

# Six VHS athletes have already qualified for state track meet

By Parker Knox  
Sportswriter

It may still be early in the track and field season, but it's never too early for an athlete to assure himself a spot at the state track meet. Six Vermillion High athletes did just that as the Tanagers competed in the Husky Invitational at Elk Point last week.

Tanager tracksters completed a busy week by also hosting their own Booster Club Invitational on Thursday. After going to meets at Canton and Lennox this week, the VHS teams have a week off till the Lennox Booster Club Qualifier meet at 4 p.m. next Thursday, April 19.

By placing second and fourth, respectively, in the discus event at the Elk Point-Jefferson meet, Beth Szymonski and Stacy Hirsch punched their tickets to the state meet in the Black Hills at the end of May. Szymonski hurled the platter 121'0", and Hirsch's distance was 116'4", both surpassing the state meet qualifying standard.

On the boys' side the speedy foursome of Colin Olson, J.T. Sorensen, Aaron Ruhaak and Austin Krier not only won two relays at EP-J but also with their winning times qualified for state meet participation. The quartet won the medley relay in 3:43.43 and captured the 1600-meter relay in 3:32.83.

Szymonski earned second place in the shot put with a 36'5" heave of the iron ball. Val Moos was second in the 300-meter hurdles in :49.49 and third in the 100-meter hurdles in :16.43. Blair Gilkyson took fifth in the 1600-meter run in 5:52.48. The Tanager girls 1600-meter relay team earned a second-place medal in 4:19.93.

Will Mart won the discus at EP-J with a 146'6" distance and placed sixth in the shot put at 43'9". Nick Jensen was second-place man in the shot at 46'5".

Nate Ford and Andrew Kost were double placers in the meet. Ford was fifth in the 3200 in 11:08.12 and sixth in the 1600 in 5:11.55. Kost toured the 300-meter hurdles in :46.67 for fourth

place and the 110s in :18.36 for sixth. Alex Robertson tied for third in the high jump at 5'5".

The Vermillion girls placed sixth in the team standings with 44 points and the boys sixth with 52 points. Sioux Falls Christian's girls and Madison's boys won the team titles.

## BOOSTER CLUB MEET

• Blair Gilkyson, Aaron Ruhaak, Austin Krier, Nick Jensen and three VHS relay teams were all champions at the Vermillion meet where the Tanager girls were second with 76 points and the boys third with 90 points. Harrisburg's girls and South Sioux City's boys were the team champions.

Gilkyson gave VHS 10 team points with her victory in the 1600-meter run in 5:45.30, besting her nearest competitor by six full seconds.

Ruhaak bested teammate Colin Olson by three-tenths of a second to win the 400-meter dash in :52.20, just ahead of Olson's :52.50. J.T. Sorensen was fourth, only three seconds behind them in :55.20.

Krier breezed to a victory by seven

seconds in the 800-meter run in 2:04.00. Jensen tossed the shot 47'7 1/2" to win the shot put as well as taking fourth in the discus in 136'3". Teammate Will Mart was second in the discus at 148" and seventh in the shot at 41'6 1/2".

Winning relay events for VHS were the girls 800-meter team in 1:54.80, the girls 1600-meter team in 4:20.00 and the boys 1600-meter quartet in 3:34.90.

Other Tanager team points in girls' events were achieved by Courtney Johnson, fifth in the 200 in :29.30; Megan Olson, fourth in the 400 in 1:05.00; Morgan Hower, third in the 3200 in 14:40.70; Val Moos, third in the 100-meter hurdles in :16.50 and second in the 300-meter hurdles in :48.60; Beth Szymonski, second in the shot at 37'4 1/2" and third in the discus at 111'9"; the 400-meter relay team, fourth in :57.40, and the 3200-meter relay team, fifth in 11:48.00.

Other boys team points were earned by Nathan Ford, second in the 3200 in 11:16.80; Andrew Kost, sixth in the 110-meter hurdles in :18.00 and fourth

in the 300-meter hurdles in :45.70; Alex Robertson, fifth in the high jump at 5'3" and fifth in the long jump at 16'10 3/4"; the 400-meter relay team, fifth in :50.40, and the 800-meter relay team, second in 1:35.10.

## OTHER VHS RESULTS:

• Girls 100: Haley Friedel seventh, :13.80; Courtney Johnson ninth, :14.10; Mackenzie Huber 13th, :14.70; Mattea Scott 19th, :15.40.

• Girls 200: Mackenzie Huber 10th, :31.20; Mattea Scott 13th, :32.20; Kylie Fischbach 15th, :32.30; Allie Mockler 17th, :32.80.

• Girls 400: Sydney Peters seventh, 1:07.50.

• Girls discus: Stacy Hirsch ninth, 90'1".

• Boys 100: Miguel Piper 20th, :13.10; Kyle Weiss 24th, :13.40; Josh Manning 26th, :13.50.

• Boys 200: Miguel Piper 17th, :27.40; Kyle Weiss 20th, :27.50; Josh Manning 24th, :28.40.

• Boys 1600: Stetson Kastengren seventh, 5:24.90; Logan Peterson ninth, 5:36.00.

## Best-selling author, technical workshops highlight 2012 SDAS Annual Meeting

Renowned author Sam Kean will present the keynote lecture at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the South Dakota Academy of Science, April 13-14, at the University of South Dakota.

Kean, a South Dakota native and a writer for Science magazine, will deliver his address at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 13, at the Muenster University Center Ballroom.

A bestselling author and a one-time runner-up in the National Association of Science Writer's award for best young writer, Kean has been featured on "Radiolab" and NPR's "All Things Considered." His book, "The Disappearing Spoon," details the carbon, neon, silicon, gold and every element on the Periodic Table as they play out their parts in human history, including finance, mythology, the arts and medicine.

The lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by a book signing.

Additional events scheduled for

the 2012 SDAS Annual Meeting include "Science and a Sustainable Future" symposium at 9 a.m. on April 13; "South Dakota Wind Energy: Physics, Logistics and Challenges" lecture by Jeff Rud, East River Electric Cooperative, at 1:30 p.m. on April 13; and a Sustainability Symposium at 2:45 p.m. on April 13. April 14 activities feature a "Science Education and a Sustainable Future" symposium from 9 a.m. to noon and contributed paper sessions A-D from 9 a.m. to noon. A poster session follows at 12:15 p.m. All symposiums, lectures and paper and poster sessions will be at the Muenster University Center, second floor.

For more information about the 2012 Annual Meeting of the South Dakota Academy of Science, including Kean's keynote address or registration for attendance at the technical sessions, contact Miles Koppang, Ph.D., professor of chemistry at USD, mkoppang@usd.edu.

## Musical thriller 'Sweeney Todd' dishes up fun at USD Theatre

The University of South Dakota Department of Theatre presents the musical thriller "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," April 18-22, in the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre of the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts.

Matt Nesmith, assistant professor and coordinator of Musical Theatre at USD, portrays the title role of Sweeney Todd. Nesmith, an alumnus of USD where he received an M.F.A. in Theatre with a specialization in Directing and a Master's of Music in Vocal Performance, has been on faculty in the Theatre Department for the past two years.

During his time at USD he has served as musical director for "Evita," was both the musical and stage director for "Avenue Q" and last year's "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." Nesmith also trod the boards of the Knutson Theatre as an actor appearing in the department's productions of "Noises Off" and "Julius Caesar" as a graduate student. Since that time, he has worked at theatres in Michigan, New Hampshire and Germany as well as at The Black Hills Playhouse in Custer State Park.

"Sweeney Todd" is a chilling musical based on Christopher Bond's retelling of the Victorian penny dreadful, "The String of Pearls," which recounts the infamous legend of a vengeful barber out for blood. The tale begins in Victorian London as two men, Anthony Hope, played by Patrick Beasley of Lincoln, NE, and Sweeney Todd disembark from their ship. Hope befriends Sweeney Todd but while he sees the beauty of London, Sweeney sees its bleakness and filth. Sweeney Todd tells Anthony an unfortunate tale about a barber, Benjamin Barker, who was framed for a crime and exiled by the lecherous Judge Turpin, played by Nick McCleery of Dallas, OR, who then ravaged Barker's young wife. As Sweeney travels Fleet Street, he encounters Mrs. Lovett, played by Tarryn Rouse of Doniphan, NE, and her meat pies. Mrs. Lovett recognizes Sweeney Todd as Benjamin Barker and reports that his wife is dead and his daughter, Johanna, played by Brianna Wetrosky of Brandon, SD, is now Judge Turpin's ward and the woman he plans to marry. Todd's hatred for the Judge soon expands to his customers in his barber

shop, and with his new found partnership with Mrs. Lovett, they are about to make the best meat pies London has ever tasted.

The original 1979 Broadway production of "Sweeney Todd" won eight Tony Awards. In 2007, this musical thriller found its way to the big screen with an all-star cast of Johnny Depp (Sweeney Todd), Helena Bonham Carter (Mrs. Lovett) and Alan Rickman (Judge Turpin) with Tim Burton as director.

USD's production of "Sweeney Todd" is directed by Chaya Gordon-Bland and the music director is Brandon Henrickson. Performances are at 7:30 p.m., April 18-21, and at 2 p.m. on April 22 at the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre on the USD campus. A post-show discussion will follow Thursday evening's (April 19) performance. Tickets (\$15 adults, \$9 K-12 & non-USD students with ID, and \$4 USD students with ID) can be reserved online at [www.usd.edu/theatre](http://www.usd.edu/theatre) or in the afternoons (noon-5 p.m.) starting Wednesday, April 11 by calling the USD Theatre Box Office at (605) 677-5400.

phone > data > video > television advertising >



**Groundbreaking service when you're ready to break ground.**

This land may look undeveloped. But at Midcontinent Business Solutions,™ we see it a little differently.

Under the surface, our phone, data and video network is growing where new businesses grow. Miles of fiber and broadband connections with reliable, local service that's ready when you need it.

When your business breaks ground, count on Midcontinent Business Solutions™ below ground.



### > BUSINESS BROADBAND PACKAGES

Up to 6 mos. service  
**FREE**  
with speeds of up to  
100 Mbps x 15 Mbps

Business Broadband  
Service starts at just  
**\$65** PER MO.  
for up to 30 Mbps x 5 Mbps

Just call 1.800.888.1300 or visit [midcontinent.biz](http://midcontinent.biz)

**Midcontinent**  
Business Solutions  
Making Your Business Better.

Limited time offer. Some restrictions apply. Contract or contract extension required. Video package is Basic Cable with set top box and does not include public viewing packages. An HDTV is required to receive HD programming. Actual Internet speeds may vary depending on your computer's capacity and web traffic. Speeds may also be impacted by third party equipment (such as your computer or router). All services not available in all areas. To find out what services are available in your area, visit [midcontinent.biz](http://midcontinent.biz).



*Welcome to the World*

The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in March 2012:

ADRIYAL	EVAN	JAZLIN	PENNY
ALLISON	GAUGE	JOCOPY	ROWAN
ARCHER	HAILEY	KAYOTA	SAMUEL
ASHLYNN	HARPER	KYMANI	SEPHORA
AYDEN	HAZLEY	LAYTON	THERIOUS
BENNET	HEATHER	LEVI	TRISTAN
BENTLEY	ISABEL	LEVI	WARRICK
BLAKE	IVANA	LILY	WHITLEE
BRAYLIE	JACEY	NELLIE	WILLA
CARSON	JAELIN	OWEN	WILLIAM
COBE	JAYDEN	PAUL	

**Avera**  
Sacred Heart Hospital

[www.AveraSacredHeart.com](http://www.AveraSacredHeart.com)