

Cross Country: Gazelles Put Two Runners In Top Three, Finish Sixth



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Madison McClure, left, and Savannah Woods battle Sioux Falls Lincoln's Jasmyne Cooper early in the Class AA girls' race at the South Dakota State Cross Country Meet on Saturday at Yankton Trails Park in Sioux Falls. Woods finished second and McClure third, helping the Gazelles to a sixth place finish in the top standings.

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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SIoux FALLS — The Yankton Gazelles did something they hadn't done in a while at the South Dakota State Cross Country Meet. They still needed a little more.

Yankton put two in the top three and three in the top 13 of the Class AA girls' race, but finished sixth in the team standings on Saturday at Yankton Trails Park in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls Lincoln won the girls' team title, 58-87 over Aberdeen Central.

Senior Savannah Woods (18:45.79) placed second and sophomore Madison McClure (18:56.92) finished third in the first-ever 5,000-meter Class AA girls' race. Brookings eighth grader Eleanor Abraham (18:44.74) passed the pair in the final 1,000 meters to claim the title.

"They ran the perfect race. It was gutsy to take it out when they thought the pace was too slow," said Yankton head coach Dave Dannenbring. Woods and McClure set the pace for much of the race. "That was they plan — they knew they weren't kickers. It worked perfectly — Savannah just got beat by one second at the end."

Woods and McClure worked together at the front of the pack, helping push each other along.

"We were talking to each other, pushing each other," Woods said.

It was the third time in four years that Yankton put two runners in the top three. Woods was third and current Augustana standout Annie Kruse was first in 2013. Woods was first and Kruse second in 2012.

Eighth grader Lauren Eidsness placed 13th in

19:40.35, giving the Gazelles three runners that high in the field since winning the state title in 2011, a meet also held in Sioux Falls. Woods, an eighth grader on that team, was 20th in that race.

"Lauren worked her way back up from 30th after 1,000 meters to finish in 13th," Dannenbring said. "It was a great run. It showed how she has improved and matured as an athlete."

Also for Yankton, sophomore Tessa Folkers (20:54.93) finished 52nd, eighth grader Lexi Rust (22:23.43) was 93rd, sophomore Carly Vavra (22:50.20) was 99th and freshman Rylie Andrus (24:39.06) was 113rd.

"For us to go 2-3-13 was pretty darn good," Dannenbring said. "Unfortunately you score five, and our fifth, sixth

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Bobcat Boys Finish Second

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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SIoux FALLS — A year after taking home team hardware for the first time in program history, the Freeman Academy boys moved up one more spot.

James Valley Christian beat out Freeman Academy 20-43 for the Class B boys' title in the South Dakota State Cross Country Meet on Saturday at Yankton Trail Park in Sioux Falls.

Bison sophomore Daniel Burkhalter won in 16:54.84, well ahead of James Valley Christian senior Jayden Waldner (17:10.26).

The runner-up finish was the highest finish for the Bobcats in program history.

"I am so happy for them, and I'm relieved," said Bobcats head coach Suzanne Koerner. "We didn't think there was any way to get to James Valley, but to pull off second with a couple of really good runs was a joy and a relief."

Freeman Academy put four runners in the top 26, led by freshman Thaniel Schroeder's ninth place finish (17:52.14). Ryan Haggerty (18:08.00) was 20th, Brennan Haggerty (18:08.85) was 21st, Dane Allison (18:10.23) was 26th and Stephen Waltner (21:20.06) was 110th.

Ryan Haggerty is the lone senior for the Bobcats, which has Koerner excited for the future of the program.

"I'm happy for Ryan. He struggled in the middle of the race and found his legs in the last 600," she said. "We still have three runners who finished in the top 26, and who knows who else we can pull up."

Platte-Geddes (91) placed 10th and Viborg-Hurley (98) finished 11th in the Class B boys' team standings.

Platte-Geddes was led by sophomore Zach Pettit (17:57.22), who finished 13th. Also for the Black Panthers, Caden Tegethoff (18:52.59) was 43rd, Alex Daum (19:34.31) was 73rd, Will Weins (19:44.76) was 84th and Jarod Severson (20:38.78) was 98th.

Viborg-Hurley was led by Logan Hansen (18:34.96), who placed 32nd, and Logan Slack (18:47.28), who finished 39th. Emil Flade (19:22.92) finished

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'Yotes Pound Missouri State

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Given an opportunity to carry the ball in more plays, Michael Fredrick didn't disappoint.

The University of South Dakota freshman running back ran for 129 yards on 22 attempts with one touchdown in Saturday's 40-10 rout of Missouri State.

With top rusher Trevor Bouma out for the season following an arm injury, Fredrick was faced last week with the prospect that he was going to now see extended action during his first season of college football in one of the most competitive FCS leagues in the country.

"I knew all week in practice, I had to step my own level of performance up," said Fredrick, a native of Miami, Florida. "I knew I had to carry my team."

Fredrick got his first taste of Missouri Valley Conference action with an 8-carry effort in a loss to Youngstown State, but he then carried the ball 19 times for 90 yards the next week at Western Illinois.

And the next week in USD's upset win over North Dakota State, Fredrick carried the ball five times — for six yards. Suddenly he was getting the ball more than 20 times, and that's likely to continue the rest of



SHAUNA MARLETTE/PLAIN TALK

South Dakota quarterback Ryan Seager, 2, eyes the defenders as he takes the ball up the field for hard-earned yards during Saturday's game with Missouri State. USD rolled to a 40-10 victory to improve to 4-3 on the season.

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Coyotes Send 'Plex Out With Come-From-Behind Victory Over WIU

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — It was Senior Day. It was the final game at the USD Soccer Complex.

More than that, though, the biggest storyline for the University of South Dakota soccer team on Sunday was its pursuit of a Summit League Tournament spot.

That certainly added an extra level of intrigue for the home game with Western Illinois, but the eventual 4-2 victory — in dramatic fashion — suddenly has the Coyotes in a very realistic position to qualify for the postseason tournament.

"I've been here three years, and this has never happened," said junior Corey Strang, who scored a pair of second-half goals for USD which rallied from an 2-0 halftime deficit.

"Even the seniors, it's new

for them too," she added. "This is our year, though."

A year after finishing eighth — out of nine teams — in the league standings, the Coyotes (7-11, 4-3) strengthened their hold on fourth place in the standings with one game left. The top four teams qualify for the league tournament. Sunday's win was made even sweeter with news that fifth-place Fort Wayne (2-4-1) lost earlier in the day.

Picked seventh in the pre-season poll, USD is suddenly in brand-new territory.

"Honestly, it's like we don't even know what to do," said defender Kasha Meyer, one of seven seniors honored before the game. "But it's awesome."

"It's definitely a fun position to be in."

Midway through the game, however, it was Western Illinois that was playing like the

team fighting for something. The last-place Leathernecks (2-13, 1-5) got goals from Gina Scaffidi and Kayla Kirkwood to lead 2-0 at halftime.

During USD's halftime conversation, there were no hints of panic. The Coyotes, as Strang would point out, were in a similar position on Friday, down 1-0 at half to IUPUI, only to rally for a 2-1 victory.

"We didn't even really say anything. We had been in that position so many times," Strang said. "We had nothing to say; we knew what everyone was going to say."

Ten minutes later, the barrage started.

Strang brought USD within 2-1 on a tap-in goal off a Taylor Nivala corner kick. In the 78th minute, Strang scored again on a penalty kick, tying the game at 2-2.

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Western Illinois' Mary Street, 24, tackles the ball away from South Dakota's Corey Strang during their Summit League women's soccer match on Sunday at the USD Soccer Complex. USD scored four second half goals, including two by Strang, to claim a 4-2 victory in the final match at the complex.

No. 17 Hastings Women Blank Lancers 4-0

BY BEN HEGGE
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The 17th ranked Hastings Broncos are one step closer to completing an undefeated Great Plains Athletic Conference season.

On Saturday, Hastings (12-4, 9-0 GPAC) downed Mount Marty College (1-14, 0-9 GPAC) 4-0 at Easton Soccer Fields in Yankton.

"Hastings has always been the team to beat in the GPAC," said Lancers head coach Peter Shepherd. "We knew we had nothing to lose, and we wanted to give them our best shot."

The Broncos were led by

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No. 15 Concordia Downs MMC

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND
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Fifteenth-ranked Concordia University defeated Mount Marty College 25-21, 20-25, 25-17, 25-20 in Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena on Saturday.

The game marked the first time in a stretch of 21 games dating back to 2011 that Mount Marty has taken a set from a ranked NAIA team.

"I am as proud as I can be about them," MMC coach Frank Hebenstreit said. "That's probably the first time we have taken a set from a nationally ranked team in many, many years."

In the first set, the Lancers were out to a 20-16 lead, but following a timeout called by Concordia coach, Scott Mattera, they only managed one more point and Concordia took the set. Claire White had four kills and an ace in the set for the Bulldogs.

Mount Marty, again, pulled out to a 20-16 lead in the second set, and hung onto its lead to take the second set 25-20. Towards the end of the set Sierra Kloth had a kill and two aces consecutively to help seal the set for the Lancers.

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Dordt Women, Morningside Men Win MMC Cross Country Inv.

BY MICHAEL HAMMOND
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Kayla Byl led a group of five top 20 finishers for Dordt as she took first and her team took home the title in the Mount Marty Invite in cross country on Saturday in Yankton.

"I just went into the race, thinking 'running hard,' I ran hard, and I just created space," Byl said. "It feels good, it's my last time running here so it's good to get a W."

Behind Byl, Justine Van Zee finished sixth, Erika Douma finished 11th, Audrey Brooks finished 16th, and Kaylie Ogle finished 18th for Dordt who edged out Morningside and Nebraska-Omaha for the team title.

Mount Marty College's Mikayla Prouty, a freshman, was the top finisher for the Lancers in 10th place. Down the back stretch Prouty had a chance to catch Samantha VanHeuveln of Jamestown and Mackenzie Schell of South Dakota State, but finished within two seconds of eighth place.

"I tried to finish my hardest, give it my all for the team, and tell myself 'my legs aren't that dead yet,'" Prouty said. "It's a huge mental thing, racing is, you just have to overcome that, and go past what you think you can do."

Also finishing in the top 20 for Mount Marty was senior Jordyn Hudelson in 20th for the Lancers who finished in sixth as a team out of 11 teams.

"Any time you are in the top 20 of this race, you are doing pretty well," MMC coach Randy Fischer said. "We had some

really, really nice performances on our team, so we are happy with how we performed today."

Fischer was also happy Prouty was towards the front of the race.

"It's huge, it's good for the future, she is a good leader and works hard," Fischer said. "She is somebody we will have for three more years, so if we can get a few more people like her we will be OK."

For the men's race, Midland's Danny Aldaba ran away with the title while leading the entire way and defeated runner-up Mark Abrams of Morningside by 21 seconds.

"We looked at everybody's times and figured I was kind of going to be out front," Aldaba said. "It feels good, it's always nice to win, and that's what we train for."

Although not winning the race, Abrams helped Morningside to the team title, finishing ahead of Northwestern and Dordt. Also figuring into scoring for Morningside was Sean Skillern in seventh, AJ Janssen in 13th, Jake Weber in 20th, and Zach Waite in 34th.

A young Mount Marty team finished ninth out of ten teams with its top finish by Skyler Giddings in 49th.

"I thought the men's race was pretty good," Fischer said. "I think we ran well, we have a young team, and we are just hoping that we can beat a few teams in the GPAC meet."

The Great Plains Athletic Conference meet will take place Nov 7 in Crete, Nebraska.

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MICHAEL HAMMOND/P&D

Mikayla Prouty of Mount Marty College chases down South Dakota State runner Mackenzie Schell down the final stretch of the Mount Marty Invite cross country meet on Saturday in Yankton.