

Cross Country | S.D. State Meet

Woods, Kruse Make History For YHS

Gazelles Duo Become First Since 1995 To Take 1-2 In AA Girls' Race; Yankton Girls, Boys Take Seventh In Team Standings



Mount Marty Tunes Up For GPAC With Home Invite

BY KEITH A. BROCKBERG
P&D Correspondent

Seven Great Plains Athletic Conference schools, including the Mount Marty College Lancers, prepped for Nov. 3's conference meet by competing in the MMC Invitational Saturday on a damp HSC course.

The 10th-ranked Dordt College Defenders represented the league by taking the women's team title while Dickinson State University out of the Frontier Conference placed three runners in the top six to take the men's title.

Matt Fideler, a former track standout from Dakota State University and hailing from Volga, won the men's race with a clocking of 25:25.7 while participating in the meet as an unattached runner.

Concordia's Sarah Kortze, the reigning NAIA Cross-Country runner of the Week, finished ahead of teammate Jena Schwalenberg (18:18.36) with a time of 17:53.48. The performance by the senior duo helped the Bulldogs secure the combined team title as the women finished third with an average clocking of 19:00.1 in the 5K

race, and the Concordia men averaged 26:19.09 to finish second during the 8K route.

The Lancer men finished eighth in the 14-team field with an average time of 27:38.75 while the MMC women also finished eighth, averaging a 20:14.99 clocking per runner.

Mount Marty's runners trained particularly hard during the week in preparation for the pinnacle of the season.

"We were hoping we could really do well, and we did the best we could today," said Lancer coach Randy Fischer. "The kids do as good of a job coaching each other and they did a nice job of working this week, but maybe they worked too hard."

Kaylee Fly, a senior from Omaha, had the best finish of the day by a Lancer runner as she stayed with the pack and finished 10th with a time of 19:12.16.

"Kaylee ran a really good race today," Fischer said.

However, Fly felt slightly different.

"It feels pretty good, but I don't think I had a great race," Fly said. "It was a hard week of practice as we're working up to the last meet

and trying to get as many of us to Nationals as we can."

Samuel Lopez, a junior from Brawley, Calif., was the top Lancer men's finisher, filling the 32nd slot with a time of 26:56.4.

Also for the Lancers, juniors Mychal Bierwagen were 41st (27:14.8), Jordan Pater 71st (27:53.36) and Josh Monson 75th (27:56.23). Freshman Gage Blaschke was 89th with a time of 28:09.96.

Sophomore Katie Smelker came in 28th for Mount Marty with a time of 19:45.88 while freshman Jordyn Hudelson was 58th (20:36.21). The Lancers' Brooke Fischer, a senior, was 64th (20:44.44) as freshman Tess Byrd was 73rd (20:56.25) and senior Brittney Mikkelsen was 83rd (21:15.77). Jade Steinberg, a Lancer senior from Mount Marty, was 106th with a time of 22:04.5.

The GPAC Meet will be held Saturday Nov. 3 at Sioux City's Adams Nature Preserve.

"We're looking forward to the conference meet and we're hoping to get into the top half with both teams," Fischer said.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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HURON — Even though the Yankton Gazelles did not contend for their eighth state title in 10 years, the Gazelles still found a way to make a little history.

Freshman Savannah Woods and junior Annie Kruse finished first and second in the Class AA girls' race, becoming the first Gazelles and the fourth pair of Class AA girls' teammates ever to finish 1-2 in the state cross country meet when the pair took top honors in the South Dakota State Cross Country Meet on Saturday at Broadland Creek Golf Course in Huron.

No AA girls' teammates had accomplished the 1-2 sweep since Rapid City Stevens' Jenna Lucas and Erin Fields completed the feat in 1995. The possibility of the sweep started to enter the pair's minds as they began the second loop in the 4,000-meter course.

"We were trying to stay in front and stay with each other," said Woods, who won the race in 14:40.47 to become the fifth Gazelle ever to win a state individual title. "When we started going around the flag on the second loop, we saw we had some space."

Kruse finished in 15:42.22, five seconds ahead of Aberdeen Central senior Hannah Kastigar. Kastigar won the Eastern South Dakota Conference title two weeks earlier, with Kruse second and Woods third.

"At the end we just kicked it in," Kruse said.

Yankton had won five other individual titles and had two other runner-up finishes since 2002, including three straight titles for Ramsey (Kavan) Fitzsimmons from 2002-04. Though Betsy Bies won in 2005 and finished second in 2006, she and the rest of a talented Gazelles squad that won five straight state titles did not put together a 1-2 individual finish.

"We've had some great teams and a lot of great runners," said Yankton head coach Dave Dannenbring. "Even the year we went 1-7 (taking the top seven places) in the ESD we still didn't go 1-2 at state."

Woods and Kruse set out with a goal of sweeping the top spots and were able to accomplish the feat, Dannenbring noted.

"As coaches, we are so proud of



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Parker senior Duane Jongeling flashes a '3' to the crowd to signal his third consecutive Class B individual title as he speeds toward the final at the South Dakota State Cross Country Meet on Saturday in Huron. Parker also won a third consecutive Class B boys' team title.

Jongeling, Parker Win Third Straight; Clark Leads GV Girls To Second Place Finish

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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HURON — For the third year in a row, Parker's Duane Jongeling finished first in the boys Class B Cross Country meet.

Jongeling won on Saturday in Huron with a time of 16:13.51, followed by Wessington Spring's Jase Kraft (16:34.76), Trevor Ward of Estelline (17:42.86), Matt Zirbel from Summit (17:49.91) and Bison's Daniel Burkhalter (17:56.91).

Parker was the overall champion, with Estelline in second, Dupree in third and Freeman Academy in fourth place.

For Parker head coach Phil Bjornenberg, the experience was surreal. He said it was an honor to be able to coach a team with so much talent.

"It's hard to do, but one thing we tried to do was get everyone here, and get them here healthy," he said. "We also tried not to take things for granted. We were kind of the favorites coming in I think after winning two in a row and having everybody back. We just had to keep our heads on straight — nobody's going to lay down and give it to you."

Bjornenberg said it was great to be able to coach runners like Jongeling, who pushed himself more than ever Saturday.

"This is three in a row with these guys; it doesn't happen very often, and a lot of coaches don't get it," he said. "I'm sure there were some nerves for Duane. I've never seen him like that after a race before. He sat down for a really long time, because he really had to give it all up. What a great way to go out — he had said he didn't want to lose his last race as a senior, and I just feel great for him."

Freshman Genevieve Clark of Gayville-Volin took the top indi-

vidual title in girls Class B finishing with a time of 15:44.98. Clark was followed by three Ipswich runners. Macy Heinz placed second (16:03.33) and was followed by her teammates Taylor Loken (16:07.08) and Taylor Moore (16:14.63). Laura Nelson placed fifth for Gayville-Volin with a time of 16:19.38.

Ipswich took first place for Class B, followed by Gayville-Volin, Lyman and Estelline.

Clark said it felt great to finish first, but ultimately, her focus was to finish strong for her team.

"I had pretty tough competition out there," she said. "I was going to stay behind Ipswich the entire way and then make my move, but they were going a little too slow on my pace so I just passed them."

"Last year my teammates and I were so upset because we didn't get a fourth place finish, so this year we tried our hardest to get in the top four teams. I think we exceeded our goal. I'd rather have my team succeed than just me, so I always try to help them succeed."

Gayville-Vollin head coach Larry Buffington said it was rewarding for the team to finish second, especially after three runners fell during the beginning of the race.

"Ipswich is so strong, and the only way we were going to beat them was if one of their girls fell down, and you don't want to see that," he said. "Our third, fourth and fifth runners all fell and actually went down on the ground and they got scraped up and got spiked."

"Not only did they have to get up, but then they had to run and make up time. I'm really proud of those girls. We knew where we wanted to be and thankfully we



JEREMY HOECK/P&D
Mount Marty's Kaylee Fly competes during Saturday morning's Mount Marty Cross Country Invite at the HSC Course in Yankton. Fly, a senior, finished 10th in a time of 19:12.16.

Bison Blast Past South Dakota 54-0

BY JEREMY HOECK
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SIoux FALLS — A loss of historic proportions was made worse by what the home team didn't do almost as much as what the defending national champions did.

Still, there was a cause and effect formula to what North Dakota State did to the University of South Dakota in Saturday night's 54-0 thrashing in front of 9,269 green and yellow-dominated fans at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls.

Boasting the nation's top defense, the Bison limited USD to four first downs, 0-of-12 on third downs, 17 yards rushing and 76 yards of total offense.

When the dust settled, not only was the outcome the fifth straight loss for the Coyotes (1-6, 0-4), it was the first time they were shut out in six years.

"I've been in games like this before where you're an offensive coordinator, and no matter what you call,

it's not working," a dejected coach Joe Glenn said. "That was certainly the case tonight."

"When they're hitting on all eight (cylinders), they're special."

North Dakota State (6-1, 3-1), ranked fourth in the country, put together a methodical and balanced performance. The Bison ran for 171 yards, passed for 214 and didn't commit a turnover.

And then there was the defense.

"They flow, they play hard, they put a lot of pressure on us," said USD sophomore quarterback Josh Vander Maten, who was 12-of-19 for 59 yards. "They're a good team."

The Bison dominated the run game in the first half, holding USD to 16 yards on the ground and 57 total yards.

A 10-yard Brock Jensen keeper capped off NDSU's second drive, and following a USD punt, Sam Ojuri scored on an 11-yard run at the 1:33 mark of the first quarter.

Even up 14-0, the Bison looked to have their miscues from the previous

week — a 17-14 home loss to Indiana State — behind them.

"There were a lot of tough breaks last week, so it important for us to move forward, not dwell on that and let the same team beat you twice," said Jensen, who accounted for four touchdowns — two on the ground and two through the air.

"It's one of those things where you want to bounce back."

North Dakota State benefited from great field position in the second quarter, thanks to a pair of long punt returns by Christian Dudzik.

His 37-yard return resulted in an NDSU punt, but his 76-yard return on the next series set up the Bison for a 1-yard Jensen touchdown run at the 5:51 mark.

USD's next play from scrimmage was fumbled by Will Powell on a reverse, and the Bison responded with a 33-yard touchdown pass to Nate Moody on the first play.

Advantage Bison, 26-0 at halftime,



JILANNE DOOM/P&D
North Dakota State's Christian Dudzik, 35, dives to try to catch South Dakota quarterback Josh Vander Maten from behind during their Missouri Valley Football Conference game on Saturday at Howard Wood Field. NDSU held USD to 76 yards of total offense in a 54-0 victory.