in.”

It’s not exactly a vacation for the Coyotes, however. As unlikely as it may seem that they would be among the five low teams to advance to the NCAA finals, there’s still a sense that USD is playing with house money, according to junior Jordan Rykal.

“We have nothing to lose, we made it this far,” Rykal said Wednesday. “To be honest, conference was kind of like our Super Bowl, and now this is a pretty special moment.”

Rykal is joined on the USD lineup by senior Samuel Matthew,

sophomore Cody Seal, freshman Matthew Swanson and freshman Cole Peterson.

The task of competing alongside the other qualified teams may seem daunting. Also at the regional are sixth-ranked South Carolina, No. 12 Washington, No. 17 Southern California, No. 18 Baylor, No. 30 UAB, No. 31 Texas Christian, No. 43 Iowa State and No. 44 Sam Houston State. The other teams in the field are Michigan, UC Davis, VCU, Pepperdine and Cleveland State.

The Coyotes will be paired today (Thursday) with Cleveland State and the five other individual golfers who qualified for the regional – they’re from Gonzaga, BYU, Oregon State, Minnesota and Pacific.

“Obviously we have high expectations, but like I told the guys, ‘Fellas, just savor this, a lot of other teams would love to be out here,’” Hovden said.

And yet, it’s the Coyotes – who rallied to beat Oral Roberts for the Summit League title – who are out in Washington.

“It’s pretty exciting stuff,” Rykal said. “We’re all trying to take it like any other tournament.”

As it tough as it may have seemed Wednesday, as the Coyotes looked up at the scoreboard and saw their school listed alongside those high-major programs.

“I’m not going to lie, it’s a little intimidating,” Hovden said. “But the kids are doing a fine job. We’re trying to treat this just like another tournament; another round of golf.”

The problem, though, is that it’s

not just another round of golf.

Consider: USD will be golfing with Byron Meth (Pacific), who earlier this year competed at The Masters. It may not be the usual company the Coyotes keep out on a golf course, and while you wouldn’t have any problems convincing them this is a new level, they’re ready for the challenge.

“It’s neat to see our names on the scoreboard with the big dogs, but not for a second do we feel like we don’t belong here,” Hovden said.

Live stats from the Bremerton Regional can be found at <http://golfstatresults.com/public/leaderboards/gsnav.cfm?pg-participants&id=7940>

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### Track & Field | Nebraska District D3

# Wausa, Allen Win Titles

## Viking Boys, Eagle Girls Earn Crowns

BY DYLAN HUGGINS

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HARTINGTON, Neb. — At the Nebraska District D-3 track meet on Wednesday in Hartington, Wausa finished in first place for the boys while Allen took home first place for the girls.

Nine schools competed in the event including Allen, Bancroft-Rosalie, Lyons-Decatur Northeast, Omaha Nation, Randolph, Walthall, Wausa, Winside, and Wynot.

Austin Hegge from Wausa said having someone else from his school in an event with him allows him to push his teammates more.

“I think I push them more than they wanna be pushed. It helps them get better,” Hegge said.

Hegge also said he has ways of preparing before every track meet.

“We have a workout before every normal practice. I’ll have a teammate stretch me and do a full body stretch,” Hegge said.

Hegge finished first place in three different events. Boys triple Jump with a length of 42-9.5 feet, boys 100 –meter dash with a time of 10.9 seconds and the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.8 seconds.

Seth Lackas from Randolph finished first in the discus. Lackus said it wasn’t easy at first throwing the discus in the strong winds.

“It was pretty rough getting used to it. The disc flew off to the right and then it could fly pretty well then,” Lackas said. This was the first time Lackus placed first at Districts.

Lackas’ first-place throw was 145-4 feet.

Greg Conn, head coach of the Wausa track team, said it felt great for the Wausa boys to win the District title.

“It’s a pretty good feeling. We were hoping all along that this was going to be a good opportunity for us. It’s a brutal day and I thought the kids stepped up and did what they had to do,” Conn said.

Conn also stated there was room for improvement with his team.

“We know we have some things. Kyle Kleinschmit did a great job in the hurdles today and he knows in his 300’s that he has a few things to iron out. Obviously with Austin Hegge he’s got four opportunities for gold there’s always room for improvement and these guys know that,” Conn said.

The boys’ team of Wausa scored 133 points

Gabby Sullivan from Allen achieved first place in the



## Sights Set On Omaha

ABOVE: Wausa’s Austin Hegge gets off to a fast start in the prelims of the 200-meter dash at the District D-3 Track and Field Meet on Wednesday at Hartington, Nebraska. Hegge won the 100, 200, long jump and triple jump on the day, helping the Vikings to the boys’ team title.

LEFT: Allen’s Gabby Sullivan competes in the girls’ high jump at the District D-3 Track and Field Meet on Wednesday in Hartington, Nebraska. Sullivan also won the triple jump and helped the Eagles to a first-place finish in the 400 relay and runner-up in the 1600 relay as Allen won the girls’ team title.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

## Florence-Henry Standout Signs With MMC

The Mount Marty College women’s golf program has announced that Kaitlyn O’Neill of Henry will attend MMC and compete in women’s golf for the Lancers.

Competing for Florence-Henry, O’Neill has played in the last three state golf tournaments and has qualified for the 2015 state tournament, May 18-19 at Yankton’s Hillcrest Golf and Country Club.

“We are excited about Kaitlyn joining our program,” said MMC women’s golf coach Tom Schlimgen, the reigning Great Plains Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. “She has had several years of competition at the state level that has



O’Neill

State Delegate. The daughter of Mark and Renee O’Neill of Henry, she plans to major in criminal justice at MMC. She will receive an academic honors scholarship in addition to her golf scholarship.

helped her game. She will add talent and depth to our squad, as well as be a positive influence on the MMC campus.”

In addition to her achievements on the golf course, O’Neill has also been a National Honor Society Member and a Girls

## Hunter, Mauer Power Twins Past Detroit 6-2

DETROIT (AP) — Torii Hunter homered and Joe Mauer hit a bases-loaded triple, leading the Minnesota Twins past the Detroit Tigers 6-2 on Wednesday night.

Ricky Nolasco (3-1) allowed two unearned runs in 5 1/3 innings for the win. Nolasco came in with a 9.00 ERA, but gave up only four hits and three walks while striking out seven.

Kyle Lobstein (3-3) allowed six runs and seven hits and a walk while only recording seven outs.

The Tigers lost outfielder J.D. Martinez to a back injury. He singled in his first two at-bats, but Rajai Davis hit for him in the sixth. The team announced he had lower back tightness and is day-to-day.

Hunter got things started for the Twins in the first, homering against his former teammates. Minnesota blew it open in the third, highlighted by Mauer’s three-run triple.

## Bloomfield Qualifies 2 At D4 Meet

O’NEILL, Neb. – The Bloomfield Bees qualified two athletes in three events for the Nebraska State Track Meet following Wednesday’s action at the District D-4 meet in O’Neill.

Elkhorn Valley won the boys’ team title with 103 points, beating out North Central (83).

Bloomfield’s Conner Wilson qualified for state by finishing second in the 200-meter dash (23.53) and second in the 400-meter dash (53.69). Teammate Kyle Young did the same by taking second in the pole vault (10-6).

The Bees also took second in the 400 relay (47.29) and 1600 relay (3:38.28), but won’t know if those relays qualified for state until later.

On the girls’ side, St. Mary’s won the team title with 151.5 points, well in front of North Central (105.75).

## Track: Eichkorn, Wilkes Repeat As Summit League Champs

MACOMB, Ill.—South Dakota juniors Hunter Wilkes and Amber Eichkorn defended their league titles on the first day of the Summit League Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Wilkes cleared 13 feet, 3 ¾ inches with the fewest misses to reclaim her crown. Sophomore Emily Brigham had one more miss at a lower bar to finish runner-up while also making it over 13-3 ¾. Indoor league champion freshman Sierra Maddox tied for fourth with a height of 12-10. Freshman Madeline Aune and junior Janelle Noga took seventh and eighth, respectively, at 12-4. The Coyotes grabbed a total of 25.5 points in the event.

South Dakota added 24 more points in the 10,000 meters with a podium sweep. Eichkorn led the way by defending her title in a Summit League Championship meet record time of 35:18.59. Junior Kelsey Barrett finished runner-up in 35:35.76 and freshman Bethany Kozak placed third in 36:13.66. Also in the women’s 10,000, South Dakota State’s Jenna Grossenburgh (Yankton) finished fifth in 37:10.25.

The men also took two spots on the 10,000-meter podium. Senior Brant Haase clocked 30:27.57 to finish runner-up, while junior Mubarik Musa placed third in 30:51.54.

Noga added a fifth-place finish in the javelin with a career best throw of 129-10. Sophomore Amelia Miller threw 127-6 for sixth place.

Sophomore Danielle Waldner finished seventh in the hammer throw with a mark of 160-11. Junior Kayla Johnson finished eighth in 154-8.

The Coyotes grabbed another point in the javelin when sophomore Jet Moreland threw the javelin 180-4 for eighth.

Sitting in seventh after the first day of the decathlon, freshman Garrett Anderson