

DUTCH GIRLS DOMINATE CLASS AT TUESDAY RELAYS

By MIKE BYKER
Correspondent

CHEROKEE — The MOC-Floyd Valley Dutch girls' track and field team competed in the 1A Division at the 2023 Cherokee Tomahawk Girls Relays on Tuesday, April 25, and secured a team title with 215.5 points, easily outdistancing Spencer in the five-team field as the Tigers totaled 159 points.

"It sure is a fun night when everyone comes ready to run," said MOC-Floyd Valley coach Teri Anderson. "Again, the ladies placed in every event. We placed two contestants in 11 of the 12 individual events. We had 15 season best times, two meet records and a school record."

The Dutch earned four first-place finishes from individuals. Ashlyn Gomez won the discus with a spin of 117-2, and Tierney Huss ran the 100 meters in :12.78. The Dutch spread the wealth with Kaylea Bruxvoort winning the 400 hurdles in a time of 1:13, and Sarah May led a 1-2 punch in the 3,000 meters with a time of 11:22, Biyanca Dokter right behind with an 11:28.

May also earned second in the 800 meters in 2:35 and Huss was second in the long jump with a 16-5 performance. Madison Hettinga was the runner-up to Gomez in the discus with a 116-11 performance, just three inches shy of her teammate. Gomez

was the third-place finisher in the shot put with a heave of 36-2. Hettinga had season bests in both throwing events.

Biyanca Dokter earned a second silver in the 1,500. She ran 5:28. The Dutch's depth shown through that event. Elin VanDerWerff claimed third in 5:34. Kaleigh Tooker was the runner-up in the 200 meters, while Teagan Tracy and Ady Jeltema ran third in the 400 hurdles and open 400, respectively, in 1:13 and 1:03.

Three relays earned Tomahawk championships, led by the 4x100 time of :49.78 with Carolynn Meines, Payton Kleinhesselink, Kaleigh Tooker and Tierney Huss making up the foursome. Tooker, Kleinhesselink, Huss and Jeltema teamed up for the 800 medley and won it in 1:52, and the 4x800 of VanDerWerff, Aryana Dokter, Maya Immecker and Kennedy Fernstrum ran the eight laps in 10:14. The 1,600 medley was second with a time of 4:38, and Alyssa Vortherms, Kady Hoekstra, Kaylea Bruxvoort and Rachel Haverdink made up the quartet.

"It was a dominant team performance, and it was exciting to see so many improved times as we head into the bread and butter of our season," said Anderson.

The Dutch sent competitors to the Drake Relays from April 27 through April 29 and had a full team at the Tornado Relays on Monday, May 1.

KNIGHT GIRLS PLACE SECOND AT TUESDAY RELAYS

By MIKE BYKER
Correspondent

CHEROKEE — Unity Christian sent its girls track-and-field team to the 2023 Cherokee Tomahawk Girls Relays on Tuesday, April 25, and came back with a second-place finish in the 2A Division. Ridge View was the winner with 165 points, and Unity Christian was runner-up with 131 points.

The Knights earned a pair of firsts from Anna Heynen. The junior won the 100 meters in :12.84 and the 200 in :26.83. Heynen won both the sprints by nearly a second faster than her nearest competitor. Gracie Schoonhoven also claimed first in two events, winning the 400 hurdles in 1:07 and the open 400 in 1:01.

"Gracie had a big night running an 800 and three 400s with one of those being the 400 hurdles," said Unity Christian coach Jina Tinklenberg. "She even pulled off her best 400 split of the year to anchor the 4x400 to a win, a great team effort from a great bunch of girls."

The Knights got double points in the 800. Emily Noteboom won the event in 2:35, and Elizabeth Hoogland ran 2:37 to claim third place. Jaelye Woudstra claimed runner-up in the 1,500 in 5:17, and Katie Young ran second in the 3,000 meters with a time of 11:53.

The 4x800 ran a season-best 10:00. Elizabeth Hoogland, Emily Noteboom, Jaelye Woudstra and Gracie Schoonhoven were 17 seconds in front of the second-place finisher.

Noteboom, Hoogland, Addison Liston and Schoonhoven then teamed up in the 4x400 to win that race by less than a second, recording a time of 4:20.45. Unity Christian's 4x200 of Morgan De Groot, Haley Kuperus, Alexis Van Ginkel and Haley Hofland ran second in 1:58.08 to help the Unity Christian cause.

"The 4x800 of Elizabeth Hoogland, Emily Noteboom, Jaelye Woudstra and Gracie Schoonhoven was the strongest I've seen in my three years as head coach," said Tinklenberg. "They ran with a different kind of confidence, breaking the meet record was just the cherry on top."

The Knights sent Heynen and Aubrey De Groot to the Drake Relays and also competed in the Royal Co-Ed Relays at Marcus on Friday, April 28. The Knights ran at the War Eagle Conference meet on Monday, May 1, in Paullina and have one final tune-up before the state qualifying meet as they compete at the Wolverine Relays on Thursday, May 4.

"We were blessed with another beautiful night to compete," said Tinklenberg. "When the weather is nice, it can make all the difference for a strong mindset."

KNIGHT ATHLETES CAPTURE SECOND, THIRD AT FRIDAY MEET

By MIKE BYKER
Correspondent

MARCUS — Unity Christian Knight track-and-field teams traveled to the Royal Coed Relays hosted by Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn/Remsen Union in Marcus on Friday, April 28.

The Unity Christian boys ran third in the field behind the hosts with 153 points, and South O'Brien was second with 141 points. The Knights totaled 119 point in the six-team standings for third place. The Unity Christian girls were nipped by Alta-Aurelia, who scored 157 points. Unity claimed second with 150 points.

Jacob Folkerts led Unity Christian in the field events with a pair of wins in the shot put and discus with performances of 43-00 and 116-8, respectively. The Knights also got a first place from James Foreman in the 800 meters in a win by less than a half second in 2:05.4. Ezra Landman led a double-point effort in the 1,600, claiming gold in 5:01; Lane Scholten earned third in 5:12.

"Jacob Folkerts had a nice day of throwing and won both throwing events," said Unity Christian coach Jake Byma. "Ezra Landman raced a strong mile and came away with a nice victory."

Foreman, Dylan Obbink, Ethan Van Ginkel and Landon Meerdink won the 4x400 to end the night with a 3:33.55 which was less than a half second off the meet record. Obbink, Scholten, Jonathan Breems and Tyler Rozenboom won the 4x800 early in the meet with a time of 9:01.

"Our 4x4 looked solid and just missed a meet record," Byma said. "We were able to get some guys opportunities that may not compete as much at the conference meet, so it was a great day for growth and development."

Van Ginkel and Meerdink each earned second in the 200 and 400 meter races with times of :24.10 and :52.67, respectively.

"We had a solid night of performances at MMCRU," said Byma. "We wanted to get some solid times and events in but be mindful of our conference meet coming up and not overwork ourselves."

Gracie Schoonhoven was a double winner in the 400 meters and the 400 hurdles with times of 1:02 and 1:08, respectively, and Jaelye Woudstra won the 1,500 with a time of 5:18. Elizabeth Hoogland added double points in the 1,500 with a runner-up finish of 5:34. Unity Christian also went one-two in the 200 meters; Emily Noteboom and Morgan De Groot ran :29.08 and :29.32, respectively.

Katie Young placed in the top three in the 800 and 3,000. She claimed third in the 800 with a time of 2:46, and she ran the 3,000 in 11:46 for second place.

Unity Christian's best finishes in the girls' field events were a third-place finish in shot put by Ava Noyes; she had a toss of 28-1. Aubrey De Groot and Maddie Hoogland each cleared 4-10 for third and fourth, respectively, based on misses.

Kortney Hofmeyer, Haley Hofland, Emily Noteboom and Woudstra won the distance medley in 4:40. Noteboom, Addison Liston, Morgan De Groot and Schoonhoven claimed first in the 4x400 in 4:17. The 4x800 earned silver with Emily Noteboom, Adriana Van Maanen, Kyra Van Schouwen and Schoonhoven running 11:36 behind Alta-Aurelia.

"I moved things around a little for this meet," said Unity Christian coach Jina Tinklenberg. "I had a few athletes focus on different events and times as we look ahead to the end of the season meets. The girls have done a great job stepping into different events to accomplish some of those goals."

Both Unity teams competed at the War Eagle Championship on Monday, May 1, and a meet hosted by South O'Brien in Paullina on Thursday, May 4. The state qualifying Meet is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, in Sheldon.

KNIGHT BOYS SHOOT LOWEST FOR TUESDAY WIN, GIRLS LOSE DUAL

By DOUG CALSBEEK
Co-Editor

SANBORN — Unity Christian golfing War Eagle Conference duals continued on Thursday, April 27, with a meet at Sanborn Golf and Country Club hosted by Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn. The Knight boys stacked the top four spots for a win. The Knight girls lost to the Hawks.

In 65-degree and windy conditions, the Knights collected the four low scores for the 162-199 win. Titan Hulstein led with a 38, Graden Van Essen following with a 40, Reece de Boom and Tait Groeneweg each carding a 42.

Knight Bryce Harskamp came around with a 44, Wyatt Nykamp with a 48.

Jack Mastbergen scored a 44 for the Hawks. Rounding out that score were Slayton McCarter with a 51, Lucas Kroese and Blake Meendering, each with a 52.

"Good night for the guys," said coach Cody Harskamp. "Shot our lowest team score of the year, and it was nice seeing five guys shoot below 44. Titan played a great round and Graden had

a slow start but finished strong, playing the last five holes at 1 under. Reece, Tait, and Bryce played solid.

"Guys are improving," Coach Harskamp said, "and get an opportunity to golf 18 holes at our conference meet next Monday," [May 1]."

Gracie Knobloch led the Hawk girls in their 224-206 win, bringing in the lowest count, a 45. Teammates Kinsey Schirmer with 50, Abigail Kunzman with a 53 and Morgan Grooters with a 58 completed the winning score.

For the Knights, Lauren Vande Griend carded a 48 for runner-up medalist. Marsadie Goebel shot a 52, Emma Lee Sandbulte a 59 and Allyson Yesda a 65 to complete Knight scoring. Addie Terpstra came around with a 71.

"Girls had a good night, shooting in the 220s for the second consecutive meet," Harskamp said. "Lauren and Sadie continue to be consistent. Emma did a nice job of getting into the 50s, and Allyson keeps improving and working hard. Girls get an opportunity to play 18 holes next Tuesday, [May 2], for our conference meet."

Northwestern College men's golf ends season with runner-up performance

By DOUG CALSBEEK
Co-Editor

VERMILLION, S.D. — Seven team strokes separated Great Plains Athletic Conference Championship winner Doane from runner-up Northwestern College in the men's three-round event on Monday and Tuesday, April 24 and 25. The Red Raiders opened with a 300 at The Bluffs Golf Course in Vermillion, South Dakota, turned in the low score of 284 in round two and finished with a 281 for a total of a four-over-par 875. Doane won with scores of 284, 297 and 287 for an 868.

"The South Dakota Golf Association did a great job setting up the course for our championship," said Raider coach Aaron Aberson. "We had really good weather for the two days for the most part, so they mixed in a number of challenging pin locations to help guard the course a bit."

Doane qualified as the GPAC representative in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics tournament play, Dordt University's Freddy Bullock moving on as an individual after shooting one of the three low scores. Bullock carded 71-70-73 — 214, two under par for the two-day event.

Bullock, Doane's Blake Anderson and Red Raider Jack Laven each shot a 214, and the players sorted out the first-place golfer on the first play-off.

Laven finished the course with scores of 77, 66 and 71 to lead the Raiders. Brock Murphy contributed a 220, Kyle Christy and Ezra Meyer each carding a 222. Qwenton Caldwell was the fifth Raider golfer, coming around with a 228.

"Overall, I think we were pretty pleased with how we played," Aberson said. "In our sport, there are always a few shots we would've loved to have back because they cost us a shot at the title, but I think every team could probably say that. We got off to a slow start in round one, but they just kept believing we could get back in it. And, we did. We had our chance on the back nine, but we have to give credit to Doane, because they answered every run we had at them."



GPAC runner-up

At the Monday and Tuesday, April 24 and 25, Great Plains Athletic Conference men's golf championship, the Northwestern College men ended their season with a runner-up finish. From left are Coach Aaron Aberson, Kolby Newborg, Brock Murphy, Kyle Christy, Ezra Meyer, Jack Laven and Qwenton Caldwell. Laven was one of three individuals turning in the low score, but ended the season in the three-way play-off. Winning team and winning individual move on to the national tournament. (Photo courtesy of Northwestern Athletic Communications)



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