

Honoring Coach Brown, A Tanager For Life

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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For Ronnie Brown football was life. And, he didn't let his small stature get in the way of his love for the game.

"He wasn't very big because when he told me that he played football I thought he was lying," said Helen Brown, Ronnie's wife.

Brown played on the team at Vermillion High School (VHS) from 1944-1946 seasons and later served as the head coach from 1956-1961. He took a short break from VHS to be an assistant coach at the University of South Dakota (USD) before returning to the Tanagers from 1965-1974. He then became the school's athletic director before retiring in 1986.

Now, Brown will be a permanent Tanager as he was inducted into the Tanager Hall of Fame on May 2 making him a member of four hall of fames.

"He's in the (USD) Hall of Fame as a player, he's in the South Dakota Coaches' Hall

of Fame, he's in the South Dakota Athletic Director's hall of fame and now he's in the Vermillion High School Hall of Fame," said Danny Brown, Ronnie son.

Brown played at VHS from the 1944-1946 seasons as a scat back then went on to play at USD from 1947-1951 as a scat back, a mix between a halfback and a running back, and defensive back.

"He didn't think he could play college because he wasn't big," Helen said "So, he got a job down below the hill when they had the grainery. He got a job down there and started work and one day the coach from the university came down and asked him if he wanted to go to school."

At USD, he was a four-year football letterman with Harry Gamage's Coyotes, including the fabled undefeated 1949 team.

Brown married Helen in March of 1951 and moved to California for four years while in the Navy. He came back to USD to earn his masters with plans to move back to California, but was offered the coaching job at VHS and accepted the offer.

"He was offered the job down here in Vermillion and that's, of course, where he went to high school so he took that job," Helen said.

His competitive nature and offensive mind drove him to become one of the most recognized names in football in South Dakota.

"As far as coaching, he had a very good offensive mind. If he got beat, he might be beat 38-35. It's not going to be 6-3, or something. He was going to score points," Danny said. "The first year he coached, he had a losing season. He was 4-5 and he never had a losing season again. He was always above .500."

Brown racked up a win loss record of 85-30, but was very much a student of the game. He watched countless hours of film to get ready for different opponents to know what plays run and what defenses to run.

"He really studied what he was going to do," Helen said. "I still have all those notebooks with all the plays in them and he was going to change this because he watched the film of how the other team played and then

he'd write down whatever he was going to play."

Despite his competitive side, Brown wasn't one to brag about his success.

"He wasn't a bragger at all," Helen said. "I was. I said 'he's good.'"

Outside of football, Brown enjoyed playing golf and bowling, even winning the state championship doubles in bowling with fellow VHS coach Marion Brink.

After retiring, Brown continued to be an avid fan of the USD football team.

"He was a very strong follower of the University football. He was a follower of the athletics, but he was a very strong football follower. He just liked to win," Danny said.

Other career accomplishments include organizing the South Dakota High School Football Playoffs in the Dakota Dome in 1981 and coordinating the annual event until 1986.

Ronnie and Helen were married for 59 years until his death in 2010.

Now his career has come full-circle as he will be permanently part of Vermillion High School.

Grey Sox Over Reds With Walk Off

FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Jay Thaler's single to left field in the bottom of the ninth scored the winning run from second and helped the Vermillion Grey Sox earn a walk-off win versus the Lennox Reds on Wednesday, May 20 at Prentis Park.

The game marked the start of the State Line League season for both squads.

"It was a first league win for us as we had to overcome a gritty Reds club," said manager Mike Moran "They sure didn't want to lose and neither did our guys. We showed that we can be tough in the latter innings and that's going to be important all summer long."

Garret Harms started on the hill for the Sox. He completed six full innings, striking out three and not allowing an earned run or a walk.

The Sox ripped off 15 hits in the game, starting out with a triple from lead-off left fielder Jayce Huska in the bottom of the first.

Huska finished the game 2-for-6 with a triple, a single, and his first stolen base on the year.

Bats stayed hot for the Sox in the second as they took the lead 1-0 with three hits in the frame. Tyler Johnson scored with hits from Tom Heisinger and the designated hitter, Ty Iverson. Iverson was 2-for-4 on the night and added two RBIs. Heisinger chipped in a hit and Johnson added two hits and an RBI.

Fast forward to the seventh, the Reds would take the lead 6-5 after a few walks from Grey Sox pitchers. The Reds were able to score two runs with two out in the top of the seventh. However, the Sox stayed steady at the plate, getting two runs in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game at six. Joe Mazour, Moran and Johnson would all add hits for the Grey Sox to even the score.

The contest would stay tied until the ninth with good pitching and defense for the Greys to hold to Reds without a run in the top of the ninth.

When the Grey's got their shot in the bottom part of the frame, Heisinger drew a walk with one out. Huska came to bat with two outs after the walk and smashed a single to move Heisinger to second. With runners on first and second, things were looking up for the host team.

After Huska's hit, Erik Muckey came in run for Heisinger at second. Thaler stepped up to bat and hit a ground ball just inside the third base line and too far away from the Red's third



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Greysox pitcher Garrett Harms in action against the Lennox Reds in a State Line League game last Wednesday at Prentis Park in Vermillion.

baseman to get it in his glove. The ball would make its way into the grass of the outfield and the Grey's were able to score Muckey from second. Thaler helped pace the Sox with a 3-for-5 performance at the plate including smacking in three RBIs.

The Sox hit the road on Sunday, May 31 for a league game in Larchwood, Iowa versus the Diamonds. Start time is 2:30 p.m.

The following week, the Grey Sox travel to Irene for a non-league match up with the Cardinals on Tuesday, June 2 and come back to Prentis Park for a league game against the Garretson Blue Jays. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

Mount Marty's Amundson, Loecker Earn NAIA Honor

Mount Marty College juniors Kelly Amundson and Luke Loecker was named an All-America Scholar-Athlete for golf by the NAIA, announced last month.

Amundson, of Vermillion, tied for 14th in the Great Plains Athletic Conference women's golf tournament, helping the Lancers to a school-record second place finish.

Loecker, of O'Neill, Neb., played the final three rounds of the GPAC men's tournament, posting a three-round score of 254.

Also honored for men's golf was Alex O'Neill of Ponca, Neb., a senior at Morningside. To be honored a student-athlete must maintain a 3.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale, and must have achieved a junior academic status.

McClelland Coming To USD

South Dakota men's basketball head coach Craig Smith is pleased to announce the addition of point guard Shy McClelland. McClelland will have two years of eligibility remaining.

"Shy is a great fit for our basketball program," said Smith. "He is a hard-nosed guard who can score and impact the game in a variety of ways. His leadership ability and work ethic will immediately impact our program."

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., McClelland's collegiate career includes stops at Mesa CC and the University of Detroit Mercy. McClelland was a two-year starter for Mesa and led the Thunderbirds to a 50-12 record.

Standing at 6 feet, 180 pounds, McClelland was an all-Arizona Community College Athletic Conference player as a sophomore. He averaged 15.5 points, 5.3 assists and 4.5 rebounds per game to lead the Thunderbirds to a regular season and Region I conference title. He was also named the Region I co-MVP.

McClelland plans to major in communications upon arrival at South Dakota.

Track

From Page 7

Boys Team Results: 1. Lennox (L) 174; 2. Canton (C) 115; 3. Beresford (B) 111; 4. Lohan, Jesse, C, 11.62; 5. Robinson, Zeke, V, 11.66.

Girls Team Results: 1. Canton 205; 2. Vermillion. 94; 3. Tea Area 87; 4. Beresford 84; 5. Lennox 82; 6. Dakota Valley 67; 7. Elk Point-Jefferson 58.

Individual Top 5 Boys Results: 100: 1. Oliver, Andrew, C, 11.26; 2. Dam, Brady, DV, 11.59; 3. Ludens, Bailey, L, 11.61; 4. Lohan, Jesse, C, 11.62; 5. Robinson, Zeke, V, 11.66.

200: 1. Oliver, Andrew, C, 23.22; 2. Rosales, Jon, V, 23.65; 3. Ludens, Bailey, L, 23.74; 4. Mastalier, Alex, C, 24.06; 5. Wu, Alex, EPJ, 24.29.

400: 1. Rosales, Jon, V, 52.01; 2. Heien, Adam, TA, 53.45; 3. Hohn, Alec, TA, 54.30; 4. Schlup, Thatcher, B, 54.35; 5. Klasi, Ethan, DV, 54.62.

800: 1. Peterson, Logan, V, 2:04.74; 2. Paulsen, Hunter, EPJ, 2:06.33; 3. Weischedel, Austin, L, 2:10.35; 4. Rasmussen, Bennet, TA, 2:12.30; 5. Abraham, Dylan, L, 2:19.86.

1600: 1. Peters, Mitchell, L, 4:50.22; 2. Atwood, Alec, B, 4:57.68; 3. Langbehn, Brendan, L, 5:04.54; 4. Green, Jon, DV, 5:08.26; 5. Limmer, Jake, B, 5:12.51.

3200: 1. Peters, Mitchell, L, 10:35.37; 2. Langbehn, Brendan, L, 10:37.73; 3. Long, Charlie, DV, 10:38.44; 4. Sorensen, Justin, V, 10:57.51; 5. Wulf, Camden, L, 11:13.48.

110 Hurdles: 1. Lackas, Jacob, L, 15.41; 2. Maka, Jeremiah, TA, 16.25; 3. Kayl, Nick, L, 16.54; 4. Mahin, Keegan, EPJ, 16.81; 5. Broughton, Jaydn, C, 16.94.

300 Hurdles: 1. Lackas, Jacob, L, 42.72; 2. Kayl, Nick, L, 42.95; 3. Broughton, Jaydn, C, 44.23; 4. Maka, Jeremiah, TA, 45.77; 5. Mahin, Keegan, EPJ, 45.89.

4x100: 1. Tea Area 45.70; 2. Canton 45.79; 3. Lennox 46.12; 4. Vermillion 47.35; 5. Beresford 50.41.

4x200: 1. Lennox 1:35.21; 2. Tea Area 1:35.38; 3. Canton 1:35.97; 4. Elk Point-Jefferson 1:36.25; 5. Vermillion 1:37.03.

4x400: 1. Vermillion 3:33.38; 2. Canton 3:34.66; 3. Tea Area 3:38.57; 4. Elk Point-Jefferson 3:39.34; 5. Lennox 3:39.90.

4x800: 1. Vermillion 8:50.65; 2. Lennox 8:52.04; 3. Elk Point-Jefferson 9:03.16; 4. Beresford 9:03.24; 5. Tea Area 9:50.19.

1600 Spring Medley: 1. Canton 3:54.58; 2. Lennox 4:00.45; 3. Vermillion 4:02.60; 4. Tea Area 4:20.59; 5. Beresford 4:21.69.

Shot Put: 1. Doeden, Oliver, B, 48-10.50; 2. Nordquist, Kole, B, 44-00.50; 3. Miller, Adam, C, 43-05.50; 4. Hinker, Jacob, L, 42-10.255; 5. Carnes, Caleb, B, 41-11.00.

Discus: 1. Hinker, Jacob, L, 135-11.00; 2. Oltmanns, Masen, L, 132-04.00; 3. Doeden, Oliver, B, 128-05.50; 4. DeJong, Alex, C, 119-09.00; 5. Adams, Nick, Beresford 114-04.00.

High Jump: 1. Anddal, Dylan, B, 6-02.00; 2. Kirkebak, Joseph, B, J6-02.00; 3. Beachler, Christian, C, 5-08.00; 4. Bartmann, Cameron, L, 5-04.00; 5. Laubach, Kyle, C, 5-02.00.

Long Jump: 1. Conrad, Payton, TA, 20-

01.00; 2. Breck, Holdyn, L, 19-08.75; 3. Henze, Connor, EPJ 19-03.50; 4. Robinson, Zeke, V, 19-01.50; 5. Peterson, Jake, C, 18-10.75.

Triple Jump: 1. Kirkebak, Joseph, B, 41-02.00; 2. Conrad, Payton; TA 41-02.00; 3. Davis, Cody, EPJ 38-07.00; 4. Borah, Hunter, B, 37-01.50; 5. Herting, Austin, C, 35-06.50.

Pole Vault: 1. Murray, William, DV 9-07.00.

Girls Individual Top 5 Results: 100: 1. Wevik, Mikayla, TA, 12.71; 2. Toft, Hailey, C, 12.95; 3. Strasser, Abbie, L, 13.04; 4. Gregoire, Maddie, V, 13.21; 5. Wiley, Tyanna, C, 13.24.

200: 1. Wevik, Mikayla, TA, 26.70; 2. Strasser, Abbie, L, 27.33; 3. Zylstra, Justine, C, 27.83; 4. Herbster, Kasey, V, 27.83; 5. Glenn, Katie, C, 28.01.

400: 1. Schmitt, Cayley, TA 1:01.09; 2. Davis, Callie, EPJ, 1:02.99; 3. Kost, Katie, V, 1:03.95; 4. Mouw, Sydney, TA, 1:04.30; 5. Brady, Rachel, V, 1:04.53.

800: 1. Heeren, Josie, EPJ, 2:21.64; 2. Schmitt, Cayley, TA 2:29.30; 3. Dlugosh, Sammie, L, 2:36.09; 4. Stark, Robin, EPJ, 2:38.88; 5. Schaap, Kendra, B, 2:40.72.

1600: 1. Heeren, Josie, EPJ 5:16.72; 2. Lavin, Maddie, V, 5:17.57; 3. Schulz, Marisa, DV, 5:23.18; 4. Bainbridge, Maisey, L, 5:37.93; 5. Atwood, Ashlynn, B, 5:42.25.

3200: 1. Bainbridge, Maisey, L, 11:47.37; 2. Van Wyhe, Natalie, C, 12:36.43; 3. Austin, Saylor, C, 12:54.58; 4. Quartier, Grace, B, 13:06.86; 5. Wersal, Jaden, C, 13:07.96.

100 Hurdles: 1. Zylstra, Justine, C, 15.74; 2. Sheidt, Shania, C, 16.37; 3. Piper, Brooke, TA, 16.79; 4. Herbster, Kasey, V, 17.37; 5. Bonin, Delaney, C, 17.50.

300 Hurdles: 1. Bohan, Sara, DV, 47.22; 2. McMains, Halie, C, 48.64; 3. Herbster, Kasey, V, 50.94; 4. Zylstra, Justine, C, 51.03; 5. Bonin, Delaney, C, 53.53.

4x100: 1. Canton 51.96; 2. Beresford 52.29; 3. Tea Area 52.45; 4. Vermillion 53.57; 5. Elk Point-Jefferson 57.84.

4x200: 1. Canton 1:49.70; 2. Beresford 1:52.52; 3. Vermillion 1:52.85; 4. Lennox 1:55.75; 5. Elk Point-Jefferson 1:58.29.

4x400: 1. Vermillion 4:09.46; 2. Canton 4:10.98; 3. Tea Area 4:15.82; 4. Beresford 4:36.08; 5. Lennox 4:45.15.

4x800: 1. Canton 10:15.72; 2. Vermillion 10:19.96; 3. Beresford 10:47.34; 4. Lennox 11:33.37; 5. Tea Area 12:09.43.

1600 Spring Medley Relay: 1. Vermillion 4:42.60; 2. Beresford 4:44.45; 3. Canton 4:48.90; 4. Elk Point-Jefferson 4:51.71; 5. Lennox 4:58.77.

Shot Put: 1. VandeWeerd, Julie, C, 35-03.50; 2. Jensen, Rachel, L, 34-11.50; 3. Brewer, Rebecca, EPJ, 30-06.75; 4. Lammers, Meredith, DV, 30-06.25; 5. Morehead, Jaelyn, TA, 30-04.25.

Discus: 1. Jennings, Kristin, C, 118-05.00; 2. Van Gelder, Holly, B, 103-09.00; 3. Siegel, Caitlin, V, 102-05.00; 4. VandeWeerd, Julie, C, 101-09.00; 5. Hall, Miranda, L, 94-05.00.

High Jump: 1. Glenn, Katie, C, 5-00.00; 2. Klostergaard, Morgan, B, 4-10.00; 3. Johnson, Bailey, C, 4-08.00; 3. Reinschmidt, Nikita, DV, 4-08.00; 3. Hart, Kierra, C, 4-08.00.

Long Jump: 1. Bohan, Sara, DV, 18-03.75; 2. Strasser, Mahli, L, 17-00.50; 3. Wevik, Mikayla, TA, 16-08.50; 4. Glenn, Katie, C, 16-04.50; 5. Williams, Emma, B, 16-01.25.

Triple Jump: 1. Zylstra, Justine, C, 36-01.00; 2. Rasmussen, Anna, DV, 35-06.00; 3. Sheidt, Shania, C, 35-01.50; 4. Johnson, Bailey, C, 33-07.50; 5. Ohm, Olivia, DV, 33-04.75.

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