

Tanagers Fly On Fast Track



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Vermillion's Justin Sorensen in the Dakota First Relays last Thursday afternoon in Yankton.

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The rain and wind didn't slow down the Vermillion High School track team as they competed on South Dakota's fastest track at the First Dakota Relays in Yankton, Thursday.

"Yankton built their track in 2007 as the practice job for the Olympic track in Beijing," said head coach Lenni Billberg. "Daktronics, out of Brookings, and the Mondo Company won the contract for the Olympics so (they) used Yankton as its practice grounds. Its Mondo surface is designed

particularly for speed and is much harder than the typical asphalt surfaces."

The weather proved to be a burden for spectators, but the runners seemed unfazed by the rain at the start of the meet that turned into harsh winds later on.

"While it is never fun to run in the rain, our kids embraced it and realized it is the same for everyone so why not out compete them," Billberg said.

Out compete they did as the Tanagers ran for five top-three finishes in the varsity events, five top-three finishes in the sophomore events, and four top-three sophomore

field events.

The boys' 1600-meter sprint medley team pulled away from the field with a time of 3:47.33 for a first place beating second-place Yankton, 3:59.70, by more than 12 seconds. The boys' 4x400 meter relay placed second with 3:41.36.

Matt Bierle notched first-place in the sophomore 200-meter dash at 24.60 and teammate Parson Covington raced a 2:17.13 in the 800-meter run also placing first.

On the girls' side, Madie Lavin placed second in the 1600-meter run clocking in at 5:32.42, behind Gayville-Volin's Laura Nelson who ran a 5:22.29, to round out Vermillion's top-three individual varsity runners.

The girls' 4x400 varsity relay team placed second with 4:19.64, beating third-place Mitchell by one-tenth of a second, and the 4x800 team placed third with 10:31.90.

Kasey Herbster found herself atop the 15-runner field in the sophomore 200 running a time of 28.16, less than one second shy of the top varsity runner.

Kasey Jensen took first in the sophomore discus throw with 81'9" and third in the sophomore shot put with a throw of 29'8".

Madisen Martinez jumped 13'3.5" inches in the sophomore long jump placing second followed by a third place finish in the sophomore triple jump with 29'11".

"Despite the rain and wind our team had a very successful meet," Billberg said. "While we hoped for faster times on the fast Mondo surface Yankton has, we were happy with our competitive racing and can't wait to hit the Dakota XII Meet next week in Madison."

The Dakota XII met is scheduled for a 2:30 p.m. start on Thursday, May 14 at Madison High School.



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Vermillion's Nick Svensen handing off to Andrew Pietrzak in the boys 4x100 meter relay at the Dakota First Relays last Thursday afternoon in Yankton.

Grey Sox Drop Three Straight

FOR THE PLAIN TALK

The Vermillion Grey Sox dropped all three non-league games this past week. Vermillion traveled to Yankton on Thursday, May 7, Crofton on May 10 and hosted Lennox Only One Lounge on May 12.

Yankton Tappers 9, Vermillion Grey Sox 0:

Vermillion would hold the Tappers, to only 4 runs on 12 hits through the seventh inning at Bob Tereshinski Field last Thursday. However, the Grey's luck would run out with some good hitting by the host team along with a handful of errors by the Grey's defense in the bottom of the eighth.

The Tappers, of the South Central League, would score five in the eighth frame and not need the ninth as they closed the books on the first game between the two teams in Grey Sox history 9-0.

The only two hits for the Grey Sox were from Ethan James' ninth inning bunt for a single followed up by Tom Heisinger's line drive to center. The Grey's would not be able to plate a run in the ninth, even with the bases loaded.

Garret Harms, Levi Mahrt, Colin Bertram and Tyler Johnson would all provide good pitching for the Sox during the non-league contest. Jay Thaler showed off his right arm with a great pick-off move from the catcher position in the third inning to freeze the runner at first and record the out.

Yankton would end the game with a total of 16 hits. The Tappers return to Vermillion on Sunday, June 14 for the second game in a home and

home series this summer scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

Crofton Blue Jays 7, Vermillion Grey Sox 6:

On Mother's Day evening, the Sox travelled to Crofton for a matchup with the defending South Central League champions. Vermillion jumped ahead 3-0 in the top of the first with solid hitting and plate discipline from the top of the order.

Vermillion would keep the lead until late in the contest when a few hits from the host team along with a couple of wild pitches opened the door for the Blue Jays to score runs and get back in the game. Crofton would ultimately tie the game in the bottom of the eighth and score the winning run with a walk-off single to center and win the game 7-6.

Mike Moran threw the first four innings, allowing two runs on three hits. Moran also paced the Grey Sox effort at the dish going 3-5 with a double and two singles.

Bertram was 2-4 at the plate, while Tanner Anderson, Thaler and Jayce Huska each added a hit apiece.

Lennox Only One Lounge 8, Vermillion Grey Sox 1:

The Grey Sox managed only five hits on the evening and scored only one run as the Grey Sox dropped an exhibition game to the Lennox Only One Lounge 8-1. Lennox, last year's Cornbelt League tournament champions, slugged out 12 hits throughout the nine inning game and scored all their runs prior to the seventh inning.

In the seventh for the Greys, Johnson headed to the mound for only his second appearance of the

pre-season. Johnson only gave up two hits in three complete innings with no runs scored, but it wasn't enough for the Greys to get back in the game.

Pitching early in the game was erratic for the Grey Sox, with many walks and few strikeouts. Vermillion used three pitchers in the first six innings to try to put a stop to the Lennox hit barrage, but it wasn't enough.

Anderson led the Grey Sox at the plate going 3-5. Joe Mazour and Moran added the other hits for the Sox.

This year, the Sox have 22 games on the schedule prior to the district tournament with 12 league games yet to be played.

"We have added a lot of these non-league games to the schedule this year and it's helping our young team improve every day," said Moran, the team's manager. "The win/loss column might not show it yet, but we are getting a lot of at-bats and good experience prior to the start of our league play. We just need to get more out of our pitching early in the game, getting ahead of batters and using our defense to get outs. I believe it will come around, it's just early."

The Grey Sox will travel Thursday, May 14 to Wynot for game two of a home and home series with the defending State B Champs. Start time is scheduled for 7 p.m. The Grey's took game one back on April 25 in Vermillion.

On Wednesday, May 20, the Grey Sox will host the Lennox Reds in the first State Line League game of the year. Start time is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Prentis Park.

Vermillion Falls To Roosevelt

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Vermillion High School tennis came away with three wins when the team traveled to Sioux Falls Roosevelt Tuesday afternoon. The match was originally scheduled for Monday, but changed to Tuesday due to bad weather.

The team scores saw Roosevelt top Vermillion 6-3.

"It is good to see such close matches between Vermillion and a Sioux Falls school," said head coach Betsy Hughes. "Our players have come a long way over the past several years and have a lot to be proud of."

Vermillion's Jacob Ford defeated Karsten Grove at the No. 1 spot 6-4, 7-6, 7-1 and Ryan Styles defeated Isaac Schweitzer 6-4, 7-5 in the No. 3 spot.

In doubles, Ford teamed up with Sam Craig to defeat Cooper McKenzie and Spencer Smith 6-7 (3-7), 6-3 (11-9).

The Tanagers travel to the Class A State Meet in Sioux Falls from May 20-23 starting at 9 a.m.

"We will be focusing on our doubles play as we get ready for state next week," Hughes said.

Full Results: Jacob Ford defeated Karsten Grove 6-4, 7-6 (7-1)

Sam Craig lost to Spencer Smith 3-6, 4-6
Ryan Styles defeated Isaac Schweitzer 6-4, 7-5
Tim Ellison lost to Keegan Baatz 1-6, 0-6
Daniel Robinson lost to Rahul Giri 0-6, 0-6
David Wang lost to Brady Barr 4-6, 6-7 (2-7)
JV match: Avery Mollet lost to Shaiv Kittor 3-10

Doubles:

Ford/Craig defeated Cooper McKenzie/Spencer Smith 6-7 (3-7), 6-3, (11-9)

Styles/Ellison lost to Schweitzer/Baatz 1-6, 0-6
Wang/Robinson lost to Grove/Barr 0-6, 4-6

T&F: Snyder, Dojiok and Ireland win at Nebraska Invitational

LINCOLN, Neb.—Senior Cody Snyder, sophomore Mach Dojiok and freshman Brooke Ireland captured victories in their respective events as South Dakota track and field wrapped up its regular season Saturday at the Nebraska Invitational at Ed Weir Track in Lincoln, Neb.

Snyder sent the discus 189 feet, 1 inch on his second attempt to win. The senior led a trio of Coyotes to top-five finishes. Sophomore Dustin Valind placed fourth with a toss of 158-00 and freshman Ethan Fenchel took fifth at 148-01.

Dojiok out-leaned the competition to solidify his win in the 800 meters with a time of 1:52.43.

Ireland took the 200 meters in a new career best time of 25.42 seconds.

With two leaps past her previous personal best mark, junior Analisa Huschle was the top collegiate in the long jump. Huschle jumped 19-11 ¾ on her second attempt to take runner-up overall. She was an inch shy of the same mark on her third attempt.

Huschle also anchored the runner-up 4x100-meter relay to second place in 47.26 seconds. Senior Amber Watson, Ireland and sophomore Ravan Kott joined her on the relay.

The women's 4x400 relay of Watson, Huschle, Ireland and junior Kati Nelson clocked 3:51.18 to finish runner-up.

Three Coyotes finished in the top-five of the women's pole vault. Junior Hunter Wilkes led the way by placing second. Wilkes made it over the winning height of 13-3 ¾, but had two more misses than champion Tess Merrill of Nebraska. Sophomore Emily Brigham and freshman Hannah Meador took third and fifth, respectively, by clearing 12-11 ¾.

Freshman Shanice Cannigan was the top collegiate in the 400 hurdles after crossing the line in 1:03.56. Cannigan also finished sixth in the 100 hurdles.

In the men's pole vault, freshman Jake David placed fifth with a height of 16-10. After clearing 16-10 on his third attempt, David passed when the bar went to 17-1 ¾. Instead, he took three attempts at 17-5 ¾, a height that would have been a new career best.

Sophomore Ashley Thompson picked up a pair of fifth-place finishes. On her third attempt in the triple jump, she reached 39-4. Then she clocked 14.84 seconds in the 100 hurdles.

Rounding out the Coyotes' top-five finishes, senior Lukas Bernard and Watson took fifth in the 400 hurdles and 400 dash, respectively. Bernard clocked 52.48 seconds and Watson ran 56.64 seconds.

SB: Daly Named To CoSIDA Academic All-District Team

South Dakota senior Allie Daly was voted to the Capital One Academic All-District 6 softball team as selected by College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). She is one of two Summit League players to be named to an All-District team.

Daly entered the Summit League Tournament batting .398 with 13 home runs. She's recorded 57 RBIs to lead the league this season and rank 30th nationally. She ranks fourth in home runs and slugging percentage, and has the seventh-best average due in part to her current 17-game hitting streak. Daly's 41 career home runs are the second-most in Summit League history.

The lone catcher on the all-league first team, Daly also leads the Summit League on defense. She has thrown out 19 runners this season.

Daly is the first Coyote to be named to a CoSIDA Academic All-District team since South Dakota alumna and former assistant coach Tagney Jones in 2009. Jones was also named an Academic All-American that year.

As a first-team selection, Daly advances to the national ballot to be considered for Academic All-America honors later this month.

NOTICE

ANNUAL TOUR OF ROADS

The Clay County Commissioners will be making their annual inspection of county roads, bridges, and drainage systems

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

immediately following the regular County Commission Meeting.

County Highway Superintendent Rod Polley will accompany the commissioners.



County residents with concerns should call the Highway Office at 677-7149 or the Auditor's Office at 677-7120 to report their concerns, and the Commissioners will include the site on their tour.

Carri R. Crum
Clay County Auditor

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