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USD Runners Shine At Howard Wood

BY JEREMY HOECK
For The Press and Dakotan

SIOUX FALLS – For track and field athletes from the University of South Dakota, they relished the opportunity to have some fun at last weekend's Howard Wood Dakota Relays.

Because there were two weeks between that meet and the Summit League Outdoor Championships, the Coyotes were able to focus on having fun, according to sophomore women's distance runner Nicole Schmidt.

"It's all about just competing and not worrying about your time," said Schmidt, who was one of 12 USD athletes to win an event at the 90th annual high school and college meet in Sioux Falls.

Schmidt, who also took second in Friday's 800-meter run, admitted after Saturday's win to not realizing how big – and well-attended – the Howard Wood Relays are, despite it featuring athletes from only four Division I schools (North Dakota State, Omaha and South Dakota State).

"I'm from Wisconsin, so this is all new to me," Schmidt said, smiling. "I can see how important it is."

It may have been more of a practice meet for the Coyotes, but their distance runners again shined.

The USD women swept the top four places in the 1,500-meter run, with champion Amber Eichkorn, as well as Kelsey Barrett, Katie Wetzstein and Bethany Kozak.

Those four, along with Schmidt,

were the top five runners on USD's Summit League championship cross country squad last fall. And as Schmidt pointed out, there's a reason the group has been successful.

"We have a lot of trust and faith in each other," Schmidt said. "We all want the best for each other."

The group runs together every day from August to May, whether they're an 800 runner or a 10K runner, Schmidt added.

"We have something special," she said. "We're an unselfish group."

The Coyote success at Howard Wood wasn't relegated to the women's distance runners. The men, primarily sophomore Mach Dojiok, got in on the action as well.

A native of Omaha, Nebraska, Dojiok won the 1,500-meter run (3:55.21) on Saturday, and a day earlier finished third in the 800-meter run.

In his case, the Howard Wood Dakota Relays wasn't necessarily all about winning, he said.

"I just wanted to win the race and have some fun," Dojiok said.

Dojiok had competed at the meet a year ago, but like Schmidt, said he was unaware how much the meet meant to the region.

"I never heard about it before last year," Dojiok said. "I know all about it now, though."

The Coyote men also had a 2-3 finish in the 5,000-meter run, with Taylor Chapman and Brant Haase, respectively.

"We all really want to do well and be

the best in our conference," Dojiok said. "We want to get noticed."

Cody Snyder has already gotten past the point of looking for exposure. The senior from Lake Andes is already one of the nation's top throwers, and put together another successful weekend at Howard Wood.

Snyder won the discus (183-5) and shot put (57-3.75) and was named Tuesday the Summit League Men's Athlete of the Week. He leads the Summit League in the discus – third nationally – and ranks third in the shot put.

Throughout all of his college success, Snyder said he still gets excited for the Howard Wood Dakota Relays.

"It's been awesome," he said Saturday. "When you're in high school at a small town, you might have 20 people there watching you throw."

"Then you come to something like this, and there are people all over."

While other athletes on USD's men's and women's rosters may still be learning what the meet means, Snyder said the South Dakota natives are already well aware of its importance.

"For the South Dakota kids on the roster, we always look at the schedule and figure out when Howard Wood is," he said.

The Coyote women came away with championships in four other events, as Analisa Huschle won the 200-meter dash, Amelia Miller won the javelin, Megan Glisar won the high jump, and Hunter Wilkes and Emily Brigham tied for first in the pole vault.

On the men's side, Erik Hill won the 400-meter hurdles.



JEREMY HOECK/PRESS AND DAKOTAN
South Dakota's Peter Chapman competes in the men's pole vault on Friday at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays in Sioux Falls.

Tanagers Soar At O'Gorman, Howard Wood Relays

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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Vermillion High School's track team traveled to Sioux Falls for the O'Gorman Invite and the Howard Wood Dakota Relays last weekend.

Jon Rosales earned two first place finishes at the O'Gorman Invite on Friday in the 200m dash (23.81), beating second place Tyler Hare of Madison by .05, and the 400m dash (53.33).

Parson Covington placed second in the Class A 800m run with a time of 2:14.29 while teammate Logan Peterson placed second in the Class AA 800 at 2:03.15.

For the girls, Ashley Schulz ran a 13.39 in the 100m dash earning second place and Rachel Brady took second in the 400 with 1:04.20. Schulz also earned third place in the 200m dash with a time of 28.00.

At the Howard Wood Dakota Relays on Saturday, Vermillion came away with one eighth place and five ninth place finishes.

The girls 1600m sprint medley relay team placed eight at 4:24.01.

The girls 4x400m (4:15.55), boys 1600m sprint medley (3:47.50), boys 4x400m relay (3:36.93) and boys 2x400m relay (1:35.26) all ran for ninth place.

Maddie Lavin ran in the individual 3200m run in 11:20.41 earning ninth and 1600m run in 5:18.76 for 13th.

Next, the Tanagers travel to the Dakota XII meet in Madison on Thursday, May 14 beginning at 2:30 p.m.

O'Gorman Top 10 Girls Results: 100: 1. Ringheimer, Jordyn, Sioux Valley 13.29; 2. Schulz, Ashley, Vermillion 13.39; 3. Nagel, Cheylee, Avon 13.41; 4. Druceker, Makenna, Vermillion 13.63; 5. Kurtz, Sydney, West Central 13.65; 6. Opdahl, Brooke, Hamlin 13.67; 7. Smith, Taelor, Madison 13.78; 8. Anderson, Allie, Hamlin 14.10; 9. Anderson, Morgan, Madison 14.19; 10. Muellenberg, Tana, Redfield/Doland 14.24

200: 1. Sokolowski, Andrea, Irene-Wakonda 27.53; 2. Sees, Lauren, Avon 27.61; 3. Schulz, Ashley, Vermillion 28.00; 4. Scharffenberg, Mason, West Central 28.05;

5. Gregoire, Maddie, Vermillion 28.30; 6. Smith, Taelor, Madison 28.84; 7. Robinson, Hayley, Sioux Valley 29.19; 8. Miller, Rachel, Sioux Valley 29.29; 9. Turck, Autumn, Redfield/Doland 29.32; 10. Anderson, Morgan, Madison 29.68.

400: 1. Nagel, Cheylee, Avon 1:02.69; 2. Brady, Rachel, Vermillion 1:04.20; 3. Lakness, Miranda, Hamlin 1:04.56; 4. Koble, MaKenna, Vermillion 1:05.75; 5. Schultz, Elly, Dell Rapids 1:06.14; 6. Hackemer, Anna, Vermillion 1:06.56; 7. Lakness, Allie, Hamlin 1:06.97; 8. Schmidt, Raigan, Dell Rapids 1:07.21; 9. Croeni, Allysen, Redfield/Doland 1:07.94; 10. St.Pierre, Claire Hamlin 1:07.99.

800: 1. Rawden, Cassie, Sioux Valley 2:27.80; 2. Gillette, Kate Redfield/Doland 2:33.81; 3. Lakness, Miranda Hamlin 2:37.43; 4. Mickelson, Melissa, Vermillion 2:41.58; 5. Kost, Katie, Vermillion 2:42.63; 6. Lakness, Allie, Hamlin 2:47.72; 7. Croeni, Allysen, Redfield/Doland 2:50.10; 8. Alfson, Brynn, Hamlin 2:56.44; 9. McDonald, Adriana, Irene-Wakonda 2:59.38; 10. Haro, Isabela, Sioux Valley 2:59.58.

Top 10 Boys Results: 200: 1. Rosales, Jon, Vermillion 23.81; 2. Hare, Tyler, Madison 23.86; 3. Hall, Hayden, Sioux Valley 24.21; 4. Stevens, Landon, Sioux Valley 24.47; 5. Swartos, Brock, Sioux Valley 24.50; 6. Reynolds, Micheal, West Central 24.91; 7. Lee, Dallas Irene-Wakonda 25.02; 8. Giles, Josh, Madison 25.04; 9. Grengs, Kasen, Flandreau 25.08; 10. Baloun, Cooper Redfield/Doland 25.42.

400: 1. Rosales, Jon, Vermillion 53.33; 2. Niemann, Chance, Hamlin 54.36; 3. Fernau, Dallas, Madison 55.04; 4. Steineke, Tanner, West Central 55.85; 5. Julson, Anthony, Flandreau 56.07; 6. Wollmann, Sawyer, Bridgewater-Emery 56.17; 7. Kisor, Jordan, Madison 56.27; 8. McNeil, Caleb, Redfield/Doland 56.30; 9. McKee, Taven, Gayville-Volin 57.19; 10. Namminga, Riley, Avon 58.00.

800 Class AA: 1. Pfeifle, Tom, RC Stevens 2:00.90; 2. Peterson, Logan, Vermillion 2:03.15; 3. Jones, Porter, Pierre 2:08.42; 4. Megard, Lincoln; Yankton 2:08.66;



JEREMY HOECK/PRESS AND DAKOTAN
Vermillion's Maddie Lavin competes in the girls' sprint medley relay on Saturday at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays in Sioux Falls.

5. Harrison, Parker, RC Stevens 2:09.03; 6. Snyder, Zayn, Pierre 2:14.90; 7. Dannenbring, Gabe, Yankton 2:15.23; 8. Clark, Michael, SF O'Gorman 2:16.55; 9. Woodall, Nathan, SF Washington 2:17.38; 10. Bergeson, Kyle Yankton 2:17.64.

800 Class A: 1. Niemann, Chance, Hamlin 2:14.20; 2. Covington, Parson, Vermillion 2:14.29; 3. Cihak, Jacob, Avon 2:23.06; 4. Bren, Darrell, Hamlin 2:24.35; 5. Underwood, Branzon, West Central 2:26.33; 6. Hobbie, Benjamin, Flandreau 2:29.50; 7. Ringheimer, Chase, Sioux Valley 2:33.39; 8. Logue, Garrett, Irene-

Wakonda 2:33.68; 9. Weber, Chayton, Bridgewater-Emery 2:34.62; 10. Smith, Landon, Vermillion 2:38.71.

3200 Open: 1. Klitzke, Henry, SF Lincoln 10:32.91; 2. Balmaceda, Rodrigo, SF O'Gorman 10:36.45; 3. Morton, Russell, Douglas 10:41.50; 4. Peters, Braden, West Central 10:47.95; 5. Pierson, Dylan, SF O'Gorman 10:49.07; 6. Gusso, Sam, Yankton 10:53.37; 7. Pietz, Andrew, Yankton 10:54.95; 8. Jaquith, Brady, Yankton 10:56.44; 9. Harrison, Jackson, Aberdeen Central 10:57.69; 10. Sorensen, Justin, Vermillion 10:58.56.

Vermillion Rolls Past Parker

BY MARK UPWARD
For The Plain Talk

The Vermillion Tanager baseball team finished last weekend on a positive note as they outdistanced the Parker/Viborg/Hurley team by a score of 13-3. The Tanagers ended the game in the fifth inning when Jack Brown crossed the plate for a 10-run lead.

Vermillion jumped out to a two run lead when Carter Kratz and Joe Miller scored in the bottom of the first on Brown's sacrifice fly and Travis Weber's double. Parker came back in the top of the second taking advantage of Tanager errors and evened the score at two runs apiece.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, the Tanagers squad opened up the scoring as they put eight hitters up to the plate and scored five runs. The first three batters for the Tanagers drew walks to load the bases. The next batter, Kratz, hit a long fly ball to center to score Kaedyn Brown with a sacrifice fly. Hunter Christopherson became involved in a run down between home and third, but he eluded the tag and was safe at home.

Kratz started the game on the mound for the Tanagers and left after four innings. Kratz had 81 pitches, faced 20 batters with four walks and seven strike outs.

"I felt pretty good in the beginning, but my curve ball wasn't working for me and I got a little frustrated," offered Kratz. "I was having trouble locating my pitches at the end, so that's what I'm going to have to work on for the rest of this season."

Jake Odens took over on the mound in the fifth inning for the Tanagers and shut down the opponents with 18 pitches. Odens faced just four batters, letting the Tanager defense take care of business with two ground outs and a pop fly.


"Our pitching was very good today," said Vermillion head coach Jason Gault. "Carter did a nice job for three innings and then he got a little tired after 80 pitches."

"This Parker/Hurley/Viborg team is a young team and I think they are going to become a good team as they play more. We took advantage of their mistakes and were able to get guys on base and then move them around."

For Parker, Cody Thompson pitched three innings giving up six runs on five hits. Thompson was replaced in the fourth inning by Matt Munkuold who faced 12 batters allowing seven walks and seven runs.

The Tanagers are 6-2 on the season and remain perfect in league play with a six win, zero loss record. The Tanagers are riding a six game winning streak at this point in the season.

Vermillion's next home game is Friday, May 8 at Prentis Park. The first pitch is scheduled for 5 p.m.



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