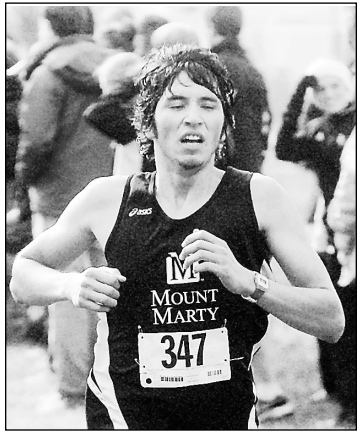


# Concordia Men, Morningside Women Win Mount Marty Invite

BY CODY BALL  
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JEREMY HOECK/P&D  
**Mount Marty's Leo Banalas runs down the final stretch during Saturday morning's Mount Marty Cross Country Invitational, held at the HSC Course. Banalas finished seventh in a time of 26:06.57 and led the Lancer men's squad to fifth.**

While many in Yankton grumbled at the chilly and wet weather Saturday morning, there were 286 runners that found the weather to be near perfect, including four Mount Marty runners who placed in the top 20 of their respective divisions.

Mount Marty was led by Leo Banalas who ran the 8K (approximately five miles) race in 26:06.57 and finished in 7th place. Sam Lopez was not far behind as he finished in 26:43.33 for 17th place, and Titus Kosgei was the final Lancer runner in the top 20 as he finished 20th with the time of 26:51.33. Kaylee Fly led the Lancer women by finishing in 17th in the 5K (3.1 miles) with the time of 19:17.45.

"It was a very good day for a meet," Mount Marty Cross Country coach Randy Fischer said. "Ideal running weather is right around 50 degrees, so this was nice runners' weather."

The temperatures hovered around 48 degrees, but the pace set by the runners was anything but chilly.

Thirteen area men's teams and 12 area women's teams competed in the race. Concordia freshman Benjamin Sievert took the men's individual title by running the 8K race in 25:40.22, a 5:09 minute per mile pace. Sievert barely edged out Dakota State runner Andy Coy who ran the course in 25:41.31. Garret Ehlers of Morningside rounded out the top three by finishing in 25:47.48.

The meet was especially important for Mount Marty as they are hoping to qualify as a team for nationals. The Lancer men's team has been receiving votes in the national poll, and every meet that the Lancers perform well in boosts their ranking and also increases their chances of making it to the national meet. Unfortunately their team performance may not have helped this quest. In the men's division Concordia took first overall, Morningside placed second, and Dordt took third. Mount Marty placed fifth.

"We didn't run as well as we had hoped," Fischer said. "We may have actually dropped a bit. This was a busy homecoming week for our runners and I think their exhaustion showed a bit."

Banalas also reflected on a bit of disappointment. "I think we just came out here too pumped up," Banalas said. "It is our only home meet so some of our guys wanted to prove how good of runners they are to the home crowd and their friends, and it backfired a bit."

Banalas did feel that his own energy level was high, but that may have helped him. "We practice on this course quite a bit. It is a difficult course with an uneven feel, but my adrenaline was high and I didn't even notice the bumps."

The women's race also featured some swift running. Courtney Schall, an unat-

tached runner, ran the 5K race in 17:37.48, a 5:40 minute per mile pace, to win the race. Sarah Kortzke of Concordia came in second with the time of 18:21.72, and Aleona Reyes of Jamestown finished in third at 18:22.26. In team results, Morningside captured first, Concordia took second, and Dordt took third. Mount Marty placed ninth.

Fly, a Mount Marty junior, reflected on the meet.

"Individually I didn't run my best. I was really hoping to place in the top 10. But I'll just work harder when I get to conference."

Despite Fly's minor disappointment in her individual performance, she felt the team ran well.

"I think as a team we put a really great performance. We were missing a couple of our core runners, but I think everyone that ran stepped up in their place."

Fly, a transfer from Iowa Western, also commented on the season up to this point.

"I think it's been a great season so far. I've been consistently getting faster at every race." Fly also looked ahead to the rest of the season, "I really hope to qualify for nationals at our next meet which is conference."

The conference meet will take place on Nov. 5 in Lincoln, Neb. The meet will be pivotal in the Lancers journey to qualify for the national meet as a team as individuals.

Individual finishers for Mount Marty men included: 7th Banalas, 17th Lopez, 20th Kosgei, 34th Jordan Pater, 27:13.16, 52nd Tyler Smit, 27:38.96, 67th James Jensen, 28:08.83, 83rd Mychal Bierwagen, 28:33.20, 103rd Joshua Monson, 29:21.25, 118th Kevin Cosman, 29:51.76, 126th Dane Hansen, 30:39.60, and 138th Kalib Heeren, 33:26.07.

Individual finishers for the Mount Marty Women were: 17th Fly, 63rd Brooke Fischer, 20:45.43, 88th Beth Uthe, 21:34.39, 95th Brittney Mikkelsen, 21:43.70, 115th Alicia Pick, 22:58.70, 116th Beth Finnegan, 23:07.65, 124th Autumn Biermann 23:30.59, and 129th Shante Conway, 24:13.39.

attack with six kills, and Paige Thieman had four kills and nine digs to spark Yankton to a quick win. Morgyn Jaquith ended the match with six set assists.

Betheny King and Kayla Johnson combined for 10 kills to lead Yankton to a 25-12, 25-22 win over Pierre in the freshmen 'B' match.

King ended the match with six kills and Johnson had four kills and seven digs. Morgyn Jaquith landed four ace serves, Meggie Steinen had seven digs, and Paige Thieman set nine set assists to round out the individual performances.

# Volleyball: Grace Battles Past Mount Marty 3-2

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG  
P&D Correspondent

With the help of a controversial call late in the fifth and deciding game, the Grace University Royals held off the Mount Marty College Lancers and won in non-conference volleyball action at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena, 14-25, 25-14, 25-21, 19-25 and 16-14.

The Lancers were leading the final game 13-12 when Grace's Kami Burke appeared to spike a ball long and out of bounds. The game's lead official raised his hands to indicate that the ball was out but then after some conferring, changed his call. The call was reversed and Grace tied the game at 13-13 after the point was awarded to the Royals.

"He called it out and then he (the official) deferred to the line judge," Mount Marty head coach Candice Climer said. "He should've called a replay if he wasn't sure."

Jenna Stulgies followed with an ace-serve for the Royals to take a 14-13 lead.

Mount Marty's Tina Row-

botham set up senior Carlie Lambert for a kill to tie the game at 14-all.

The Lancers were called for an overlap on the next play for Grace's 15th point, and Grace's Chelsea Entz served up a ball that didn't allow the Lancers to set up an offense. Katie Loewen tapped at the loose ball and got to go down in the Lancer court for the 16-14 match-point.

"For us on match point, we need to get control of our nerves," Climer said. "We need to take a deep breath and play our game."

The Lancers have had their chances to add wins to their 6-21 record as they look to turn the corner in Climer's second year as Mount Marty's head coach.

"This is the sixth game this season we've gone to five sets and we've lost all of them, but we're getting to that fifth game where last year we were swept a lot," Climer said. "It's a turning point; we're battling and getting the match to the point where it's ours to win; it's right there and we see it."

The Lancers were looking for their second win in a row and appeared they would have an easy time with the visiting Royals by winning the first game 25-14.

A 5-0 run with Lambert serving and Jena Peters controlling the net gave the Lancers a comfortable bulge.

Peters knocked down a loose ball, attacked through a pair of Grace blockers and added a block for a point as Mount Marty pushed a 7-16 lead to 12-6.

Caitlyn Illg served up the Lancers' last five points and Lambert beat a block with an attack as Mount Marty went on to the 25-14 win.

Grace got their hitting game going and took the second game 25-14 and the third game 25-21, forcing the Lancers into comeback-mode.

The Lancers gained a 7-5 lead in the fourth game when Peters served up an ace. Lambert powered up for three kills, Peters beat a blocker, and Amanda Dirksen attacked unreturnable as the lead expanded to 15-10. Illg found

Lambert on a solid set up for a 25-19 game-4 win, setting up the controversial fifth game.

Mount Marty looked as if they would pocket the win as Dirksen spiking with some miles-per-hour for an 8-6 lead. The 5-8 junior attacked off the tip of a Grace blocker, and the Lancer lead was 9-6.

However, the Royals battled back for 3-straight points to tie the game at 9-all, setting up the matches' final moments that led to the Grace win.

Lambert led MMC with 15 kills as Amanda Dirksen had nine and Kristen Boyle added eight. Caitlyn Illg (18 assists) and Rowbotham (17 assists) split the Lancer setting duties. Jen Jerdee had 15 digs.

Amanda Brazda and Burke each had 16 digs to lead the Royals as Hannah Schnell set for 34 assists. Loewen served up four aces and had 24 digs as Stulgies had three aces and 34 digs.

The Lancers return to Great Plains Athletic Conference action on Tuesday when they host Briar Cliff at 6 p.m.

## State

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will be trying to become just the third Class B team to win three straight titles, a list that includes the Westington Springs team Parker deposited last year.

"It will be no easy task, especially with the big group of kids Irene-Wakonda has coming back," Bjornberg said. "But it will be fun to have the opportunity."

Cash Murphy will be the lone graduation loss on a deeper Eagle squad.

Jongeling will try to be the first runner since Mendoza to win three

straight Class B titles. Former Rosholt standout Harley Hanson (1985-87) and former Bristol standout and current Rapid City Central coach Loren Kambstad (1967-69) are the only others on that list. (Mendoza also won the Class A title in 2008 while running for Cheyenne-Eagle Butte.)

"Duane likes a big challenge," Bjornberg noted.

Several other area runners earned medals in Class B. Viborg-Hurley's Seth Engen (18:09.72) finished 17th, with Alcester-Hudson's Ty Schoellerman (18:16.82) 20th and Freeman's Slade Mutchelknaus (18:17.42) 21st.

### Class A Boys

Led by Dylan Lends His Horse's individual title (16:14.15), Cheyenne-Eagle Butte earned another state title, beating Custer 35-48.

Beresford placed fourth with 98 points, led by Hayden Palmer's 19th place finish (17:39.95). Thaine Sira (18:17.50) and Riley Schaap (18:17.80) finished 41st and 42nd, with Craig Fatherlos (18:38.10) 56th, Jared Truman (19:38.00) 98th and Seth Weiland (21:25.90) 130th.

The race played out exactly like Watchdogs coach Matthew Coy said it needed to for Beresford to get on the awards stand.

"They did exactly what I asked them to," he said. "I knew Hayden needed to be in the top 25. Then we needed two in the 40s and one in the 50s. The strength of our team has been the pack and, when you have a deep field like this, that's all you need to do."

The Watchdogs will return four of the six runners that competed Saturday.

"We have a couple kids in waiting that would have made a lot of teams," Coy said. "Hopefully we can keep building and, a couple years down the road, we will be in contention for first."

Ethan-Parkston finished 10th with 172 points, led by Tyler Holtz's (18:07.65) 31st place finish. Platte-Geodes finished 13th with 210 points, led by Keagen Ringling's (18:06.50) 29th place finish.

Vermillion junior Nathan Ford (17:40.50) placed 20th in the race.

### Class B Girls

The Gayville-Volin girls just missed a top-four finish, placing fifth with 84 points. Ipswich easily defended its title, finishing at 12 points.

Gayville-Volin was led by Genevieve Clark, who placed sixth in 15:47.07, behind champion Mindy Kraft (14:54.62) of Westington Springs. Tori Moore of Ipswich (15:00.42) was second, with Cailey Roth (15:34.52) of Freeman third.

Also for Gayville-Volin, Laura Nelson (16:38.17) finished 34th, Kella Barta (17:32.72) placed 73rd, Megan Hirsch (18:08.62) finished 96th and Samantha Olson (18:12.07) placed 97th.

Freeman, which finished sixth with 84 points, also had Rebecca Eberts (16:23.62) place 24th, Melissa Eberts (17:52.77) place 85th and Erika Sage (20:58.07) place 114th.

Irene-Wakonda finished 11th with 105 points, led by Chloe Nielsen's 19th place finish (16:09.97). Scottland placed 15th with 119 points, led by Haley Brunke's (16:23.17) 23rd place finish.

### Class A Girls

Britton-Hecla senior Kelsey Barrett capped her stellar career with a fourth state title, finishing in 14:49.45 to edge Spearfish's Savannah Childers (14:49.80) and Garretson's Erin Nolz (14:50.40) in the closest individual race of the day.

Spearfish, which dropped from Class AA, edged out 2010 champion Garretson 41-48 for the team title. Platte-Geodes finished 11th, led by Rochelle Wynia's 22nd place finish (15:37.50).

Elk Point-Jefferson's Josie Heeren placed 14th in 15:25.75.

## Coyotes

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pass with 1:01 to play.

The Coyotes nearly had a second defensive touchdown, but a fumble recovery by Tyler Starr with 3:21 left was called back on a holding penalty — nullifying the score.

"They were given some bad field positions, but our defense is pretty good," head coach Ed Meierkort said. "I just think we play with a rhythm and tempo. We played better up front in the second half, and that was the difference in the game, I thought."

It was also the first victory for USD over UC Davis since joining the Great West Conference in 2008, with a road loss in 2009 and a home loss to the Aggies a year ago.

"We hadn't been able to beat UC Davis yet, and it seems like any way the ball bounces, it doesn't go our way against that team," Meierkort said. "We had the game salted away, took a bad penalty, and instead of gapping them and have the game be over, we had to fight until the end."

A 43-yard field goal by Kevin Robb with 4:43 left made it a two-possession game, 27-17, but the Aggies made things interesting with the 62-yard touchdown drive with just over a minute to play.

UC Davis then tried an offside

kick, which resulted in the ball being fumbled by the Coyotes, though USD recovered and kneeled out the victory.

From the start, it appeared that the Coyotes were again in for a battle with the California-based Aggies.

After a sluggish first quarter for both teams, five consecutive drives in the second resulted in points.

The Aggies got a 23-yard field goal at the 12:15 mark to get within 7-3. USD then got a 72-yard kick return by Jim Thompson, but couldn't do anything with the great field position — settling for a field goal by Robb.

UC Davis tied the game at 10 on a 6-yard run by Colton Silveria, but the bulk of the yards on the drive were picked up through the air.

The Coyotes got the lead back, 17-13, after quarterback Dante Warren hit Jeremy Blount on a quick-out pass to the right side, with Blount breaking through a pile and sprinting 67 yards to pay dirt.

Big plays again got the Aggies into the end zone on the next drive, as Wright avoided pressure and lofted a pass to a wide-open Anthony Soto with 2:13 left. The game was tied once again, this time at 17-17.

USD had a chance to score again before the half, but a 45-yard field goal was wide left.

"We got put in some tough positions today; had a lot of penalties in the second half," Broders said. "We really didn't play well in the second

quarter, I don't think, but we came out in the second half and played much better."

Both teams started the third quarter with three-and-outs, and it was on the Aggies' second series that Broders caught the deflected pass and put the Coyotes ahead at the 9:00 mark.

"That was certainly a huge play for us, he went from defense to offense real quick," Meierkort said.

"And as an 8-man player, he did everything at Bloomfield. He turned into a tailback in a hurry and did a great job getting to the end zone."

The Coyotes then recovered a fumble, by Jim Thompson on the next series, but USD gave the ball right back on a Marcus Sims fumble at the 2:18 mark.

Yet, the Aggies could do nothing with the takeaway, as the Coyotes recorded two sacks on the next drive — proof that things were different in the second half.

While the USD defense was doing its thing in the final two quarters, the Coyote offense again struggled — a week after netting just 108 yards in a loss at Illinois State.

Saturday, the Coyotes rushed for just 72 yards — 21 coming on one sprint from Marcus Sims — and had 185 yards through the air. Though, even there, one play was the 67-

yarder to Blount and another was a 42-yard completion to Will Powell.

"There's a great deal of concern," Meierkort said of the offense. "Right now, we're in a funk. We don't run the ball well, we don't throw the ball well, but we won the game. The one thing is we're not turning it over a ton, that's helpful."

"I don't care if it's 3-2 or 59-58, it doesn't make a difference to our guys."

USD were just 3-of-12 on third down, one of many areas the Coyotes trailed the Aggies.

"You just look at the stats, and they're ahead of us in every number," Warren said. "But that just speaks to our team, we fight out of bad positions and we're definitely senior-led."

At 2-0 in the Great West, the Coyotes and Cal Poly, also 2-0, are in the drivers seat for a league championship. Fittingly, the two teams will meet next Saturday in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

"It's always great to be undefeated in the conference, especially with only four games," Broders said. "We lost here in the Dome last year to them, and we faced Air Force that's very similar to them. But they're a good team and we have to be ready to play them."

## Gazelles

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Paige Kanaly each had nine digs in an impressive defensive showing. Brooke Loecker led the offense with three kills.

The loss drops the sophomore Gazelles to 2-14 on the year.

Haley Mines had five ace serves and 14 digs to lead Yankton 'A' to a 25-16, 25-18 victory over Pierre.

Jaclyn Arens led the offensive

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