



EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D  
Mount Marty senior Katie Smelker strides toward the finish line on the way to victory in the women's race at the Mount Marty College Invitational cross country meet on Saturday. Smelker was the first Lancer athlete to win the event in the 20-year history of the meet.

## Smelker Wins At MMC Invitational

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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Katie Smelker has been having a special season for the Mount Marty College cross country team. On Saturday, the senior added to her fall to remember.

Smelker became the first Lancer to win the MMC Invitational, clocking a 18:21.78 over the 5,000-meter course to take the women's race. She beat out a pair of All-Americans, Jamestown senior Aleona Reyes (18:27.14) and Dordt junior Lauren Opp (18:28.79) for top honors.

"I'm in shock," Smelker said after picking up her championship trophy. "I'm very happy."

Ninth-ranked Dordt, who had three more runners right behind Opp and two more in the top 11, easily won the team title. South Dakota State, which sent runners that will not run at the Summit League meet next week, finished second, followed by Jamestown. MMC and Concordia tied for fourth, with Concordia winning the tiebreaker.

Dickinson State sophomore Dante Carter clocked a 25:24.40 over the 8,000-meter course to win the men's race. Concordia won the men's title, followed by Dickinson State and Dordt. MMC finished seventh, led by Jordan Pater's 28th place finish.

Dordt earned the combined team title for the meet.

"We talked about it this week," said Dordt head coach Greg Van Dyke. "We knew it was possible."

In the women's race, Smelker, Reyes and Opp went out ahead of the 15th-team field. "They all came out with me," Smelker said. "We fought with each other the whole way."

For MMC, freshman Karen Mayfield (19:51.65) placed 26th, freshman Mandy O'Malley (20:00.27) finished 33rd, sophomore Jordyn Hudelson (Elk Point, 20:05.88) finished 35th and Berkley Rietveld (21:07.07) finished 68th. Also for the Lancers, freshman Tiffany Tramp (21:41.80) placed 84th, junior Beth Finnegan (22:28.39) placed 99th, Caitlin Davis (23:39.29) placed 113rd, Brittany Healy (23:57.43) placed 118th and sophomore Brooke Nordman (24:52.80) placed 123rd.

"This is the best place we've had at our meet in school history," said MMC head coach Randy Fischer. "It's also the first victory for a Mount Marty athlete in the 20 years of this meet."

Among area athletes running for other colleges, Dordt junior and Freeman Academy grad Lillie Koerner (19:09.42) led the way with a tenth place finish. SDSU junior Bobbie McLaury (Elk Point, 19:14.64) finished 12th. SDSU sophomore Rochelle Wynia (Platte, 19:44.72) placed 22nd. Dakota Wesleyan sophomore Haley Brunke (Scotland, 20:25.50) finished 44th. Briar Cliff freshman Desi Beckmann (Yankton, 23:14.15) finished 111th, while teammate Haley Gowery (Wynot, Neb., 23:47.90) placed 116th.

Pater, a senior, clocked a 26:45.48 to lead MMC. Also for the Lancers, senior Samuel Lopez (27:35.05) finished 58th, sophomore

### Cross Country | S.D. State Meet

# Area Runners Sweep Girls' Races Gazelles Finish Third, Bucks Place Sixth In Class AA



BENJAMIN BRAYFIELD/RAPID CITY JOURNAL  
Yankton's Annie Kruse claims victory in the Class AA girls' race at the South Dakota State Cross Country Meet on Saturday in Rapid City. Kruse, who finished second to teammate Savannah Woods a year ago, beat out Stevens' Tamara Gorman and Woods in helping the Gazelles to third place. YHS placed sixth in the boys' race, led by Brice Cowman's fifth place finish.

BY CHRIS RILEY  
P&D Correspondent

RAPID CITY — Yankton's Annie Kruse enjoyed a story-book ending to her high school cross country career on Saturday as the senior used a furious charge over the final 1,000 meters of the South Dakota State Cross Country Meet to claim the AA individual title over Rapid City's Tamara Gorman at Robbinsdale Park in Rapid City.

Kruse, who ran up front in meets all season, saw the Rapid City Stevens standout take the early lead and hold a sizable margin through the halfway point of the two lap course.

"We knew it would be a two girl race with Annie and Gorman," Yankton head coach Dave Dannenbring said. "We told (Annie) that Tamara had two choices, she could either take it out and try to break you or she could hang back and feel you out and then try to break you. If the pace goes out a little too hard we told her to just back off because if Tamara can keep that pace then she (Gorman) deserves to win and if the pace is too hard for you you don't want to blow up, you want to have a chance to come back."

The strategy worked to perfection as Kruse started to close the gap just past halfway through the race and used the hills on the back half of the course to catch Gorman and eventually make the race winning pass.

"I was getting kind of nervous when the gap started growing but I knew I had it when we were working up on the hill (on the second lap) and I just charged through," Kruse said.

Over the final 400 meter straightaway to the finish lined with cheering spectators, Kruse pulled away to claim a 21-second victory, finishing in 14:03.

"We told Annie we would be at 1,000 meters to go just to let her know that is the distance to the finish and she just had that look in her eye that she was going to keep going," Dannenbring said. "It was an exciting race and to see her go over that hill (towards the finish) and have all those people down there and to see Annie go by (Gorman) was a great day for her and our whole program. She has worked hard and is one of the best kids you'll ever meet."

After posting a runner-up finish at last year's state meet in a surprising Gazelles 1-2 sweep with Savannah Woods, Kruse had only one more spot to climb on the podium in her final state meet.

"I've been working so hard this season and to win this was the cherry on top of a perfect season," Kruse, who will run at Augustana next year, said. "It feels amazing — it feels great to finish off my high school career winning a state meet."

Gorman, who missed last

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## Vermillion's Lavin, Gayville-Volin's Nelson Claim Titles

BY CHRIS RILEY  
P&D Correspondent

RAPID CITY — A pair of local runners claimed their first individual state titles at the 2013 South Dakota State Cross Country Meet on a beautiful crisp Saturday afternoon at Robbinsdale Park in Rapid City.

### Class B

Gayville-Volin's Laura Nelson built on last season's fifth place finish to claim the Class B girls' individual title with a clocking of 15:06 over the 4,000 meter course, 33 seconds ahead of runner-up and teammate Genevieve Clark. Clark, last year's individual champion, made it a 1-2 finish for the Raiders, replicating what Yankton's Savannah Woods and Annie Kruse did last year for the Gazelles.

"With Laura and Genevieve, their hearts are so big and you can't measure heart but you can see it in them," Raiders coach Larry Buffington said. "They are an amazing pair to go 1-2 at state. The Yankton girls did it last year and now the other Yankton country girls did it this year."

Nelson and Clark battled early with Ipswich standout freshmen Macy Heinz and Taylor Loken before pulling away during the second half of the race.

"I think Laura really went out and maybe broke the Ipswich girls a little bit and Genevieve was there to take advantage of that," Buffington added.

Nelson, a freshman, said they she and Clark knew they would have to go out hard and could hopefully get some separation between them and the defending team champion Ipswich girls.

"Our game plan was to just run our best and see what happened," Nelson said. "I knew it was going to be a good kick at the end to beat the Ipswich girls and we just ran our race and things worked out great."

Ipswich was able to place three runners in the top six spots and four in the top 11 to defend their team title over Gayville-Volin by a margin of 14-33.

For the Raiders, freshman Megan Hirsch rounded out the team scoring with a 42nd place finish.

"Megan really stepped up," Buffington added. "In Class B you are only as good as your third runner and that's a lot of pressure — I liken it to going to the free throw line with two seconds left and the score is tied and the pressure is really on you — there that pressure is on you at that moment but here that pressure is all year — so I really want to give kudos to Megan for stepping up and doing that."

Also for the Raiders, eighth grader Elianna Clark placed 104th while junior Kellia Barta was 106th.

Burke-South Central finished 5th in the team race behind the strength of a 24th overall placing by eighth-grader Lexie Farnau.

Freeman sophomore Rebecca Eberts also earned all-state honors (top 25 individuals) with a 10th place effort, ending a tense week-long buildup on a high note.

"I was really nervous this whole week because the times people have been running have been getting so much faster and mine have been consistent so I didn't know how I would do today," Eberts said. "When we first started I felt good but we we started the second lap (of the two-lap course) I started getting really tired. Luckily I still had a little left at the end and kicked it in."

Also earning all-state honors were Platte-Geddes sophomore Regan Engeström (15th) while Burke-South Central's Shailyn Schweigert, Ryahna Schweigert and Sierra Volaw placed 30th, 31st and 32nd to just miss the top 25.

Other local competitors included Viborg-Hurley's Jacia Christiansen (33rd), Burke-South Central's Allison Sebern (41st), Menno's Lindsey Grassmid (47th), Scotland's Kchandra Furney (54th), Freeman Academy's Clara Koerner (69th), Viborg-Hurley's Kirsten Paelow (72nd), Freeman's Hannah Eberts (77th), Viborg-Hurley's Jacque Verdoorn (83rd), Angie Lee (87th), and Klinger Stevens (102nd). Platte-Geddes's Delaney Miller (93rd), Dakota Christian's Shayla Vander Pol (110th) and Ahna Vander Pol (111th), and Scotland's Stephanie Kotalik (113th).

On the boy's side, Jase Kraft dominated the race as the Wessington Springs standout finished the 5,000 meter course in 16:55.

Elkton-Lake Benton snapped Parker's three-year team winning streak by placing two runners in the top six to edge Dell Rapids St. Mary's in the team race, 25-38. The Pheasants ended up fourth with 52 points while Freeman Academy placed sixth with a score of 59.

Viborg-Hurley placed 15th in the team race with 131 points.

For Parker, Michael and Ryan Olson placed 10th and 16th respectively while teammates Tristen Erickson (47th), Grant Plucker (100th) and Eli Maska (108th) rounded out the Pheasants placings.

Freeman Academy was led by Ryan Haggerty (11th), Cole Hofer (27th), Dane Allison (41st), Teagan Schroeder (84th), and Brennan Haggerty (90th).

For Viborg-Hurley, Layne Meyers placed 34th, Logan Hansen was 70th, Logan Slack 87th, Quinn Doom 104th and Nicholas Hora 107th.

Other local runners included Avon's Brant Blaha (43rd), Scotland's Damien Fuerst (44th),

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## Aberdeen Central Rallies Past Gazelles 3-1

ABERDEEN — Aberdeen Central bounced back after dropping the opening set to beat Yankton 19-25, 25-17, 25-11, 25-10 in Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball action on Saturday.

Aberdeen Central's Brianna Kusler had 18 kills, most of which came in the final two sets of the match. Bridget White added 14 kills. Senior setter Maddie Goetz tallied 49 assists on 51 Golden Eagle kills.

White and Sam Scepaniak had three block assists apiece, and all but two of the 14 players to see the court tallied at least one dig to keep the Yankton attack at bay.

For Yankton, Becky Frick led the way with nine kills, three blocks and 11 digs. Sophie Drotzmann finished with seven kills and

two blocks. Brooke Wuebben and Haley Mines each had 14 digs. Paige Thieman finished with 14 assists for the Gazelles.

The Golden Eagles took control by taking away Yankton's cross-court attack.

"We kind of got in a really good rhythm when we made that adjustment," said Central head coach Dennis Northrup to the Aberdeen American News. "Everybody just started doing their job and relaxing."

Aberdeen Central, 16-3, finishes the regular season at Huron on Tuesday. Huron won 3-2 on Sept. 24.

The Gazelles, 3-16, finish the regular season at home against Sioux Falls Washington on Tuesday. Start time is 7 p.m.

Aberdeen Central won the JV match 25-14, 25-14. For Yankton, Drotzmann had four kills and Morgyn Jaquith had five assists.

Aberdeen Central took the sophomore match 25-19, 24-26, 25-15. No statistics were made available.

The Golden Eagles took the freshmen 'A' match 25-13, 25-20. For Yankton, Kami Cornemann led the way with eight kills and six digs. Linze Cowman posted six assists and Jacey Anderberg had seven digs for the Gazelles.

Aberdeen also took the freshmen 'B' match, 25-22, 16-25, 25-19. For the Gazelles, Cowman had seven ace serves and Katie Hauser had six ace serves and eight as-

## Volleyball: Nebraska Wesleyan Sweeps Past Mount Marty



EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D  
Mount Marty's Kristie Tessmer, 10, and Bailey Kuchta try to keep the ball from hitting the floor during the Lancers' Great Plains Athletic Conference matchup with Nebraska Wesleyan on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpr Arena.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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In recent years, the Mount Marty College volleyball team has struggled in Great Plains Athletic Conference play, winning no more than one conference match in each of the past four seasons.

But with an 11-6 non-league record this year, the Lancers aren't taking conference setbacks as easily.

Nebraska Wesleyan beat the Lancers 25-18, 25-11, 25-15 on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpr Arena. The Prairie Wolves improved to 19-7 overall, 9-5 in the GPAC. MMC dropped to 12-18 and 1-12.

"Nebraska Wesleyan is a really good team," said MMC middle hitter Lexie Branson. "But in a way, we beat ourselves."

Alyssa Stanek had 15 kills and five blocks (two solo) to lead NWU. Bridget Bucher had nine kills and two assisted blocks. Malory Dahl finished with eight kills.

Also for the Prairie Wolves, Alex Springman had 42 assists, Mackenzie Ashton had 12 digs, and Mackenzie Hite and Makayla Westphal had 10 digs each.

For MMC, Allison Cross had eight kills and Caitlyn Illg had six kills, 21 assists and seven digs to lead the way. Kristie Tessmer had nine digs, Courtney Miller had seven digs and Branson had five kills for the Lancers.

The Lancers got off to a quick start, scoring the first three points. But, trailing 8-6,

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