

Bucks Tied For Lead, Gazelles Second As ESD Track Suspended



TROY MARONEY/BROOKINGS REGISTER

Yankton's Emma Stewart takes off on the way to winning the girls' long jump at the Eastern South Dakota Conference track and field championships on Saturday in Brookings.

BROOKINGS – The Yankton Bucks were tied with Pierre with eight events remaining when the Eastern South Dakota Conference Track and Field Championships were suspended due to weather on Saturday in Brookings.

The meet will be completed on Tuesday in Brookings, with competition beginning at 5 p.m.

The Yankton Gazelles sit 20 points behind Brandon Valley with seven events remaining in the girls' division.

The Bucks' sprinters and hurdles accounted for several of Yankton's 72 points, including victories in both the 400 (43.21) and 800 (1:31.62) relays. Osmar Pacheco and Charlie Stephenson ran on both relays. Lee Rose and Ryan Sternhagen completed the 400 relay, while Mason Strahl and Coleton James completed the 800 relay.

Stephenson also won the 300 hurdles (41.09) and finished second in the 110 hurdles (15.6), with teammate Tim Cross third in the 300 hurdles (43.61). Sternhagen (11.2) and Pacheco (11.3) finished 2-3 in the 100. Rose was second in the 400 (50.57), with Strahl sixth (52.73).

The Bucks also earned two medals in the shot put, with Evan Greeneway (48-10.75) fifth and Nick Raab (45-10.5) sixth. Matt Fitzgerald tied for fifth in the high jump (5-8). Yankton also finished sixth in the medley relay (3:54.93) with the foursome of James, Eric Fitch, Blake Savey and Jared Rafferty.

The Gazelles had two winners on the way to their 68 points: Anne Knoff in the 800 (2:32.38) and Emma Stewart in the long jump (17-7.5). Also in the long



TROY MARONEY/BROOKINGS REGISTER

Yankton's Charlie Stephenson, right, flies over a hurdle on the way to victory in the boys' 300-meter hurdles at the Eastern South Dakota Conference Track and Field Championships on Saturday in Brookings.

jump, Lindsey Hale placed third (17-0.5).

Madason Tessier finished second to South Dakota recruit Haley Bruggeman in both the 100- (15.7) and 300-meter (47.75) hurdle events. Kate Budig was fifth in the 300 hurdles (50.11).

Savannah Woods placed second in the 1600 (5:17.20) and teamed with Tessa Folkers, Erica Westerman and Lauren Graves to place second in the

3200 relay (9:55.27). Westerman teamed with Emily Oswald, Rebecca Moser and Cameryn Specht for a third place finish in the medley (4:30.42).

Yankton also placed third in both the 400 (51.18) and 800 (1:47.12) relays. Hale, Stewart and Beckmann ran on both relays. Tessier completed the 400 relay, while Budig completed the 800 relay.

Parkston Girls Shoot For Fourth Straight Title

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

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Strong showings by a pair of seniors and the top two golfers in the state from a season ago have the Parkston Trojans girls' golf team in the hunt for a fourth straight Class A title.

That hunt begins today (Monday) at Madison Golf and Country Club as the two-day event tees off at 9 a.m.

Both Sydney Bormann, already a two-time state champion, and Sydney Weber, last season's runner-up, are playing well for the Trojans, said head coach Tyler Hockett.

"Those two have really started to play well. Their leadership has been great," he said.

Senior Sierra Stands, 33rd at state a year ago, has also provided a boost.

"Her improvement this year has been a catalyst," Hockett said. "She stepped into that role and played really well at regions. I could not be more proud of her."

Freshman Jayden Bormann, 39th a year ago, also returns for the Trojans. A surprising first-year player has also been a factor.

"Kenzie Lee is in her first year out, and she's a senior," Hockett noted.

While the Trojans won by 16 strokes a year ago, Hockett expects several teams to challenge for the top spot.

"Right now Madison and Vermillion are playing really well, and state's on Madison's home course," he said. "Moberg-Pollock is also a very solid team. They were within six of us at pre-regions. We also saw them at the LNI Tournament (Parkston had one golfer compete in that event), and they had four golfers in the low 80s."

Vermillion is the only team besides Parkston to have a golfer in each of the first three groups: Kayla Stammer, Kyleigh Moran and Kate



P&D FILE PHOTO

Parkston's Sydney Bormann watches her tee shot on Hole No. 17 during her round in the Yankton Invitational girls' golf tournament earlier this season. Bormann, who has won two of the last three Class A individual title, hopes to help lead the Trojans to a fourth straight title and seventh straight top-two finish as they begin the South Dakota State Class A Girls' Golf Championships today (Monday) at Madison Golf and Country Club.

Brockevelt. Emily Schmitz and Audry Miiller round out the lineup.

Brockevelt was 19th at state a year ago, with Moran tied for 27th, Stammer tied for 31st, and Schmitz and Miiller tied for 46th as the Tanagers tied for fifth. The squad is confident it can improve on that mark.

"We could definitely be (one of) the top two or three

teams," Stammer told the Vermillion Plain Talk after the Region 2A Tournament.

Dakota Valley's Mary High is also in the first group today. The junior placed fifth individually a season ago.

Wagner qualified four golfers individually, allowing them to score as a team. Competing for the Red Raiders are Megan Zephier, Jackie Greger, Emilea Cimpl and

Caitlyn Stimpson

Also entered from the area are Beresford's Sadie Jensen, Taylor Watkins and Elizabeth Peterson; Dakota Valley's Makenna Krysl and Elk Point-Jefferson's Tori Johnson.

The tournament runs through Tuesday.

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Rockets Back In Conference Finals First 1st Time Since '97

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets are heading to the Western Conference finals for the first time in 18 years after overcoming a 3-1 series deficit to eliminate the Los Angeles Clippers.

"It's the ultimate confidence-boost," James Harden said. "There's only a handful of teams that's done that. We fought back. We fought three really hard games and came away with it."

Harden scored 31 points, Dwight Howard had 16 points and 15 rebounds and the Rockets never trailed in a 113-100 victory over the Clippers on Sunday, sending them to the conference finals for the first time since 1997.

It's the ninth time in NBA history that a team has overcome a 3-1 series deficit to win a playoff series.

The Rockets overcame a 19-point third-quarter deficit in Game 6 on Thursday night to stay alive. No such heroics were needed Sunday when they were up by 17 after three and Howard opened the fourth quarter with a 3-point play to push it to 88-68.

"When you're down 19 on the road, it's easy to give

in and just say, 'Maybe next year,'" Harden said. "But I think the injuries throughout the entire year kind of made us fight through adversity no matter what. We always find a way to fight, and another case was being down 3-1."

Blake Griffin scored five points in a 9-0 run to cut the lead to eight points with less than 2 1/2 minutes remaining. Harden made a pair of free throws after that, but a dunk by DeAndre Jordan got the Clippers within eight again. This time, Trevor Ariza hit a 3 from the corner to secure the victory.

Howard was nervous until Ariza hit the final 3 and worried the Clippers might be the ones to orchestrate an unlikely comeback this time.

"Please, we can't let them pull an us on us," Howard said he was thinking during their late run.

Griffin had 27 points and Chris Paul had 26 points and 10 assists.

The Western Conference finals begin Tuesday night at Golden State.

Ariza finished with 22 points and made six 3-pointers.

Bucks

FROM PAGE 7

"We both found ways to wake our bats up."

The Bucks finished the club high school season with a 12-10 record. The players now transition from the spring season to the American Legion season, which begins with the Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic May 29-31.

"Looking at this thing as a whole, from March 1 when we started throwing to today, we're very happy with where

we are at," Krier said. "We found some things out about ourselves. We found some things out about our younger guys, who are going to have to fill some big roles for us."

Almost all of the Bucks' 2015 spring roster will suit up for Post 12 this summer.

"We are excited about getting back into the summer, back into the Legion season where we have had some success in the last couple of years with a group of guys that we believe have a lot of potential," Krier said.

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Girls

FROM PAGE 7

shoes by getting low scores." Coach Indahl said.

Deubrook Area

The Dolphins are back. After capturing the Class B girls' state championship a year ago by 43 strokes over Burke-South Central, Deubrook Area brings two top-10 golfers back for another run at a title this year in Yankton.

The position of being the defending champions isn't exactly one the Dolphins ignore, joked head coach Mike Buseth.

"I told the girls, the newspapers will probably say we're the favorite, so they'll have to deal with the pressure they created," Buseth said.

Deubrook Area returns junior Kayla Oval (tied for fifth last year) who will be competing in her fifth state tournament, while sophomore Caitlyn Christianson (seventh) will be in her fourth tournament. The Dolphins also have junior Marissa Johnson and eighth-grader Courtni Frank.

The key for Deubrook Area is to avoid a big number at Hillcrest, according to

Who To Watch

Top 5 Teams

Deubrook Area.....	285
Webster Area.....	290
Hamlin	293
Howard	293
Castlewood	294

(Based on 2015 Region Scores)

Top 5 Returning

Maggie Fiscel, Scotland	1st
Kayla Oval, Deubrook Area ..	tied-5th
Caitlyn Christianson, Deubrook Area	7th
Niki Nelson, Platte-Geddes ..	tied-8th
Adrianna Weeldreyer, Newell	tied-8th

(Based on 2014 State Meet Results)

Top 10 Region Scores

Molly Koisti, Hamlin	79
Maggie Fiscel, Scotland	84
Kayla Kirchmeier, Webster Area ..	86
Kayla Oval, Deubrook Area	86
Regan Benike, Castlewood	88
Kaitlyn O'Neill, Florence-Henry ..	88
Katie Woodward, Hill City	91
Maisie Hurd, Bridgewater-Emery ..	95
Taylor Noid, Howard	95
Amanda Riley, Lemmon	95

Buseth.

"I always tell them, in team golf, if you can avoid the dreaded snowman or higher, you should be fine," he said.

Hamlin

The Hamlin girls finished second at the Region 1B, but head coach Tim Koisti is happy with how his girls have performed throughout the season.

"I am pleased with the progress. I have two returning girls and two new girls," Koisti said.

Koisti said his girls are capable of achieving a top spot in the tournament.

"As a team, I hoping they can finish in the top five," he said.

Molly Koisti, a senior this year, tied for 13th place at the state tournament last year.

Howard

At the Region 2B tournament, the Howard girls finished in second place, and head coach Alan Wiese is pleased with how well his girls' team has done this year.

"They've played pretty well. Our girls were first or second at every meet. The girls finished third at state last year and everyone is back," Wiese said.

Howard had three girls

place at state a year ago: Kelsey Dawson finished in 21st, Taylor Noid finished in 23rd, and Kamry Esser came in 31st. All of these girls are back with this year's team.

Lyman

Although the Lyman girls finished runner up at the 5B Region Golf tournament, head coach Tom Authier doesn't think his girls will have an impact at state.

"We're pretty young. I have two sophomores and one freshman on my team. I done expect a big impact at state," Authier said.

Authier said his leader of the girls team, Coral Cleveland, has a personal goal to achieve at the state tournament.

"She has shot in the 100's all year. I think she would like to get into the 90's at state," he said.

Authier also said he believes that his girls can reach the goal they've set.

"I just want them to try and place in the top 50 percent of their level," he said.

McCook Central-

Montrose

The McCook Central-Montrose girls finished second at the Region 3B tournament

Head coach Terry Keehn

is surprised by how well they have played,

"I am pleasantly surprised the whole team qualified. The makeup of our team includes a senior, a sophomore, an eighth grader and a seventh grader.

Kayla Mentele, who is a sophomore this year, finished tied for 29th at the state golf meet last year.

Scotland

At the Region 4B tournament in Yankton, the Scotland girls – behind medalist Maggie Fiscel – earned a runner-up finish.

Head coach Greg Gemar stated just how successful one of his players has been.

"Maggie has played very well. She has won all of her tournaments," Gemar said.

Gemar also said that Fiscel has been preparing for this tournament.

"I just tell her that her most important shot is what you've done now. She's been preparing herself and concentrating on her swing," he said.

The Highlanders will also send Kristina Hlavak and Katie Winckler to Hillcrest.

Sully Buttes

The Sully Buttes girls came in first place at the 5B Region tournament, and

although head coach Randy Pool's squad may be young, one of his players has a chance to do well at state.

"We have a young team. We have two eighth-graders and two juniors," he said. "One of the eighth graders has a chance to get a top 25 finish."

Lauren Wittier, now an eighth grader, finished 74th at last year's state tournament.

Webster Area

All season, the Webster Area Bearcats have locked horns with Hamlin, another Region 1 powerhouse. Hamlin won the battle at the pre-region meet, but Webster Area got some revenge at the region meet.

"We've been improving all year long," Webster Area coach Brian Lux said. "Did it surprise me? No. It's one of those things, I thought we could be competitive."

The Bearcats are led by junior Kayla Kirchmeier, who will be playing in her fourth state tournament. She tied for 21st place a year ago, and can shoot in the low 80s on a day, according to her coach. Webster Area also has senior Kayla Paszek and sophomores Taylor Ryan and Shae Sichmeller.

The key for Webster Area is to continue that momentum, Lux said.