

S.D. State Track Preview



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton High School senior Charlie Stephenson (center), shown here during the First Dakota Relays earlier this season, is one of several Bucks looking to reach the podium at the South Dakota State Class AA Track & Field Championships, which begins today (Friday) in Sturgis and continues Saturday in Rapid City.

YHS Squads Aim For Podium

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Yankton Bucks track and field team is in an unusual position compared to their recent squads, overflowing with sprint talent but lacking in distance runners.

The squad is also hoping to be in a position they haven't seen since 2001.

On the podium at a state meet.

The Bucks, who finished eighth a season ago to improve upon three straight tenth place finishes, look to ride their sprint relays, sprinters and field event personnel to a top-four finish and state meet hardware when the South Dakota State Track and Field Championships begin today (Friday). The first day of Class AA competition will be held in Sturgis, with final-round competition for all three classes set for Saturday in Rapid City.

While the Bucks have entries in the 200 and 400, the hurdles and the relays, no Yankton boys' runner is entered in an individual event longer than 400 meters.

"It's a position we have not been in a long time," said Yankton head coach Luke Youmans. "The one place we're a little lacking this year has historically been a place where we've been strong."

The Bucks return just four of the 38 points they scored a year ago — sev-

also

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P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton's Emma Stewart, shown here during the Howard Wood Dakota Relays, will compete in the long jump and triple jump this weekend at the South Dakota state meet.

enth place finishes from Lee Rose in the long jump and from the 1600 relay — Youmans is confident that Yankton can eclipse its total from a year ago.

"Our goal is not to focus on individuals. Our goal was that the team is in contention to get on the podium," he said. "Our guys have proven that they can be a team that can be in contention to get on the podium."

A host of seniors have

played key roles for the Bucks. Besides Rose, a favorite to win the long jump and a contender to place in the 400, Yankton has seniors Tim Cross (300 hurdles), Matt Fitzgerald (triple jump), Evan Greeneway (shot put), Nick Raab (shot put and discus), Charlie Stephenson (110 and 300 hurdles) and Ryan Sternhagen (200) qualified in individual events. Many of them are also key runners

YANKTON | PAGE 7A

Rose Blooms Into Star

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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A season ago, Yankton's Lee Rose was an under-study to current South Dakota State track and field athlete J.J. Hejna. But a glimpse of the state meet podium and a lot of hard work have allowed Rose to bloom not only into a star for the Bucks, but one of the top athletes in the state.

Rose enters the South Dakota State Class AA Track and Field Championships today as the top seed in the long jump by over nine inches, a top-eight seed in the 400 and a runner on a pair of highly-ranked relays for the Bucks.

"Lee has put together a season that we may not see for a while," said Yankton head coach Luke Youmans. "He is probably one of the funnest examples of watching a kid as a freshman and sophomore, then seeing an unbelievable transformation as he matured."

Rose's season-best mark of 22-10 3/4 in the long jump not only leads the state this season, it ranks within inches of Tommy Millen's school record. It also ranks less than six inches from a state meet record.

Besides pushing himself in workouts — both during the season and in the off-season — Rose credits an aggressive approach for his long jump success.

"I scratch a lot, but if I don't scratch I'm going a lot



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton's Lee Rose enters the South Dakota state track meet with the top Class AA boys' mark in the long jump and will run on a pair of highly-ranked relays.

further," he said. "I've also worked on my landings a lot. Last year I couldn't get my landings down."

While Rose has aggressively attacked the board, he's also found ways to stay

calm. "Last year I was too tense," he said. "This year I've approached every event the same: relaxed and

ROSE | PAGE 7A

Baseball: Yankton, Irene Pick Up SCL Home Wins

Derrick Nelson and Lane Sawatzke both had three hits while Kaleb Bromley pitched six strong innings as the Yankton Tappers beat defending state champion Wynot 10-4 in South Central League amateur baseball action Thursday night at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

Bromley struck out seven batters and allowed four hits to get the win for Yankton (3-1 SCL), while Kenny Tomak, Jake Broscha and Zach Benjamin each pitched one inning in relief.

Ross Heine and Kory Bromley each added two hits, while Devin Gullikson and Nik Davis added a hit.

For Wynot (3-1 SCL), Brady Stratman homered, Ryan Heimes went 3-4, and Scott Heimes and Kyle Wiepen both added a pair of hits. Devin Lammers took the loss on the mound.

Yankton travels to Lester-ville on Sunday.

(9) and Kory Bromley

Irene 5, Tabor 4

IRENE — Logan Hunter took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and also homered to lead the Irene Cardinals past the Tabor Bluebirds 5-4 in South Central League amateur baseball action Thursday night in Irene.

Hunter, who allowed a leadoff single in the top of the seventh inning, went 2-3 at the plate with three RBI. Trevor Jacobsen singled twice for Irene, which moved to 3-0 in the league.

For Tabor (0-3), Ross Kortan had two hits and pitched six innings.

TABOR (0-3).....000 000 310-440
IRENE (5-0).....000 010 40X-573
Ross Kortan, Rob Keppen (7) and Blas Vanecek; Logan Hunter, Matt Sees (8) and Sam Parkinson

Harrisburg 6,

Vermillion Grey Sox 2

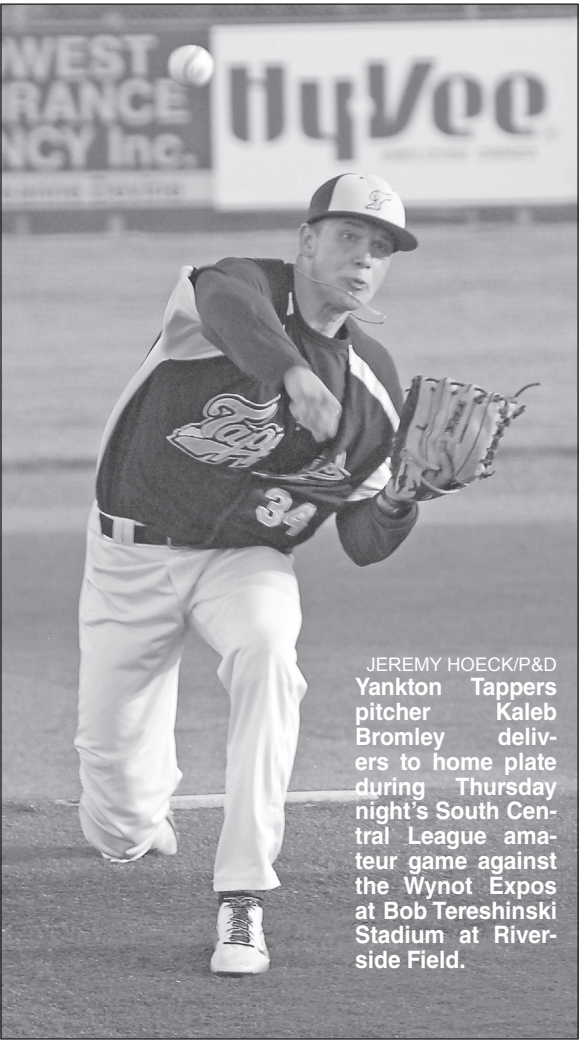
VERMILLION — The Harrisburg Schoeneman Woodies defeated the Vermillion Grey Sox 6-2 in State Line League amateur action from Wednesday night in Vermillion.

Jayce Huska, Tyler Johnson and Tom Heisinger all had two hits in the loss, while Rusty Jensen took the loss.

For Harrisburg, Dan Strand, Brian Stoeber and Austin Voss all had two hits.

Vermillion, 1-1 in State Line League play, visits Larchwood, Iowa, on Sunday

BASEBALL | PAGE 7A



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Yankton Tappers pitcher Kaleb Bromley delivers to home plate during Thursday night's South Central League amateur game against the Wynot Expos at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Rivers-ide Field.

Peterson Vents On Twitter About Honoring Contract

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Adrian Peterson took to Twitter on Thursday to express his frustration over criticism he is receiving while staying away from the voluntary portion of Minnesota Vikings' offseason.

The former NFL MVP has come under scrutiny from fans after saying he wanted a long-term commitment from the team despite the fact that he missed most of last season while addressing child abuse charges. He has three years and about \$46 million left on his deal, but none of that is guaranteed.

"A (little) crazy how one side has so much power that they can do as they please when it come to the contract!" Peterson tweeted. "But when the other-side (player's) feels for whatever reason! Family, Change of scenery or simply - what they feels just might work best for them! Those same laws don't apply!"

Peterson skipped the first three-day set of optional practices this week. It was initially believed that Peterson was still upset with the Vikings for a perceived lack of support

while he went through his legal problems last year that culminated in pleading guilty to a misdemeanor for striking his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch. But Peterson tweeted Wednesday night that his absence was a contract matter and was "business, not personal."

Coach Mike Zimmer said Wednesday that Peterson had two choices: play for the Vikings or not play at all.

Peterson will have his \$12.75 million salary for 2015 guaranteed if he's on the roster for Week 1. But the 30-year-old also wants more of the money on the back end of his deal guaranteed, a person close to Peterson told The Associated Press on Thursday. His stance in the wake of missing 15 games last season because of his legal issues has caused a player who was once the most popular athlete in the Twin Cities to become assailed by fans and media who want him to show up for the off-season workouts and honor his contract.

Apparently that set Peterson off on Thursday.