

S.D. State Track Meet

Yankton Wins Three Titles

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
james.cimburek@yankton.net

STURGIS —The Yankton track and field team claimed three first-place finishes and put themselves in position for several more points entering the final day of the South Dakota State Class AA Championships, held on Friday in Sturgis.

The meet shifts to Rapid City for all classes today (Saturday).

For the Gazelles, junior Savannah Woods ran away from the field to claim the title in the 3200, and sophomores Emma Stewart and Lindsey Hale went 1-2 in the long jump. The Yankton boys completed a sweep of the long jump, as Lee Rose took the title.

"We had a great day today," said Yankton head coach Luke Youmans. "It will go down as one of my all-time favorite first days of a state track meet: all the things that came together, a few surprises that go your way, the enthusiasm of all the kids helping out, too."

Stewart went over 18 feet for the second time this season, posting a mark of 18 feet, one-half inch, then finished second in the triple jump with a mark of 35-10 1/2. Hale claimed second in the long jump at 17-4 1/4, then just missed the awards stand in the triple jump with a tenth place finish (34-3 1/4).

"Today was our day," Youmans said of the long jump. "We knew that we had two contenders, but it's all about showing up when it counts."

Stewart was sixth in the long jump a year ago, and the sophomore said that the

also

■ View Friday's
Final Results
From State Track
PAGE 14

workouts and stuff," she said.

Besides competing in the long jump, the pair also helped Yankton qualify for finals in the 400-meter relay in between prelims and finals, Hale on the opening leg and Stewart anchoring. The pair were also bookends when the Gazelles qualified for the finals in the 800-meter relay earlier in the day.

"We had to take a minute," Stewart said about refocusing for long jump finals. "We had to take a breath."

While the duo still have more work to today, they were glad they could help the Gazelles get off to a strong start on the first day.

"I don't know if the coaches figured on us going 1-2," Hale said. "That's quite a few points."

The duo expect to enjoy pushing each other to the top of the podium for a couple more years.

"We're going to be pushing each other to get even better," Stewart said.

Woods took the 3200-meter run pace out early on the way to a career-best 11:08.23 as she ran away with the title, 11 seconds ahead of the next-best finisher.

"I tried to stay in front," Woods said. "The plan was, if no one was leading after 1,200 meters, I would take it

extra year of training and maturity helped. "I've improved since last year, in terms of



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Savannah Woods cracks a smile after winning the Class AA girls' 3200-meter run at the South Dakota State Track and Field Meet on Friday in Sturgis.

Class B: Freeman's Schmidt Breaks State Record In 400

BY DYLAN HUGGINS
sports@yankton.net

RAPID CITY – Brennan Schmidt had a day to remember at the South Dakota State Class B track meet on Friday.

Not only did Schmidt finish first in the 100-meter dash prelims and the 200-meter dash prelims, but he also broke a meet record in the 400-meter dash prelims.

Larry Miller of Freeman Academy held the record since 1982. Miller had a time of 47.8 and Schmidt recorded a time of 47.54 on Friday in Rapid City.

Schmidt said he contributes his success in track by his work ethic.

"Just working hard and being tall helps a lot too because I can save a lot of energy especially in the 400 and I can get a good stride," he said. "It all comes down to work at the end of the day."

Schmidt stated he has different strategies when running different races.

"Obviously the 100 is go out and give it everything and just run as fast as you can," he said.

"When it comes to the 200, you have to have a good start out of the blocks.

"The 400 I try to go out and try to stride out as much as I can on that back stretch and just bring it in," he said.

Schmidt mentioned this wasn't his first time running in poor conditions before.

"Freshman year when we were back out here in the state meet it was cold and rainy and the times definitely aren't as good," he said.

Schmidt wasn't the only one to break a state meet record on Friday.

Zack Anderson of Parker set the

State B record for high jump.

Anderson finished with a height of 6-07.50. The previous record was 6-07.25, which was recorded by Austin Simons back in 2007.

Anderson said it felt good to break the meet record for high jump.

"Pretty good. Last year I came at it trying to get 6-08 right off the bat. I had two years left so I was feeling fine," he said. And I didn't get it last year, but I was dang close and this year feels quite better," he said.

"I'm the type of kid that likes to feed off the crowd," he said. I normally don't do best at the smaller meets, but once I get to the bigger ones I don't just show up with my normal athletic abilities," he said.

"I felt fine come into this, just wondering how high I could get," he said.

Anderson said he felt different emotions before he broke the meet record.

"My first jump was like uh-oh," he said. "The second one I wasn't feeling anything and then the third one the claps started going and it just brought you back to the loud high school gym days."

"I felt it coming pretty hard, but I really didn't think about the jump," he said. "I just thought why not just get over this," he said.

Dan Stibral of Scotland finished first in the shot put and later first in the discus.

Stibral mentioned the hard work he put in last year leading up to the state meet.

"It feels pretty good. Worked really hard the entire year and broke a lot of

CLASS B | PAGE 16



DYLAN HUGGINS/P&D
Gayville-Volin's Laura Nelson competes in the Class B girls' 3200-meter run at the South Dakota State Track and Field Meet on Friday in Rapid City. She won the event.

Class A: Dvorak Off To Strong Start

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

SPEARFISH — The Dakota Valley girls had a pair of champions and Ethan-Parkston's Wes Dvorak set himself up for a strong final day on the opening day of the South Dakota State Class A Track and Field Championships, held on Friday in Spearfish.

Dakota Valley's Marisa Schulz won the 3200 in 11:31.24. Teammate Sara Bohan won the long jump with a mark of 17-5 1/2.

Bon Homme claimed three places in the girls' pole vault, led by champion Morgan McAllister (9-3). McKeely Merkwon (8-9) finished fifth, while Rachel Sestak (7-9) tied for seventh.

Elk Point-Jefferson's Josie Heeren placed second in the 800 in 2:19.04, finishing behind a meet-record performance by Custer's Tori Glazier (2:15.12).

Also in girls' Class A, Beresford's Morgan Klostergaard tied for eighth in the high jump (4-9).

Dvorak posted a mark of 22-5 to beat out rival Chase Kortan (21-11) of Bon Homme in the boys' long jump. Dvorak also finished third in the triple jump (43-1) and posted the top qualifying time in both the 110- (14.70) and 300-meter (39.54) hurdles.

Area athletes took home three medals in the high jump. Beresford's Joseph Kirkebak (6-4) and Dylan Andal (6-2) tied for third and placed seventh. Bon Homme's Devin Millen (6-2) finished eighth.

Elk Point-Jefferson's Hunter Paulsen, a University of South Dakota recruit, placed second in the 3200 in 9:57.90. Also on Friday, Bon Homme's Alex Caba tied for sixth in the pole vault (11-0).

Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic

Notebook: Crofton Players Battle Quick Transition

BY JEREMY HOECK &
MICHAEL HAMMOND
sports@yankton.net

There wasn't much time between putting down his golf clubs and picking up his baseball glove for Brock Mueller.

When the recent graduate at Crofton High School got back home from the Nebraska state boys' golf tournament in Lincoln on Thursday night, Mueller went right to the batting cage behind the left-field fence at the Crofton ballpark.

By the time he stepped into the batter's box on Friday morning for the first game of the Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic against Harrisburg, he hadn't seen live pitching.

"I was a little nervous," Mueller said after his team beat Harrisburg 5-4 in eight innings.

"I didn't know what to expect," Mueller said.

CLASSIC | PAGE 14



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Crofton's Cody Stratman, left, dives into home plate around Harrisburg catcher Drew Andela during their game Friday in the Lewis & Clark Wooden Bat Classic in Crofton, Nebraska.