

# Frick Places Third As Gazelles Finish Fourth In AA



JOSH MORGAN/RAPID CITY JOURNAL  
Becky Frick of Yankton eyes the ball after teeing off Tuesday morning during the second round of the Class AA State Golf Tournament at Meadowbrook Golf Course.

## O'Gorman Defends Title

RAPID CITY – Sioux Falls O'Gorman sent coach Rod Garrison out on a positive note, holding off Pierre for team honors in the South Dakota State Class AA Girls' Golf Tournament on Tuesday at Meadowbrook Golf Course in Rapid City.

O'Gorman repeated as AA champions and won for the fifth time in six years, shooting a two-day score of 666 to edge Pierre by 12 strokes. Rapid City Stevens, whose coach Phil Hunt is also retiring, rallied past Yankton to finish third at 707. The Ga-

zelles posted a two-day score of 716 after shooting 359 on Tuesday, two strokes higher than Monday.

"We had some great individual performances," said Yankton head coach Brett Sime. "Becky finished third – she had a tough day today but had what I consider the round of the tournament on Monday. Linze Cowman came through today, as did Payton Pierce."

Pierre's Karissa Guthrie beat out teammate Katie Bartlett in a playoff for medalist honors, each shooting 157.

Frick, the first round leader, and Stevens' Kiley Phares tied for third. O'Gorman's Elle Carlson, the 2014 champion, finished fifth at 163.

O'Gorman put four other golfers in the top 10, as the Knights' top five golfers combined to shoot nine rounds with scores between 81 and 85.

Yankton put two other golfers on the awards stand, as Pierce (180) tied for 17th, while Cowman (181) tied for 19th. Also for the Gazelles, Morgan Strahl (194) tied for 34th, Ashley Van Meeteren (211) tied for 58th and Darian Tramp (242) tied for 84th.

"Strahl had two good rounds," Sime said. "She had a 95 yesterday, which was her best round this year, and had a 99 today. For a seventh grader to have two rounds under 100 is a great accomplishment."

The Gazelles do not have a senior on the roster. Frick, Pierce and Van Meeteren are juniors. Cowman and Tramp are sophomores.

"It's going to be a good deal for us," Sime said. "There are a lot of teams with a lot of seniors. Having everybody back, we're hoping to make a good run next year."

# Cooney Closes The Deal

## AC-DC Junior Runs Away With 'B' Title; Hamlin Wins Team Crown

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND  
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Hamlin was able to overcome the cold weather and win the Boys' Class B state title at Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton on Tuesday.

Hamlin was about to beat Platte-Geddes, who held the lead after day one, by shooting 511 for the tournament. Helping the Hamlin team finish with the lowest score were Ben Koisti and Devan Weelborg, who each scored 169 in two days, to finish in a tie for eighth, and Dyllan Weelborg with a 173. Cody Swenson also golfed for Hamlin but did not figure into the team scoring after shooting 194.

"Well I guess we just wanted to improve on our scores," Hamlin coach Tim Koisti said. "We knew the wind would be down and it would be a lot easier to score."

"Our golfers shot well on the front nine so we had some momentum going into the back nine and held on and got it done."

Platte-Geddes finished in second by shooting a team score of 515. The team consisted of Jayden Van Zee, who finished in a tie for



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
J.J. Cooney of Andes Central-Dakota Christian stares down his putt on No. 18 during the final round of the South Dakota State Class B Boys' Golf Championships on Tuesday at Yankton's Fox Run Golf Course. Cooney shot a final round 73 to score a 10-stroke victory for his first state title.

## Parkston Girls Win Fourth Straight 'A' Championship

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN  
Vermillion Plain Talk

MADISON — Parkston High School cruised its way to the girls golf Class A State Championship for the fourth straight year Tuesday at Madison Country Club.

The Trojans shot a combined score of 731 and finished the tournament 47 strokes ahead of second place Madison, who shot a combined 778.

"We had to persevere through a lot of things, just like every other golfer did today, but I was glad with how we carried our heads on our shoulders today," said head coach Tyler Hockett.

Third place went to Moberly-Pollock with 786 and Vermillion came in one stroke behind at 787 for fourth place.

"Getting fourth by one stroke kind of sucks and we all know we can take one stroke off here or there," said Vermillion's Kylie Moran. "I don't want to say we're happy with what we got, but we're ok with what we got."

Parkston also saw a repeat one, two finish in the individual scores with Sydney Borman in first with 83 for

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# Ovall Leads Deubrook To 'B' Girls' Title Defense

BY DYLAN HUGGINS  
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The Deubrook Area Dolphins won the state title yet again.

Led by junior Kayla Ovall individual championship, the Dolphins recorded a team score of 582 over the two day South Dakota State Class B Girls Golf Tournament, which concluded Tuesday at Hillcrest Golf & CC in Yankton.

Head coach Mike Buseth was excited after his team repeated as State B champions.

"It feels really great to repeat as a team," Buseth said. Buseth said his girl's roster was changed in order to compete at the tournament.

"Last year's fifth place and seventh place girls returned. We just had to get one person

to fill in to get the team to score three for Class B. We actually had a playoff to determine the third and fourth spots." He said.

Buseth spoke very highly of his first place golfer Ovall after the tournament after she recorded a score of 174. Ovall entered the final round trailing defending champion Maggie Fiscel of Scotland by two strokes, but rallied to win the title by three strokes.

"She hits the ball so hard people wonder what she's mad out of sometimes. She's work very hard and she doesn't even like to lose in practice rounds which keeps her going," Buseth said.

Although Ovall came in first place, she attributes her success to her team.

"My team they are so

encouraging. With my win they've been supporting me the whole way and especially my coach he's helped me since I was nine golfing," Ovall said

Ovall said it felt great to not only get first individually, but as a team as well.

"It felt amazing. We knew we would have a great chance of repeating ourselves. When we found out we were up by 17 strokes we were just happy to be ahead. We didn't know how it was going to go with two golfers, but we pulled through," she said.

Ovall mentioned it was nice to not be in first place after day one.

"Yeah otherwise I would have had pressure. It was easier to come from behind,"

she said.

Ovall said she was nervous being in the final group with a defending champion.

"It was nerve racking but that's what comes with state golf when you are in the group," she said.

Molly Koisti, a junior at Hamlin, finished tied for second along with Fiscel with a final score of 177.

Koisti said she was excited when she hit in a chip-in shot on hole 16.

"I guess I really wasn't expecting it. I had gotten a 6 on that hole the day before so that really helped me out," Koisti said.

Koisti said she was happy that her tee shot on 17 didn't have a negative impact on her score.

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JEREMY HOECK/P&D  
Deubrook Area's Kayla Ovall chips on to the No. 14 green during Tuesday's final round of the S.D. State Class B Girls' Golf Championship at Hillcrest Golf & CC.

# Track: Bucks Win First ESD Title Since 2005; Gazelles Finish Second

## YHS Adds Three Titles

BROOKINGS – The Yankton Bucks earned their first Eastern South Dakota Conference Track and Field championship in a decade, pulling away from Pierre for team honors on Tuesday in Brookings.

The meet was suspended on Saturday, with eight events remaining for the boys and seven remaining for the girls. When the meet was stopped, Yankton and Pierre were tied for the boys' lead, but the Bucks finished strong for a 118-104 victory over the Governors. Watertown was third with 102 points.

"Our guys knew that Pierre and Watertown would hang around," said Yankton head coach Luke Youmans after the meet. "They ended up pushing us to the very end. It ended up tight until the end, which made it a pretty fun meet."

Brandon Valley beat out the Yankton girls 151-104 for top honors in that team race.

Watertown also finished third in the girls' division, scoring 80 points.

"Brandon Valley, next to Rapid City Stevens, is one of the top teams in the state this year," Youmans said. "Our girls scored over 100 points, and there have been years where 104 points would win the ESD. We put up a lot of points, but we are a few athletes short in a few events, and unfortunately those are the events where Brandon Valley capitalized."

The Bucks won two of the final eight events and took home six top-three marks. The foursome of Ryan Sternhagen, Mason Strahl, Blake Savey and Lee Rose won the 1600 relay in 3:25.55. Rose also won the long jump with a mark of 22-10.75. Sternhagen placed second in the 200 in 22.63.

"They were only a second off the school record, a record that is probably one of the

best marks in the four-by-four in state history," Youmans said. "In my time here, we hadn't even come close to that mark until today."

Youmans credited the foursome for stepping up in a key situation.

"At Howard Wood we ran 3:28 and were thinking, 'How could we ever get close to that school record?'" he said. "It's exciting to see how a little energy and enthusiasm can push these guys further than we ever thought possible, to a great all-time mark for four Bucks."

Chris Kinsley claimed a pair of third place finishes in the long jump (20-11.75) and triple jump (41-9.5). Nick Raab placed third in the discus with a toss of 148-5.

"We needed those guys to hold onto their seed. We knew every point counted," Youmans said. "It was a great effort by those guys."

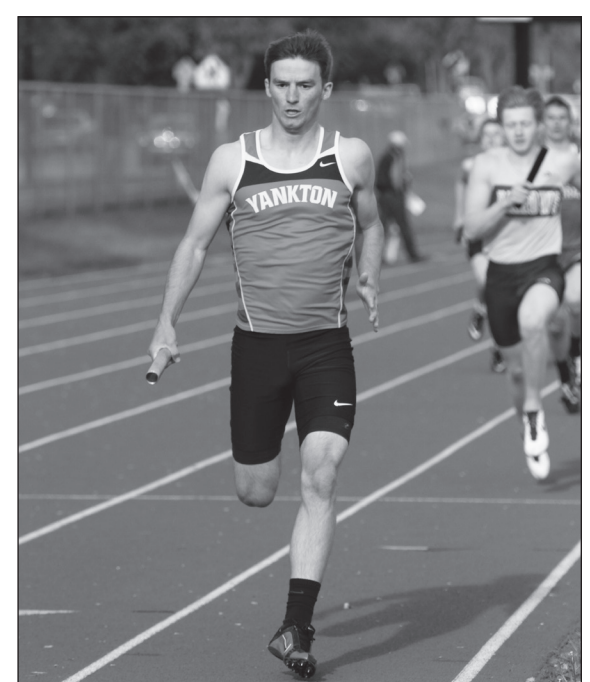
Stewart added a triple jump title to her strong Saturday

showing, posting a winning mark of 35-8. Teammate Lindsey Hale was third (33-11.25).

"It's been fun to watch those girls come along in the field events," Youmans said. "As we move on, our field events have to capitalize at state. They showed up and dominated the jumping events at ESD, just as those girls have been doing all year."

The Gazelles also took home two medals in the 3200, Savannah Woods (11:20.47) in second and Madison McClure (11:49.64) in fourth. Yankton also earned third in the 1600 relay (4:06.91) and picked up a fifth place finish from Lauren Graves in the 800 (2:24.54). Graves, Madason Tessier, Cameryn Specht and Danielle Beckmann ran that 1600 relay.

Yankton concludes the regular season on Thursday with a last-chance meet in Sioux Falls, hosted by O'Gorman High School. Start time is set for 4 p.m.



TROY MARONEY/BROOKINGS REGISTER  
Yankton's Mason Strahl leads during the second leg of the Bucks' winning 4x400-meter relay at Tuesday's conclusion of the Eastern South Dakota Conference Track and Field Meet held at the BHS Sports Complex in Brookings.