

## Tigers 4x200 team grabs first at USD Indoor

**DAKOTA LOCKER**  
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VERMILLION, S.D. — Heading out-of-state to South Dakota, the Spencer boys track team participated in the Dan Lennon Relays. The 4x200-meter relay team of Miles Robbins, Campbell Wessels, Gavin Timmer and Blaine Erdman took the top spot in the race. The group clocked a time of 1:35.98. Outrunning second place in Le Mars, the victory would be the only one for Spencer at the meet.

"First, I thank God through Jesus Christ for the coaches, teams and everyone that helps make the track program work," head coach Wilson Hookfin said.

He added, "... I just love our kids, and the guys have been great. I love the way our kids are learning to fight. Even with last-minute lineup changes and switching relay orders, it doesn't bother them. They're also taking risks by running distances they've never run before. Regardless of their time and place, I'm more impressed with that."

Timmer, Preston Pitts, Jack Berends and Ross Carlson competed in the 4x400-meter relay. The guys placed fourth with a time of 3:44.97. In the 1,600-meter sprint medley, the B team of Reid Tigges, Blaine Erdman, Preston Pitts, and Sergio Tello took third place with a time of 3:56.46. The A team of Keaton Stanzel, Ross Carlson, Van Munson, and Campbell Wessels came in fourth with a time of 3:58.12.

Weston Johnson and Sam Hinkeldey took on the 60-meter hurdles. Johnson finished in seventh, clocking a time of 8.93. Hinkeldey followed in eighth with a time of 8.99. Noah Fullhart finished 10th in the 1,600-meter run, clocking a 5:05.81 to secure a top 10 finish. Tello and Munson took ninth and 10th place in the 800-meter run, respectively. Tello was 0.16 seconds faster than Munson in the race. Reno Anderson raced in the 400-meter dash for Spencer. Anderson finished 23rd with a time of 59.74.

"We had a lot of personal records times," Hookfin said.

The coach added "It was a great night for the team. A lot of

Jack Berends flew in his attempt at the long jump competition. Berends finished in seventh for his efforts. (Photos by Scott Merchant)



our athletes made the finals. This was such a big improvement from last year, when no one made the finals or the podium. Most of these guys have worked very hard and improved, and it shows. The team continues to improve their times, and they're hungry to keep getting better."

### FIELD EVENTS

Kaleb Cline put together the best performance for a Tiger in the field events. Cline finished in fourth place in the shot put competition. Cline put together a score of 48-02.

Cole Cantrall also competed and finished in 15th. Jack Berends jumped 5.90s in the long jump competition, good enough for a seventh place finish. Ross Carlson scored a 5.63, finishing in 13th for the Tigers. Preston Pitts finished eighth in the high jump. Pitts scored a

5-09 in the competition.

"We head to Minnesota State on Saturday in Mankato," Hookfin said. "It's an elite meet, so we are only bringing 15 athletes, and we hope they continue to improve. We are also focused on getting some of our guys healthy. Practicing inside on a hard floor leads to knee problems and nagging leg injuries. We don't have the indoor facilities like Sioux Center, Mason City or Humboldt, so we have to make do."

**SPENCER AT USD INDOOR**  
Monday — Vermillion, South Dakota

### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

**Long Jump** — 1, Rowdy Bauer, 6.78, Norfolk (Nebraska). 7, Jack Berends, 5.90, Spencer. 13, Ross Carlson, 5.63, Spencer.  
**High Jump** — 1, Sione Fifita, 6-03, Le Mars. 8, Preston Pitts, 5-09, Spencer.  
**Shot Put** — 1, Kael Miedema, 60-03 1/4, SF Washington (South Dakota). 4, Kaleb Cline, 48-02, Spencer. 15, Cole Cantrall, 39-09 1/2, Spencer.

**1,600 Run** — 1, Issac Ochoa, 4:32.33, Norfolk (Nebraska). 10, Noah Fullhart, 5:05.81, Spencer. 24, Noah Goeken, 5:30.08, Spencer. 33, Lucus Fisher, 5:45.65, Spencer. 35, Alex Baldwin, 5:58.41, Spencer. 36, Tim Giacobbe, 6:12.62, Spencer.

**400 Dash** — 1, Avery Bradshaw, 53.13, Dakota Valley (South Dakota). 23, Reno Anderson, 59.74, Spencer.

**60 Hurdles** — 1, Connor Plahn, 8.46, Lincoln North Star (Nebraska) 7, Weston Johnson, 8.93, Spencer. 8, Sam Hinkeldey, 8.99, Spencer.

**60 Dash** — 1, Sean Schaefer, 7.13, Bishop Heelan. 2, Miles Robbins, 7.18, Spencer. 6, Keaton Stanzel, 7.32, Spencer.

**4x200 Relay** — 1, Spencer (A), 1:35.98. 11, Spencer (C), 1:42.53. 29, Spencer (D), 1:48.93. 33, Spencer (C), DNF.

**800 Run** — 1, Easton Zastrow, 2:05.29, Lincoln North Star (Nebraska). 9, Sergio Tello, 2:12.26, Spencer. 10, Van Munson, 2:12.42, Spencer. 16, Carson Krogman, 2:17.72, Spencer. 19, Rylee Koppie, 2:18.66, Spencer.

**4x400 Relay** — 1, Lewis Central, 3:39.99. 4, Spencer (A), 3:44.97. 9, Spencer (B), 3:52.20. 20, Spencer (C), 4:13.28.

**1,600 Sprint Medley** — 1, South Sioux City, 3:46.01. 3, Spencer (B), 3:56.46. 4, Spencer (A), 3:58.12.



Kaleb Cline finished in fourth place in the shot put competition. Cline scored a 48-02 in his best attempt.

### FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

## Iowa women have captured the nation's imagination



**RANDY M. CAUTHRON**

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The acclaim for Iowa Hawkeye baller and Naismith Award winner Caitlin Clark is far-and-wide. Hoop All-Stars Magic Johnson and Steph Curry have both heaped praise on the shooting star and ESPN noted that the Iowa Elite 8 matchup against Louisville outpaced any NBA offering to this point in the season.

Hawkeye basketball is appointment watching and Friday night's game against undefeated South Carolina is no exception. Clark and her teammates face off

against perhaps the tallest lineup in terms of size they have squared off against all season. In my mind this is really the National Championship contest although it is the actually a Final 4 semifinal.

Their amazing run included a Clark buzzer-beater over then top-ranked Indiana and setup the amazing postseason fun.

While Clark grabs the headlines, she is surrounded by a group of ladies, and led by a coach, who allow her to shine while they play complimentary rolls. It is this unselfishness which has allowed the Hawkeye ladies to enjoy the success they have.

Clark has left her mark, recording a historical bit of basketball with a 40-point triple-double, something neither Magic, Bird or MJ has accomplished by the Laker standout's own admission. And it came upon the heels of a 30-point triple-double.

Friday night, beginning at approximately 7 p.m., I expect the Hawkeye faithful will be tuned in, along with many other fans across the nation, will be tuned in to see if the Iowa women, under-sized and out-manned, can pull off the massive upset (at least on paper) and keep their dreams of a national title alive.

Admittedly, I haven't been a big fan of women's college basketball over the years. But this particular group of ladies have made me a believer ... and based on the ratings, I'm not the only one. Go Hawkeyes, you've made the state proud and the nation believers.

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## Merchant sets USD Indoor 60-meter hurdle record



Erika Amendt starts her leg of the race at the USD Indoor meet Monday. (Photo by Scott Merchant)

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VERMILLION, S.D. — Spencer hit the road on Monday morning, traveling to Vermillion, South Dakota, to compete at the Dan Lennon High School Track and Field Meet. Spencer claimed three first place finishes at the

University of South Dakota.

Jerra Merchant continues to shatter meet records for the Tigers. Merchant competed in the 60-meter hurdles, dominating the competition, setting the new USD high school indoor meet record with a time of 8.97. She also broke the meet record at the BVU Elite Meet a few weeks ago. Merchant, Tyriana Vail, Jada Piercy, and Erika

Amendt competed in the 4x400 relay. The girls took first place with a time of 4:19.97. The same group also claimed the top spot in the 4x200-meter relay event. Clocking a time of 1:51.01.

"Jerra setting a meet record was a highlight, she put together three impressive performances in all events she competed in," head coach Alan Pierce said. "The 4x200 and 4x400 girls were

really impressive in their events as well. They are right on track to repeat what we accomplished last season in our sprint relays."

The B team of Khia Koenig, Shaylee Sutherland, Corinne Stave, and Ava Buum finished 13th in the event with a time of 2:01.84. Peyton Morey took the track for the 3,200-meter run.