



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Ethan-Parkston eighth-grader Lexy Leischer crosses the finish line in first place at Thursday's Region 3A cross country meet in Vermillion.

Leischner, Paulsen Take Different Routes To Top Of Region 3A

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Lexy Leischner and Hunter Paulsen took different routes to their region championships.

One (Leischner, an eighth-grader for Ethan-Parkston) snuck up on the field, while the other (Paulsen, a senior at Elk Point-Jefferson) came through as the expected medalist.

They each, though, battled the wind on the way to their titles at the Region 3A cross country meet on Wednesday at the University of South Dakota course in Vermillion.

"I thought it'd be harder because of the wind, but it wasn't as bad as you think," said Leischner, who won the girls' race in a time of 15:24.36.

The biggest challenge, of course, was running into the wind, she said.

"You just had to dig in and wait for the wind to get behind you," Leischner said.

And for all but the first 1,000 meters of the 4K course, Leischner had nobody behind her. She passed Vermillion's Maddie Lavin and led for the remainder of the race.

"I didn't expect this," Leischner said. "I was just hoping to be top four."

Thanks to that first-place clocking, Ethan-Parkston was able to capture the team championship with 28 points. The Trojans had three other runners in the top 11 — Sydney Wickersham seventh (16:09.62), Taya Heisinger ninth (16:20.11) and Patience Nesheim 11th (16:22.69).

Canton and Beresford finished second and third, respectively, to also qualify for the South Dakota state meet on Oct. 25 in Huron.

The boys' race went about as expected, as Paulsen beat the field for first place.

"I knew there was some good competition, so I just had to run my race and see how it went," he said later.

How it went was simple: Paulsen controlled the 5,000-meter race.

He finished first with a time of 17:12.24, well in front of Sioux Falls Christian's Caleb De Weerd (17:47.20) — who was then 13 seconds ahead of third place.

Winning a region title a year after taking third was particularly sweet for Paulsen, a senior.

"It means more, yeah," he said. "You always want to go out with a bang."

Sioux Falls Christian won the boys' team crown, with 27 points, while Lennox (31) and Ethan-Parkston (57) also qualified their teams for state.

One of the top storylines of the meet came in the girls' race, where Vermillion's Lavin — the defending Class A state champion — battled to a fifth-place finish despite suffering from a sore left ankle.

Lavin said she sprained the ankle during a training run on Wednesday, to the point where she says she heard a snap.

"It felt better than yesterday, that's for sure," Lavin said. "But I could still feel it."

Though she was in the lead for the first

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Crofton Sweeps District Cross Country Crowns

BY BRUCE VIERGUTZ
For the Press & Dakotan

NORFOLK, Neb. — Factory approved, one can now add freshmen Haley Arens as the latest cog in Crofton's production line of quality cross country runners.

Arens created her own fast lane in the final 50 yards to outrun Stanton's Braska Patterson to win the Class D3 district meet Thursday at Skyview Lake.

Arens crossed the finish line in 20:27.60 and Patterson in 20:30.20.

The Crofton girls and boys, behind runner-up Cole Steffen, ran away with the team titles as well. The Warrior girls topped Oakland-Craig 17-36 while the boys topped Logan View 42-51.

The top three teams and top 15 individuals advance to the state meet in Kearney next Friday.

Arens ran against Stanton's Patterson once before this year and won that race as well.

So it didn't surprise her to have Patterson breathing down her neck down the stretch.

"At the start, she got out way in front of me," Arens said. "I did my best to get back up with her and I finally did. Then we kind of went back and forth until the end."

Arens said she had enough left in the tank to sprint toward the finish line.

"The last time I raced her, I passed her at the half-mile mark and kept on going from there,"

said Arens. "But I knew she was determined to beat me and she ran a really good race. Thankfully I enough left to get over the top."

The Warriors placed five individuals in the top 10.

Quinn Wragge placed fourth (21:43.99), Kendy Kube sixth (21:57.71), Krista Zavadil ninth (22:10.14) and Vanessa McFarland 10th (22:17.63).

Kyla Dendinger was 18th in a time of 23:44.76.

"It's awesome to see my teammates coming in close behind me," said Arens. "I know they've all tried their best, too. We all push each other and that's pretty neat to see."

And so was winning both team titles, plus one individual first-

place finish, according to Crofton coach Jason Arens.

"We came here and our main idea is to go hard to the finish," said Coach Arens. "And both girls and boys did a good job of keeping their heads up and running strong all the way through. What's nice about coming to Norfolk is that the course prepares you very well for state. It's very similar in nature. We're excited about today and it is a good springboard for next week."

Coach Arens also had to smile when talking about the freshmen winner Haley Arens. And well he should — Haley is his daughter. "She's had a great season all

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Tigers Escape YHS Again



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Hannah Bockholt nearly goes into the stands to save an errant pass during the Gazelles' Eastern South Dakota Conference volleyball matchup with Harrisburg on Thursday at the Summit Center. Harrisburg beat the Gazelles 3-2, the second 3-2 win by the Tigers over Yankton this season.

BY ROGELIO RODRIGUEZ
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It was a great atmosphere in Yankton on Thursday night as the Gazelles hosted the Harrisburg Tigers in Eastern South Dakota Conference action at the Summit Center.

The fans in the stands and the players wore pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the home stands were tightly packed for this much anticipated rematch. The last meeting left the Gazelles with a sour taste and they were looking to assert their dominance.

The Gazelles were flying high as they were coming off of two straight wins over Mitchell and Brookings, but fell to the Tigers 3-2. Harrisburg won by scores of 13-25, 27-24, 25-20, 24-26, 15-10.

The Gazelles started off the night in great form as they dismantled the Tigers 25-13. However, the adrenaline only lasted for that short amount of time as Harrisburg began to pick up momentum and win sets two and three with the scores of 24-27 and 20-15.

In the fourth set the Gazelles seemed to get it together for a few minutes and, with the help of Becky Frick's 11 kills, were able to edge out Harrisburg 26-24. Set five seemed to be where Yankton ran out of steam and lost 10-15, giving the victory to Harrisburg.

The night was not all bad for the Gazelles, though. Frick had a solid match with 32 kills, 18 digs, and four aces. Frick tied a school record for most kills.

"I would much rather have won the game," she said.

The Gazelles played with a lot of heart but in the end it was the "little mistakes that killed us," Frick added.

She also added that after the first set their confidence dropped dramatically. Yankton has now lost six of the seven matches that have gone to five sets this season.

"We were hoping for a victory," Yankton head coach Tiffany Beste said. "We have been playing well recently and after the first set we gave up."

The Gazelles could have won the match had they kept up their intensity and won set two or three, Beste added.

Leading the team in digs for the night was Haley Mines with 28. Paige Thieman recorded 31 assists while Josie Sayler pitched in eight kills and three blocks.

As for the visiting team, Harrisburg head coach Ronette Costain attributed the win to the overall team effort.

"We have a few injuries and we had to adapt to a new style," she said after the match.

For the Tigers, Samantha Slaughter and

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Gazelles Fourth, McClure Leads Gazelles At Brandon Valley

ABERDEEN — Aberdeen Central won the cheer title and Brandon Valley was first in dance at the Eastern South Dakota Conference Cheer & Dance Championships on Thursday in Aberdeen.

The Yankton Gazelles finished fourth overall in dance and were sixth in cheer.

Aberdeen Central won the cheer division with 243.5 total points, while Brandon Valley won the dance division with 271 points.

In the dance events, Yankton's Kick routine was second, while its Pom routine took third.

Up next is the South Dakota State Cheer & Dance Championships on Oct. 25 in Watertown.

BRANDON — Led by Madison McClure's individual title, the Yankton Gazelles took second place at a Brandon Valley cross country quadrangular on Thursday in Brandon.

McClure was first across the line in the 4K race in 15:27, while Lauren Graves finished eighth (16:35) for the Gazelles who had a team score of 50.

Brandon Valley, with five runners in the top 10, was first with 27 points.

On the boys' side, Brandon Valley was first with 37 points, followed by Harrisburg (48),

Brookings (53) and Yankton (72).

Harrisburg's Greyson Zamora was first in 17:18, while Yankton's top finisher was Paul Fanta in eighth place (18:12). The next highest placer for the Bucks was Nathan Zimmerman in 14th place at 18:53.

Yankton won the junior varsity boys' race, led by the 1-2 finish of Joseph Kelly and Lincoln Megard, respectively.

The Yankton Gazelles were second in the JV girls' race, led by the first-place finish of Carly Vavra.

WAYNE, Neb. — The Columbus Scotus boys and Wayne girls won team titles at Thursday's District C-2 cross country meet in Wayne, Nebraska.

The girls' team race was significantly closer, as Wayne edged Boone Central-Newman Grove 24-28 for first place. Hartington-Newcastle was third at 62.

Wayne's Marcella Jurotch was first across the line in 20:42. Hartington-Newcastle qualified three runners to state, Anna Brodersen, Kari McCain and Anna Burbach.

On the boys' side, Columbus Scotus was first with 39 points, followed by Columbus Lakeview at 58. Hartington-Newcastle and O'Neill tied for third at 60.

Fort Calhoun's Alexander Tietz was first in 17:11. Hartington-Newcastle put two runners in the top 15, with Noah Noecker sixth and Brian Santiago ninth.

ATKINSON, Neb. — Ainsworth cruised to team titles at the District C-4 cross country meet on Thursday in Atkinson, Nebraska.

Ainsworth was first in the boys' race with 16 points, well in front of Chambers-Wheeler Central (53), Niobrara-Verdigré

was sixth at 120.

Zachary Welch of Ainsworth was first across the line in 16:47. The top area finisher was Creighton's Garrison Hazen in seventh place (16:41), while Bloomfield's Kyle Young also qualified for state with a 10th place finish (16:59).

On the girls' side, Ainsworth was first with 15 points, well ahead of West Holt (42).

Ainsworth's Julia Beater was first in 21:18, while Bloomfield's Clair Trenhelle qualified for state with a ninth-place finish (22:55).

S.D. Region 4A

CHAMBERLAIN — Todd County swept the individual titles at Thursday's Region 4A cross country meet in Chamberlain.

The Todd County boys and Mount Vernon-Plankinton girls won the team crowns. Miller and Crow Creek also qualified for state on the boys' side, while Todd County and Chamberlain qualified their girls' teams.

In the 5K boys' race, Todd County's Tobias Weddell was first overall in a time of 16:37, while Kelsie Herman won the 4K girls' race in 15:26.0.

Wagner qualified two girls' runners for state, as eighth-grader Maeggie Barnet finished 15th and junior Sadie Etemiller was 16th.

YHS GAMEDAY

Harrisburg (4-2, 3-1 ESD) at Yankton (7-0, 5-0 ESD)
7 p.m., Crane-Youngworth Field

LAST MEETING: Harrisburg claimed the first-ever meeting between the schools, a 26-18 decision in Harrisburg in 2013.

LAST WEEK: Yankton extended its shutout streak to 10 quarters with a 37-0 win at Pierre.

Harrisburg dropped a 35-14 decision at 11AAA No. 1 Sioux Falls Lincoln.

NEXT UP: Yankton has a bye, and will open 11AA playoff action at home on Oct. 30.

Harrisburg hosts Brandon Valley Thursday to finish the regular season.

FOLLOW THE GAME ONLINE: The Press & Dakotan's Nick Robinson will post updates on Twitter during the game. Find him here: www.twitter.com/RobinsonNick2013

Bucks Aim For Unbeaten Regular Season

BY NICK ROBINSON
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The Yankton Bucks football team is looking to accomplish a goal that hasn't been reached in over nine seasons: An outright Eastern South Dakota Conference title.

However in their way are the Harrisburg Tigers, who will storm Crane-Youngworth Field tonight (Friday) at 7 p.m.

"Winning an ESD title would give us a lot of promise," said Yankton head coach Arlin Likness, whose Bucks are 7-0 overall and 5-0 in the ESD.

"The 2005 team got to the Dakota-Dome, so it should be a great feeling for us. All the hard work from the summer and fall could finally start to pay off."

This is also the first contest the Tigers (4-2, 3-1 in ESD) will play as a league member in Yankton.

"It's going to be a great experience playing at Crane-Youngworth," Harrisburg head coach Brandon White said. "They don't lose very many games there and have so much tradition. It's also going to be very tough to play."

Last season, Harrisburg handed the Bucks a 26-18 defeat.

"They have a lot of kids back this year," Likness said. "We weren't able to move the ball against them and shot ourselves in the foot with turnovers."

After winning its first four games this season, Harrisburg has hit a wall of late. They have lost their last two games, as Brookings defeated them and last week Sioux Falls Lincoln did the same.

"We have had our ups and downs this season," White said. "A 4-0 start was great, but a lack of focus has hurt us. Hopefully with a good game plan we can get back to solid football."

White loves how his group of players understands the game of football.

"We have a very poised group and have loads of experience coming back," he said. "They're very coachable and smart football savvy players."

The Tigers will rely heavily on senior running back Jonathan Kabambi, as they have all season.

"He's a very physical and downhill runner," White said. "He likes to run people over and can basically do it all for us. Jonathan is having a great season."

Stopping a down-hill runner could be tough for the Yankton defense, which has not given up a point over the last 10 quarters.

"We need our defense to continue to take care of business," Likness said.

"Kabambi is a runner who can go uphill or cut outside, so we need to be able to contain him."

White thinks the added film work and seeing the countless packages Yankton has to offer could help the Tigers.

"We had a hard-fought game last season," he said. "Yankton was very good last year, and even better this season. They used a couple different offenses and we need to use the formations we saw a year ago to our advantage defensively. Hopefully, it will all pay off."

Containing the Yankton playmakers will be another key for Harrisburg.

"They have a lot of athletes and can do both running and passing," White said. "We need to be able to limit the big play and cause a turnover or two."

The Bucks are coming of an impressive 37-0 victory over reigning AA champion Pierre last week.

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